



# Preserving Our Lifeline

June 2006

To contact the Bow River Basin Council, call 403-254-3419  
Visit: [www.brbc.ab.ca](http://www.brbc.ab.ca)

## Bow River Basin Council Annual Report 2005-2006

### Report from the Chairman

2005 was a milestone year for the Council: we published our second State of the Basin Report, obtained WPAC status and hosted a very successful IceBreaker Gala. 2006 saw the Council focus on building capacity and engaging members to support planning and outreach activities across Alberta.

Within the Basin, we saw three of our newest committees kick into high gear: Legislation and Policy; Watershed Management Plan and Technical (Pathfinding) Committee. Each of these teams will play an increasingly important role as we carry out our planning mandate. We've grown accustomed to the high standards set by our Communications and Education Committee: its work on our newsletter (Preserving Our Lifeline), the State of the Basin Roadshow and updated brochures/displays created a very recognizable image in the community. The Gala Committee spearheaded our second annual IceBreaker event and early indications are that it will contribute much-needed funds to our work.

We also took the time to restructure our quarterly Forums to provide members with more opportunities to learn, network and debate issues of critical importance to water, land and resource managers throughout the Basin. We supplemented our schedule with our inaugural Ground-

water Forum in June, bringing together researchers and policy-makers to examine this important issue.

At the same time, we invested heavily in bringing together Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPAC) throughout the Province. The BRBC hosted monthly conference calls for all WPACs and supported the first bi-annual WPAC Summit in February. We regularly meet our counterparts and support their forums and planning activities.

In addition, as the WPAC representative on the Alberta Water Council (AWC), I have the opportunity to get other BRBC members engaged in the AWC's committee activities to ensure strong representation as the AWC tackles the issues of Wetlands Policy, Conservation Targets, Policy and Legislation and Communications amongst others. The BRBC is well-represented and providing leadership at many turns.

Finally, we achieved major breakthroughs in funding for future development of tools and resources needed to support our planning efforts. With donations from the Calgary Foundation and Suncor, we can now fund the preparation of our business plan for our Information Portal and Dialogue Tools that will support a broader outreach to the far reaches of the Basin. Look for many exciting developments in



*BRBC Chair Bill Berzins talks to an interested participant at Red-Bow Regional Watersheds Alliance Watersheds in Action III conference in Feb. 2006*

this area in the year ahead.

Thanks again to all of you for your commitment, your wit, your wisdom and your time. It is both a privilege and a pleasure to work with you as we work towards a sustainable future.

Kindest Regards

Bill Berzins

Chair Bow River Basin Council



## Support for BRBC flows in the right direction

The Bow River Basin Council is doing something right, judging from the increased levels of support.

Total monetary contributions rose to \$623,039.35 from \$438,847.48 in the last fiscal year. That represents a growth rate of 41%. Support from Alberta Environment remained constant at \$250,000.

The contributions came from a variety of sources, including:

• Alberta Environment (Annual Grant)	\$250,000.00
• Directed Donations	\$204,050.00
• Ice Breaker Gala (2005)	\$ 75,455.00
• Ground Water Workshop/Information Portal (2006)	\$35,000.00
• Annual Giving (Direct Mail)	\$26,525.00
• Ice Breaker Gala (2006)	\$20,400.00
• State of the Basin Report	\$ 9,550.00
• Miscellaneous	\$ 1,239.35
• Publications	\$ 650.00
• New Members	\$ 170.00

Directed donations are contributions made from organizations requiring a tax receipt to BRBC member organizations that do not have a registered charity designation.

While there is no charge for membership, new members from time to time do make contributions to the BRBC when they join. BRBC recognizes these contributions with an official tax receipt.

## First Ice Breaker Gala sets high standard

The first annual Ice Break Gala set a high-water mark for future BRBC fund-raising events.

Four hundred and five supporters dined, danced and bid on live and silent auction items to support watershed management in the Bow River Basin.

Net revenue to the BRBC was \$65,508.98 on \$138,455.00 raised, after expenses of \$72,946.02.

In addition to raising funds for the Bow River Basin Council, the evening paid tribute to the Honorable Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta; The Honorable Dr. Lorne Taylor, former Minister of the Environment for Alberta; and Mr. Jack Donahue QC as the founders of the Bow River Basin Council. Alderman Barry Erskine presented the awards.

