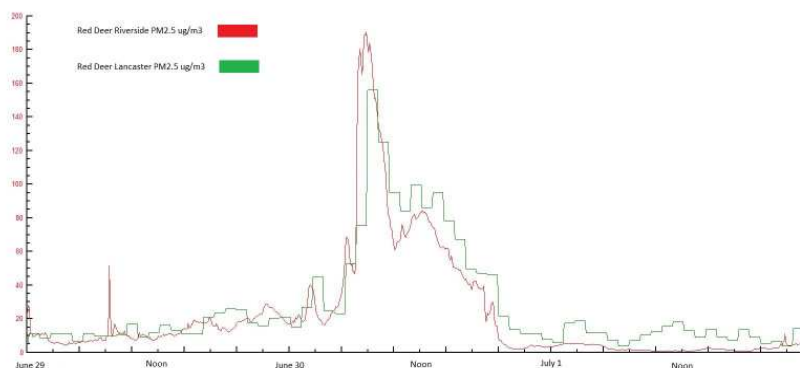


Air Quality Impacts from Forest Fires

In recent weeks, the air quality in PAMZ and specifically the Red Deer area has been negatively impacted by smoke blown south from wildfires in Northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. June 30 was an especially bad day with Alberta Health Services (AHS) issuing an Air Quality Advisory that remained in effect through July 8.

AHS Air Quality Advisory, www.albertahealthservices.ca/11516.asp, warned residents of the health impacts of the smoke for sensitive individuals such as those with respiratory conditions, children and the elderly, as well as healthy individuals who may experience temporary irritation of eyes and throat and possibly shortness of breath. It also provided recommendations on actions individuals can take to lessen their exposure to the poor air quality conditions.



Red Deer Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Concentrations June 29 - July 1, 2015

Levels observed in Red Deer on June 30 were high enough to result in twelve exceedances of the hourly Alberta Air Quality Guidelines for fine particulate matter ($80 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) at the two PAMZ permanent Air Monitoring Stations located at Riverside Drive and the Lancaster Reservoir as well as two exceedances of the daily Air Quality Objective ($30 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). At publishing, a high number of wildfires are still burning in B.C, Northern Alberta and Saskatchewan so there will likely be more Air Quality Advisories issued in the near future. When you see persistent smoke in the area, listen to your local radio stations for advisories or visit the PAMZ website at www.pamz.org.

Air Quality Issues Identified at Big Valley Meeting



Big Valley Train Station

On May 13, PAMZ held its Annual Issues identification Meeting in the Town of Big Valley to obtain public input on air quality issues it should be addressing and to help PAMZ determine the locations where it will conduct air quality monitoring with its portable station in 2016.

The Alberta Environmental Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Agency (AEMERA) recently indicated it would like to see province-wide air monitoring delivered by Airsheds. While outside of PAMZ's current boundaries, Big Valley will likely be included in the future expansion of the our zone's eastern boundary.

Approximately a dozen members of the public attended the meeting and shared their concerns about air quality in the area and then prioritized a list of possible monitoring locations to address these issues. The top five locations were: Bentley hog farm; coal-fired power generating plants; Innisfail; Big Valley and oil and gas operations north of Big Valley.

The PAMZ Issues Response Group will meet later this summer to review the recommendations of the May 13 meeting, along with other data, to determine the 2016 monitoring program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information visit www.pamz.org

Sundre Petroleum Operator's Group (SPOG) Neighbours Day
9:00AM – 4:00PM, September 11
Sundre Arena & Curling Club,
Sundre, AB

World Car Free Day

September 22

www.reddeer.ca/worldcarfreeday

Synergy Alberta Conference
"The Power of Working Together"
November 2-4, 2015

Calgary Sheraton Cavalier

<http://www.synergyalbertaregistration.ca/conference/2015/index.php>

A Clean Air Day Visit by One Smart MAML!

