



# Insider

Volume VI, Fall 2008



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## President's Message



Dear CEMA Members,

The summer 2008 was a huge success for CEMA!

We have seen the completion of two excellent products. First, in June the Ecosystem Management Framework was announced, with a tremendous amount of media coverage throughout the province. The detailed plan for land usage in the region should play a major role in the Alberta Government's Land Use Framework. Also in August, the Eutrophication Management Recommendations were released. This important document laid the ground work for further research on Nitrogen and continued cooperation with the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association.

The CEMA staff had a busy summer, promoting our key accomplishments, including presentations to students from the Meadow Lake Tribal Council and University of Calgary. Two new components were added to our website: a Reclamation Database and Traditional Knowledge Bibliography. Another important task was the preparation of the 2009 work plan and budgets which kept Glen, Christine and all programs managers busy preparing the numbers for your close scrutiny!

At the Management Committee meeting early this month in Fort Chipewyan, we recognized that the following months will be both challenging and exciting for our Association. With continued hard work from each of you I know we will have a successful road ahead!

*Randall*

### CEMA

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## 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.



Management Committee - Fort Chipewyan September 9<sup>th</sup> - Overlooking Lake Athabasca

## Ecosystem Framework Responses

On September, 17<sup>th</sup> CEMA received the long awaited response from the Alberta Government regarding its Ecosystem Management Framework. The one page, four paragraphs, letter from Eric McGhan, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Resources Development sent on behalf of Peter Watson, Deputy Minister of Alberta Energy and Jim Ellis, Deputy Minister of Alberta Environment.

The letter highlighted the important work of CEMA members in the creation of the Ecosystem Management Framework and informed CEMA that its recommendations will be addressed during the development of the Alberta Government's new Land Use Framework; which includes the Northeast Regional Plan covering Wood Buffalo region.

The CEMA Management Committee has drafted a response letter asking the Alberta government to provide a clear direction on the following; the future role of CEMA in the management of cumulative effects in northeast Alberta; the importance of the TRIAD land management approach; and its position on CEMA's non consensus letter requesting temporary stop to the issuance of new resource rights in three areas modeled for protection.

A copy of both letters can be found on our website [www.cemaonline.ca](http://www.cemaonline.ca) in the section member documents / SEWG / SEWG Management Framework. Don't forget to log in first!



## CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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 Spring 2008 and we look forward to any feedback you might have.

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## Great Work NSMWG

In June, the NO<sub>x</sub>SO<sub>2</sub> Management Working Group Eutrophication Management Recommendations were approved by the CEMA Members and forwarded to the Alberta Government for consideration. Many years of hard work by all the members of the committee made this achievement possible. CEMA would like to thank all members of the committee for their devotion and hard work especially the Co-Chairs David Spink, Calvin Duane and Kim Eastlick.



From Left to Right: Sunny Cho (Alberta Environment), Charles Bower (Opti-Nexen), Lawrence Cheng (Alberta Environment), Lindy Schneider (Petro-Canada), Jason Heisler (Suncor), Tracy Smith (Shell), David Spink (Fort McKay IRC), Kim Eastlick (ERCB), Ron Pauls (Synchrude), Brian Wiens (Environment Canada)

# CEMA

# Coming Events

Oct-08							Nov-08							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 TMAC	2	3	4							1	
5	6 P2FTG	7 IFNTTG	8	9 Program Manager/Co-Charis/Management Committee - Meeting ETG TEK	10 Management Committee	11		2	3	4 TMAC	5	6	7	8
12	13 CEMA OFFICE CLOSED	14	15 SWWG	16	17	18	9	10	11 CEMA OFFICE CLOSED	12	13 Management Committee P2FTG TEK	14 IFNTTG	15 ETG	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19 SWWG	20	21	22	
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25 SEWG	26 SEWG NSMWG	27	28	29	
							30							

Dec-08						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 General Meeting TMAC	4 General Meeting	5	6
7	8	9 P2FTG	10 IFNTTG	11 TEK ETG	12	13
14	15	16 Management Committee	17 SWWG	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 CEMA OFFICE CLOSED	26 CEMA OFFICE CLOSED	27
28	29	30	31			

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## Soils and Vegetation Subgroup

The Soils & Vegetation Subgroup (SVSG) has contracted a technical writer to edit and compile the new edition of the 'Guidelines for Reclamation to Forest Vegetation in the Athabasca Oil Sands Region' (Reveg Manual). This edition of the manual is an update of the 1998 version and introduces a number of soil and vegetation indicators with preliminary thresholds, where possible, which were absent in the 1998 manual. A task group, the Re-vegetation Manual Task Group (RMTG) has and continues to provide technical guidance and input during the development and final stages of this document.

