



EXHIBITS

January 17, 2012

2 PAGES

MEDIA KIT AVAILABLE AT
www.galtmuseum.com/media.htm



MEDIA CONTACT:

Wendy Aitkens, Curator
tel 403.320-3097 |
wendy.aitkens@galtmuseum.com

BIG PICTURE ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN GALT'S NEW EXHIBIT

EARTH'S CLIMATE IN THE BALANCE RUNS JAN 21 TO APR 22, 2012

Lethbridge - The earth has experienced 4.6 billion years of climate change. But what is climate? How has it changed in the past? What are the scientific facts behind global warming? Are we in the midst of the sixth greatest extinction in the history of life? These questions and more are raised in the Galt Museum & Archives new special exhibit "Earth's Climate in the Balance" officially opening Sunday, January 22 during Museum Community Day from 1:00 to 4:30 pm.

Earth's Climate in the Balance - a travelling exhibit developed by Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre in Southampton, Ontario in 2008 - examines the big picture on climate change with an informative and approachable treatment of some of our most pressing and current concerns. It not only looks at the history of climate on our planet, but also inspires the public to ask, "So what's next? And what can I do?"

"This is such an important global issue," says **Wendy Aitkens**, Curator at the Galt, "we wanted to be a part of the discussion involving theories surrounding climate change; the availability of this travelling exhibit seemed to be a good opportunity. The exhibit will be supported by a variety of programs that will allow for more information sharing and community dialogue."

Environmental archaeologist **Dr. Peter Storck**, Royal Ontario Museum curator emeritus, and author, was commissioned by Bruce County Museum to create the exhibit complete with several interactive components.

Storck says, "This exhibit should put global warming in context - it isn't anything new under the sun, but has been happening for years." And Storck expects people will be enlightened by the scale of climate change in relation to the immense age of the earth. Adds Storck, "We won't destroy the earth. We may destroy ourselves, but in the big picture of climate change, we are one generation in a world that is billions of years old."

Using the premise "Climate through Geologic Time, 4.6 Billion Years of Change... What's Next?" the exhibit examines many aspects surrounding this hot topic: what makes climate on earth; what tools are used in studying past climates and climate change; how has climate changed over 4 billion years of earth history; how has climate changed over recorded human history; what is the influence of life on the atmosphere and climate; what is the scientific basis of global warming over the past several decades.

The stories are illustrated with over 40 artifacts and 170 time charts, photographs, satellite images and artist's paintings obtained from universities, museums, government organizations such as NASA and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as well as the United Nations body that monitors climate change: the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The exhibit also examines the current extinction crisis, and interactive displays on how each one of us can affect the future of the Earth are included, such as a box store to choose environmentally-friendly products, and a recycling activity.

Programs reflecting the *Earth's Climate in the Balance* theme will be offered throughout the run of the exhibit, including weekly family activities during Saturdays at 1:00; presentations on the first and third Wednesday monthly as part of Wednesdays at the Galt for ages 55+; The Curator Presents... on Sunday February 5; and special topics during other adult programs offered Thursdays.

Earth's Climate in the Balance kicks off with Museum Community Day on Sunday, January 21 from 1:00 to 4:30 pm with free admission all afternoon, and activities with CTV's Dory Rossiter and the Helen Schuler Nature Centre. The exhibit closes on Earth Day (Sunday, April 22), with special activities being planned for that day. For details visit www.galtmuseum.com, call 403.320-3954, or email info@galtmuseum.com.

- 30 -

Galt Museum & Archives is located at the west end of 5 Avenue South, off Scenic Drive, Lethbridge, Alberta
Parking lot located at the north end of the building | enter through the sliding north doors
tel 403.320-3898 | info: 320-GALT | fax: 403.329-4958 | www.galtmuseum.com
MAIL 910 - 4 Avenue South, Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0P6

HOURS TO MAY 14: *mon-sat* 10:00 am - 4:30 pm | *sun + hol* 1:00 - 4:30 pm | CLOSED Easter Sunday



Earth's Climate in the Balance is produced and circulated by Bruce County Museum & Archives in Southampton, Ontario



Major topics:

- What Makes Climate on Earth
- Where Records of Climate Change are Found: rock, ice, ooze, muck and numbers
- The Story of Climate Change: through 4 billion years of geologic time
- The Story of Climate Change: through historic time
- Global Warming
- Moving toward the Sixth Greatest Extinction
- The Future: ours to shape

Display elements include:

