

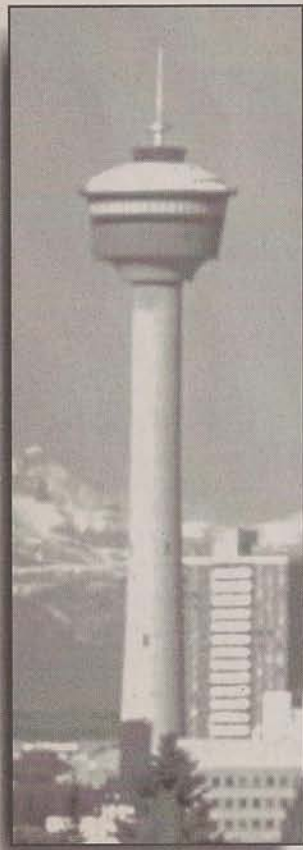
Brentwood ENVIRONMENT NEWS

If it's April, then the 22nd must be Earth Day! What can you do to help celebrate this amazing and fantastic Earth home we share together?

How about the 11th annual Canada Life Climb for Wilderness. On Saturday, April 20 you can trot up the mere 802 steps of the Calgary Tower and help raise funds to protect the special spaces and species in our province. Please call Nichol Turner at the Alberta Wilderness Association's (AWA) office at 283-2025 if you have any questions about the event. You can also check out their Web site at www.towerclimb.ca/ClimbForWilderness.

If you would like to sponsor a climber instead of making the trip yourself, I know a few Brentwood children who are climbing. Tax receiptable cheques to the AWA would be delivered on your behalf. E-mail or call me at 282-2014 ASAP if you would like your environmental contribution conveniently handled in this way.

Don't forget the interesting Environment Fair in the Tower lobby that day, plus the multitude of other Earth Day events advertised around town.



If you feel like staying at home, read a book about the Earth. Finally, I am reading several books by Rachel Carson, the renowned pioneer of the environmental movement spawned in the '60s. *Silent Spring* is perhaps her most famous book, which provides some of the first evidence of how certain pesticides were poisoning our environment. However, *A Sense of Wonder* and some of her other, more poetic works are also well worth a read.

Recently, Calgary hosted one of Canada's first performances of *A Sense of Wonder: The Life and Works*

of Rachel Carson, a one-woman play written and performed by Kaiulani Lee. If this play ever comes back to Calgary, don't miss it! It is a fantastic and inspiring play about one woman's love for the natural world and her fight to defend it. Lee does an amazing job of illustrating Carson's life and spirit. The play is presented by the Sierra Legal Defence Fund, which recently took on many environmental cases in Alberta. Check out www.rachelcarson.org and www.sierralegal.org.

Become an activist and express your concerns about pesticide use in Calgary. Our alderman, Druh Farrell, would like to hear from you at 268-2430 or druh.farrell@gov.calgary.ca, as would Lawns for Kids at 286-6473 or permaculture@cadvision.com.

Calgary should be paving the way, along with Halifax, in urban environmental initiatives in Canada. Your voice is important.

Read some more. David Suzuki's newest book *Good News for a Change: Hope for a Troubled Planet*, co-authored with Holly Dressel, is a good read. Anyone who read Don Braid's Feb. 15 column in the *Calgary Herald* about Suzuki's talk at the teachers' convention would not be able to garner that this was, indeed, an inspiring and essentially optimistic discourse. Together with Gwynne Dyer's talk at the convention, the message was clear: our strength lies in our diversity. This translates into how environmental, cultural and economic diversity, truly embraced at fundamental and philosophical levels, will lead to a healthy and vibrant global society. Dyer spoke of our cultural diversity as being the key to Canada's future economic health. Suzuki spoke of the Earth's diversity as the source of our wealth and well-being – a true civil society being the source of our hope. These complementary talks were heartening, especially in the face of recent and ongoing world and provincial political tendencies toward short-sightedness. It will not happen automatically. There is much to be done, but we can go about it with a persevering and optimistic vision.

Enjoy some time outside in the fresh spring air and undertake a little stewardship of your immediate surroundings. Celebrate our diversity and a happy Earth Day to all!

Environmentally yours,
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