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NEWS FOR THE CAPITAL'S HIGH TECH COMMUNITY

AUGUST 99

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

# Oil and gas sector finally sees a need for cleaner energy

Environmental concerns seem to be the top order of business when it comes to generating energy and exploiting hydrocarbons. People's concerns range from oil sands mining effects — what happens to the land after mining is finished and what is the negative impact of exploration — to gas flaring, one of the most visible signs of a negative environmental impact, and from the use of trucks, and the diesel-using cars and buses to the overriding concerns about greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

With the signing of the Kyoto agreement, Canada and several other countries committed to reducing total per capita emissions. Canada has the toughest challenge since it has the highest per

centage of power supply, such as coal-based electricity generators. Every person who owns a car or every company that uses diesel engine powered semis or buses is contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, the most common of which are carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Canada has agreed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 6% lower than 90 levels by between 2008 and 2012. In order for this to take place, new technology is required to help reduce emissions in all aspects of Canadian life.

**William Gunter**, PhD, is the group leader for the **Alberta Research Council's** environmental technologies division and an expert in technology with energy



## Virus hunters never meant to kill big game

**Fast Lane Communications Inc.** never intended to get into the virus-busting field. Yet when an opportunity came by, it didn't think twice.

When the virus **Worm.ExploreZip** crept into its network, it didn't look for outside help. Fast Lane employees solved it on their own. 'We didn't mean to get into this, it just happened. Like many companies, our computers got

■ *Virus continued on page 6*

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