

# The Bow River Current

Semi-annual publication of Trout Unlimited Canada – Bow River Chapter  
October 2003



## In the news: Pine Creek Sewage Facility

The City of Calgary is planning a new multi-phase sewage treatment facility south of the city. Jim Miller, Project Manager City of Calgary Wastewater Services, presented details of the project to Trout Unlimited Canada – Bow River Chapter members at this year's annual general meeting (September 10.)

TUC-BRC has been monitoring this project for several months and is committed to ensuring the project is done with the highest safeguards in place for the Bow River.

The proposed site is slightly upstream from the new Deerfoot extension bridge on the south side of the river. Construction is scheduled to begin late next year and will likely be completed by 2007.

Miller says the Pine Creek treatment facility will be a minimum of 60-metres from the river. Plans also include a landscaped berm between the river and facility. The facility will be above the one-in-100-year flood level. The new facility will also include subsurface diffusers that will quickly mix in-flow with river water to help minimize the temperature difference.

The new site will have to adhere to stricter criteria than the existing facilities. Miller says increased standards will mean fewer nutrients will be dumped in the river. "As our population grows we have to be more diligent in how we care for our water," he says.

The two existing treatment plants are insufficient to meet the needs of our ever-growing city. The Bonnybrook plant services about one million people and is operating at near capacity. The Fish Creek facility can service an additional 250,000. The initial phase of the Pine Creek facility will service 250,000 people and when completed Pine Creek will ultimately meet the needs of 1.75 million citizens.

For more information on this project visit the City of Calgary website at [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca) then visit "wastewater" and "major projects."

## TUC-BRC Annual General Meeting

About 30 people attended this year's chapter AGM on September 10. Highlights of the meeting include the introduction of two new board members, an introduction to various chapter initiatives including the Janzen's Island project and the summer tree wrapping project (see reverse.)

Garth Soby and David Shaw were both appointed to the BRC board of directors at that meeting. Since then, Jim Kozey has also joined the board.

Garth is a long-time supporter of TUC-BRC and an avid fly fisher and tyer. He's already working on one fund-raising initiative for the chapter.

David is a lifetime member of the organization. He's a keen angler with a financial/accounting background that will be beneficial to the Board.

Jim, another avid angler, will bring his environmental expertise to the board. Watch for more in-depth introductions to these individuals in a future newsletter.

Other highlights at the AGM included the Pine Creek Treatment plant presentation and a brief presentation by TUC National.

## Request for Action

TUC-BRC members are asked to write letters, e-mail, and speak out against an application for a temporary license to divert Bow River water. The application, by Hunt Power Company of Canada Inc., requests the authorization of 2.2 million cubic meters to be diverted from the Bow River each year for 25 years with only about 17% of that water being returned to the river.

TUC National has written two letters of concern about this application, but as yet has not been recognized as a stakeholder (despite the Bow River Chapter's lease of Janzen's Island.)

The chapter and national offices are concerned about this application for several reasons including:

- The Bow River already experiences significant low flow/high temperature periods that directly affect the habitat and fishery.
- This single request accounts for more water than the existing 120 plus temporary diversion licenses.
- Approval of this application could set a precedent with respect to future similar applications.

We therefore request all members to speak out about this request. For more information about this issue please contact Greg Eisler at TUC National (209-5185) or Kevin Watson at [watsonk@jjbarnicke.com](mailto:watsonk@jjbarnicke.com)

*"A river is never quite silent; it can never, of its very nature, be quite still; it is never quite the same from one day to the next. It has its own life and its own beauty, and the creatures it nourishes are alive and beautiful also."* Roderick Haig-Brown

## Chapter Highlights:

### ● **Janzen's Island Lease:**

During the past summer, the chapter developed a parking area on the island and fenced in an area in an effort to stop unnecessary traffic. Initial plans called for a fenced-in parking area with about 12 stalls. The project was staked out and approved, but someone moved the stakes, which meant the parking area ended up much larger than originally planned. The chapter is reseeding a portion of the island and decreasing the parking area to the originally planned size. The chapter will be adding signage that specifies no fires and no camping on this public access.

