



THE NEWSLETTER

**SARCEE FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION
HOLDS MEETINGS ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF
EACH MONTH**

EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST

**AT 7:30 P.M. @ MOUNTAIN VIEW MEMORIAL GARDENS
17TH AVENUE AND GARDEN ROAD S.E., CALGARY ALBERTA**

Volume 52 - Issue 6 – November/December 2002

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hunting season is upon us, which is obviously why so many of our volunteers are nowhere to be found. I managed two-day trips so far and bagged a couple pheasant and my limit of eight ducks. Pheasants are scarce and I suspect predators are getting more than a fair share. I've seen more than a few coyotes. Ducks appear hard to find. Maybe they haven't moved down from the north yet. I don't think we had much of a local hatch this year, likely due to the lack of water in prairie potholes.

Things have been relatively quiet on game farming issues. I would like to believe that their penned hunting proposal was defeated as a result of our and other concerned Albertans opposition. We have to stay alert though until game farming of deer and elk is banned completely to ensure the future health and existence of our wild species.

Our fish derby, managed by John Komonoski and me was a success and learning experience for a first time derby for us. We had a fairly good turnout, mostly from central Alberta, with very few from Calgary.

On the last page of this newsletter is a notice of a proposal to change the name of our club, with a ballot for members to complete and return to us. This is the only way we can poll our membership under a democratic system. If you do not return your ballot, don't expect later comments or criticism to have an effect on the decision or the results of the decision.

Our annual general meeting is in December. We need qualified people who are willing to put in some time as a director, and to chair or co-chair on of our very essential committees. We are all volunteers and we can't function without your participation. So, how about it?

Have a good fall.

Art Beck 274-5924

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

December 10, 2002 at 7.30 PM

Mountainview Memorial Gardens Funeral Home

AGENDA is as follows:

- 1) Minutes of annual general meeting of December 2001
- 2) Treasurers report
- 3) Election of Board of Directors.
- 4) Directors and committee reports
- 5) Unfinished business
- 6) New business

Note-A written copy of all reports to secretary

Come and enjoy Pizza, fellowship and pick up your Hunter Surveys.

NOTICE OF BYLAW AMMENDMENT

A Special Resolution to amend our Bylaws was tabled at our General Meeting of October 8, 2002. This resolution will be voted on at the general meeting on January 14, 2003 and must have a 75 percent majority to pass, in compliance with Article V of our bylaws. The proposed amendment is as follows: Article X- Section 2- Signing authority. 1. All disbursements shall be made by cheques signed by two of the three signing officers of the association, to be amended to read, All disbursements shall be made by cheques signed by two or more of the three signing officers of the association.

Art Beck 274-5924

PROGRAM REPORT

Meeting November 12th---We will show a wildlife video or maybe one on how to trap predators.
Meeting December 10th--- Annual general meeting.

ALBERTA JUNIOR PHEASANT PROJECT

We are over half done our training program for this year. 47 Juniors participated with about 80% successfully bagging either a pheasant or a turkey. We release 50 birds per day for 4 kids so ample chances presented themselves. The Sept 22 hunt was postponed to Thanksgiving Monday so we have not actually missed a hunt yet.

230 hens were delivered from Brooks on Oct. 19 to replace those lost in the Aug 2 blizzard Any birds returning to the yard after hunts are allowed back in to feed and used on another weekend so far maybe 10% are recycled. Almost all the turkeys are either taken home by a hunter or return to yard as they roost so high that they can call to each other for quite a distance. They are the strongest, toughest birds we have ever raised. No death losses. They fare better than the person banding them on our weekend releases.

Sponsorship is still needed due to the expense of the pen and clay thrower this year. Helpers will be doing 1300+ Innisfail area hunter surveys. Hunters, do us a favor and be sure your phone number on your win card is correct. We suffer 20% no response to wrong phone numbers Anyone willing to do 100 surveys (for Olds to Red Deer Area) the first 2 weeks of December contact Peggy 403-227-2105. Editor Note: Sarcee also has 7000 Calgary Area Hunter Surveys, contact George Loades. 281-8888. Organizations receive 50 cent for each Hunter Survey completed.

Predation seems less on released pheasants but do continue to hunt fox and coyote. Hides will soon be worth money and bounty is paid to Sarcee members. Remind juniors that there is a bounty for them on raven, crow and magpie.

