

The ZONE

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PAMZ NEWSLETTER

Communicating Information about the Parkland Airshed Management Zone Association "We Care for Our Air"

Gauge and Save Program Encourages Fuel Efficiency

Even though Clean Air Day was only officially celebrated on June 3 across Canada, the Alberta Conservation Team (ACT) of Alberta Environment went the extra mile by partnering with Shell Canada to visit gas stations in the Red Deer area throughout June as part of their **Gauge and Save** program. The program educates Albertans on the importance of proper vehicle tire pressure and its impact on fuel consumption which in turn affects carbon dioxide emissions.

The ACT Team works with communities to encourage Albertans to reduce waste, conserve water and reduce energy consumption. The ACT team offered free tire pressure checks for customers at the gas stations and provided information on fuel efficiency tips and the work PAMZ is doing in the region.

Alberta Environment staff member Phil Boehme who is also a member of PAMZ's Communication Committee, joined in on the activity and said he really enjoyed participating on June 3. "We had fun helping customers and providing tips on how to be more fuel efficient. Shell was a great partner to work with and the customers seem impressed that PAMZ is striving to address air quality issues in the region", commented Boehme.



For more information, contact the ACT team at (780) 422-5513, or check out their website: www.onesimpleact.alberta.ca.

PAMZ Board of Directors Retreat.



On May 6, 2009 the PAMZ Board of Directors met at the Diamond Buffalo Ranch west of Sunde for a Strategic Planning Session. Highlights of the workshop include reviewing the Board of Directors Roles and Responsibilities as well as what each of the five PAMZ committees are responsible for. Kevin Warren gave a detailed presentation which outlined PAMZ's history and how we came to be.

Actions from the Retreat include updating the orientation package which directors and members receive in order to stream line the transition into the PAMZ organization as well ensuring consistent key messages are being delivered to the public.

At the AGM on June 17 in Ponoka the Board of Directors decided to go forward with another workshop on September 24th for a priority setting workshop that will feed into PAMZ's long term business plan.

Pengrowth Olds Gas Plant Reduces Emissions and Boosts Production

The next time you drive from Calgary to Red Deer on Highway 2 you may notice fewer flare stacks lighting up the sky. The decreased number of flare pilots is a direct result of the Pengrowth Olds Gas Plant saving fuel costs, boosting production volumes and curbing air emissions.

To date, 32 pilots have been extinguished and another 26 are under evaluation and could be extinguished in the near future. During the first quarter of 2009, Pengrowth staff diligently worked to reduce the amount of fuel consumed in the Olds Field. The team developed a better understanding of fuel gas consumption by implementing a measurement program which actively monitored how much fuel gas was used on a daily basis.

Results of the measurement program clearly identified where the biggest fuel consumption savings could be made. By capitalizing on these results, the Olds team met the requirements of one of this year's Key Performance Indicators, reducing fuel gas consumption by 10 per cent.

Three specific actions have proven to be successful in reducing emissions and increasing production:

1. Extinguishing flare pilots
2. Turning off heating systems earlier in the spring
3. Implementing a preventative maintenance program to improve the efficiency of those line heaters identified as high fuel gas consumers.



These efforts have achieved a 15 per cent reduction in fuel consumption and between January and May increased production by 12,129 barrels of oil equivalent (BOE), or 80 BOE per day.

Pengrowth worked closely with the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) to successfully extinguish the flare stack pilots in a safe and efficient manner. For local residents, Pengrowth's commitment to curbing flaring volumes has had a positive impact on communities surrounding the gas plant. The continuing program also demonstrates their corporate commitment to public safety and reducing environmental waste by achieving more operational efficiencies. Nice work!

PAMZ welcomes new board member– Bonnie Denhaan

Bonnie Denhaan, now 70-plus, was born and raised in Toronto except for a few years in Victoria, B.C. during W.W.II. She moved to Calgary with her parents in 1951, leaving school after Grade 10. She obtained courses in typing and the lost art of shorthand which led to work in the obsolete position of “stenographer” until shortly after marriage to her husband Sam– this year they will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary. She has been a Domestic Engineer (mother) ever since. Bonnie is a proud mother of two adult children as well as two brilliant teenaged grandchildren – plus an adorable “bonus” preschool granddaughter.

