

## Five million reasons to celebrate

On Sept. 23, Suncor celebrated the planting of the five millionth tree on our oil sands site. The tree was planted at Wapisiw Lookout on the first anniversary of its opening, another major milestone.

"We planted three million trees in over 30 years, and another two million in just seven years," says Mark Little, EVP Oil Sands. "This five-millionth tree shows that the oil sands industry is capable of, and committed to, responsibly developing this resource."



From left, Mark Little; Ivy Wigmore, Mikisew Cree First Nation; Melissa Blake, Mayor of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (behind tree); Steve Williams, Suncor chief operating officer; and Guy Boutilier, MLA Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

## Finding fowl in flight

Suncor is now using a technologically advanced bird deterrent system.

The Bird Control Radar System (BCRS) was installed around South Tailings Pond, the largest pond on our site, in time for the fall migration cycle. As a result of this and other measures, Alberta Environment has approved Oil Sands' Waterfowl Protection Plan.

"We are excited about the potential improvements this system can provide – not just in reducing the number of bird

contacts in tailings ponds overall, but also personnel safety and cost savings," says Josh Martin, reclamation specialist.

The BCRS is a mobile system designed to 'detect and deter' birds while in flight before they land on or in the designated areas. The devices are positioned and activated to deliver the highest level of bird protection in almost any terrain and weather conditions, including fog, rain and snow. Great news for our feathered friends!

Another benefit of the system is a significant reduction in noise as these deterrents are on-demand rather than continuous like the current propane-fired bird cannons.



The LRAD unit is a compact, focused planar speaker array that can project out to half a mile with verbal commands and digital recordings.

## Fires spark collaboration

This May, Alberta's largest forest fire in 60 years swept through more than 700,000 hectares of land north of Fort McMurray.

Four fires burned in the region, threatening local communities, industry assets and camps and requiring firefighting efforts from crews across Canada.

Suncor employees, municipal and provincial governments, local agencies and industry partners joined forces to battle the blazes. Suncor offered equipment, manpower and lodging facilities to the Alberta Sustainable Resource department and industry partners whose facilities were evacuated. Suncor transported 3,400 people during evacuations, and lodges served up more than 1,800 additional meals every day.

"Our emergency response team met at

least twice a day to co-ordinate efforts and share our resources," says Jason Loy, Suncor's deputy chief, Administration, and incident commander. "We were in constant contact with the province, the municipality who leads the mutual aid efforts and our industry neighbours to make sure everyone had what they needed to fight the fires."

Suncor took special steps to help keep employees and contractors informed during the nearly 40-day period when the emergency response teams were in effect.

"Not only did we add extra air monitoring stations to our sites in the Wood Buffalo region and move workers effectively during evacuation orders, but we also provided regular updates about the air and the proximity of the fires to our workers," says Jason.

## Suncor Tours showcase the region

It was record-breaking summer of sharing the oil sands story with visitors from all corners of the globe.

The hard-working Suncor Tours team gave 175 tours between January and November 2011, bringing more than 3,400 people onto Suncor's Oil Sands site. Forty-three of those tours were in collaboration with Fort McMurray Tourism and the Oil Sands Discovery Centre. There has been an 18 per cent increase in tours at Suncor over last year, showing that interest in the oil sands is definitely on the rise.

Groups ranged from government officials, customers and suppliers to environmental activists and foreign delegates, to representatives from universities and colleges throughout North America. Some of the groups who toured Suncor's oil sands operation in 2011 include the National Buyers/Sellers Forum, Canadian Caribbean Emerging Leaders, Wood Buffalo Environmental Association conference, Mine Closure Conference attendees, Living Oceans Society and multiple Aboriginal groups.

Suncor doesn't shy away from having visitors on site. With the oil sands becoming more prominent in global news and media, Suncor feels it's important to provide facts and give people the opportunity to see the industry with their own eyes. This allows them to make educated opinions and engage in an informed dialogue.

## Digging for dinosaurs

Removing an important dinosaur fossil from an oil sands mine is tricky business.

And now, thanks to an exciting new video, you can see first-hand just how Suncor removed an ankylosaur fossil from its Millennium Mine earlier this year.

From March 21 to April 16, Suncor employees and contractors worked alongside dinosaur technicians to recover the fossil and transport it to Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alta.

The 16-minute clip details the excitement, heartbreak and celebrations involved in the removal process and features interviews with Shawn Funk, the shovel operator who uncovered the fossil; Don Henderson, curator of dinosaurs at the Royal Tyrrell Museum; and Doug Lacey, the project manager who co-ordinated the big dig.

Check out the video by visiting youtube.com and searching for 'Suncor Energy.' Then, from the list of videos, choose 'Discovery of Ankylosaur at Suncor Energy's Millennium Mine.'

## ADCS students recognized for academic excellence

Working hard in school paid off for Fort Chipewyan students at the Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS) this past year.

In its first year, the Suncor ADCS Honour Roll Program rewarded 99 of 242 students for exceptional grades in core classes such as math, English, social studies and science.

"Students were excited and surprised," says ADCS vice principal Mike Fieger. "The medals and dinner were above what they had anticipated."

In the largest event of the school year, students' honour roll accomplishments were recognized with Olympic-sized medals at a community banquet, celebrating with family, local dignitaries, members of the RCMP, teachers and community members.

ADCS staff and community members believe setting a standard for excellent performance is needed to encourage students and parents to take an active interest in improving academic performance. They hope this honour roll program will boost student interest in the core subjects and increase attendance and graduation rates.

"It's important to recognize and motivate students," says Karen Olson, senior advisor, Stakeholder Relations. "These students are role models and will inspire other students to stay in school."

