

Peace Valley Environment Association



*Website: www.peacevalley.ca
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PVEA

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Newsletter - September 2009

The PVEA's film "A Black Cloud in the Valley" by Wes Grycki was completed earlier this year. The PVEA will host a premiere screening at the Lido theatre on World Rivers Day on Sunday, Sept 27th, 2009 at 7pm. We will be doing a double feature, also including an encore presentation of Karl Mattson's film "Keeping the Peace: The Future of a Northern Watershed." We have plans to produce a second film with the additional footage that was previously recorded.

The PVEA and West Moberly First Nations (WMFN) have jointly produced an education package for grade 2, funded by the Vancouver Foundation. It is currently awaiting approval by school districts 59 and 60.

The PVEA has made a complaint to the ombudsman regarding the inadequate consultation process. We are presently awaiting details in response.

The PVEA has successfully obtained funds from the Brainerd Foundation and from Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) and the Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) Conservation Initiative. This has allowed us to hire a coordinator to mobilize the troops.

See our blog for more information at <http://keepingthepeace.wordpress.com>

In July, the PVEA and WMFN had yet another successful Paddle for the Peace. This fourth annual paddle has seen the event progress into far more than just a paddle and more of a festival in celebration of the Peace Valley and all it has to offer.

The summer also brought the release of "The Living Peace." This report was a joint project between the PVEA and the WMFN and was funded by the Vancouver Foundation. It received a fair amount of local media attention upon its release.

The PVEA and WMFN had a planning session with the Y2Y Conservation Initiative. This Peace Break strategy session involved many different organizations, government and industry. It was very rewarding to see such a diverse group working together to achieve the common goal of preserving the integrity of the Peace River Valley so that it is still here in the future for our children and grandchildren.

August saw the start of our membership drive. PVEA was at the fall fair, raising awareness and building a stronger support base. Wonderful prizes have been donated by the Forests to encourage people to avoid delay in getting their membership. The draw will be held on Sept. 30th, 2009.

In the Media

A September feature story in the Georgia Straight finally broke the lower mainland media silence around Site C, an issue of importance to every BC citizen

In light of the announced massive deficit: Mega-projects such as Site C should not be considered

Implications of the throne speech: the government's plan of building for export was finally admitted

Mayor Bruce Lantz shows his opposition to Site C in the Vancouver Sun and Victoria Times Colonist

Energeticcity.ca has had articles about the PRRD and Hudson's Hope showing opposition to Site C

BCUC decision: they rejected the need for power

3 out of 4 candidates in the May provincial election were opposed to Site C

Why Site C Doesn't Make Sense

Considering its importance as wildlife habitat... the Peace Valley is the narrowest part of the Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) migration corridor. As the pinch point, it is critical to preserve the integrity of this wildlife corridor in order to maintain connectivity and biodiversity. This corridor will become increasingly important with climate change.

Considering social impacts... the short-term influx of workers will stress the community infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, etc. BC Hydro has plans for out-of-town camps to accommodate 1250-1350 workers. The large number of transient workers could bring about a whole host of additional problems such as increased drug use, additional health concerns, and increases in violence and crime rates.

Considering agriculture... the Peace River Valley has a unique, warmer climate, with the only class 1 soil north of Quesnel. At a time when farmland is declining and food security is a growing concern, it is absurd to flood prime agricultural land.

Considering that it is mainly for export... BC has been a net exporter 7 out of the last 11 years and the government has now openly admitted building for export (from the throne speech). It is misguided to destroy BC river valleys to satisfy the energy demands of the United States.

Considering economics... with the downturn of the economy right now and the massive deficit it is ludicrous to be looking at mega-projects like the Site C dam which will cost in the order of 7 to 10 billion dollars.

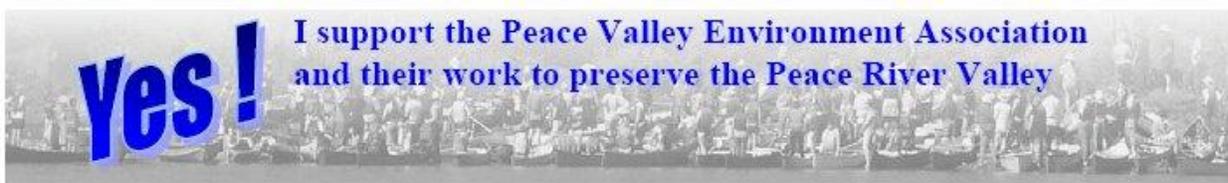
The crisis is now upon us !

Things are heating up. We have had to hire people to help in preparation of BC Hydro's decision to move forward. BC Hydro has stated their decision as to whether or not to proceed to Stage 3 would be made this fall. Stage 3 is the detailed evaluation stage which includes environmental assessment. Once Stage 3 has begun the only significant means of participating in any form of consultation would require intervener status.

Upcoming financial needs include pursuing legal council and obtaining legal representation at the proceedings as an intervener. We also need to further develop materials that will help to raise awareness throughout the province. It is important that southern BC gains a better understanding of all that would be lost.

We urgently need your financial help. **Please consider helping to finance the fight and save our valley!**

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." Author unknown



Here is my donation to help in the campaign:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$ _____

Please send a cheque payable to the Peace Valley Environment Association or payment can be made online at www.peacevalley.ca

Thank you for your generous support !

Name: _____

Address: _____



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