“FOS is dedicated to providing the public with insight into Climate Change”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The prime mission of Friends of Science is the fostering of discussion and debate around issues concerning climate change. As we are all aware there is considerable political as well as scientific controversy surrounding these issues. The weight to be accorded greenhouse gas emissions and anthropogenic causes must be more broadly understood.

The Friends are pleased to be supporters of a one-day Ottawa Conference currently being organized by Professor Barry Cooper, Political Science University of Calgary and Professor Tim Patterson, Department of Earth Sciences, Carleton University. The Conference will be held in Ottawa during the latter part of September.

It is a significant effort to present a relatively dispassionate forum to discuss scientific issues regarding climate change that will provide researchers, teachers, and other experts on the science of climate change an opportunity to discuss their work and more general views on the subject. This conference will feature eight participants representing a spectrum of scientific positions on climate change. It will be open to the media but not to the general public.

The goal of this conference is to provide a better understanding of the nature and quality of the science currently being used to address the numerous issues that surround the debate on climate change. The Conference is designed to provide a voice for the numerous perspectives on climate change science as well as a role that science can play in the creation of strategies of mitigation and adaptation. The Friends are hopeful that ensuing serious discussion of the science of climate change will contribute positively to conversations concerning the science and the role of science in the North American climate change dialogue. To this end, we are confident that it will be the beginning of the much larger dialogue for which Canada has already waited too long.

The next round of debate on climate change is underway and a new international accord is in process of negotiation. Yet global warming, and the science behind it, continues to be misunderstood by many of Canada’s decision makers. Many of the policies that are being made today by governments and businesses have the potential to negatively affect our economy with little real impact on the environment, or air quality, or global warming.

The Friends are also contributing to many efforts to encourage discussion and debate around the issues of climate change. These include the sponsorships of events such as the very successful annual luncheon held in Calgary May 17, 2007 at which Dr. Tim Patterson gave a well received presentation on the solar forces which drive climate activity. We are encouraging our members to write articles for newspaper publication, and are responding to numerous Email enquiries, actively engaged in establishing FOS chapters in Halifax and Toronto and are in the process of re-designing our web page to make it more inviting.

There is still much work to be done. The initiatives planned for the autumn are essential to promote informed debate about climate science with decision makers and the public at large. But
as always, we are restricted by lack of resources both in terms of money and man power. Your financial gift this summer will help us get ready.

Make your contribution by cheque or money order, contact us at the address given on our letterhead. You can also donate online through our web site at www.friendsofscience.org.

Douglas Leahey, PhD
President, Friends of Science

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
The IPCC AR4 report was released in May. An expected feeding frenzy followed.

Most of the leadership of the developed world accepted the idea that a climate crisis is now 90% certain. It appeared that every climate NGO, Al Gore acolyte, Government politician and their bureaucratic placemen sang in harmony. (This is unfortunate for us tax payers.) The voices of the few dissenting leaders, such as Czech President Vaclav Klaus were scarcely heard above the chorus. Rare were the comments from the media explaining the unscientific and meaningless nature of the process which produced the 90% guess.

However beneath all the froth something more heartening is taking shape, namely a rise in scepticism among the general public. There appears to be a growing belief that mankind is not responsible for most current climate changes. This conclusion comes from several polls by credible firms. Perhaps not coincidentally some in the scientific community who have hitched their wagons to current climate change hypothesis are also getting worried and are asking the alarmists to modify their rhetoric lest they loose credibility.

Perhaps the best news of this past quarter comes from the G8 meeting in June. It was only agreed to hold further meetings at which the post Kyoto (2012) scenario would be discussed. Germany’s Angela Merkel was singularly unsuccessful in getting non European countries to sign on to specific targets for carbon reduction.

The IPCC leader at the Conference, Dr. de Boer, appeared euphoric at Bush’s undertaking for further negotiations to take place under the UN umbrella. He either missed or did not want to hear the implied caveat “under US terms”.

So all in all we conclude: not a bad quarter despite the continued hysteria.

SCIENCE NEWS
There is increasing evidence of the major role solar activity plays in climate change. This is reflected in many of the recent publications. Two such papers appeared last month in publications/presentations made in South Africa and Australia:


Abstract: This study is based on the numerical analysis of the properties of routinely observed hydro- meteorological data which in South Africa alone is collected at a rate of more than half a million stations days per year, with some records approaching 100 continuous years in length. The analysis of this data demonstrates an unequivocal synchronous linkage between these processes in South Africa and elsewhere and solar activity. This confirms observations and reports by others in many countries during the past 150 years. It is also shown with a high degree of assurance that there is a synchronous linkage between the significantly 21 – year periodicity of these processes and the acceleration and deceleration of the sun as it moves through galactic space. Despite a diligent search, no evidence could be found of trends in the data that could be attributed to human activities. It is essential that this information be accommodated in water resource development and operation in the years ahead.

“The Past and Future of Climate” by David Archibald. The Lavoisier Group Workshop Rehabilitating Carbon Dioxide, Melbourne, Australia 29-30 June 2007

Summary This presentation demonstrates that carbon dioxide is largely irrelevant to the Earth’s climate. The carbon dioxide that Mankind will put into the atmosphere over the next few hundred years will offset a couple of millennia of post-Holocene Optimum cooling before we plunge into the next ice age. In the near term, the Earth will experience a significant cooling due to a quieter Sun.

There are no deleterious consequences of higher atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. Higher atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are wholly beneficial because it will lead to increased agricultural production

Anthropogenic Global Warming is so minuscule that the effect cannot be measured from year to year, and even from generation to generation.

Our generation has bathed in the warm glow of a benign, giving Sun, but the next will suffer a Sun that is less giving, and the Earth will be less fruitful.

(Editor’s Note: For me the most interesting item in this paper was the statement that 1936 was the warmest year for the continental United States)

DO YOUR PART TO PROMOTE SENSIBLE PUBLIC POLICY

Get involved with Friends of Science
1) Volunteer. We need people who can help us carry out the day-to-day tasks that a volunteer organization requires to get jobs done. To offer a few hours of time, call Douglas Leahey at 403-243-6969.

2) Help us grow. Pass our website address to friends, family and people at work, then encourage them to get involved in Friends of Science by taking out a membership. Your membership is critical to us and we are grateful for it. A membership and donation form can be downloaded at www.friendsofscience.org

3) Make a donation. Talk your business colleagues about the possibility of corporate donations to Friends of Science. We intend to do more than disseminate information internally. We want to get the word out aggressively – and that costs money.

Please consider donating to the Friends of Science at the following address

Friends of Science
PO Box 23167, Connaught PO
Calgary, AB T2S 3B1
Canada

NOTE

Our website has been upgraded. You may now become a member or make a donation on line. Payment maybe made through your credit card or PayPal account.

Thank you for your support of Friends of Science. Global warming myths are just one example of politicians and media ignoring common sense and expert opinion in the quest to drive an agenda. It’s time to take the agenda back.