- time charts, diagrams, photographs, satellite images, artist's paintings;
- rock specimens, fossils, tools of scientific exploration, scale models of early life forms, simulated cores from glacial ice and the ocean bottom, replicas of prehistoric artifacts

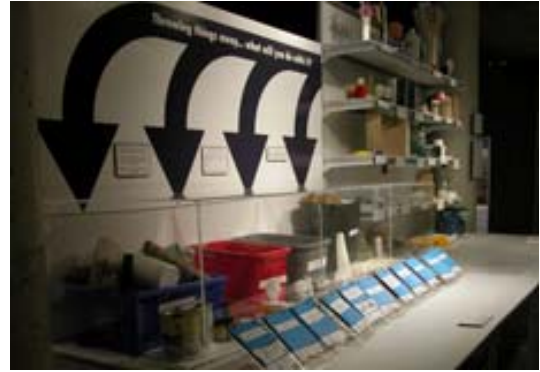
Special Focus Areas

Library of the Ages: illustrating where information on climate comes from (*includes a weather station for exploring Canada's climate and weather records*)

Putting Yourself in the Picture: interactive check-out counter/re-cycling centre (for measuring the visitor's awareness of his/her affect on the environment every time something is bought or discarded).

Exhibit contents/themes:

- Climate change through four billion years of Earth history;
- The "motors" that drive climate change:
 - changes in Earth's orbit and axis of rotation,
 - continental drift,
 - composition of the atmosphere,
 - circulation of the atmosphere and oceans;
- Tools used in studying past climates and climate change;
- International programs to study past climates:
 - the International Polar Year, 2007-2009;
 - deep sea coring;
- The influence of life on Earth's atmosphere and climate;
- Climate change through recorded history;
- Recent global warming: the scientific basis;
- The human role in Ice Age and recent extinctions;
- A visit to the marketplace: wise buying to reduce waste;
- Recycling to reduce waste;
- The power of the individual to change the future.



Climate on earth is a delicate balance, affected by:

- the amount of solar radiation received by earth
- Solar activity [flares]
- Planetary motions of the earth
- Continental drift [plate tectonics]
- Composition of the atmosphere
- Circulation patterns of the oceans and atmosphere, and
- Impacts by asteroids and comets

Part of a larger cycle: the climate period in which we live

- Over the last 500,000 years, the cycle of alternating glacial and interglacial periods is clearly correlated with the 100,000 year cycle in changes in the shape of Earth's orbit (eccentricity) around the sun.
- The climatic period in which we live (an interglacial called the Holocene) is a warm period, and is clearly part of a larger cycle of alternating glacial and interglacial periods.

Global Warming: The Scientific Basis:

"Global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides have increased markedly as a result of human (anthropogenic) activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values. Indeed, the atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane exceed "...by far the natural range over the last 650,000 years ... as determined from ice cores."

IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, Volume 1, Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis, "Summary for Policymakers"

Quotes:

Earth's surface and subsurface are in a constant state of renovation... Nothing is permanent and yet because of this, everything is eternal.

Marcia Bjornerud, 2005, *Reading the Rocks: the autobiography of the Earth*, Basic Books, New York.

An opportunity for people to understand they impact they have on our environment and whether that contributes to the earth's warming; to look at different ways of living, to protect our environment.

Wendy Aitkens, Curator

RELATED PROGRAMS: ADULTS

Contact Leslie for more information: leslie.hall@galtmuseum.com | 403.320-4700

The Curator Presents... *Earth: The Operators' Manual*

Sun FEB 05 | 2:00 - 3:30 pm

admission rates apply, includes exhibit access | free for annual pass holders

A screening and discussion related to the special exhibit *Earth's Climate in the Balance*.

In the documentary "*Earth: The Operators' Manual*" [2011, 53 min], host Richard Alley takes viewers on a tour of sites around the world where evidence of climate change is visible, and presents an objective, accessible assessment of the problems and possibilities that will leave you informed, energized and optimistic. From low-tech solutions to high-tech innovations - including those being explored by the US military, the state of Texas and China - there are a wide range of practical options available to meet Earth's growing need for energy. Dr. James Byrne, Professor and Chair of Geography, University of Lethbridge will introduce the documentary and then facilitate a discussion.

Café Galt

7:00 pm | *admission rates apply, includes exhibit access | free for annual pass holders | registration not required | the Discovery Hall and Museum Store are open on Thursdays until 9:00 pm*

Explore and discuss current exhibits and ideas through film screenings, lectures and other unique experiences.

