



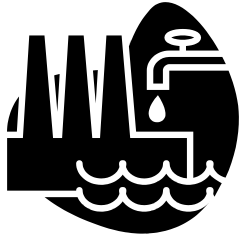
# Athabasca River Basin Conference

## Water for Life, Water for Strife?



June 1st - 3rd 2007  
Athabasca, Alberta  
[www.aenweb.ca](http://www.aenweb.ca)





# Athabasca River Basin Conference

## **Water for Life, Water for Strife?**

June 1st - 3rd, 2007

### PROGRAM CONTENTS

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## FRIDAY, 1 JUNE

*All of Friday's activities are open to the public as well as conference participants. A registration desk will be open Friday morning and evening to register for the conference.*

### **Friday Morning – lower floor of Athabasca Community Centre**

(4901 - 48 Street, telephone: 780-675-5126, kitchen)

*Joint meetings of the Alberta Stewardship Network (ASN) and Alberta Environmental Network (AEN) but open to all members of the public. The following schedule is tentative and may be modified by the gathering.*

**Moderator: Dr. Harvey Scott, Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca.**

**9:00 to 11:00 AM** In-person registrations and set-up of displays (upstairs)

### **11:00 AM Gathering Perspectives on the Athabasca River Basin**

Welcoming remarks; stewardship and the ASN - Ernie Ewaschuk; beginning of community, First Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) self-introductions and mini-reports (from Jasper to Fort Chipewyan and downriver)

**12:30 PM** Lunch (provided with registration)

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### **Friday Afternoon – lower floor of Athabasca Community Centre**

(4901 - 48 Street, telephone: 780-675-5126, kitchen)

### **1:00 PM Presentations, discussion and questions**

Watershed stewardship and Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs), Petra Rowell, Alberta Environment and Water for Life; David Trew, Executive Director of North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance

### **2:00 PM Good News**

Alberta First Nations Water Stewardship Plan – Denise Hammel; Lac la Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society – Jeff McCammon; Lac la Biche Watershed – Krystle Fedoretz and Melissa Mucha

**3:00 PM** Refreshment break (provided with registration)

**3:15 PM** **Group discussion on “Interest in Developing an Athabasca River Basin Alliance?”** including: Shared Vision? Next Steps? Interim SC? Next Gathering?

**4:30 PM** **Citizens of the Mackenzie/ Arctic Basin- Keepers of the Water and Keepers of the Peace** – Chief Roland Willson

**5:00- 7:00 PM** **Supper on your own at local restaurants** (list provided).

*Note: On Saturday and Sunday, the Alberta Environment Network (AEN) will have a parallel set of meetings to the Athabasca River Basin Conference meetings. The AEN will have caucus meetings on Saturday between 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM (on agriculture and parks) and 3:00-5:00 PM (on toxins and waste avoidance as well as forests and wilderness). On Sunday, the AEN Annual General Meeting will take place 9:00 AM-12:00 PM and will hold caucus meetings 1:00-4:00 PM (with their Oil Sands Strategy Working Group and Clean Air Group). These meetings will be held on the lower floor of the Athabasca Community Centre.*

**Friday Evening – Athabasca University**  
(1 University Drive, Governing Council Chambers)

**Moderator: Dr. Peter Mitchell, Athabasca University**

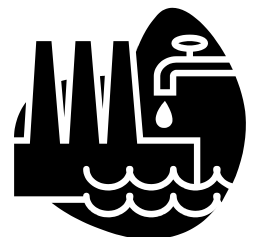
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**7:00 PM** Wine and cheese reception hosted by Athabasca University

**7:30 PM** **“The Athabasca River Basin: from glacier to delta”** – Dr. Robert Holmberg,  
Centre for Science, Athabasca University

**8:15 PM** **Overview of Government of Alberta management framework for the Athabasca River Basin** – Bev Yee, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Stewardship

**8:45 PM** **Human history of the Athabasca River Basin** – Dr. Frits Pannekoek,  
President, Athabasca University



## **SATURDAY, 2 JUNE**

### **Saturday Morning – Nancy Appleby Theatre**

(4720 – 48 Street, telephone: 780-675-5537, lobby)

