

## Climate change

1. Both pres Barack Obama & the Chinese Pres Xi Jinping have set targets to combat climate change - China's goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 60-65% relative to 2005 levels by 2030 - USA wants to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> pollution from their biggest emitters - its power plants by 32% by 2030 from 2005 levels. These are the 2 top emitters, but Canada doesn't appear to have any meaningful plan to tackle CO<sub>2</sub> emission, this isn't good as Canada is 4<sup>th</sup> largest emitter per capita in the world, also climate change will have significant impact on Canada's marine & land based ecosystems eg; impact on the Sockeye Salmon catches. The Arctic has been identified as a hot spot for ocean acidification caused by CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the air; then to try not having a plan to mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> emission it's left behind in the race for clean energy and other decarbonizing technologies. The Scandinavian countries are far ahead so now China & USA are playing catch up - It should be seen as an economic opportunity not a cost. We need to demand that our mainstream political parties state their position on climate change strategies.

2. Wild bears could be going into hibernation earlier this year - there's a low supply of food - berry crops not good, streams not having as many fish so they having a lower body mass. Hibernation is a strategy to protect body mass, and may still continue to freeze & some may just go to sleep according to Ken Macquista - the resident veterinarian at Grays Mt, home to Grizzly & Caribou, bears could live there year round. So will lack of food bears wander further to find their next meal & end up in residential areas and into garbage cans & may even seek out your backyard pools to cool down. They can't sweat, they can only rely on keeping body temp down by panting or getting to cool places & love water.

### 3 Garbage in the Pacific

Scientists & Volunteers have been gathering data on how much garbage is floating in the Pacific O. Most of it is medium to large pieces. 30 boats have been measuring the size & mapping the location of tons of plastic between the west coast & Hawaii - its urgent to get it out so it doesn't get into small pieces. The expedition was sponsored by the Ocean Clean Up people funded by Slat, a 21 year old innovation from Holland & they will report the findings by mid 2016 when they want to test out a 1.6 K barrier to collect garbage near Japan. Ultimate goal is to construct a 100 K barrier in the middle of the Pacific ocean.

4 Ryker Lake has always been a hot spot for wildlife projects. They recently invited Guy Ferguson to speak about his work as steward & recover barn swallows in BC. It's listed as threatened - has declined by about 70% across Canada in 2009. The goal now is to understand, conserve & recover swallow species although the problem is not just localized in Ryker Lake they are interested in doing something about it. Guy said he found 3 landowners who said they have swallows, and they will monitor the nests & see how the pop is doing over time. Many have told him they've seen a decline in no. so they just want to see if its continuing, how bad it is where its occurring & what might be the cause. Landowners should respect & encourage their nesting activities & if there's any threats that they should try to minimize them.

5 Canadian environmentalists are alarmed that the US govt gave Royal Dutch Shell permission to drill for oil in Arctic Ocean off Alaska's northwest coast in the Chukchi Sea, this is close to Canadian Waters where firms would also like to drill and all this raises potential for Canada impacting oil spills & oil tanker traffic off BC coast. Imperial oil also has leases in the Beaufort Sea & they could use this as an argument to drill. Because of the decision the prospect of US-extracted oil for continental US in tanker off BC is more likely

For BC this approval of Alaska drilling is somewhat like the expansion in Alberta's oil sands - The bit is drilled outside BC but the path to market is in BC. Shell has promised its offshore work will be closely monitored around the clock we'll make sure that utmost safety & environmental stewardship is followed. Environmental groups oppose the Arctic offshore drilling saying that industrial activity will harm polar bears, Pacific Walrus, seals and threatened whales, already vulnerable from climate warming and shrinking summer ice. Oil Co. have not demonstrated they can clean up a spill in water choked by ice. They are promising a long fight - this was a wrong decision & will continue to call on Obama to protect the Arctic & our environment.

6 Kinder Morgan has filed new reports to the National E 13 touching about the economic benefits of its proposed Trans Mt pipeline expansion, has replaced the evidence that the regulator ordered removed from the record that was prepared by Mr Kelly who has been appointed to a 7yr term on the board starting Oct 13. This dual role of Mr Kelly was raising concerns as to the integrity of the hearing process. The \$5.4 B project would nearly triple amt of crude oil shipped on Trans Mt Pipe line between Edmonton area & lower mainland enabling its export to Asian Markets which would be a big boost to producers & is expected to ripple thro the rest of the economy. The total fuel market to Canada is pegged at \$24 B over 2 decades with \$14 B flowing to Alta & \$1.4 B for BC. Issues still remain with the process such as lack of opportunities for real cross examination. 35 participants have dropped out of the process calling it biased & unfair.

Issues -