

# OLDMAN WATERSHED COUNCIL

October 2014 E-Newsletter



Photo by Barry Olson

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**"Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile"**  
William Cullen Bryant

*Photo by Dorrit Zaro*



## What's Happening at the OWC

- Shannon Frank, OWC Executive Director

### **What I love about our watershed**

On Wednesday I spoke at the WPAC Summit in Edmonton and I was asked what I love about the Oldman watershed. I want to share my answer with you because you are likely a part of it if you are taking the time to read this.

The thing I love about OWC is that we refuse to limit ourselves and are creating the conditions we need to succeed. No one is going to do it for us. There is a self-determining, take the bull by the horns attitude in our watershed that inspires me and seems to guide OWC. This positive, get'r done attitude is really helpful when you have a huge challenge in front of you. A lot of the time our challenge is ultimately to change our cultural attitudes which takes a lot of time and patience.

So cheers to you for believing in OWC and believing in collaboration! Your support makes a big difference to me and all the staff!



## OWC Upcoming Events & Recent Activities

- Leta Pezderic, OWC Program Coordinator

# Celebrating Collaboration

The Oldman Watershed Council's 'Watershed Legacy Program' celebrated the collaborative efforts taking place at the Timber Ridge Conservation Site by hosting a tour of the sub-watershed on September 18, 2014



[www.oldmanbasin.org](http://www.oldmanbasin.org)

**OWC** OLD MAN WATERSHED COUNCIL



[Click to read about the day here!](#)

During the [Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup](#) on September 20th the **5 most common items found** along



the east bank of the Oldman River near the Nature Centre were:  
**Glass Pieces (<2.5 cm);**  
**Cigarette Butts; Plastic Pieces (<2.5 cm);**  
**Food Wrappers and**  
**Beverage Cans.**

Overall 20+ bags of human-generated refuse was collected and removed from less than a 1.5 km stretch of our shoreline (that is nearly

**1 bag of garbage for every 75 metres of shore!)**

Improperly disposed of trash can wreak havoc on our local aquatic ecosystem;

in fact, members of our cleanup crew found **a discarded river raft, the rope of which entangled a bird causing its premature death.**

Shoreline litter is completely preventable if we all take responsibility for putting our trash where it belongs (among other efforts such as minimizing the amount of trash generated to begin with)!

A big thank-you to our amazingly-awesome and friendly participants who took action towards making a difference!

***This year's cleanup had 59 registered participants - almost three times last year!***

If you are interested in joining our environmental cleanup efforts in and around Lethbridge (like the Shoreline Cleanup or the Coulee Cleanup), please contact Curtis Goodman, Helen Schuler Nature Centre [curtis.goodman@lethbridge.ca](mailto:curtis.goodman@lethbridge.ca)

Thank you for the generous support of this year's Shoreline Cleanup from organizers at the Oldman Watershed Council and Helen Schuler Nature Centre as well as to Real Canadian Superstore in Lethbridge for providing snacks and drinks for our volunteers.



Volunteers having a good time and lovin' the watershed!

- Article submitted by Curtis Goodman



The Oldman Goes to Hollywood (well ... almost)

- Anna Garleff, OWC Communications Coordinator

I don't think there's anyone who doesn't want to drink, shower and swim in clean, clear water. And there's so much to love about the Oldman River! Our watershed is truly the focal point of Southern Alberta. So, there are plenty of reasons to keep doing things that keep it beautiful - and support good intentions for positive change with committed action.

We are seeing more and more people becoming interested in how to take action, but not knowing how/where to start. Clearly, education is key. How can the OWC go to every classroom, every community event, every Council, every Board?

## ***We make a film, and we do it together.***

If you are a student, business owner or community decision-maker, you have a role to play in this project. Everyone can participate.

On **November 12th, at 11:00**, please bring a guest to the Southern Alberta Art Gallery in Lethbridge for the official launch of the OWC's Film Project: "Oldman Goes To Hollywood". A playful approach to inspire our community, the launch aims to attract further Collaborative Partners from throughout Southern Alberta.