**8:00 AM** In-person registration

### ***Morning Moderator: Dr. Don Kvill, Athabasca Peace Initiative***

**8:30 AM** **Formal opening of Athabasca River Basin Conference – Water for Life, Water for Strife?**

**9:00 AM** **History of oil and water in Alberta** – Andrew Nikiforuk, freelance journalist

**10:00 AM** Refreshment break (provided with registration)

**10:15 AM** **Human health concerns** – Dr. John O’Connor, Physician, Fort McMurray

**10:45 AM** **“The Politics of Smart Growth”** – Dr. David Swann, MLA for Calgary Mountainview and Shadow Minister of the Environment

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**11:45 AM** **Questions from the audience for morning speakers**

**12:00 PM** Lunch at Athabasca Community Centre, downstairs (provided with registration)

### **Saturday Afternoon**

### ***Moderator: Dr. Harvey Scott, Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca***

**1:00 PM** **“Threats to the Lower Athabasca River from Climate Warming and Oil Sands Development”** – Dr. David Schindler, Killam Memorial Chair and Professor of Ecology, University of Alberta

**2:00 PM “Where to from here? Moving ahead”**

Moderator: Bob Cameron, South Peace Alberta Watershed Council  
Panel discussion: Simon Dyer, Pembina Institute; Lisa Deskelni King or Alan Adam, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation; Danielle Droitsch, Bow River Keeper and Alberta Water Council; Randall Barrett, Alberta Environment and President Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA).

**3:00 PM Refreshment break** (provided with registration)

**3:15 PM Panel comments**

**3:30 PM Audience discussion/questions of speakers**

**5:00 - 7:30 PM** Supper on your own at local restaurants (list provided)

**Saturday Evening – Nancy Appleby Theatre**

(4720 – 48 Street, telephone: 780-675-5537, lobby)

**7:30 - 10:30 PM Athabasca River Celebration (music, art and dance)**

Masters of ceremonies: Jerry MacLean, Athabasca Peace Initiative/ Athabasca Heritage Society and Peter Opryshko, Heartwood Folk Club

**Music groups:** South Bound Six, Landing Trail Intermediate School Choir and Hand-bell groups, Stewed Roots, Athabasca Drum Group,

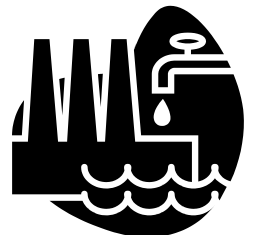
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**Art:** Poetry by Marilyn Peruniak and Christine Nelson, Edwin Parr Composite School Drama Improv Group and various artworks on display

**Dance:** Athabasca Dance Society

**Speakers:** Don Van Hout and Danielle Droitsch on their “Connect the Drops” canoe trip, Greg Johnson on “Captain Shot”

This river celebration is open to the public as well as conference registrants. There will be an intermission with refreshments available for purchase about 9:45 PM.



## SUNDAY, 3 JUNE

Upper floor of Athabasca Community Centre  
(4901 - 48 Street, telephone: 675-5126)

### Sunday Morning

**9:00 AM Nature walk**

(registered parties please meet at the Community Centre)

**10:15 AM** Meeting of AEN, First Nations, Keepers of the Water and AEN Annual General Meeting (see NOTES from page 3)

**12:00 PM** Lunch downstairs (provided with registration)

### Sunday Afternoon

**Moderator: Mr. Jerry MacLean, Athabasca Peace Initiative/ Athabasca Heritage Society**

**1:00 PM "Community and Regional Water Initiatives"** (upper floor)

Panel discussion including Connie Bresnahan, Hinton Bioregional Society; David De Rosa, Area Fisheries Biologist, Slave Lake; Shawn Wasel, Baptiste, Island and Skeleton Lakes Watershed and Lake Stewardship Council (BISL); Carly Steiger, Long Lake Junior Forest Wardens

**1:00 PM - 4:00 PM AEN Causan meeting** (lower floor)

**2:30 PM** Refreshment break (provided with registration)

**2:45 PM Athabasca Town and County Water Management Plan,**

Rob Balay, Town of Athabasca; representative from County of Athabasca

**3:30 PM "Recreation and Tourism Perspectives"**

Panel discussion including: Nadine Hallett, Athabasca Country Tourism; Kelly Harlton, Wildside Wilderness Connection, Slave Lake; Rene and Linda Garton, hunting and fishing guides, Smith; Bill Black, President Magnificent River Rats Society

**4:20 PM Closing Remarks**

Jerry MacLean, Athabasca Peace Initiative/ Athabasca Heritage Society



## Conference Organization

This conference is organized by representatives of:



