

CHAMPIONS

FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE

Ordinary people taking extraordinary action

CARROLL CHUBB CONNECTS FAITH AND SCIENCE

Carroll grew up in the suburbs of Washington D.C. When she was about five, the Golden Book of Natural History piqued her interest in the natural world, which her father fostered through family nature walks. She particularly remembers hunting for gypsum crystals on the cliffs of the Potomac River and carefully avoiding poisonous black widow spiders. Now decades later, after postsecondary studies, starting a family and working in health research, Carroll is still driven by her love of nature, and she strives to share it with others in innovative ways.



Building on her training as a scientist, Carroll's concerns about the state of the environment are based on science. But her environmental ethics are based on the teachings of Jesus — that we should not harm others. For instance, a huge number of substances that did not exist 150 years ago are now common and we have very limited understanding of the harm that they might be doing. She questions the wisdom of this, from both these scientific and moral perspectives.

While working for Health Canada in Ottawa, Carroll became her congregation's representative to the local chapter of Faith and the Common Good, an interfaith charitable network that works with religious congregations and spiritual groups to help them create more sustainable communities. After retiring to Saskatoon, Carroll joined the Green Sanctuary team at her congregation. This team worked on improving the insulation of its building, switching to efficient lighting, composting, replacing disposable with washable dishware, and creating a native plant garden. Environmental topics were integrated into some Sunday services. The team also joined Communities Inspired for Environmental Action (CIEA), the Saskatoon chapter of Faith and the Common Good.

In late 2019, CIEA began organizing a one-day conference focussed on climate change. Then the pandemic struck, so suddenly having an in-person conference was no longer feasible. As one of the organizers of this project, Carroll decided to explore the possibility of having conference speakers share their insights virtually over the internet, an approach that was still in its infancy for many people in the early days of the pandemic. After the Saskatchewan Environmental Society agreed to support event logistics, marketing and technology, the planned in-person event evolved to a series of 12 lunch time webinars called *Caring Sustainably for Saskatchewan*.

This series covered a wide variety of speakers and topics, including electric vehicles, energy efficient construction and renovations, urban planning, Indigenous-led renewable energy projects, and the

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role of religion in environmental ethics. Over the course of the 6 weeks close to 400 people attended the live webinars. The recordings had over 1500 views. The series gave Carroll hope that we could make progress on addressing environmental issues despite the pandemic.

Now in her mid-seventies, Carroll is not about to stop being a champion for a sustainable future. Among other things, she helps organize the monthly Sustainability Speakers Series presentations at the Saskatoon Public Library on behalf of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, attends online meetings of KAIROS Regina—an ecumenical group working on climate change solutions, and is still part of her congregation's Green Sanctuary Team.

This column is a collaborative project of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society and the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development – RCE Saskatchewan.



Saskatchewan Environmental Society

informed decision-making that moves us towards sustainability. SES's current action areas include sustainable energy and climate solutions, water protection, resource conservation, biodiversity preservation, and reduction of toxic substances. Our work in Saskatchewan is carried out in Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, and our office is in Saskatoon on Treaty 6, the traditional territory of Cree peoples and the homeland of the Métis Nation. Learn more at: www.environmentalsociety.ca

Saskatchewan Environmental Society is a non-profit, registered charity that is committed to supporting sustainable living and sustainable resource use in Saskatchewan. We work with, and on behalf of, communities, organizations, businesses, and policy makers to encourage



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RCE Saskatchewan is a voluntary network of individuals, organizations, and experts advancing sustainable development in Saskatchewan. Founded in 2007, RCE Saskatchewan's partners are the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Luther College at the University of Regina, First Nations