Siksika Elder, Tom Cranebear started the evening with a Native Blessing.

The Honourable Guy Boutilier, Minister of the Environment presented the BRBC with a cheque for \$250,000 representing Alberta Environment's annual contribution.

Dr. Arlene Kwasniak, prominent environmental lawyer and author, delivered the keynote address "Education is the Key to Water Management."

Chairman of the BRBC Board of Directors, Bill Berzins, delivered The State of the Bow River Basin 2005 Report. Attendees danced until midnight to Metrobeat.



*Premier Ralph Klein receives a copy of the State of the Bow River Basin Report from Jay White and Gary Kindrat.*

The BRBC gratefully recognizes the support of Alberta Environment, Big Rock Brewery, The City of Calgary Waterworks/Wastewater, Cochrane Dodge, Earth Tech, Eastern Irrigation District, Enbridge, EnCana, IPEX, Komex, MPE Engineering, Terasen Utility Services and TransAlta. Bob Nicholson was the MC for the evening.

*POL Editors: Claudette Lacombe, umbel@myiplus.net, and Maureen Lynch, maureen\_lynch@hotmail.com, accept, edit and compile content.*

*The Education and Communication Committee provide final approval of all content based on the Editorial Guidelines available through [www.brbc.ab.ca](http://www.brbc.ab.ca)*

# The Council gratefully acknowledges the following supporters:

## Regulatory/Administrative/First Nations

Alberta Environment  
 Calgary Health Region  
 Environment Canada  
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
 Siksika Nation

## Licensees

Bow River Irrigation District  
 Eastern Irrigation District (Gala Sponsor)  
 TransAlta Utilities (Gala Sponsor)

## Non Member Supporters

Aeonian Capitol Corporation  
 Alberta Conservation Association  
 Alberta EcoTrust  
 Alberta Irrigation Projects Association  
 Thomas Anderson  
 ATCO Gas  
 Mark Altwasser  
 Ken Baker  
 Kim Ballentine  
 Mark Bennett  
 Gordon & Stella Bennett  
 Big Rock Brewery  
 Julia Blackburn  
 Bordan Ladner Gervais  
 Greg Burrows  
 Calgary Foundation  
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 Walter Chayka  
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 John Dietich  
 Ronald Dooley  
 Melvin Foht  
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 Cochrane Dodge  
 Harry Chase (MLA)  
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 Bernie Gristwood  
 Mark HimelSmith  
 Hartel Holdings  
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 Terrance Hintern  
 Ronald Hust

## Commercial /Industrial Members

AMEC  
 Brown and Associates  
 Clearwater Environmental Consultants  
 Earth Tech  
 Fossil Water  
 Glencoe Golf & Country Club  
 Golder Associates  
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 Summit Environmental  
 Urban Systems  
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Imperial Oil  
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 Rocky View Utility Corporation  
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 Dan Shield  
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 Strathcona County Utilities  
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 Suncor Energy Foundation  
 University of Lethbridge  
 Michel Vaders  
 Eric Van Roon  
 Westin Hotel  
 Steven Winkelman



## Municipal Members

City of Calgary  
 MD of Big Horn  
 MD of Rocky View  
 Town of Banff  
 Town of Canmore  
 Town of Okotoks  
 Town of Turner Valley

## Individual Public Members

Bernie Amell  
 Wendy Aupers  
 Connie Baines  
 Christine Cadman  
 Fannie Desrosiers  
 Roger Drury  
 Pamela Duncan  
 Susan Ellis  
 Jon Fennell  
 Jean Franklin  
 James Guthrie  
 Cornelia Heydenreich  
 John Jagorinec  
 Richard Jones  
 Barry Kobryn  
 Claudette Lacombe  
 Maureen Lynch  
 Steve Meadows

## Non-Profit Members

CPAWS  
 Ducks Unlimited  
 Heinz Unger  
 Partners FOR the SSRB  
 RiverWatch  
 Western Sky Land Trust

