



**“In a time of destruction,
create something .”**

Maxine Hong Kingston

December 2015

Waste & Recycling Centre Earns Award

SAGE Meeting every third Wednesday - January 20th at the Lethbridge Public Library downtown, 7 to 9 p.m.

Green Drinks YQL. First Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.—Owl Acoustic Lounge.

Colin Starkevich’s The Grasslands Series exhibition at CASA Gallery, until January 9th. A must see.

On behalf of SAGE, have a happy holiday season!

From lethbridge.ca:

At the Recycling Council of Alberta annual conference in September, the City of Lethbridge Waste & Recycling Centre was recognized with a "Collection Site Award of Excellence" by the Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA).

This award was given because of the City of Lethbridge Waste & Recycling Centre's commitment to responsible waste manage-

ment practices, by recycling all materials under the control of the three ARMA stewardship programs. This includes electronic waste, paint and tires. This award recognizes the daily hard work of all on-site staff at the Waste & Recycling Centre, as well as the citizens of Lethbridge for their continued efforts to divert waste from the landfill through these ARMA stewardship programs.

"Thank you to Lethbridge and area residents for doing a great job of participating in the recycling programs at the Waste and Recycling Centre," said Dave Purcell, an employee of Progressive Waste Solutions, which operates the Waste & Recycling Centre.

More site enhancements are planned in the coming years that will continue to provide Lethbridge with a variety of waste diversion options.

It’s Time To Take The Challenge!

This March will mark the eighth annual Water Conservation Challenge, an event initiated in Winnipeg and promoted around the world. The premise is simple; try to severely reduce the amount of water you use on a daily basis for an entire month to educate and inspire others. Most campaigners, including me, strive to keep our daily water use under 25 litres but some opt for a slightly less ambitious amount such as 40 or 50 litres. But even this is an extreme drop from the average amount the average Canadian uses, a whopping 330 litres per day! This seems like an exaggerated amount but when you factor in a daily shower (80-120 litres), several toilets flushes (40-80

litres), and a load of laundry (60-200 litres!) it isn't hard to see how we get to that amount.

We are looking for others to join the campaign and take the Challenge. Campaigners spend the month of March inspiring others to be more aware of their water use and be better stewards of the environment overall. We do this by promoting the project in the media, presenting to various community groups and at schools, and asking others to sign a pledge to reduce their own water use. To date the Water Conservation Challenge has reached millions through media coverage in at least eight countries, has saved multiple

millions of litres of water through the pledging campaign, and more than 10,000 students have seen live presentations on the project in schools around Manitoba. Are you up for it? The commitment is what you want to make of it and can range from blogging about your experience, encouraging others to sign the pledge, presenting to classrooms and community groups, or just limiting your water use anonymously. Visit www.howlowflowcanyougo.com for more information and to get involved.

From Kevin Freedman – Founder, The Water Conservation Challenge.



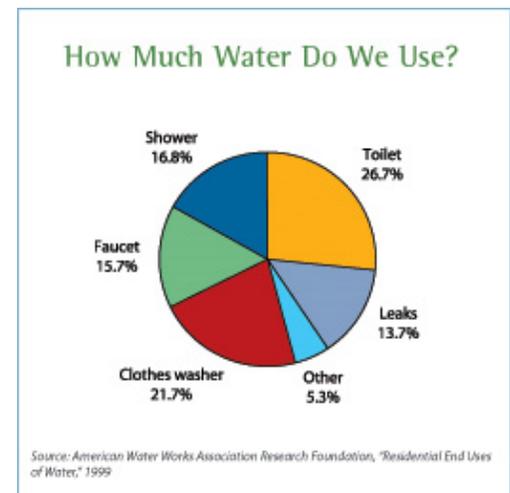
Some tips on reducing your water consumption:

From [Enterprise Community](#)

1. Wash vegetables and fruit in a bowl, not under the tap - then use the leftover water to water house plants.
2. Keep a bottle of water in the fridge so you don't have to run taps until the water is cold.
3. Do NOT leave the tap running when brushing your teeth, shaving or soaping your hands.

From [Earth Easy](#)

1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks
2. Don't use the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket
3. Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators
4. Put plastic bottles or float booster in your toilet tank
5. Insulate your water pipes.
6. Take shorter showers.
7. Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads
8. Minimize use of kitchen sink garbage disposal units
9. When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing
10. Plant drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants
11. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks



From [City of Calgary](#)

1. Replace your old dishwasher with a newer, low water use dishwasher (newer models will save on your energy bill as well)
2. Scrape, do not rinse the food off of dishes
3. Set your softener for water hardness based on values provided by Calgary Water Services
4. Have your water softener serviced if water drains from the softener when it isn't recycling
5. Service and repair your furnace humidifier if the drainage is leaking or if the water drains out of the line while the humidifier isn't running

In Memorandum: Katharine Russel 1930-2015

Katharine Lois Russell UE, of Lethbridge, beloved wife of Frank A. Russell, passed away peacefully at Chinook Regional Hospital on November 1, 2015 at the age of 85 years.

