



# Insider

Volume III, Autumn 2007

## President's Message



Dear Member,

The Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA), Management Committee (MC) would like to inform you of the appointment of Glen

Semenchuk as the acting Executive Director. Glen started his new position on Monday, September 17, 2007.

Glen has most recently been the Executive Director of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists. He has a rich experience that includes working with government, private sector, non-government organizations and Aboriginal Peoples. Glen has received numerous provincial awards and held many roles in various environmental non-government organizations. Glen has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Alberta. His experience, leadership and personal skills will be a great complement for the CEMA team.

Glen will be working with the MC to help find a new and permanent Executive Director in the near future.

Yours truly,

**Randall**

Randall Barrett  
CEMA President

## Our Mission Statement

Located in Fort McMurray, Alberta, CEMA is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization. Our mandate is to make recommendations on how to best manage cumulative impacts and protect the environment in the region.



CEMA Management Committee; monthly meeting of September 6, 2007. Ann Dort-MacLean, Ruth Kleinbub, Randall Barrett, Chris Severson-Baker, Cheryl Baraniecki, Judy Smith, Jumbo Fraser and Don Sutherland. (Missing from photo: Stuart Nadeau)

September marked the beginning of the busiest time of the year for CEMA. Your Management Committee (MC) held its first meeting of the fall on September 6, 2007 in Edmonton.

The MC dealt with major issues facing CEMA including funding challenges, staff changes and the terms of reference for each working group.

Upcoming events include open houses in Fort Chipewyan and Janvier later in the fall. These open houses will be another opportunity to highlight directly the importance of CEMA and its hard work to the Aboriginal community.

The year 2007 has already been a positive year for CEMA and the fall will only produce more exciting challenges and successes.

We are proud to introduce our new website and we encourage you to visit us at:

**[www.cemaonline.ca](http://www.cemaonline.ca)**

*Please note the special section for members only. Register today!*

### CEMA

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At CEMA we are committed to achieving the goals set out by our membership at a professional level. We are pleased to provide you with our newsletters to inform you about the progress we made.

Nonetheless, we hope you enjoy this issue for Autumn 2007 and we look forward to any feedback you might have.

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## TEK WORKSHOP for SEWG



#### Back (Left – Right)

Tim Burgraaff – ASRD, Peter Koning – ConocoPhillips, Fred Fraser – Metis Local #125, Joe Bourque – Metis Local #125, Joey Waniandie – Metis Local #2020, Adam McDonald – Metis Local #63, John James Antoire – MCFN, George Martin – MCFN, James Grant – Metis Local #2020, Philip Cheecham – FMFN, Daniel Stuckless – CEMA.

#### Middle (Left – Right)

Louis Waniandie – Metis Local #2020, Gertie Cerstor - Metis Local #2020, Marie Adam – FMFN, Alice Martin – MCFN, Margie Wood – Metis Local #63, Marie Ann Tremblay – Metis Local #2020, Nancy Woodward – FMFN, Violet Clarke – FMFN, Emily Champagne – Metis Local #125, Julie Cheecham – FMFN.

#### Front (Left – Right)

Bee Schadeck – Devon Canada, Margaret Luker – CEMA, Kathy Porter – Silvatech, Amanda Judge – EUB.

**O**n September 20th the Sustainable Ecosystems Working Group (SEWG) held a follow up validation workshop with respect to the “Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK) Stories”, collection originally held on January 25, 2007. The purpose of this workshop was to verify the information that was collected at the first workshop and to show how this information will be included in SEWG’s land management framework.

It was SEWG’s hope to collect TEK stories, as seen in other frameworks examples like The Hopi Prophecy, The Cree Prophecy of The Warriors of The Rainbow or The Great Bear Lake Prophecy which tell of a conflicted world and damaged environment where people of all races work together and

create a world of peaceful relations and care for the environment.

In the development of SEWG’s management framework, the incorporation of TEK was identified as a critical and key component. Thus SEWG wishes to ensure that Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK) is gathered and included in an appropriate and meaningful way into the SEWG management framework.

The hope is that the information gathered at these workshops will ensure that valuable biological and ecological insights of Aboriginal Peoples will be captured and reflected in the final framework.