A larger number of girls have come to hunt this year and they are serious. Success among the girls is as good or higher. A class of 29 will take hunter training through Venny in Red Deer on Oct. 26, 27 so we expect the remaining 20 slots to fill quickly.

Front-page color articles in the Central Alberta Life and Western Producer have prompted calls from as far away as North Battleford.

Guides and Dog handlers are the backbone of this project. But please, if you find you can't come-call immediately. It is very difficult to maintain safe supervision when replacing someone with less than 48 hours notice. Be sure your membership is paid up to secure insurance coverage.

We have noticed junior interest in skeet shooting, trapping, bounty hunting, outdoor survival, and fish derby. Regular events would be well attended. Anyone willing to present any of these on a one-at-a- time basis let the club know.

Peg and Dan 403-227-2105

NEWSLETTER

OPPS! With all the mushroom picking, I typed the club email wrong, it should be sfgabrown@telus.net.

We have now more than 80 members receiving their newsletter by email. If you have a computer & would like your newsletter emailed, please email me a note to sfgabrown@telus.net.

The newsletter is published January, March, May, July, September & November. To aid in the timely delivery of the newsletter to members, the deadline for the newsletter is the executive meeting the MONTH BEFORE PUBLISHED. This means the next newsletter is published in Jan. & the deadline for entries is December EXEC meeting (Usually between Christmas and New Years). If there is room, a members classified will be included.

Ken & Mary Lynn Brown 252-0606

WILDLIFE TRUST HIDE AND SHED ANTLER PROGRAMS

SHRUB AND TREE PLANTING PROJECTS

Thanks to Murray Schultz we will be submitting plans for a planting project on a farm owned by Larry and Karen McKeage. Their farm, which is about five miles south of Carseland, looks like a fine location for a series of caragana hedges. If approved we will be planting in late April or early May next year.

Thanks again to Murray and to Art Beck we will submit a plan to plant poplars and chokecherries on the farm of Ernie and Marlene Goebel in the Standard area. In view of their conservation efforts already done and planned, both of the above are being recommended for recognition as HABITAT STEWARDS.

DUCK NESTING BOXES

Since last Newsletter a large nesting box has been placed in a beaver pond just south of Elbow Falls. In addition, three have been placed beside ponds on the Wintergreen golf course near Bragg Creek. Another two boxes have been placed in trees along the Bow River near the Livingston Fish Hatchery. Please note that if you have some suggestions for me please call as we have a dozen more to place in suitable locations.

HIDE AND SHED ANTLER COLLECTING PROGRAM

Hides for the **WILDLIFE TRUST** program are starting to come in and this year we have received our first Buffalo hide. Please do your best when you skin your deer, moose and elk and try to bring the hides out in one piece. The hides that look like they have been skinned by a "knife thrower" are hard to sell. Let's see if we can beat last years total of 571 hides. Remember every hide donated earns an entry in a draw for one of three rifles complete with sling, scope and case. The prize for the largest scoring SHED ANTLER is a Muzzle Loading Rifle and there are lots of other prizes as well. Last year our contributors won a rifle and five other prizes as well.

2001 Hide Collection Winners

In addition to the rifles awarded to winners of the draw in the hide collection program, there is a supplemental draw. We have received the prizes (3 Knives and 2 Mag. Lights) one prize for each 100 hides collected.

The winners are:

Art Beck

Dr. Vaclav Hoyer

Josie Minifie

Bob Semchuk

Ray Gusul

BRYCE CHASE 249-6924

Disposal of Animal Parts

If you are a hunter you might already know that changes made by the companies that export rendered products have affected local meat processors and butchers. Many rendering company will not accept cervids (members of the deer family, including deer, elk and moose) as well as sheep. This means that some butchers will not accept hunter-killed cervids (or any species of wild game), some will want extra money to dispose of bones, hides and heads and some may return the bones, hides and heads to the hunter to dispose of. For Copies of the Destruction and disposal of dead animal regulations at www.agric.gov.ab.ca/ministry/acts/regs/ar229-2000.html#2

ZONE 2 and other CLUBS NEWS

Next Zone 2 meeting – Calgary, January 19, 2003 10 AM

Director – Bev Chipchase – 1920 43 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB, T2T 2M9 – Ph 287-1375

