

Alberta Greens

50 cents for non-members

Newsletter

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Alberta Greens Move to New Office Space

The Alberta Greens have moved into a new office in the Barron Building, located in the basement of #610 - 8th Avenue NW, Calgary, next door to the recently revived Uptown Theatre. Our mailing address has stayed the same: Box 133, Stn. M, Calgary, AB T2N 3W1. Our phone number is still (403) 289-6609.

Greens in Canada

Quebec

Greens in Quebec were able to run at least 10 candidates in the recent provincial election. In 1989 they were at the height of their popularity coming 3rd in 32 ridings. However, since then their leader, Jean Ouimet, and 4 other executive members bolted to the Parti Quebecois. Their new leader, Marian Grant is starting the rebuilding process. Her platform includes environmental issues, decriminalization of drugs, growing hemp for non-drug uses, alternative medicine and midwifery.

Ontario

Frank De Jong, Green Party of Ontario leader, will be touring Ontario on a bicycle to meet key Greens around the province. He hopes to raise the profile of the Green Party in the media before a provincial election in 1995. His goal is to organize a full slate of candidates for the election.

Greens Win One! Whaleback Saved!

The Alberta Greens and many other environmental interveners won a unique victory when protesting at Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) hearings into a proposed sour gas well in the Whaleback area near Maycroft and the Oldman River south of Calgary. The Whaleback is acknowledged to be probably the largest intact montane grassland ecosystem in Alberta.

The ERCB rejected the well, the first time in hundreds of thousands of well approvals that a well has been rejected on environmental grounds. This occurred even though the cards were stacked against opponents to the well. As usual, the oil and gas companies had tremendous financial and legal resources; the Greens had little. The ERCB denied intervener funding, even to people living within the well's emergency response zone as it did not consider them "directly affected"! The review concerned a single well, yet AMOCO would certainly drill many more if gas was found.

With all these handicaps, the environmental, conservation and social concerns of the determined opponents and the apparent acceptance of the ERCB's new mandate to incorporate environmental concerns won the day. Perhaps the stories of misinformation being spread by AMOCO to the local residents also helped.

The ERCB called on the Alberta Government to complete Special Places 2000 to decide on the future of the Whaleback before allowing any further development.

Update: NEB Hearings on Gas Exports

The National Energy Board (NEB) has just completed a hearing on applications to export gas from Alberta to the United States by four different bodies. Previous hearings were mere formalities with environmental issues being ignored. However, due to a precedent setting court case earlier this year concerning Hydro Quebec electricity exports, the NEB has been reluctantly forced to open the window a crack on environmental issues.

Environmentalists were led in their charge against the NEB and exporters by Mike Sawyer of the Rocky Mountain Ecosystem Coalition, supported by several other groups, including the Alberta Greens and alternative energy producers from the United States. They argued that the upstream effects of gas exports must be considered: i.e. the social and environmental costs of exploration, development, transportation and processing. Gas companies claim that only surplus gas is being exported and anyway the gas is pooled so they do not know where it comes from. Greens argue that this is a poor excuse to avoid an EIA.

Even if the gas companies win this round they know that their life will never be the same again. They can expect a struggle for each license ... until environmentalists are satisfied that environmental and social costs (particularly to natives) are being considered.

Greens in the USA

The following information on the burgeoning Green political movement in the USA was obtained from the Internet, most from Howie Hawkins writing for Z Magazine. The US Green Parties are currently gearing up for mid-term elections in November, 1994, a good way to celebrate their 10th anniversary.

Hawaii

Toni Worst may become the first Green Party state legislator in the USA and the first in Hawaii to win from outside the Democrat and Republican parties. The Green Party first qualified for the ballot in 1992 when they ran for 17 statewide offices.

Candidates are emphasizing affordable housing, community based economics, eco-tourism, energy conservation, environmental protection and Hawaiian sovereignty.