# A Friendly Farewell and a Warm Welcome



Sarah and Heather

CEMA offers best wishes to Heather, Sarah, Terri and John. Heather Kerr left CEMA in early August to explore other opportunities. Heather was a hard working, dedicated and focused Program Manager for the Reclamation Working Group for over two years.

Sarah Kent, the two year Program Manager for Surface Water Working Group (SWWG) will be moving on to new adventures. There isn't a mountain too high that Sarah won't challenge on her

mountain bike. After a short stint of four months, Terri Swan, CEMA bookkeeper, has departed for Edmonton. Terri's warm personality and humour will be missed.

Finally, John McEachern has completed his term as CEMA Executive Director after a year of service. John was a perfect match for CEMA with his love of the outdoors. John's folksy manner and positive attitude was a benefit to the Association. We would like to wish Heather, Sarah, Terri and John good luck in their future endeavors!

## WELCOME and VÄLKOMMEN

With departures always come new arrivals and we have several new staffers at CEMA. As mentioned in the "Message from the President" CEMA has a new acting Executive Director, Glen Semenchuk. We all want to wish Glen good luck with his current assignment at CEMA.

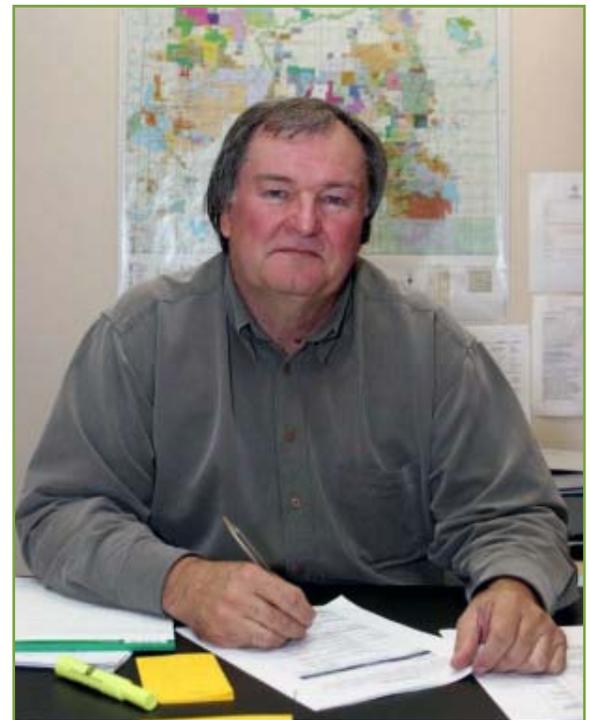
CEMA is pleased to welcome Katherine Duffett as the new Program Manager. A native of Newfoundland, she has a degree in Biology from Memorial University. Katie worked closely with Sarah Kent on the SWWG and most recently focused on RWG & SWWG programs.

Bharati Naidu started as Executive Assistant to the Executive Director this past July. A native of India, Bharati's professional manner is a strong advantage to the team. She has a university degree in Commerce from an Indian university. After spending many years in Qatar, Bharati and her young family moved to Fort McMurray in 2006.

Linda Aidnell joined the CEMA staff as the Program Manager for RWG. Linda has a degree in Natural Resources Management from an Australian university. She has a MSc in Biology from the University of Manitoba. A native of Sweden, Linda started in late August.

Finally Ashley Croucher, started with CEMA in late July. Ashley, after completing her post secondary studies relocated to Fort McMurray and joined CEMA. Her warm smile is welcome to our many visitors at the Morrison Centre.

A warm welcome to Ashley, Linda, Katherine and Bharati!



Glen Semenchuk



Ashley, Terri, Linda, Katherine and Bharati

**"Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy."**

*Norman Vincent Peale*

# Updates On Working Groups and Sub-Groups

## Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK)

**T**raditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK) is a body of local environmental knowledge and beliefs transmitted through oral tradition and first hand observation based on living in close contact with nature. (Note: This knowledge was acquired through generations unknown.) It includes a system of classification, a set of empirical observations about the local environment, a system of self of management that governs sustainable resource base, and an understanding of the relationships of living beings (including humans) with one another and their environment. Environmental aspects are closely tied to social and spiritual aspects of the knowledge system. The quantity and quality of TEK varies among community members, depending upon gender, age, social status, intellectual capability, and profession (hunter, spiritual leader, etc). TEK is both cumulative and dynamic, building upon the experience of earlier generations and adapting to the new technological and socioeconomic changes of the present.

