



Weird Weather or the New Normal?

There is just so much to talk about when it comes to our weather.

This past summer, we in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds have seen some interesting weather. In light of the hail, heat, drought, and autumn rain storms, it is hard to predict what will happen next. With 2015 set to be globally the hottest year on record, and with El Niño in play, we may have less snow than we would like.

Many factors impact our weather and climate here in the Prairies. Understanding the hydroclimate, the relationships between the climate system and the hydrologic cycle, helps us understand weather, as well as predict floods, drought, precipitation, and possible future influences of climate change on water.

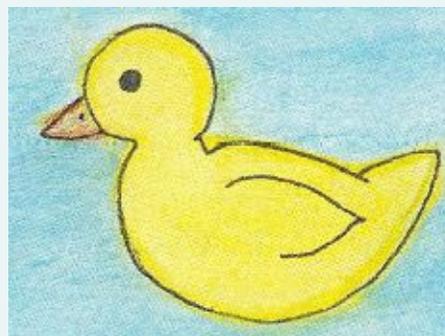
As you may have observed, much of our weather and winds come from the west. As the warm continental air mass from the equator migrates north, it gets deflected eastward by the rotation of the earth, called the Coriolis Effect. The resulting winds, known as Westerly Winds, have a controlling influence over temperature, precipitation, radiation, and growing degree days observed in Alberta. The characteristics of these are influenced by teleconnections, the natural large-scale climate anomalies such as El Niño.

With El Niño intensifying this fall, most meteorologists are forecasting a warm, dry winter for the Prairies. However, with climate change becoming a stronger factor influencing hydroclimate, it is harder to predict what the future water and climate dynamics will look like.

We can likely expect more of the weird and extreme.

NOMINATE AN OTIS!

The OTIS Award is a way to recognize businesses/organizations, individuals and youth in the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds who are **OutsTanding In Stewardship**.



To us, a steward is taking action in making our watershed a better place to live for all life, and the life of future generations.

For more information or to nominate someone you know for an OTIS, [visit our webpage.](#)

Ponoka landowners improve health of Battle River

Launched this past spring, the Ponoka Riparian Restoration Program is already making changes

Two local landowners have initiated projects involving riparian fencing and the installation of off-site livestock watering systems with funding provided by the BRWA and our partners.



Water System, Ponoka

These types of projects are significant because when livestock water directly from the river they can cause damage to the riparian area by trampling vegetation and increasing the amount of bare soil. By removing livestock from the riparian area and providing them with an alternate water source, vegetation is able to bounce back and filter water as it flows off the surrounding land. This helps provide cleaner water for the livestock, which in turn helps improve their weight gain. Cleaner water is also beneficial for landowners and communities downstream.

The goal of the program is to work with landowners in Ponoka County on projects that help improve the health of the Battle River and its tributary streams. Funding is available to support these projects, and the BRWA is currently accepting landowner applications.

For more information, please visit our [Ponoka Riparian Restoration Program webpage.](#)

Putting your Lawn To Bed for the Winter

Some tips and tricks from the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association

With autumn upon us, the PLWA has prepared a few reminders of how to prepare your lawn for winter. Lawns actually need more care in the fall because during this time of year, the grass is busily absorbing energy, moisture and nutrients in preparation for a long, dormant winter.

[Check out their website](#) for information on mowing, mower maintenance, fall lawn care, overseeding,

Caring for our Watersheds in Action

Bee a pollinator hero

Leah Marshall from Bawlf school won 1st place and \$1000 for herself and her school in the 2015

[Caring for our Watersheds competition.](#)

Leah's winning proposal was on sustaining and creating new pollinator habitat in the Battle River Watershed. Growing up on an organic farm, she knows the importance of pollinators to our food system as well as to the web of life. She was concerned over the collapse of bee populations here and around the world and the connection between the decline and agricultural sprays.

Leah suggests that we can help protect the bee and other pollinator populations by planting flowers with overlapping blooming times across our region. She is sending out 500 seed packages and informational brochures to grade 7 students in hopes they will help her with her goal.



Quote by Leah Marshall



Camrose Blue Dot Group

City of Camrose Joins Blue Dot Movement!

The City of Camrose Council voted unanimously on Monday October 9th to pass a Municipal Declaration of Environmental Rights. This ensures current and future residents will have access to safe and healthy water, air, food and natural spaces.

Camrose is the first city in Alberta to join the Blue Dot Movement, the Town of Jasper being the first municipality in Alberta to do so. Over 84,000 Canadians have signed the pledge, and 88 municipalities have signed the declaration! The goal of the project is to amend the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to include environmental health as a right of all Canadians.

Congratulations to the City of Camrose and all the residents who will benefit. The BRWA would love to see more municipalities get involved! Learn more at BlueDot.ca

Our Board of Directors

Longtime member Barb Bosh

Barb has been with ATCO Power for 20 years and currently is the Laboratory and Environmental Supervisor at the Battle River Generating Station. She has been involved in the development of many environmental programs at the site over her time there.

Barb has a diploma in Conservation and Reclamation and a Bachelor Degree of Applied Integrated Environmental Management. She has been involved with the BRWA even prior to its inception. Barb has been a BRWA director for many years and has previously held the treasurer position.



Barb was born and raised in the Forestburg area, and now lives near Donaldda on a farm with her family. She is involved with community and kids activities including 4H, minor hockey, agricultural societies, and most activities her kids are involved in. She loves the outdoors and enjoys spending time hiking, canoeing, and camping in the Battle River Watershed, and all parts of the province.

For more on our Board of Directors, please visit our [webpage](#).

Upcoming Events

[Earth Matters Conference](#). By the Alberta Council for Environmental Education. Thursday October 15th-Saturday October 17th, Canmore Alberta.

[Making Peace with the Land Conference](#). Friday November 13th-Sunday November 15th. UofA, Augustana Campus. Camrose Alberta. Fourth annual Spirit of the Land conference integrating economy, ecology, spirituality and community.

[Federal Election](#). Monday October 19th. Don't forget to vote!

See all of these and more upcoming events on our [Events Webpage](#).

External Educational Opportunities

CAWST Online Curriculum Fosters Global Citizenship & Action

The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) Wavemakers program is offering an online course, free for students across Canada! The Virtual Wavemakers Summit is an exciting opportunity for educators and youth to explore local and global water and sanitation issues. The Summit provides educators with an easy-to-follow, action-based curriculum that is designed to develop critical thinking, innovation, effective communication skills and global awareness.

Visit the [CAWST website](#) to learn more, or email wavemakers@kawst.org.

David Suzuki Foundation Back to School Superhero Challenge

When you join the Back to School Superhero challenge, you'll receive a fun activity each week for four weeks (starting September 21) that will help teach kids about pressing environmental issues and connect them to the great outdoors. Each activity has been adapted from the David Suzuki Foundation's free Connecting With Nature educational guides.

Visit the [Get Back Outside website](#) to learn more.

You are receiving this email as a member of the Battle River Watershed Alliance. We hope you enjoy our seasonal newsletters and occasional event invitation.

We welcome inquiries. Please contact us anytime at:
battle.river@gmail.com or by phone 780-672-0276

STAY CONNECTED

