Annual General Meeting

The 36th Annual General Meeting for your Co-op is scheduled for March 18, 2010, at the Eagle Hill Memorial Community Centre.

In an effort to promote more member engagement we are hosting a dinner in commemoration of all past directors and founding members. If you are planning to attend this event please R.S.V.P. to wwanlin@foothillsnaturalgas.ca, as we are in the early stages of scheduling and would like an estimated number of attendees.

The Foothills Natural Gas Co-op Board is comprised of seven Directors. There are two officers of the board: Chair and Vice Chair. Board appointment of officers, committees and representatives takes place each year following the Annual General Meeting. At this year’s A.G.M., there will be three positions available for nomination and election. If you are interested in becoming a Director for the Co-op, nomination packages are available at the office and should be submitted prior to February 12, 2010.

For further information, please contact the following:

LUFT, Terry (Chairman) 335-4449
BOWHAY, Joe (Vice Chair) 335-9648
BARKLEY, Marie 335-8915
CLARK, Rick 556-7592
ESLINGER, Keith 638-3640
PETERSSEN, Lorne 556-6344
WATSON, Reg 556-3985
John Armstrong (Ext. 205) 556-3007

Sour Gas Incident

The Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) is investigating a series of incidents that occurred on the morning of Wednesday December 2, 2009, and led to low concentration sour gas being fed into distribution pipelines belonging to the Foothills Natural Gas Co-op. At approximately 10 a.m., an incident at a well licensed to Anderson Energy Ltd. led to sour gas entering a sweet gas pipeline running into the Husky Energy Netook gas plant just north of Olds. This resulted in gas with an H2S content of about 8 parts per million being fed into the transmission line to the Foothills Natural Gas Co-op, which serves approximately 240 rural residential clients around Olds.

Foothills Co-op monitoring equipment detected the sour gas and staff began purging their high-pressure lines that feed a number of regulator stations, which distribute the gas into low-pressure lines running directly to customers. Although the gas was purged from the high pressure distribution lines, trace amounts of the gas were detected in some low-pressure lines. Foothills Co-op staff contacted each residential customer by phone to advise them that temporary shortages of natural gas service were possible due to the purge. One minor odour complaint was received and handled immediately by Foothills Co-op staff. No evacuations were necessary and there have been no injuries or illnesses reported. The well and the equipment which led to the failure have been shut in.

ERCB staff will conduct a thorough investigation into the causes of this incident, which is an unusual one in Alberta’s regulatory history.

If you require further information, please contact our office.
**Sundre Petroleum Operators Group**

We are pleased to announce that effective October 8, 2009; we have become affiliate members of the Sundre Petroleum Operators Group (SPOG).

The Sundre Petroleum Operators Group is an organization of representatives from the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB), along with 20 oil and gas companies, 6 service companies, 19 community groups and 3 members of the general public in the Sundre/Caroline area.

SPOG covers a 600-square-mile geographical area bounded by Hwy 54 to the north, Hwy 766 to the east, Hwy 582 to the south, and Range 7 and 8 to the west. SPOG has 3 main working committees and sub-committees which fall under them:

- **Mutual Aid Committee**
  - Resident Visit Committee - related to Emergency response

- **Environment Committee**
  - Agriculture Initiatives Program

- **Community Affairs**
  - Neighbour’s Day Committee
  - Communication Committee
  - New Development Committee

Maintaining strong networks for emergency response and mutual aid were huge motivators in becoming associated with SPOG.

Synergy is the key to effective communication with the community at large, and partnering with SPOG will benefit both the Co-op and our valued members.

**$ 500.00 Achievement Award**

Congratulations to Chantelle Benjamin on being one of the recipients of the 2009 Achievement Award! The Achievement Awards are established through our affiliation with the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops.

Annually, in Alberta, there are four $500.00 awards granted to students who have obtained an academic standing of at least 75% in core subjects. Chantelle is in her second year of Land & Water Resources, majoring in Reclamation at Olds College.

The Board of Directors, Staff and Management send our best wishes to Chantelle.

**Planning to go away this winter?**

If you will be away from your residence/business for a period of time this winter, please ensure that our office has current contact information in case of an emergency.

In sub zero temperatures, it may take only hours for plumbing to freeze up and rupture; leaving you with an expensive mess to deal with upon your return.

Allowing our staff access to your residence is an absolute necessity in an emergency situation; locked gates, incorrect phone numbers and limited access to your home or business can cause havoc. Customers who detect any odours or have concerns or questions are encouraged to call the Foothills Natural Gas Co-op at (403) 556-3007.

**Food Bank Donations**

Management, staff and directors would like to thank those of you who joined us in the spirit of the season in raising donations for the Mountain View Food Bank Society.

Your generous contributions added up to over 100 pounds of groceries. The food drives in Didsbury, Olds and Sundre were very successful not only in food, but in cash donations also. It is through the efforts and support of people like you that make a project such as the Food Bank able to meet the needs in the community.