CANADA'S OPEN UNIVERSITY

Athabasca Heritage Society

### Conference Committee:

Dr. Harvey Scott, telephone 780-675-4158 or e-mail [harveys@telusplanet.net](mailto:harveys@telusplanet.net)

Mr. Jerry McLean, telephone 780-675-5380 or e-mail [jmaclean@telusplanet.net](mailto:jmaclean@telusplanet.net)

Dr. Don Kvill, telephone 780-675-2428 or e-mail [dkvill@telus.net](mailto:dkvill@telus.net)

Dr. Robert Holmberg, telephone 780-675-6203 or e-mail [robert@athabascau.ca](mailto:robert@athabascau.ca)

Ms. Linda Lindballe, telephone 780-675-6653 or e-mail [lindal@athabascau.ca](mailto:lindal@athabascau.ca)

Ms. Lindsay Telfer, telephone 780- 439-1160 or e-mail [lindsay@sierraclub.ca](mailto:lindsay@sierraclub.ca)

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### Financial support came from:

Alberta Stewardship Network

Athabasca University

Alberta Environmental Network

### We were assisted by:

Alberta Environmental Network

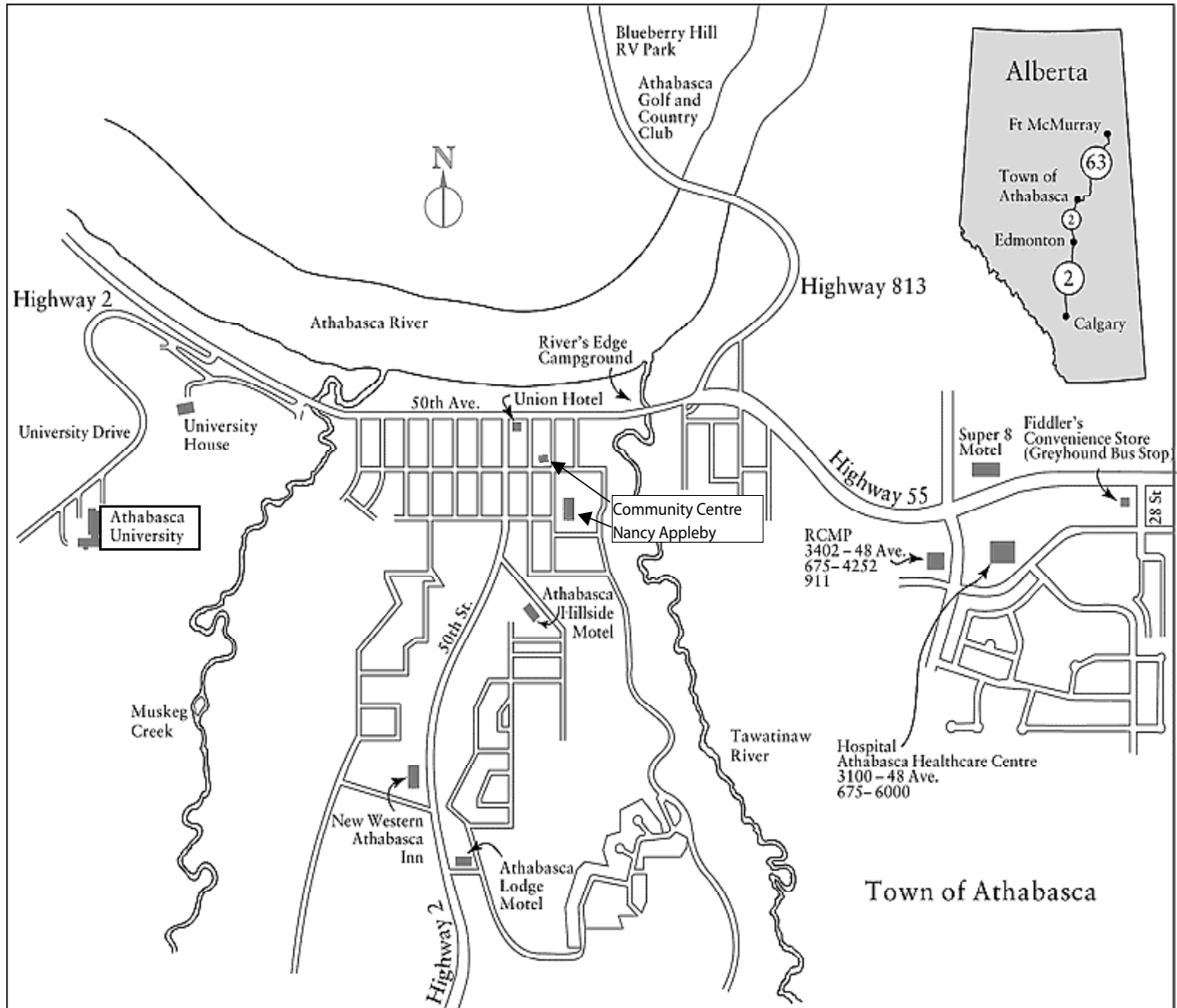
Alberta Stewardship Network

Athabasca Native Friendship Centre

**As well as many individuals.**

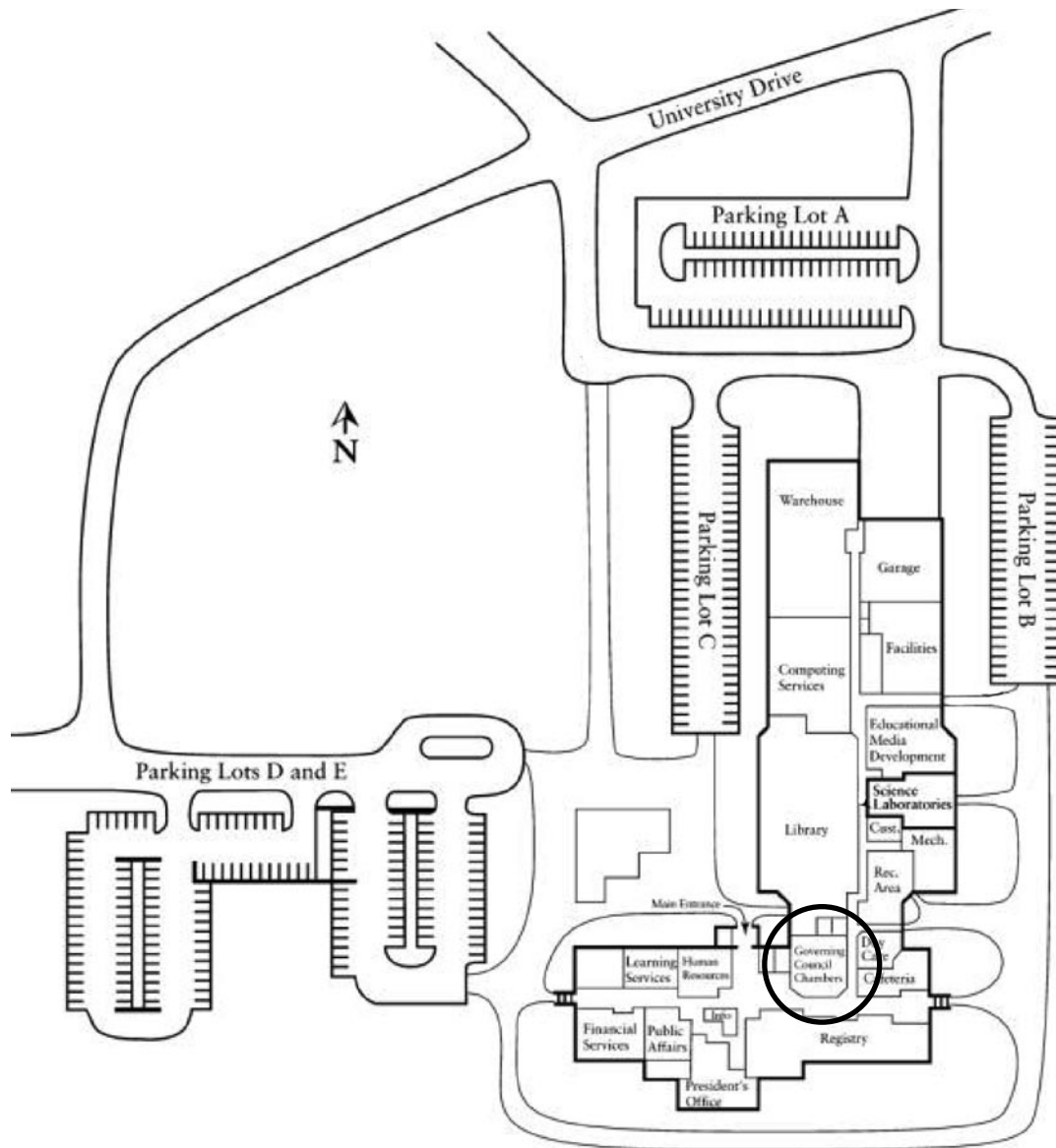
# MAP OF TOWN OF ATHABASCA

(showing Athabasca Community Centre, Nancy Appleby Theatre, Athabasca University, and various accommodation locations)