Treasurer – Jill Dyck – Box 895 Drumheller, AB, T0J 0Y0 – Ph 823-8580, Fax 823-9470, email jillydyck@telusplanet.net

Secretary – Sharon Whittaker – 304 Sackville Dr. SW, Calgary, AB, T2W 0W9 – Ph 255-0659

Following is the list of clubs & contacts

Alberta Firearms, Environment & Wildlife: Darwin Cronkhite 403-280-4874

Big Country Fish And Game Assoc: Marvin Molzan

Big Horns Club of Standard: Phil Faubion

Calgary Fish & Game: Bill Melhorn 403-289-8856 Trophy Measuring & Trade Show Jan 18, 2003 at 911 Sylvester Cres. SW. Calgary, 9AM-5PM \$3.00, Wildgame Banquet at Triwood Community Centre.

Drumheller & District Fish and Game Assoc: John Carls 403-823-9825, Work 403-823-5414 Wildgame Dinner & Awards Feb 8, 2003 at East Coulee Community Hall- Adults \$20 Children \$10, Horn Measuring Saturday in Dec, phone for information

High River Fish and Game Assoc: Lyle McPherson 403-248-3126 Big Game Dinner at Memorial Centre, Horn Measuring

Hussar Fish and Game Assoc: Gordan Schaefer

Okotoks & District Fish and Game Assoc.: Jim Buck 403-938-0019

Rocky Mountain Versatile Hunting Dog Club Herb Ten Pierik, 403-547-1436

Sarcee Fish and Game Assoc.: Dale Lucas 403-271- 5486 Trophy Measuring Night Jan. 2003, Alberta Fish and Game Association Conference Feb 20-22, 2003, Wildgame and Awards Banquet March 15, 2003.

Wheatland Conservation & Wildlife Assoc: Wayne Maerz, 403-901-0601 Horn Measuring, Annual Wildgame Supper and Awards, Jan 18, 2003 at Strathmore Civic Center, Cocktails 6PM, Supper 7PM, Contact Larry Olson, 403-934-4388

Willow Valley Trophy Club: Tenus Van Tol, 403-627-5984 54th Annual Trophy Awards Day Jan. 11, 2003 at Pincher Creek Community Hall (West end of Main Street) Saturday doors open 8AM, Program 1:30PM Admission \$3.00 “Working for better sportsmanship in hunting fishing and out great outdoors”

Remember if you are requesting money from Alberta Conservation Association (A.C.A) for conservation and Habitat projects, they have to be applied for in November and December 2002. Please send information of club or community events which you would like published in the newsletter to Dale Lucas, C/O Sarcee Fish and Game Association, Suite 494, 300 – 8120 Beddington Blvd. NW, Calgary Alberta T3K 2A8 Fax 403-274-2247 or email

sfgabrown@telus.net

Dale Lucas 271- 5486

2003 Calgary Boat & Sportsmen's Show
Roundup Centre – Stampede Park
Friday Feb. 14 to Monday Feb 17 (family Holiday)

Sarcee Fish and Game will again need about 45 volunteers to man our booth and the Kids Fishing Pond. Please mark your calendars and be prepared to volunteer for a couple of shifts to get a free pass.

Preliminary information indicates that Fly Fishing with “Lefty” Kreh will be a feature and the A.H.E.I.A. will have an expanded role to involve youth.

Detailed information next newsletter.

Thanks Art Yeske 249-7245

Bennet Pond Fish Derby October 20,2002

First Prize: \$200 for largest fish went to Patty Williams of Olds with a 1 lb.14.5 oz. trout.

Second Prize: \$100 for second largest fish went to Luke Engele (a junior) of Carmel, Sask. with a 1 lb.11 oz. trout.

\$25 for the smallest fish was split between Ethan McCannel and Grayson Axani of Red Deer with each catching a 9.5 oz. fish.

A complete fishing outfit went to Luke Engele of Carmel, Sask. for the largest fish caught by a Junior; with his 1 lb.11oz. fish.

A complete fishing outfit went to Blake Williamson of Olds for the first fish caught by a Junior.

A fishing outfit for the first angler to catch and register his legal limit was won by Mark Hanrahan, but not claimed.

The derby was considered a success with 29 fisher people registered with about 60% Juniors. The fish were also co-operating.

Our thanks to Alberta Fish and Wildlife for the donation of fishing outfits for prizes and to Innisfail Fish & Game for their part.

