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MAY 2006 — VOL. 4 NO. 5 — CIRCULATION 5,250

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Brunet Fund

Over \$27,000 was donated at an April 22, BBQ fundraiser for the Brunet family. The event was put on by the Whitecourt-Woodlands Community Action

(Cont. page 7)

This Month

Political Accountability
Federal Accountability Act Summary..... p. 12
And the usual bad jokes, Kid's Page, Recipes etc.

What's the Word?

Recondite means: a) depraved b) contrite c) disillusioned d) obscure
Answer on page 31

Guiding town growth in early 1970's

A 1959 census had shown there were 986 people living within the Whitecourt Village boundaries. By 1971, twelve years later, an official census showed the population within the New Town limits had grown to 3,155. By this time, the greatest growth from the "Boom" was over and the emergency condition had passed. The town capi-

(Cont. page 4)



Long time mayor John Dahl in early 1970's



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Federal Accountability Act great start

by Dan Parker

A main plank of the federal Conservative's election platform was put into action last month with the unveiling of the Federal Accountability Act. The omnibus bill increases transparency in government lobbying, campaign finance and contract tendering for government services. It also gives more teeth to government auditors as well as protection to whistleblowers who point out potential wrongdoing.

Duff Conacher heads Democracy Watch, which is notoriously stingy with praise for government policy. In a press release on the Democracy Watch website, Co-

nacher applauded most of the measures in the new "Federal Accountability Act". However, he also expressed concerns about significant gaps in the Act and called on the Conservative Party to expand it to include key loopholes.



closing accountability measures. Connacher also called for better structures to encourage increased public input into government policy.

Regardless of the short-

comings, the legislation is a significant step forward in hopefully raising the public trust level in politicians. It is a disgrace that those who hold the leadership positions in society finished dead last in a survey on trustworthiness, at a 10% level.

A point form summary of the Act starts on page 12. In reading it, one can see the potential for a rebirth of respect for the country's political process. An important aspect to the transparency mea-

asures is to see them as a beginning, rather than an endpoint. There are governing organizations beyond those with elected representatives also in need of more transparency.



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Poor Ted overdoes it, as well testers are apt to do, and has a heart attack on the lease. As the ambulance takes the body away, Gord says, "Someone should go and tell his wife."

Steve says, "OK, I'm pretty good at that sensitive stuff." A while later, he comes back carrying a case of Canadian.

Gord says, "Do you think that's appropriate, Steve?"

"Well, Ted's wife gave it to me," Steve replies.

"That's quite a lady" Gord says "thinking of us at time like this."

"Well not exactly", Steve says. "When she answered the door, I said to her, 'You must be Ted's widow'."

She said, "No, I'm not a widow."

And I said, "I'll bet you a case of Canadian you are".

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Cindy Goes to the Doctor

Cindy was visiting her new doctor for the first time and found herself alone in a small waiting room. She began undressing nervously, preparing herself for the upcoming examination. Just as she draped the last of her garments on the back of a chair, a light rap sounded on the door and the doctor strode in.

Coming to an abrupt halt, the doctor was at a loss of words for a moment as he regarded the new patient standing in the middle of the room.

"Ma'am" he said finally, "it seems quite obvious to me that until today you have never undergone an eye examination!"

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Making the Punishment Fit the Crime

A woman was arrested for shoplifting at a grocery store. When she appeared before the judge, the judge asked what she had taken.

The lady replied, "A can of peaches."

The judge asked how many peaches were in the can.

She replied, "Nine."

The judge said, "Well then, I'm going to give you nine days of community service--one day for each peach."

The judge hesitated before dropping his gavel and asked "Do you have anything to add?"

At this point, the husband leapt to his feet and said "Your honor, she also stole a can of peas."

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Who Are Ewe

A young couple had just had their first argument, while coming home from a movie. Driving along in silence they pass a farm with all kinds of animals on it. Breaking the silence, the husband asks: "Relatives?"

Without missing a beat the wife replies: "Yes, in-laws."

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(Continued from page 1)

tal situation had been consolidated and improved. The provincial government and Town Board felt it was now time for the plebiscite be returned to the people so that they would have a right to vote on major expenditures.

To do this, it was necessary to revert to Town status. Whitecourt was the first of several New Towns in Alberta to make this move. The provincial government was understandably anxious to unload municipal responsibilities, which it had for New Towns. As a result Whitecourt was given very favourable financing terms for being the place that started the ball rolling on handing local responsibilities back to where they belonged.

The reversion was made in the fall of 1971. The Board of Administrators became the Town Council. Six Councillors and a Mayor were to be elected by the citizens. Provincial government representation at the local level was no longer required.

Because of the reversion, elections that year were deferred until December. John Dahl was elected Mayor by acclamation. Al Frizzell, Horace Olecko, Claude Gould, Harry Johnson, Vic Peters and Bob Roloff were elected as Councillors. A by-election in 1972, created by

the resignation of Vic Peters and Claude Gould, resulted in Brian Elko and Matt Tabashniuk being elected.

“ *The provincial government and Town Board felt it was now time for the plebiscite be returned to the people so that they would have a right to vote on major expenditures.* ”

In 1974 all seats on Council were up for election. John Dahl retained the Mayor's chair while Horace Olecko, Ruth Fiala, Jim Gov-enlock, Henry Goertzen, Harry Johnson and Bob Roloff all were elected as Councillors. In 1975 another by-election occurred after the resignations of Bob Roloff and Henry Goertzen. This led to Larry Anderson and John Kenlin filling the vacancies.

In April 1971 Norm Crawford resigned as Municipal Secretary and in May, Martin Schmitke was hired to become the Secretary-Treasurer. A few months later, Mr. Schmitke's title was changed to Secretary-Manager. In January 1974, Mr. Schmitke became the Municipal Administrator and Dave Boschman was hired as Secretary-Treasurer.

The New Town government had successfully guided the town through its rapid growth stages. After reversion to Town status the Council was able to take stock of the situation and plan a priority development program to best serve the needs of the still growing community. The operation of the airport

(Continued on page 11)



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Town Press Release - April 24

At its April 24th Regular Meeting, Whitecourt Town Council was presented with an update on the Whitecourt Woodlands Multi-Use Facility. It is anticipated that design plans will be finalized the first week of May, and tender packages completed by mid-June. Construction is expected to follow an 18-month timeline, starting in July 2006, with completion of the Whitecourt Woodlands Multi-Use Facility projected for early 2008.

Whitecourt Town Council approved a special project to support the Brunet Family at the 2006 Canada Day Celebration. Whitecourt Town Council felt the Canada Day event would be an appropriate venue to provide additional community support and raise further proceeds for the Brunet Family. At a future Council Meeting, Town Council will be presented with various fund raising options that could be incorporated into the event to benefit the Brunet Family.

