

## Lacombe County Kick-Off for Idle Reduction

On September 19, Lacombe County held their first meeting to kick off an Idle Reduction Action Plan. Working in partnership with PAMZ, an Idle Reduction Action Committee will be leading the process in the county to review and implement ways its county staff can reduce idling in their day-to-day working activities. Members of the Lacombe County Idle Reduction Action Committee include representatives from Enforcement, Public Works, Administration, Planning and Environmental Services.



*(L to R) Ray Kawai, Peace officer, Laura Rowley, Payroll, Sharina Kennedy, ESRD and member of PAMZ, Cajun Paradis, Planning and Environmental Services; Gerry Carson, Public Works; Derek Majerech, Public Works; Mike Krenzler, Public Works and Phil Westergreen, Agriculture*

The first meeting began with a presentation from Sharina Kennedy, a member of the PAMZ Idle Free Task Force who gave an overview of the air quality in the region, explained why we need to reduce idling and what PAMZ will do to support this pilot process in the county. This was followed by a discussion of the planning steps the Committee will take in the upcoming months to implement a realistic plan this spring to reduce idling among public employees. Through the Idle Free Task Force, PAMZ will be document and evaluate this process and use the learnings to develop an idle reduction tool kit that other municipalities can use In central Alberta.

## Workshop Planned to Address Issue of Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

A stakeholder information workshop is being held in Red Deer to provide information on PM<sub>2.5</sub> and to discuss potential actions to help reduce this particulate matter in the Red Deer area. Representatives from industry, municipalities, and non-government organizations from Red Deer and surrounding areas are invited to attend. The information session will take place on **Friday, November 28 at the Westerner Park Harvest Centre**. Space is limited, so anyone wishing to attend should register with Sharina Kennedy at [sharina.kennedy@gov.ab.ca](mailto:sharina.kennedy@gov.ab.ca) **no later than Friday, November 14th**.

PM<sub>2.5</sub> is airborne particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter, small enough to enter lungs, making it a human health concern. These small particles can penetrate deeper into the lungs, potentially reducing the surface area for oxygen exchange, irritating the respiratory system and providing an opportunity for toxic compounds in the PM<sub>2.5</sub> to be transferred into the blood stream. It can also be a significant contributor to

smog conditions and can lead to environmental degradation through crop and vegetation damage

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) released the results of its assessment of provincial fine particulate levels for 2010-2012 in relation to the Canada Wide Standards for Particulate Matter and Ozone. Results indicated that Red Deer's PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels exceeded Canada Wide Standards.

According to The City of Red Deer's Environmental Master Plan (EMP), the baseline fine particulate matter in the City was 15.9ug/m<sup>3</sup>.in 2007-2009. In 2010-2012, assessment levels were measured at 31.4ug/m<sup>3</sup>, well above the EMP limit of 20ug/m<sup>3</sup>.

ESRD is working with PAMZ and will soon form a multi-stakeholder advisory committee to develop a plan to address the PM<sub>2.5</sub> issue. They are also analyzing the 2010-12 episodes to better understand the PM<sub>2.5</sub> situation in Red Deer.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information visit [www.pamz.org](http://www.pamz.org)

**PAMZ Photo Contest Deadline**  
November 30, 2014

Go to: PAMZ Photo Contest at [www.pamz.org](http://www.pamz.org)

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> Information Workshop**  
Friday, November.28, 2014  
9:30 am to 2:00pm

Westerner Park Harvest Centre  
[sharina.kennedy@gov.ab.ca](mailto:sharina.kennedy@gov.ab.ca)

**Synergy Alberta Conference**  
Nov. 3-5, River Cree Resort,  
Whitemud Drive & Winterburn  
Road, Edmonton

[info@synergyalberta.ca](mailto:info@synergyalberta.ca)

## Winner of 2014 Martha Kostuch Scholarship

The winner of the 2014 Martha Kostuch Scholarship is Alexandra Johnson, an honours graduate from Hunting Hills High School in Red Deer, who this fall is entering her first year of Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta.

Ms. Johnson's specific interest is water conservation, as well as new forms of renewable energy and helping large corporations to improve their environmental standards. She says her volunteer work with Canada World Youth in the communities of Palca, Peru and La Ronge, Saskatchewan had a big influence on her choice to pursue a career in environmental studies.

Her future goals include working abroad, helping to achieve sustainable development in other countries. Specifically, she wants to work on environmental education in remote areas, as well as creating plans for safe and sustainable water sources.

*"Not only was Alexandra's academic record outstanding, but she has shown through both experience and interest her dedication to local, national and international environmental issues,"* says Kevin Warren, Executive Director of the Parkland Airshed Management Zone.

There were many strong candidates applying for the scholarship this year and PAMZ wishes to thank them all for their effort and interest.



**(L to R) Kevin Warren presenting cheque to Alexandra Johnson**

*"It is very encouraging to see so many dedicated and capable young people. We wish them all the best in their future educational endeavors,"* says Warren.

The annual scholarship is open to school graduates living in the PAMZ region (west central Alberta) who wish to further their education in an area that will benefit the environment. It was established in 2008 to honour the legacy of Dr. Martha Kostuch, a founding Board member of PAMZ and well known environmental advocate.

## Outlining Red Deer's New Monitoring Station



**PAMZ Annual General Meeting**

At their annual general meeting in June, PAMZ outlined their plans for a second permanent air quality monitoring station in Red Deer to be located at the Lancaster Reservoir at the corner of Lancaster Drive and 30th Avenue in Red Deer.