Bonnie became an anti-nuclear activist with the Voice of Women in Calgary when her children were small, due to the atmospheric nuclear testing at that time. She volunteered with the peace and human rights organization Project Ploughshares and also with the start-up of the Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS), concerned with homelessness and poverty. After over 30 years in Calgary, she had seven exciting years in the North-West Territories, in Yellowknife and Hay River. While in Yellowknife she was actively involved with Amnesty International in Yellowknife. Her interest in environmental concerns grew from seeing the obvious effects of climate changes in the NWT even then.

Retirement to Red Deer brought some work with Habitat for Humanity, then activities with the Council of Canadians organization. She joined the “Raging Grannies”! and her local church’s social justice committee that had been working with efforts to “GREEN” their church building, including designation of their parking lots as “No Idle” zones. Efforts to involve City Council in watershed concerns and air pollution from idling vehicles have been met with some success.

It was environmentalist and founding PAMZ board member Martha Kostuch who put Bonnie’s name forward as a public representative on the PAMZ board. Ongoing concerns for air quality and effects on human health prompted her to accept – though she felt she lacked “technical” knowledge. Bonnie has had a steep learning curve, with this group of educated and committed people! Bonnie very much appreciates the opportunity to be part of such an essential program in Central Alberta.



Thank-you Leo Touchette – Long-time Contributor to PAMZ



It is a time of both happiness and sadness as Leo Touchette retires from the Energy Resources & Utilities Board (ERCB) this summer. Given his thirty-five years experience of working with the ERCB and his representation of that organization on the PAMZ Board for the past eight years his keen insight, plain-speaking and progressive thinking will be tough traits to replace. Leo’s involvement in PAMZ over the years reflects his personal and professional commitment to ensuring that Albertan’s everywhere enjoy clean-air. Enjoy your retirement Leo!

Dr. Martha Kostuch Environmental Education Fund

In June, the Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ) Board of Directors approved the final terms of reference for the Martha Kostuch Environmental Education Fund. Martha was a founding member of PAMZ and long-time director on the board. The fund is a tribute to her contributions and leadership in stakeholder collaboration. Her work influenced a shift towards shared governance, recognizing there is a shared responsibility for all sectors to act as good stewards of the environment.

The scholarship was permanently established in 2008 to help graduates from high schools within the PAMZ boundaries pursue a post-secondary environmental education. The award will be given annually to a deserving student(s) in recognition of outstanding environmental service, leadership and the prospect of future achievement in environmental stewardship and/or environmental leadership.

Criteria & Eligibility:

- Full-time grade twelve student attending a high school within the PAMZ boundaries with an interest in environmental issues.
- Pursuing a post-secondary education or environmental education in a field related to resource conservation.
- Within seven months of the award announcement, the recipient will be required to submit a report to PAMZ so they may learn about the accomplishments and activities of the recipient.

For complete application requirements please visit the PAMZ website: www.pamz.org. The application deadline is July 1st annually, and is valued at \$2500. Watch the next issue of The Zone as this year’s recipients will be announced.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPOG Neighbour’s Day- “Going Green”
September 9, 2009 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Sundre Arena and Curling Rink.

This community event will try to get as many people, organizations, chamber members and municipalities involved to showcase their effort in going green. With the new Video Conferencing site we are able to participate in out of town sessions and workshops as well as reduce our carbon footprint when using this communication tool.

ZoneVolution: The 2009 Zones Conference
October 19 - 20th, 2009 Mayfield Inn - Edmonton

1. The conference will provide information about what Albertans are doing to monitor and manage air quality in Alberta’s Nine Airshed Zones. For more information about attending, exhibiting, or sponsoring this event visit www.albertaairshedsCouncil.ca

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.



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