Town Council awarded projects for the Community Clean Up Program. The program gives nonprofit organizations the opportunity to receive financial assistance in exchange for roadside and public area litter pick up. The following groups were awarded clean up projects: 1st WCT Scouting Association, Whitecourt Tumblers Gymnastics Club, St. Joseph Senior Volleyball Team, Whitecourt Baptist Youth Group, Whitecourt Woodlands County Action Association, – on behalf of the Brunet Family, Boys and Girls Club of Whitecourt and District, Hilltop High School Student Council, St. Patrick's Anglican Church and Whitecourt Tae Kwon Do

Whitecourt Town Council approved an application to Alberta Environment for funding to assist the Willow Bio Energy Project. Five acres of land, south of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, are being utilized for the project to determine the potential for production of willow in Alberta as a sustainable fuel source. Whitecourt's project has received national and international attention, and continued support from the Alberta government will further elevate the profile of the
(See Town on page 29)

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Multi-use merry-go-round

With the latest petition going around regarding the location of the proposed Multi-use facility, the sides for and against the Sunset Blvd location have intensified their debate. The last petition on the multi-use matter, which attempted to use the idea of the cutting down of trees for strategic reasons, garnered 1250 votes before it was quashed by the town for procedural reasons.

The bottom line to the entire debate is whether democracy is being served or not. One can certainly sympathize with elected officials and town administrators. Think back on when you had a disagreement with your boss over a matter in which he or she may have been relatively uninformed. Then imagine you have a few thousand such bosses criticizing you all the time.

However, the 'many boss' dynamic comes with the job; at least in societies working towards democracy. The same holds true for any successful business in a free market, where myriad customers are the bosses.

History shows that the democratic process is a heck of a lot messier than the procedure in an oligarchy or dictatorship. Yet the results of the democratic process are consistently better by a significant degree. This involves everything from mundane matters like productivity to core concerns such as respect for human rights. Despite common beliefs to the contrary, the more democratic British strongly out-produced the Nazi war machine during WWII, even while upholding human rights within their country.

Hindsight being 20/20, it seems the best service to democracy would have occurred if the last general municipal election would have included a clearly worded plebiscite on the multi-use matter. There was no question there was a lot of public concern around the issue. Despite public meetings held on this issue, some felt their concerns were not being seriously addressed. This resulted in the election of a largely new council that looked set to readdress the location of the

multi-use facility. If a binding plebiscite on the matter had been included in the election, the change in opinion of one representative and the resignations of two others would not have altered the outcome of the location in regards to the will of the public shown at that time. The multi-use would now be under construction and anyone complaining about the location would have to explain why they disliked democracy.

If it was felt that the public was not adequately informed about the issue to have their wishes followed, this could have been remedied by a few public debates between pro and con forces, as well as widespread publication of the points for and against the Sunset Blvd vision laid out side by side.

This harks back to the wisdom of U.S. democrat Thomas Jefferson. He was bang when he stated "I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education."

The Advisor has attempted to show both sides of the debate on this matter to date, and will continue to be open to arguments for and against the current location until construction is actually underway. Once again, it is hoped that this issue stops dividing the town.



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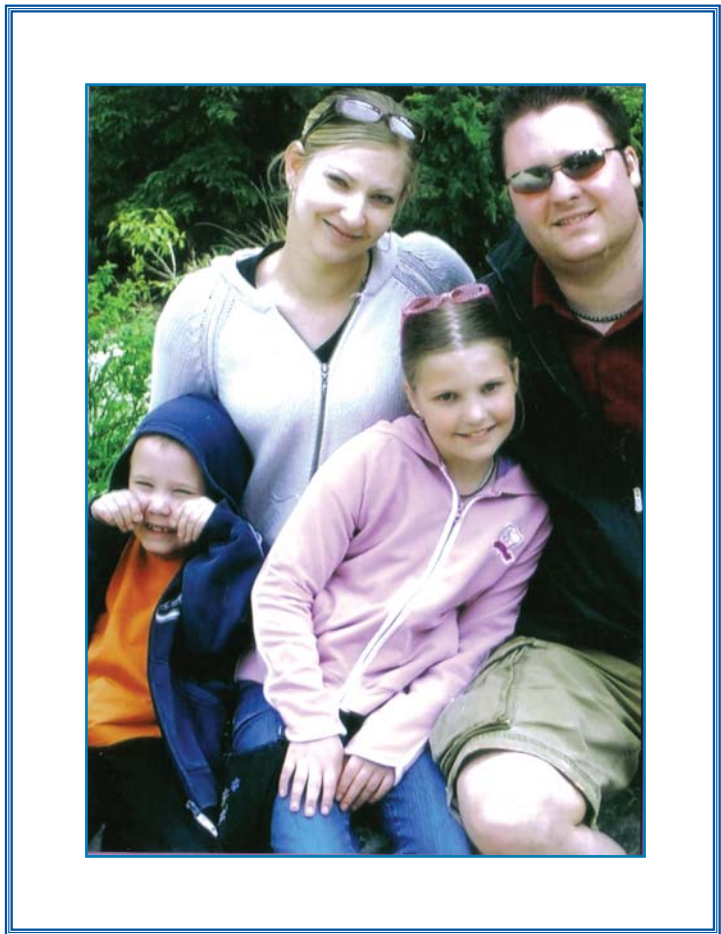
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(Continued from page 1)

Association (WWCAA) and Whitecourt Home School Association. They are still awaiting \$3000. The Family Worship Center has indicated that they have they have raised an additional \$10,000. The outpouring of support from the community has been overwhelming.

Shannon Rosnau, who headed the BBQ effort stated “We really want to thank everyone for donating and volunteering. There is truly a strong undercurrent of caring and compassionate people in Whitecourt.”

For those who haven't yet heard, on the day before his 29th birthday, Troy Brunet, a married father of two with dreams of becoming an



RCMP officer, was diagnosed with cancer. The lump under his left armpit was cancerous and the cancer was spreading rapidly through his lymphatic system. On February 1, 2006, Troy and his wife, Liberty, were told that there was nothing more that doctors could do.

In January, he was in the best shape of his life, having reached the final phase of acceptance into the RCMP. Today, Troy spends a great part of his day in pain and is confined to a wheelchair. Doctors estimate that he has less than 2 months to live.

“You're dealt the hand that you are dealt and you try to live out what time is left with a positive attitude,” Troy told the Edmonton Sun

(Continued on page 8)

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“For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people’s love and concern for each other.”-- Millard Fuller

(Continued from page 7)
on April 7, 2006.

You will not find a more positive, exemplary person or family in our community. Unfortunately, their life savings are dwindling due to the costs associated with Troy’s treatment. We hope that you or your organization can help the Brunet family.

Please send donations “In Trust” to the Brunet family
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For more information please call 778-4475 or 204-0635.

4 days = 2 B & E’s

The Business Synergy Centre, housing the Whitecourt Advisor, K & C Graphics and several other businesses, had two break-ins over the course of four days.

Three small businesses in the building suffered losses in the April 20 and April 23 crimes.

Corporal Terry Glen dusts for prints below. If you have any information on this, please call 1-800-422-TIPS.



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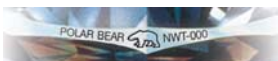
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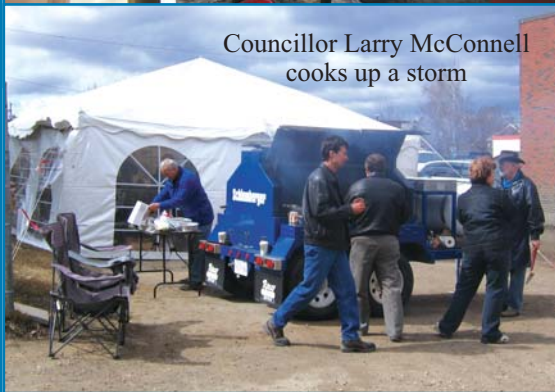
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About 500 attended the Brunet Fund BBQ, which raised over \$25,000.



