

- [Agriculture](#)
- [Business Strategy](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Financial](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Social Media](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Energy](#)
 - [Bio-Fuel](#)
 - [Environment](#)
 - [Oil & Gas](#)
 - [Science](#)
- [First Nations](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Politics](#)
 - [Municipal](#)
 - [Provincial](#)
 - [Federal](#)
- [Arts](#)
 - [Entertainment](#)
 - [Literature](#)
 - [Music](#)
- [Living](#)
 - [Education](#)
 - [Faith](#)
 - [Family](#)
 - [Fashion](#)
 - [Health](#)
 - [Travel](#)
- [Sports](#)
 - [CFL Football](#)
 - [Hockey](#)
 - [Snowboarding](#)
 - [Soccer](#)
- [Fun](#)
 - [Comics](#)
 - [Games](#)
 - [Puzzles](#)
 - [Markham's Garage](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Spotlight](#)
- [Blogs](#)

[David Suzuki is no saint to me](#)

[Markham Hislop](#) | June 22, 2013 | [0 Comments](#)



Alberta man tries to save his cat while his truck sinks in the background.

David Suzuki column offensive and ill-timed

Albertans are spitting mad at David Suzuki. The famous environmentalist and CBC host wrote a [column](#) yesterday tying Alberta flooding, in which three died, to his favourite hobby horse, climate change.

“Too soon, Dave?” was a common comment heard in Tim Hortons across the province yesterday, uttered by Albertans reeling from the worst flooding in recent memory. Over 75,000 people evacuated from Calgary, much of Canmore and High River completely under water with local infrastructure destroyed or severely damaged,

Too soon, indeed.



Calgarians gathered in evacuations centres like this one all across the city. Photo: ctv.ca

As thousands of Albertans huddled in evacuation centres and contemplated the loss of their homes and belongings, the last thing they needed to hear was David Suzuki using their pain as a pretext to preach about climate change.

“Can we say the recent flooding and extreme weather in Southern Alberta and B.C. were caused by global warming? Maybe not, but we can say we should expect more of the same – and worse if we don’t do something to get our emissions under control. As many scientists warn, climate change isn’t coming; it’s here,” he wrote.

Suzuki’s use of so much personal tragedy as a platform to promote his political agenda is repugnant.

Am I surprised? No, because I have a personal history with Suzuki that offers a bit of insight into his judgment on these kinds of issues.

It was 1992 and I had just set myself up as a one-man public relations agency in Prince Alberta, Sask. My phone rang and it was a colleague asking me if I would help out the Meadow Lake Tribal Council with a sticky issue in their forestry operations.

MLTC had recently bought a big sawmill in Meadow Lake. As part of the deal, the Tribal Council received a forestry licence that included re-forestation obligations. Some of the First Nations band members objected to the MLTC forestry company’s harvesting and silviculture methods, and had occupied a logging road, refusing to let workers and equipment onto the harvesting area.



Beacon contributing photographer Cole Grey caught these young Calgarians just after 4 p.m. Thursday as they fled their home in southwest Calgary. Photo: Cole Grey, Compass Studios.

Acting upon bad advice from their lawyer and a big Vancouver PR firm, the MLTC chief and council kept their head down and refused to talk to media. Well, after a couple of weeks the story was completely out of control and was leading national newscasts.

Naturally, David Suzuki injected himself into the controversy. He flew out to Saskatchewan, met with the protesting elders, and dominated the news cycle thereafter.

Desperate to turn things around, MLTC asked me to help. I asked them one question: Do you have good stories to tell?

This was the height of the “BC is the Brazil of the North” campaigns (funny how BC is now a model of great forestry practices, eh?) and the Oka standoff was still fresh in everyone’s memory. The last thing I wanted was to be helping bonafide land rapers, even if they were First Nations.

Our silviculture practices are world-class, we plant more than we harvest, and we do everything we can to protect the land, I was told. Their foresters backed up the story with data and examples.

