

# Calgary Regional Wetlands Committee

*An initiative hosted by Calgary River Valleys*



Calgary River Valleys champions and engages the public in the protection, appreciation and stewardship of Calgary's rivers, creeks, wetlands and watershed resources.

In February 2001, a number of interested parties gathered together to discuss issues and concerns regarding wetlands. Since then, at least 20 participants representing the federal and provincial governments, City of Calgary business units, the Calgary International Airport Authority and the non-profit sector have been meeting regularly, to discuss how wetlands are involved in their activities and how a broad suite of information and expertise can be shared to make the best wetland-related decisions possible.

These meetings serve as invaluable opportunities for connecting and exchanging the experiences of each stakeholder in relation to wetlands. In turn, the meetings foster shared understanding and a mutual resolve to ensure that wetlands are considered efficiently and effectively as urban development occurs.

The Calgary Regional Wetlands Committee exemplifies the positive results that can result from commitment, engagement and information exchange among key stakeholders.

## **MISSION**

*To promote wetlands conservation in Calgary and the surrounding area through communication and effecting change.*

## **MANDATE**

*Promote communication between levels of government.*

*Involve multiple stakeholders in a forum to share views and perspectives.*

*Encourage wetland-related policy development.*

*Support strategies for policy implementation for all stakeholders.*

*Build awareness of wetland issues and education with all stakeholders and in all levels of government.*

*Engage other stakeholders.*

Many positive advances have occurred since our first meeting, including The City of Calgary's *Wetland Conservation Plan* and the completion of several educational tools by the Wetlands Education Subcommittee, including:

### **Publication: "Wetlands at Work for You"**

A brochure was produced that explains the values of wetlands and their historic loss in Calgary. It has been distributed electronically to thousands of agencies and individuals, posted on numerous websites and delivered in hard copy to hundreds of destinations. This brochure is extremely popular and has been reprinted eleven times.

SPONSORS: Alberta Environment, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Parks Foundation Calgary and Bow River Basin Council.

### **Documentary: "Wetlands Wonderlands"**

This 12-minute educational video explains wetland values and the challenges of trying to balance wetland conservation with urban development. It is intended for wide distribution for free to all public and separate schools and other educational facilities, professional engineering and planning institutions, watershed groups, residential and commercial development companies, local municipalities and all levels of government.

SPONSORS: Alberta Environment; Alberta Community Development, Parks & Protected Areas; Ducks Unlimited Canada; Fisheries & Oceans Canada; Bow River Basin Council; Parks Foundation Calgary; Calgary Field Naturalists Society; Sarcee Fish & Game Association; and Westhoff Engineering Resources Inc.

### **Wetland Display**

The Calgary Airport Authority has provided space on their international arrivals level for this large display and regularly populated it with "Wetlands at Work for You" brochures.

SPONSORS: Alberta Environment, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Calgary Airport Authority and Parks Foundation Calgary.

For over ten years, the Calgary Regional Wetlands Committee has demonstrated its effectiveness in gathering key stakeholders together to understand critical issues and determine effective and appropriate strategies to protect wetlands. Our candid yet discrete meeting format cultivates mutual trust and constructive dialogue, and strengthens a critical network of wetland interests in southern Alberta. For more information, please contact the Calgary River Valleys: Erin McMahon, Coordinator, Calgary River Valleys via tel: 403 268-4867 or email: [CalgaryRiverValleys@Outlook.com](mailto:CalgaryRiverValleys@Outlook.com)