In my face sales tactics for ice tea.



Councillor Larry McConnell cooks up a storm



Lady, I'm a schnauzer not a pointer



Merv Hilliard, left, set up a 'no-charge' Trust Fund for the Brunets at the Royal Bank.

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Honouring Mom through the ages

These cards show the changing styles of Mother's Day cards through the years. (NC)-Mother's Day is fast approaching and children of all ages will be expressing their sentiments for mom through cards and gifts. "What many don't realize is the concept of celebrating mothers actually goes as far back as the ancient Greeks," says Denise Darragh spokesperson for Hallmark Canada. "Of course it wasn't about cards or special brunches at first."

Mother's Day was once devoted to honouring goddesses that represented motherhood. For the Greeks it was Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. The Romans paid homage to Cybele, a mother goddess. In the British Isles and Celtic Europe, people celebrated the goddess Brigid - along with the first milk of the ewes in spring.

In 17th century England, Mothering Sunday was celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent, in which servants were given the day off to spend time with their mothers.

In North America, the idea started in the late 19th century with Julia Ward Howe, who was haunted by her experiences during the Civil War, and wanted to establish a Mother's Day as a celebration of peace.

Mother's Day as we know it today, really took root in 1907 with Anna M. Jarvis, a woman who persuaded her church to celebrate Mother's Day on the second anniversary of her mother's death. The idea took hold, and by 1911, Mother's Day was made official in the United States - to be followed by Canada in 1914.

The Mother's Day card first appeared on the scene in the 1920s. Today, it is estimated that over 9 million Mother's Day cards will be exchanged across Canada. These include cards that address all the various relationships that make up today's families - from stepfamilies and ex-in-laws to Dads-as-Moms, Dad's wife, and friends.

"The ways people celebrate the occasion today are as varied as the mothers themselves," adds Darragh. "But the one continuing theme is expressing love and appreciation for moms with cards and gifts."

For card and gift suggestions for Mother's Day visit www.hallmark.com or call 1-800-268-3230. - News Canada

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(Continued from page 4)
was taken over by the Town in 1971. Landing lights were installed by Mobil Oil about the same time. The provincial government and what was then known as the Department of Lands and Forests built a new airport southwest of town by the Edson Road, or Highway 32, in 1976.

In 1973 a new million gallon water reservoir was built to augment the town needs. A paving program for the whole town began in 1974 with the building of adequate storm sewer systems throughout the built-up areas. Concrete work was done the summer of 1975 and the final hard top paving was completed by 1976.

A new three bay fire hall was started in 1974 and completed in 1975. It replaced the facility that had been built fifteen years previous, when the town was much smaller.

With the aid of the Provincial Planning Board and studies conducted by Associated Engineering Services, plans for growth were prepared that covered all facets of town operations. This included the creation of more residential subdivisions. The

area west of highway 43 on the hilltop became a picturesque residential section with many trees preserved on the 300 lots in the area. Even today, residents have easy access to many outdoor activities in scenic settings.

The downtown residential area had also greatly increased since the 1950's with future expansion centred in that area. The town held land for 1200 lots. There were over 300 Mobile home lots in designated areas within the town limits. Because of the transient nature of so many jobs in the area, mobile homes were a great solution to temporary housing shortages.

Downtown businesses in Whitecourt also increased, with many of them changing hands and locations so rapidly in the 1960's that to document them would be very difficult. Suffice it to say that the services listed by the Chamber of Commerce covered almost every necessity, some of them with two or three and even four outlets.

Plans for a shopping mall to be opened in 1977 with room for three major department stores and room for thirty-five smaller outlets were announced in March, 1976, by J. L. Berget's Realty Ltd. Instead Midtown Mall was built by the firm. It now anchors a downtown undergoing a transition period with the arrival of 'big box' shopping in the area.

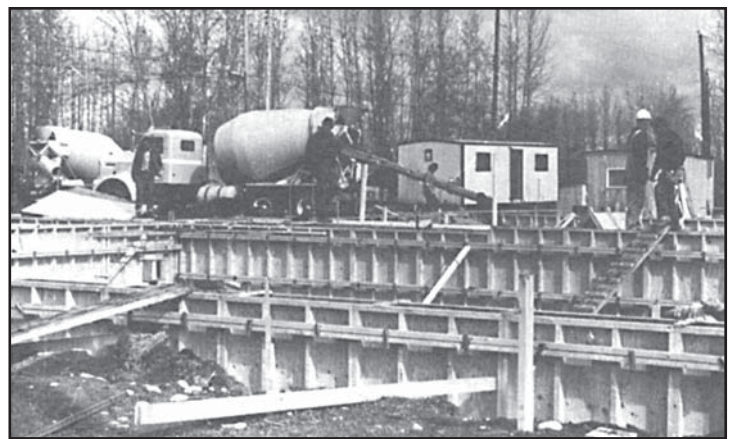
The hilltop area east of Highway 43 became the industrial centre of town with most major service and industrial companies building shops and maintenance facilities there.

The oil and gas industry

in the Whitecourt area continued to thrive throughout the 70's. Petrofina moved their offices from the Windfall field to the new Medical-Surgical Clinic building in Whitecourt in 1970. By 1973 the Petrofina building was erected near the corner of 52 Avenue and 49th Street and in January, 1974, Whitecourt became Area field operational headquarters for Petrofina for Western Canada. The resulting increase of supervisory personnel led to the expansion of the Petrofina building, which was completed in the fall of 1975.

Out at the West Whitecourt plant complex at Windfall, Amoco Canada (formerly Pan-American) added a unique addition to the sulphur plant to remove
(Continued on page 19)

“ Because of the transient nature of so many jobs in the area, mobile homes were a great solution to temporary housing shortages. ”



Starting construction of the new Fire Hall in 1974

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Federal Accountability Act

Ed - This legislation has been tabled and needs to go through three readings in total to become law. Hopefully it will be passed without being watered down.

Reforming the financing of political parties

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- Lower the limit on contributions from individuals to political parties from \$5,000 to \$1,000.
- Lower the limit on contributions from individuals to local entities of political parties from \$5,000 to \$1,000.
- Lower to \$1,000 the contribution that a candidate, nomination contestant or party leadership candidate can make to their own campaign.
- Make it an offense to give or willfully receive a cash donation of more than \$20.

“Complete ban on contributions by corporations, unions and organizations.”

Banning secret donations to political parties

- Prohibit candidates from accepting gifts that might reasonably be seen to risk influencing them in the performance of their elected duties.
- Require candidates to report any gifts they receive worth more than \$500.
- Prohibit Members of Parliament from using trust funds for political purposes.
- Empower the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner to order MPs to wind up trust funds or handle them in any other manner that the Commissioner considers acceptable.

Strengthening the role of the Ethics Commissioner

- Combine the functions of the Ethics Commissioner and the Senate Ethics Officer and create a new position, the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner.
- Enshrine the provisions of the current *Conflict of Interest and Post-Employment Code for Public Office*

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Holdings into a new Conflict of Interest Act.

