

Alberta Greens AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Greens (jointly with the Green Party of Canada in Alberta and GAIA) was held on September 18th-20th at the Gull Lake Camp & Retreat, near Lacombe, Alberta.

This meeting finalized the guidelines for the Justice & Fairness committee. A plan for Green Environmental Awards was approved, as was a plan for nominating candidates well in advance of an election. There were no changes in party officers (see page 3).

The next Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Greens will be held jointly with the Green Party of Canada in Alberta (GPCA) on September 17th-19th 1999 at the Gull Lake Camp & Retreat Centre (RR3, Lacombe, Alberta). More information will follow.

Karina Gregory: Alberta Greens Candidate in Edmonton-McClung

Karina Gregory was the Alberta Greens candidate in the June by-election in Edmonton-McClung. As expected, the by-election was a coronation for Nancy McBeth, new leader of the Alberta Liberals. However, Karina was an excellent candidate. One audience member at an all-candidates forum, Ben Kutz, commented that "Ms Gregory generated in me a sense of direction for the future of life on this planet."

Karina Gregory made a strong stand in the Dykstra case, calling for human rights for all regardless of their gender, race or, in this case, sexual orientation.

Tooker Gomberg for Mayor of Edmonton

Well known Green Tooker Gomberg ran for Mayor in October elections. In the end Tooker, came in 4th place, although almost 22,000 Edmontonians voted for his new vision, and his campaign was endorsed by David Suzuki. Tooker was philosophical about his loss, quoting an ancient Chinese proverb:

If you are thinking one year ahead, sow a seed.

If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree.

If you are thinking one hundred years ahead, make people aware.

Tooker, and his partner Angela Bischoff, summarized the election effort:

"We are content that over 21,000 people considered what our team had to say, and voted for it. We showed that there is a strong interest in issues of community and economic health and ecological sustainability. Many others considered our vision, but perhaps found it too new, or different. That is the role of pioneers. We are breaking new ground, and we are confident that the seeds we planted will bear unexpected and tasty fruit."

If you would like to help Tooker pay his campaign debts (about \$6,000), please send a cheque to:

Canada Greens Council Elections

Elections for several positions were held during the August, 1998 Green Party of Canada Convention. The following positions are now filled:

Leader	Joan Russow
Council Chair	Harvey Scott (AB)
Communications	Raphael Thierrin (AB)
Int'l Liaison	Paulo Simas
Chief Agent	Chris Lea
Organizing Chair	Frank de Jong
Fundraising Chair	Imtiaz Popat
Admin'n Chair	Frank de Jong
Membership Chair	Steve Kisby

Several provinces have representatives on the Council:

Alberta	Don Ferguson
B.C.	Imtiaz Popat
Manitoba	Chris Billows
Newfoundland	Jon Whalen
Nova Scotia	Mark Taylor

Several positions are still vacant:

Party Secretary (Anglophone)
Party Secretary (Francophone)
Shadow Cabinet Chair

Calgary Webotage

We do not know who is doing this, but a sardonic makeover of the City of Calgary's website is at:

<http://www.creativejunctions.com/users/calgary/index.html>

The author, whoever he or she is, can be reached at al_doo_er@hotmail.com. The website has a serious message, and

addresses some of the issues that the City is not facing, such as pesticide reduction.

Fluoridation & Literacy

Is literacy confined to the 3 R's? Is it about whole language versus phonics?

While most Calgarians can read, the recent municipal election illustrates the low level of environmental and social literacy of Calgarians.

Where is the literacy when a group of elementary school children voted 58% against continued fluoridation in a mock plebiscite, while their principal cast a vote in favour, the only vote that counted?

Does literacy mean just the ability to read the lines? Or between the lines? Do Calgarians understand that they are being manipulated by slick glossy brochures and ad campaigns? Does literacy mean the ability to say "No" to poison, even when marketing professionals cry "It's Safe!"? Does literacy include the understanding that hydrofluosalicilic acid is a toxic waste, and the appreciate of a clean environment, knowledge about health and its connection to good food, clean pure water and sunshine?

True literacy would enable us to reclaim our citizenship, reclaim our communities, reclaim our government and say "No!" to environmental and social tyranny.

