

COMMENTARY

Editorial

Don't shoot the messenger

The job of a good journalist is to report both sides of each story and then let the public or in our case, the reader, draw his or her own conclusions.

Often times we do have opinions on issues, but we save them for this page and the editorial column.

I am now back as the editor of *The Drumheller Valley Times*, in addition to my role as publisher and owner of this company.

I would just like readers of *The Drumheller Valley Times* to know that if you have a question or concern about a story, good or bad, please let me know.

In most cases, we are simply the messenger of the news. We may or may not agree with the opinions or comments of the people interviewed, however we have made a judgement call that it is an important story which the public deserves to have a right to know, so we print it.

We rely on the sources interviewed to be providing us with truthful information and unfortunately sometimes this doesn't always happen.

However, we realize that there are always two sides at least, if not more, to every story and we attempt to have comments from both sides fairly represented.

Again, if you have a comment about a story or opinion or a story idea, please approach me, call me, stop in at the office, write a letter to the editor or email me at info@valleytimes.ca. I will do my best to answer your questions and concerns in a timely manner.

Mrs. Isabell Redding, editor

Time to rake up the leaves

Fall is here and with it my leaves are starting to pile up in my yard once again.

This time I've talked my two boys into raking up the leaves and putting them into those bright orange Halloween pumpkin bags.

I figure this gets rid of two things at the same time - leaf raking and decorating for Halloween! I'll keep you posted on how it goes with the yard clean-up.

• So I'm back as **editor** of *The Drumheller Valley Times* once again in addition to being **publisher**.

James Miller is no longer the editor or an employee of *The Drumheller Valley Times*.

We would like to wish him well in his future endeavours.

Any questions regarding stories or photos, please give me a call at 823-NEWS (6397) or stop in at the office.

• I read with interest **Lynn Hemming's** article under "Moot Points" in the most recent addition of the ATA news.

Hemming, who is a counselor and English



Chattin' With Izzy

Isabell Redding
Publisher

teacher at **DCHS**, has been a teacher for 25 years and did an excellent job writing about today's changing world.

She also talks about the challenges of teaching **English as a Second Language**, especially since there are a lot of international students at DCHS. It was a very good column and well worth the read. I kept the copy here in the office if anyone wants to stop in and read it.

• I read an interesting article in the journal **Science** recently that researchers have evidence from northern New Mexico that dinosaurs and their precursor species coexisted for tens of millions of years.

Matthew T. Carrano, curator of dinosauria at the

Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, said that there has been a long-standing debate over whether dinosaurs replaced earlier species gradually or suddenly.

"What they have is a snapshot of the transition, and it's clear there is a persistent environment with dinosaurs and these other older animals," Carrano said. "So at least in this place in the southwestern U.S. it was not abrupt."

He was not part of the research team.

Dinosaurs arose in the **Late Triassic**, between 235 million and 200 million years ago, and came to dominate the planet in the **Jurassic**, 200 million to 120 million years ago.

Scientists had thought the dinosaurs replaced their ancestor species.

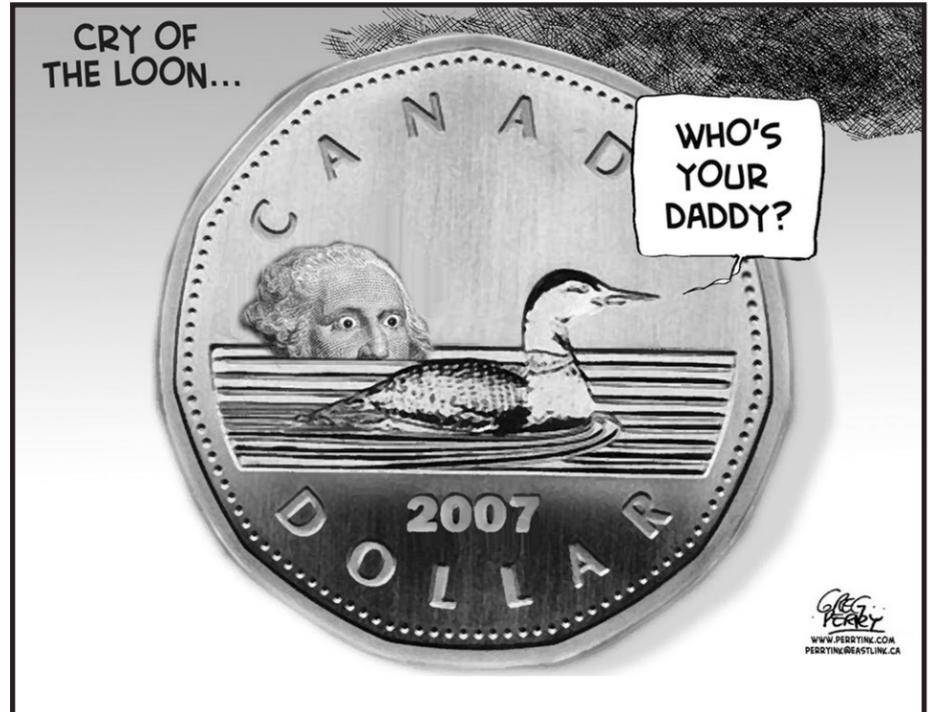
However, recently a research team reported finding **1,300** fossil specimens, including several complete bones, at Hayden Quarry at Ghost Ranch, in New Mexico. There were no complete skeletons and researchers are continuing to work at the site.