- Give the new Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner, an individual who must have a judicial or quasi-judicial background, the power to administer the proposed *Conflict of Interest Act*, initiate formal investigations, and levy monetary penalties for administrative breaches under this Act.
- Prohibit the use of blind management agreements (“Venetian blind trusts”), meaning that public-office holders will either have to sell assets in an arm’s-length transaction or place them in a fully blind trust

Toughening the Lobbyists Registration Act

- Establish a new Commissioner of Lobbying as an independent Agent of Parliament.
 - Provide the Commissioner with enhanced investigative powers and mandate to enforce compliance with the proposed *Lobbying Act*.
 - Prohibit ministers, ministerial staffers, and senior public servants from registering and lobbying the Government of Canada for five years after leaving office.
- Ban any payment or benefit contingent on the outcome of a consultant lobbyist’s activity, and require all government contracts and agreements to state that contingency fees will not be paid.
- Require lobbyists to report their lobbying activities involving certain public office holders more frequently and permit the Commissioner to request those office holders to confirm or correct the information reported by lobbyists.
- Double the criminal monetary penalties for lobbyists who fail to comply with the requirements of the *Lobbying Act*.

Establishing a Parliamentary Budget Authority

- Expand the mandate and resources of the non-partisan Library of Parliament by establishing within it the position of Parliamentary Budget Officer.
- Give this officer the mandate to:
 - Provide objective analysis to the Senate and

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House of Commons concerning the state of the nation's finances and trends in the national economy.

- Undertake economic and fiscal research for the Standing Committee on Finance, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, or the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance, on the request of those committees.
- Estimate the cost of proposals currently or prospectively under consideration in either House when asked to do so by a Member, a committee of the Senate or the House of Commons, or a committee of both Houses.
- Require departments and agencies to provide the Officer with any existing data necessary to fulfill his or her mandate.
- The government will provide quarterly updates to government fiscal forecasts, and will continue to provide monthly financial statements in the *Fiscal Monitor*.

“*Create the position of a Procurement Auditor*”

Making qualified government appointments

- Institute a uniform approach to appointing Officers and Agents of Parliament, and ensure a meaningful role for Parliament in the process.
- Create a Public Appointments Commission in the Prime Minister's portfolio to oversee, monitor and report on the selection process for appointments to government boards, commissions, agencies and Crown corporations.
- Allow the Chief Electoral Officer to appoint returning officers, with provisions that ensure the merit principle is applied.
- Remove the entitlements of all ministers' staff to priority appointments and instead allow them to apply for internal competitions for public-service positions for up to one year.

Cleaning up the procurement of government contracts

- Include an overarching statement of principles

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on procurement that commits the government to promoting fairness, openness and transparency in the bidding process.

- Require that contracts include integrity provisions.
- Create the position of a Procurement Auditor to:
 - Review procurement practices across government.
 - Handle complaints from potential suppliers.
 - Review complaints regarding contract administration.
 - Manage an alternative dispute resolution process for contracts.
 - Submit an annual report to be tabled in Parliament.
- Engage an independent procurement expert to review the draft policy on managing procurement to ensure that its requirements reinforce a fair, open and transparent procurement process.
- Introduce a *Code of Conduct for Procurement* to consolidate the existing suite of conflict-of-interest and anti-corruption policies, which would apply to both suppliers and public service employees.
- Provide more resources and greater regional presence to the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises within Public Works and Government Services Canada, to help businesses maintain access to government opportunities and ensure that they are treated fairly.

Cleaning up government polling and advertising

- For public opinion research and advertising:
 - Prohibit verbal-only reports
 - Require departments and agencies to send a final written report on research findings obtained under contract to Library and Archives Canada within six months of completing data collection.
- Will amend communications policy and related procedures by June 2006 to reflect the new

(Continued on page 27)

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Chamber Participates in Pre-Budget Consultation Process

Earlier this month the federal government launched a brief consultation period with Canadians on the upcoming federal budget. This is the first time that the government has used a national Web-based process in their consultations and encouraged Canadians to participate in the budget process by providing their views to the government during the pre-budget consultation period.

Through this process, the government is seeking views and advice from all Canadians on how best to implement the government's five priorities. Contributors were asked to identify areas where the government could spend less or deliver programs in a more efficient and effective way. As in others years, the minister will also meet with stakeholders as part of the pre-budget consultation process, which ends April 19.

To help members across the country participate in this budget-setting process, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce



encouraged its members to take part in the budget process and to deliver to the new government our key messages on behalf of the business community. We encouraged our local chambers and boards of trade to actively engage their membership base to help shape Canada's public policies in a thoughtful and constructive manner by putting together a letter that could

be used by members to communicate to Finance Canada our priorities for budget 2006 and beyond. We are aware that numerous local chambers of commerce did participate in this process and encouraged their members to do the same. So we feel confident that the voice of business had input into the budget.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce also participated in the pre-budget process by submitting our report, Towards Canada's Prosperity, (the report which was sent to all MPs and members earlier this month) to communicate to Finance Canada our priorities for budget 2006 and beyond.

It is important that the new government, in its upcoming budget, sends a positive signal to investors and to those who want to work and live in Canada that Canada is a great place to work and to invest.

A Panda Goes to the Bar

A panda walked into a bar and said "I'd like a steak and kidney pie and a Kokanee please".

The barman took his order and the panda went to sit down. Soon a waiter brought over his meal. The panda ate it up, thanked and tipped the waiter and paid the bill.

All this seemed pretty normal until the panda pulled out a gun from the depths of his fur, pulled the trigger and BANG! shot the waiter.

The barman came over and said "Wha.. wh.. You just shot my friend!!!"

The panda calmly replied "Do you know what I am?"

"Why yes," the barman answered. "You're a panda."

"Good," the panda nodded "Now go home and look up 'panda' in the dictionary." And with that, the panda walked out of the bar.

The barman was unsure, however he was very eager to be enlightened on the subject of his friend's murder, so he went home to find his dictionary.

After a while, he found 'panda' and quickly read the definition: PANDA: 1. A black and white bear native to China. Eats shoots and leaves.

Alberta's first-ever biogas conference garners worldwide interest

Experts from Europe and North America will share best practices for emerging sector.

Edmonton... Nearly 200 worldwide experts attended Alberta's first-ever biogas conference to explore how western Canada can develop energy from organic plant material and turn it into a strong, renewable energy option.

"Alberta is a leader in Canada's biogas industry. It's only appropriate we host international experts in a field that holds great promise for our province and our producers," said Doug Horner, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. The April 2-4 conference in Edmonton saw worldwide experts gather to share what works in other countries and what challenges face Alberta's emerging industry.

Horner believes the concept of biogas comes at an important time for Alberta producers.

"Bioenergy production, with biogas as a primary component, represents significant economic opportunity for producers and processors to creative new value chains, contribute to a cleaner environment and enhance rural development opportunities," he said.

To date five biogas plants have been commissioned in Alberta and no less than 10 municipalities are investigating the possibilities of biogas potential.

Bioenergy refers to all forms of renewable energy derived directly or indirectly from organic plant material. Biogas, a form of methane similar to natural gas, represents one of those components.

Horner said information gathered from the conference will be invaluable for the Alberta government as it works towards a long-term strategy for the bioenergy industry.



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The Royal LePage Shelter Foundation

Background

In 1979, the Royal LePage Charitable Foundation was established with an endowment of \$1.4 million. Since that time, the company has donated over \$2.3 million to many different charities working in communities across Canada. This contribution has been supplemented by many individual acts of kindness by Royal LePage offices and sales representatives in their local communities.