Art Beck 274-5924

2003 Raffle

Preparations are underway for the 2003 Raffle. We have some great Prizes this Year: a Queen Size Original Design Quilt by Mary Lynn Brown with Long Arm Quilting by My Sewing Room, and from club member Graham and Diane Moore a 2 Day Salmon fishing trip Includes Bed and Breakfast, but not transportation to Victoria (must be used in 2003), Reclining Rocker Arm Chair (Model 010570 or equiv.) from La-Z-boy Furniture Galleries, Framed Robert Bateman Wolf Print “New Territory” from Avenida Art Gallery and 50 Cal “Great Plains” Flintlock Rifle with all accessories from Ken and Mary Lynn Brown. The Draw Date is March 11, 2003, so attend the regular meeting and watch the draw. There are Two Prizes award, First Prize is choice of the 5 prizes and Second Prize is choice of REMAINING Prizes. (The three remaining items are NOT drawn NOR awarded). The 50 Cal. “Great Plains” Flintlock does not require a firearms licence and does not have to be register, does not require locked storage, therefore can be openly displayed. (looks great over the fireplace) The Proceeds from the raffle go to the 29th Annual “Fun Fishing Day for the Physically Challenged and to various Conservation Projects. Prizes will be displayed where practical at club functions. Volunteers will be calling members soon to check if you will sell a book or two of tickets. The tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00 and a book has 12 tickets. Tickets will be mailed out in the January Newsletter, so think of 4 friends or relatives that you could sell a book and how many books you can sell. If you want tickets early, call Ken or Mary Lynn Brown at 252-0606, maybe as Christmas Gifts.

Statement of Operations
For the year ended March 31, 2001

Alberta Conservation Association
*Funded by Alberta Anglers, Hunters,
And Other Conservationists*

Revenue	2001	2000
Fee and assessment (Levy)	6,730,366	6,661,193
Donations	1,759,699	1,134,002
Interest	604,283	552,260
Govt of Canada (Prov. Part Migratory Bird Lic)	57,080	147,116
Miscellaneous	48,866	40,372
Conservation Subscriptions	25,471	-
Raffle proceeds	5,021	-
Watchable Wildlife Calendars	621	19,593
Advertising	-	41,697
Total Revenue	9,231,407	8,596,233
Expense		
Salaries and benefits	3,052,746	2,727,137
Grants	2,520,760	2,263,866
Contracted services	1,356,781	1,411,525
Rentals	1,061,986	1,060,505
Materials and supplies	448,873	284,902
Amortization	315,955	112,987
Advertising	225,701	109,829
Fuel and lubricants	184,302	120,008
Travel	164,957	173,377
Landowner agreements	136,202	170,295
Repairs and maintenance	129,294	91,543
Hosting and conferences	80,429	55,028
Office	74,786	106,642
Insurance	59,646	51,883
Telephone and communications	48,992	44,972
Bank charges and interest	44,954	33,929
Utilities	24,613	11,789
Freight and postage	15,422	88,865
Bad debt	9,490	-
Fees, licenses and permits	5,058	4,633
Miscellaneous	3,968	21,601
Property taxes	492	271
Data processing services	90	2,380
Total Expenses	9,965,497	8,947,967
Net Deficiency of Revenues Over Expenses	(734,090)	(351,734)

STORES

The hats are running low in number we have 10 duck camo, 7 mossy oak, 3 heavy denim and sold out in Oil Skin. Get your camo hats at the next meeting, look sharp, stay warm, that's a bonus.

We have found a new line of travel mugs, the suppliers offers 7 different types of camo, to which we could put on the club name. We will follow this up & see what we can offer in the New Year.

Good Hunting Murray Schultz 236-4149

RAISE AND RELEASE PROJECT FOR 2002

The 2002 Pheasant Raise and Release project is now complete. Approximately 205 birds were released in the following areas:

Fraser's Farms - Dewinton area and areas North-west of Okotoks. Approx. 15 roosters were released at Namaka. Approx. 15 birds released near 22X, North of the Millerville Fair Grounds. Marge Fraser will be wintering approx. 20 birds for a spring release.

Leroy Huether – Approx. 15 miles north and east of Strathmore

Tom Beyers – East of Irricana

Randy Ernst & Dan Rolf – East of Innisfail in the Aberdeen and Kneehill Creek Valley areas.

