

In this Issue...

- Holding the Reins
- Beaver Creek Watershed Group
- Alberta Water Council
- OWC's Integrated Watershed Management Plan
- OWC's New Administrative Assistant
- AGM
- Upcoming Events

Holding the Reins

On February 3rd, 2009 the Oldman Watershed Council's Rural Team hosted their 3rd annual *Holding the Reins: Landowners Summit for the Oldman Watershed*. Approximately 125 people attended this year's workshop which was held at the Fort Macleod and District Community Hall.

Highlights of the day include having Shawn Patience, the Mayor of Fort Macleod welcome us, followed by presentations on:

- Landowner and Watershed Stewardship Group Updates – Jeff Porter
- Blackfoot Challenge Tour/ Watershed Legacy Program – Anne Stevick/ Tim Romanow
- Castle Special Place Working Group – Dianne Pachal and Rick Cooke
- Pheasants Forever/Partners in Habitat Development Mark Virginello/ Rick Martin
- Watershed Defender:
 - Dwayne Rogness – County of Lethbridge
 - Chris Waldner – Turin Hutterian Brethren Colony
 - Michael Gerrand – Cows and Fish
 - Mark Walter – Springpoint Colony
- How Irrigation Efficiency Has Improved – Ron McMullin, AIPA
- Forestry in the Southern Rockies – Darryl Johnson, Jean Lussier and Axel Anderson
- Seth Wilson – Program Coordinator, Wildlife Committee, The Blackfoot Challenge
- Digital Story Telling Showcase



The day ended off with an excellent dinner and a presentation from our keynote speaker, Roger Hohm discussing, "How Will Agriculture Maintain its Water in Southern Alberta?"

A special thanks to all of our sponsors for the summit:

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| • MULTISAR | • Nature Conservancy of Canada |
| • Alberta Beef Producers | • Ducks Unlimited Canada |
| • Alberta Environment | • Cardston County |
| • Vulcan County | • County of Lethbridge |
| • Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District | • Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) |
| • Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program (AESAP) | • Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development |

Announcements:

- The Oldman Watershed Council's 5th Annual General Meeting will be April 30th, 2009. For more information, see inside this newsletter.

Did you Know?

- The OWC is one of nine Water Planning and Advisory Councils (WPAC's) in Alberta working under the *Water for Life* strategy to produce Watershed Management Plans to help manage Alberta's watersheds.



Did you Know?

- Despite the high snow fall the southern plains received this winter, the mountain snowpack is actually below average. For more information visit:

<http://environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/WaterSupply/feb2009/overview.pdf>



Bev's Contact Info:
Bev Bellamy
Administrative Assistant
403-381-5145
bev@oldmanbasin.org

Remember, you can send Bev information on upcoming events or news that you would like us to send out with the OWC Weekly Updates

Alberta Water Council



Established in 2004, the Alberta Water Council is a multi-stakeholder partnership with 24 members from governments, industry, and non-government organizations. Its primary task is to monitor and steward implementation of the Alberta's *Water for Life* strategy and to champion achievement of the strategy's three outcomes of:

- safe, secure drinking water supply
- healthy aquatic ecosystems
- reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy.

For more information go to www.albertawatercouncil.ca

OWC's Integrated Watershed Management Plan

Under Alberta's Water for Life Strategy, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPAC's) are mandated to develop State of the Watershed Reports and to establish Watershed Management Plans.

As residents of the Oldman Watershed, we have been given a great opportunity to be involved in the governance of our watershed in an unprecedented way. By developing an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) that targets specific and often unique issues and priorities within the Oldman Watershed, we can ensure that management decisions affecting watershed resources will reflect the values and priorities of our community.

Visit www.oldmanbasin.org to find information and updates on the development of the IWMP process, highlight milestones, and links to relevant articles for additional research and information.

We want to hear from you!! If you have any questions or comments related to the OWC's Integrated Watershed Management Plan send us an email to: IWMP@oldmanbasin.org

Meet our new Administrative Assistant: Bev Bellamy



Hi, I'm Bev Bellamy, Administrative Assistant for the OWC. This is a new position created to help Stephanie and Leta with some of the OWC administrative duties. I've worked in many different offices over the past 20 years and have also been recording secretary to the Mayors & Reeves Association of Southwest Alberta for the past three years.

In my spare time, I enjoy learning to play the cello and play with the University of Lethbridge Conservatory Youth Strings Senior Orchestra. I am married to Mark and we have three sons. We enjoy camping and travelling with our dogs and like many of you are looking forward to spring!



OWC Mission Statement:

To maintain and improve the Oldman River Watershed through partnerships, knowledge, and the implementation and integration of sustainable watershed management and land use practices.

If you have any comments or questions, or if there are any topics you would like brought up at our Board meetings, you can contact us at:

Oldman Watershed Council
100, 5401 – 1 Avenue S
Lethbridge, AB
T1J 1V6

Phone: (403) 381 - 5801
Fax: (403) 381-5765

E-mail:
leta@oldmanbasin.org

Web Page:
www.oldmanbasin.org

OWC's 5th Annual General Meeting

"CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT"

Thursday, April 30th 2009
Galt Museum
502 - 1 Avenue South, Lethbridge
3:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Registration begins at 2:30 pm

Upcoming Events in 2009

- April 5 – 8 **Canadian Water Resources Association 2009 Alberta Branch Conference**
Lethbridge, Alberta
<http://www.cwra.org/branches/Alberta/Conference>
- April 9 **Milk River Watershed Council Canada (MRWCC) AGM**
Milk River Civic Centre.
<http://www.milkriverwatershedcouncil.ca/events.html>
- April 17 **SEAWA Annual General Meeting**
Medicine Hat
www.seawa.ca
- April 29 **Alberta Invasive Plant Council AGM**
Red Deer, Alberta
www.invasiveplants.ab.ca
- May 31 – June 6 **Environment Week – Celebrating 20 years**
Alberta
<http://environment.gov.ab.ca/edu/eweek/>
- July 8 – 11 **National Stewardship & Conservation Conference: Strengthening Stewardship - Investing at Every Step**
Calgary, Alberta
www.stewardship2009.ca
- Sept 10 – 13 **WaterEDWest Conference**
Banff, Alberta
www.wateredwest.ca