Karen Natsukoshi  
 Joe Patterson  
 A. Roome-Sandrin  
 Jennifer Rowell  
 Paul Sabatini  
 Cathy Smith  
 Sandra Stead  
 Judy Stewart  
 Jane Towes  
 Heinz Unger  
 Chris Vermeeren  
 Don Weisbeck  
 Dennis Westhoff  
 Jay White  
 A Warren Wilson  
 Earl Wilson  
 Gloria Wilkinson  
 Zennon Zalusky



# Financial Statements

THE BOW RIVER BASIN COUNCIL SOCIETY

(Incorporated Under The Societies Act of Alberta)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2006

	<u>Assets</u>	
Current	2006	2005
Cash	\$ 156,082	\$ 255,652
Investments	255,587	135,222
Accounts receivable	<u>15,217</u>	<u>5,622</u>
	<u><u>\$ 426,886</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 396,496</u></u>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

	<u>Liabilities</u>	
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 11,640	\$ 11,893
Deferred revenue	<u>29,524</u>	<u>60,495</u>
	\$ 41,164	\$ 72,388

	<u>Net Assets</u>	
General Fund Balance	\$ 385,723	\$ 324,108
	<u><u>\$ 426,887</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 396,496</u></u>



The Bow River Basin Council Society  
Statement of General Fund Operations  
for the year ended March 31, 2006



	<u>Revenues</u>	
	2006	2005
Province of Alberta grant	\$250,000	\$250,000
Federal government grant	500	57,000
Other Alberta grant	8,650	--
Municipal Grants	65,050	28,412
Corporate donations	162960	34,332
Individual donations	6,295	--
Net Gala contribution	62,371	--
In-Kind donations	14,080	14,080
Interest income	4,028	3,181
Cost recoveries	--	1,483
	<u>\$573934</u>	<u>\$391,721</u>

	<u>Expenditure</u>	
Audit fee	\$1,500	\$1,800
Contract services	66986	79,566
Legal fees	200	536
Meeting and seminar expenses	18,591	9,422
Membership fees	188	400
Office and administrative expenses	27,146	13987
Office rent	13,080	13,080
Project expense	235,847	114,003
Staff Salaries	137,495	134,270
Travel and accomodation expense	4,718	4,215
GST expense	6,568	5,622
	<u>512,319</u>	<u>376901</u>
<b>Excess of Revenue over Expenditure</b>	<u><b>\$61,615</b></u>	<u><b>\$14,820</b></u>

This is a summary of the BRBC's financial statements. Complete audited statements are available through the office.

Please contact Mike Murray at (403)254-3419. The financial statement notes are not included in the summary above.

## Volunteer Committees Work for the BRBC

The BRBC owes much of its success to the 10,000+ hours per year of in-kind volunteer work carried out by its volunteer committees with the support of Executive Director Mark Bennett and Administrator Mike Murray.

The **Bow Basin Advisory Committee** is in recess awaiting approval of its draft report. Steve Meadows chairs this committee with Vice Chairs Heinz Unger and Richard Phillips. Other members include Bernie Amell, Bert Van Duin, Bob Everett, Maureen Bell, Chris Mander-son, Chris Vermeeren, Danielle Droitsch, David Bears paw Jr., Earl Wilson, Ethel Winnipeg, Gary Kindrat, Gloria Wilkin-son, Gordon MacMahon, Lydia Hill, Hugh Pepper, Judy Stewart, Melanie Cooke, Mona Keffer, Paul Fesko, Norm Carlson, Rob Wolfe, Roger Drury, Sheena Majewski, Stella Riesen, Jim Webber and Yin Deong.

The **Education & Communications Commit-tee** produced a brochure and a fact sheet on glaciers; prepared for the State of the Basin Road Show; updated the web site [www.brbc.ab.ca](http://www.brbc.ab.ca), completed the display, conducted membership surveys and produced three newsletters. Norm Carlson chairs the committee and members include Amanda Bogen, Maureen Lynch, Nancy Stalker, Neil Thrussel, Tim Giese, Tracy Tarves, Edie Smith and Claudette Lacombe.

Umbel Communications provides editorial and publishing support to the Council.

The **Legislation and Policy Committee** developed a land use by-law template for municipalities. Judy Stewart chairs this committee made up of Bert Van Duin, Chris Manderson, Danielle Droitsch, Heather Stinton, Les Wetter, Mac Hickley, Maureen Bell and Tim Giese.