Collaborative Partners get three professionally scripted, filmed and edited videos about them, their organizations and how they are making our watershed a better place to live, work and play. Their \$5,000 contribution covers the costs of their videos and also contributes to the main film. Please download the [brochure here](#).

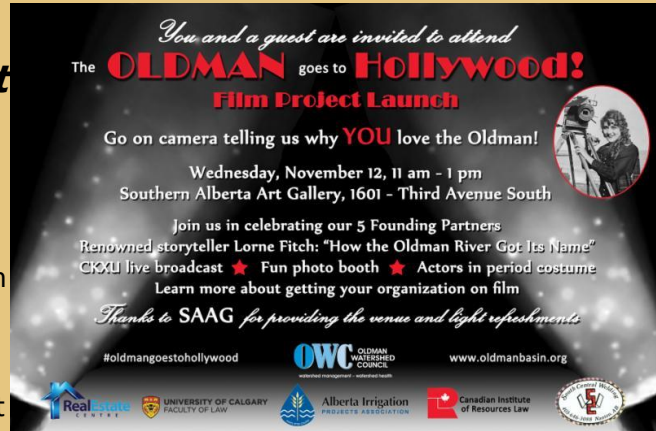
We are thrilled to announce the City of Lethbridge as our first Collaborative Partner. This announcement was picked up by Global TV - you can see the [story here](#).

We look forward to welcoming many more organizations into the OWC Family and telling their stories through video. Yet, it always takes a few brave pioneers to stand behind a new idea and support it: Heleen Jacobsen of Real Estate Centre; University of Calgary Faculty of Law; Canadian Institute of Resource Law; Alberta Irrigation Project Association; and South Central Welding have stepped up as Founding Partners. With donations of \$1,000 each, they have generously provided the OWC with the seed money required to begin filming.

The Film Project Launch is an opportunity to celebrate their support, network and hear more about the project. Renowned expert, biologist and storyteller Lorne Fitch will be in front of the camera telling the story of "How The Oldman River Got Its Name". Because we are live on location, please come with a guest, go on camera and tell us why you love the watershed.

Thanks to SAAG, Tinker Inc and CKXU!

We are excited about welcoming you there!



**DONATE  
NOW**  
to the OWC film project

*The OWC thanks you sincerely for your consideration to support this exciting project!!*

**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE FILM OR HOW TO BECOME A CONTRIBUTING PARTNER:**

Anna Garleff, Communications Coordinator, Oldman Watershed Council  
anna@oldmanbasin.org OR 587 224 3793 (cell)



## What's Up in the Headwaters?

- Connie Simmons, OWC Planning Manager

### Headwaters Action in Dutch Creek!

The **Headwaters Action Team** and members of the larger stakeholder group - the **Partnership Advisory Network (PAN)** joined the OWC for a tour of the Dutch Creek sub-watershed on September 27. The tour was followed by a **BBQ dinner at Maycroft Hall** to thank the PAN members for their contributions to the development of the Headwaters Action Plan 2013-14.

*Thank you Partnership Advisory Network for your commitment to the Headwaters Action Plan process and outcomes! The greater watershed community has taken this important step for headwaters health, and we look forward to your continued support and participation in the implementation of priority actions.*

The Dutch Creek tour focused on the **Linear Feature Classification Project** that is currently underway

to complete an inventory and mapping of all the linear features (e.g. roads, seismic lines, quad trails, logging access etc.) and provide important information on the state and type of each feature. This information is needed for prioritizing where reclamation/restoration should start, and how to begin a process for long-term watershed health, as well as address other values such as the need for designated recreation trails and camping areas, protection of threatened native fish species, and habitat and watershed resiliency to protect source water in the face of climate change.

The Dutch Creek Tour was led by Dr. Kate Sinclair and Krystal Chin from Applied Aquatics Research, Calgary (on contract with the OWC) who took participants to different sites in the watershed to see the state and types of linear features in the watershed, and how the field work assessment will feed into the classification of these features for prioritizing reclamation and restoration work. The tour participants were very interested in the impacts of roads and trails in riparian areas along Dutch Creek, stream crossings, and impacts in wet areas. Questions ranged from how these impacts affect native fish, to how to engage users in the watershed about the need and actions required for source water protection. Questions about how the Dutch Creek Pilot Project will align with the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, and the need for enforcement were also raised.