Alberta's MAML (Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory) made an appearance at the Clean Air Day event in Red Deer this year. The MAML is a special vehicle designed to measure air quality. Measuring 8.2 metres long and equipped with a variety of air sampling instruments, the MAML allows Alberta Environment to monitor air quality anywhere in the province. The instruments can take air samples at specified time or distance intervals, and analyzes them quickly and reliably.

The heart of the MAML is a dual computer system with a custom program to control measurement and storage of air samples from each analyzer. The MAML is also equipped with a Global Positioning System (GPS) that identifies its precise location as it moves around the province.

The MAML has been specially constructed to run with minimum emissions. An exhaust scrubbing system filters its emissions while instrumentation power comes from two natural gas-fuelled generators that are also equipped with exhaust scrubbers. The total cost of the vehicle, and all of the high tech gas analyzers computers, software, and support equipment is \$325,000. The MAML is unique in Alberta and is run by the Alberta Environmental Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Agency (AEMERA). It is winterized and used year-round.



The MAML, which spends at least 100 days a year on the road, provides the public with an accurate air quality "snapshot." MAML duties include: obtaining province-wide air quality data; exploring potential sites for Alberta's permanent monitoring network; identifying potential problem areas; responding to community air quality concerns and using it for emergency response, to protect the public from potentially harmful air quality conditions.

2015 Clean Air Day Event

On June 3, PAMZ, in partnership with NOVA Chemicals, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), The City of Red Deer and the Sheraton Red Deer Hotel, organized a Clean Air Day celebration which included PAMZ's 5th annual Vehicle Emissions Testing Clinic (VETC) as well as several environmental displays hosted by 13 different organizations. This year's event was held at the Sheraton Red Deer where the hotel was also promoting their new Tesla electric car charging stations in the hotel parking lot.



Sixty cars came through the testing clinic between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Of these, there were three failures for carbon monoxide (CO). The vehicle tested to be the biggest carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitter was estimated to emit 32 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

PAMZ wishes to thank all the people who hosted the display booths, as well as the NOVA staff and volunteers who helped run the testing clinic throughout the day.

Display booths on left were located in hotel lobby and the VETC below was located in hotel parking lot.



PAMZ Recognizes 2015 ACTION HEROS

On Clean Air Day, PAMZ recognized five Action HEROS who have done outstanding work to improve our air quality and the environment in the PAMZ region. ACTION HERO stands for Action for a **H**ealthy **E**nvironment by **R**educing **O**zone and was established by PAMZ, as part of the Ozone Management Plan in 2010, to encourage local businesses, organizations and individuals to take up new initiatives to reduce the formation of ground-level ozone.

The 2015 ACTION HEROS are:

- **Reg Watson** - a posthumous award for all his dedicated work with PAMZ, SPOG and other volunteer environmental groups over his lifetime. Reg unfortunately died in the fall of 2014 but played a significant role in the formation of PAMZ and was the former Board Chair.
- **Harmattan Gas Processing Plant (AltaGas Ltd)** for the installation of three cogeneration units that have significantly improved its energy efficiency and reduced its greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Lacombe County** who have embarked on a major pilot project to reduce idling among its county employees in their various work places.
- **Town of Sylvan Lake** who have established a major idle free pilot directed to the overall citizenry in Sylvan Lake.
- **Sheraton Red Deer Hotel** who has not only installed Tesla electric car outlets but has been doing many innovative projects to reduce its environmental footprint within the hotel through energy efficiency projects, recycling, etc.

Award Recipients (L to R)

Blayne West, Environmental Coordinator and Reeve Paula Law, Lacombe County; Esther Johnston on behalf of Reg Watson; Gil Vallee, General Manager, Sheraton Red Deer Hotel; Dale Nyland, Environmental Coordinator, Harmattan Gas Plant; Megan Chernoff, Deputy Mayor and Dave Brand, Director of Public Works for the Town of Sylvan Lake.

Below top— Esther Johnston commemorating Reg Watson.

Below bottom: Reeve Paula Law accepting the award for Lacombe County.



Below top: Dave Brand sharing information about the Town of Sylvan Lake's Idle Free project, as well as their other environmental initiatives.