### BRBC Board Members

BRBC Chair Bill Berzins  
Commercial/Industrial

BRBC Vice Chair Barry Erskine  
Municipal Government

BRBC Vice Chair Jay White  
Commercial/Industrial

BRBC Treasurer Zennon Zalusky  
Municipal Government

Chris Vermeeren  
Municipal Government

Maureen Bell  
Commercial/Industrial

Judy Stewart  
Individual Public Member

Steve Meadows  
Individual Public Member

Richard Phillips  
Licensee

Earl Wilson  
Licensee

Dr. Cathy Ryan  
Non-profit/Academia

Norman Carlson  
Regulatory, Administrative, First Nations

Robert Crow Chief  
Regulatory, Administrative, First Nations

Rob Wolfe  
Regulatory, Administrative, First Nations

### Bow Basin Water Management Plan Steering committee

*Front left to right: Danielle Droitsch, Chris Vermeeren, James Guthrie, Rob Wolfe, Paul Fesko, Gary Kindrat, Dave Bears paw, Lydia Hill, Shirley Pickering, Hugh Pepper, Wally Chinn, Richard Phillips, Gloria Wilkinson, Sheena Majewski and Tracy Scott*



### Bow Basin Water Management Plan Technical Committee

*Back left to right: Matthew Coombs, Gerald Ontkean, Rob Wolfe, John Jagorinec, Richard Barss, Sheena Majewski (Vice-Chair), Trevor Rhodes, Al Sosiak*

*Front left to right: Joanne Little, J.P. Bechtold, Patsy Cross.*

## Educational forums help keep members informed and engaged

The BRBC hosts quarterly member forums the second Wednesday of June, September, December and March. The forums provide the membership an opportunity to learn, network and debate important issues, which strengthens individuals and our organization through increased capacity to understand the diverse issues in the basin.

Forum presentations cover a wide range of topics. Most recently, attendees received information on the State of the Basin Report; a review of 2005 and a look forward; an explanation of the proposed information portal and GIS tools; reviews of total loading limits, the SSRB Water Management Plan, the Integrated Water Management Plan, water quality indicators, water law, water conservation, the value of water, thermal mapping, soil ecology response to disturbance and water quality and control in the Western Irrigation District.

Also, members received up dates from the Education and Communications Committee, the Legislation and Policy Committee



and the Alberta Water Council.

Each forum allows members to present snapshots of their organizations. In the last year, the Ghost Watershed Alliance Society, the Tri-Community Water Initiative, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, University of Calgary Environmental Science, River Valleys Committee, Cows and Fish Society and the City of Calgary all made brief presentations of what is happening in their organizations.

For the first time, the BRBC staged a formal Discussion Session. Steve Meadows P. Eng. and Richard Phillips P. Eng. lead the group in an examination of the implications of the potential moratorium on granting water allocation licenses. Like most debates that try to resolve the issues of quality versus quantity, this one did not result in consensus, but did illustrate the diversity of well-informed opinions within key water management areas.

## Community outreach project visits five basin communities

After the 2005 release of the State of the Bow River Basin report, the Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) wanted to reach out to basin residents with the findings of the report.

The BRBC put a copy of the report into every community and school library in the basin. The Council felt the report also deserved an awareness campaign.

In 2006, the Education and Communications Committee (E&C) took on the task of planning and implementing a project that would maximize its reach to basin residents. During preliminary discussions, E&C stressed the need to reach out to high school students as well as the public.

E&C hired an overall coordinator for the project and solicited voluntary community coordinators to arrange two presentations in each community; one to a school group and an open session for the public.

Community coordinators in five basin communities came forward: Canmore, Cochrane, Brooks, Strathmore and Okotoks. Jay White and Gary Kindrat,

Co-Chairs of the State of the Basin Report Committee, volunteered to make the presentations.

The project quickly became the Bow Basin Roadshow and Jay and Gary nicknamed themselves the Shedheads.

In April of 2006 after months of planning, the Shedheads went on tour and gave 11 presentations in five communities over five days. Jay and Gary also spent time in each community with local water management experts and decision-makers; which turned the Roadshow into a learning experience for them. Bob Sandford, Judy Stewart, Earl Wilson, Jim Webber and Maureen Lynch added greatly to Jay and Gary's learning experience.