*Tour participants learning about linear features classification at Ceasar's Flats in the Dutch Creek sub-watershed, Oldman headwaters.*

The next steps for the Headwaters Action Team will be to work with experts to determine a prioritization for reclamation protocol for Dutch Creek - select one or two key areas to start on and begin the process of restoring vegetation and proper ecological function in these areas to protect water and watershed values. Much needs to be done for this to occur - participation with partnerships in government, industry, recreationists, municipalities and other groups is essential. Watershed health and water security is everyone's business - we need to build collaborative action across a full spectrum of stakeholders and the public to ensure that we can complete the Dutch Creek Pilot Project with some significant successes, and then apply this knowledge to other impacted sub-watersheds in the Oldman headwaters.



*Some trail impacts on meadows and wet areas in the Dutch Creek sub-watershed.*

## Activities in the Watershed

**November 7, 10 am - 3 pm**

**Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development**

**WRRP/AWE Joint Watershed Program Launch**

Royal Executive Inn, Leduc

Help celebrate the launch of an exciting new cross-ministry approach for the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration and the Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Programs!

For more information or to register email [Loretta Orr](mailto:Loretta.Orr)

## In the News

**Most Albertans in favour of fracking, study shows**  
**Edmonton Journal - October 22**



A substantial majority of Albertans support the continued practice of hydraulic fracturing in the province, a new survey shows. But a smaller yet significant number of people remain "undecided," indicating policy-makers and industry groups who want to see continued development can't afford to be complacent.

According to the survey, conducted by the Citizen Society Research Lab at Lethbridge College, 66.5 per cent of the 564 adult Albertans polled [read more](#)

### **Springbank Reservoir Project Opposed by Group of Residents**

**October 13 - Rockyview Weekly**

Representatives from DontDamnSpringbank.org (DDS) presented to Rocky View County (RVC) Policies and Priorities Committee (PPC) at the Oct. 7 meeting, seeking the committee's support as they fight the Government of Alberta's plan to build an off-stream reservoir in the Springbank area.



The off-stream reservoir, referred to as SR1, was announced by the Province on Sept. 26 as part of the government's on-going flood mitigation efforts.

[Click here](#) to read more.

### **Largest Nutrient Recovery Facility to be built in Canada**

EPCOR Water Services Inc. and Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies have partnered to build the largest nutrient recovery facility in Canada. The facility will recover phosphorus from the nutrient-rich wastewater stream from the Clover Bar biosolids settling lagoons located at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre and transform it into an eco-friendly, slow-release fertilizer, sold as "Crystal Green." [Click here](#) for details.

## **2014 Conferences, Courses & Workshops**

### **Kainai Ecosystem Protection Agency**

#### **Kainai Environmental Education and Awareness Summit 2014**

**November 19-21**

Multipurpose Building, Standoff, Alberta

To view poster, [click here](#). To view registration form, [click here](#).

### **From Street to Stream - Call for Storytellers**

Cows and Fish and the Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership Storytelling Workshop  
Have you or your community been part of a project to protect, restore or better manage your lakeshore or urban stream/river bank? We would like to share your story - be part of a digital story telling workshop in November.

Interested? [Click here](#) for Poster Contact by October 31 by phone: 403-381-5538 or email [riparian@cowsandfish.org](mailto:riparian@cowsandfish.org)

### **Pathways to Sustainability Calgary Round Tables**

Roundtables held in November, December, February with a one-day conference in May 2015.  
[Click here](#) for information.

**Canadian Water Network Hands-On Workshop for graduate students/young water professionals**

**January 11-13, Calgary**

Workshop: "Networking, Branding and Communication" will be led by professional trainers Dr. Jean Kim and Tania DeSa. Apply online by November 21. [Click here](#) for details.

**OWC funding provided in part by:**



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