



The Soil Keeper

November 2001 Volume 2, Issue 2

Association Sponsors

- Major Funding**
- Agriculture**
- Environment**
- Partnership Initiative**
- "A" Horizon**

Prins

Greenhouses

"B" Horizon

Frank Nikaido

Newsletter

Sponsor

Triple J

Excavating & Brushing

Corporate

Members



Bank of Montreal

Major Pipeline coming your way?

BC Gas plans to build the Inland Pacific Connector - a 246-kilometre natural gas pipeline. The plan is to link BC Gas's *Southern Crossing Pipeline* near Oliver, B.C. to the Huntingdon market hub in the Fraser Valley. The stated purpose of the pipeline is to increase the supply of natural gas into the Fraser Valley. The increased supply is intended to help reduce the current high costs of natural gas.

"Open Houses" were held by BC Gas throughout the month of June. The information meetings were hosted in various locations around the Fraser Valley. The goal of BC Gas was to have staff available to answer questions and to hear comments from the general public. Following the Open House process, BC Gas released a press statement dated June 25, 2001 which reported "*Development of BC Gas's proposed Inland*

Pacific Connector Pipeline will continue after a recent open season closed with significant interest from a number of parties seeking to purchase capacity on the pipeline. "Although the available capacity is not fully subscribed at this time,

ment, Ballantyne comments "The public input has been informed and helpful. People are very interested in this project and we are working to address the concerns they have raised,".

At least 470 residents attended the evening meetings. Of those attending, two ASCA directors took time to be present at the local meeting.



The ASCA has also taken preliminary steps to express concerns about the proposed project. Based on a Pipeline survey conducted by the ASCA in June 2000, the ASCA directors know that pipeline crossings and rights-of-way are important to area farmers. Of particular impor-

there is enough interest to warrant continued development of the pipeline," said Rich Ballantyne, BC Gas Director of Transmission and Project Development." Further in the press state-

(Continued on page 5)

What's inside

<i>AgriFair Report</i>	2
<i>EFP's—what are they?</i>	3
<i>Get the DIRT on new ASCA coordinator</i>	4

ASCA 3rd time Lucky at AGriFair

The Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association is quickly becoming a fixture at the annual AgriFair celebration hosted locally each August. For the third year in a row, the ASCA spent five days promoting soil conservation at AgriFair. The ASCA used the opportunity to tell guests about the many methods that agriculture uses to protect and enhance the environment.

As part of the annual promotion, the ASCA once again handed out free cover crop seed to home gardeners. As in the past, the 1 lb bags of seed are used to demonstrate to the non-farming public how strategies such as cover cropping work to save our soil.

Thanks to the Buckerfield's Country Store in Aldergrove, the ASCA was able to hand out hundreds of bags of cover crop seed and also a large

number of Frisbees donated by Buckerfield's as well. The Frisbees were a real hit with the "young at heart" crowd!

The ASCA coordinators and directors who staffed the booth enjoyed meeting and talking with the visitors to AgriFair. It was great to hear that many of the visitors to the booth were repeat customers coming back for another



ASCA Technical Advisor Geoff Hughes-Games talking soil conservation during AgriFair

supply of cover crop for their garden. Many also took extra cover crop seed packets to give to their friends, relatives, and neighbours as a way of promoting soil conservation.

In anticipation of next year's AgriFair the

ASCA has already started working on the 2002 booth but we need your help! If you have planted some ASCA cover crop seed, we would like to put your garden into our newsletter. Call Sandy at 604-556-3732 to highlight your soil conservation efforts!

CORPORATE MEMBERS

CIBC

**Jacobs Farm
Pacific Dairy
Centre**

**West Coast Energy
Braber Equipment**

**J&D Farmers
Dairy Service Ltd.**

**Ritchie-Smith
Feeds**

**Inter Urban
Delivery Service**

**Sponsorship of the
ASCA falls into the
following categories:**

- O Horizon - \$5,000
- A Horizon - \$3,000
- B Horizon - \$1,000

Corporate Membership with logo - \$500
Corporate Membership without logo - \$100




Your Partner in Agriculture!

Fertilizers

- Standard and controlled release blends.
- Custom formulation blends to suit your specific needs.
- Foliar and liquid fertilizers

Crop Protection

- A complete line of crop protection chemicals
- Biological controls
- Pheromone Traps and Lures

Agri Plastics

- Floating Crop Covers
- Mulch Film
- Tunnel Film

Vegetable Seed

- A full line of the newest varieties from the world's leading seed houses

Seeds

- Forage Seed
- Cereal Seed
- Erosion control and natural habitat varieties

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.
464 Riverside Road
Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 7M1
Phone: (604) 364-9044
Fax: (604) 364-3413

Winter Hours of Operation:
Mon - Fri: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

TerraLink is the convenient, one-stop outlet for producers in the Abbotsford area. Services include: soil analysis, technical information, custom spreading, crop spraying, and soil fumigation. Rental equipment is available for handling bulk fertilizer and lime.

