

The Ripple

radiating information

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River Valleys Committee

Volume 1

Issue 12

A YEAR IN REVIEW

As we near the close of 2008 the River Valleys Committee would like to highlight and celebrate some of our work and achievements accomplished throughout the year.

Of greatest importance is the incredible support and dedication of RVC's many volunteers. RVC would not be able to operate without such a wonderful group of people whose passion is the health of rivers and river valleys in Calgary. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all of you! RVC looks forward to another very active and productive year in 2009.



2008 HIGHLIGHTS

The following is what RVC would like to celebrate!

• Participation in Higher Level Policy and Planning Initiatives

- Plan-It Calgary: hosted and participated in workshops, generated stakeholder feedback, developed a set of criteria for designing river and stream crossings
- Calgary Regional Partnership and Intermunicipal Development Planning
- Alberta Land Use Framework
- Watershed Management Planning: in conjunction with BRBC and other groups involved in watershed planning
- Calgary Wetlands Committee
- Weir Project: "Harvie Passage"
- East Calgary Greenway
- Calgary Ring Road
- Park Plans (12-Mile, Southland, Bowness, RiverWalk, Paskapoo, Bowmont, River Park)
- Water Safety Partners: RVC provides administrative and website support. WSP is a coalition of organizations including Water Resources, Police Service, Fire, and Bylaw Services of the City of Calgary; Alberta Environment; Transport Canada; Calgary Board of Education; the Red Cross and RVC.

• Public Engagement



RVC regularly hosts meetings for its membership focused on topics of interests that may be wide ranging such as Plan-It Calgary to more specific issues such as riparian health on the Elbow River.



- **Land Use and Development**

The Land Use & Development Committee (LUD) of RVC meets monthly and is open to all citizens of Calgary who have an interest and/or concern about land use and how it relates to Calgary's water bodies and river valleys. The LUD is based on consensus decision-making in an atmosphere of respect, shared learning and collaboration across diverse fields of experience. The LUD has access to expertise through its volunteers on some of the more technical aspects that may be required when evaluating development applications. It has been estimated that RVC's contribution to the city in terms of public engagement and expertise is many times more than its cost.

- **Communication**

New in 2008 is the distribution of RVC's monthly e-newsletter to its membership, "The Ripple", which highlights events happening in and around Calgary. The Ripple is also a vehicle to share information and dialogue on talks and conferences that RVC staff or volunteers have attended.

- **Outreach and Building Partnerships**

- "At Home on the Elbow River" – a joint project with Trout Unlimited Canada, Alberta College of Art & Design, Cows & Fish and RVC – a booklet to be hand delivered to residents living on the banks of the lower Elbow River
- Mission Pathway Enhancement Plan, Cliff/Bungalow Mission CA - ongoing
- Mayors Environmental Expo, June 2008
- Nominated the City of Calgary, winner of the 2008 Ducks Unlimited Lieutenant Governor's Greenwing Conservation Award for wetland conservation.
- Headwaters Conference, with registration support for Alberta Wilderness Assoc, Nov 2008
- Presentations on behalf of Parks Foundation Calgary at Partners in Planning Heritage Workshop and Playground Fair, Nov 2008
- Presentations on behalf of Parks Foundation Calgary for various audiences, regarding the Bow River Weir Project ("Harvie Passage")
- Funding application to RBC Blue Waters Project for spawning study on Lower Elbow River in conjunction with RiverWatch Science, Sept 2008 – under review
- RVC Shoreline Clean-up with Calgary Field Naturalists Society, Sept 2008
- Calgary Planning Commission/Aldermanic Bow River Float and tour of the Bonnybrook Wastewater Treatment Plant, in conjunction with RiverWatch, July 2008
- Calgary Exhibition & Stampede bio-engineering project on the Elbow River with Polster Environmental Services, July/Aug 2008
- Re-invigoration of RVC – included interviews of all Executive members and Advisors of RVC to establish and evaluate goals and objectives, and set the strategic direction for 2009