SVSG has begun the creation of a new manual that is scheduled for completion by Q2 2009, temporarily named 'Best Management Practices for Soil Salvage and

Placement of Reclamation Material in the Athabasca Oil Sands Region'. The Best Management Practices Task Group (BMPTG) is close to finalizing a terms of reference and work plan to develop this document.

The Forest Productivity Task Group (FPTG) is also providing input into the Reveg Manual through key additions to the monitoring plot network that will inform the validity of these thresholds over time. The group has also intensified the monitoring plot network for the 2008 field season. Over the coming months the FPTG will focus on developing a scope of work for the next version of the Land Capability Classification System (LCCS). The next version of the LCCS is scheduled for completion in 2011.

## We welcome your submissions!

The Insider is published by the Cumulative Environmental Management Association. For more information, please contact:

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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## Aboriginal News

### Alice Martin New Leader of Aboriginal Task Group

In August, Alice Martin assumed the responsibility for CEMA's Aboriginal Roundtable - Task Group. The purpose of the Task Group is to engage all the Aboriginal Communities in the Wood Buffalo region in developing recommendations on how best to improve and build upon First Nations and Métis involvement in CEMA. The Task Group will be reporting at the December general meeting.

Alice was born in Fort Chipewyan and is a proud member of the Mikisew Cree First Nation (MCFN). Her great, great, great grandfather Justin Martin was an original community leader of the MCFN. Alice attended residential school in Fort Chip. As they walked to "school" in single file her sisters cried but she vowed to never allow the system to break her or show her pain. At that young age she promised to make something of herself. After high school Alice kept that promise and traveled to Ontario and obtained a law degree from the University of Windsor.

Alice's "fight against the system all of her life" was in anger. She realized it was best to accept realism and focus on the positive side minus the negative. Alice credits her father, Sal Martin, a community leader for 40 years, for the change in her outlook on life. "He taught me the need to communicate for the people in a positive way to gain respect." Alice feels her life has come full circle and adds "We are the keepers of our traditional knowledge. We are always learning and need to connect with the grassroots."

Alice Martin has two sons Derek and Ryan and she currently resides in Anzac.



Alice Martin

## CEMA HEROS – THE ABORIGINAL WAY

On the evening of July 17, 2009, Fred "Jumbo" Fraser was enjoying a social at his home in Fort Chipewyan for his great nephew's birthday. Numerous family members were present as his nephew was getting married the next day. There were tents, tables, food and lot of excited people for the celebration. It was a beautiful sunny summer day but the wind was blowing strong from the east. All of a sudden a large flock of sea gulls flew over the gathering. In keeping with local traditions this was a sign that something was going to happen. Not sure if it was good or bad.

A short time later word began to spread in the small community about a frantic 911 call of a capsized boat and four people struggling for their lives on the mighty Lake Athabasca. Jumbo, a member of the coast guard auxiliary, the local search and rescue team, headed over to the forestry office to get more information. The helicopter, already out searching with no luck, was returning for fuel. Jumbo

quickly volunteered to help in the search but was informed no room was left on the chopper.

Jumbo, and two spotters boarded his boat the *Amy Lynn*, a 17.5 foot boat, with a 90 horsepower engine and went out to help in the search. Asked why he went out to look for strangers he responded: "I knew they wouldn't survive the night and figured I should go and help look for them. I don't know what made me go... I wonder to this day."

The search grid was centered around Goose Island. After 4 hours the search party, including the RCMP boat and a helicopter, had found nothing. Jumbo traveled up the south shore of the lake to Goose Island, where the boaters had started from that day. After checking around no one was there.

