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MEDIA RELEASE

Alberta's finalists for awards in environmental excellence announced in honour of Earth Day

April 21, 2008 (Edmonton) – What does a magazine about agriculture, a fish rescue program, and the development of isotope tracer technology have in common?

The answer - these projects are all finalists for the 2008 Emerald Awards and are leading examples of environmental excellence in Alberta.

33 finalists in 12 categories were released by the Alberta Emerald Foundation in Edmonton at a reception attended by Environment Minister Rob Renner and Foundation Honorary Chair Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel (summaries for all finalists are available on the Emerald Foundation website at www.emerald.foundation.ca/media).

Each year the Alberta Emerald Foundation searches out the best examples of environmental leadership in categories including individuals, not-for-profits, municipal and provincial government, large and small corporations, and youth.

"As Albertans celebrate Earth Day, the Emerald Foundation is highlighting the innovative work that is taking place in this province to improve our environment by releasing the finalists for this year's Emerald Awards," said Foundation Chairman, David Day, who is also Director of Environmental Management for the City of Calgary. "Our judges chose 33 projects from over 100 entries which represent the best of the best in environmental leadership, and I believe they serve as an inspiration for all of us to create a healthier, cleaner environment on Earth Day and every day."

A panel of knowledgeable judges, with cross-sectoral experience, carry out an independent evaluation based on criteria including:

- Commitment to preservation, protection, enhancement or sustainability of the environment.
- Positive, tangible and long-term impact on:
 - Quality of air, water or land
 - Preservation of biological diversity
 - Climate change/greenhouse gases
 - Public or corporate attitudes towards the environment.

This year a Special Achievement Award will also be presented to long-time environmental activist Dr. Martha Kostuch. Dr. Kostuch has been a tireless volunteer over the past three decades on environmental issues affecting our air, water, land and wildlife. She has been a member of a number of Alberta environmental organizations and has also participated actively in many government environmental advisory committees over the years (see complete backgrounder at www.emerald.foundation.ca/media).

The 2008 Emerald Awards will be presented on the Shoctor Stage at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton on June 3, 2008. To learn more about Earth Day and how you can help the environment visit: www.earthday.ca.

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For more information, please contact:

Alberta Emerald Foundation - Christy Urban (780) 413-9629



2008 EMERALD AWARDS FINALISTS

Business: Large

Finalist: Avalon Master Builder

Project: Discovery 3 House - Net Zero Homes

A homebuilder aims to build net-zero homes: homes that produce as much energy as they use. The first home is under construction.

Contact: Terra Davidson terra@avalonmasterbuilder.com Ph: 403-862-6135

Finalist: EPCOR & Associated Engineering

Project: E.L. Smith Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

A water treatment plant that more than doubled its capacity with only a 20% increase in the plant's footprint.

Contact: Mike Gibbs mjgibbs@epcor.ca Ph: 780-412-8877

Business: Small

Finalist: FARMING FOR TOMORROW

Project: The magazine of environmentally sustainable agriculture

A magazine dedicated to environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Contact: Tom Bradley tom@farmingfortomorrow.ca Ph: 866-525-4338

Finalist: Mountain Equipment Co-op Calgary

Project: Sustainability Program

A retailer that aims for sustainability through greener operations and community involvement.

Contact: Brad Clute bclute@mec.ca Ph: 403-269-2420

Finalist: LOGical Creations Ltd.

Project: TREECYCLE: Making protecting nature LOGical.

A furniture maker that aims to eliminate the pollution it creates thru recycle and conservation, and also reduce its impact on forests by using only lumber from trees that have already died.

Contact: Scott Pulvermacher scott@logicalcreations.ca Ph: 403-969-5647

Climate Change

Finalist: County of Vermilion River Gas Utility

Project: County of Vermilion River Gas Utility Oil Well Vent Gas Gathering Project

A county utility that stopped venting, and started collecting for use by customers, the natural gas produced as a co-product of oil wells.