– Fay Ash

Cheviot Mine Down in the Dumps

Environmentalists are buoyed by the recent troubles of the Cheviot Mine proposal, near Jasper National Park. The business climate for this mine is deteriorating as fiscally and environmentally better projects appear, and the Sierra Legal Defence Fund. is appearing before the Federal Court of Appeal to continue the lawsuit against the project launched by The Canadian Nature Federation, Canadian Parks & Wilderness

Alberta Greens Financial Appeal

Its that *Season* again - the *Political Donation* season. It is time that Ralph and the Alberta government made their annual donations to the Environment.

You can help them do it!

If you donate \$100 it will cost you only \$25! The Alberta government will refund the remaining \$75 to you on your tax return. This is because, if you pay Alberta taxes, a donation to the Alberta Greens is eligible for the *Political Tax Credit* which is much more valuable than the tax deduction for a charitable donation, except for total annual donations well above \$2,000.

Allowable credit (claimed on form T1C (ALTA)):

75% of the first \$150 of total contributions

50% of the next \$675 of total contributions

33.33% of the amount exceeding \$825

Total allowable credit: \$750 (on a donation of \$1950)

You can donate to the Alberta Greens and help with our ongoing expenses or any of the environmental projects which the Greens are supporting.

Our ongoing expenses include:

- support for candidates at elections;
- networking with other Green Parties worldwide;
- newsletter mailing costs;
- Cash prizes for the **Alberta Green Awards**. These will annually recognize nominations for Alberta's most important *Environmental Tragedies and Triumphs*.

Other environmental projects which we support are:

- **Wilderness 2000**;
- The defence of Alberta environmental groups against **SLAPP** suits, (we are currently supporting the Bragg Creek Environmental Coalition in its defence against a SLAPP initiated by Spray Lake Sawmills);
- save the **Cripple Creek** old growth forest;
- **Green Eye in the Sky** satellite imagery acquisition (currently purchasing data in the Cripple Creek area); and
- the campaign to stop the City adding **Fluoride** to Calgary's drinking water.

Please help all these good causes with your donation. If you are not eligible for the tax benefit, you can credit the donation to someone who is. Please ensure donations are *postmarked before December 31, 1998* if you want the rebate on your 1998 return!

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society, Alberta Wilderness Association, Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development and the Jasper Environmental Association.

Stuart Parker: Candidate in Parksville Byelection in British Columbia

Green Party of British Columbia leader Stuart Parker announced on November 2, 1998, his intention to run in the upcoming Parksville-Qualicum byelection. Parker commented:

“Obviously, this campaign will be challenging for me as I have never lived in the constituency where I will be running as a candidate. Fortunately, however, I am being supported by a strong team of local activists. The message I have heard clearly from local Green Party members and other constituency residents is that they are tired of this constituency simply being a battleground for provincial parties jockeying for position. My campaign will work to re-focus this byelection on local issues; while the Nisga'a treaty, provincial finances and BC's investment climate are important issues, what I intend to stress in this campaign are issues closer to home.

When voters go to the polls sometime in the next two months, I hope that people vote based on what kind of vision they have for this constituency – what kind of community they would like to live in. The Green Party has a solid record of challenging obsolete transportation policies, out of control growth and policies which undermine tourism, logging, fishing and other jobs that require a stable land base. These will be my key issues in the upcoming campaign.”

Stuart Parker has (again) been excluded from a planned CBC Television party leader's debate. This is despite an agreement with the CBC that the Green Party will be included if certain criteria are met, the fact that the BC Reform Party no longer has members in the legislature and has no leader at present, and despite the fact that the Green Party received more votes than the PDA in a recent byelection. The Chief Electoral Officer will be investigating this exclusion at Parker's request.

ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

Mailing address: Box 133, Station M, Calgary, T2P 2H6.

Fax: +1-403-289-1465.

Email: molders@calcna.ab.ca

Web: <http://www.calcna.ab.ca/politics/province/abgreens/abgreens.html>

Leader David Parker +1-403-469-1448

President David Crowe +1-403-289-6609

Secretary Madeleine Oldershaw +1-403-282-4788

Treasurer Pam Munroe +1-403-245-3441

Membership - Alberta Greens

Membership in the Alberta Greens is free! Simply send your name, address and other contact information to our mailing or email address above. Members have the right to vote at Alberta Greens meetings and will receive this newsletter.