With no sight of the missing, Jumbo skippered the *Amy Lynn* for one final loop. He went straight north into the middle of the lake. Then upon the horizon Jumbo (not his spotters) saw something grey bobbing in the

waves. Upon arrival they found a cooler with a hat and marshmallows. Knowing it came from the missing boaters, they calculated that the wind conditions and wave direction the best search location was straight east. A few miles later, Jumbo was seeing a white spot every now and then. This time it was a blue cooler, water logged with groceries. After nearly one hours of searching they traveled another 3 miles due east. Finally, Jumbo saw something far in the distance, and quickly turned the *Amy Lynn* towards the object.

It was indeed, the four missing boaters clinging to the capsized canoe and a dog sitting on an upside down kayak. The rescued individuals from Fort McMurray were very cold and wet after spending 6 plus hours in the water but seemed in good spirits under such dire conditions.

After returning to shore Jumbo helped the four get dry clothes and have a bit to eat, at his social. "They were young and I felt they didn't know what kind of predicament they were in. It was only the next day that did they realize how thankful they were" Jumbo, a true CEMA HERO!"

Jumbo aboard the *Amy Lynn* with Lady & Patches

## What's Happening at CEMA

### Learning More

On August 13, 2008 Michael Ignatieff, MP and Senator Grant Mitchell traveled to Fort McMurray. The trip was a learning lesson about the oil sands, environment challenges and development in the Northeastern Alberta, including a tour of Albion Shell. CEMA employees; Kyle Harrietha and Alexis McIntyre, had an opportunity to discuss CEMA with the visiting parliamentarians.



Fred Kuzmic, Albion Sands, Kyle Harrietha, CEMA, Lisa Kirbie, Senate of Canada, Senator Grant Mitchell, Michael Ignatieff, MP, Zsuzsanna Zsohar, Mr. Ignatieff's wife & Jake Irving, OSDG

### New Staffers



Alexis and Elizabeth

CEMA would like to welcome two new program managers to the staff. Alexis McIntyre is the most recent addition to CEMA; she joined the Fort McMurray team in August as Program Manager for SEWG. A graduate of McGill University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology she worked for several years as the Senior Special Assistant for the Leader of the Opposition in Ottawa. She is now looking forward to combining her experience with her background in science in this new and challenging endeavor. Although new to Fort McMurray, this isn't her first time living in an oil producing region of the world, having spent two years in her youth in Kuwait City; the climate, she hears, won't be quite the same.

Elizabeth Lee was previously a CEMA program manager for SWWG and RWG, her career highlights include her participation in the Muskeg River Watershed Workshop and the Wetlands Workshop. Elizabeth's background in project management originally began in the 70s, with First Nations, in northwest British Columbia. A degree in Resource Management from University of Northern British Columbia equipped Elizabeth with the tools and knowledge to participate in recreation and protected areas management, environmental baseline studies and First Nations consultation in northern Canada. Elizabeth is looking forward to assisting the working groups in meeting their targeted objectives and goals.

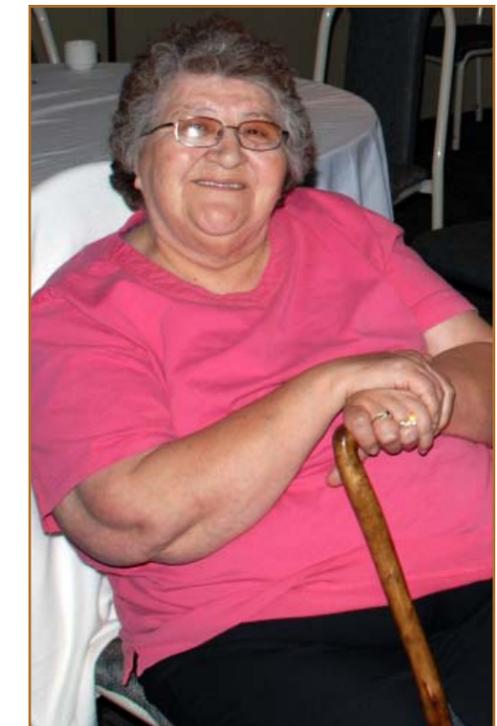
### New SEWG Member



On August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Margaret Luker welcomed the arrival of her son Logan James weighing 9 pounds 1 ounce and measuring 52 cms long. Logan wasn't in a hurry and was born after 3 days of labor at 11:51 pm. Logan, Maggie, Mike, Gunner and Tonka are all doing well!