At this meeting, it was explained why the new monitoring station is needed, what it will be monitoring, how data from the station will be used and how the station could be landscaped to blend into the neighbourhood.

An application for a permanent development permit has been made to the City of Red Deer's Planning Department and PAMZ is currently awaiting a decision on the application.

The goal is to have the station established by the end of the year so PAMZ can obtain a full year of monitoring in 2015. The station is planned to be on the Lancaster location by December, with site landscaping to be completed in the spring.

# This Summer's Clean Air Day Events

Multiple events marked Clean Air Day this year (June 4) in Red Deer. In addition to the third annual Vehicle Emissions Testing Clinic, PAMZ participated in an Enviro Fair at the Red Deer Provincial Building organized by Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD), in partnership with The City of Red Deer. This event was a buzz of activity with educational displays, presentations and the formal recognition of this year's PAMZ Action HEROes

## RECOGNITION OF PAMZ ACTION HEROS 2014

The Action HERO award (**Action** for a **H**ealthy Environment by **R**educing **O**zone) was established by PAMZ to recognize organizations and individuals within the PAMZ region who are taking major initiatives to reduce emissions that contribute to ground level ozone, a component of smog. There were six ACTION HERO winners this year



**ACTION HERO RECIPIENTS WITH MAYOR VEER AT ENVIRO FAIR EVENT ( L to R in front)George Penny, Transit Manager; Bonnie Denhaan, Citizen Advocate; Tara Veer, Mayor, City of Red Deer; Kevin Ritchie, General Manager and Dee-Anna Martin ,Green Team Chairperson, Red Deer Lodge; April Weber, owner of Weber Physiotherapy ((L to R in back ) Mr. Al Graham, CAO and Mr Pat Sliworsky, Deputy CAO of Mountain View Regional Waste Management . Missing from picture: Brad Olstad, Director of-Facilities Maintenance and Engineering, Red Deer Regional Hospital, Alberta Health Services**

**1.Red Deer Transit** is working diligently to continually improve its service. In recent years it increased snow clearing from bus stops to make them more accessible year-round, installed more bus shelters, launched a "Pets on Board" trial to allow riders to travel with their animals and implemented "Google Maps" to help people learn how to get where they want to go by bus. They also purchased Canadian built Nova buses that consume approximately eight percent less fuel compared to the buses being replaced and emit 55-62 percent less carbon dioxide equivalents compared to a regular diesel.

**2. Red Deer Lodge** installed an electric car charger on June 6, 2013; the first hotel in Central Alberta to install a charging station. The addition of a charging station is part of their green initiative to support movement towards sustainable transportation options. It is consistent with the hotel's environmental philosophy, which earned it five green keys under the international Green Key Eco-Rating Program, administered by the Hotel Association of Canada.

**3. Weber Physiotherapy** has taken idling into their own hands by posting a sign in their entrance that reads, "Please respect the environment and turn your engines off!" This action demonstrates that every small business can take small steps to improve air quality and the environment.

**4. Bonnie Denhaan** spearheaded the Idle Free campaign at Sunnybrook United Church, and has been an advocate for environmentally responsible actions in the organization. She actively participates as a member of the public at PAMZ meetings, is passionate about air quality and environmental issues and is not afraid to ask someone to please stop idling their vehicle.

**5. Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre (AHS)** committed to being an idle free zone in 2013 with the installation of signs throughout their property and joined The City of Red Deer's Idle Free coalition.

**6. The Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission (MVRWMC)** is recycling tonnes of agricultural (Ag) plastics into reusable baler twine and other products, working in conjunction with the Mountain View County incentive program that pays residents to bring in their Ag plastics. By providing an alternative for farm operators from burning or landfilling their agricultural plastics, this recycling program significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions and prevents pollution that can affect the health of humans and livestock.

# Clean Air Day Events-Vehicle Emissions Testing Clinic

The third annual vehicle emissions testing clinic was part of the 2014 Clean Air Day activities once again taking place at the Parkland Mall, in partnership with NOVA Chemicals, ESRD, The City of Red Deer and the Parkland Mall.

Sixty-one motor vehicles were tested, with only three failures. One failed to pass the test for CO (carbon monoxide) and two failed to pass the hydrocarbon test. This compares to last year's testing where there was five failures, two for carbon monoxide and three for hydrocarbons.

In addition, two motorcycles were tested. Although there are no established emission standards for motorcycles, they both had high levels of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons.

The highest calculated carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) production by a vehicle was 52 tonnes per year.



*Volunteers checking tire pressure and interviewing drivers*



*Kent Dyck, Nova Chemicals, testing exhaust emissions*

## REMINDER- Deadline for Photo Contest Entries is November 30,2014

The deadline for this PAMZ photo contest is **November 30,2014**. There are two photo entry categories.

**Air Pollution:** We are seeking photographs of smoke, emissions, winter or summertime smog/haze, vehicle exhaust emissions, dust, etc. in urban or rural settings within the PAMZ region, especially those that include recognizable landmarks, buildings etc.

**People and the Environment:** We are seeking seasonal scenic pictures in the PAMZ region of people who are working outdoors or interacting with nature and the environment in a manner that symbolizes our "Blue Skies; Bright Future" message (e.g. flying kites, watching a sunrise, skiing, hiking, riding, wildlife improvement activities etc.).

The prize awards are \$750 for first prize and \$250 for the runner up in each category.

Only photographers living in the PAMZ region are qualified to enter.**(See boundaries on map at right).**

For more details on the contest, go to the PAMZ website at [www.pamz.org](http://www.pamz.org) or email [sue@pamz.org](mailto:sue@pamz.org).

