



Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Association

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Newsletter #10

Spring 2009



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I wish this winter would give up, but the ice still has a hold on the lake as I write this. That hasn't stopped us from looking ahead to a lovely summer by the water. Coming up quickly is an all-day workshop on May 2 that Leduc county is having for their Wizard Lake area structure plan. I hope as many of you as possible attend to ensure your wishes and concerns are heard.

Don't forget Wizard Lake Awareness Day and our annual general meeting are being held on Saturday, June 6 this year, starting at noon. Once again, Leduc county is allowing us to use the overflow parking area at Jubilee Park, which works really well for this event. Instead of the bocce tournament we've had in the past, we're having a variety of games for the young and the not-so-young, with fabulous prizes. There will be a silent auction, concession, beer tent, chicken bingo and lots more! Gather up your friends, family and neighbours and enjoy the day. A copy of the poster is on the last page.

As well, we will have displays, with hints about what you can do this spring to be environmentally conscious, while you begin your gardening and yardwork. A special voluntary program will be showcased about "Homesite Assessments."

The annual general meeting will be short as we just have the financial report and board member elections. Please consider supporting the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association by spending some time helping out as a board member. You'll be doing your favourite lake a big favour.

Laverne Faulkner, Chair, WLWLSA
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WIZ 'SPIEL WHITE-OUT!

By Laura Reichert

Outdoor curling enthusiasts braved the elements of winter on Saturday, March 7th to attend the fourth annual Wiz'Spiel held at Wizard Lake. As white-out conditions from a major snowstorm that settled into the region that morning threatened to cancel the lake community's annual event, teams curling in the Wiz'Spiel were determined not to miss out on the day's fun bonspiel, and out of 16 teams registered, only a handful of people were unable to get there due to the treacherous road conditions.

While the snow continued to fall, with almost no visibility across the lake, the players were introduced this year to a new pipe-in opening ceremony. The teams formed a line and trampled across the lake knee deep in snow, encircling the rink as they carried a sign with their team name proudly displayed.

The games got underway, and as the curlers hurled the wooden log-rocks into the house at each end, with brooms in hand, they also swept the snow off the rink.



Arja and Ron Patrick bringing the aloha spirit to the 'Spiel!

LeVerne and Carol Ellsworth manned the concession to serve up smokies and hot coffee, as well as cupcakes from *Gramma Bear's Bakery*.

The Counties of Leduc and Wetaskiwin both supported the event, with County Councillors, Larry McKeever (Wetaskiwin) and John Whaley (Leduc) joining forces to form a team. The Alberta Stewardship Network was also in attendance, with Kevin Wirtanen forming a team.

By the time the final games were held mid-afternoon, the weather changed once more – it actually warmed up - proving once again, that in Alberta when it comes to the weather – wait five minutes, it will change! The spirited curlers had chosen some creative team names this year and came decked out in an array of unique hats, with a couple of teams dressed in colourful costumes as well, adding to the fun. The *Sweeping Stingers* won for best hats, while the *Road Kill Bunnies* won for best team name. The *Out-turn Interns* took home the first place trophy for the Wizard (A) Event, with the *Road Kill Bunnies* in second place. Winners of the Wannabe (B) Event were team *Big Rock* while the *Shooting Stars* took second place. Some other creative team names included *Aloha Divers*, *John's Jocks*, *Hickey Hombres*, *Top Rocks* and *Cornystoleniferous*.

The day concluded with a potluck supper, award presentations, and draws for door prizes and raffle items. The winner of the main raffle item - dinner for two at *Character's Restaurant* - was Earl Johnson from the *Wizard Lake Cowboys* team. All profits from the day's event went to the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association.

WLWLSA Chair, Laverne Faulkner, thanked both Counties and those businesses who contributed to this year's event, and to all those who were involved in organizing and participating in the 2009 Wiz 'Spiel. "It's a great community event and everyone had such a fabulous fun time!"

MEET the CORNY STOLENIFEROUS

By Carole Ellsworth

The Wiz Spiel welcomed a special team this year from the **Alberta Stewardship Network**. They went by the team name of the 'CORNY STOLENIFEROUS'. The botanical interpretation of this name is *Cornus sericea* (*C. stolonifera*; *Swida stolonifera*; *Red Osier Dogwood*). Northern North America. Many species in subgenus *Swida* are *stoloniferous* shrubs, growing along waterways. That explains the crown of woven dogwood branches that adorned these team members' heads.



This CORNY STOLEN team included Sarah Hipkin (Director of Communications and Education for the Land Stewardship Centre of Canada), Kevin Wirtanen (Operations Manager, Alberta Stewardship Network), Ernie Ewaschuk (Executive Director for the Land Stewardship Centre of Canada) and Ferna Ewaschuk (Ernie's personal support).