As stated in the last report by Art Yeske, it appeared that the Canadian Pheasant Company made an error in sexing the Pheasant Chicks. This situation turned out to be a fact with Sarcee receiving 95% roosters in the 230 birds picked up for the 3 Southern Raisers- Fraser, Huether and Beyer.

The Canadian Pheasant Company admitted to the error and has given (Free of Charge) 100 hens to the Sarcee Club.

Art Yeske and myself picked up the 100 hens on September 25 and released with the other birds in the Southern areas as stated above.

John Komonoski 256-5323



Bird Hunting

There is one report on the Sharp-Tail Situation in the Youngtown Area. Hunters are noticing a lot of immature birds. This may be attributed to late hatches.

Grey Partridge are reported to be in fair number in some areas.

Don't forget to enter the Bird Contest, detail in the September/October Newsletter.

John Komonoski 256-5323

FREE TO MEMBERS

IF YOU NEED A COMMISSIONER OF OATHS then contact Club member Steve Zaychuk of ADDON Office Products Ltd. At 243-2610.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Another year is drawing to an end, which means that the time is fast approaching for all the entries to be submitted for the annual Sarcee photo competition.

The Final date this year will be Dec 16/02. This will give us enough time to have the photos judged and ready for display at the 2003 HORN MEASURING NIGHT, which will be in January.

The competition is open to any & all members of our Club. TWO MAIN CATEGORIES ARE ALBERTA SCENERY & ALBERTA WILDLIFE. THREE SARCEE CLUB CATEGORIES ARE: MOST DIFFICULT, MOST UNUSUAL & CLUB ACTIVITIES, the club activities is new this year.

COMPETITION RULES

- The photo cannot have won in any pervious SFGA or AFGA photo competitions.
- Entries should be no smaller than 4X6 and not larger than 8 X 10.
- Alberta scenery & Alberta Wildlife qualify for the Provincial contest. 1st & 2nd place winners in each of these categories will have their photos entered in the Provincials.
- The 1 st place winners of Alberta Scenery & Alberta Wildlife will receive the club trophy. There will also be a 2nd & 3rd place ribbons in each category
- The 3 SARCEE CLUB categories winners will receive a 1st place ribbon.
- Judging will be done by a group of impartial professional photographers.
- The photos will be displayed at some of our functions.

The new category, Club Activities needs lots of entries, so send in lots; they do not have to be the very best shots. We will be making up an album for display and the funny shots would be great. All club activities & function qualify for this category.

All entries can be addressed to Murray Schultz, phone 236-4149.

All the entries should have the photographers name & phone number on the back, a short description of what it is would be nice.

Send them in; lets win the Alberta Contest again this year.

Thanks Murray Schultz 236-4149

Meat Donations for Wildgame Banquet

Horizon Meats

#1, 3610- 29th Street NE.,

Phone- 291 0595 Lawrence Swann has graciously agreed to accept wild meat donations for our banquet and wild game dinner. Only edible clean meat will be accepted.

Upcoming events

Nov. 12.2002	Regular meeting
December 10,2002	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Jan., 2003	Trophy Measuring Night
Jan, 2003	Coyote Shoot, detail next newsletter
Feb. 14 - Feb 17, 2003	(Family Holiday) 2003 Calgary Boat & Sportsmen's Show, Roundup Centre – Stampede Park
Feb. 20-22, 2003	Alberta Fish and Game Association Conference
March 15, 2003	Wildgame and Award Banquet
July-Sept., 2003	Casino within this quarter

Hunting Statistics contained in e-mail from MP Breitzkreuz

Information, tables, sections and figures at ENVIRONMENT CANADA, The Importance of Nature to Canadians:

The Economic Significance of Nature-related Activities <http://www.ec.gc.ca/nature/tofC.htm>

