

# Elbow Partnership News

Elbow River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Newsletter  
Issue No. 28

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June 2006

## ERWP Annual General Meeting

Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006

9:00 – 4:00pm

Board the Bus to Elbow Lake



This unusual AGM will take place on a bus to Elbow Lake. We will depart from a location on the west side of Calgary. The 1.5 hour bus meeting will be followed by a guided hike to the magnificent Elbow Lake. Please join us for our first ever group visit to Elbow Lake. This is an excellent opportunity to participate in the business of the ERWP and see the Elbow River headwaters. The moderate hike is 1.5 km to the Lake and steep in places.

Sponsors for this event are **Rick Sukovieff** and our ongoing funding partners – Bow River Basin Council, The City of Calgary, and Municipal District of Rocky View #44.

Anyone is welcome to attend. Please book your spot soon by phone 685-5580 or email [coordinator@erwp.org](mailto:coordinator@erwp.org). Space is being reserved for ERWP members but there is plenty of room of guests. Meeting location and other details will follow by email to those who have registered.

## ERWP Chair Meets with SPC

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, our dedicated Chairperson, Gloria Wilkinson, made a presentation on behalf of all southern watershed stewardship groups to the Alberta **Standing Policy Committee** on Energy and Sustainable Development. Apart from having a lot of fun, Gloria made the following points and was very well received.

1. She complimented the government for introducing the Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management (SREM) Charter, as a great start at breaking down departmental silos and the first step in creating consistent terminology.
2. The Framework for Watershed Management must be revised immediately to help watershed plans get done promptly and implemented.
3. Land users including the Energy Utilities Board, Sustainable Resource Development and municipalities must be required to consider water management planning objectives during their application processes.
4. The Information Portal being developed by Alberta Environment should be the first of funding and resource needs for watershed groups.

## Introducing Bob Lee Photography

The ERWP is pleased to present a new project - **A Photographic Journey along the Elbow River**. The photographer taking us on this journey is Dr. Robert Lee, a Calgary neurologist who has a long-standing interest in photography. As a resident of Calgary and Kananaskis he has focused on landscape photography of mountain and prairie environments. His involvement in a number of international health projects in Nepal and southeast Asia have also provided him with opportunity to produce an extensive collection of images of people and places in developing countries. As a member of the 1986 Canadian expedition to Mount Everest he produced a large collection of colour slides and black and white images of Tibet and the Mount Everest region which have formed the basis for numerous presentations to different groups over the subsequent years. Look for this breath-taking journey in the next few months with a sneak-peak presentation at the Bow River Basin Council Forum on Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> (see below for details).



water for life



Funding support from:

## Bow River Basin Council Quarterly Educational Forum

Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
9:00 am – 3:30 pm

New members and guests are welcome but please contact Mike Murray for Forum details and to register  
**(403) 254-3419**

### Junior Naturalists Summer Day Camps in the Elbow River Watershed

Give your child a summer exploring nature along the Elbow River in Kananaskis Country.

**Two 5-day sessions**  
**July 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>**

- Weeklong day camp for 9-12 year olds appeals to their emerging awareness of the world beyond their home.
- Learn about outdoor science and make the connections between water, the environment and people.
- Small group setting with low camper to leader ratio.
- A high quality camp with special workshops from experts in the field of environmental science and education.
- Transportation is available from City drop off spots.
- Only \$150 for the 5-day camp.



**To register call  
The Friends of Kananaskis  
Country at (403) 678-5593  
(in Canmore) or Email  
[friends@kananaskis.org](mailto:friends@kananaskis.org)**

This camp was developed by The Friends of Kananaskis Country and the Elbow River Watershed Partnership. Special workshops are included from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Trout Unlimited and The City of Calgary Waterworks.

## Take Care Swimming in the Elbow

On May 18, 2006 ERIC (The Elbow River in Calgary) convened a panel of experts (Al Sosiak, Alberta Environment; Jamie Dixon and Yin Deong, The City of Calgary Water Resources; and Norm Carlson, Calgary Health Region) to discuss bacteria levels in the lower Elbow River in regard to recreational use, specifically swimming and 'tubing'.

First the good news – at Alberta Environment's monitoring site at the 9<sup>th</sup> Ave Bridge SE, *E. Coli*, an indicator of fecal contamination in water, has not increased since 1993. However, *E. coli* consistently exceeds the maximum allowable concentration (MAC) of 200 counts/100ml at this site.

The City of Calgary has a monitoring site at the downstream end of Sandy Beach. The presence of *E. coli* is usually within

the MAC. However there are spikes in the *E. coli* count after rain events (especially the June 2005 floods), at certain times of the year and at the mouth of storm sewers where the count can be 100x the MAC.

The bacteria, coming from activities in the watershed is washed into the storm sewers from streets, yards and fields and dumped directly into the river as untreated water. The conclusion reached at the end of the meeting, on the advice of the Calgary Health Region, is that the usual swimming/wading holes on the lower Elbow River (Sandy Beach and Stanley Park) should be signed alerting the public about the risk of swimming after rain events.

Yes, this is a sad conclusion, however all is not lost! Through greater watershed awareness and education current and, future retrofitting of the storm sewer system it is hoped that water quality will be restored to permit safe swimming and wading in the Elbow River in Calgary.

Stay tuned for our next information session: The Fishery in the lower Elbow.

Submitted by Robin McLeod

## ERWP Employment Opportunity

The ERWP is seeking a new Watershed Coordinator following the departure of Monique Dietrich this summer. Please contact [coordinator@erwp.org](mailto:coordinator@erwp.org) for a copy of the job description. Interested candidates should send their resume to [Chair@erwp.org](mailto:Chair@erwp.org) by June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### ERWP Coordinator's Note:

After 5 years of coordinating the ERWP, this the last newsletter that I will produce for you. I am now working at Alberta Environment and I will continue to be involved professionally by working on the Elbow River Water Management Plan, riparian protection and more. On a personal commitment, I continue to be interested in the protection of the Elbow River watershed for long term sustainability and the ability of the ERWP to connect stakeholders and build stewardship partnerships. I look forward to participating in the ERWP as a new member.



Please help us find a new watershed coordinator so that we can continue the momentum!

~ Monique Dietrich  
(photo at Elbow Falls October 2005)

To Contact the Elbow River Watershed Partnership:

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Website: [www.erwp.org](http://www.erwp.org)