

LOCAL

CITY DESK PHONE:
562-2441, Local 382



MARK ALLAN,
City editor



HERE NOW

Teachers recruited by UNBC

Citizen staff

Dennis Olson, chair of business at UNBC, is off to Orlando, Fla., to recruit accountants to teach here.

He'll be at the American Accounting Association annual convention, where schools across North America go to recruit teachers.

"It's sort of a meat market where schools compete for the best minds they can get," Olson said.

He hopes to lure two accountants with teaching experience to UNBC to start next year.

He'll have the chance to talk to a lot of prospects to try to ensure that they're good teachers and can stand a lot of snow. He's particularly interested in ones who are also interested in research.

He'll be back next Thursday to report on the hunt.

COMING UP

Walk/Run

The fifth annual Women For Women Benefit Walk/Run is set for Sunday, Sept. 10.

It will start at 11 a.m. at Cottonwood Island Park.

Registration is at 10 a.m. and the entrance fee is \$5. You can also give personal toiletry items, baby food, milk and supplies, non-perishable food and general household items.

It's not a march or a protest, it's simply support, say organizers.

All proceeds go directly to the Phoenix Transition Home.

Call 964-2448 for more information.

Yard sale

You can recycle and help spread environmental awareness at the same time.

REAPS holds a back-to-school yard sale and newspaper/cardboard dropoff from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 26 at 1950 Gorse St.

Donations of unwanted items are welcome. Proceeds to REAPS community education programs.

For more information phone 561-7327.

Food sale

St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Parish holds a perogy and cabbage roll sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 26 at the church, corner of Vanier and Massey Drive. Some of the food will be cooked, but most will be sold frozen.

Many Happy Years



Susan Swanky entertains friends who came to her 90th birthday party on Saturday by reading from her book. The long-time resident of the Chief Lake area published the book, which tells of her life experiences from the Depression years to her life in the Prince George area. Titled *Many Happy Years*, the autobiography was written particularly for family members.

Citizen photo by Dave Milne

Area family has precious gift for villagers in South America

by BILL SEYMOUR
Citizen Staff

It is an unlikely portrait of philanthropists.

Jean, Joe and Paul Baehr lean on the fence on their farm at Woodpecker, about 50 kilometres south of Prince George. They are taking a break from work on their cattle farm. There is mud on their boots and their clothes are simple.

Their unpretentious appearance is striking when you learn the Baehrs have made a difference in a corner of the world a continent away.

Half of the approximately \$100,000 financing a unique Canadian aid project in a poor Ecuadorian village came from the Baehrs. Their donation will help bring clean water to the 250 people of Pachamama Grande.

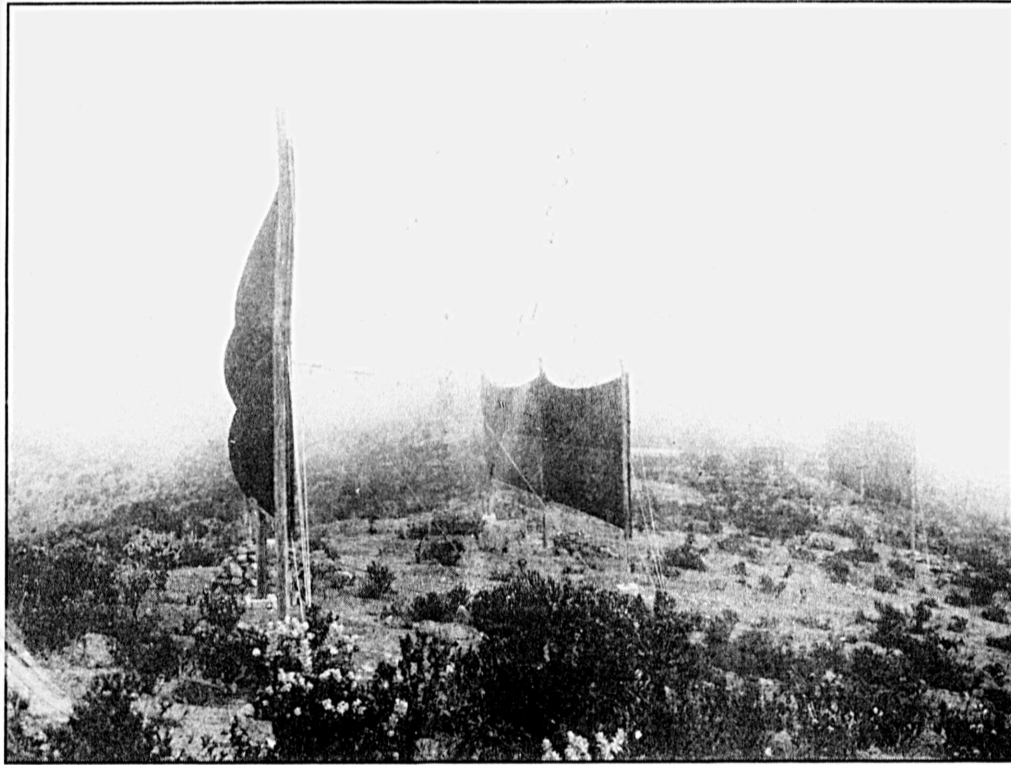
How the project works and how the Baehrs decided to get involved started last year with a story in *The Citizen* about how scientists mastered a low-tech method of providing drinking water from fog. After reading about it, Paul picked up his phone.