Welcome
New Member:
M. Makara

B&W Greenhouse Construction Ltd.
Website: bwgreenhouse.com

Manufacturers and Installers of Greenhouses Since 1980.

• Shelters, Coverings, Parts & Hardware •

26950 - 16th Ave.
Aldergrove, B.C.
V4W 2S3

Cell: (604) 835-3388
Phone: (604) 856-1303
Fax: (604) 856-1109
e-mail: hkhinkley@bwgreenhouse.com

You, your farm, and the environment

Various organizations have made attempts to develop Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs). These EFPs are generally seen as documents voluntarily prepared by farm families to raise their awareness of the environment on their farm. The EFPs currently being discussed for development by BCMAFF would allow farmers to identify areas of the operation that would benefit most from implementing Best Management Practices. The goal of Best Management Practices is to improve protection of the environment and increase economic viability of the farm.

Environmental Farm Plans have been implemented in Ontario for almost a decade. In the mid 1990's, the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC) developed the idea of EFPs. In many ways OFEC's Environmental Farm Plans were ahead of their times. It was believed at the start of the program that stakeholders, through voluntary actions and incentives, can accomplish more for the environment than government agencies holding farmers to minimum standards.

In the last several years, over 18,000 farmers have participated in the EFP program in Ontario. This represents about one-third of producers and five million acres of Ontario farmland. A survey was taken of those farmers who participated in the program. The results of the survey showed:

- 41% of the farmers reported that the EFP program has prevented an environmental peril from happening on their farm
- More than half of the actions indicated by the EFPs have been completed or started on participating farms
- Almost two-thirds of those surveyed have undertaken more environmental action than their plans required
- Over 90% of those surveyed were willing to attend follow-up workshops
- More than 50% have revisited their EFP workbook to review information

The proposed EFP for BC would involve straightforward yes/no answers to a minimal set of questions. The OFEC program included an extremely detailed workbook. In the BC case, some EFPs may require additional detail depending on the size and type of farm operation.

The current concept for the EFP workbook for BC producers would include

(Continued on page 4)

TRIPLE J EXCAVATING & BRUSHING

Triple J Excavating & Brushing was founded 42 years ago by James John Jonk. After making his way northward from California, James Jonk settled the business in the Fraser Valley 27 years ago.

Over the years, Triple J has specialized in long-reach excavating, ditch and roadside maintenance, and more recently, in brush cutting.

For more than 20 years, Triple J has been cleaning ditches on behalf of the City of Abbotsford.

Now run by Nick Jonk, Triple J Excavating & Brushing is located in Chilliwack.

Tel: (604) 819-5678

"Pumps for Every Purpose"

MURPHY & WAKEFIELD LTD.

*Pumps, Plumbing, Irrigation
Heating, Gasfitting & Sheet Metal*

Phone: 853-3321

32394 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, BC V2T 1X2

Serving BC since 1946

TRIPLE J EXCAVATING & BRUSHING

(A Division of Agri Power Incorporated)

*Specializing in long reach excavating,
ditch & roadside maintenance*

NICK JONK
11024 McSween Road
Chilliwack, B.C.
V2P 7Z7

Phone (604) 819-5678
Fax (604) 792-4305
Res. (604) 792-4312
Email: agripower@uniserve.com

Profile of a Soil Keeper - Sandy Traichel—ASCA Coordinator



Look for Sandy in a field near you!

Sumas Canal receives new neighbours

The 200 Ash trees planted by the ASCA along the Sumas Canal in 1999 have some new neighbours. Thanks to funding from **TD Canada Trust—Friends of the Environment Foundation** the ASCA planted 256 more trees along the canal. The newest planting covers 3.2 km of the canal from #5 Rd. to Campbell Rd. A total of five varieties of trees were used for the second section of windbreak. The City of Abbotsford, Timmermans Nursery and Landscaping and ASCA directors, advisors, and coordinators all worked together to plant the new trees. The ASCA wants to thank Van Eekelen Enterprises, the City of Abbotsford, Timmermans Landscaping, and Bobcat Country for the equipment made available to complete the project.

Growing up as a prairie girl gave Sandy an inherent passion for the environment. Her experiences with hauling water every week ingrained the need for daily water conservation. The stories of her parents telling of how the South Saskatchewan River used to be so clear you could almost see to the bottom, also struck a chord with her. Now, having lived in BC for over a dozen years, Sandy comments “I am still amazed at the contrast between the lush and varied bounty of BC Agriculture and the more limited options in the hot, dry shortgrass prairie of southeastern Alberta”.

