

The ZONE

Volume 8 Issue 3
Fall 2009

PAMZ NEWSLETTER

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

Red Deer Posts Idle - Free Zone Signs

Idle Free zone signs are now posted in front of several Red Deer facilities to remind motorists to shut off their engines when parked. "Vehicle emissions are the largest source of air pollution in Red Deer," said Pam Vust, Environmental Initiatives Coordinator. "These signs are part of our public education campaign to remind motorists to reduce unnecessary idling. If drivers are stopped for more than 60 seconds, we want them to turn off their engine."

Over the past few years, The City received numerous requests from schools, churches and individuals requesting idle free signage for their properties. While The City is not able to provide these signs directly to the general public, they have made the design available to local sign shops so individuals or organizations can purchase them from Red Deer businesses.

"We often get complaints about people idling vehicles next to building air intakes, which can pollute the air inside the building and make people sick. We hope that making these signs available for the public to purchase will help alleviate this problem," said Vust. "We are pleased to see that Red Deer has undertaken an idle-free zone initiative" says Kevin Warren, PAMZ Executive Director. "This action fits well with the objectives identified in the PAMZ Ozone Management Plan and we have passed information about it on to other municipalities in the zone."

Reducing unnecessary vehicle idling also helps to save money. In December 2008, Red Deer's Public Works Department implemented a Corporate Idle Free Policy to reduce emissions from municipal fleet vehicles and save money on fuel. Since that time, The City has saved 32,023 Litres of fuel and approximately \$32,267.

To find out what you can do to reduce your emissions at home, or for more information on The City's environmental programs, please visit www.reddeer.ca or call 403-342-8750.



ERCB volunteers meet Martha's Challenge despite snow in June



While many people have planted trees, few can say they've done it on a snowy day in June. Thirty-two ERCB volunteers, family, and friends earned that unique honour at Martha's Challenge Tree Planting Day. The June 6 event was held in honour of Martha Kostuch (1949-2008), an environmental champion and PAMZ founding member who made a valuable contribution to a number of ERCB initiatives over the years. Despite the wintry conditions, the enthusiastic group planted more than 700 pine seedlings in the Sibbald Flats area, about one hour east of Calgary.

ERCB employee Sharina Dumarán was among the volunteers. "I had a lot of fun meeting people and doing something positive for our environment," Sharina enthuses. While she never expected to be planting trees in the snow, Sharina says the conditions made for a great adventure.

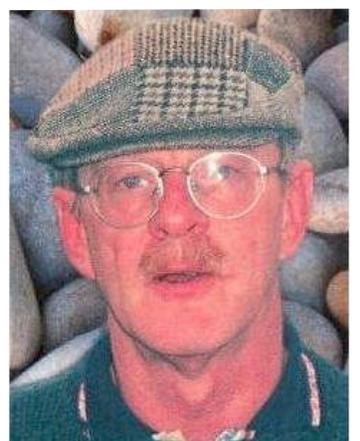
Although the group was unable to plant all of the 3,000 trees as planned, several volunteers stayed to help wrap the remaining trees upon returning to Calgary. All found a home thanks to ERCB staff, family, and friends. Andy Warren, leader of the event planning committee, credits the hard work of ERCB volunteers with helping to make the day a success: "Events like Martha's Challenge only happen with great support, ideas, and energy from volunteers. Our planning team did a terrific job making this event a reality, and we really appreciate all of the hardy souls who came out to help us plant the trees and meet Martha's challenge for us to more for our environment."

PAMZ Honours David McCoy

PAMZ is honouring David McCoy, a founding member who passed away suddenly in 2008, shortly after the passing of his great friend and PAMZ colleague, Martha Kostuch. David was a senior environmental scientist with Husky and a key member of the PAMZ Technical Working Group, who freely shared his abundant knowledge and passion for sound environmental management.

David was a warm, compassionate and unconventional man with a keen Irish wit and had a talent for making friends wherever he went. Although he was highly regarded by his peers as an expert in his field he was modest to a fault, and his generosity of spirit governed his relationships with friends and colleagues alike.

At its September meeting, the PAMZ Board, acting on a recommendation from the PAMZ Technical Working Group, unanimously agreed to rename the Raven Air Monitoring Station the David McCoy Air Monitoring Station to honour David's significant contributions to PAMZ and the many other organizations he served, all with the common goal of maintaining or improving the environment.



