

## ***FOS MEMBERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER***

### ***No. 22***

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

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#### **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Prolonged cold spring conditions in the Hudson Bay area are expected to obliterate the breeding season for migratory birds. Observations show that the oceans are getting colder, not warmer. In spite of all the scare stories Arctic ice coverage set a nine year record last month. <[http://www.ijis.iarc.uaf.edu/seaice/ext\\_gnt/AMSRE\\_Sea\\_Ice\\_Extent.png](http://www.ijis.iarc.uaf.edu/seaice/ext_gnt/AMSRE_Sea_Ice_Extent.png)>. All of this is consistent with satellite data which shows a cooling climate. Yet our politicians seem determined to accept model predictions of the IPCC which show the contrary. In consequence they are planning a cap and trade system for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which could have strongly adverse implications for an already stressed economy.

Public support for an alarmist driven agenda has been waning as evidence for a warming atmosphere has not materialized. But still Canadian media such as the CBC and the Globe & Mail continue to stress the coming climate disasters: rising sea levels, greater incidence of malaria, extensive droughts, etc. Curiously, a much more pronounced shift in public opinion is occurring in the UK and in the EU, where popular and industrial opposition is putting the planned Copenhagen IPCC meeting for a “Kyoto 2” agreement in jeopardy.

The Friends have lobbied politicians in an attempt to encourage a debate between the two sides of the climate change issue. But we have failed. It has become clear that our “leaders” are reluctant to adopt a stance which they fear is politically incorrect. If change is to be accomplished it must be driven by the “man on the street”. ***We won’t change the way politicians act until we change what the majority of Canadians believe.***

The Friends feel that steps should be taken to make the Canadian public better aware of actual climatic events which render IPCC predictions unacceptable as a basis for government policy. To that end we are planning two projects: a Canada-wide speaking tour by Lord Christopher Monckton and a radio blitz which will direct the listener to the Friends of Science web page.

Monckton has been a policy adviser to Margaret Thatcher and a vigorous critic of the stance adopted by the IPCC. He played a key role in a legal challenge heard in the British High Court of Justice in October 2007 in a bid to prevent Al Gore’s *An Inconvenient Truth* from being shown in English schools. The Court subsequently found that the Gore DVD contained nine serious scientific flaws. In March 2007, Monckton ran a series of advertisements in The New York Times and Washington Post challenging Al Gore to an internationally televised debate on climate change. The former U.S. Vice President did not respond. Monckton may perhaps be best known for his DVD *Apocalypse NO!* Its footage shows Monckton giving a presentation to the Cambridge Union in which he asserts that Gore and the IPCC had systematically falsified and exaggerated the evidence for global warming.

The Monckton tour will be a collaborative association between FoS and The Frontier Centre for Public Policy. Luncheon presentations are currently being planned for late September in, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

The Friends are also planning to undertake a radio blitz across Canada beginning in the autumn. We would ideally like to have a television campaign but such an effort is well beyond our means. But our experience with radio has been very encouraging. A modest effort conducted in three Ontario areas in 2007 resulted in a dramatic increase in traffic to our web page and much media comment. Questions were even raised in the houses of Parliament by alarmists concerning our motives.

Radio messages will be broadcast at prominent locations across all areas of Canada. They will raise pertinent questions about actual climatic conditions in Canada and across the globe. Listeners will be directed to our web page for answers. Purposes of the messages will be to challenge the alarmist position on atmospheric warming, educate the public on actual climate behaviour and force supporters the likes of Al Gore into an open debate.

The scope of our “radio blitz” is still under discussion. It will be obviously limited by the funding we can obtain from fellow sceptics. But we are encouraged by the response that we have obtained to date and are optimistic about being able to conduct an effective campaign to have our politicians re-visit their plans for cap and trade.

Douglas Leahey PhD  
President Friends of Science

## **CAP AND TRADE**

The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment, has recently released a portion of the draft proposals for government’s proposed legislation to deal with Carbon emissions. It is entitled “Canada’s Offset system for Greenhouse Gases”. The attached “Guide for Protocol Developers” is a masterpiece of political obfuscation, all 105 pages of it. You can find it at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=23C6502E-4307-4647-A5C7-38B3B7EDDDF0>. If read carefully it outlines how you can obtain “credits” for eligible project based greenhouse gas reductions and removals.”