None of this excellent learning opportunity for the communities and the Shedheads could have occurred without the help of the community volunteer coordinators.

They were: Laura Marshall, Canmore; Tim Giese & Lisa Fox, Cochrane; Earl Wilson, Brooks; Claudette Lacombe,



Strathmore and Maureen Lynch & Wendy Aupers, Okotoks.

Also integral to the success of the Roadshow were Alberta Ecotrust, Eastern Irrigation District, Western Irrigation District, Towns of Canmore & Banff, M.D. of Bighorn and Cochrane Environmental Action Committee.



*Gary Kindrat, Bob Sandford - Canadian Chair UN Water for Life Decade - and Jay White in Canmore*

## BRBC appeals to a broad membership

Satisfaction survey indicates rising interest

The latest Bow River Basin Council Satisfaction Survey reflects its 176 active participants well. Over a quarter of the members (67) viewed the survey and 42 participants took the time to complete it. Survey results indicate the following:

- 88% see the BRBC as an effective organization;
- 98% are happy with the quarterly educational forums.

When asked what they like most about the organization, members comments included:

“Networking, the considerable opportunity for affecting policies, plans and other documents that are filtered for approval through the membership.”

“Professionalism”

“Ability of different stakeholders to express opinions face to face, ask questions and gain insight into other points of view.”

“The way it brings together people with common interests, but different opinions...”

“Listening to the other view”

“The inclusive nature of the council.”

“The breadth of opinions and expertise it pulls together.”

“The free flow of viewpoints”

“Good on-going participation from a broad spectrum of interests...”

“Encompassing”

“The inclusiveness of the organization and its practical approach”

“...the openness and the enthusiasm the members show – it is obvious everyone is passionate about water management and this is inspiring.”

“...the opportunity to exchange viewpoints...”

“...the wide range of different perspectives/knowledge coming together to consider different aspects relating to, and butting up against, the Bow River”

“Opportunity to learn about challenges and solutions applied to decision-makers within the basin.”

“The mix of so many different opinions...”

“Professionalism, dedication of members.”

As in the past, the Quarterly Educational Forums received a vote of approval from 98% of the respondents who saw them as valuable to attend.

The staff continue to update the format based on feedback they receive.

## Message from the Executive Director

*Mark Bennett*

Charles Dickens’ classic novel *The Tale of Two Cities* begins with the famous quote... “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Dickens’ quote refers to the era of the French Revolution, but the quote is apropos for my last year.

As many, most, or all members know, during this past year I sustained a great personal loss. Clearly for me, this was the worst of times. However, during this period of profound personal need, my BRBC family came graciously and fully to my rescue.

As you have read in this Annual Report, the Council had a banner year, much of which they accomplished with limited involvement from yours truly. At a time when the BRBC activities significantly ramped up, I ramped down. So how did this happen? A host of BRBC members and dear colleagues rolled up their collective sleeves and did some truly remarkable work.

Looking back at the BRBC successes, I find I do not have the words nor the eloquence to give full expression to the depth of my gratitude. While I don’t have the space to offer thanks to all who richly de-

*BRBC Executive Director Mark Bennett talks with Pheasants Forever Director Tom Young, Wild Rose Economic Development Corp. Coordinator Lisa Eastwood; Village of Rockyford Councilor Tammy Goyke, Strathmore Standard Editor Gary Hickling, AWQA representative Christina Heibert, Western Irrigation District Rockyford Ditchrider Wes Sproule and Water Master Brian Sander during lunch at the Rockyford Urban Xeriscape demonstration site. The group made up the volunteer experts that brought their respective messages along on the fifth annual Rosebud River Watershed Partners Rockyford School Watershed Awareness Day.*

serve it, I feel compelled to make some very special mentions representative perhaps of much broader and deeper efforts. The BRBC Board of Directors provided another year of superb leadership. My thanks go to them for their efforts, dedication and compassion. At a personal level,

Mike Murray, Rob Wolfe and Edie Smith ensured that the BRBC did not miss a step. I shall remain always deeply in their debt. I also thank the rest of the BRBC members who lent a timely and much needed hand or ear. Thank you all. The best of times could not have occurred without you.