### Thinking of You

Best Wishes to Nancy Woodward who is recovering at the Northern Lights Regional Hospital. She is a very important and loved member of the CEMA family. Nancy, from everyone GET WELL SOON!!!!



Nancy Woodward

## Updates On Working Groups and Sub-Groups

### Sustainable Ecosystems Working Group (SEWG)

The Government of Alberta's response to the Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Framework (TEMF) was presented to SEWG members, last week. The details of this response will be a key driver to much of SEWG's future work plan and the working group is currently reviewing the information. In the meantime SEWG has approved two reports, and is expecting the completion of another two by the end of September.

*Identifying Traditionally Used Plants in the RMWB*, a final report by FMA Heritage Resources Ltd and *Spatially Representing Recreational Use in the RMWB* a final report by WorleyParsons Komex were approved at the most recent SEWG meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> and can be found on the CEMA website. Work is continuing on

### Trace Metals and Air Contaminants Work Group (TMAC)

The Trace Metals and Air Contaminant Work Group's (TMAC) Terms of Reference (TOR) are now completed. The TOR will assist the TMAC working group with a path forward. TMAC requires clarity on its objectives, since delivering the Trace Metal Management Recommendations. Based on the information gathered to date, the working group will now prepare the Trace Air Metals Management Framework.

The working group has almost completed the study of Traditional Food Consumption in Aboriginal communities. The finding will be shared with the community representatives and peer reviewed to ensure the data collection and described results are accurate and scientifically sound. The Trace Air Metals Management Framework will incorporate the study results, as well as, new monitoring and modeling results, scientific knowledge, stakeholder concerns and regulations into regional decision making.

### Surface Water Working Group (SWWG)

"The Surface Water Working Group (SWWG) had its second meeting of the Phase II Framework Committee (P2FC) on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

With increased representation from accepted groups outside of CEMA's membership, the P2FC is aiming to develop a recommendation for the Phase II Water Management Framework that recognizes the environmental, social, and economic interests of all involved stakeholders. Completion of the recommendation is expected in December of 2009.

The Watershed Integrity Task Group (WITG) is nearing the completion of its work. The final State of the Watershed Report has been received and is currently being reviewed by the WITG and SWWG. This report is intended to support the development

two other important projects as well. Both the *Indicator Status Assessment* report by Silvatech, and the *Wildlife Movement and Habitat Connectivity* report by Jacques Whitford are scheduled for completion by the end of September and for approval at the next SEWG meeting.

The *Indicator Status Assessment* project will enhance the modeling work already completed for the TEMF. This supplemental modeling assesses the impact on indicators by management scenarios implemented in combination. This will complement the original modeling information which assesses the effect of management scenarios implemented individually.

### Biodiversity and Wildlife Sub-Group (BWSG)

The BWSG has had a busy summer as it has undertaken two new projects. BWSG is working with the Alberta Research Council which will lead a review of BWSG-RWG documents, and develop information on biodiversity status, reclamation, knowledge gaps, and suggested criteria, indicators, and monitoring. As well, BWSG has undertaken a Traditional Environmental Knowledge project with SENES Consultants to conduct series of focus groups with the First Nations and Métis communities within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The objective is to gain an understanding of what biodiversity means to Aboriginal community members.

of the Muskeg River Watershed Management Plan by providing baseline information on the conditions of the watershed. The report is currently available for CEMA members via the our website, and will be available for public release by year end.

The Instream Flow Needs Technical Task Group (IFNTTG) is progressing work on the Fish Telemetry Study. Nearly 200 fish have been tagged to date and continued effort is planned for later this fall. The success of radio tagging has depended upon the combined efforts and unique skills of various people including: Aboriginal fishers, biologists and engineers. Monitoring of the tagged fish will extend into 2009, and the information gathered will be used to support the P2FC's Phase II Water Management Framework recommendation."

## Updates On Working Groups and Sub-Groups

### Wetlands and Aquatics

WASG recently lost a tremendous co-chair in Anne Garabaldi from Fort McKay IRC who is now moving on to new projects. WASG would like to thank Anne for her contributions to this sub-group and she has set an example for future co-chairs to follow with her dedication to wetlands and aquatics issues.

