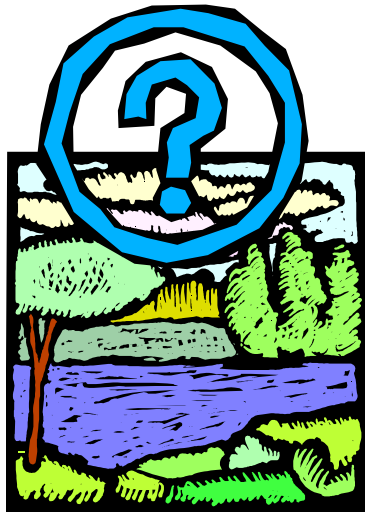


The River Current

Summer 2003



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



Notice of
Annual General Meeting
Partners FOR the
Saskatchewan River Basin
Tuesday, November 25, 2003
12:30 pm
Donald Cameron Hall,
Room 300
The Banff Centre,
107 Tunnel Mountain Drive
Banff, Alberta

Water Management Study of Saskatchewan River Basin Now Complete

By Dan Shrubsole and Robert Halliday

The possibility of reduced volumes of water in the Saskatchewan River under climate change and the potential for increased pressure on water allocation systems within and among the prairie provinces led a study of perceptions of fairness in water allocation in the basin.

Trend analysis for streams in the Saskatchewan River basin and a review of previous work was completed. This examination included mountain streams, the source of much of the basin's streamflow; and plains streams, where water is consumed. The natural flow records for the period 1912-2001 for the North Saskatchewan and South Saskatchewan Rivers at the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary were included in the analysis and examined for trends in annual, monthly and seasonal flows. There were 32 significant trends in 187 data sets of which 5 are increasing and 27 decreasing. Consideration of hydrological processes under climate change scenarios leads to the conclusion that snowmelt runoff would decrease and that the decrease could be substantial for the plains portion of the basin.

In November 2002, 794 questionnaires were mailed to government officials and individuals from water user groups and non-governmental organizations. Responses were received from 229 people and 30 surveys returned as "undeliverable". The response rate of 29% is considered good.

The majority of respondents to the survey perceive water quantity issues as serious or very serious, and a majority also believe that conditions have deteriorated over the past 10 years. Respondents indicated that the decline in conditions was the result of increased demand on water supplies as well as climate/weather considerations. Statistical analysis of the survey suggests that water use groups (e.g. recreation, agriculture, municipal) are comprised of individuals who hold a diverse set of views. Thus, they should not be considered as homogeneous groups.

The majority of respondents perceive present water apportionment and allocation as fair. There was high level of support for positions that:

- water is a community resource that cannot be owned by individuals;
- people who have been allocated water should retain this right only if they can show they are using it wisely;
- water quality is an important issue in many water allocation decisions;
- since the environment cannot defend itself, allocations should be specifically made to protect it;
- water should not be placed on the market and allocated to those who would pay the most, regardless of what it is used for;
- those upstream have a moral responsibility to consider the interests of those downstream;
- all people of the basin have a right to have a say on water allocation; and
- it is important to set rules for how water should be allocated for the next generation.

Collectively, these statements suggest a strong role for government intervention in the allocation of water, including allocations for environmental considerations. There is also strong support for water management to involve the public and consider the interests of upstream and downstream users. Recent initiatives by provincial governments and the Prairie Provinces Water Board reflect these general attributes.

Banff Mountain Summit 2003 - Mountains as Water Towers

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin 2003 Annual General Meeting and conference will coincide with the Banff Mountain Summit 2003: Mountains as Water Towers. On November 23-26 the Banff Centre, with the cooperation of PFSRB will host this international conference celebrating the world-wide importance of mountain water. This year's Summit will challenge your mind and inspire your spirit with four days of plenary sessions, panel discussions, case studies, performances, and exhibitions.