There is no doubt that it will be expensive to administer. Even a casual glance through the proposal is enough to warn the reader of the tremendous bureaucracy this program will require to support its objectives, and we presume that the “credits” it promises will be worth something in the real world. So businesses and individuals throughout the country will devote time and effort into seeing how they can profit from this government program.

Tom Harris, a long time observer of the climate debate, wrote to us about the offset proposals. In his letter he asks the following very sensible questions:

How will this affect me?  
What will it cost me?

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What are the benefits to me?  
What are the risks to me?  
What is the downside?

Who will pay for the credits, ultimately – me as the consumer? If so, again, how much will it cost me? What industries will be hurt or helped? Is my job threatened? Why should I want to “acquire and use these credits to voluntarily offset the greenhouse gas emissions from their activities?”

Why do we need do this anyways and why now and not in, say, five years when the economy is better? Moreover, ask yourself what CO<sub>2</sub> reduction or Carbon taxes will do for our climate anyway?

In my opinion, every citizen of Canada should ask these questions, and keep on asking these questions, until our Conservative government summons the courage to convene a Royal Commission before a competent judicial authority (not anyone connected in any way with our civil service). Such a Commission, with witnesses, who would testify and be subject to cross examination by opposing counsel, would go a long way towards demonstrating the utter futility of the global warming and climate control movement.

Peter Burns  
Director Friends of Science

## **SCIENCE NEWS**

### **The Sun’s Deep Minimum**

The earth has cooled significantly during the last three years. The May 2009 global average temperature was 0.29 °C less than the 2005 average temperature. The recent cooling may be related to an inactive Sun. Dr. Svensmark has shown that a weak solar magnetic field and low solar wind allows more galactic cosmic ray to enter the atmosphere where they ionise particles that seed low clouds which tends to cool the atmosphere.

The Sun has been in a very long and deep solar minimum. Solar scientists are anxiously waiting for solar cycle 24 to begin. As of June 1, 2009, the Sun has had 614 days without sunspots over the last three years. Only the early 1900s had a similar 3 year stretch of high sunspotless days (1911, 1912, and 1913). Solar cycle 23 is now the longest cycle in 150 years, tying the one that peaked in 1848. You have to go back to the Dalton minimum in 1816 to find a longer cycle 12.7 years. Long solar cycles are correlated to weak solar activity.

The solar wind is a stream of charged particles-a plasma-ejected from the upper atmosphere of the sun. The solar wind pressure is the force that is pushing the galactic cosmic rays out from the inner planets of the solar system. The solar wind carries the Sun’s magnetic field throughout the

solar system, where it is called the Interplanetary Magnetic Field (IMF). As shown in the graph below, the IMF is significantly weaker than during previous solar minimums since the 1960s. The last time IMF got this low was in 1913.



<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/06/03/the-interplanetary-magnetic-field-is-at-the-lowest-point-since-1913/>

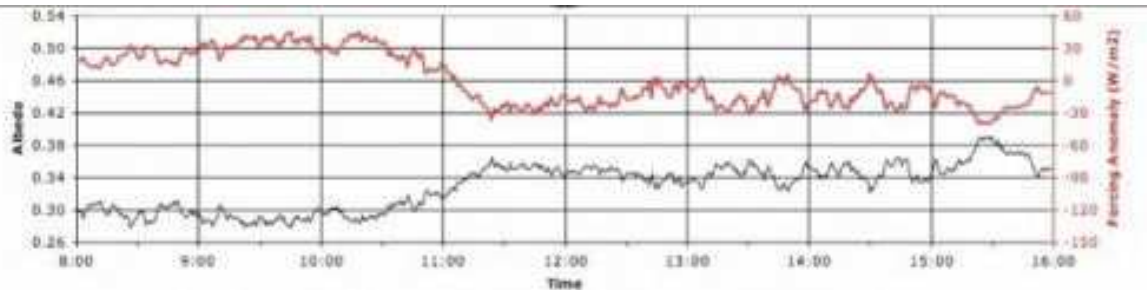
## The Cloud Thermostat Hypothesis

The Cloud Thermostat Hypothesis is that tropical clouds and thunderstorms actively regulate the temperature of the earth. The majority of the earth's absorption of heat from the sun takes place in the tropics. In the tropics before dawn, the atmosphere is typically calm and clear. As the ocean and moist land heat up, air temperatures and evaporation increase. The rising moist air cools and condenses into clouds, which reflect sunlight. This cools the atmosphere, which is a negative feedback.