Contact: Don Whittaker - County Reeve county24@telusplanet.net Ph: 780-846-2244

Finalist: Godo Stoyke

Project: Carbon Buster's Home Energy Handbook

A person who produced North America's first residential guide to reducing your home's carbon footprint (Carbon Buster's Home Energy Handbook).

Contact: Godo Stoyke contact@carbonbusters.org Ph: 780-437-0023

Finalist: Windmill Development Group Ltd

Project: The Vento

The developer of a mixed-use three-storey building project that reflects environmental and social, as well as financial considerations.

Contact: Jonathan Westeinde jonathan@windmilldevelopments.com Ph: 613-820-5600

Community Group

Finalist: Edmonton Naturalization Group

Project: Conserving and Celebrating Edmonton's Native Plants

A group that is conserving and celebrating the native (and nowadays often rare) plants in Edmonton. It is a made-in-Alberta solution to sustainable yard landscaping.

Contact: Cherry Dodd cad@transcena.com Ph: 780-466-7570

2008 EMERALD AWARDS FINALISTS

Finalist: Peigan Friends Along the River

Project: Annual LIND Fish Rescue

A group that rescues fish whose lives are imperiled when irrigation canals are drained each year.

Contact: Clayton Blood claytonblood@hotmail.com Ph: 403-332-3509

Finalist: Marie Lake Air and Watershed Society

Project: Protection of Marie Lake

A group that worked to protect the local air and watershed and the long-term health of a regional lake.

Contact: Don Savard plpdon@telusplanet.net Ph: 780-430-6901

Corporate or Institutional Leadership

Finalist: Peter Sherrington

Project: Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation

A person who spearheads important work to change our understanding of golden eagle migration and broadened knowledge of these indicators of ecological conditions.

Contact: Peter Sherrington pherrin@telusplanet.net Ph: 403-627-3522

Finalist: Energy Efficiency & Product Recovery Team, ConocoPhillips Canada

Project: Optical Leak Detection and Measurement Project

A project to detect, measure and reduce fugitive hydrocarbon emissions.

Contact: Julie Baron Ph: 403-233-3966

Education: Other Organization

Finalist: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Calgary/Banff Chapter

Project: CPAWS Environmental and Action Education Program

A group that educates school students about conservation and environmental stewardship.

Contact: Anne-Marie Syslak amsyslak@cpawscalgary.org Ph: 403-827-4562

Finalist: City of Calgary, Parks

Project: Petro-Canada Bird School

A program that takes school curriculum into a Bird Sanctuary for an entire week, providing a unique learning experience.

Contact: Lynn Robb lrobb@calgary.ca Ph: 403-221-4521

Finalist: Lesser Slave Forest Education Society

Project: Forest Focused Environmental Education in the Lesser Slave Lake Region

A group that uses the Forest as a focus to provide environmental information and education to the public and youth.

Contact: M.J. Munn-Kristoff kristoffm@northernlakescollege.ca Ph: 780-849-8627

Finalist: Rocky Mountain Flatbread Education Society

Project: Sustainability Programs for Youth

A restaurant that established an education society to educate youth about the environment and foster their ability to be responsible citizens and entrepreneurs.

Contact: Josie Cowan josie@rockymountainflatbread.ca Ph: 403-688-3500

Education: School or Classroom

Finalist: Calgary Board of Education

Project: Education * Energy * Environment Team

A Board of Education that is working to advance environmental leadership in the operation of its facilities, and its curricular and community initiatives

Contact: Olena Juzkiw otjuzkiw@cbe.ab.ca Ph: 403-214-1205

Finalist: David Thompson High School

Project: River Stewardship Project

A school that incorporated ecosystem monitoring into its grade 11 program. It assesses the impacts of recreational use of river valleys and develops stewardship plans to help river valley users reduce their impacts.

Contact: Mike Horembala mhorembala@wrsd.ca Ph: 403-729-3930

2008 EMERALD AWARDS FINALISTS

Finalist: Westmount Elementary School

Project: Green Team - A Green Machine!

A group of elementary school students that developed a project to teach people about electricity and the importance of conservation. The project is now being transferred to other schools.