In 1998, Royal LePage recognized the potential for making an even more significant impact by focusing all of its national and local efforts on a single cause. This approach would enable the development of long-lasting relationships and build a common base of experience and knowledge that could be shared to the advantage of the charitable partners as well as the Royal LePage offices in their work in the community.

Royal LePage Shelter Foundation

The Royal LePage Shelter Foundation emerged from a national survey sent out to all offices. The Royal LePage sales force indicated that the cause of shelters most closely reflected their choice of where Royal LePage should concentrate its charitable efforts.

Given the variety of types of shelters, the Foundation decided to support designated shelters based on a three-year cycle. The national survey also indicated that a number of offices had developed partnerships with their local shelter for women and children fleeing violence and abuse. The first three-year focus starting in 1999, therefore centres on shelters for women and children fleeing violence and abuse. In each community where Royal LePage operates, the local office has been partnered with the local women's shelter. Existing partnerships with women's shelters continue to thrive, and new relationships have been developed thanks to our partnership with the Canadian Women's Foundation.

The Canadian Women's Foundation is Canada's only national public foundation dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through economic and social change. Since 1991, the Foundation has raised funds and made grants



royal le
 shelter fou

er Foundation - Fact Sheet

to charitable projects that help achieve self-reliance through economic independence and freedom from violence.

Shelter information

Shelters for assaulted women are also often called transition houses. They offer short-term accommodation for women and their children who need to leave their homes because of actual or threatened abuse. Often a woman arrives at a shelter in an emergency situation, having left home because she fears for her own and her children's safety.

The first shelter for assaulted women was started in Canada 25 years ago. Many others have started operating in the past 10 to 15 years. A number are quite new and they usually

have fewer resources and greater difficulty accessing government support.

While most shelters are funded to some extent by government, shelters for assaulted women are not a government service. They are almost all charitable/non-profit organizations.

Commitment of financial and human resources support

In 1998, Royal LePage announced that it would raise \$1M towards the cause of shelters for women and children fleeing violence and abuse. The funds are raised at two levels:

Head office activities, a contribution from the endowment, and other national initiatives, including donations through the United Way campaign, support the national grants program;

All local funds raised through special events and a commission-based donation arrangement by sales agents go directly to the local shelter partner.

In addition, Royal LePage employees and sales representatives have developed unique ways of working with their local shelter partners. The help organize events, sell tickets, form moving committees that help a woman and her children move out of the shelter, and record public service announcements speaking out against violence.

(Continued on page 26)



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Water conservation tips for a beautiful garden

(NC)-For many Canadians, manicuring the lawn and maintaining a beautiful garden continue to be a favourite hobby. Having a lush, green lawn and healthy garden helps homeowners create a backyard oasis that family and friends can enjoy all spring and summer long. While the desire for a beautiful yard continues to grow, Canadians are becoming more conscientious about water conservation. To help gardeners achieve a lush environment while conserving water, the lawn and garden team at Canadian Tire has put together some helpful tips.

tions may vary throughout the summer, the general rule of thumb is to water every four to seven days for between one and three hours, saturating the ground to a depth of six inches. Be careful not to over-water the lawn as it's just as harmful as under-watering.

- Using an outdoor timer, like the two-zone timer, en-

a direct drip watering system that focuses water flow on the desired area.

- Sure to be a hit this spring, micro-irrigation systems are inexpensive and easy to set up. They come with tubing, hardware and multiple spray heads to enable gardeners to create a customized watering system. Focusing water directly on the root, micro-irrigation systems help conserve water consumption while effectively providing nourishment to your garden and shrubs.

- To maintain a beautiful lawn without depleting water supplies, choose a tool like



ables you to program watering tools to run at any frequency and for any duration of time, ensuring you don't over-water. Watering directly to the root

- Consider the area that requires watering and choose the appropriate tool. For example, to help provide nourishment to trees, select a tree-base soaking hose that directs water to the base of the tree or to water flowerbeds, choose

the self-propelled travelling sprinkler that automatically pulls itself along a customized track, enabling the water to reach all areas of the yard equally and efficiently.

Gardening is a great way to get exercise and fresh air and by choosing the right tools, it can also be an affordable way to create a beautiful outdoor room for family and friends.

Timing is everything

- Water your plants early morning or late afternoon after the sun sets, to prevent water from evaporating and to maximize moisture. Water can also act like a magnifying glass and burn your lawn, so waiting until later in the day will ensure you prevent this from happening.
- While weather condi-

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(Continued from page 11)

even more sulphur from the gas stream. Bill Halaburda, Amoco Area Administration Supervisor, writes the following explanation regarding this process:

"Known as the 'Tail Gas Clean-Up Unit (TGPU)', the addition was the result of the Alberta Legislature's enactment of the 'Clean Air Act' in 1973. The act stipulated that a plant with the sulphur production capacity of West Whitecourt must increase its sulphur recovery from its then 95.5% to 98%.

The process used for the TGPU at West Whitecourt is called the 'Sulfreen Process'. This process utilizes four reactors which contain bauxite alumina catalyst. The sulphur plant tailgas passes through these reactors which recover the additional 2.5% sulphur required, and the residue gas goes on to the incinerator. The total cost of the unit, \$5,300,000.00, was shared by Texasgulf Inc. (owners of the sulphur plant), Amoco, operators of the whole plant complex, and Petrofina and Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas, co-owners with Amoco of the gas-processing portion of the plant."

Oil and gas service industries located area offices in Whitecourt, many expanding their facilities during this time. Trucking, electric, construction and equipment companies based on the oil and gas industry were helping form the backbone of Whitecourt's economy as well.

In 1970 Western Construction and Lumber reopened their Whitecourt mill with the addition of a chipper. In 1973 a complete modernization of the mill occurred. Between seventeen and twenty million board feet of lumber were shipped by Western each year from 1970 to 1975.

Throughout the 60's, McMillan-Bloedel retained their option on the timber reserves in the Whitecourt area. In 1964 they had acquired a faltering company along with the company's timber rights in this area and were granted an extension of their primary lease. In 1967 an announcement was made that McMillan-Bloedel would

proceed with the construction of a fifty million dollar forest products mill in 1968, to be opened in 1970, subject to settlement of certain details with the Alberta Government. These "details" appeared to be unsolvable and in 1970 McMillan-Bloedel were forced to give up their lease.

"In May, 1974, a Simpson site was announced in the Blue Ridge area twelve miles east of Whitecourt."

In December, 1973, Simpson Timber of Seattle was awarded the timber reserve and development rights in the Whitecourt area, which included part of the area previously held by McMillan-Bloedel. In January, 1974, Simpson announced their three phase plan for development, the first of which would be a sawmill to go into production in 1975.

In May, 1974, a Simpson site was announced in the Blue Ridge area twelve miles east of Whitecourt. Construction was started and the official opening occurred in the spring of 1976. Simpson has also acquired further rights in the Fox Creek and Swan Hills

areas, and put a sawmill into production at Fox Creek.

Next month coverage of the rest of the mid 1970's will finish off the current book on Whitecourt's history. A new book, updating Whitecourt's history to the current time is now in the works. The preceding is summarized from the book Sagitawah Saga. This book, with many photographs of early Whitecourt, is available at the Forest Interpretive Centre just west of the Royal Oak Inn or the Once Upon a Time book store next to the Vista Theatre.