Born June 9, 1930, the second daughter of William and Beatrice Darker of St. Catherine's, ON. She attended school in that city, before going to McMaster University (B.A.) and University of Toronto (B.S.W.). She worked as a group social worker at the YWCA in Toronto before marrying Frank Russell, the geologist fiancé she had met at McMaster. After living in Sudbury for two years, they moved with their new daughter to Alberta, where Frank was part of the family farm operation. Katharine continued her community involvement as well as managing a growing family. Her membership to the Cdn.Fedn. Of University Women, Lethbridge Naturalists, YWCA (board member), McKillop United Church, Women of Unifarm (director), and acting as a school environmental education volunteer, indicates the scope of her dedication to the interests and welfare of Lethbridge and Southern Alberta.

Besides her loving husband, Katharine is survived by her daughter Janet (Glenn Miles), her sons Jim (Liza) and Alex (Christine); grandchildren Madeline, Naomi, Jeffry, Thea, Miranda, Meaghan and Daniel; and her sister Elaine Correll of Ottawa. She was predeceased by her parents William and Beatrice Darker.

The family would like to thank the staff of the Chinook Regional Hospital for their care and attention in Katharine's last days. Visit <http://www.mbfunerals.com> to send a private condolence.

New good practices guide developed to help manage odour issues in Alberta

Now available in a single resource—a comprehensive reference guide to help industry, regulators and government assess, prevent, mitigate and manage odours and address odour complaints.

The *Good Practices Guide for Odour Management in Alberta*, developed by the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA), explains some of the most common tools and practices used in assessing, preventing and managing odours. It also provides guidance on the general situations and circumstances in which specific tools may be most effective. The guide brings together a wealth of information that industry, regulators and government can use to develop odour management plans or requirements.

The guide, as well as the source reports used in its development, are available online at casahome.org. Hard copies can be requested by email to casa@casahome.org.

Interesting Links:

Good Practices Guide for Odour Management in Alberta casahome.org/

Map of Alberta and oil and gas wells: globalnews.ca/

This Changes Everything [Film] thefilm.thischangeeverything.org/

Milking the Rhino, [Film] milkingtherhino.org/film.php

"Milking the Rhino examines the deepening conflict between humans and animals in an ever-shrinking world. It is the first major documentary to explore wildlife conservation from the perspective of people who live with wild animals. Shot in some of the world's most magnificent locales, Rhino offers complex, intimate portraits of rural Africans at the forefront of community-based conservation: a revolution that is turning poachers into preservationists and local people into the stewards of their land."



Southern Alberta Group for the Environment (SAGE)

A Leading Voice for a Healthy and Environmentally Sustainable Community.

Visit us at: <http://sage-environment.org/>

If you are interesting in getting involved, contact us at:

sage-communications@sage-environment.org

Sapiens: A brief history of humankind.



Published last year, this has been a very popular book, and it has some merits. But it struck me like a conversation one might have at a dinner table after plenteous libations: meandering, contradictory, superficial, but sometimes attention-getting. To be honest, the book made my toes curl.

Sapiens: A brief history of mankind was a grand and sweeping description of *Homo sapiens* from the dust of the Big Bang to our future as an immortal computer subroutine. If you were to read this book forgivingly you would not be disappointed with a romp through the millennia.

Harari, the author, describes the evolution of the genus Homo, and the various success of Neanderthal and Erectus before Sapiens came along roughly 70,000 years ago. Harari calls this the Cognitive Revolution, as *Homo sapiens* made the leap out of Africa to eliminate the competition. What this cognitive revolution was is not clear, but might have involved that long-since-lost attribute called 'imagination'. After disappearing the cousins and half the mammals over 50 kilograms while spreading around the earth, this ecological serial killer, *Homo sapiens*, asserted its preeminent dominance over all of creation.

Then came the Agriculture Revolution as the last remaining human species settled down in small communities with the domesticated plants and animals, and began to divide the labour according to ability. Harari suggests that prior to this stage individual humans had to know everything needed for survival and, therefore, had probably the most developed brain. After settling into communities the labour could be divided and the surplus food which could be used to sustain the weak, creating 'niches for imbeciles'

which would dilute the gene pool (p.49). Thus begins the long decline from ecological serial killer to, well, more of the same.

