



**One does not discover new lands without consenting to
lose sight of the shore for a very long time.**

Gide

September 2010

Special points of interest:

- * Watch for the **environmental forums** for mayoralty and aldermanic candidates (tentatively Sept. 29th at UofL and Oct. 4th at Lethbridge College).
- * **Public Land Acts Regulation Survey** at www.mywildalberta.com
- * **Castle Special Place** action for September long weekend www.stopcastlelogging.org
- * **Communities in Bloom**
Plant Exchange
City Hall Parking Lot
Sept. 11, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

High & Wide Corridor through Montana & Alberta

Imperial Oil is planning a new transportation corridor along the Lochsa River—a route of significant wilderness, recreational, and historic interest in Montana.

To evade mandatory environmental impact assessment, Imperial Oil maintains that there will be fewer than 200 loads. This assertion is considered spurious by many due to the costly and permanent infrastruc-

ture changes that are required, and that this route will be considerably more cost-effective to move tar-sands equipment from South Korea.

In addition to reducing transportation costs, larger equipment may be manufactured off-shore which will reduce labour-intensive assembly on site as well as the provincial steel industry (with potential job losses in Alberta).

Loads up to 100 meters long, 8 meters wide, and 10 meters high, weighing up to 250 tonnes will be transported through Sweetgrass en route to tar sand operations. It is uncertain whether (taxpayer funded) modifications to Alberta highways will be required to meet the demands of transportation.

More information at:
[YouTube 'Big Rig'](#)
[Grist 'Mammoth Trucks'](#)
[Clark Fork Coalition](#)

Response to SAGE Letter in the Herald

The letter submitted by SAGE to the Herald (July Newsletter) has received three replies. The first, from Cosmos Voutsinos supporting the importance of the idea but suggesting

caution due to the complexity of energy infrastructure. (A position paper by Cosmos is linked on page 2.)

Cathy Baiton raises the important issue of air pol-

lution caused by the burning of biomass (wood) within the city. The question of net greenhouse gas emissions for wood as a fuel was raised, as well as health concerns.

Cheryl Meheden has also sent a letter endorsing the Energy/Environmental Council as a forum for local expertise and community interaction.

SAGE asked: "What environmental/sustainability initiative would you promote as the next Mayor of Lethbridge?"

Cheryl Meheden



**The uncertainty of
our times is no
reason to be
certain about
hopelessness.
Vandana Shiva**

Lethbridge lags behind other Alberta cities when it comes to being an environmentally sustainable city. The advantage to being a late adopter of energy-environmental initiatives is that there are models to follow, including Edmonton's EcoVision and Medicine Hat's HAT Smart programs, and Lethbridge folks have had a good deal of time to discuss and debate the merits of what and how environmental needs should be met. Having listened to these conversations for several years, as Mayor one of my priorities would be to establish an energy-

environmental council that would work with the City to develop targets, produce programs, change and reward behaviours, and improve business operations in a way that reduces our environmental footprint. This council would be organized by a staff leader, either a qualified new or existing City employee, and championed by members of the community and region. Creating an environmental manager position with dual accountability to the City and the Council would ensure authority for getting Lethbridge on the radar as an environmentally sustainable city. I envision this council would begin with a local focus and over time expand to include the southern Alberta region, eventually becoming part of a provincial alternative energy or green energy plan.

<http://www.meheden.ca/>

Coming Events & Sources:

Citizen's Walk on Sept6ember 24th, 10 a.m. from City Hall to Galt Gardens with speeches.

Land Use Framework progress report <http://www.landuse.alberta.ca/Newsroom/LUFQuarterly/Default.aspx>

Making the Connection: Water and Land <http://www.water-matters.org/pub/making-the-connection>

Shoreline Cleanup 2 p.m. on September 25th, meet at Helen Schuler Nature Center email shannon@oldmanbasin.org

Cosmos Voutsinos on **Energy** <http://www.energyintegration.ca/>

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

SAGE asked: "What environmental/sustainability initiative would you promote as the next Mayor of Lethbridge?"**James Frey**

With the 2010 Municipal Election there is a great opportunity to set some new directions for the City of Lethbridge. I agree that the City needs to show leadership in centralizing environmental programs and management. It also needs to look to organizations like yours and others and the expertise in our community in developing practical solutions. An advisory council would help gather and disseminate useful and cost-saving environmental information for citizens. The City needs to take the lessons learned from other communities like Medicine Hat in developing policies (HatSmart) that encourages sustainability, development of emerging technologies and looks to the future.

I don't know if I could come up with one environmentally platform item. I am not an expert. What I suggest might not be practical from an economic or environmental standpoint. I'd look to organizations like yours to help the City set priorities and determine the right way to proceed.

My priority is reducing spending and the taxes (utilities) paid by citizens. This is not exclusive of finding good solutions to environmental issues.

Rather than focus on one thing I see a systemic approach, it might not result in quick wins, but it should have greater impacts – like finding ways to encourage more commercial development closer to homes so people don't have to drive to shop or to work; making transit more effective and convenient to increase ridership; adding infrastructure to encourage more alternative transport (bike paths and lanes) and making those modes of transportation safer; and exploring ideas to encourage more recycling (possibly curb side recycling).

www.freyformayor.com

Rajko Dodic

As many are aware, the City of Lethbridge recently adopted the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan/Municipal Development Plan (ICSP/MDP) that includes a section devoted to setting out the vision of Lethbridge being an 'Environmentally Responsible City' which speaks to policies involving water quality, air quality, waste management and energy. Not only are the policies identified but exam-

ple actions are provided to give direction to those reading the document as to what the vision is for the City from an environmental perspective.

The question posed by SAGE was what specific environmental / sustainability initiative would I support. Reference is also made to restoring the position of Environmental Manager and creating an arms length Council. The Lethbridge experience was that a specific manager was not necessarily the most efficient way to address environmental issues and that the various business units involved with their focused expertise we're in a good position to address environmental issues involving their particular department. So, for example, there are a number of Water Quality Policies that have been identified with example actions. The Infrastructure Director is responsible for services involving water and he would likewise be responsible for ensuring that the Environmental Policies are complied with and City Council then has general oversight over all of the various environmental policies.

The bottom line is that the specific initiative I would support is the implementation and monitoring of the policies identified in the ICSP/MDP. I am open to hearing the debate with respect to an arms length Council and an Environmental Manager which is a discussion best addressed in the context of a Community Issues Committee Meeting which I would welcome.

SAGE asked: "What environmental/sustainability initiative would you promote as the next Mayor of Lethbridge?"

Pat Berthelot

As far as the City of Lethbridge and the environment go, I believe there is a huge gap between the two. I have watched with great interest David Suzuki's assessment of the damage that urban sprawl has created in Calgary and I see the same thing happening in Lethbridge.

I have sat in council chambers and watched them approve a housing development above Paradise Canyon despite the concerns expressed by myself and others about the bird migratory paths that would be interfered with, and that these grounds have been considered environmentally significant for both birds and rattlesnakes. Council ignored the facts and approved the development anyway - our current administration is not environmentally conscious.

As far as replacing the environmental manager, this will work if I become mayor. If we reelect the current aldermen for Mayor or Council, things will remain the same - even with an appointed environmental manager. In my opinion, previous administrations have already created too much havoc on the local environment—I will work to correct this.

Kay Adeniyi

(Kay did not make a submission)