



### **We Need You!**

Included in this letter is an action sheet for you. The Alberta Greens will become your voice for the environment in Alberta only if you support the party. Your support can be in any combination of your time, your money and your commitment. Please take this request for help seriously. You do not have to devote a lot of money or a lot of time to the Alberta Greens. It is more useful for a large number of people to give a little than for a handful to do it all. The more people the Alberta Greens can speak for, the more the press and government will listen.

### **Alberta Greens AGM 1996: Put This Date on Your Calendar!**

The Alberta Greens will hold their 1996 Annual General Meeting on Saturday, April 27th. Further details, such as location, will be published in future newsletters.

### **Stop Press!**

The Ontario and Canada Greens are pressing the Canadian government to implement proportional representation, spearheaded by an advertisement in the *Globe and Mail*. Contact the Alberta Greens for more information on Proportional Representation; a fairer way to elect members of parliament.

### **Greens Help Proclaim Public Land Public**

On October 22 the Alberta Greens, Northern Light, the Rocky Mountain Ecosystem Coalition and the Alberta Wilderness Association sponsored a rally on public land leased for grazing by the O.H. Ranch. (near Longview).

The purpose of the rally was to draw attention to the outrageous conditions under which public land is leased to a few influential ranchers in Alberta, and to point out that questions of access do not just affect hunters, but concern all citizens who might want to use their own lands for recreation. Those who attended, more than fifty people, were treated to some very interesting talks on all aspects of the subject; legal, historical, economic, and also wildlife management.

The issue has been brought to public attention by Wade Patton, a local hunter who was taken to court because he refused to seek permission before entering public land for which the O.H. Ranch, owned by Doc Seaman, held a grazing lease. Queen's Bench Justice H.S. Robotham granted an injunction against Patton in a judgment so full of inconsistencies that it appeared to be inviting an appeal. Patton has decided to appeal and the case will be heard again next year.

In the meantime, the O.H. Ranch pays \$5,114 per year plus taxes to lease 28 square kilometres of land that belongs to the Alberta taxpayers. The lease remains attached to the ranch even through changes of

ownership, and therefore constitutes a huge capital asset.

The rally was extensively covered by the press. Issues such as this and private land logging seem to have struck a more sympathetic chord with the general public than some of the more distant and theoretical environmental problems which we are involved in. We will continue our efforts.

### **Limestone Valley Resort Delayed**

Congratulations to the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the Bow Valley Naturalists on the recent Court of Queen's Bench decision regarding the Limestone Valley Resort. They managed to avert an attempt by the Alberta Department of Environmental Protection to avoid having an EIA for a new development in a prime wildlife corridor in the middle of the threatened Bow Valley, near Canmore.

According to a report in the *Calgary Herald*, the developer expects the Environment Minister, Ty Lund, to appeal the decision. He probably will. He is working very hard to protect business from the environment. The Alberta Government's war on the wilderness continues!

## Help Put a Green Eye in Outer Space

Things are going from bad to worse in Alberta. The relentless pressures of growth and development are causing unprecedented stress to our environment, and in particular to our fragile and shrinking wilderness areas.

Over the last few months we have been asking members of the environmental community to suggest ways for the Alberta Greens to make a significant contribution to the battle to protect our precious natural areas. They have told us that, with the aid of satellite imagery, we can at least document the destruction and perhaps suggest remedial actions. Before we can be effective in placing our arguments before the public we need hard data and well documented evidence.

We cannot obtain recent satellite data from the Alberta government. If they have this material, it is not being made available to the public. We must obtain it for ourselves. We are proposing to solicit donations and purchase recent satellite imagery over the Foothills and Rocky Mountains.

Phase one of the project will cover an area 200 kms square, bounded by Turner Valley, Red Deer, Nordegg and Golden BC. The material will be used for projects suggested by other organizations or individuals working to protect the environment in Alberta.

We expect that we can measure:

- The loss of forest due to recent logging on Indian Reservations and private lands.
  - The elimination of critical habitat in the important wildlife corridors of the Bow River Valley.
3. The cumulative effects of increased petroleum development in the Foothills.