The work of WASG is continuing though and WASG has recently completed Phase 1 of its Indigenous Wetlands Classification project with Dr. Iain Davidson-Hunt and Dr. Michael O'Flaherty. This is a part of a multi-year field project with First Nation and Métis communities to develop an Indigenous ecological classification of wetlands in the Athabasca oil sands production region. The broad goal of this multi-year project is to support the consideration of First Nation and Métis values in future reclamation processes. The objective of the first phase was to develop the scope and method for a pilot study with a single community, which will provide lessons for the expansion of similar efforts among the other First Nation and Métis communities. Phase 2 of this project is now being initiated.

WASG is also soliciting bids for a Primary Scientific Lead for a major wetlands Technology Transfer project. The main goal of the wetlands Technology Transfer is to translate knowledge and research on wetland processes and function into practical application for reclamation in the oil sands region. The WASG will incorporate this Technology Transfer into the Third Edition of the Wetlands Guide, scheduled for the end of 2012. This project is scheduled to begin in October and continue until the Fall of 2011. The project will include securing and liaising with experts, structuring and organizing workshops, and writing a Technology Transfer document. The Technology Transfer is meant to push the limits of the experts' current understanding of wetlands. The WASG expects to lead the experts into providing it with novel design elements and factors for creating wetlands based on extending current knowledge.

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

On September 2, 2008, CEMA released the "Interim Nitrogen (Eutrophication) Management Recommendations and work plan for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo." (RMWB) The report's recommendations and work plan address the potential fertilization (Eutrophication) environmental impact issues associated with regional nitrogen oxides emissions. The report calls for expanded regional monitoring, a five year research plan to develop regional criteria on nitrogen loading, and in total has 15 recommendations directed at developing a better understanding of potential regional nitrogen eutrophication impact issues and developing appropriate nitrogen impact protection and management strategies.

As a first step in implementing key recommendation of the Interim Nitrogen Management recommendations and work plan, NSMWG will host a workshop "critical loads of eutrophying nitrogen for the RMWB" on December 2 - 4, in Calgary. The format and purpose of the work shop is four fold: to provide scientific and knowledge-based updates on setting critical nitrogen loads; to review related regional work that has already been conducted; to develop a four to five year work plan for developing nitrogen critical loads for sensitive regional ecosystems, and to identify researchers who can implement the projects. Invitations have been extended to distinguished scientists from Europe and North America, who will summarize their findings on nitrogen measurement and monitoring activities.

### Phase II Framework Committee



Phase II Framework Committee – Fort McMurray Katherine Duffett, Terry Van Meer (Syncrude), Stuart Macmillan (Wood Buffalo National Park), Wayne Mackenzie (ERCB), Allan Locke (ASRD), Mathieu Lebel (WWF), Amanda Owens (RMWB), Michael Harstone (CRM), Jumbo Fraser (Fort Chip Metis), Dan Ohlson (CRM), Pat Marriott (AENV), Brian Makowicki (DFO), Ron Bothe (Fort McKay IRC), Robert Powell (WWF), Rick Courtney (Shell), Jonathan Hornung (Petro-Canada), Ron Pauls (Syncrude), Stuart Lunn (Imperial), Richard Kavanagh (CNRL), Chris Fordham (Suncor)

### End Pit Lake (EPLSG)

The EPLSG has undertaken two new projects over the summer. The first is with Hydroqual Laboratories and the goal is to better understand the biological processes in aquatic sediments. Microscopic organisms are highly important for reclamation of aquatic systems because they affect dissolved oxygen in the water column, which in turn affects the ability of End Pit Lakes to treat and degrade naphthenic acids (NAs). The project will examine microbe-driven gas exchange at sediment-water interface at the bottom of experimental ponds. This is a critical piece of information for the next phase of EPL modelling, which is used to provide recommendations for the construction of EPLs. The second project consists of conducting a review of the EPL Technical Guidance Document (EPLTGD) by international experts in various disciplines relating to End Pit Lakes. The EPLTGD was completed in 2007.

### Reclamation Certification Workgroup (RCSG)

The Reclamation Certification Subgroup (RCSG) submitted a document that provides recommendations on the "Reclamation Certification Application Process in the Athabasca Oil Sands" which is up for decision at the September 2008 GM. RCSG plans to focus on reclamation certification criteria and has developed a draft work plan, which will be presented by the Co-Chairs of the subgroup at their meeting on October 1, 2008.

Continued on Page 6