When choosing a field of

study for her degree, Sandy considered the area of Resource Management. After talking with the personable and knowledgeable soil professors at UBC, Sandy decided to study Soil Science. Once in the faculty, Sandy was hooked because she quickly became aware of how much soil forms the basis of our civilization. As Sandy puts it “studying soil science exposed me to the incredibly important and fascinating world beneath our feet that is so critical to the foundation of agriculture and therefore our society”.

After graduating with her degree, Sandy had the opportunity to work with the farm community in Delta. There, she investigated various sustainable soil management practices such as cover cropping and grassland set-asides. She temporarily veered away

from working directly in agriculture for a three year stint as a soil laboratory manager.

“I’m very happy to once again have the opportunity to work on soil and water conservation issues within an agricultural community” states Sandy when asked about her new position with the ASCA. In addition, Sandy is very much looking forward to developing a more detailed understanding of the issues in the Abbotsford area. Sandy sees her role as helping farmers develop better soil management strategies. According to Sandy this yields a double benefit: the environment is improved, and, well-structured, fertile soils help the bottom line as well.

You can reach Sandy for Consultation at 604-556-3732, or by email at humoferric@pacificcoast.net

(Continued from page 3)

nutrient management (including manure storage sizing), riparian, soil, water management, farmstead and outdoor livestock, odour, dead animal disposal, and wildlife. If, for example, a farm operation uses manure as fertilizer and/or is near a natural watercourse it is likely that more detailed information would be required because of the legislation involved with use of manure or fisheries issues in riparian areas.

Farmers will have several options for participating in the EFP program. Interested producers can voluntarily develop a personal EFP by:

- Obtaining the workbook and

developing a plan independently, or

- Completing an EFP during the course of a workshop where technical staff would be on hand to help with questions, or
- Hiring a qualified professional to develop a plan based on the individual requirements of the operation

In all cases the EFP is first, and foremost, a planning tool which is for the benefit of the farm operation. The ASCA will be organizing workshops with BCMAFF to introduce you to EFPs – watch for upcoming dates and locations in the spring!

Pipeline continued

(Continued from page 1)

tance to the ASCA is the potential for short and long term disruption to farming operations. The ASCA asked the following questions in a letter to BC Gas:

- How is access to be to farmland? Will there be previous consultation or will work crews simply begin work?
- Is there to be compensation to producers if crops, infrastructure or services are affected during and after construction?
- Will land be managed in such a way that farming can continue immediately after the work is complete?
- Will the pipe be buried at least 1.5 metres below grade, so as not to hinder established land management strategies?
- Will the right of way be aligned so as not to interfere with short term expansion opportunities of intensive agriculture operations (either livestock or horticulture)?
- Will soils and land be returned to pre-construction capability? This would include surface and sub-surface drainage and irrigation works as well as the soils themselves being handled so as not to degrade their quality?

The initial timeline (below) for the project contained an expected completion date of Fall 2003. In a newsletter dated August 2001, BC Gas stated that the updated schedule has moved the pipeline-in-service date to November 2004.

BC Gas has determined a preferred route for the pipeline which BC Gas states is intended to minimize the impact on the environment, taking into account safety, land use issues and project costs. The proposed route through Abbotsford is 15 km long. It will cross the Vedder Canal at Boundary Road and head southwest parallel with the BC Hydro right-of-way for 8 km. It will then turn south, just west of McDermott Road, and head toward Campbell Road to end at the Huntingdon market hub. The last portion of the route is also intended to coincide with existing rights-of-way.

The ASCA requested a consultation process separate from, and in advance of, *BC Energy Commission* public hearing(s) expected in the near future. The ASCA plans to use the opportunity to have questions answered and to allow producer input into the project. The ASCA will meet with BC Gas in November to facilitate a process that minimizes impact to farmers and farmland, and maximizes soil rehabilitation efforts. Subsequent to the consultation with BC Gas the ASCA is planning an information meeting for interested producers. **If you have any questions or comments call Sandy Traichel, ASCA Coordinator at 604-556-3732.**

Phase	When
<i>Public consultation process</i>	<i>started February 2001</i>
<i>Routing, preliminary engineering, environmental impact study</i>	<i>March-Oct 2001</i>
<i>Public open houses and information sessions</i>	<i>April-Oct 2001</i>
<i>Applications submitted to Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) & B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO)</i>	<i>December 2001</i>
<i>Application submitted to B.C. Utilities Commission (BCUC)</i>	<i>February 2002</i>
<i>CEAA, EAO, and BCUC approval</i>	<i>May 2002</i>
<i>Access roads and logging and clearing of right of way</i>	<i>June 2002-March 2003</i>
<i>Construction</i>	<i>May-Nov 2003</i>
<i>Pipeline in-service date</i>	<i>November 2003</i>
<i>Restoration of right of way</i>	<i>Spring 2004</i>