Below is a detailed conference program and registration information. For more information please visit: www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/festivals/summit

Sunday, November 23, 2003		THE BANFF CENTRE
2:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Registration table open - Max Bell Lobby	
7:30 pm	Summit Opening Night in the Eric Harvie Theatre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome – Bernadette McDonald • Opening address with special guests • Opening Aboriginal Dance Performance with Alex Wells, world champion hoop dancer • Keynote Speaker - Maude Barlow • Reception and Book Launch in Eric Harvie Theatre lobby 	
Monday, November 24, 2003		
7:30 am to 8:30 am	Registration table open - Max Bell Lobby	
8:30 am to 9:15 am	WATER TOWERS THEME: “Who Owns it and Who Profits from It?” Plenary Speaker	
9:15 am to 10:30 am	Symposium - Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Agreements – Aaron Wolf • Columbia River Basin Treaty – Kindy Gosal • International Development Research Centre El Angel region – Susan Poats • How much is it worth? – Chuck Howard 	
11:00 am to 12:00 pm	Case Studies - Topics including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columbia River Basin Treaty - Kindy Gosal • International Development Research Centre Bolivia - Juan Carlos Alurralde • Seattle's demand dilemma - Chuck Howard 	
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Poster Session Buffet Lunch in Max Bell Building (opportunity to mingle, engage in Poster Presentations)	
1:30 pm to 2:15 pm	WATER TOWERS THEME: “Integrated Watershed Management” Plenary Speaker: Margaret Catley-Carlson	
2:15 pm to 3:30 pm	Symposium - Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Development Research Centre and CONDESAN overview – Simon Carter and Hector Cisneros • Exceptional Waters – Jack Imhof • Snowy River Journey – Graeme Enders 	
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Case Studies - Topics including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foothills communities innovative integrated watershed management approach - Maureen Lynch and Wendy Auper • Water quality and quantity issues of the Red Deer, Bow, and Oldman Rivers – Leland Jackson • South Saskatchewan River – Alberta Environment/Bev Yee • International Research Development Centre – Thinley Gyamtsho, Bhutan • International Research Development Centre – Bhuvan Shrestha from Nepal 	
8:00 pm	Evening Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music performance with singer/songwriter/environmental advocate Sid Marty • Multimedia Slide Presentation on the Ganges with Maria Coffey and Dag Goering • Rivers of the World with Mark Angelo 	

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

7:30 am to 8:30 am	Registration table open - Max Bell Lobby
8:30 am to 9:15 am	WATER TOWERS THEME: "Mountain Water Ecosystems: Conservation and Restoration" Plenary Speaker: Bruno Messerli
9:15 am to 10:30 am	Symposium - Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tropical Montane Cloud Forests – Larry Hamilton • Nepal/Andes study – Hans Schreier • Restoration and Conservation of Mountain Watersheds Important to Pacific Salmon – Paul Kariya
11:00 am to 12:00 pm	Case Studies - Topics including: Exceptional Waters/Elk River – Jack Imhof
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Lunch in Main Dining Room, Donald Cameron Hall (tables reserved for Summit) 12:30 pm Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin Annual General Meeting Room 300, Donald Cameron Hall
	AFTERNOON FREE
8:00 pm	Evening Presentation Special Film Festival Screening with water-related films from the Banff Mountain Film Festival archives

Wednesday, November 26, 2003

7:30 am to 8:30 am	Registration table open - Max Bell Lobby
8:30 am to 9:15 am	WATER TOWERS THEME: "Impact of Climate Change" Plenary Speaker: David Schindler
9:15 am to 10:30 am	Symposium - Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmon fisheries - Dick Beamish • Climate change effects on European mountain watersheds - Pierre Etchevers
11:00 am to 12:00 pm	Case Studies – "Impact of Climate Change"
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Lunch in Main Dining Room, Donald Cameron Hall (tables reserved for Summit)
1:30 pm to 2:15 pm	WATER TOWERS THEME: "20 Year Horizon: the Search for Solutions" Plenary Speaker: Peter Gleick
2:15 pm to 3:30 pm	Symposium - Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Water Strategy – Bev Yee • International Development Centre Andean Vision – Juan Carlos Alurralde • Centre for Affordable Water/Sanitation Technology – Camille Dow-Baker
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Case Studies - Topics including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Research Development Centre Aguaitiplano – Guillermo Rebosio • Heritage Rivers: North Saskatchewan Watershed Association – Sharon Willianen • Canada's Wonder of Water celebrations – Bob Sandford
8:00 pm	Closing Banquet - Main Dining Room, Donald Cameron Hall - with guest speaker Marq de Villiers

Registration and Accommodations

Option #1. Register on-line at www.banffmountainfestivals.ca/festivals/summit Using the online form, you can REGISTER either for the full Summit 2003 conference event, or for the conference events by the day.