## Kitaskinak

Kitaskino ta kanawitamahk etati kikway Ka pimatisimaka Kitaskinahk ta nakatiyiCiKatek Taskoc oma Kinipimino eKa ayiwak ta misowanatahk eKa ayiwak ta otinikatek EKwa oma hihiyono EKa ta mayatahk mina eKa ta picipopayik kitaskinahk mina eKa ta nipimaka eKa ta mayatahk KaKiyo KiKway Ka pimatisiyimakahk ta miyo opiKihK tapitawi Eka ta woniKisKisiyahk oma sakaw pimatisiwin Mamawi ta atoskotamahk tansisi ta miyo opiKiK KaKiyo KiKway Kapimatisimaka Kitaskinahk.

*Rita Marten - Mikisew Cree First Nation*

## Sustainable Ecosystem Working Group (SEWG)

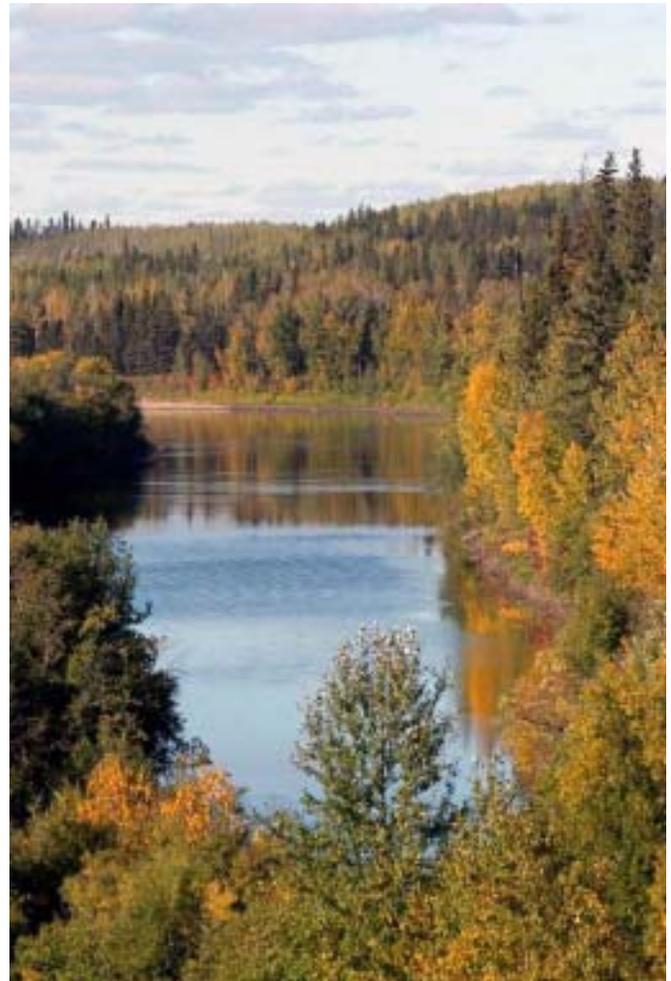
On Wednesday August 29th Peter Koning of SEWG & Kirk Andries of Silvatach met with senior officials of the Government of Alberta, Departments of Environment, Energy and Sustainable Resources Development. Peter and Kirk presented the progress SEWG has made, methodology employed, some of the findings and the concepts that are being tested by SEWG. This meeting ran for about two hours, it is one of a number SEWG has had with government.

As SEWG moves closer to the final stages of completing the recommended management framework, these meetings are important from two aspects. First, CEMA and SEWG members have an opportunity to show the progress they've made, test direction for any significant issues and receive feedback. Secondly, they serve to facilitate a positive reception by government when the recommendations are ultimately issued from CEMA. This is more than just a two-way "heads up", it's about CEMA and government partnering to improve the way cumulative effects on regional ecosystems are managed. SEWG is targeting to present its management framework at the March 2008 CEMA GM, for decision by CEMA potentially in June 2008.