# MAP OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

(park anywhere there is a designated space in lots D or E and enter through the Main Entrance by the 3 flag poles; there will be a large red and white tent in Parking Lot C)



# ATHABASCA FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

This guide is meant to introduce you to accommodation, dining and other facilities of the Town of Athabasca.

## Accommodation

### MOTELS

**1: THE NEW WESTERN ATHABASCA INN** No website available. The Inn also has a sports lounge/bar, a tavern, a coffee shop and a dining room. Telephone: (780) 675-2294; toll free: 1-800-567-5718. Fax: (780) 675-3890. Mailing address: 5211-41 Avenue, Athabasca, AB, T9S 1A5. Room Rates \$109 + tax (group rate \$94 + tax for 12 or more rooms)

**2: ATHABASCA LODGE MOTEL** See website (<http://www.athabascalodgemotel.com/>) <http://www.discoveralberta.com/AlbertasHeartland/Athabasca/Wheretostay/HotelsMotels/>. Kitchenettes available. Telephone: (780) 675-2266, toll free 1-888-500-2266. Fax: (780) 675-4700. Street address: Highway 2 South (across from the Athabasca Inn), mailing address: 4004 Highway #2 South, Athabasca, AB, T9S 1B5. Room Rates \$85 to \$95 + tax

**3: ATHABASCA HILLSIDE MOTEL** See website <http://www.athabascahillsidehotel.net/>. Kitchenettes available. Athabasca Hillside Motel. Telephone: (780) 675-5111, Mailing address: 4804-46A Avenue, Athabasca, AB, T9S 1B6. Room Rates \$74 + tax

**4: COLINTON CORNER MOTEL** Kitchenettes available. Offers cable/satellite television, laundry facilities and rooms with kitchenettes. Non-smoking units available. Telephone: (780) 675-1996 Address: Highway 2 Athabasca AB Canada T9S 1B6 The Colinton Corner Motel is located approximately 17 km south of Athabasca on Highway 2 Room Rates \$xxx + tax (group rate \$xxx+ tax)

**5: SUPER 8 MOTEL** See website (<http://www.super8athabasca.com/>). A & W Restaurant next door. Located on East Hill, on north side of Highway 55. Telephone: (780) 675-8888, toll free 800 800-8000. Fax: (780) 675-8889. Mailing address: 4820B Wood Heights Road, Athabasca, AB, T9S 1M6. Room Rates \$109 + tax (group rate \$98 + tax for 15 or more rooms)

### HOTEL

**6: UNION HOTEL** The Union Hotel has a bar and restaurant. This historic hotel is in the core of the downtown area and is presently being renovated. Telephone: (780) 675-3140. Mailing address: 4942-50 Street, Athabasca, AB, T9S 1E3. Room Rates \$71.50 includes tax. No phones or internet access in rooms. A restaurant, bar and pay phones are located downstairs.

### BED AND BREAKFASTS

#### 7: MEANOOK BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION

See website (<http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/facilities/meanook/>). Station facilities are available for non-research users from May to August. The MBRS fills up quickly in the summer so you must book in advance. The station offers rooms with single bed, desk and closet. Bring your own bedding (it can be supplied if necessary). The station has a central lounge with a TV and fridge, volleyball and badminton courts, and basketball hoops. Cost is per night and includes a prepared dinner and food supplied for lunch and breakfast. Telephone: (780) 675-4934 or (780) 492-0289 and ask for Branden. Fax: (780) 675-3228. Location: 17 km south of Athabasca on Highway 2, follow signs, 3.8 km on gravel. Mailing address: Box 1718, Athabasca, AB, T9S 2B4.

