



May 27, 2008

UPDATES

Pesticides campaign update and action alert

The City of Calgary's Utilities and Environment Committee will hear a report on June 25 from the city's Environmental Advisory Committee on the merit of phasing out cosmetic pesticide use in Calgary. They will also hear a report from The City's Environmental Management and Safety Dept. on the implementation of a phase out of cosmetic pesticides and a draft by-law. This will be the public's chance to speak up in support of a ban at City Hall. Each member of the public is allowed five minutes to talk at the committee meeting.

In the lead-up to June 25th it is very important that people contact their alderman to let them know you support a by-law in Calgary, either by phoning, writing a letter, or emailing them. The Coalition for a Healthy Calgary also has postcards available through Sierra Club that are ready for people to sign and mail in. The Canadian Cancer Society recently did a poll which showed 87% of Albertans support a pesticide by-law. This corresponds to the poll The Sierra Club commissioned in 2006 by Oracle Poll Research, which showed 86% of Calgarians support a phase out of pesticides and a pesticide by-law.

You can also phone 311 to register any complaints about the city spraying, and you should also ask for your call to be documented.

For more information, visit: www.healthycalgary.ca

Commuter Challenge

Next week (June 1-7) is Commute Challenge week, which also coincides with Canadian Environment Week and Clean Air Day (June 4). Commuter Challenge is a national program that encourages Canadians to walk, cycle, take transit, carpool or tele-work instead of driving alone to work. The Challenge supports workplaces as they encourage their employees to leave their cars at home for their personal health, the health of their communities and the health of the environment. The program is based on a friendly competition between workplaces, communities and individuals across Canada to see which has the highest percentage participation rates during the week.

By registering participation online at www.commuterchallenge.ca Canadians are able to see the results of their healthier commutes with respect to greenhouse gases reductions calculated by taking into account kilometers not traveled and leaving your car at home.

Sierra Club Chinook Group has produced a series of "art cards" based on the photographs of member Grady Semmens' Daily Ride bike commuting photos (<http://thedailyride.blospot.com>) that include links to information and tips on bike commuting in Calgary. For more info or to obtain copies of the cards to help promote bike commuting in your workplace or neighbourhood, contact: communications@sierraclubchinook.org

To subscribe or unsubscribe to our email newsletters and updates list, visit:

<http://lists.sierraclubchinook.org/mailman/listinfo/updates>

EVENTS

Next monthly meeting – June 4

Marian and Robin White, Author/Photographers of the new book *Wild Alberta at the Crossroads* will present a slide show about Alberta's cherished wilderness.

Robin and Marian White were born near London, England, became mountaineers, then traveled the world. They have worked in England, Australia, and Canada, and have lived in Calgary since 1973. Together, as an author-photographer-publishing team, they focus on nature, conservation, and the overarching issues and solutions facing the world today, so they are connected to many nature, environmental, and policy development organizations. Copies of their book will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Chinook Group meetings are free and open to the public. The meetings take place the first Wednesday evening of each month at 7 pm at the Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC) building at 1111 Memorial Drive NW on the Bow River pathway (upstairs, entrance at the back). Inexpensive parking is available at the building off east-bound Memorial Drive.

This month we will also be holding a special meeting for anyone interested in volunteering for the Chinook Group immediately before the monthly meeting at 6 pm (see details in [Volunteer Opportunities](#) below)

Nuclear-free Alberta, Dr. Helen Caldicott lecture

Mark your calendars for the special Calgary visit of Dr. Helen Caldicott, presented by Citizens Advocating for Use of Sustainable Energy (CAUSE) on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008 at 7 pm at MacEwan Hall, University of Calgary.

Nobel Peace Prize nominee Dr. Helen Caldicott is featured in the Oscar-winning film *If You Love This Planet* and is co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility. For more information about the event, call Elena at 244-8001, email: nuclearfreealberta@gmail.com or visit: www.nuclearfreealberta.ca

OUTINGS & TRIPS

June 7 Outing – Restoration work in the Castle wilderness

Join the Castle Crown Wilderness Coalition for its annual Ed Greggor Stewardship Day in the Crowsnest Pass on June 7, 2008.

When: This is a single day outing - everyone involved in the stewardship day is invited to a free breakfast in the Crowsnest Pass at 8am (so this one is an early morning!). From there, people will head out to the projects they sign up for (see below), and once the work/day is done, there is a BBQ/awards/prizes event back at Crowsnest Pass as well.

What: Volunteers can participate in one of the following projects:

- #1) Re-claiming the Table Mt. Trail - a moderate to difficult hike
- #2) Re-claiming the Barnaby Lakes Trail, plus ensuring hikers can find their way from the trail head.
- #3) Fencing off the Beaver Mines road wildlife water hole and mineral lick (to stop the mud boggers)

#4) Removing all the old 1990 wooden bridges installed by ORV in the Castle Crown, hopefully this will be done by the ORV users.

#5) Removal and cleanup at the old forest wardens station (cement foundations, old cistern/water well, old outhouse).

These projects will immensely help anyone that hikes these trails this summer enjoy them so much more and eliminate getting lost on either trail system and from causing any further erosion / damage.

What to bring: The usual: backpacks, drinking water, gloves, rain gear, hats, lunch, appropriate clothing layers, sunscreen... Shovels and other project specific tools may also be necessary, please enquire further when you RSVP! :)

RSVP to Laura Hickman at laura@sierraclubchinook.org by June 4 if you are interested. When responding, please indicate if you have or need a spot in a car on the way out and/or back and we can help put people in touch with each other.

To be added to our Outings email list, go to:

<http://lists.sierraclubchinook.org/mailman/listinfo/outings>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Special volunteer meeting – June 4

We are having a special gathering for those who are interested in volunteering for the Sierra Club from 6 to 7 pm, immediately before our regular monthly meeting on June 4 at the CAOC building (1111 Memorial Drive NW). There are some exciting new volunteer opportunities we wish to let you know about and invite down to check out. It will be a casual gathering with drinks and snacks provided.

Positions we are seeking to fill, include:

~ Events Co-ordinator

~ Treasurer

~ Secretary

~ Fundraising Co-ordinator: We are also looking for people to assist with fundraising ideas and to help out.

~ Campaigns Ideas / Organizers: An exciting new step that the group would like to look into is that of coming up with new and revitalized campaigns to advocate, including Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign, urban sprawl and waste reduction/recycling. We would like to run a second gathering per month for a group that is interesting in working on research, brainstorming, and distributing ideas.

If you are interested and not able to come out for the meeting please feel free to be in touch with Volunteer Co-ordinator Melanie Richard by phone (233-7332) or e-mail:

melanie@sierraclubchinook.org

To be added to our Volunteers email list, go to:

<http://lists.sierraclubchinook.org/mailman/listinfo/volunteers>

Chinook Group Vision Statement

The Sierra Club of Canada - Chinook Group is an environmental organization that changes consciousness through political influence, education, advocacy and fun!

Not a member yet? Join Sierra Club of Canada today at: <https://getinvolved.sierraclub.ca/renew.php>