Colorado

The Green Party of Colorado, established in 1993, successfully petitioned to place Philip Hufford on the November ballot for Governor and Krista Paradise for Lieutenant-Governor.

Alaska

The Green Party of Alaska is hoping to turn a 3% share of the vote in 1990 into 20% this year, as predicted by the Anchorage Daily News. Their candidate for Governor, Jim Sykes, plans to co-manage wildlife resources with natives. They also have candidates for Lieutenant-Governor, a Congressman and a State Legislator.

New Mexico

The Green candidate for governor, Roberto Mondragon, is polling 20% of the vote, close to the Democrats and Republicans at 30% each. Greens are receiving support from rank-and-file Chicano, environmental and labor groups (but not the leadership, which still supports the Democrats).

California

Barb Blong is running for a senate seat. She wants to improve conditions for immigrants, remove the state's economic reliance on the military, increase corporate taxes to the levels of the 1950's and support abortion rights.

The party is also running for Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, 3 Congress seats, 5 State Legislature seats and 17 other positions.

The party needs to receive 2% of the vote or retain over 80,000 registered voters to remain registered and eligible for the ballot.

New York

The New York State Greens are running four candidates for City, State and Federal positions.

Maine

Maine Greens are trying for ballot status. Their candidate for Governor, Jonathon Carter, received 10% of the vote in a bid for Congress in 1992.

Washington, DC

Jodean Marks, President of the DC Greens, is running for mayor under the banner of the Statehood Party. She wants to increase citizen involvement in government, reduce waste and corruption, decriminalize drugs, offer affordable housing and education and fight pollution and developments like more freeways.

Other states

Canada Greens 5th National Gathering

Albert Munz provided the basis for the following report from the 5th national gathering of Greens held in London Ontario from August 19th through the 24th, 1994.

41 people attended this meeting, including Betty Paschen, Harry Garfinkle and Albert Munz from Alberta, 3 from British Columbia, 1 from New Brunswick and 4 from Quebec. The remainder were from Ontario.

The West

Betty Paschen presented a sensitive paper regarding ethics in economics. Harry Garfinkle had a workshop concerning Paradigm Shifts. Jack Ross from BC assisted in tackling the party's problems with Elections Canada (more on that later) and Steve Kisby facilitated and ran workshops on his computer database and fund raising. Albert Munz participated in workshops to discuss his ideas on Abortion, Economics and the Green Vision and Goal.

Presentations

- Sustainability
- Environmental Restoration
- Integrated Waste Management
- Youth and the Future of the Greens
- Membership Data Organization
- Electoral Reform
- Non-drug Hemp Production (e.g. fabric, rope and paper).
- Electronic Networking

Workshops

- Population & the Cairo Conference
- Transnational Boundaries &

Pollution

- Economics
- Abortion
- The Green City Movement
- Political Reform
- Fundraising
- Low Budget Campaigning

Activities

To make the conference more enjoyable, many activities were organized, including a show of children's art, a variety show, bike rides through London, a walking tour of the Medway Park Forest and an evening vegetarian picnic.

Executive

Several appointments were made to Green Party of Canada positions:

- Executive Secretary -- Deborah Roberts, London, Ontario.
- Chief Agent/Treasurer - Greg Vezina, Toronto, Ontario.
- Membership Chair - Frank Thomson, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Campaign Facilitator - Don Francis.

Election Troubles

The Green Party of Canada is involved in a dispute with Elections Canada over campaign expenses. Basically, Don Francis, the campaign coordinator, has submitted a bill to the Green Party for several \$100,000. If this and other large bills are accepted, they will push the Green Party of Canada over the elections expenditure threshold, which will cause the Government of Canada to refund about one-fifth of the party's expenditures. This would be a substantial sum of money. The controversy arises because some feel that the huge invoices were designed solely to push the party over the expenditure limit, did not reflect a realistic remuneration for work performed and did not reflect written agreements with the party.