Thu JAN 26 Alberta's Great Oil Discovery: The Turner Valley Story Before 1914 Alberta was the poorest of the prairie provinces. Then drillers found oil at Turner Valley and everything changed. David Finch will tell stories from Alberta's first commercial oilfield and explain how, for better and for worse, petroleum has been part of the Alberta story for a century. Turner Valley made Alberta what it is today: a province of unlimited potential with challenges every bit as big as its opportunities.

Thu FEB 02 Climate Change Reality - a Hot Topic *in partnership with SACPA* Robin and Marian White from the Climate Reality Project present right-up-to-date pictures, video, charts, tables, text, and narrative to walk the audience through the reality and science of climate change, the behaviour of the "denial industry", key concerns, the carbon dioxide reduction targets needed, government performance, and where we go from here.

Thu MAR 01 Aboriginal Women During the Great Depression Carol Williams from the University of Lethbridge uses oral histories and photographs to document and tell the story of Indigenous women's waged work on the Great Plains during the Depression. Dr. Williams' research acknowledges the material realities of their lives, and attempts to rectify the fact that their significant contributions have been underestimated, even marginalized, and are often absent from national economic development schemes.

Thu APR 05 CSI Quilt Did you know that quilt appraisers are the CSIs (Crooked Seam Investigators) of the quilt world? Join Dawn Hunt as she unravels the mysteries of quilt history, care and value. Whatever happened to fugitive purple and what is so "hot" about pink? During this information-packed lecture and trunk show learn about the intrigue of the quilt world - the myths, the incorrect hunches and how one quilter's Drunkard's Path became another's Vine of Friendship.

Thu APR 26 Vanishing global wildlife: Patterns in developed and developing countries There has been an alarming loss of wildlife species across the planet. According to a recent estimate, 25% of the global mammal species are threatened with extinction! There are several factors contributing towards this loss of global fauna, and a distinct pattern has been identified. Saikat Basu from the U of L Department of Biological Sciences will inspect these pressing issues from the perspectives of developed and developing countries.

Galt Agricultural Innovation & Business Speakers Series

7:30-9:30 pm | 7:30 networking / 8:00 presentation, Q & A | wine & cheese
tickets at the door: \$20/person/session, incl. 1 refreshment ticket | Discovery Hall and Museum Store
open to 9:00 | A fundraiser presented by the Friends of the Galt in support of the Galt Museum's
education initiatives.

Local agricultural entrepreneurs are noted for the innovations they are creating. The Friends of the Galt have selected an engaging line-up of speakers for its new fundraiser series supporting Galt Museum educational initiatives.

Thu JAN 19 | *Coal Banks to Cow Manure: Is this Full Circle?* with Stefan Michalski, project manager with [ECB Enviro North America Inc.](#), a bio-based co-generation facility being built in North Lethbridge, who will focus on the conversion of manure and other biological by-products of agriculture into energy [electricity and hot water].

Thu FEB 16 | *Current and Future Status of Biofuels* with Jim Thacker, Director Kyoto Fuels Corp. This Lethbridge-based corporation recently received a \$31 million 6-year investment from the Government of Canada, allowing it to produce up to 66 million litres of biodiesel annually by converting vegetable or cooking oil or animal fat into biodiesel.

Thu MAR 15 | *Thebaine Poppy Innovation* with Glen Metzler, President, API Labs Inc.

Galt Workshops

Program 7:00 - 9:00 pm | admission rates apply, includes exhibit access | free for annual pass holders | registration not required | the Discovery Hall and Museum Store are open on Thursdays until 9:00 pm

A hands-on history programs for adults.

Thu MAR 08 *Back-to-Basics Food* Come join Lethbridge Personal Chefs for a back-to-basics soup and bread cooking class. Vegetarian option available.

Thu MAR 22 *Handmade Paper* in partnership with the *Textile Surface Design Guild* Susan Kristoferson presents a lively slide lecture of amazing, sophisticated paper arts and brings unique paper samples she has collected over 25 years. Then get your hands into pulp to make your own! You will create multi-layer papers, and "pulp paint" to create images in your sheets of paper.

Thu MAY 03 *Planting our Past, Preserving our Future pt 2: Growing Native Plants* Horticulturalist June Flanagan shares her knowledge on propagating and caring for plants native to this region. Using seeds saved from the Native Prairie Plant Garden at the Galt you'll take home your own plants to start your garden.

RELATED PROGRAMS: FAMILIES

Contact Leslie for more information: leslie.hall@galtmuseum.com | 403.320-4700

Saturdays at 1:00

presented with Green Acres Kiwanis Club of Lethbridge

NOW YEAR-ROUND! | adults required to attend with children | admission rates apply | free for annual pass holders | registration not required | includes exhibit access

This interactive program animates our exhibits and collections for families with children of all ages and is now offered year-round thanks to our new partner, the Green Acres Kiwanis Club of Lethbridge.