Have a great week!

WRITE US A LETTER!

Letters to the Editor is your forum to express your views and opinions on issues or local topics. These are the opinions of the writers of the letters and are not the opinions of *The Drumheller Valley Times* or its employees. Tips for writing letters are to keep them relatively short, to the point and avoid the use of profanities. Letters will be edited for grammar, spelling and any libelous content. Send your letters to the address at left. Letters must include your name and phone number for verification purposes. Your telephone number will not be printed.

Your Opinions



Your Opinions

Scientist wants EnCana to be held accountable

Re "Gas Wells Denied", **Strathmore Standard**, Sept. 12, 2007, page 15

I am delighted that Wheatland County Council had the courage to deny new gas wells within 1.5 km of Rosebud.

There are already many wells and compressors here. EnCana's rotting straw bale wall around two of these compressors indicates the level of disrespect the company has for the legal rights of Albertans and our environment.

EnCana has violated my legal right to quiet enjoyment of my property for years.

Considering that EnCana perforated and fractured our drinking water aquifers, without conducting any appropriate data collection first, telling us, or fulfilling the regulatory requirements in place at the time (including applying for a permit from Alberta Environment before diverting water from the CBM well), I am pleased to see our council stand up to the rogue company.

I have documents to substantiate this letter. If you want copies or more information, please let me know.

I am disappointed that you did not publish Mr. Bill Barnett's August 7, 2007 letter regarding EnCana's refusal to conduct vital tests on his water - even though he offered to pay for them himself. Mr. Barnett is not the only citizen EnCana has refused this - I know of others.

Alberta Environment found methane, toluene and kerosene in the hamlet water.

Kerosene is a red flag indicator of petroleum industry contamination.

The community's concrete water tower lid exploded off in January 2005 seriously injuring a worker, months after EnCana

fractured the aquifers and diverted fresh water from its CBM. A propane torch was blamed.

What if EnCana's shallow fracturing caused methane to release? What if kerosene caused the explosion?

The new water tower cost nearly \$700,000. The \$150,000 that EnCana promised the Rosebud Theatre (a few months after the first water well went bad) seems a cheap solution.

EnCana gave millions to a school in the United States after the company was heavily fined in Colorado for failing to protect a creek and groundwater from methane migration caused by the company's CBM.

Indeed, EnCana publicly announced in the government's water meeting in Strathmore last June that the company fractured over 40 wells in our county above the base of groundwater protection - without appropriate data collection first.

EnCana declared publicly that it does not have to cooperate in the regulator's investigation at Rosebud.

To the best of my knowledge, the required gas samples for fingerprinting (from EnCana's gas well that fractured our aquifers) have still not yet been taken and analyzed at the U of A, as promised in writing on March 13, 2006 by Alberta Environment's Compliance Investigator.

I think many of your readers would welcome the truth in Mr. Barnett's letter. I read the report by Mr. Alan McCaan, and have spoken with the hydrogeologist a number of times.

There is nothing I read in Mr. Barnett's letter that I think puts you or your paper at risk; I saw Mr. Barnett's letter in other papers. Our water is much too precious to let fear of EnCana

keep the truth from the people. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jessica Ernst
Ernst Environmental

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