HUNTING In 1996, an estimated 1.2 million Canadians hunted wildlife in Canada, representing 5.1 percent of the population aged 15 years and over. The profile of the 1.2 million hunters differs from the profile of the Canadian population. In comparison to the general population, hunting was a more common activity among men than women in 1996 and among rural residents than urban residents. It was also more popular among Canadians in the 25 to 54 year age groups, and less popular among those under 25 and over 54. Tables shows that hunting activity was more concentrated among those with some secondary schooling and among those with a post-secondary school certificate or diploma. The personal incomes of hunters were higher than those of the Canadian population as a whole, with 64.7 percent reporting incomes higher than \$20,000 compared to 45.6 percent for the Canadian population. Hunting participation rates were higher than the national rate of 5.1 percent in several of the eastern provinces, with residents of Newfoundland recording the highest rate, followed by residents of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Rates were also higher than the national rate in the Yukon, Quebec and Saskatchewan. Rates lower than the national rate were recorded by residents of Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Prince Edward Island. Two forms of hunting were distinguished in the survey. The first, hunting as the main activity, occurs when hunting is the main reason for a trip. The second, hunting as a secondary activity, occurs when hunting is a secondary reason for a trip taken for the types of outdoor activities. The survey included more detailed questions for hunting as the main activity, including a breakdown by four types of hunting: waterfowl, other birds, small mammals and large mammals. In 1996, 1.0 million Canadians (4.2 percent of the population) participated in hunting as the main activity, whereas 416,000 Canadians (1.8 percent) hunted as a secondary activity. Highlights for the 1.0 million Canadians with hunting as the main activity include the following: Nearly three-quarters of these hunters (72.4 percent or 721,000 Canadians) sought large mammals such as deer. Birds other than waterfowl, such as grouse, were sought by 37.6 percent of these hunters (375,000 Canadians). Approximately one-quarter sought waterfowl such as ducks and geese (23.6 percent or 235,000 Canadians), or small game mammals such as rabbits (23.1 percent or 230,000 Canadians). The proportion of hunters who harvested wildlife varied by type of wildlife: The rates were 68.9 percent for those who hunted birds other than waterfowl, 64.1 percent for waterfowl hunters, 61.6 percent for those who hunted small game mammals and 42.0 percent for those who hunted large game mammals.

EXPENDITURES ON HUNTING In total, Canadians spent an estimated \$823.8 million hunting wildlife in 1996. On average, participants spent \$692, or \$41 per day of participation. Participants from Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon greatly exceeded the national average of \$692 for yearly expenditures, at \$843, \$1,017 and \$901 respectively. The averages for participants from Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan fell close to the national average, whereas those for participants from the remaining provinces fell below it, with the lowest average occurring among participants from New Brunswick at \$415. Hunting equipment accounted for 46.5 percent of the \$823.8 million spent within Canada. The remaining amount went for trip-related expenses including transportation (20.2 per-cent), food (12.1 percent) and accommodation (4.7 percent), or for other items such as license fees and ammunition (16.5 percent). Expenditures were determined for hunting as the main activity and hunting as a secondary activity. The more detailed survey results for hunting as the main activity are reported below. In 1996, \$666.4 million was spent for hunting as the main activity, whereas hunting as a secondary activity was estimated to involve expenditures of \$157.4 million. Highlights for the \$666.4 million spent for hunting as the main activity include the following: Nearly two-thirds of these expenditures (63.1 percent or 420.6 million) were made by large game hunters. The remaining third were made by hunters of birds other than waterfowl (15.1 percent of expenditures or \$100.7 million), waterfowl hunters (12.5 percent or \$83.3 million) and small game hunters (9.3 percent or \$61.7 million). On average, these hunters spent \$669, or \$54 per day of participation. Large game hunters spent the highest average annual amount on their hunting at \$587, followed by waterfowl hunters (\$384), small game hunters (\$297) and hunters of birds other than waterfowl (\$288). The \$666.4 million spent by these hunters was distributed as follows: 42.9 percent for equipment, 25.0 percent for transportation, 14.9 percent for food, 5.8 percent for accommodation and 11.4 percent for other items.

PRO-KYOTO LOBBY THRIVES ON YOUR MONEY

MARK MILKE

For THE CALGARY HERALD If Premier Ralph Klein and Environment Minister Lorne Taylor want to know what they face in their fight over the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change, they should ask the federal Environment ministry for its "grants and contributions" list from the last few years. It makes for illuminating reading.

Many of the environmental activists who lobby for ratification of the Kyoto agreement do not belong to spontaneous, grassroots organizations wholly funded by individual Canadians; they are federal government allies, heavily funded by the same. For years, Ottawa has funneled large amounts of cash to environmental lobbies, which then wage advertising and advocacy blitzes on their favourite issues. The Kyoto issue is only the latest example.