We will purchase a film (\$1500), or a film and digital data (\$2750), depending on how much money we raise. If 20 people donate 100\$ each, we will have the minimum required

to begin the project.

## Please Send Money!

If you pay Alberta taxes and you donate \$100, you will get \$75 back as a political tax credit and a lovely T-shirt as a bonus.

Satellite pictures are an extremely effective tool for demonstrating environmental concerns to the public. Only from space can we see our planet in perspective.

Please give generously!



## Agent Orange Wants You

Joseph Boland has provided this review of "Dioxin: The Orange Resource Book" (1995: WD Press, St. Louis, Missouri, a special issue of Synthesis/Regeneration edited by Don Fitz). The name *Orange* refers to Agent Orange, the dioxin-contaminated herbicide sprayed over Vietnam that sickened and eventually killed thousands of Vietnamese people and US veterans. This book focuses on the United States, but is important to Canadians, not only because it contains some articles about Canada, but because our issues in are very similar (e.g. Swan Hills toxic waste plant) and toxic waste does not respect the long, thin border with our neighbours to the south.

"Dioxin (actually a family of 75 chemical compounds) was recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1985 as the most potent synthetic carcinogen known. The daily intake of 14 trillionths of

an ounce would represent a lifetime cancer risk of one in a million. Yet average US intake is probably high enough to produce an additional 50 to 1,000 cancer cases per million people. And recently the EPA [United States Government Environmental Protection Agency] acknowledged dioxin's harmful effects on reproduction and development as well. Dioxins, moreover, are chemically stable compounds that persist in the environment and bioaccumulate in the food chain, concentrating in meat and dairy products. Sadly, the ultimate consequence of bioaccumulation is that dioxin passed from mother to child in breast milk typically amounts to 4 to 12 percent of a person's lifetime exposure.

Despite all this, the organochlorine industry continues to produce about 1200 pounds of dioxins in the US each year. The biochemical potency has been aided by the unrelenting efforts of industrial producers, often with the complicity of the EPA, to suppress, distort, and discount evidence of its toxicity and to delay, delay, and delay some more its elimination from production. Dioxin really involves a double poisoning, a biochemical one, paired with the pollution of public consciousness. Only the perverse synergy of this can explain why the production of

dioxin continues today despite the authoritative exposure of its lethal nature.

*Dioxin: The Orange Resource Book* is an antidote for this poisoning of public consciousness. The contributions to this book unravel a dark and painful mystery, tracing

dioxin back to its sources (organochlorine manufacturing), through the labyrinth of paths it follows into the environment and our bodies (incinerators, PVC, paper mills using chlorine bleach, many pesticides and herbicides), into scientific efforts to understand how it works, and into the lives of those damaged and destroyed by it. Along the way, dioxin's *friends in high*



places are exposed, from Monsanto's knowingly fraudulent scientific testing to the fantasy, popular with the EPA, of incinerators that work perfectly all of the time. And in the concluding section, an alternative dioxin-free economy, nearly all of it feasible today, is outlined. The book includes numerous references to additional literature on many facets of dioxin pollution. The book is inspiring, particularly the accounts of community organizing (over a dozen are included), which are a rich source of tactical ideas and of democratic, oppositional wisdom.

One of the more chilling passages in this book describes an internal Monsanto memo outlining how the corporation decided to respond to public disclosure of the toxicity of PCBs (PCBs are chemically related to and often contaminated with dioxin). According to the memo, outright denial would only result in "numerous [law]suits," while the option to "Discontinue Manufacturing" had to be rejected because profits would cease and liability soar since "we would be admitting our guilt by our actions." Monsanto instead sought to minimize the problem, accepting some restrictions but continuing to manufacture and sell PCBs.

