

We can't wait, we must act now

Continued from Page 1
we would be the first newspaper in the world to be doing it."

Jessen found McGee had compiled quite a historical record on his website explaining the atmospheric measurements and how they have been increasing each year, along with concerned comments from scientists.

The CO2 measurements for the widget are made directly from the atmosphere by scientists at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii and published online by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the U.S. (CO2Now.org republishes the data in an understandable format).

Each widget has a different design, containing the latest data and trend for atmospheric CO2, with a variable focus on the CO2 level, a graph or the acceleration of CO2 levels in the atmosphere.

The time scales range



Michael McGee's online activism site (CO2Now.org) delves into print in the Monday edition of *The Nelson Daily News* with a weekly widget, a carbon counter, recording the rising levels of CO2 output, as well as imparting other bits of environmental wisdom.

from a few years to 1,000 years, including a brief explanation showing where the data comes from and what the trend means. Every week the carbon counter features a quota-

tion aimed to inspire a positive and constructive response to the problem of rising CO2 levels.

The outdoors-oriented McGee always had an interest in environmental issues, but it wasn't until an Al Gore presentation on climate change in Vancouver three years ago that he started asking himself what the current CO2 levels were.

He found his answers from the Mauna Loa Observatory, the Keeling Curve and the work of Dave Keeling — who figured out a reliable way to measure CO2 levels in the atmosphere.

He soon launched a website delivering that data and began to inquire more. McGee investigated what it would take to stabilize atmospheric CO2 levels and send the trend back toward more safe and natural level — around a 57 per cent reduction in fossil fuel usage.

Through the carbon counter McGee hoped more people would see the

need to stop adding fuel to the problems of global warming and climate change.

"I hope it works as a springboard that gets some people to take a deeper look at the problems and what can be done right away and over the next few years," he said. "I see the carbon counter as a small but very helpful part of a larger effort to get more of us moving in the right direction."

Atmospheric CO2 is already two decades past the upper limit of what scientists consider safe, he said, and the longer those CO2 levels keep rising, the deeper the world slips into the danger zone.

That zone includes increasingly dramatic environmental degradation like the collapse of the rainforests, he said.

"We need to make some quick changes if we are to keep these problems to a minimum," he said. "We don't end global warming and climate change by slashing emissions after the fact. It has to happen in advance."

In his own life with his family of four, McGee is well into a three-year plan to bring fossil fuel usage down to zero.

"Those of us who can act now need not wait. We can't turn this problem around without ordinary people making some big changes," he said. "The good news is that the changes we make today pay some big dividends, year after year."

To access McGee's website, go to CO2Now.org for more information about data, trends and what they mean. You can also check out McGee's monthly newsletter and CO2 updates on Twitter (@CO2Now).

tim@nelsondailynews.com

FALLEN HERO

STEVE FONYO, WHO FINISHED FOX'S CROSS CANADA RUN, STRIPPED OF ORDER OF CANADA

THE CANADIAN PRESS
VANCOUVER - He finished Terry Fox's run across Canada and raised millions for cancer research, but in the two decades since then his life has been marked by run-ins with the law.

Now Rideau Hall has revoked Steve Fonyo Jr.'s membership in the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest civilian honours.

Fonyo, an amputee like Fox, was awarded the order in 1985 after raising more than \$13 million. It was recognition of his 14-month, 8,000-kilometre trek on an artificial leg along the Trans-Canada Highway, completing the epic journey Fox had planned from St. John's, NL, to Victoria.

Owing to a slew of criminal convictions, however, the 44-year-old was stripped of the award on Dec. 10. A notice of the revocation appeared in the Canada Gazette on Jan. 23.

Fonyo, then of Vernon, B.C., was named The Canadian Press Newsmaker of the Year in 1985, but his stretch of inspirational stories eventually took a negative turn.

The one-time hero, who lost his leg to bone cancer at age 12, battled cocaine addiction and depression.

He pleaded guilty in 1996 in Edmonton to more than a dozen charges rang-

ing from assault with a weapon to fraud and theft.

He was handed a 18-month conditional sentence and two years on probation, and told to pay about \$11,000 to two supermarkets where he bounced dozens of cheques.

