



**Drive Nature forth by force, she'll turn and rout
The false refinements that would keep her out.
Horace**

November 2010

Prairie to Potatoes:

Cheryl Bradley speaking at SACPA, Nov 4th at noon, \$10 incl. lunch (rear entrance to basement of The Keg).

Canada has received the **Dodo Award** from the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) for leading the way to species extinction.

Spray Lake Sawmills will be hosting an open house on November 18th at the Heritage Inn in Pincher Creek. For more information contact Martin Wilson at (403) 562-8520

Potatoes for Pipits

The Government of Alberta has approved the development of 25 square miles of public land to expand potato production near Bow Island.

The development will impact native grassland that serves as important habitat for species-at-risk, including the Ferruginous Hawk, Sprague's Pipit, and the Burrowing Owl.

These species are protected by the *Species at Risk Act* and the *Alberta Wildlife Act*, and cultivation of their land would be in violation of this legislation.

A second concern regarding this development is the large water abstraction for the irrigation of potatoes. Aquatic systems of the lower Bow River have already been assessed as

degraded due to the overallocation of water. The Alberta Government continues to expand demand, but has yet to secure minimum river flows for basic human needs and the health of the river ecosystems.

Albertans highly value their public lands and are entitled to fair and transparent processes that contribute to a sustainable future.

Open Pit Mining on the Livingstone Range

Crown land on the east slopes of the Livingstone Range will be exploited for magnetite and titanium by the Micrex Development Corporation, based in Edmonton. The company has received a waiver for an

environmental impact assessment from the Alberta Government for an open pit mine in the region.

The waiver was apparently granted because of the small scale of the initial phase, though the com-

pany holds over 10 square kilometers of mining leases contiguous to the development.

The open pit mine may impact wildlife habitat and recreational enjoyment for hikers and naturalists who

visit the nearby South Livingstone Raptor Site noted on the National Geographic Crown of the Continent Geo-Tourism Map.

For more information contact Judy Cooke, Crowsnest Conservation Society

Green List Celebration

The Environment Week Committee in Lethbridge hosted an evening celebrating people who have advanced 'green' in the city.

Our own Cheryl Bradley was acknowledged for her indefatigable efforts in advocating for the environment and a more resilient society.



"When will people learn? Democracy doesn't work!"

Homer J. Simpson

(just kidding)

Graeme and Patty Greenlee were celebrated for their dedication to the Naturalists and their hosting of informative talks and walks.

Other individuals acknowledged included Aiden Boon, a 10-year old who organized the purchase of recycle bins for her school and made pins for the staff that said: "The smallest things make the biggest difference."

Organizations, large and small, were noted for their efforts to reduce waste, choosing more durable and less toxic products, recycling, and providing locally grown and healthier food.

Past SAGE President, Kelsey Prenevost, represented Kyoto Fuels and their efforts to introduce

sustainable biofuels for transportation.

The Green List celebration brought together people from a number of areas of our community and provided an opportunity to share and advance the sustainability wave.

The complete list is available on the [city website](#).

Some Interesting Online Sources:

- Norway and Environmental Valuation [Globe and Mail](#)
- [The Economics of Environment and Biodiversity \(TEEB\)](#)

And for your favourite climate change denier on City Council ...

- [Climate Change: Addressing the Major Skeptic Arguments](#)
- [Climate Change: A Summary of the Science](#)

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:

info@sage-environment.org

Moving Towards Sustainability - Air Pollution from Luxury Emissions (Special Feature)

Increased wood burning in Lethbridge, both indoor and outdoor, has the potential to be a year-round source of harmful urban air pollution. Environment Canada has estimated that a standard wood stove can emit as much fine particulate pollution in 9 hours of use as a mid-size car would produce in an average year's worth of driving.

Wood smoke is similar in composition to cigarette smoke, with some elements that are carcinogenic. A few of the many [harmful pollutants](#) contained in wood smoke are fine particulate matter (PM 10 and PM 2.5), carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), hydrocarbons (HC), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), formaldehyde, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, (PAHs), dioxins and furans, and acrolein.

Fine particulate matter is considered a significant public health concern and, according to Environment Canada, the largest single source of fine particulate

matter in this country comes from residential wood heating. Particulate pollution affects both indoor and outdoor environments, impacting quality of life and presenting a health risk for residents - particularly infants, expectant mothers, seniors, and people predisposed to allergies, asthma, and heart & lung disease.

Under our current by-laws, Lethbridge residents are provided no protection against unwanted wood smoke that crosses property lines and infiltrates into surrounding homes and other spaces. Given the serious health impacts of particulate pollution, Lethbridge would benefit as a community if it could work toward reducing emissions from wood burning, particularly luxury emissions like backyard fire pits and aesthetic fire places.

Reducing these emissions would foster the principle that ***everyone deserves the right to breathe unpolluted air***. This principle has been

advanced by organizations like the [Lung Association](#).

Increased public awareness and support on this issue might encourage the City of Lethbridge to consider creating an effective clean air policy/bylaw for our city that will help ensure the shared right of all citizens to breathe healthy air and meet the intention of the [Integrated Community Sustainability Plan](#). Other Canadian municipalities have introduced bylaws limiting the recreational burning of wood, including [Medicine Hat](#), [Meritt](#), and [Grand Forks](#).

This is the first submission for SAGE's Moving Towards Sustainability initiative. A more detailed account will be made available in a comprehensive report in 2011. For more information on this issue, contact Cathy Baiton at CleanAirMattersInAlberta@gmail.com