The callousness of Monsanto and others grows out of fear—however strange that may sound—fear of losing their immense power in the turbulence of change. But this defensive rigidity itself saps their power by eroding public trust. When science can be bought outright (as in the infamous Industrial Bio-Test Labs scandal involving thousands of fraudulent safety tests) it ceases to reassure people about the safety of new technologies. Instead, the corporate assimilation of science has produced two contrary responses. Some scientists and scientific institutions choose, in the words of EPA scientist William Sanjour, "to be good citizens rather than good soldiers." And alarmed citizens of all kinds have created, out of a welter of community groups and soli-

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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 (282-4788) or David Parker in Edmonton (469-1448).

### Comment

We welcome submissions for the Alberta Greens Newsletter. Please send them to the editor, Box 133, Station M, Calgary, T2P 2H6, by fax to (403) 289-6658 or by internet email to 71574.3157@compuserve.com.

### Change of Address

Please let us know your new address when you move. Include your name, old address and date of the move.



### Stop Press!

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee is calling for the Alberta Government to place Grizzly Bears on the Red List (for animal populations in serious trouble) and for an end to Grizzly Bear hunting in Alberta. With a population estimated at only 500-900, issuing over 150 hunting licenses each year is unconscionable. For more information call WCWC in Edmonton at (403) 433-5323.

darity networks, the basis for a democratic science.

*Dioxin: The Orange Resource Book* is a product of the convergence of these two trends. The community activists, local officials, lawyers, journalists, teachers, credentialed scientists, non-profit staff members (notably, from Greenpeace) and others who contributed to it are all practitioners of democratic science, which is a better science than the technocratic version controlled by the state and large corporations. It is better because it more faithfully adheres to the ideals of scientific practice: free, open and undistorted communication; pursuit of truth above profit and prestige; exposure of doubts rather than the projection of dogmatic certitude; and an inclusiveness based on respect for what a person brings to the dialogue, not on how many degrees they have. But it is also better because of the values which distinguish it from "big science", especially the belief that the development and use of knowledge and technology ought to be matters of public accountability and public participation, and acceptance of the precautionary principle as the basis for science's role in public policy. This principle calls for the anticipatory prevention of harm, not regulatory control after damage has already been done.

Communities and individuals threatened by dioxin poisoning will benefit from reading this book for its blend of accessible science, organizing lessons and tales, and institutional histories (notably of the organochlorine industry and the EPA). Activists in emancipatory and ecological organizations will find valuable lessons about how democratic alliances can be built, and how science can be demystified and appropriated by them. Finally, policy analysts and mainstream scientists who want to encourage and support popular participation in technological decision-making will find in it both specific policy proposals and ideas about how they can play a responsible role.

Copies of *Dioxin: The Orange Resource Book* can be ordered for US\$7 (postage to Canada included) from:

Gateway Green Alliance  
P.O. Box 8094  
St. Louis, MO 63156, USA

## International Green News

**Sweden:** In Sweden's first ever elections to the European Parliament, on September 16 1995, the Green party share of the popular vote was 17.2%, compared to 5.0% in the last general elections.

**Maine, USA:** John Rensenbrink reports that "Karen Mayo, stellar Green activist, defeated Dan Billings, a strident right wing Republican, for the office of Selectperson in Bowdoinham, Maine in June, 1995 by a vote of 250 to 180. She contributed time energy and money to Jonathan Carter's campaign for governor last year, a campaign that put the Maine Greens on the political map and gave them ballot status. The race was non-partisan, but everyone knew Karen's political commitments."

**New Mexico, USA:** Green party member Fran Gallegos is considered a strong challenger to incumbent Santa Fe municipal court judge Tom Fiorina.

**Catalonia, Spain:** In May municipal elections, 12 Green councilors were elected as part of a Left-Green coalition.

**Berlin, Germany:** Support for Die Grünen in the province of Berlin surged to 13.3%, up from 9.3% in the 1990 elections.

**Switzerland:** Support for traditional Greens slipped from 6.1% to 5%, resulting in a loss of 6 of 14 seats previously held by Gruene/Les Verts in the 200 seat Swiss confederation parliament. A new Green party, Gruene Buendnis achieved 1 seat.