At the time he was working as a mechanic in a B.C. town and told The Canadian Press he was hoping to write and book and get his life in order.

By 2008 he had wracked up at least seven driving convictions including impaired driving, serving time in jail that year for the last offence.

The Order of Canada can be terminated when a recipient has been convicted of a criminal offence, the person's conduct departs from recognized standards of public behaviour or they have been sanctioned by a professional organization.

Other Canadians whose Order of Canada has been terminated include former NHL Players' Association head Alan Eagleson, after he was convicted of fraud, and lawyer T. Sher Singh, whom the Law Society of Upper Canada disbarred after finding him guilty of professional misconduct.

There are calls for others to have their orders revoked, including jailed media baron Conrad Black and disgraced Livent founder Garth Drabinsky.

BINGO EVERY THURSDAY - Big Link Bingo
FOE AERIE NEXT MEETING: Wed., Jan. 27
Hall rentals available: Call 250-352-5644

MONEY TRENDS

STOCK PRICES ARE PROVIDED BY GLOBEINVESTOR.COM

Agnico-Eagle Mines	36.900	Kobal Resources	0.070
Alcan Group Inc.	39.940	McDonald's Corp.	68.480
Apple	208.960	Microsoft	39.540
Bell Canada	2.980	Public Service Enterprise Group	2.180
Bank of America	35.080	Raytheon Systems	23.800
Bank of Montreal	32.640	Popesco Inc.	60.345
Bank of Nova Scotia	45.070	Power Corp of Canada	27.280
BCE Inc.	27.590	Procter & Gamble	60.605
Bombardier Inc.	5.130	TRT Power Systems	
Bank of West	34.670	Income Fund	1.580
CAB Inc.	8.770	Bio Resources	0.165
Cenovus		Royal Bank of Canada	52.640
National Railway	55.690	TD Bank	62.480
Canadian Pacific	7.700	Teck Resources	39.470
Casco Resources Ltd.	0.190	TELUS Corp.	32.390
CIBC	64.090	TerraNova Corp.	22.670
Canadian Pacific	23.200	Wabtec	58.005
Conoco Resources	57.905	Walt Disney	39.665
Cyanus Development	0.190		
Drill Inc.	14.020		
Barrick Gold	4.440		
Forum Mining Corporation	0.045		
First In.	28.280		
Fortescue Metals	2.440		
General Electric	34.990		
General Motors	2.020		
HSBC Bank	22.120		
IBM	126.490		
Imperial Oil	39.990		

THE MORTGAGE GROUP

As of January 23, 2010

	Our Rate	Best Deal
1 YEAR OPEN	6.45%	6.45%
1 YEAR CLOSED	2.25%	3.65%
2 YEAR	2.90%	3.95%
3 YEAR	3.25%	4.50%
4 YEAR	3.80%	5.14%
5 YEAR	3.79%	5.40%
7 YEAR	3.00%	6.00%
10 YEAR	3.25%	6.70%

DUNDEE WEALTH
Mark Holman CFP
250-352-3621

THE MORTGAGE GROUP
"Experts in Your Best Interest"
250-352-1976

Provincial legislation one of the main problems

Continued from Page 3

Board would be a more effective vehicle to get some of the issues addressed," Olsen said. "And in fact, most of the issues were out of their jurisdiction, or not dealt with in-depth.

"A long time ago I realized they were not a strong think tank or a watchdog in any way I had envisioned them. They're quite biased

and they're trying to protect the logging company."

Despite his disillusionment with the FPB, Olsen said the real fault lies in the provincial regulations.

"The Forest Practices Board report addresses that the licensee and BCTS are all within existing legislation, which is fine," she said. "But it's the legislation... that's so inferior.

"(The regulations) are

quite inferior and much more vague than anything anyone who's been doing this for 30 years has seen."

Despite the decision, Olsen and her neighbours are not giving up yet. They're seeking a further document from BCTS that will put verbal agreements made by BCTS into writing — through the provincial Freedom of Information Act.

And if all else fails and

logging begins this summer, Olsen said she expects there will be some good, old-fashioned protests.

"We're looking to have a bit more public demonstration, and if the logging goes ahead to have more peaceful protests as well," she said. "I don't know if it would prevent anything, but at least it would make a statement."

colin@nelsondailynews.com