

The River Current

Summer 2010

The U of S receives funding to make big waves in the water-world

*Article by Janelle Pewapsconias, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator
Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin*



Our Mission: Promoting watershed sustainability through awareness, linkages and stewardship.

The University of Saskatchewan has been awarded a \$30M Canada Excellence Research Chair to create the Global Water Security Institute. With the support of both the federal and provincial governments and industry partners, this Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) will enable the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) to take a lead in water security research that will make a difference for Saskatchewan, Canada and the world.

“This is an unparalleled opportunity for Saskatchewan and Canada to make a leading contribution to the science of water security, thereby helping local, national and global communities,” said Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris. “It directly contributes to our government’s vision of a more diversified, knowledge-based innovation-driven economy.”

The federal CERC program was created to strengthen Canada’s ability to be at the leading edge of breakthroughs in priority research areas expected to generate social and economic benefits for Canadians. A total of 85 new positions will be created at the institute including six faculty, 20 post-doctoral fellows, 24 PhD’s, 24 master’s students, and 10 support staff. The new Global Water Security Institute will be co-located with Environment Canada’s National Water Research Centre (NWRC) at Innovation Place, providing opportunities for collaborative research and training. NWRC is one of the leading freshwater research entities in Canada and partners with agencies to address water-related issues of public concern to sustain our natural resources and freshwater ecosystems.

The individual leading the new water security institute is British scientist Dr. Howard Wheeler, one of the world’s foremost experts in hydrology and sustainable freshwater resource management. Wheeler holds a PhD in hydrology from Bristol University and a first-class degree in engineering science from the University of Cambridge. He served as a professor in hydrology and director of the Environment Forum at the United Kingdom’s Imperial London College. Wheeler will lead the development of a new science-ecotoxicology program that will improve water use and advancement of water policy, and provide new tools for environmental risk assessment and remediation applicable to all types of natural resource development.

“By bringing together ecology, toxicology and hydrology, we will develop a new science and risk assessment tools needed to understand and manage the complex interactions between water, and use and climate change,” said Wheeler. “Through our new global water institute, we will train the next generation of water scientists to better ensure a secure future for the world’s water supplies.”

Wheeler assumes the full-time CERC position in October 2010 in the new U of S School of Environment and Sustainability. The tools Wheeler and his interdisciplinary research team develop will address industrial, social and environmental needs such as water stewardship, drought management, impacts of agricultural water use and pollution, oil sands reclamation and the management of waste from mine sites.

For more information please visit the University of Saskatchewan’s website www.usask.ca/water.

Fred Heal Conservation Award Applications now being accepted!

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin is accepting nominations for the 2010 Fred Heal Conservation Award. This award was established in 1999 in memory of Fred Heal, the former executive director of the Meewasin Valley Authority and the driving force behind the establishment of Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin. Fred Heal was a key figure in developing Wanuskewin Heritage Park, as well as serving on the board of many community organizations.

The award is intended to recognize a for-profit or a community organization that has taken a direct initiative in the preservation and/or the enhancement of the health of the Saskatchewan River Basin. The organization will have developed and implemented a program or policy that results in a direct benefit to the health of the basin. The organization should show measurable results from the initiative and will show continued dedication toward environmental sustainability.

Application forms and additional information can be found on our website www.saskriverbasin.ca. Applications require the following information: name and address of the organization, and main contact name(s) and numbers. In addition, applicants are required to provide:

- a description of the program or policy (not to exceed one page);
- what accomplishments or measurable results have been achieved to date under the program or policy (not to exceed one half page);
- and evidence of long-term commitment to the Saskatchewan River Basin.

Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged. We look forward to hearing from you! If you have any questions, please contact us.

Applications will be accepted until October 1, 2010.

Mail, fax or email nominations to:

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin
402 Third Avenue South
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3G5

Fax: (306) 665-6117
Email: partners@saskriverbasin.ca
Phone: (306) 665-6887



"In the world there is nothing more submissive and weak than water . Yet for attacking that which is hard and strong nothing can surpass it." - Lao Tzu

***Moopher's
Amazing
Facts***

A stylized, cursive signature of the word "Moopher" in a dark green color.