### CAMPGROUNDS

**9: ATHABASCA RIVER'S EDGE CAMPGROUND** The town of Athabasca has a campground on the south bank of the Athabasca River just east of the town's center. Flush toilets, showers, sewage disposal and sheltered picnic site.

**10: BLUEBERRY HILL RV PARK** Full trailer hookups, modern washrooms with hot showers, wheelchair accessible, laundry, fire pits, playground. For fee per night, check website (<http://www.telusplanet.net/public/access/blueberr.htm>). Telephone: (780) 675-3733 or 1-800-859-9452. Fax: (780) 675-2480. Location: 2.5 km north of Athabasca on Highway # 813, adjacent to Athabasca Golf and Country Club.

## Eating Out

### FAST FOODS

**LINDA'S TREATS University cafeteria** (1 University Drive) serves soups, sandwiches and variety of hot meals with daily specials. Open Monday to Friday but closed for part of the summer. Telephone: 675-6178

**A&W RESTAURANT** Burgers, fries and root beer. Telephone: 675-0327. Address: 4820A Wood Heights Road (north side of Highway 55 on East Hill, next door to Super 8 Motel).

**ATHABASCA BURGER BAR** A conventional burger bar, offering a selection of burgers, fries, onion rings, milk shakes, ice cream, home-made soups, etc. Telephone: 675-2672. Address: 4719 - 50 Street.

**SUBWAY** Sandwiches and salads. Telephone: 675-5588. Address: 4601 - 50 Avenue.

## FULL DINING

### **ATHABASCA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB**

**RESTAURANT- FOX DEN** Open summers from 7 AM to dark. Fresh home made soups, sandwiches, burgers, and snacks. Licensed. Telephone: 675-7033. Street address: Across the bridge on the north side of the Athabasca River. Seats 60 people (not available for supper 2 June 2007 because of a golf tournament).

**EGAN'S RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE** Located in the Athabasca Inn. Serves breakfast, lunch and dinner with an Irish theme. Licensed with as lounge and bar. Telephone: 675-2294, extension 763. Address: 5211 - 42 Avenue. Seats 100 people (1/4 available for supper on Saturdays).

**49th Street Grill PIZZA AND STEAK HOUSE** As the name implies, this restaurant serves pizza, steak, and some Greek dishes. There are lunch specials. Licensed. Telephone: 675-5418. Address: 4901 - 49 Street. Seats 110 people (half available for supper on Saturdays).

**GOLDEN FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT** Canadian style Chinese food. Smorg on Saturdays. Telephone: 675-2781. Address: 4905-49 Street. Seats 110 people (half available for supper on Saturdays).

**GREEN SPOT RESTAURANT** Offers daily specials as well as a regular menu. Licensed. Telephone: 675-3040. Address: 4820-51 Street. Seats 110 people (half to 3/4 available for supper on Saturdays).

**HAPPY GARDEN RESTAURANT** Serves Chinese as well as western foods. Daily lunch special. Telephone: 675-3551. Address: 4912 - 50 Street. Seats 50 people (half available for supper on Saturdays/sometimes full)

**MIKE'S PIZZA & RESTAURANT** Located at the Shell gas station. Open everyday from 10 AM. Telephone 675-5020. Address: 5212 - 50 Avenue. Seats 70 people (half available for supper on Saturdays).

**RIVERHOUSE IN ATHABASCA** Licensed restaurant. Serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Telephone: 675-5711. Address: 5002 - 43 Street. Seats 35 people (usually full for supper on Saturdays).

**HERITAGE GRILL** located at the Union Hotel Licensed restaurant. Serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Telephone: 675-9677. Address: 4942-50 Street. Seats 70 people (half available for supper on Saturdays)

**NEIGHBOR'S PUB** Licensed lounge. Serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Telephone: 675-9219. Address: 4810 -50 Street. Seats 65 people (half available for supper on Saturdays).

## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES CLOSE TO ATHABASCA

**ATHABASCA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB** Telephone 675-4599. 18 hole golf course. Located 2.5 km north of downtown.

**ATHABASCA LANDING POOL** Telephone 675-5656. Address: 5705 - 48 Avenue. Sauna, hot tub, warm kiddie pool, 25 meter pool. Adult swim, lane swim, early bird swim.

**ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY** has an exercise room, squash courts, saunas and showers. Telephone: 675-6111. Open to the public Monday through Thursday - 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

**LIFESTYLE FITNESS** Telephone 675-4115. Address: 6117a - 52 Avenue. Weight room, aerobics, cardio equipment available.

**MUSKEG CREEK PARK:** Telephone 675-2967 (Town Recreation office). The park is within town limits and adjacent to Athabasca University. Provides opportunities for hiking, jogging, mountain biking, and cross country skiing. Maps are available from the Town Recreation office.

The **TOWN OF ATHABASCA** offers a variety of summer day camps for kids. Call the office for information on current programs. They can also provide you with information on boating and fishing lakes in the area as well as tennis courts and ice skating arenas (winter). Town of Athabasca Recreation Office: 675-2967.

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## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY: 911

AMBULANCE: (780) 675-2811

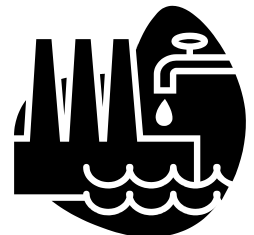
GREYHOUND BUS stop at Fiddlers 2 Food & Gas: (780) 675-7972

HOSPITAL: (780) 675-6000

MAGIC WAND CAB COMPANY: (780) 675-0302

MUSKEG CREEK TAXI: (780) 675-9171

RCMP (Police): (780) 675-4252



## Feedback Information

Please provide us with some feed-back about this conference by filling out this short form and dropping it off at the box marked "Feed-back" or by contacting one of the members of the organizing committee (see program).

1. What two things did you like most about this conference?

2. What two things did you like least (i.e. what we could have done better)?

3. What is the town/city of your residence?

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4. What day(s) of the conference did you attend? Please circle as appropriate.

Friday, 1 June

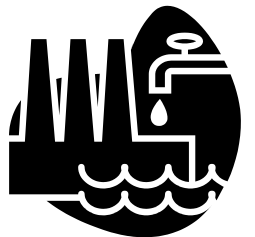
Saturday, 2 June

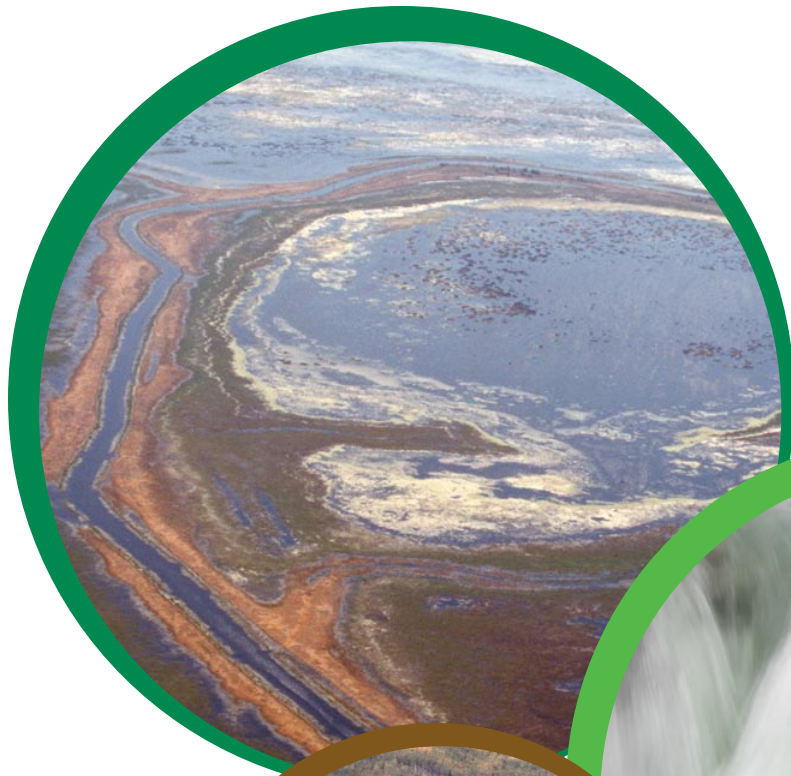
Sunday, 3 June

5. What factors, concerning the Athabasca River Basin, would you like to know more about? In other words, if we held another conference, what issues should we try to cover?

*Thanks for your suggestions.*

## Notes





ATHABASCA  
PEACE  
INITIATIVE



Alberta  
Environmental  
Network



Crooked Creek Conservancy  
Society of Athabasca



Athabasca University   
CANADA'S OPEN UNIVERSITY

Athabasca Heritage Society