

## **2006 YEAR in REVIEW Butte Action Committee**

Our web site was updated in July thanks to Ingrid who has done a marvelous job of knowing just what works for our presentation. Our site receives about 5 "hits" a week. We get requests for info from the site now and again.

Shirley Zombori created a new handout because so many of the rural people we see at meetings do not have access to our website.

BAC members took in the Synergy Alberta conference and the CSUG stakeholder days as well as SPOG Neighbour's Day and several Information Nights put on by West Central Stakeholders. In the spring, the CBM information sessions held east of Highway 2 by AENV, AEUB and the Farmer's Advocate were attended by several BAC directors.

The directors were active in many different groups, representing the water concerns that are the backbone of the Butte Action Committee.

Dale Christian was and is a director of the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance on the communication committee. BAD membership was present at the general meetings in both Innisfail, where the voting for the directors took place, and Sundre. One of the concerns of the RDRWA is the application by the Balzac development for an allocation of about 1,825,000 cubic meters/year from the Red Deer River. BAC has written a support letter to the RDRWA.

Jim Person is now the representative from the Crammond area on SPOG.

Don Anderson sits on the Rocky Riparian Group.

Judy Winter sits on Tay River Advisory Committee, Synergy Alberta Steering and Conference Committee and CSUG's initiative of Ag 101.

Don Bester is active with the Pine Lake Surface Rights Group and several government focus groups.

BAC registered an objection with the AEUB regarding Intrepid Energy's application to drill a shallow gas well through a shallow aquifer in the Medicine River flats area. The potential for contamination to the aquifer by the drilling and subsequent facilities is too great to be ignored. A hearing date was set for the fall but then the company changed their application to include several other wells in the area so the whole thing had to start again. A new objection was registered and, as of now, no new hearing date has been set. The Christian family and others in the "directly affected" circle are BAC members.

A water flood application has been filed in the Rimbey area by Keremos Energy for 1,m500 meters cubed/day. BAC has offered support to RADCAP, the synergy group, as well as written a letter of support for their efforts to AENV. We have been in touch with RADCAP on a continuing basis. BAC has members in this area.

Our display board went to the SA conference, one of the info nights for CBM in Torrington, and several other venues.

BAC's story was written up in the Daily Oil Bulletin during the SA conference.

The water flood issue is very high in the public's mind and, it seems, applications for fresh water are met with opposition all over the province. The risk to fresh water from CBM activity is very real and is brought up at meetings all the time. The awareness of the rural community is high.

It has been a very busy year and we look forward to maintaining the awareness of how precious fresh water is as every opportunity we get.