The **Alberta Stewardship Network** (ASN) was established in 2004 to support and celebrate the efforts of individual stewards and stewardship groups across Alberta. The Land Stewardship Centre of Canada was appointed Secretariat to administer the Alberta Stewardship Network.

This group has a mission 'to provide Alberta's stewards with a network that facilitates information exchange, provides support and recognizes the contribution of individuals, communities and organizations in advancing environmental stewardship on a watershed basis.' ASN is the WLWLSA's mentor and resource. We relied on their expertise and guidance to successfully set up our watershed stewardship association at Wizard Lake.

The ASN provided a grant of \$7500 to WLWLSA in 2008/09, a portion of which went toward the Wiz 'Spiel, our winter community building event. Wizard Lake Stewardship is very grateful for this funding. The Watershed Stewardship Grant Program supports stewardship groups with their on-the-ground (in this case, on-the-ice) activities and projects. This grant program is made possible by funding from the Alberta Government through Water for Life Strategy.

We look forward to having this fun ASN team return next year and look forward to another botany lesson.

Thank you to Kevin, Ernie, Sarah and Ferna. You helped make this Wiz 'Spiel extra special.

FUTURE OF THE WIZARD LAKE AREA STRUCTURE PLAN

By Carole Ellsworth

The County of Leduc is undertaking an Area Structure Plan for the Wizard Lake Area. The purpose of the plan is to identify a vision for the lake and its watershed. The plan involves developing an appropriate land use and planning policy framework *to manage growth and guide development around the lake and within the watershed.*

Residents, landowners, area associations and all stakeholders should be concerned and involved.

The Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association has been invited to sit at the table with the County of Leduc and the consultant Office for Urbanism and its associates to give input in shaping this plan. This productive meeting took place on February 26, 2009. The intent of these meetings is to hear meaningful input and feedback related to development in this area, in order to establish a shared understanding of the issues. If you have concerns or suggestions that you wish to have put forward by WLWLSA, you may phone our chairperson, Laverne Faulkner (780) 389-3336.

The public is invited to get involved in the decisions on the future of Wizard Lake. There are ample opportunities to do this. A public workshop is being held on May 2/09 in Calmar. There was an Open House in Glen Park Hall on February 26/09 and there will be more Open Houses in the future. Watch your local newspapers or check Leduc county's website.

Need information?

Karen Brenneis, Planning and Development, Leduc County 780-955-3555

Sylvain Losier, Planner, Long Range Planning, Leduc County 780-979-6178

Website <www.leduc-county.com>

EAGLES AT WIZARD LAKE

by Arja Patrick

The other day I saw what looked like an eagle flying overhead and it reminded me of the pictures I had been given of sightings in the winter of 2007/2008. Yes, these pictures are at Wizard Lake. I had personally seen a pair in 2005 but not since until the other day. However, they are a part of our ecosystem so I thought I would share these pictures with you. Also, some eagle information (Alta Gov't).

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

June 6	Wizard Lake Awareness Day & AGM
June 11	Board meeting (<i>note date change</i>)
June 28	Canada Day Boat Parade
Sept	Bowling social event
Oct/Nov	Horsereading social event



An adult bald eagle, with its white head and tail, is easily identified, but a young or immature bird is often mistaken for a golden eagle. Adult plumage is not fully attained until the fifth or sixth year. The bald eagle has feathers extending only half-way down the leg, and less white showing at the base of the tail and primaries (longest wing feathers) than the golden eagle. Weight varies from 3 to 5.5 kg (7 to 12 lb.) and wingspan in an adult may reach up to 2.5 m (8 ft.). It is about 85 cm (33 in.) long.

This eagle is found only in North America, and in Alberta is most often seen in the mountain and northern regions. It winters in the central and southern U.S. and on the Pacific coast. Except during migration, the bald eagle is always found near rivers and lakes.

The bald eagle is a scavenger and a predator, subsisting mainly on fish. Small birds and rodents may also form part of its diet.



Nests are usually built near the tops of tall trees. Relatively small at first, the nest is added to and repaired each successive year it is inhabited, until it may reach a diameter of 2.5 m (8 ft.). Two to three white eggs are an average clutch size.

Now if any ornithologists amongst us can tell us if these pictures of something other than a bald eagle, please feel free to let us know – I am no expert. They are beautiful none the less.

Wizard Lake Awareness Day

Picnic in the Park

Saturday, June 6 – 12 noon
JUBILEE PARK overflow – watch for signs
FREE admission – Bring your lawn chairs

Fun for all!

Fun & games for young and old

PRIZES
SILENT AUCTION
DOOR PRIZES

Chicken Bingo?

All day concession
Beef on a bun
Hot dogs

Beer tent

Bring your friends, family & neighbours

Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Association

Brief Annual General Meeting 2 pm – bring your concerns

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