Membership - Canada Greens in Alberta

Membership in the Green Party of Canada in Alberta costs \$15. Simply send your name, address and other contact information to “The Secretary, The Green Party of Canada in Alberta, 1108 - 7th Avenue South, Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 1K5”. Members have the right to vote at Green Party of Canada meetings and will also become members of the Alberta Greens.

Donations

If you cannot give us your time, we could certainly use your money! 75% of your first \$150 in donations to the Alberta Greens are returned to you on your next Alberta tax return. You can also receive this tax break on donations to joint projects between the Alberta Greens and other environmental and social action groups. Contact us for more details.

Meetings

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

Comments

We welcome submissions for the Alberta Greens Newsletter. Please send them to the editor, Box 133, Station M, Calgary, T2P 2H6, by email to crowed@cadvision.com or by fax to +1-403-289-6658.

Change of Address

Please let us know your new postal or email address *before* it changes. Include your name, both your old and new addresses as well as the effective date of the change.

the PDA and Reform are not electoral threats to the NDP, the Green Party definitely is. From small beginnings it has risen to fielding almost a full slate of candidates at the last provincial election. And, with popular support in polls ranging from 5% to 11%, it will not be long before it elects members to the legislature. At that point, many more people will see it as a credible alternative to the NDP, which no longer has progressive social policies and which never had progressive environmental policies.

Stuart Parker can be reached by telephone at +1-250-756-7553 or +1-604-813-3793, or via email at:

sparker@greenparty.bc.ca

Green Party of Ontario 1998 Election Platform

The Green Party of Ontario has released its 1998 election platform. According to their leader, Frank de Jong:

“No other party even comes close to matching our commitment to a healthy Ontario. The Green Party truly understands that a healthy future for Ontario depends on the government's ability to support the health and well-being of its citizens, communities, cultures, economy, and environment. Our policy reflects this awareness of what will make Ontario a great place to live, both in the near future and for generations to come.”

The Green Party of Ontario can be contacted at 1-888-6GREEN6 (+1-416-5431-4825) or by email at fdejong@greenparty.on.ca. Their website is www.greenparty.on.ca, and their address is:

The Green Party of Ontario



Goodbye Parti Vert

It is with great sadness that we note that the Green Party of Québec (Parti Vert) was deregistered in the recent provincial election, because it could not field the necessary 10 candidates.

Hello, Manitoba!

Tempering our sadness at the passing of the Parti Vert is the rising of the Green Party of Manitoba. Their constitution was adopted on November 11, 1998, shortly after being officially recognized by the province.

New Mexico Greens Stun Democrats

The *Albuquerque Journal* reports, that in a special election (i.e. by-election) in New Mexico, the Green candidate received 15 percent of the vote, versus 39 percent for the Democrat candidate and 45 percent for the Republican winner.

Praise for the Alberta Greens Newsletter

Reader Don Boring of Glendora, California writes:

“Thank you for sending me the Alberta Greens Newsletter...I enjoy hearing about the brave exploits of those men and women who are on the front line **STANDING UP AGAINST THE CLEAR CUTTERS**. I view those people as valiant human beings!

Keep up the great work!”

Web Sites to Remember

Alberta Greens:

<http://www.calca.ab.ca/politics/province/abgreens/abgreens.html>

Canada Greens:

<http://green.ca>

Drugs in the Water?

Fluoride isn't the only medication being added to the water supply. Rachel's Environment and Health Weekly (#614) reports that pharmaceutical drugs are becoming significant pollutants. Because they are designed to be active against humans, they do not have to be present in large amounts to cause trouble

Pushing Drugs in the US

According to Reuters Health, the US pharmaceutical industry spent US\$3.1 billion promoting their products to physicians and consumers in the first half of 1998. Now, that's money down the drain!

The Biotic Baking Brigade

A shadowy organization known as the Biotic Baking Brigade has been hand delivering pies to top university officials at UC Berkeley and UC Davis ... directly to their face.