As a result of the lease acquisition, the Board has been asked to come up with a unique name for the island. Suggestions are welcome and should be forwarded to: [watsonk@jjbarnicke.com](mailto:watsonk@jjbarnicke.com). The new name will be announced at the Fall Splash.

### ● **Riparian Enhancement**

**project:** The Chapter once again funded a summer project aimed at improving and sustaining the cottonwood population along the Bow River. Summer employees wrapped several hundred trees and removed hundreds of bags of weeds. One landowner was so impressed by this group's efforts that the Chapter received an unsolicited donation of \$1,500.

This year's team of student employees was outfitted with TUC attire (caps and T-shirts) in an effort to increase the chapter's visibility along the river.

### ● **Chevron Learning**

**Pathway:** The Bow River Chapter contributed funds to an educational pathway on Princess Island Park. Our portion of the funds was used for signage outlining issues surrounding storm drain runoff.

## Departing Board Members

**Jim Rouse**, long-time board member and ongoing supporter of the Bow River Chapter, has retired from the board of directors. Jim was a tremendous advocate for the Bow River who spent many hours writing letters and attending meetings before reporting back to the board. His recent efforts include encouraging the chapter's support of the "State of the River Report" and involvement in the Chevron Texaco Learning Pathway. Jim was an excellent resource for all board members. Thanks for your support Jim. You will be missed.

Relative newcomer, **Peter Moore** has accepted a new job in Ontario so will be resigning from the board. Peter's environmental background was an excellent resource for the board. Good luck in your new endeavors.

### Option for Electronic Receipt of the Bow River Current....

If you prefer to receive this publication electronically, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the TUC-BRC office. As always your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please forward them to a chapter board member.

## Call for Volunteers

The TUC-BRC Board wants to continue the initiatives currently underway as well as look at other projects, but we can't do it alone. We're therefore putting out a **call for volunteers** to become involved with Chapter initiatives.

**Habitat Projects** – If you're interested in volunteering for hands on projects like river cleanups, tree wrapping, redd surveys, etc. Contact Kevin Watson to volunteer. ([watsonk@jjbcalgary.com](mailto:watsonk@jjbcalgary.com))

**Communications** – If you'd like to help generate content for future newsletters and/or the TUC-BRC website please contact Nancy Storwick to volunteer. ([storwick@telusplanet.net](mailto:storwick@telusplanet.net))

**Member Nights** – TUC-BRC plans to coordinate two or more member nights each winter and needs volunteer help with these events. Contact Kevin Watson, Craig Robillard ([craig@oas.ca](mailto:craig@oas.ca)), or Nancy Storwick to assist.

## 2003 Fall Splash Dinner and Auction

*When: Thursday, November 20*

*Where: Coast Plaza Hotel*

We invite you to attend the 12th Annual Bow River Chapter Fall Splash. The past few years have been sellouts, so you should get your tickets early. Tickets are available from the TUC office and from Bow River Troutfitters, Country Pleasures, Fish Tales Fly Shop, Hanson's Fishing Outfitters, and Westwinds Fly Shop. Tickets are once again \$60.00 each.

This event is the chapter's primary fund-raiser, but it's also an opportunity for us to recognize some of the outstanding work of our membership and volunteers. Volunteer awards will once again be presented at this year's event. Award nomination forms are available on-line at [www.tucanada.org](http://www.tucanada.org).

As always, we're looking for new event volunteers and merchandise donations. If you would like to help out on the dinner committee or have merchandise or funds you'd like to donate, please contact Don Pike at 221-8371 or on-line at [dpike@tucanada.org](mailto:dpike@tucanada.org); or Nancy Storwick at 203-0758 or on-line at [storwick@telusplanet.net](mailto:storwick@telusplanet.net).