We can't wait, we must act now

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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 cada 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 visualization of CO2 levels in the atmosphere.

The time scales range 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 question 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 AI 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 levels — around a 57 per cent reduction in fossil fuel usage.

Through the carbon counter, Michael McGee’s online activism site (CO2Now.org) delivers a weekly widget, a carbon counter, recording the rising levels of CO2 output, as well as imparting other bits of environmental wisdom.

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— Colin Olsen

Local

FALLEN HERO

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

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Steve Fonyo, an amputee like Terry 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, N.L., to Victoria.

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 ranging from assault with a weapon to fraud and theft.

He was handed a 18-month conditional sentence and told to pay about $10,000 to two supermarkets where he had pocketed 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.

Fonyo’s Order of Canada has been terminated include former NHL Players’ Association head Alan Eagleson, after he was convicted of defrauding clients, 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.

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Board would be a more effective vehicle to get some of the issues addressed,” Olsen said.

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