For example, Environment Canada gave the Sierra Club more than \$175,000 in "grants and contributions" to that lobby's British Columbia and Alberta branches in 2000 and 2001. Ministry lists show much of the money Sierra received was "to support activities which contribute to the objectives of the Climate Change Action Fund." (The Sierra Club also received more than \$213,000 from the British Columbia government when New Democrats were in charge.)

In another example, the

Pembina Institute, founded in Drayton Valley, now has a staff of 40 and offices in Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary. It recently held a blacktie dinner with Environment Minister David Anderson.

The institute, a constant critic of the Alberta Conservative government's position on Kyoto, received at least \$291,271 in 2000 and 2001 from Anderson's department to help push the federal government's view on issues such as Kyoto.

For advocacy groups that would otherwise be forced to rely only on donations, such taxpayer-funded pork is immensely helpful in pushing government policy and in garnering media attention.

Those two examples are the tip of the iceberg for green activists.

Environment Canada's category dedicated just to pro-Kyoto activists (the "Climate Change Action Fund") disbursed \$6.7 million in 2001 alone. A complete accounting of how much money such groups receive from taxpayers is impossible to calculate. But Environment Canada itself handed out \$51 million in grants and contributions last year.

While some money goes to environmental projects, much also goes to fund green activism. Thus, instead of federal politicians seeing a true indication of what

Canadians think on environmental issues, the letters, faxes, emails and calls are driven in part by Environment Canada's agenda, which just happens to support advocacy organizations that see issues in the same way as the federal bureaucracy.

The Alberta's government's \$1.5 million anti-Kyoto campaign is chump change in comparison to Ottawa's propaganda budget.

Taxpayer funding for special interest lobbies is wrong because it takes scarce tax dollars and directs the money to one-sided propaganda, cash that would otherwise be used for, say, a kidney operation.

Such funding also distorts the democratic process; when governments fund advocacy, then they cannot know if the views that membership-poor lobby groups trumpet are legitimately held by a wide swath of Canadians or are simply a parroting of what politicians and mandarins wish to hear.

"Lobbyists shouldn't be funded because it distorts the political agenda, says Liberal MP John Bryden, who has done extensive work on government funding for lobby groups.

It is also wrong because it forces taxpayers to subsidize groups with which they may disagree. A fair debate on Canadian environmental

policy is also twisted by another, source of easy money for Canada's greens: U.S. greenbacks.

In an analysis published last year, University of British Columbia professor Bill Stanbury found that 18 Canadian environmental groups that lobby on forest issues received at least \$3.5 million US between 1998 and 2000 from various American foundations. Recipients included the, David Suzuki Foundation, which received \$635,000 US, and the Sierra Club, which took in \$367,000 US.

This past summer, the Suzuki Foundation, with tax deductible status in Canada, spent chunks of its money on newspaper ads and its Web site pressing Canadians to "contact your Liberal MP" to push them to support the Kyoto protocol.

It is quite proper for scientists and economists to debate the pros and cons of signing the Kyoto treaty. But when green activists raise millions in the United States, their claim to speak for Canadians is weak.

Insofar as funding for green activists originates with the Environment Department in Ottawa, it is not spontaneous; it is one-sided government funded propaganda at the expense of taxpayers. Governments, especially David Anderson's grant-disbursing machine in Ottawa, should cut off the taxpayer flow of cash. MARK MILKE IS CALGARY-BASED WRITER WHO HAS AUTHORED TWO BOOKS ON POLITICS.

NOTICE

We are considering a name change from Sarcee Fish and Game Association to Calgary and District Wildlife Federation. The following points should explain reasons for the proposed change.

a) We have had an average membership over the past 3 years of between 600 and 700 members with approximately 400 classed as voting members. Even with these numbers we are still unable to fill our board of directors and executive positions due to a lack of interest by the membership. We believe that the proposed name change will appeal to a broader group of outdoor people than just hunters and anglers thus providing more resources to apply to projects and activities with many already in place that are not directly related to hunting and fishing. *We need people with vision and enthusiasm to get involved with the protection and conservation of habitat for all wildlife!*

b) It appears that the name "Fish and Game" is perceived by some, particularly in Government, as a synonym for takers of fish and game and therefore leaves a negative impression. There seems to be enough anti-hunting people in Government and in competing environmental groups to reject most recommendations relating to sustainable resources that are brought forward by Fish and Game Associations in Alberta. Much of this rejection is due to the perception brought out by the Fish and Game name. This is ongoing and those of us involved in all aspects of the outdoors are losing. A name change to "Wildlife Federation" may dispel some or all of these fallacies. Also it may better reflect our national association with the Canadian Wildlife Federation as well as those in Saskatchewan and British Columbia and others.