Soon MLTC was telling its story to Canadians via the national media. And a good story it was, too.

As part of my efforts, I reached out to David Suzuki. He needs the forestry data and information as much as the media, I thought. We had a cordial discussion, I sent him the info and we agreed to meet at his next press conference at the logging road blockade.

I showed up a few days later, the lone company representative amongst a large group of protestors, a number of them armed young men with covered faces ala the Oka images we all remember so well.

Suzuki began the press conference. Now that he had the other side’s information, with plenty of evidence about their responsible harvesting and silviculture practices, I thought he would moderate his tone and the protest would head in a different direction.

Talk about naïve.

He launched into a blistering attack on MLTC, completely ignoring the evidence that didn’t jibe with his conclusions.

Then he did something I’ll never forget. He announced that Markham Hislop, a representative of MLTC, was in the crowd and pointed me out. Immediately, no doubt choreographed ahead of time, a number of large and armed men surrounded me, leaning in in a very threatening manner. They remained that way for the remainder of the press conference. Some of them muttered very nasty things in my ear.

Intimidating? You bet. I was shaking when I finally got back to the car.

You’ll forgive me if I don’t think of Suzuki as Saint David. The man has a nasty, ruthless streak and he’s willing to take advantage of others if it furthers his greater cause. One, incidentally, I usually have a lot of sympathy for.

So, the willingness of David Suzuki to exploit the suffering of Albertans came as no surprise to me.

Perhaps he even thought of it as a form of cosmic revenge, since Alberta is the home of the Canadian oil and gas industry, and Calgary is the Houston of Canada.

Whatever the case, his column was in very poor taste. And Albertans were not amused.

An apology from Suzuki is in order.

Alberta residents, tell us what you think of the Canadian oil sands by filling out this [brief survey](#).

Tags: [Alberta](#), [Alberta Flooding](#), [Calgary Flooding](#), [David Suzuki](#), [featured](#), [Government](#)

Category: [Opinion](#)

Subscribe

If you enjoyed this article, subscribe to receive more just like it.



Comments (0)

[Trackback URL](#) | [Comments RSS Feed](#)



1. [WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G](#) says:

Your comment is awaiting moderation.

[June 23, 2013 at 1:09 am](#)

Suzuki’s offensive statements are not surprising. Observers have suggested that David Suzuki hates people. According to reports, Suzuki does not hate all people, and seems to like pretty females who serve as his bodyguards. However, David Suzuki has provided reasons for believing that he hates people, at least certain types — Suzuki hates everyone in the lawn care industry, and has destroyed it by ruining businesses and putting people out of work. Suzuki hates golfers and despises the game of golf. Suzuki hates his fans by staring at them woodenly with icy silence. Suzuki hates humans

because he believes they are maggots. Suzuki hates Santa Claus and ruins Christmas for children. For more details concerning David Suzuki, please go to the following report and web-page ... <http://wp.me/p1jq40-66Q> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-21m> WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G <http://pesticidettruths.com/> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr>

[Reply](#)

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Name *

Email *

Website

Comment

You may use these HTML tags and attributes: <abbr title=""> <acronym title=""> <blockquote cite=""> <cite> <code> <del datetime=""> <i> <q cite=""> <strike>

« [Police ask owners of abandoned vehicles near High River to remove them](#)
[Southern Alberta flooding update – water receding in Banff](#) »



Today's Stories

- [Southern Alberta flooding update – water receding in Banff](#)
- [David Suzuki is no saint to me](#)
- [Police ask owners of abandoned vehicles near High River to remove them](#)
- [High-ground Discovery Ridge residents can go home](#)
- [Canadian Armed Forces help flooded Alberta communities](#)
- [Alberta floods: Redford, Harper pledge coordinated recovery](#)
- [Two-vehicle Jasper collision claims life of Edmonton man](#)
- [Bright spot in Canmore flooding tragedy – Bow River crested in Banff](#)

Sign up for Beacon Daily