## Reclamation Working Group (RWG)

The Wetlands and Aquatics Sub-Group has recently completed the "Guideline for Wetland Establishment on Reclaimed Oil Sands Leases," and it will be voted upon at the September CEMA General Meeting. If approved, this report will be recommended by CEMA to the Government of Alberta to be used as a guideline for operators. The RWG is also progressing with its 2nd Edition of the "Guidelines for Reclamation to Forest Vegetation in the Athabasca Oil Sands Region," which will include updates to current reclamation practices and monitoring efforts. The final report is expected in 2008.

**At CEMA, we make every effort to keep you updated on the progress of Working and Task Groups as it occurs**



## Updates On Working Groups and Sub-Groups

### Surface Water Working Group (SWWG)

#### Charting the Course for a Socio Economics in CEMA

Surface Water Working Group (SWWG) is delving into the realm of socio economics as it relates to impacts created from industrial water withdrawals on the lower Athabasca River (LAR). They are doing this by way of developing a **Socio Economic Task Group (SETG)**. The SETG will assess how social, traditional, recreational and commercial values of the LAR will be incorporated into the Phase 2 Water Management Framework (WMF) for LAR and adaptively managed thereafter.

The SWWG is committed to developing a comprehensive Water Management Framework (WMF) for the LAR (Phase 2) that includes perspectives from science, integrated water management options and socio economics. This message was recently confirmed by letter from CEMA to Alberta

Environment (AENV) which indicated SWWG will assume the recommendations made for CEMA / multi stakeholder groups outlined in the AENV / DFO Water Management Framework for the Phase 2 WMF. ([http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/Management/Athabasca\\_RWMF/pubs/Athabasca\\_RWMF\\_Technical.pdf](http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/Management/Athabasca_RWMF/pubs/Athabasca_RWMF_Technical.pdf))

Traditionally, members of the SWWG have been from a technical science based background. In order to populate the SETG with members who have related expertise / experience, SWWG members sought volunteers from their respective organizations. Members from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Energy Utility Board (EUB), Shell & the Fort McKay IRC will be embarking on this endeavour by way of their first meeting in October 2007. A big thanks to John Sedley from Fort McKay IRC for becoming Chair of this task group.

#### SWWG – First Working Group to Approve their 2007 ToR

September 10<sup>th</sup> marks the day of approval for the SWWG terms of reference (ToR)! Thanks to a small task group comprised of Pembina Institute, Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL), Alberta Environment (AENV), Fort McKay IRC and Suncor, the ToR was developed, refined, re-refined and approved in accordance with the template provided by the Management Committee. The ToR is now awaiting approval from the MC and CEMA General Membership. The next version is due in 2 years.

#### Fish Telemetry and Habitat Use Studies – Rolling With the Waves

The consultant selected for the project, ACFN Environmental withdrew late in the contract development process. SWWG is continuing to ensure the work will be conducted by having quickly distributed the RFP to public bid. Proposals are due September 14<sup>th</sup> and a recommendation will be made September 19<sup>th</sup>. It's important to note that due to the delay in initiating this contract, Flat Head Chubb (FHC) tagging for 2007 will only occur opportunistically. Also the project is of an incremental nature, designed to ensure that tasks are adequately completed prior to proceeding with subsequent tasks.

### NO<sub>x</sub> SO<sub>2</sub> (NSMWG)

### Management Working Group

**N**itrogen emissions are increasing in Canada and Alberta, as well as globally, and have the potential to adversely affect the environment and human health. In late 2006, the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) and CEMA co-sponsored and held a conference to explore the issue of nitrogen emissions and how they can be better managed in Alberta. This is a very important issue in north-eastern Alberta, which is why CEMA was a major sponsor of the conference.

There are a lot of questions and knowledge gaps on the role or fate of nitrogen emissions in the environment. In part, we know that nitrogen emissions will be deposited either by wet or dry deposition and that this can lead to acidification of ecosystems. We also know that nitrogen addition leads to eutrophication of ecosystems (the fertilizer effect). Adding nitrogen to sensitive ecosystems (like bogs and Jack Pine stands in the boreal forest) where nitrogen is generally low or lacking, can cause the vegetation species or entire

communities to 'shift'. This is when species or communities are replaced by more tolerant species or communities. You may end up losing the original sensitive or native species for as long as those emissions continue.

