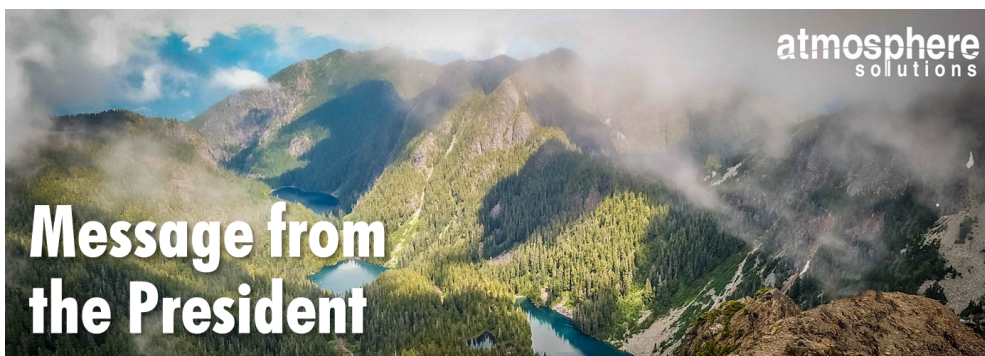


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Welcome to our Fall 2022 Newsletter! In this issue:

- Message from the Society for Atmosphere Solutions President
- Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program
- Air Quality Sensor Network
- Sechelt Air Quality Study
- Annual General Meeting Information



Summer has come to an end and it's time for another Society for Atmosphere Solutions (SAS) newsletter.

The recent hot weather reminds me of last year's "Heat Dome" when many vulnerable individuals suffered premature death. Until then, many people considered the West Coast immune from severe heat. We must prepare for more to come. Extreme heat, drought and flooding worldwide are becoming the norm.

Heat and drought are often accompanied by wildfires. Particulate matter is the primary pollutant in wildfire smoke, for which several health studies suggest there are no 'safe' levels. Leaders worldwide are now setting more stringent particulate matter targets and air quality standards. Annie Seagram, our Regional Meteorologist, and Professor Emeritus Douw Steyn will review global air pollution as well as local air quality issues at our Annual General Meeting in October.

Our Society has been busy during the last year organizing ourselves with amalgamation (see our new boundary map below) and with staff changes. The Two Degree Institute (2DI) left our fold and became a Society unto themselves. Ryan Logtenberg and John Field both left SAS. On the plus side, atmospheric sciences professor emeritus Douw Steyn became a welcome addition to our board.



Naomi Fleschhut, our Executive Director for the last two years, will be leaving us shortly. Her administrative skills are phenomenal. She will be missed. On a more positive note, we were able to recruit Michael Bisaga as our new Executive Director. We are impressed with the qualifications that he brings to the job.

Another positive this summer was the hiring of a summer student, Lillian Spiegl. As assistant to the Executive Director, she was able to make significant contributions for us with her enthusiasm and wide range of skills. We wish her well as she continues her studies.

We hope to see you at our upcoming virtual AGM on Sunday October 23rd from 1pm to 3pm.

Louis Legal
SAS President



Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program

Did you know that a heat pump can help you beat the heat?

While both reducing your carbon footprint and improving local air quality, heat pumps can heat your home in the winter and keep you cool in the summer. Heat pumps offer heating and cooling that can be up to 300% more efficient than other systems.

Through the Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program (CWSRP), previously known as the Wood Stove Exchange Program, we can offer you a rebate for the installation of an electrical heating appliance such as a heat pump or electric fireplace insert. Residents of the lower Sunshine Coast and the Sea to Sky region, are eligible for a \$750 rebate and District of Sechelt residents may also be provided with an extra \$250 top-up. Low-income households in Sechelt are also eligible for an additional \$1500 rebate; contact us for details.

In 2023, the CWSRP will no longer require participants to remove their old wood-burning stove to be eligible for rebates. With some conditions, these old stoves can remain in place for use in the case of an emergency such as an electrical outage.

If you would like to participate in the rebate program, please contact rebates@atmospheresolutions.ca to see if you are eligible or apply for the program by visiting our website!



Sechelt Air Quality Study

Due to industrial development over the last few decades and residential woodburning being commonplace, there have been concerns about local air quality and the levels of particulate matter within the community of Sechelt. With the help of the Sunshine Coast Clean Air Society (a predecessor to our Society) and local residents, the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy installed monitors in Sechelt to measure particulate matter from 2012 to 2018. One set of monitors was installed in the downtown area at Trail Bay Mall and others in the residential area of East Porpoise Bay.

During the study period, particulate matter levels were generally low, which means that the air quality was good in Sechelt.

Smoke from wildfires sometimes affects air quality in Sechelt and causes high levels of particulate matter. During times when air quality was not impacted by wildfires, daily average particulate matter levels in Sechelt were low, especially compared to other B.C. communities. [Read the full study here](#) or hear from the report's author on this and other regional air quality studies at our Annual General Meeting on October 23rd, 2022.



Please join us at our upcoming virtual AGM on Sunday October 23rd from 1pm to 3pm ([via Zoom](#)).
Use the links below to add the event to your calendar:

[Google Calendar](#) [Outlook Calendar \(.ics\)](#) [Yahoo Calendar](#)

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