Contact: Lianne Jones ljones@ghsd75.com Ph: 403-934-3041

Government Institution

Finalist: City of Calgary

Project: The Water Centre

A municipal building in Calgary that was designed and constructed to a high standard for environmental sustainability, and that will also serve as a vehicle to educate people about water and wastewater.

Contact: Russ Golightly russ.golightly@calgary.ca Ph: 403-540-2917

Finalist: Lac La Biche County

Project: Riparian Setback Matrix Model

A regional county that worked to bring harmony between increasing development pressures and the need to protect the natural integrity of its riparian areas (river banks, water courses etc.).

Contact: Barry Kolenosky barry.kolenosky@laclabichedcounty.com Ph: 780-623-1747

Finalist: Town of Canmore

Project: Green Building Policy and Sustainability Screening Reports

A town government that established a green building policy for all new construction. The town also requires developers to explain how their project will provide a net environmental, social and economic benefit to the community.

Contact: Ron Casey rcasey@canmore.ca Ph: 403-678-1517

Individual Commitment

Finalist: Dr. Allan H. Legge

Project: Life Time work on improving air quality in Alberta

A person who has spent 30 years researching air quality and the effects of air pollution on terrestrial ecosystems.

Contact: Dr. Allan Legge allan.legge@shaw.ca Ph: 403-282-4479

Finalist: Rob Macintosh

Project: Going the Distance to Make a Difference

A person who helped establish and guide three of Alberta's most successful environmental organizations.

Contact: Rob Macintosh rob.macintosh@gpcomm.ca Ph: 780-542-6021

Finalist: Dr. Richard Mrazek

Project: Lifetime contributions to environmental and conservation education

A person whose 30 years of work helped establish formal education programs in schools, post-secondary institutions and communities about the environment and conservation.

Contact: Robert Cooney robert.cooney@uleth.ca Ph: 403-382-7173

Not-for-Profit Association

Finalist: Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation

Project: Community Champions Program

A program that is using community partnerships to help promote more recycling of beverage containers and reduce a downward trend in beverage container recycling.

Contact: Guy West gwest@abcrc.com Ph: 403-264-0710 ext. 233

Finalist: Alberta Real Estate Foundation

Project: Sustainability at home: A toolkit for your everyday choices

A group that provides toolkits to Alberta households so they can access, understand and apply sustainability concepts to household decision-making.

Contact: Cheryl De Paoli cdepaoli@aref.ab.ca Ph: 403-228-4786

2008 EMERALD AWARDS FINALISTS

Finalist: Clean Calgary Association

Project: The Calgary Materials Exchange

Operator of a Materials Exchange that helps corporate and institutional generators of waste to reduce, exchange and recycle the waste by-products of their operations.

Contact: Sarah Begg sarah@cleancalgary.org Ph: 403-230-1443 ext. 226

Research & Innovation

Finalist: William (Bill) Gunter

Project: Carbon Capture and Storage

A scientist whose research is leading to ways to capture and store carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that is the leading cause of climate change.

Contact: Bill Gunter bill.gunter@arc.ab.ca Ph: 780-450-5467

Finalist: Bernhard Mayer

Project: Application of Isotopic Tracers to Assess Environmental Problems in Alberta

A scientist who is using innovative 'tracer' techniques to enhance understanding of a wide range of environmental issues.

Contact: Bernhard Mayer bmayer@ucalgary.ca Ph: 403-220-5389

Youth

Finalist: Eco-Air

Project: Edmonton's Children's-Organized Anti-Idling Recruiters

A youth group that has launched an effort to encourage drivers to stop idling their cars, and therefore reduce emissions.

Contact: Rocky Feroe rferoe@telusplanet.net Ph: 780-421-0975

Finalist: Emma Gilchrist

Project: Calgary Herald Green Guide

A youth whose weekly column in a major Alberta newspaper educates people about simple ways they can reduce their ecological footprint.

Contact: Emma Gilchrist egilchrist@theherald.canwest.com Ph: 403-235-7579