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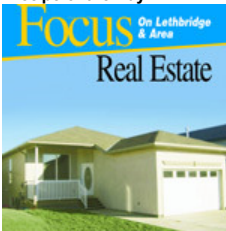
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Couple is 'Driven to Sustain' on trip across North America

Written by Jeff Wiebe

Wednesday, 05 November 2008

In a time when crude oil prices can have tremendous sway over people's lives, Cloe Whittaker and Tyson Jerry are concerning themselves with a different kind of oil — the veggie variety. Whittaker and Jerry recently embarked on a unique mission. They plan to travel 45,000 kilometres in a van powered by used vegetable oil, spreading the message of sustainable living, and setting a world record for the longest distance travelled in an alternative-fuel car in the process. The couple kicked off their journey Oct. 1 in Victoria, B.C., and made a stop in Lethbridge earlier this week to see the sites and fill up their vehicle at a local restaurant.

"People in general have been really inquisitive, really supportive, just very excited about what we're doing," said Whittaker.

So far, they've travelled through parts of B.C., Alaska, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Alberta, sleeping in their van and speaking at schools along the way. In Ontario, a school curriculum has even been developed around their "Driven to Sustain" message.

"It's been really rewarding, the kids are really receptive to what we're trying to explain to them. They just seem to get it, it's great," explained Whittaker.

The pair doesn't have a final destination set, but they hope to travel through every province and territory in Canada, as well as every state in the continental U.S.

"What we say is that it's not really about the end destination, it's about the journey," said Whittaker.

Jerry and Whittaker both have post-secondary education in environmental issues and a passion for sustainable living. Jerry said converting his Japanese-made van to run on used vegetable oil only took a couple of days, and it can now travel about 2,500 km on a full tank of oil. Most of their fuel comes free from restaurants they visit along the way.

"We're meeting a lot of people along the way, it's much more of a community effort than filling up at a gas station," said Whittaker.

While it's an attention-grabbing idea, neither of the travellers advocate that everyone start driving vegetable oil-powered cars.

"It draws people's attention because it's unique," said Whittaker.

"But it still creates emissions, and we know our country has to move away from emissions completely. So it's a stepping stone, but we don't see it as a solution."

For more information on the trek and to view progress updates, visit www.driventosustain.ca.

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Power line fate with AUC

The fate of the proposed 240-kilovolt electrical power transmission line linking the North Lethbridge substation with the Pincher Creek substation was put fully in the hands of a three-man Alberta Utility Commission...

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Operating a small business in tough economic times can be difficult for even the most knowledgeable manager, but for a group of local high school students, it's a sweet experience.

Triplets instantly double the size of local family

Christmas came early for one Lethbridge family and they are delighted with the three packages they received. Juvenal Kaloo, 44, and his wife Irene Muganza, 40, are the proud parents of triplets, all boys and all healthy.

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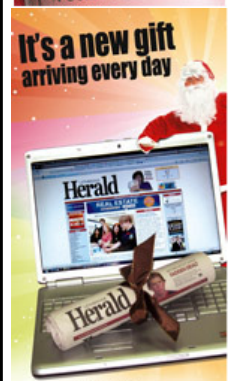




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