Special thanks to the Whitecourt and District Heritage Society for some of the photographs in this article and for their past help. The foresight of this organization, and particularly its President, John Dahl Sr., has given Whitecourt a healthy start in the critical job of preserving its past. A major benefit of any such preservation is to learn from our history; and not just by avoiding repeating the mistakes of the past, as is highlighted in the common quotation on this matter. It is also important to observe what was beneficial, and to preserve such intan-

(Continued on page 20)



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(Continued from page 19)

gibles, along with physical reminders of our heritage.

There is an echo in this town from such founding fathers as William Torgerson, who fellow pioneer Jerry Graham described as a massive man, with a heart of gold, who "listened to more tales of woe and hard luck stories than most men, but unlike most men, he usually did something, or tried to do something." Jerry Graham himself donated a significant amount of land to help give the town a golf course. That this continues can be seen in the offer of 35 acres for the Multi-use facility by Jim Renne Sr.

This history series has also touched on pioneer J.W. Leedy, who was a previous governor of Kansas. He continued his populist crusade on standing up for the everyday person in Alberta. He is described in the provincial archives as being instrumental in setting up the United Farmers of Alberta, which governed the province for decades, before it morphed into the similarly highly principled Alberta Social Credit Party.

If you've ever felt there was something special about Whitecourt, that you couldn't quite put your finger on, it may very well have something to do with the legacy our pioneers have left us. §



Settlers arriving in Whitecourt in 1912

An amateur golfer is one who addresses the ball twice - once before swinging, and once again, after swinging.

Keeping Your Cat Healthy

1. Pick up cat and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.

2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.

3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.

4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of 10.

5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe.

6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, holding front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold cat's head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.

7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.

8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with its head just visible from below the spouse's armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force cat's mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.

9. Check label to make sure pill is not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.

10. Retrieve cat from neighbor's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.

11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Throw T-shirt away and fetch a new one from the bedroom.

12. Ring fire brigade to retrieve cat from tree across the street. Apologize to neighbor who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.

13. Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table. Find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Force cat's mouth open with small spanner. Push pill followed by a large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour pint of water down throat to wash pill down.

14. Get spouse to drive you to emergency room; sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Stop by furniture shop on way home to order new table.

15. Arrange for vet to make a house call

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Whitecourt Events May 2006

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RCMP Fun Run

Saturday, May 13. Time: The Run Starts at 10:00 AM, registration begins at 8:00 AM

Location: Whitecourt Fire Hall

Cost: \$15.00 registration prior to April 21

\$25.00 registration after April 21

\$60.00 registration for a family (must register prior to April 25 and all must be immediate family members to qualify)

Contact Number: Community Services 778-6300

Event Description: The 5 km course stays in the valley and is, therefore, all flat with no hills! The run course will be clearly marked. This is a fun event in which people of any fitness level are welcome to run or walk the course. Strollers are permitted and children under 12 are welcome to ride their bikes. Wheelchair accessible. Please, no pets.

All participants will receive a quality t-shirt to commemorate the event.

Bike Rodeo

Thursday, May 11 or Wednesday, May 17 - 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Location: Twin Arenas parking lot

Cost: \$5.00

Contact Number: Community Services 778-6610

Event Description: This is a bicycle safety-training program designed to create good cycling habits at a young age. Join a member of the Whitecourt RCMP to learn how to be a safe cyclist. This clinic will provide the fundamentals of bicycling including such things as being road wise, signaling, shoulder checking, helmet checks performed by Aspen Health and much, much more. This program is designed for those participants without training wheels. Helmets are mandatory.

Declaration of Monetary Justice

Ed - The following was designed by economists, lawyers and others who are concerned about the obsolescence of our current money creation system. Although the declaration is directed at the American system, the design could equally apply to the unjust system operating in Canada. For more information see: www.globaljusticemovement.org.

The overall mission of this initiative has been succinctly summed up by Buckminster Fuller as follows: "To make the world work for 100% of humanity in the shortest possible time, through spontaneous cooperation, without ecological offense or the disadvantage of anyone."

Binary economists Louis Kelso and Mortimer Adler provided a more specific analysis regarding current problems when they wrote: "today, in Western industrial society, we see toil advancing claims on the whole life at the very moment of history when technology offers liberation. Leisure and the liberal-arts tradition are giving way to the totalitarian work state which has no place for whole men, only "human resources" and servile functionaries. The totalitarian toil state originates in the propertylessness of the majority."

WHEREAS, the United States economy is today plagued by a growing gap between the rich and the non-rich; by continuing erosion of income security and quality of family life; by debilitating waste and underemployment of human talent; by inadequate growth alongside shackled technological potential; by growing dependency on foreign energy supplies; by record-level trade and governmental budget deficits; and by an estimated \$74 trillion Social Security and Medicare revenue shortfall added to historically high Federal debt being imposed on young Americans and generations not yet born; and

WHEREAS, the sustainable growth and energy self-sufficiency of the American economy in the Twenty-First Century will require trillions of dollars each year of new and im-

(Continued on page 22)

Volunteers Needed

Advocates for all Bullied Canadians is a non-profit group offering FREE confidential advice and support for anyone in a bullying situation. Call (780) 779-4780 or email imnotabully@hotmail.com for more info. Board members needed!

Write Soon Literacy Society is a non-profit organization that offers FREE tutoring for adults that need assistance with Reading, Writing, Math and/or English as a Second Language. Please call (780) 778-5510 or email wsls@telus.net for more info. Volunteer tutors & students needed!

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TO THIS END, we hereby petition the Federal Reserve Board to adopt a two-tiered money-creation and credit policy that sharply distinguishes between ownership-expanding productive capital credit, and ownership-concentrating and non-productive uses of credit. The upper tier, reflecting the higher market costs of borrowing money from existing domestic and foreign savings pools and existing assets, should continue to be maintained as a source of market-rate credit to public-sector borrowers, consumers, speculators, and for all other non-productive purposes. The Federal Reserve discount rate for the lower tier should be reduced to no higher than 0.5 percent, to cover the Fed's cost of administering the linkage between growth in the overall money supply with ownership-broadening, non-inflationary productive growth in the U.S. economy.

This new reservoir of Federal Reserve monetized credit should be reserved exclusively for commercial bank members of the Federal Reserve System to the extent they in turn make available in equal periodic allotments to every citizen through "Capital Homestead Accounts" (Special IRAs) direct access to capital credit at reasonable service charges and risk premiums, with prime rates set by market forces above the 0.5% cost of money to the member banks. Such expanded bank credit should not be subsidized by the taxpayers and should be backed and collateralized by widely-owned private sector assets and insured against the risk of default by commercial capital credit insurers and reinsurers.