On Cars and Drivers

Algerian writer Bahia F. tries to explain the reason why drivers of cars are often so obnoxious; "Ever more powerful, manageable, docile, reliable, the machine has become an extension of the individual who, out of an unconscious, stupid vanity, attributes its merits to himself". Try that on a friend who has just bought a Mercedes or Lexus!

ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

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Leader	Betty Paschen	436-4913
President	David Crowe	289-6609
Executive Secretary	Madeleine Oldershaw	282-4788
Treasurer	Pam Munroe	245-3441
Recording Secretary	Albert Munz	230-8891

Meetings

For information on meeting dates, times and locations, call Madeleine Oldershaw in Calgary or Betty Paschen in Edmonton.

Comment

We welcome submissions for the Alberta Greens Newsletter. Please send them to the editor, care of our address above.

AMOCO Against the Sun

According to *Scientific American* AMOCO is trying to suppress advances in solar energy. They quote Subhendu Guha, the inventor of an improved solar cell, currently being sued by AMOCO for patent infringement "Solarex, the controlled subsidiary of ... AMOCO, is engaged in a campaign of bringing patent infringement suits trying to close down amorphous silicon solar cell manufacturers who are committed to solving the energy crisis of this and the next century". By behaving this way AMOCO can maximize the value of its oil and gas today and dominate the market for renewable energy in the future.

Shell for Renewable Energy

In a contrasting article, *Scientific American* reports that Shell's business environment group predicts that "renewable sources will grow to dominate world energy production by the year 2050". The head of this group, Roger Rainbow, believes that "it is obvious that there won't be much coal, oil and gas being used in 100 years". Who are you going to trust?

Greens Around the World

Sweden

Sweden's Green Party received 5% of the vote and 19 of 349 seats in recent national elections, marking a return to parliament after a 3 year absence. Their support has almost returned to the levels received in 1988. On regional councils they increased from 34 seats on 12 councils to 77 seats in 22 councils. At the community level they grew from 389 seats in 226 communities to 556 seats in 241 communities.

Support rose from 2% at the start of the election campaign, following a televised debate that included the Greens. Support was greatest among the young, women and the well educated. Support was weakest among farmers and private businessmen.

Austria

Green Party support was up 1% to 7.7% in regional elections in the Western Vorarlberg province.

Czech Republic

150 Demonstrators chained themselves to 12 gates at the Temelin nuclear plant on July 24th, including Pavel Seifert, a Green Party deputy in the Czech parliament.

Ireland

The Green Party has recently shown exceptional gains in polls, and is now at the 8% level, ahead of where it was during the European parliamentary campaign in which it won two seats.

The new Green Party Mayor of Dublin cycles, is a vegetarian and has ordered energy saving bulbs for chandeliers in his official residence. Stationary is recycled with "Dublin is Nuclear-Free" as a motto. Even organic champagne is served at receptions!

Germany

Joschka Fischer, Green Party Environment Minister in Hesse, condemned an August 9th court decision to allow construction of a plant to manufacture fuel elements from plutonium for atomic power stations.

Slovakia

The Green Party is in a coalition with the Democratic Left Party, Social Democratic Party and the Farmer's Movement. Together they have about 15% support according to polls.

Switzerland

The Swiss Green Party is urging the closure of the French Superphenix breeder reactor based on its poor safety record.

Help us Pay the Rent

We need people to make regular donations to help us pay the rent and related expenses, such as phone service. If you can donate \$10, \$20 or \$40 every month, please call us at 269-2384 and our treasurer will contact you to arrange a convenient method of payment.

Alberta Greens Membership Application

(Mail to: Box 133, Stn. M, Calgary, T2P 2H6)

Name _____ Phone(H)_____ (W) _____

Address _____ City _____ Code _____

Interests & Skills _____

Areas I can Help-Elections _ Phoning _ Policy _ Speaking _ Fund Raising _

Membership (\$10) ... \$____.____ (includes newsletter)

T-Shirts (\$15) \$____.____

Donation \$____.____ (75% tax rebate on first \$150)

Total \$____.____