The conference helped address some of these questions and brought in international experts to give presentations and to meet with the NSMWG afterward to discuss nitrogen issues in the oil sands region. The NSMWG has already prepared an Acid Deposition Management Framework, but has not addressed the potential issue of eutrophication yet.

To make the information from the Symposium more accessible to CEMA members and stakeholders, the NSMWG prepared a layperson's summary of the findings in June 2007. The report, entitled 'A Primer on Nitrogen Emissions Issues' is an excellent summary. It is available at [www.cemaonline.ca](http://www.cemaonline.ca).

# Fort McMurray Tourism Fall Trade Show

The Annual Fort McMurray Tourism Fall Trade Show took place at the MacDonald Island Recreation Centre between September 21 - 23. Once again, CEMA joined with Regional Aquatics Monitoring Program (RAMP) and the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) for a joint booth. The Trade Show is an important venue for CEMA/RAMP/WBEA to promote the excellent accomplishments of the past year.



The CEMA booth in action



Ann with the community report

This event is a chance for groups in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) to have a discussion with many citizens and community leaders. It also allows CEMA staff to interact with residents through person to person contact.

With thousands of residents attending, the trade show is a perfect venue to showcase CEMA!

## A Tribute to Fred A. MacDonald



Fred A MacDonald passed away on August 24, 2007. Fred will be sadly missed by his wife Margaret, his five children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. When asked to describe his father, Fred R. MacDonald said "He was a man's man. He lived the best way he knew."

Fred A MacDonald was born in Fort McMurray. Fred's grand-father, John MacDonald, owned MacDonald Island for a number of years and it was named after him. Fred was a proud Métis. He was a highly respected Elder in the Métis and Aboriginal communities. His advice was required by many people, from trappers to environmentalists to industry, on various issues.

His People were from Fort McKay and so was his heart. Fred loved the Athabasca River and traveled along it thousands of times in his life time. He also loved the bush, he trapped and hunted on the shores of the Athabasca River. He enjoyed moose meat, duck and fish. Fred taught his son Fred R. to respect Mother Nature and to never waste food.

Fred always had a passion for the country he lived in. He knew the value of keeping the Athabasca River healthy and the importance it had for future generations. When asked about the industrial development he always gave an 'honest answer'.

As a general contractor and entrepreneur, Fred had his own company and built homes

for most of his life. From cement finishing, to framing homes, to carpentry, he did it all and enjoyed working with his hands.

Fred and his wife, Margaret, loved people. Their home was everyone's home. He was a family man and valued friendships. Fred and his family enjoyed watching *Hockey Night in Canada*. Fred R. adds 'He was honest and generous and he loved people. But mostly, he loved his family'

CEMA would like to thank Fred R. MacDonald for sharing details of his father's life.

***We would like to thank the Elders, Members, MC and CEMA staff for their assistance in this production.***

October 4 <sup>th</sup>	TMAC	Calgary
October 9 – 10 <sup>th</sup>	CEMA – TEK Coaching Workshop	Fort McMurray
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	MC/PM/CC meeting	Fort McMurray
October 11 - 12 <sup>th</sup>	SEWG (Best Combinations)	Fort McMurray
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	TEK Meeting	Fort McMurray
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	WQTG Meeting	Calgary
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	WITG Meeting	Edmonton
TBD	Fort Chipewyan	Open House
October 16-19 <sup>th</sup>	NSMWG & TEEM	Banff
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	IFNTTG Meeting	Calgary
October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	P2FTG Meeting	Calgary
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Janvier	Open House
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	SEWG - DWPTG	TBD
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	TEK	TBD
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	MC meeting	TBD
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	NSMWG	Edmonton
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	WITG Meeting	Calgary
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	SEWG - DWPTG	TBD
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	IFNTTG Meeting	TBD
November 27 <sup>th</sup>	SWWG Meeting	TBD



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**We welcome your submissions!**  
 If you have any ideas for our publication or an article to submit for consideration, please send it in and we would be glad to include it.



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