

# The Ripple

radiating information

November 18, 2008

River Valleys Committee

Volume 1

Issue 11

## Events

[Nov. 19/08, 3 to 7:30pm](#)

### RiverWalk, Phase 1 Public Info Session

At Rotary House, Stampede Park. For more info visit [www.calgarymlc.ca](http://www.calgarymlc.ca) or call 403.718.0300

### World Toilet Day

Is your toilet up to snuff? An estimated 2.6 billion people including 980 million children do not have access to basic sanitation. Support [www.worldtoilet.org](http://www.worldtoilet.org)

[Nov. 22, 2008, 10am to 1pm](#)

### Holy Cross Redevelopment Public Information Session

Poon McKenzie Architects are presenting a concept plan for public review and comment. Formal presentation at 10:30am, @ St. Monica School, 235 18 Ave SW, Calgary

[Nov. 25, 2008, 8am to 4:30pm](#)

### The Politics of Weeds,

Canadian Weed Management Society. The Coalition for a Healthy Calgary to speak on, "Urban Pesticide Use: Obstacles and Opportunities" For more info: <http://www.cwss-scm.ca/>

[Nov. 27, 2008, 8am to 4:30m](#)

### Low Impact Development Workshop

Cochrane Ranche House Implementation of LID strategies using the experiences of Nose Creek Watershed Management Plan. For more info visit: [www.alidp.org](http://www.alidp.org)

In the words of Dr. Henry Vaux,

**"Water is scarce and there is no surplus water!"**

Henry Vaux was one of the main speakers at a recent workshop held in Cochrane, "***Our Place in the Headwaters: Managing the Commons***". Regarded as one of the most respected water scholars in the United States, travelling the world advising on water issues, Dr. Vaux has a close Canadian connection. His grandfather and grand-aunt and uncle conducted the first formal glacial recession studies in the Selkirk and Rocky Mountain ranges in the 1890s. The photographs from their studies now serve as important benchmarks gauging the measure of landscape change occurring in the Canadian Rockies.

The ***Headwaters*** workshop focused on the importance of protecting headwaters and the vital ecological services waterways provide to all life on Earth. Dr. Vaux urged the adoption of 5 major principles to guide policy and management of water resources into the future.

- 1. Develop good data about both water quality and quantity.** Without good data how can we determine if there is a problem or measure where we have been, where we are and where we are going.
- 2. Acknowledge the principles of hydrology.** Surface and ground water are interconnected and the hydrologic cycle must be considered in all land use planning processes. There is much still to learn about hydrology and, of interest to southern Alberta, cold zone hydrology.
- 3. Water is scarce and there is no surplus of water.** There is an urgent need to assign a scarcity value to water. Until that time water will be taken for granted, leading to overdraft where extraction is greater than recharge.
- 4. Maintain ecosystem services to sustain supplies.** Air/water purification, environmental stability and biodiversity, if allowed to degrade, are enormously and in some cases prohibitively costly to repair, if at all.
- 5. Use existing science and invest in new watershed science.** Existing and new science must form the underpinnings of holistic and integrated watershed management plans to protect waterways and solve water problems of the future.

For a complete listing of speakers and addresses visit:  
<http://www.ourplaceintheheadwaters.ca/>