The food surplus and storage of the Agricultural Revolution allowed for a growth of the human population, which burned humanity's boats - there was no going back to hunting and gathering. But maybe it is not all about us ... Harari suggests that, perhaps, it was wheat, rice, and potatoes that domesticated humans, compelling us to establish them around the world on huge tracts of arable land! (p.80).

The author then meanders through the history of culture since the Cognitive Revolution, and the creation of narratives (gods, nations and corporations) that would capture the interest of strangers so as to cooperate in large groups towards uncertain goals: "Ever since the Cognitive Revolution, Sapiens has thus been living in a dual reality. On the one hand, the objective reality of rivers, trees and lions; and on the other hand, the imagined reality of gods, nations and corporations. As time went by, the imagined reality became ever more powerful, so that today the very survival of rivers, trees and lions depend on the grace of imagined entities such as gods, nations and corporations" (p.31).

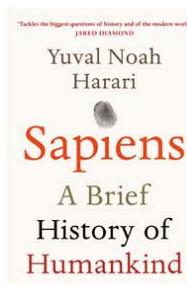
Humans transition through animism, to polytheism, to dualism, to monotheism, and on to human liberalism after the Industrial Revolution. We have transitioned from a natural order to an imagined order: "A natural order is a stable order. ... In contrast, an imagined order is always in danger of collapse, because it depends on myths, and myths vanish once people stop believing in them. In order to safeguard an imagined order,

continuous and strenuous efforts are imperative. Some of these efforts take the shape of violence and coercion" (p.111). The natural world disappears beneath the needs of the imagined world. Harari's thesis here, as far as I can tell, is that humans are moving towards becoming one big unity - a world state for the last remaining species on the planet.

And it is at this point that Harari transcends the material world: Nature vanishes. For instance, when talking about energy sources and raw materials, Harari says: "Counter-intuitively, while humankind's use of energy and raw materials has mushroomed in the last few centuries, the amounts available for our exploitation has actually *increased*" (p.334). Counter-intuitive indeed. I suppose we can just keep increasing these finite resources by consuming more. Faster.

At least that explains the projected end of *Homo sapiens*, as the species evolves into a computer program - *Homo exanimis diffugientibus* - ostensibly operated without energy, rare minerals, and other things that make the physical substructure of our future cousins. Humanity will become cyborgs (organic/technology hybrids) or even purely inorganic as we interface with interactive computer systems, eventually eliminating the need for our aging organic bodies.

My concern, as you can probably guess, is what will the wheat, rice and potatoes think!? Since humans were domesticated by wheat, rice and potatoes for their evolutionary success, do you really believe these plants are going to let humans escape their control as we evolved into an inorganic species!? No way! They are watching us!



Klaus on Recycling ...

Letter to the editor:

Dear colleagues in recycling

Some 10% of households in Lethbridge practice recycling. The resource of most homes are thrown into our landfill. However, households in Halifax, NS are no longer so wasteful. Their new recycling program is an impressive display of community cooperation.

Their program is concisely explained on two sheets of paper "How it works" and "What goes where". To conform to the new rules requires effort. Containers which do not conform are labeled as incorrect and are not picked up.

Garbage is picked up every second week and is limited to number of clear bags or containers and their weight. Items which qualify as garbage are listed.

Organics and recycled items are picked up every alternate week. Items which qualify as recyclables are listed and go into tinted blue see-through bags. Paper and cardboard have separate specifications. Ready-to-serve containers are to be taken for refund at Enviro-Depots.

Organics are placed in a specific green cart and items which do not qualify are listed, this includes grass clippings. For grass clippings visit halifax.ca/recycle.

Special Waste are listed as paint, motor oil, batteries (call2recycle.ca) and electronics (recyclemyelectronics.ca) and items which should be taken to the Special Waste depot are listed. Leftover liquid paint goes to Enviro-Depots, but almost empty paint cans go to garbage.

This is only taste of the details. Residents of Halifax have recognized that household waste is controlled at source.

Merry Christmas to recyclers

... Or Recycling Klaus.



UNDERSTANDING ODOUR

Odours can be a significant contributor to air pollution and air quality concerns. Offensive odours may have adverse effects on peoples' lives and well-being, and can result in conflicts between the public and the facilities or activities generating the odours. An important step in managing odour is developing an understanding of its properties, frequency and duration of occurrence, sources, and impact on health and well-being.

ODOUR AND HEALTH

Everyone experiences odour in different ways. Keeping records can be useful to help people understand and track how odours may be affecting their health.

