

CEAC IS ACTIVE!

By Suzanne Lorinczi

Beyond Earth Day and the many activities it inspired is a hope that it also led to reflection and commitment to the idea of continually protecting our earth and sustaining our communities. CEAC, the Cochrane Environment Action Committee was formed with these principles which have led to at least two outstanding features of our community, the Town of Cochrane Recycling Depot and the Cochrane Farmers' Market. Both have grown and evolved into institutions we can utilize knowing we are, on the one hand no longer throwing out items that can be reused and unnecessarily adding to land fill sites, and on the other supporting local growers and producers. Preparations are now in the making for another June opening of the market which each year adds more vendors and buskers and fun! Soon applications can be made for the 2009 market by going to our website, www.cochrane-environment.org. It is of interest that any profits from operating the Farmers' Market go directly to CEAC and form its main source of funding.

We will be celebrating our 20 years of environmental action throughout the year. On May 20-22 CEAC will be hosting PATHWAYS 2 SUSTAINABILITY . Over 35 communities from across Alberta will participate in this conference which will create the relationships needed to build sustainable communities. The Town of Cochrane, Alberta Eco Trust and the Alberta Lottery Foundation are co-sponsoring this event which is attracting such key-note speakers as Preston Manning, founder of the Manning Center of Democracy, Mark Anielski, author of ECONOMICS OF HAPPINESS and Don Hill, Adjunct Professor of the Banff Center for Leadership. To learn more about this unique conference experience which will be held at the Cochrane RanchHouse go to www.pathways2sustainability.ca or contact Lisa Fox 403-932 4548 .

Citizens of Cochrane are invited to come and Celebrate Pathways with Preston Manning on Wednesday, May 20th at the Cochrane RanchHouse. Tickets for the presentation and reception are \$40.00 and can be found at the Cochrane Coffee Traders, Cochrane Eagle, and Westlands Bookstore.

Animal lovers and film buffs will be pleased to know we are also planning a WildLife Film Festival to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. Details of this event will be unfolding in the near future.

In June CEAC and the Cochrane Ideas group are co-sponsoring an evening with Andrew Nikiforuk, the author of TAR SANDS and winner of multiple National magazine awards and the Governor General Award in 2002. Ideas is group that meets monthly to discuss topics of interest and TAR SANDS is certainly a book that inspires debate. The book deals with tar sands development in Northern Alberta, highlighting the effects of haphazard planning on the environment and the economical, political and social consequences that are becoming topics of considerable concern.

A website that includes an excerpt from the book and video can be reached at <http://andrewnikiforuk.com/>. Mr. Andy Marshall, co-facilitator of Cochrane Ideas has made an interesting point about this book. It does not merely outline the incredible devastation that is taking place in and around the tar sands but offers some solutions at its end, ways in which we can at least participate in improving future decisions. "He is a compelling writer and presents a forceful argument for change."

This event is open to the public and will take place at St. Andrews Church beginning at 7:00 p.m. on June 12th . Copies of TAR SANDS are available at Westlands Book store.

The next CEAC meeting, Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. will be held in the Back 40 room of the Homestead Building, 205-209 2nd Ave. THE LAST WILD WOLF a documentary about a subspecies of wolves living on the west coast that eat seafood will be shown at the meeting Members and the public are welcome to attend.