Martha Kostuch Scholarship Recipients Announced

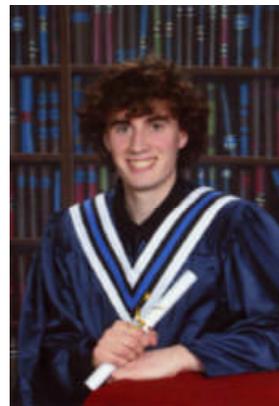
PAMZ recently announced the inaugural joint recipients of their Dr. Martha Kostuch Environmental Education Scholarship Award. This scholarship was established to assist students graduating from high schools within PAMZ's boundaries in recognition of their outstanding environmental service and leadership as well as the promise of future achievement in environmental stewardship. The Scholarship celebrates the legacy of Dr. Kostuch, a PAMZ founding member, who made a significant impact on how environmental management policy was developed in Alberta, advocating for effective collaboration among stakeholders.

The inaugural recipients of the scholarship are Sarah Connolly of Didsbury, AB and Tyson Swain of Leslieville, AB. Both of these well deserving students submitted outstanding applications along with letters of recommendation and detailed essays explaining their passion for the environment.



Sarah has been on the honour roll each year since grade six and recognizes the importance of giving back to her community through volunteering. Preserving species and the habitats in which they live became a goal she plans to pursue through her post secondary studies and beyond. Her goal is to continue researching and building a great understanding of conserving our environment in order to sustain the life it maintains. She is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Biology at UBC Okanagan in Kelowna.

Tyson has shown leadership on the many extracurricular teams and community organizations that he has participated in. His goal, through his education, is to learn new ways to reclaim damaged land and water systems and lessen human impact on the environment. He is currently enrolled in the Environmental Technology program at Keyano College in Fort McMurray. Ultimately he plans to obtain his Land Agent's license and then start his own land reclamation company.



PAMZ begins to implement Ozone Management Plan

PAMZ has begun to implement some of the short-term actions identified in its Ozone Management Plan completed late last year. "This plan is designed to manage emissions that contribute to ozone formation and identify opportunities for reduction" notes Kevin Warren, Executive Director of PAMZ. "In order for the plan to be effective, it is being implemented in partnership with our affected stakeholders and is aligned with our neighbouring airshed zones."

Ground-level ozone is one of the main components of smog, which is formed by the interaction of the precursors, such as hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, in the presence of sunlight. At higher concentrations, ozone's health effects can include reduced lung function, aggravated existing respiratory illness, and irritated eyes, nose, and throat. High concentrations can also damage vegetation and reduce crop yields. Chronic exposure can cause permanent lung damage.

PAMZ is currently working on: an assessment of its monitoring program to determine gaps in monitoring ozone and its precursors, a framework for tracking and reporting ozone precursor levels as well as activities & actions by stakeholders in the zone to reduce them (see article on Red Deer's Idle-free Initiative) and educational materials and website pages about ground-level ozone and what local industries and the public can do to help reduce its formation.

PAMZ participates in Going Green Video Conference

This year's edition of the Sundre Petroleum Operating Group's (SPOG) Neighbours Day contained an exciting new element, a "Going Green Video Conference". The conference was organized by SPOG and the Community Learning Campus (CLC) and held at the Sundre High School's video conferencing studio during the Neighbours Day celebrations on September 9.

The CLC is an innovative approach to high school, post-secondary, and community education and a joint venture between Olds College and Chinook's Edge School Division in collaboration with the Town of Olds, Mountain View County, and the University of Alberta. Integrated with the Olds College campus, the CLC consists of five multi-use facilities complete with integrated programming. The CLC addresses specific rural needs by sharing resources and working jointly with a variety of community groups and agencies.

PAMZ's presentation was entitled "We Care for our Air" and discussed local air quality trends and what we all can do to improve and maintain air quality. Other presentations included a summary of various going Green Municipal Initiatives from towns across Southern Alberta, an Introduction to Alberta Environment's "One Simple Act" Program, and a look at some of Olds College's green research and campus initiatives.



**PAMZ Executive Director
Kevin Warren speaking at the
Going Green Video Conference**

UPCOMING EVENTS

ZoneVolution: The 2009 Zones Conference

October 19 - 20th, 2009 Mayfield Inn - Edmonton

Find out what Albertans are doing to monitor and manage air quality in Alberta's Nine Airshed Zones. For more information about this event visit www.albertaairshedsCouncil.ca

CASA Ambient Priority Setting workshop

November 10th, 2009 J.G.O'Donoghue Building- Edmonton.

Alberta Environment and CASA will be holding a workshop for ambient air quality objective development and/or review. See www.casahome.org for more info.

Bridging Interests, Building Agreements workshop.

December 2, 2009 Matrix Hotel- Edmonton.

Consensus-building, the Legacy of Martha Kostuch. Share your experiences and discuss the potential of consensus decision making. Register at www.casahome.org

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.



Parkland Airshed Management Zone Association
P.O. Box 1020
Sundre, AB, T0M 1X0
Phone (403) 862-7046 Fax (403) 238-6604