Such ownership-broadening capital credit borrowed through local banks at the lower tier rates could be invested in "qualified" securities such as newly issued full-dividend payout, full voting shares in a company for which a member of the citizen's household works; companies in which the citizen's household has a monthly billing account; for-profit Community Investment Corporations organized for large-scale local land and infrastructural development; Employee Stock Ownership Plans; production and marketing cooperatives and partnerships; family-owned and -operated businesses and farms; and mature companies with a history of solid earnings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Declaration of Monetary Justice be sent to the President and to each member of Congress and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Adopted on April 15, 2005 at the founding ceremony at the Federal Reserve Building in Washington, D.C.

proved, life-enhancing technology, rentable space and physical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, as early as 1977, has declared broad-based ownership of new capital as an effective strategy for raising national productivity, and President George W. Bush has reiterated this policy in his call for an "ownership society", and

WHEREAS, the national goal of creating an ownership society has been seriously frustrated by the systemic concentration of economic power and exclusionary access to future capital credit to the advantage of the wealthiest Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Reserve System has stifled the growth of America's productive capacity through its monetary policy, by monetizing public sector growth and mounting Federal debt; by favoring Wall Street speculators over Main Street commercial bankers; by shortchanging the capital credit needs of entrepreneurs, inventors, farmers and workers; by increasing the dependency of families by burdening them with usurious consumer credit; and by perpetuating unjust capital credit and ownership barriers between rich Americans and those without savings; and

WHEREAS, there is a fundamental difference between asset-backed credit for productive uses and debt-backed credit for non-productive uses or consumption, the first being critical for stimulating private sector investment, savings and the supply of new marketable wealth, and the second being used to give people more inflated dollars to chase the same supply of existing wealth; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Reserve Board is now empowered under Section 13 of the Federal Reserve Act to reform monetary policy to discourage non-productive and speculative uses of credit, to encourage accelerated rates of private sector growth, and to promote widespread individual access to productive credit as a fundamental right of citizenship;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Congress amend the Federal Reserve Act to require the Federal Reserve Board to stop monetizing government debt through its buying and selling of U.S. Treasury securities, and to begin re-activating its discount mechanism to encourage private sector growth linked to expanded ownership opportunities for

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Taking pictures are a snap with waterproof and kidproof cameras

(NC)-Picnics, camping, swimming, hiking, canoe trips. Canada has it all for those with a penchant for the outdoors during the summer months. We all want to capture these moments with friends and family.

Up until recently, vacationers would hesitate in taking a digital camera on a canoe trip or beach vacation for fear of water damage. There are a few options available today for outdoor adventures. A versatile choice is the waterproof and shock proof Stylus 720 SW digital camera from Olympus.

Sally Smith Clemens from Olympus has a few suggestions for taking great underwater and outdoor pictures this summer:

- Underwater air bubbles can cover either your subject or the camera's lens so be sure to hold your breath while the picture is snapped.
- Avoid stomping in the sand while taking photos as this will cloud the water.
- Using a flash underwater can illuminate underwater debris causing them to cloud the view between you and your subject. Be sure to get as close as you can to your subject when using flash underwater.
- When taking a photo of your kids underwater, try setting the camera in the close-up mode and face each other. Grab each others forearms and hold on tight so that you won't float away from each other when the photo is taken. - News Canada



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Make your home a hot item this spring

(NC)-The arrival of Spring marks the beginning of a busy real-estate season. With the warmer temperatures and the sense of renewal, many Canadians start looking for a fresh start to the year with a new home. This trend also makes it a good time of year for those looking to sell their home.

“In order to help get top-dollar for your home, there are some easy renovations that homeowners can make to increase the resale value of their property,” says Brett Henderson, Insulation Expert, Owens Corning Canada. “Creating an appealing exterior can help make a good first impression, but some of the interior renovations - such as upgraded insulation - can provide an important selling feature. Insulation can help reduce energy costs, control noise and create a comfortable environment.”

Save Money

Energy savings can be an important consideration for potential buyers. A home that is properly insulated will be much more energy efficient as heat flow between inside and outside is reduced to a minimum. This means that in winter you need less heat to keep your house warm and in summer the air conditioning is more effective. The financial savings, as well as environmental benefits, of an energy-efficient home are an attractive benefit to homebuyers. In addition, sellers can emphasize the fact that the benefits of insulation will last for the lifetime of the house.



Reduce Noise

In addition to helping reduce energy bills, insulation can also help block and muffle unwanted household noise. By installing QuietZone, Acoustical Batts and resilient channels within interior walls, homeowners can maximize the noise reduction. When potential buyers visit the house, challenge them to compare the noise levels in your home to other homes they visit.

Maximize Comfort

A well insulated home will remain cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. In addition, temperatures will be more consistent throughout the home. Sellers can emphasize these benefits to potential buyers. After all, everyone wants their home to be as comfortable as possible.

Other Touch-Ups

Some other renovations and touch-ups that homeowners might consider before putting their house on the market include:

- Refurbishing worn fences, mailboxes, and lamp posts. Make sure they are up to standards with the rest on your street.
- Removing grease or oil spots on driveways and walkways.
- Clean up all debris outside and keep your lawn freshly mown to create a good first impression.
- Renovate to add more space. By clearing out and cleaning up hidden places in your home such as your basement, crawl space, garage and attic, you can make your home more spacious and appealing to potential buyers.

Before putting your home on the market, consider undertaking some simple DIY insulation renovations. Improving your home will increase your chances of a quicker and more profitable sale.

For more information on household renovations and insulation, call 800-GET-PINK or visit www.owenscorning.ca.
- News Canada

Famous Sports Quote: Frank Layden, Utah Jazz president, on a former player: “I told him, ‘Son, what is it with you? Is it ignorance or apathy?’”

He said, ‘Coach, I don’t know and I don’t care.’”

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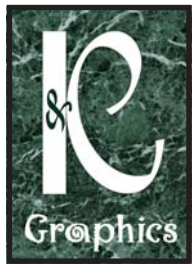
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(Continued from page 17)

National Program

In order to make a longer-term impact on the issue of shelters, the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation supports grants for violence prevention and awareness programs. This is done in partnership with The Body Shop Canada and the Canadian Pacific Charitable Foundation using an innovative model for strategic corporate philanthropy developed by the Canadian Women's Foundation.

Under this model, the corporate partners who all support national violence prevention and awareness, work with the Canadian Women's Foundation to coordinate their grant-making. Charitable groups apply through one process to access the funding available and the corporate partners can make grants that balance national projects and priorities with available resources.

Local Program

Locally, funds are generated by commission-based donations made by sales representatives, and are used directly to support the local shelter. Each Royal LePage office also develops unique ways to support their local shelter.



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(Continued from page 13)

statutory requirement for written reports, to include a requirement that contracting be open, fair and transparent, and to add a new definition of advertising to distinguish it from collateral services such as public relations or events management.

- Appoint an independent advisor for a period of six months to conduct a full review of public opinion research practices discussed in Chapter 5 of the Auditor General's November 2003 report and determine whether further action, such as a judicial inquiry, is required.
- Require departments and agencies to post contract information on public opinion research and executive summaries of completed projects on the Internet for ease of public access.

Providing protection for whistleblowers

- Make the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner an Agent of Parliament with an expanded mandate.
- Give public-sector employees direct access to the Commissioner to report wrongdoing in the workplace.
- Give the Commissioner the authority to deal with complaints, conduct investigations, and attempt to conciliate a settlement between parties.
- Create an independent Public Servants Disclosure Protection Tribunal, with the power to decide whether reprisal occurred and to order action to remedy the situation and ensure that those who took reprisal are disciplined.
- Introduce specific penalties for offenses under the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act*, including tougher penalties for those who willfully impede investigations of wrongdoing.
- Give the Commissioner the power to authorize free access to legal advice for both public-sector and non-public-sector employees.
- Remove the ability of the Government to exclude Crown Corporations from coverage under the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act*.

Help end breast cancer.