These hand-to-face missiles are to protest the recent “alliances” between Berkeley and Novartis and between Davis and Monsanto. What will happen to university scientists who make statements that offend these two large life-sciences corporations?

Agent Apple of the BBB reported that this tart message delivery was part of a previously secret Operation, code-named “Double Fudge”.

The MMT Decision

The MMT decision will have worldwide ramifications. MMT (methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl) was banned by the Canadian government because it is a dangerous neurotoxin. The Ethyl Corporation sued for “expropriation of property” and, under NAFTA rules, a secret tribunal started to review the case. The government of Canada, believing that it could

under these rules, settled out of court, and agreed to pay Ethyl \$13 million and, more importantly, to announce that MMT poses no health risk!

Alberta Waste Materials Exchange

It is always better not to produce waste, but the Alberta Waste Materials Exchange can help turn waste from one company into a raw material for another. They maintain a website at:

www.gov.ab.ca/~env/camd/awme

Scientific Misconduct on the World Wide Web

Walter Stewart, a US government employee who has made it his business to investigate scientific misconduct because his employer won't, has set up a website:

<http://www.nyx.net/~wstewart>

The most interesting portion is the heavily documented Robert Gallo case. Considered by most to be a hero for his discovery of HIV, the "AIDS Virus", a US congressional investigation documented instead that he, and people around him, had lied (sometimes criminally), misappropriated Institut Pasteur cell cultures for his own, hidden information, and obstructed investigations, all to be able to claim a patent for the United States Government as the first to invent a blood test for HIV. Luckily for Gallo, the staff report was never released, because of the Republican Party takeover of the US congress, although he and many of his colleagues quietly left the National Institute of Health about that time.



Canadian Green News

Québec • Jacques Bosquet, a 48 year old law student, represented the Green Party of Canada in the September 14th by-election in Sherbrooke, Québec. Joan Russow, leader of the Green Party, visited the riding before the election, to give support to M. Bosquet. The party filed a complaint before the CRTC, alleging a failure to allocate broadcast time on an equitable basis to all parties. Ironically, news of the CRTC complaint was covered in a major article by the Sherbrooke Tribune, which had not covered the Green candidate to any extent before. In the end, Jacques Bousquet received 257 votes (0.7%).

Unfortunately, the Parti Vert did not run enough candidates in the provincial election to remain registered (see separate story on page 4).

International Green News

Brazil • Alfredo Sirkis was the Green Party candidate presidential candidate in the October 3rd national elections. The Green Party of Brazil has members elected to 1 state governorship (Espírito Santo), 1 federal seat, 250 city council seats and 20 mayors.

In August, the Brazilian President declared a moratorium on enforcing environmental legislation for 10 years. Both the Worker's Party and the Green Party brought a suit to the Supreme Court, arguing that this is unconstitutional.

Burkina Faso • Businessman Ram Ouedaogo, 48, is the Green Party candidate for president in the November 15, 1998 election in this West African country (formerly Upper Volta).

Germany • In September elections, the Greens, who received 6.7% of the vote, were asked to join a coalition government led by Social Democrat Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who swept Helmut Kohl from power. The 298 Social Democrat MP's, and 47 Greens, formed a majority government (with 48% of the popular vote).

Mexico • Green Party President Jorge Gonzalez Torres is fighting the anti-environmental policies of Mexico City mayor Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. Info-Latina quoted the Green Party leader as saying the mayor's policies are "ecologically damaging, obsessive, stubborn and destructive. The widening of avenues has killed many trees. They are cut off at the root, and when transplanted to other areas they die in a couple of months due to wind." Torres presented a 1,600 signature petition to the City Engineer protesting one road project, and asking for alternatives to be considered.

Sweden • In September elections, the Greens received 4.4% of the popular vote, receiving 16 seats in Parliament. The Center Party, which also is environmentalist, received 5.1%.

Taiwan • The Central News Agency of Taiwan reports that environmentalists are urging the government to stop excessive hillside developments, following a string of mudslides that have killed a dozen Taipei residents recently. "Green Party whip Kao Cheng-yen expressed the hope that the government will take stringent measures to stamp out illegal mining and logging on hill-sides to ensure public safety".