As temperatures continue to rise during the day, the cumulus clouds become thunderstorms which suck up warm, moist air at the surface and shoots it skyward. The air is released from the storm in the upper atmosphere above most of the CO<sub>2</sub> and water vapour where it can radiate heat to space without being captured by greenhouse gases.

Taking the Sun's point of view, as we face the earth the visible surface of the earth is moving from left to right as the planet rotates. Morning is always on the right and afternoon is always on the right (North is up). On the left, after sunrise, there are few clouds. Clouds increase as you look further to the right with increasing number of thunderstorms. The graph below shows the albedo in the tropics as measured by the GOES-West weather satellite (black line), and the related solar

forcing (red line). The clouds and thunderstorms cause a change in insolation of  $-60 \text{ W/m}^2$  between ten and noon.



Now, consider what happens if for some reason the surface of the tropics is a bit cool. The sun takes longer to heat up the surface. Evaporation doesn't rise until later in the day. Clouds are slow to appear and fewer thunderstorms form, allowing the Sun to warm the atmosphere back to its usual temperature.

When the tropical surface gets a bit warmer than usual, the clouds form earlier. Hot afternoons drive thunderstorm formation, which cools and air-conditions the surface. In this fashion, a self-adjusting cooling shade of thunderstorms and clouds keeps the afternoon temperature within a narrow range. Clouds have a strong negative feedback, which regulates global temperatures.

See "The Thermostat Hypothesis" by Willis Eschenbach:

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/06/14/the-thermostat-hypothesis/>

Ken Gregory  
Director, Friends of Science

### DONATIONS

We are very proud of the work we've done so far, but we still have a long way to go in our efforts to impact public opinion on the climate change issue. Our concern is that public opinion has suffered from political manoeuvring and biased focus groups. We should not be wasting valuable resources on a hypothetical problem when we have many **real** problems that need addressing: better educational system, more money for health care, better infrastructure, better equipped military, etc.

If you are you as disturbed about the Stelmach CC&S scheme and the Harper/Prentice Carbon Offset scheme and the drastic economic results, as I am, I think you would agree that we need to become more active in spreading the facts about climate change. Friends of Science, as the leading Canadian advocate, is often asked, "why don't you just put pressure on politicians to change their policies around climate change?" Most certainly, we would go that route if politicians listened and responded so easily to science, facts and reasoned argument, but they don't, as you well know.

The hard truth is that politicians take direction from polls, public opinion, media and the voices of the loudest and most strident pressure groups, not the best researched, i.e. Friends of Science.

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Everyone knows that the voices in support of man-made global warming theories have been backed by an international avalanche of misguided media, interest group and academia, whose livelihood, in most cases, depends on continuation of the argument. Their stubbornness has created an incredible effect on public opinion. Still, only about half of Canadians believe that man causes climate change. Sorely that half is enough to drive policy.

We have developed plans for the upcoming year, to emphasize the fact that CO<sub>2</sub> and greenhouse gas emissions have only a minor influence on climate change. We are therefore asking our members for their financial support, which is badly needed to finance future programs.

Chuck Simpson  
Director Friends of Science

Donations made directly to Friends of Science will provide us with funds for administrative expenses which are sorely needed in order to back up our volunteer work force.

**Friends of Science** at P.O. Box 23167,  
Connaught P.O.  
Calgary AB T2S 3B1

**E-mail** [contact@friendsofscience.org](mailto:contact@friendsofscience.org)      **Web** [www.friendsofscience.org](http://www.friendsofscience.org)