Option #2. Print off a copy of the on-line [registration form](#) and fax your registration form to 403.762.6277.

Option #3. If you are NOT planning on attending the daytime sessions of the Summit, individual tickets are available for the evening events by contacting the Banff Centre Box Office directly at 1-800-413-8368 or email box_office@banffcentre.ca Complete your registration form on-line, or print off a copy and fax your form to the Banff Centre.

For more information: contact Majorie Lewis, Summit Manager 2003 by phone at 403-762-6227 or 1-800-298-1229, by fax at 403-762-6277 or email: mountainculture@banffcentre.ca

River Ripples

2003 National Endangered Rivers List (NERL)

EarthWild International and Wildcanada.net have released the 2003 NERL list. This joint project aims to raise the profile of Canadian rivers most threatened by human activity, and provide Canadians with the opportunity to join the debate over the future of these waterways.

Between July and December 2003, Earthwild International and Wildcanada.net will develop online action centres to highlight the value of Canada's Most Endangered Rivers, threats facing them, and the need for a comprehensive conservation strategy to protect them. To find out more about taking action to preserve and restore Canada's 10 most endangered rivers visit www.endangeredrivers.net

Prairie Conservation Fund: a New Science Initiative for Saskatchewan

The Prairie Conservation Fund was established as a memorial fund by the Nature Conservancy of Canada in March 2003. In memory of Wayne Harris, one of Saskatchewan's best-known wildlife researchers and conservationists.

Currently only about 20 per cent of Saskatchewan's native prairie grassland remains. The Prairie Conservation Fund will support research on native prairie and its species. It will also fund research on critical areas in cases of habitat fragmentation and the implications of conserving these remnant pieces of native prairie threatened by invasive species. The fund is now accepting donations, and when it reaches a sufficient level, will accept proposals from professionals and amateurs for projects that will generate knowledge and a greater understanding of Saskatchewan's ecosystems.

For more information, or for downloadable donation forms, contact www.natureconservancy.ca and click on Saskatchewan, then click on the Prairie Conservation Fund.

Summary Report of consultations on Alberta's water strategy now available on-line

Equus Consulting Group Inc. of Edmonton, Alberta has released its Summary Report on public and stakeholder feedback from the draft of *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability*. The draft strategy outlines key directions, specific strategies and actions to manage Alberta's water resources more effectively.

The summary is available on the Water for Life website: www.waterforlife.gov.ab.ca

New Water Website for the Government of Saskatchewan

SaskH2O.ca is making it easier to find out information about drinking water in Saskatchewan.

The new system is part of the Government of Saskatchewan's Safe Drinking Water Strategy. It brings together, under one web address, information and services available from the Government of Saskatchewan that relate to water, regardless of the department or agency that produces the information or offers the service. Information on the site includes drinking water quality and effectiveness of treatment.

This site was built on contributions from Saskatchewan Environment, Saskatchewan Health, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, SaskWater, Saskatchewan Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs and Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization.

Western Canada Water and Wastewater Association 55th Annual Conference and Trade Show, "Meeting Public Expectations", Winnipeg, Manitoba, October 26-29, 2003

Meeting expectations and more through a diverse and informative set of papers, pre-conference workshops and tours. For more information visit www.wcwwa.ca/2003Conf/index.htm

The River Current is published quarterly by Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin. Articles and news items will be considered for publication. For further information about Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin Project, or to submit items, please contact:

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<http://www.saskriverbasin.ca>

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