Below bottom: Dale Nyland explaining Harmattan Gas plant's cogeneration project.



Below: Gil Vallee sharing the many environmental initiatives the Sheraton Red Deer has completed.



ACTION HEROS in Action - Idle Free Pilot Projects

There is no stopping the Town of Sylvan Lake and Lacombe County in their efforts to be idle free. Recent recipients of the 2015 PAMZ Action HERO award, these two municipalities have shown through their actions that they well deserve the award.

With support from PAMZ, each municipality has taken on a major task of trying to educate and change the behavior of their staff and public about vehicular idling.

Lacombe County is focussing on their County staff in order to build awareness and create champions within the organization. Emphasis is on idle reduction rather than idle free in order to be able to create tangible goals. Some examples of activities they have done to date are:

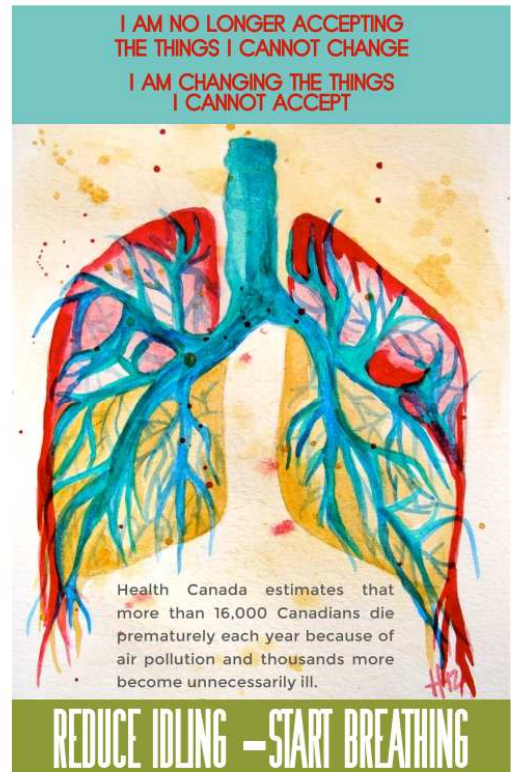
- A staff pre-survey, as well as gathering observational data on idling behavior.
- Creation of four main messages that will each be brought out for six weeks each on Health, Environment, Wear and Tear on Vehicles, Cost Savings.
- Set idling times to equipment by contacting all equipment providers.



Vehicle Emissions testing at Lacombe County

- Asked equipment operators to keep a diary of their idling so they can set goals that are realistic.
- Piloting two auxiliary batteries in their enforcement vehicles.
- Organized a vehicle emissions testing clinic for all staff vehicles in which 73 employee and County vehicles went through the clinic.

"We want to build commitment to change regarding idling among our staff," says Blayne West, Environmental Coordinator. *"No doubt this project will go on until 2017."*



This message brought to you by your Idle Reduction Action Committee LACOMBE COUNTY

One of Lacombe County's posters

The Town of Sylvan Lake has also been busy with its idle free project. Its focus is on education and changing the behavior of the public at large within the town. To date they have:

- Completed telephone pre-survey of town residents about their knowledge and attitude about idling.
- Branded their idle free campaign.
- Made mock idling tickets with entries for a draw to win a tree, which their beach ambassadors will hand out over the summer.
- Made idle free tattoos for kids which were first handed out at their Council BBQ.
- Supported their students who have done a "Breathe Easy" promo video on idling, which is now on Shaw Cable.

"The next step will be to work with teachers and parents in the schools, with the idea building idle free ambassadors among all residents," says Dave Brand, Manager of Public Works.



BLUE SKIES BRIGHT FUTURE
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The Zone is a newsletter published three times a year by the Parkland Airshed Management Zone Association (PAMZ), a non-profit society established to monitor and manage air quality issues in the Parkland Region of Alberta. For more information about the association, visit our website or contact the PAMZ Executive Director, Kevin Warren at kevin@pamz.org.