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin (PFSRB) Annual Meeting

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin will hold their annual general meeting on Wednesday afternoon, September 15, 2010 at the Wescana Inn in The Pas, Manitoba. The meeting will be held from 1:00pm to 1:30pm. The agenda will cover a brief summary of PFSRB annual activities and the financial reports.

Mini Saskatchewan River Delta Symposium & Stewardship Discussion Session

September 14 - 15, 2010
Wescana Inn, The Pas, Manitoba

The Saskatchewan River Delta (SRD) is the largest inland river delta in North America, totaling approximately 9,500 km². Straddling the provincial borders of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the SRD is rich in biodiversity providing important habitat for hundreds of species of birds, mammals and fish. It also plays an important role for the First Nations and other communities in the area. Human influences within the SRD have been significant, and it is important to raise awareness and understand this sensitive and critical habitat.



Tuesday, September 14: The one day mini-symposium will cover current and historical research and knowledge of the delta. The symposium is follow-up to the Saskatchewan River Delta Symposium (April 2008) and a basin wide watershed leadership meeting (October 2009). The purpose of the one day mini symposium is to bring researchers, natural resource managers, policy makers and local stakeholders together to heighten awareness and share information on the Saskatchewan River Delta.

Wednesday, September 15 (Morning): For the purpose of communication and idea exchange, a short discussion session will be held Wednesday morning to brainstorm and highlight stewardship opportunities for the Saskatchewan Delta.

For more information please go to our website www.saskriverbasin.ca or contact Lis Mack.

Email: partners@saskriverbasin.ca

Phone: (306) 665-6887

Mini-Symposium Registration Form (*Early bird registration ends August 13)

Name: _____ Position: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ E-Mail: _____

Permission to print your contact information for listing of participants in registration package (choose one):

- Please do not list my name and contact details
 You may list my name, organization and position only
 You may include my full contact details (on this form)

Conference Registration Prices (GST included, meals are included in registration fees)

Early Bird* \$131.25 Regular Price \$157.50 Tuesday Only \$105.00

Banquet Tickets (Note - One free banquet ticket included with registration)

Not Attending 1 Free Ticket 1 extra @ \$31.50 _____ # @ 31.50

GST Exemption #: _____

Total: \$ _____

Payment made by Cheque or Credit Card

Cheque VISA MasterCard Credit Card #: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please make cheques payable to:
Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin
402 Third Ave South, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3G5
Fax: (306) 665-6117

2010 Alberta Envirothon

Sexsmith Secondary School from Sexsmith, AB placed first in the Alberta Envirothon competition. The competition had good weather and the teams were able to visit both a working farm and a provincial lake front park. Professionals from all topic areas were present for a panel presentation and open discussion.

2010 Manitoba Envirothon

The Manitoba Envirothon held three regional and one provincial competition in order to accommodate the number of teams registered. The first regional competition was held at Oak Hammock Marsh on April 30, the second in Pembina Valley on May 5 and the third in The Pas on May 13 & 14. From each of these regional competitions, the four top teams were chosen to compete in the provincial competition held in Brandon on May 27 to 29.

The team from Swan Valley Regional Secondary School - Northwest Soil Management Association - were the provincial champions with the opportunity to attend the Canon International Envirothon in Fresno, California.

2010 Saskatchewan Envirothon

This year marked the fourth year of the annual Saskatchewan Envirothon, held this year from May 30 to June 1 in Eston, SK. Winners of the competition were from Luther College High School in Regina. This team, coached by their teacher Dave Hall, consisted of students Catherine Leurer, Jonathon Lorenc, John Shulte, Lucas Diebel, and Anna Hall.

Teams from across Saskatchewan competed for the provincial championship title and a chance to compete at the Canon International Envirothon, to be held in Fresno, California in August 2010.

Conference Listings

Mini Saskatchewan River Delta Symposium & Stewardship Discussion Session

September 14 - 15, 2010
www.saskriverbasin.ca

The Pas, MB

PFSRB Annual General Meeting

September 15, 2010
www.saskriverbasin.ca

The Pas, MB

4th International Conference on Natural Channel Systems

September 27 - 28, 2010
www.naturalchannels.ca

Mississauga, ON

If you have an event you would like to include under our listings, please email us at partners@saskriverbasin.ca.

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