c) The reason for the proposed change to "Calgary and District" is that many of our projects and activities extend from High River to Red Deer to Drumheller to Canmore.

d) The proposed name change will create the probability of a merger with the Calgary Fish and Game Club bringing with them 200 plus members. With this enlarged membership we would acquire additional proactive volunteers for both the executive and project teams. As well we would have a stronger lobby voice to present our views to the media and to government.

Any organization name change will create some trade-offs. Some of these that we can visualize are as follows:

a) The loss of historical identity and heritage along with all the goodwill and accomplishments associated with the founding name.

b) The loss of association and identity for the founding members some of whom may not accept the name change.

c) If a merger takes place the number of clubs in Alberta under the AFGA umbrella will be reduced.

The proposed name change will not change our policy, nor will we allow policy changes which would weaken our position on the conservation of wildlife and fish for the purpose of sustainable use and for the enjoyment by Albertans.

We are polling our membership and need your input in order to arrive at a decision based on the wishes of the majority.

Art Beck, President

PROPOSED NAME CHANGE BALLOT

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE BY AN "X" AND RETURN BY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2002.

a) I agree to change our name to Calgary and District Wildlife Federation ()

b) I do not agree to change our name to Calgary and District Wildlife Federation()

c) I do not agree to any name change ()

DATE _____ NAME (Please Print) _____

SIGNATURE _____

Mail to: Sarcee Fish and Game Association, Suite 494, 300 – 8120 Beddington Blvd. NW, Calgary Alberta T3K 2A8

2002 EXECUTIVE

President ART BECK 274-5924 - 251 Huntford Way N.E T2K 3Z9
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2nd Vice President MATT CUNNING 281-9197- 85 Evergreen Cr. S.W. T2Y 3R3
Secretary GENE KULSKY 251-1784 - 215 Woodbine Blvd. S.W. T2W 5Z9
Assistant MATT CUNNING 281-9197- 85 Evergreen Cr. S.W. T2Y 3R3
Assistant BRYCE CHASE 249-6924 - 5804 - 37 Street S.W T3E 5M6
Treasurer KEN BROWN 252-0606 - 141 Havenhurst Cr. S.W T2V 3C7
Assistant KRAIG McIVER 938-4604 (wk 250-8930) - 177 Carr Place, Okotoks T01 1T1
Assistant MARY LYNN BROWN 252-0606 - 141 Havenhurst Cr. S.W T2V 3C7
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Assistant JOHN KOMONOSKI 256-5323 - 220 Sunlake Circle S.E T2X 3J2
Fish CAMPBELL McIVER 279-8994 - 9190 21 St. S.E. T2C 4B9
Assistant ROBIN DENROCHE 274-8431 - 5207 Thomas ST. N.E. T2K 3V6
Habitat BRYCE CHASE 249-6924 - 5804 37 Street S.W. T3E 5M6
Banquet 2002 LARA PETERS 249-6766
Stores MURRY SCHULTZ 236-4149 - 87 Riverside Close S.E. T2C 3M7
Trophy JOHN HUNTER 248-7505 - 3812 Doverridge Drive S.E T2B 2C9
Photography MURRY SCHULTZ 236-4149 - 87 Riverside Close S.E. T2C 3M7
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Hunter Training &
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Youth Co-Ordinator TOM MATHEWS 288-8212 - 6223 Dalsby Road N.W. T3A 1M6
Assistant MATT CUNNING 281-9197- 85 Evergreen Cr. S.W. T2Y 3R3
Sportsmen's Show ART YESKE 249-7245 - 5644 Lodge Cr. S.W T3E 5Y7
Show Assistant PAT QUINN 730-2082 - 118 Citadel Meadow Grove N.W. T3G 4K8
Lands & Environment DAVE McIVER 246-3248 - 3624 - 54 Avenue S.W T3E 5H4
Assistant BOB EVERETT 286-6321 - 8019 - 34TH Avenue N.W T3B 1P6
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