I'm looking forward to another 60 kilometre walk for the Alberta Cancer Foundation in Edmonton. This year my goal is to match or exceed the \$6,260.00 I raised last year. With your support I can do it again!!

For pledges please drop into the Post Office and ask for Gerry or mail Box 1374, Whitecourt, AB - T7S 1P2

- Provide more open access to information about disclosures of wrongdoing.
- Recognize and reward public-sector employees who expose wrongdoing by instituting a special recognition award of up to \$1,000.

Strengthening access to information legislation

- Expand the coverage of the *Access to Information Act* to the following Agents of Parliament, Crown Corporations, and foundations created under federal statute:
 - Office of the Information Commissioner, Office of the Privacy Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Public Sector Integrity Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying
 - Canada Post, Via Rail, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Atomic Energy of Canada, Export Development Canada, National Arts Centre, Public Service Pension Investment Board
 - Canada Foundation for Innovation, Canada Foundation for Sustainable Development Technology, Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation
- Provide a duty for institutions to assist requesters without regard for their identity, and clarify the time limit for making a complaint under the ATIA.
- Separate draft bill that reflects the Information Commissioner's recommendations, along with a discussion paper to highlight a variety of issues and options for discussion

Strengthening the power of the Auditor General

- Give the AG the authority to "follow the money" by inquiring into the use of funds that individuals, institutions and companies receive under a funding agreement with any federal department, agency or

(Continued on page 28)

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(Continued from page 27)

Crown corporation.

- Require the Government to include the provisions in all funding agreements that recipients keep records and cooperate with the AG on request.
- Require every department to review, at least once every five years, the relevance and effectiveness of its grants and contributions programs.
- Ensure that the Office of the Auditor General has adequate resources to fulfill its mandate
- Government will establish an independent blue-ribbon panel to review the draft policy on transfer payments, identify barriers to accessing grants and contributions programs and consider eliminating legislative barriers and report to the President of the Treasury Board by December 2006.

Strengthening auditing and accountability within departments

- Designate ministers and deputy heads as accounting officers who are accountable before the appropriate committee of Parliament to answer questions related to their responsibilities
- Require that a clear process be followed in the event that a minister and deputy minister are unable to agree on the interpretation or application of a Treasury Board policy, directive or standard.



- Require that deputy heads ensure an appropriate internal audit capacity and establish departmental audit committees.
- Ensure that audit committees in Crown corporations are independent of corporation management.
- Make fraud involving public funds committed by officials an offence, carrying a maximum term of five years in prison for fraud of \$5,000 or less, a maximum term of 14 years in prison for fraud over \$5,000 and automatic dismissal for any official convicted of this offence.
- The Government will implement the new *Treasury Board Internal Audit Policy* and develop a compliance framework that includes training and tools for employees, disciplinary codes to provide clarity on misconduct and related consequences, and consistent application of disciplinary measures.

Creating a Director of Public Prosecutions

- Create the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to reside outside the Department of Justice (the Director will be selected in a manner similar to that used to make the most recent appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada).
- Give the Director of Public Prosecutions jurisdiction to conduct prosecutions for offences under federal jurisdiction, including new fraud provisions proposed under amendments to the *Financial Administration Act*.
- Give the Director the power to make binding and final decisions on whether to prosecute, unless the Attorney General instructs the Director to do otherwise by means of public written notice
- Require that the Director submit an annual report to the Attorney General for tabling in Parliament

Two boll weevils grew up in South Carolina. One went to Hollywood and became a famous actor. The other stayed behind in the cotton fields and never amounted to much. The second one, naturally, became known as the lesser of two weevils.

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Unintended Consequences

After graduation, Joe decided to return to his small town and open a law office.

The first day, he saw a man coming up the sidewalk and decided to make a big impression on this new client. As the man came to the door, Joe picked up the phone. He motioned the man in, all the while talking.

“No. Absolutely not. You tell those clowns in New York that I won’t settle this case for less than one million. Yes. The Appeals Court has agreed to hear that case next week. I’ll be handling the primary argument and the other members of my team will provide support.”

This sort of thing went on for almost five minutes. All the while the man sat patiently as Joe rattled off instructions. Finally, Joe put down the phone and turned to the man.

“I’m sorry for the delay, but as you can see, I’m very busy. What can I do for you?”

The man replied, “I’m from the phone company. I came to hook up your phone.”

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(Town from page 5)

project and our community.

The Communities In Bloom Committee has developed a number of projects for the community to undertake in its first year as a participant in the national program. Whitecourt Town Council approved the following initiatives: Residential, Commercial and Industrial Beautification Contests; Park and Public Area Beautification Projects; Adopt A Banner; Follow the Yellow Fish Road Program; Native Grass, Plants and Tree Awareness Program; and Pitch-In Canada Week. For more information on Communities In Bloom, call Rachel at the Community Services Department at 778-6300.

April 24 to 29 marks Pitch-In Canada Week. The Communities In Bloom Committee encourages residents to join family and friends and pitch-in to clean up our parks, trails and recreation areas. Free garbage bags are available at the Town of Whitecourt’s Planning and Works Department. Full garbage bags will be picked up

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- Housekeepers
- Front Desk Person
- Maintenance Person (would suit semi-retired person)

\$10.30/hr to start \$12.00/hr

Experienced

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Gamblers Anonymous

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United Church

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Call Sue

778-6230

from park entrances following Pitch-In Week. Remember to take photos.

A policeman recently stopped a woman for speeding. He asked the driver her name and where she was from.

She said, “I’m Mrs. Gladiolas Abdulkhashim Zybkcicraznovskaya from the Republic of Uzbekistan visiting my daughter in Tallahassee.”

The cop put away his summons book and pen, and said “Well... OK... but don’t let me catch you speeding again.”



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Content arranged by Tiddlee Winx Toys 'n' Stuff

Answer from page 1.
 Obscure



Colouring for Mom

What happens when a teacher looks into a bright light?
 His pupils shrink.

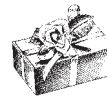
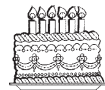
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How to make the perfect margarita

By Karen Petcoff

(NC)-Hail the margarita. One sip of that flavour fiesta and you know summer has finally arrived. Knowing how to make the perfect margarita can make you as popular as a sunny afternoon in July. Perfect for the backyard patio or cottage deck, these cocktails are as fun and easy to create as the day is long.

Begin with the freshest ingredients and remember, the better the tequila, the better the margarita. Try a premium tequila like Margaritaville's Blanco or Oro, a favourite of Jimmy Buffett. Keep it authentic by serving your margarita on the rocks, lightly salted in a fabulous long or short stem margarita glass.

- 1) Fill shaker with broken cubed ice
- 2) Squeeze 2 fresh lime wedges into shaker
- 3) Add 2 oz. of Margaritaville Tequila Oro (or Blanco)
- 4) Add 1 1/4 oz. of Lime Juice
- 5) Add 1/2 oz. of Triple Sec



6) Add a splash of Orange Curacao

7) Cover shaker & shake vigorously

8) Rim glass with lime peel and salt, add fresh ice

9) Strain mixture over ice

10) Squeeze in 1 lime wedge

11) Enjoy

Garnish with grated lime rind or your favourite summer fruit.

For more recipe ideas visit Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville at www.margaritavilletequila.com. Karen Petcoff is a Canadian event planner and marketing executive.

- News Canada

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