Book Review: *Breaking the Death Habit*

This book by Leonard Orr will blow your socks off! He challenges the myth that nothing is certain in life but death and taxes. "Conquering death is the basic intelligence test in the physical universe", says Orr. The book deals with personal health and voluntary spiritual purification mastery techniques, how to raise our personal prana (life force) so that we can have the energy to do this earthly work we all find so important.

Leonard shares stories and insights from his work with eight immortal yoga masters in India.

Published by Frog Ltd./North Atlantic Books (1998).

– Fay Ash

Book Review: *Dancing Naked in the Mind Field*

Surfer, Womanizer, Dabbler in Drugs ... Nobel Laureate. A combination found only in Kary Mullis, who is currently causing a bit of a stir on his book tour, by strongly voicing support for AIDS dissidents. Even *Quirks & Quarks* felt it necessary to dedicate part of a recent program to counter his ideas.

The irony is that Kary Mullis received the Nobel Prize for inventing the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), that enables tiny snippets of DNA (or RNA) to be multiplied billions of times over in a day. This is the principal behind the AIDS "Viral Load" test. Mullis became a dissident when trying to find a reference to support the claim "HIV is the cause of AIDS" in a scientific paper. A decade later, he is still searching.

There is as much in this book to infuriate, as there is to enlighten. Apparently, Mullis sees no reason to hide his stupidity when it makes a good story. He is a lot wilder than the average Nobel Laureate, but a lot more colourful, and probably more honest.

Published by Pantheon Books (1998).

Book Review: *Genetic Engineering: Dream or Nightmare?*

Many people feel uncomfortable with the ideas of genetic engineering, so it is nice to see a scientist with impeccable credentials write a critical book. The message of Dr. Mae-Wan Ho's book is that not only will genetic engineering cause a host of problems, but it probably won't even work!

Most people understand the view of genetic material as a relatively static chain of genes that get turned on and off at various times by mysterious processes. We understand and accept the concepts of Mendel's peas, and reject Lamark's idea that environmental influences can modify future generations.

Yet, according to Ho, the genome is almost as dynamic as the rest of the cell. Information flows in interconnected circles, with proteins causing changes in genetic material we barely even understand. In her opinion, Lamark was right, and Mendel was wrong.

The dynamic, interconnected nature of the genome makes it impossible to tinker with genes as if they were independent entities. Moving a gene from one species to another may not work, or may make more changes than are desired. Worse yet, bacteria may transfer the genetic material to other organisms. So, a gene to give resistance to a pesticide may end up giving nearby weeds the same resistance.

The book has two weaknesses. One is that the political agenda of the author surfaces, sometimes in inappropriate times. Another is that she does not take the discussion of Reverse Transcriptase far enough. This is the enzyme that allows DNA to be modified. Some people (e.g. HIV scientists) interpret this enzyme as a signal for a retrovirus, a virus that like a bad sci-fi movie, can bury its genetic material within ours. Ho notes that Reverse Transcriptase is commonly used by cells to repair DNA or for other functions that may modify it by processes that we simply do not understand.

stand. However, she does not indicate how to tell the difference between a stressed cell using this mechanism for repair, and a true retrovirus. The possibility that retroviruses are actually just an interpretation of an internal cellular phenomenon are not discussed.

Published by Gateway Books, Bath, UK (1998).

Animal Agents

A new animal rights organization called *Animal Agents* has formed in Calgary. They meet on the first Saturday of every month from 10am-12pm at 204, 1211 - 14th St. SW (upstairs). Contact Deb at +1-403-231-6298 for more information.

Ty Lund: Give it Up!

The Alberta Wilderness Association has (again) called for the resignation of Ty Lund, Minister of the Environment. In a letter of November 26, 1998 they listed a number of his 'crimes against the environment', although they did not mention his use of the word 'sterilization' to refer to land set aside for wilderness.

Human Rights Celebration

A celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be held on December 10th from 7-9 pm at the Alberta College of Art and Design (Main Hall Cafeteria). Contact the Calgary District Labour Council at +1-403-262-2390 for more information.

While you are at it, why not ask them to sell you a copy of the 1999 Herstory Calendar, full of important dates and mini-biographies from Canadian Women's history.