

Government supports surgeons going green

By Dan Jensen

The Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS) and the CNIS board of directors have made the decision to go carbon-neutral.

Using the David Suzuki carbon footprint calculator, CNIS discovered its carbon footprint to be 60 to 80 tonnes a year.

"We found this unacceptable given the current understanding of the causes and the probable effects of climate change," said CNIS president and former Camrose resident Dr. Ron Lett. "We

have therefore arranged to offset our carbon dioxide emissions by purchasing carbon offsets from Ecosystem Restoration Associates (ERA).

"ERA will be planting and tending trees in Maple Ridge, B.C., to offset our carbon emissions."

ERA projects remove vast, scientifically quantified tonnages of CO₂ from the atmosphere to combat climate change and help organizations and individuals offset or neutralize their greenhouse gas footprints. Its EcoNeu-

tral offsets have been validated and verified to the internationally recognized ISO14064-2 project standards, ensuring the benefit to the atmosphere is real, long lived and beyond "business as usual."

Seventy per cent of the cost to CNIS of offsetting the carbon expenditures will be remunerated by the Canadian International Development Agency, which administers foreign aid programs in developing countries, and has mandated that all CNIS international development projects must

now be looked at from an environmental point of view.

"The federal government is supporting Canadian surgeons in being responsible corporate global citizens," said Dr. Lett.

The Canadian Network for International Surgery is a non-profit organization that promotes the delivery of essential surgical care to the underprivileged. Its vision is to empower low-income countries to create an environment where the risk of injuries is minimal and all people receive adequate surgical care.

In February of this year, CNIS was involved in the opening of a surgical skills lab located at the heart of the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The lab is the first of its kind in Africa and brings surgical skills teaching into a new era," said Dr. Lett.

Dr. Ron Lett, the son of Audrey and the late Glen Lett, is currently working in Tanzania. He is expected to be back in Camrose at the end of July.