ADCS believes this program will continue to generate positive success for the students and the community. "We hope to see them striving for more medals and higher grades each year," says Fieger.

OSQAR – Oil Sands Question and Response

# Can we talk?

We've heard from you, our stakeholders, that you want more information about the oil sands and industry's performance, especially given public concern and media attention.

We recognize that actions speak louder than words and also that we must do a

better job in terms of our environmental performance.

As the company with the greatest production in the oil sands, we are taking the approach that we need to do a much better job of sharing information. And that's why we're pleased to offer the Oil Sands Question and Response, or OSQAR, to support constructive dialogue about the oil sands.

OSQAR started last year as an email newsletter subscription for people who are interested in our company, the oil sands and other energy issues. Each email newsletter addresses a topical, timely subject – with special emphasis on environmental issues – often providing references and links to both positive and not-so-positive third-party

commentary. Recently, OSQAR took on another form – a blog – in the hopes of increasing our audience and providing another venue for healthy discussion.

Through its conversational, "here's some things to think about" tone, OSQAR is intended to support constructive, balanced conversations about Suncor and the industry. You can access OSQAR in two ways:

1. Visit the blog at: <http://osqar.suncor.com>
2. Subscribe to the email newsletter at: <http://osqar.suncor.com>

On the right side of the page, underneath Archives, use the sign-up form to subscribe.

## Suncor's community investments take new direction

We know that community investment is about more than just writing cheques. It's about getting involved, committing to finding ways to improve, and inspiring ourselves and others to think creatively about what we want for our communities.

Following Suncor's merger with Petro-Canada, we were provided with a unique opportunity to evaluate our existing community investment strategy and consider how we might engage differently with key communities to create a more meaningful impact for the future.

After much reflection, research and consultation, we are pleased to share the exciting new direction that Suncor's community investments are taking.

Our investments will now focus on helping communities grow, thrive and become more sustainable. By leveraging our skills as an integrated energy company, we believe we can help our communities achieve greater sustainability by investing in initiatives that:

- strengthen communities by cultivating community leaders
- build skills and knowledge for the current and future workforce
- foster the ability to think creatively through inspiring innovation
- build employee and volunteer capability by engaging citizens in community activities
- actively engage employees and communities in collaborating for a shared energy future.

We have decided to focus our investments in these areas because we believe that when used in combination, they allow unconventional solutions to surface – the type of 'outside the box' ideas that are essential to the development of strong and vibrant communities.

But we know that sustainable communities are not the product of one group acting in isolation. That's why at the heart of our community investment approach is a desire to proactively engage with a diverse group of partners to develop positive, meaningful relationships for the good of our communities, our company and future generations.

For more about community investment at Suncor, go to [Suncor.com/community](http://Suncor.com/community).



Suncor works closely with Aboriginal peoples and communities to build and maintain long-term, mutually beneficial relationships.

## Rick George recognized as Canadian Energy Person of the Year

Suncor president and CEO Rick George has been named Canadian Energy Person of the Year by the Energy Council of Canada, recognizing his significant contribution to Canada's energy sector, nationally and internationally.

He was presented with the award during a ceremony at the TELUS Convention Centre in Calgary, Alta. last month.

In accepting the award, Rick told his audience, "At Suncor, but also throughout industry, we're challenging ourselves to develop a positive vision for how the oil

sands could become a key part of the 21st century energy mix. And, I believe, the work we're doing to address the people equation, the progress we're making on the technology front and the conversations with government all point to an impressive oil sands story."

Rick was acknowledged not only for his accomplishments in the energy business, but also for his contributions to the community at large through his strong sense of social responsibility and giving back to the community.



Rick George, left, accepts the Energy Person of the Year Award from Energy Council of Canada chair John Muir.

## Sustainability in action

You've probably heard this before: Suncor is focused on being a responsible energy company. In so doing, we pursue a triple bottom line vision of sustainable development. That is, we believe energy development should occur in a way that provides economic prosperity, promotes social well-being, and preserves a healthy environment.

### Why do we do it – and why is sustainable development so important at Suncor?

For a start, sustainable development is simply the right thing to do, but there's more to the story than that. We realize that our stakeholders, from the public at large to regulators, investors, employees and various interest groups, have increasingly high expectations and look to us to be top performers.

Let's take a closer look at sustainable development, using the following three examples from Suncor.

#### Healthy environment

- Civitas, a breakthrough golf course turf management product, developed by our Refining & Marketing business,



Until Civitas, no product has successfully balanced two key requirements, being both environmentally safe and effective. We introduced this product to the U.S. market two years ago and to our Canadian market within the last few months.

works like a booster shot to help grasses' natural immunity to fight off fungal disease. Introduced just two years ago, Civitas is now in use at some 2,000 golf courses in the northern U.S. and has just been approved for use in Canada.

#### Social well-being

- In 2010, Suncor employees and retirees contributed more than 111,000 volunteer hours to their local communities; 660 organizations received funding through the SunCares Employee Grants Program in 2010. Over the past five years, employees, retirees and contractors, with support from Suncor and the Suncor Energy Foundation,

contributed more than \$19 million to United Way agencies and programs across Canada and the U.S.

#### Strong economy

- In 2009, royalties paid by Suncor totalled approximately \$1.2 billion, including \$645 million directed to Alberta government oil sands royalties. Suncor also paid more than \$1 billion in taxes in 2009 to governments in Canada and internationally.

Not only is sustainable development the right thing to do, it is good for business, and contributes to our continuing licence to operate at all our locations and businesses.

Sign up at [www.suncor.com/emailalerts](http://www.suncor.com/emailalerts) to be notified when new *In Your Community* newsletters are available online