

Tar Waters

As long as oil companies have been operating in Fort McMurray, Alberta, tailings ponds have been a problem. Now, a new report released by Environmental Defence indicates that each day 11 million litres of contaminated water are leaking from tar sands operations into surrounding areas. Although this already is a disturbing figure, planned expansion of tar sands operations means that it is expected to grow to over 72 million litres per day within a decade. (Seventy-two million litres would fill Toronto's Rogers Centre 16 times.)

The water, known to contain dozens of toxic contaminants such as heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and naphthenic acids, enters the groundwater and the Athabasca River, before the river flows into Fort Chipewyan and the Peace-Athabasca Delta, one of the world's largest inland freshwater deltas.

GMO Worries

Supporting the claims of those opposed to biotech, two recently released studies from the European Union show that genetically modified foods pose adverse health effects. The Italian National Institute of Research on Food and Nutrition found that mice fed Monsanto's Bt corn MON810 suffered from immune system disturbances. Following closely on its heels, a long-term feeding study – one of the few of its kind – commissioned by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, showed that the corn lowered fertility in mice. Bt corn is engineered to produce insecticidal toxins derived from the *Bacillus thuringiensis* bacterium.

Hot Sewage

In the first phase of its redevelopment, the Southeast False Creek neighbourhood and Olympic Village in Vancouver, British Columbia, will recover heat from its municipal sewer system to provide space heating and domestic hot water for residents. The process is estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by half and lower particulate emissions, at a cost comparable to conventional heating systems. The project, due to be fully operational by October 2009, is a North American first and the fourth of its kind in the world. ♻️

Letter From Cape Farewell / David Noble

Cape Hopeful



*Give us this day our daily seal
And forgive us our footprints
As we forgive those who tread against us
And lead us not into pollution
But deliver us from petrol
For ours is the past, the present and the future
For ever and ever
Amen.*

THESE ARE THE WORDS of Mojisola Adebayo, penned during this year's Cape Farewell Art/Science expedition to Disko Bay in Western Greenland. For 11 days, I joined Mojisola and the rest of an all-star team of artists and scientists to explore a slice of an unimaginable world. Our mission: to respond creatively to the climate crisis.

From Kangerlussuaq in the south, we traveled north to the Disko Bay area, dodging icebergs and stopping occasionally to explore the icy landscape and the brightly-coloured communities that dot its edge. We returned via the open-ocean, under a tango of northern lights that, according to funnyman Marcus Brigstocke, is clearly the gateway to a parallel universe.

In between, we witnessed the birth of several artistic works that, for me, have become a new source of hope.

I performed in a "forever" play written by our on-board Pulitzer prize-winning playwright, Suzan Lori-Parks. The great poet Lemn Sissay and I took turns carrying each other along a route wedged between the ocean and a majestic glacier. We had been walking forever and had forever to go.

The Japanese composer Sakamoto, who has been described as the best sound engineer on the planet, recorded a stream of water from a melting glacier. He called it the purest sound he had ever heard. Tracey Rowledge, a bookbinder, conceived a leather-bound volume so magnificent that only the answer to one of the world's great problems could belong inside.

Upon my return to Canada, I gave back-to-back presentations on climate change. I shared my stories of Arctic-inspired artistic works, first with a faith-based adult group and then with some 200 elementary school students. As I looked out at my two very different audiences, one thing was clear to me: my climate change message had broken through.

The facts, figures and first-hand accounts of the climate crisis are compelling, but they can be hard to grasp and are pretty disheartening. The artists' works, by contrast, are encouraging.

*Together, let us lead each other away from pollution
Let us celebrate the glories of our world
Let us hope.*

Whatever their walk in life, people relate to these simple but powerful messages. They are a new tool in my tool kit. That is the reason for my hope. ♻️

David Noble, the founder of 2degreesC and a volunteer presenter with The Climate Project, found hope in Cape Farewell.