## Water, Water, Wasted Everywhere

The number of gallons of water needed to produce 1 edible pound of (collated by Jim Thompson):

Tomatoes	23
Lettuce	23
Potatoes	24
Wheat	25
Carrots	33
Apples	49
Oranges	65
Grapes	70
Milk	130
Egg	544
Chicken	815
Pork	1630
Beef	5214

That last figure is about the same amount of water used by one person showering for 5 minutes every day for a year.

## Update on Dairy Cow Growth Hormone

Monsanto is pushing rBGH and rBGH as a way to increase the production of milk (and their share of the biotechnology market) regardless of the effect on cows and people. Dairy cows have a tough enough life without the increase in foot and leg problems, spontaneous abortions, and calving difficulties. The idea behind rBGH is to force the cows body to produce more milk, which it does, but it seems obvious that dumping growth hormone into an animal would have numerous other side effects also.

The Consumers Association of Canada (CAC), calling last month for a slowdown on new biotechnology food products, singled out the hormone: "We don't want to find out 20 years from now that BST causes cancer in kids." Approval appears less likely in Canada after the November 1994 admission on CBC TV by William Drennan that Monsanto representatives had attempted to bribe Health Canada with several million dollars to approve the drug.



The Alberta Greens need your support. And now is a good time to give it, especially if you want to donate some money and have up to 75% of it returned to you as a political tax credit on your 1995 tax return.

But the Alberta Greens need more than money. We need people to give a little of their time to work with the many issues that we have been involved with. Even one hour a month would help. We have been involved with many issues over the past year:

- Intervening at National Energy Board hearings to try to prevent gas exports to the US without an environmental impact assessment of the exploration and development activities.
- Opposing Swan Hills expansion.
- Fighting for reduced pesticide use in Calgary.
- Maintaining links with other environmental and social action groups through monthly round table lunch discussion groups.
- Fighting the Whaleback sour gas well.
- Fighting to keep public lands open to the public, even when ranchers hold grazing leases.
- Setting up “Issue Funding” projects with several other environmental and social action groups to make donations eligible for political tax credits.
- Fighting the Sunpine logging road.
- Maintaining electronic communications for Greens locally and around the world.
- Fighting development in the Bow Corridor.
- Supporting the land claims of the Lubicon people.

The support that we are building now will assist us in the next Alberta general election. But more people could do more work and get involved with more groups with similar aims and speak with a stronger voice to oppose the anti-environmental policies of the Klein government.

Please turn the page to see where you can help...

# Where do you fit in?

## Active Member



I want to give some of my time to help the development of the Green movement in Alberta, either regularly or during elections. Please call me...and keep your newsletter coming!

## Contributing Member



I have enclosed a cheque or money order payable to *Alberta Greens* for a donation of \$\_\_\_\_ now and/or post-dated cheques of \$\_\_\_\_ for each month of 1996. I understand that donations are up to 75% tax-rebatable (i.e. a donation of \$100 would result in \$75 back on your tax return). Note: receipts are only given for donations over \$15. Keep that newsletter coming!

## Supporting Member



I have no money or time right now, but support the Alberta Greens in my heart and when I vote. Please keep your newsletter coming!

## Associate Member



I want to support the Green movement by donating to a joint project with another organization. I understand that this will make up to 75% of my donation tax rebatable as an Alberta political tax credit. I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_ for the issue funding project I have checked below:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the West Country        | Opposing Sunpine logging road expansion.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Action Network              | Opposing water fluoridation.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rocky Mountain Ecosystem Coalition | Protecting Rocky Mountain wilderness.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alberta Wilderness Association     | Promoting the protection of Special Places.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Harvest Co-op                | Renovations of this health food store.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Athabasca           | Challenging the government's restrictive definition of a "directly affected" person. |

## Get Off My Back!



I would rather stomp on a Spotted Owl than help the Alberta Greens. Take me off your mailing list and never send me none of that recycled paper again!

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Mail this form to:

Alberta Greens  
Box 133, Stn. M  
Calgary, Alberta T2N 3W1