He reached Dr. Robert Schemenauer, a cloud physicist with Environment Canada. For close to a decade Schemenauer has pioneered methods and technologies for water collection using fog.

His work has emphasized applications in countries where money, infrastructure and other resources are in short supply. Projects have succeeded in Peru and Chile.

What the Baehrs are financing thousands of kilometres from their two sections of fields and bush and 200 cattle are a series of screens.

They will sit on high and barren mountain tops near the village perched at 3,700 metres (12,000 feet) above sea level and collect fog vapor into



Fog water collectors like these ones in El Tofo, Chile, will be going up in Ecuador thanks to a donation from the Baehrs.

drinking water. It's an improvement on a method pioneered 2,000 years ago in the Canary Islands.

Simple, cost-effective and immediate in its significance on the lives of people who use them, the collectors impressed Paul with their basic design.

"You don't need an engineer or someone with papers to run it," said Paul, 81. "The idea what intrigued us was it wasn't grandiose and nobody was going to get rich on it."

Pachamama Grande has no wells and little rainfall. A regular supply of clean, unpolluted water was something attractive, said Joe, 68.

"As a farmer I know water is one of the things we will be short of."

One of the few conditions the Baehrs put on their donation was that there be no gov-

ernment involvement. Schemenauer found the Montreal-based Canadian Centre for International Studies and Co-operation and convinced them to match the Baehrs' generosity.

By February next year the collectors could provide as much as 10,000 litres of water a day to people who currently rely on a small canal that wanders through fields filled with sheep and other animals. About 40 large collectors, a reservoir and a distribution system will be constructed.

"I think it can make a big difference for quality of life and living standards in Pachamama Grande," Schemenauer said from Toronto. "We are talking about a very poor community and people with a short life expectancy."

GOV'T ACTION SOUGHT ON NATIVE ROADBLOCKS

Citizen news services
KELOWNA — Residents of B.C. Interior towns, angered by native roadblocks, formed a common front Saturday to put more heat on provincial and federal governments.

A dozen residents of Adams Lake, Penticton and Douglas Lake met at a Kelowna restaurant where they brainstormed ways to convince politicians to resume treaty negotiations with native people living near their communities.

"We're looking for common ground, comparing our experiences with various disputes

that have been going on," said Greg Hollingsworth, who organized the meeting. "We're concerned about the direction government policy is going."

About 50 families who have recreational lots on the eastern side of Adams Lake have been forced to use a ferry since natives set up a barricade on the only road access, running through the Adams Lake reserve.

Native people also built roadblocks near the Apex ski resort, outside Penticton, and by Douglas Lake near Merritt to express their frustration at

non-native developments on traditional land.

Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ron Irwin says B.C. native groups that don't buy into the treaty negotiation process will get little attention from the federal government. Roadblocks and other disruptions will not help their cause, he said Friday.

Hollingsworth was not impressed by Irwin's comments.

"Where has he been all the time with Douglas Lake?" he asked. "Why is he leaving Adams Lake homeowners in

the lurch?"

Many bands and tribal groups around the province, particularly those aligned with the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, have taken a position that there will be no negotiation until the governments give unconditional recognition to aboriginal title.

That means they won't discuss treaties unless the governments first acknowledge they have unextinguished title to their traditional territories.

The stalemate has swept innocent victims into the fray, said Hollingsworth.

Forest fire costs down

B.C. taxpayers are saving a bundle thanks to a quiet forest fire season.

Provincial fire information officer Wendy Stewart said the cost of fighting fires in British Columbia so far is \$24 million, down from last year's total of \$42 million.

The quiet season has allowed the province to send fire crews to Ontario to help battle several fires in the Thunder Bay area, she said.

Pine beetle infestation battled

Citizen news services

QUESNEL — An infestation of the mountain pine beetle in Tweedsmuir provincial park is threatening the area's caribou population.

The animals depend on mature forests for their winter habitat.

But the beetles have attacked about 5,000 hectares of trees inside the park already.

The B.C. Forest Service says it will burn some of the infested trees and use chemicals to try to stop the onslaught of the beetles, about 200 kilometres northwest of Vancouver.

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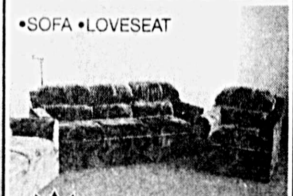
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