JAN 21 *Tiny Terrarium* Make a tiny ecosystem in a glass jar to take home.

28 Museum CSI During this activity from the University of Lethbridge science camps, participants will be using forensic science to uncover fakes and forgeries. Be prepared to solve a crime!

- FEB 04 Life Cycle of the T-shirt** Join the Helen Schuler Nature Centre to discover the impacts of a simple t-shirt on the environment from start to finish. Bring an old t-shirt, or use one of ours, to reinvent in a craft.
- 11 Home-Made Granola Bars** Make delicious granola bars using some local ingredients. Vegan option available.
- 18 Tea Party** Learn how table etiquette has changed over the years as you enjoy a tea party where you can practice your old-time manners.
- 25 Sock Monkeys** Make an adorable sock monkey using brightly coloured children's socks. All supplies provided, no sewing experience required - we'll teach your children (and you) how! *Note: project may take longer than 1 hour to complete.*
- MAR 03 Dissect an Owl Pellet** Learn about our ecosystem as you dissect a (sterilized) owl pellet and try to identify the bones.
- 10 Bird Feeders** Make your own bird feeder using recycled materials.
- 17 Who Turned Up The Temperature?** The University of Lethbridge's *Destination Exploration* youth science program will be visiting the Galt to deliver an interactive workshop about Climate Change. Learn more about this global phenomenon through fun and engaging hands-on activities that promote learning and problem solving.
- 24 Paper Making** Have fun creating hand-made paper from recycled fibres as you make images of weather patterns or create paper cloud mobiles!
- 31 Home Made Ice Cream** Make your own individual serving of ice cream using a modernization of an historic method.
- APR 07 NO PROGRAM TODAY** Take in Eggstravaganza instead!
- 14 Worm Composting** Get ready for Earth Day by creating your own worm compost bin. All supplies, including worms, provided.
- 21 Paper Plane Races** Learn how to make paper airplanes built for speed, distance, and tricks and compete in races to win a prize.

RELATED PROGRAMS: SENIORS

Contact Leslie for more information: leslie.hall@galtmuseum.com | 403.320-4700

Wednesdays at the Galt

Year-round first & third Wednesdays monthly | 2:00 - 3:00 pm / *admission rates apply* / *free for annual pass holders* | *registration not required* / *includes exhibit access*

From hands-on learning to lectures by special guests, behind-the-scenes tours and tutorials, historical anecdotes to contemporary conundrums for ages 55+.

- FEB 01 History of Irrigation** Learn about the past present and future of irrigation with Dr. Edith Olsen.
- 15 Greener Alberta Where No One is Left Behind** with Shannon Philips, economic policy analyst for the Alberta Federation of Labour. What does a plan for the environment and the economy really look like? Shannon will explore a practical plan for building a greener economy, keeping jobs in Alberta, and stabilizing Alberta's revenues to continue to deliver high-quality public services like health care, education, and children's services.
- MAR 07 Archives of the Ancient Past: Landscape and Drought History in Alberta** Dr. Alwynne Beaudoin from the Royal Alberta Museum shows how scientists derive drought history from landscape archives, including evidence preserved in lake mud and tree rings. Find out what intriguing new research reveals about recent droughts compared to those of the ancient past.
- 21 Archival Evidence of Environmental & Climate Change** Explore the kinds and value of archival evidence available for interpreting past environmental and climate change.
- APR 04 Quilting Through the Ages** Dawn Hunt will answer the 5 W's of quilt making through the centuries. You'll be surprised at where it began and just how long quilting has been practiced. A PowerPoint presentation and quilts from Dawn's collection will augment the lecture. Participants will receive a comprehensive list of locations and websites where historic quilt collections can be viewed.

- 18 **Coastal Geology and Climate Change** How is coastal geology and the west coast of North America informing us about the climate change story? Join Dr. Sandy Vanderburgh from Lethbridge College to learn about his research.

RELATED PROGRAMS: SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

Contact Belinda for more information: 403.320-4248 | belinda.crowson@galtmuseum.com

Earth's Climate in the Balance exhibit-related programs are available for the duration of the exhibit and can look at the difference between weather and climate, mass extinctions, and taking responsibility for our actions.