ODOUR PREVENTION & MITIGATION

Prevention and mitigation can be described as a suite of tools used to prevent or lower odourant emissions or reduce the occurrence of adverse odour effects.

- Prevention refers to actions or solutions that avert the creation of odours, such as material substitution.
- Mitigation techniques are more commonly used and target odours after they are generated.

There are various prevention and mitigation tools that can be used depending on the circumstance and their selection is often guided by odour assessment tools.

INSIDE GOOD PRACTICES GUIDE FOR ODOUR MANAGEMENT IN ALBERTA

THE PATHWAY
Distance, terrain and meteorological conditions affect the dispersion of odour.

ODOUR PREVENTION
Assess and manage the impact of processes, materials and emissions at the site.

ODOUR MITIGATION
Odour affects places where people live, work and play.

RECEPTORS
Odour affects places where people live, work and play.

ODOUR ASSESSMENTS

Odour assessments are conducted for a variety of reasons, and the tools used to conduct the assessment will depend on its purpose. Four types of odour assessments are: ambient odour, source odour, inventory and dispersion modelling.

ODOUR MANAGEMENT

Odour management involves the application of the appropriate tools to understand and effectively manage odour. Odour impacts may arise from a wide range of odour sources, and the nature of odour perception and response is varied and qualitative. There are many approaches for managing odours in addition to challenges in determining the best options for control. Odour-related regulation and associated enforcement is one of many possible odour management tools.

ODOUR COMPLAINTS

Odour complaints often necessitate odour management activities. Receiving, understanding and effectively addressing odour complaints is a very important part of odour management, and it includes managing the public's expectations about odours. There are several factors that need to be considered in developing processes for handling the complaints, managing the relationship with callers and gathering necessary information for complaint follow-up.

Job Description

Job Title: Board Member - Environmental Appeals Board
Job ID: 1032529
Location: Edmonton
Full/Part Time: Part-Time

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Closing Date

December 18, 2015

Role

The Environmental Appeals Board is currently accepting applications from qualified individuals to serve as part-time Board Members.

The Environmental Appeals Board hears appeals of regulatory decisions made by Alberta Environment and Parks under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, the Water Act, and the Climate Change and Emissions Management Act. In hearing appeals, the Board's main function is to make recommendations to the Minister of Environment and Parks. You will participate on panels at hearings, complete extensive file preparation, review evidence and submissions, and make recommendations to the Minister of Environment and Parks to address the appeals. The Environmental Appeals Board makes extensive use of mediation to resolve appeals and Board Members are responsible for conducting the mediations.

The Environmental Appeals Board is composed of professionals from throughout Alberta with demonstrated technical, scientific, and public policy expertise and substantial practical experience with environmental issues. Members serve the people of Alberta by working to advance the protection, enhancement, and wise use of Alberta's environment by providing fair, impartial, and efficient resolution of all matters that come before it. Members may also sit on the Public Lands Appeal Board as required.

Your background will demonstrate a good working knowledge of administrative law, the function of administrative boards, and the hearing process. An understanding of environmental law, resource management, and Alberta's regulatory systems would be an asset. The Board is seeking candidates with expertise in environmental engineering (water management), human health, land management, risk assessment and management, wildlife biology, and terrestrial biology. An ideal candidate would also have mediation training.

The selection of Board Members is based on the expertise that the Board requires to address the appeals that come before it. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, as well as a demonstrated decision-making ability, are required and are key to your success in this role. It is important that Board Members have a high standard of integrity and are impartial and free from bias. You will need to consider any potential conflicts of interest with participants that appear before the Board and identify any concerns in your application.

There is no salary for this position. Board Members receive an honorarium in accordance with the Government of Alberta Committee Remuneration Order. Travel throughout Alberta is required and travel expenses are paid for by the Board. The time commitment is as required, and is generally 5 days per month. Appointments are generally for one or two years. Final candidates will be required to undergo a security screening. Applications may

be used for future vacancies.

The Board strongly encourages applications from women and individuals from other groups that are underrepresented on Alberta's agencies, boards, and commissions.

How to Apply

If you are interested in this opportunity, please forward your letter of interest and a detailed resume by December 18, 2015 to: Gilbert Van Nes, General Counsel and Settlement Officer, Environmental Appeals Board, 306 Peace Hills Trust Tower, 10011-109 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3S8. Fax: 780-427-4693. E-mail: gilbert.vannes@gov.ab.ca. If you require any additional information about the Board, visit the Board's website at www.eab.gov.ab.ca or contact Gilbert Van Nes at 780-427-6207. More detailed information regarding this position and the selection process is available on the Board's website.

Closing Statement

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.