What's the Difference Between Weather and Climate? The difference between weather and climate is a measure of time. Weather is what conditions of the atmosphere are over a short period of time, and climate is how the atmosphere "behaves" over relatively long periods of time. When we talk about climate change, we talk about changes in long-term averages of daily weather.

RELATED SPECIAL EVENTS

Earth Hour 2012

Sat MAR 31 | 8:30 pm

Celebrate your action for the planet with the people of the world by switching off your lights for an hour, then go beyond the hour. The Galt will be switching off its lights too: check updates online.

Earth Day 2012

Sun APR 22 | 1:00 - 4:30 pm

Check our website for updates!

SPEAKER CONTACT INFORMATION:



Thu JAN 26 | Café Galt - Alberta's Great Oil Discovery: The Turner Valley Story

David Finch Historian

tel 403.277-7448, 383-4428 (c) | daafinch@gmail.com |

davidfinchhistorian.weebly.com

David Finch researches and writes about Canadian history fulltime. His interests include social history, the technology westerners have used to develop the natural resource wealth of the frontier, and our economic and political institutions.

Born in pre-revolutionary Cuba, David Finch is the only son of Canadian missionaries. After completing a portion of his education in Canada and Venezuela, Finch came to Canada for good and earned a master's degree in post-confederation Canadian history at the University of Calgary.

He has been History Columnist at The Calgary Herald since 2008, is the author of more than 20 books about Canadian history including *Turner Valley Gas Plant: Site and Building History* - a study of a historic site. Researcher for movie projects, museum displays, corporate histories.



Thu FEB 02 | Café Galt - Climate Change Reality: a Hot Topic

Robin and Marion Wright

tel 403.246-2994 | marian.nw@nucleus.com |

www.naturewatchworld.com

Calgary-based **Robin and Marian White** are authors of the award-winning book, *Wild Alberta at the Crossroads*, and longtime providers of public environmental education, to which their extensive travels lend a global perspective.

Robin (Master of Environmental Studies, York) was an award-winning land-use planner at the City of Calgary and is a presenter for The Climate Reality Project - Canada.

Marian (BSc - Geography, Toronto), has a background in journalism and editing, manages NatureWatch Press, works to reduce their carbon footprint, and plans to restart her vegetable garden next growing season.



Thu MAR 22 | Galt Workshops - Handmade Paper

Susan Kristoferson artist, teacher, author

403.668-0140 (h), 403.619-6875 (c) | kristudio@shaw.ca

www.kristoferson-studio.ca

Susan Kristoferson specializes in surface design processes for paper such as shibori, paste painting and collage. She has been an art professor at Miami University, Ohio and Head of Fiber Arts at Oregon College of Arts and Crafts in Portland. Susan operates Kristoferson Studio in Calgary where she creates decorative papers, collages, and handmade paper products such as blank books, earrings and lighting. As president of the Calgary chapter of the

Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild, Susan initiated the Alberta paper arts survey exhibition "Pulp, Paper, Pages" that will premier at the Alberta Craft Council in Edmonton in April of 2012. Susan is also a lead member of the Calgary chapter work to premier the "Art of the Book 2013" international juried book arts exhibition and symposium in Calgary in July and August, 2013. Susan is an avid gardener, enjoys the Koi fish in the 'gorge' outside her kitchen window and plays in a flute choir.



Wed FEB 15 | Wednesdays at the Galt - A Greener Alberta Where No One is Left Behind

Shannon Phillips

phillipshannon@gmail.com

Shannon Phillips is an economic policy analyst for the Alberta Federation of Labour. She holds an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Alberta. In the past, she has worked as a communications consultant, and as a journalist at the CBC and freelance writer. She is a frequent contributor to Albertaviews magazine.

Wed MAR 07 | Wednesdays at the Galt - Archives of the Ancient Past

Alwynne B. Beaudoin Head Curator of Earth Sciences and Curator of Quaternary Environments at the Royal Alberta Museum, Edmonton

Arrange interviews through **Deborah Andrews**, Communications Coordinator Tel 780.453-9170 | deborah.andrews@gov.ab.ca

Alwynne Beaudoin holds a B.Sc. from Leeds University, U.K., and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Western Ontario, all in physical geography. She moved to Alberta to work for the Archaeological Survey in 1986, transferring to Royal Alberta Museum in 1991. Her work concentrates on the investigation of the landscapes and environments of Alberta during the past 12,000 years, especially as these relate to the province's human history. This research involves the examination of plant remains, especially seeds and pollen, and the analysis of soils and sediments. During the last twenty-five years, she has worked in many parts of Alberta, though her most recent work has focused on the Cypress Hills area.