



# Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Association

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**Newsletter #12**

**Fall 2009**



## **Message from the Chair**

The Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association (WLWLSA) has had a quiet summer. After our hugely successful Wizard Lake Awareness Day in June, we ramped down to give our hard working board members a well deserved rest.

Now I hate to whine. But I will. There is way more work out there to do than we have the capacity to tackle. Of course, everyone has busy lives, including your board members. We're working hard but we're only a few volunteer people. So, much as I hate to admit it, there are times when we just have to give up important projects because something has to give.

The area structure plan that Leduc county is developing for the north shore of Wizard Lake will have important ramifications for everyone in this watershed, including both Leduc and Wetaskiwin counties. We have received lots of comments and concern about this process. Unfortunately, this is one of the things we simply have been unable to follow up with.

So please do not sit back and assume that we are the ones to speak or lobby on your behalf about this. If you have concerns, each and every one of you must attend the area structure plan meetings. The next one is being held on **Tuesday, October 6, 6:30 pm, at the Calmar Legion** to present the draft area structure plan. Be there so your concerns are heard!

The good news is that the small group of dedicated people on the board do remain committed to protecting our watershed. We will continue to work hard and achieve what we can, and build the capacity of the WLWLSA. But we need help. The best possible scenario is to have many hands each doing a manageable bit of work, rather than just a few with a big load.

***So if you have a passion or particular interest, we welcome you to come forward with your project or issue and we will support you in any way we can, if it is within the mission of the WLWLSA. You don't have to become a board member or undertake ongoing responsibilities to accomplish your undertaking. It helps to have the name of a successful stewardship group behind you.***

And who knows? You might have fun, and accomplish something positive for the Wizard Lake watershed.

**Laverne Faulkner, Chair** – [wizlake@telus.net](mailto:wizlake@telus.net), 780-389-3336

## **GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP**

Wizard Lake is registered for the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 26, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. We are one of 1300 registered cleanups across Canada.

Powered by Canadians, this program allows people to make a positive difference to our environment. Toronto Dominion Bank and the Vancouver Aquarium sponsor this event. Last year participants removed 135, 467 kg of litter from 1,280 shorelines. Our waterways are not dumping grounds, yet Canadians year in and year out keep using them for just that.

Cleanups are more than just collecting trash; they are examples of communities such as Wizard Lake working together to create solutions that ensure our waterways are kept clean.

### **We still require boats**

If you have a boat or pontoon boat that you can use for picking up trash out of the water, please let Albert or Carole know. **Phone Carole at (780) 985-3248 or Albert at (780) 389-3336 to volunteer.**

The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup is designed to raise awareness and change attitudes about shoreline litter. In addition, valuable data is collected during the cleanup, which is used to pinpoint the most problematic litter sources in communities across Canada.

### Here's how you can be involved:

Wizard Lake has been divided into 11 zones for cleanup and each zone has a group leader.

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Power line road & access (north shore) | ...Arja Patrick                 |
| 1. Enchantment Valley                  | ...Charmaine Willis             |
| 2. Wizard Lake Estates                 | ...Linda Hutchinson             |
| 3. Curilane A & Butterfly Cove         | ...Ken Litzenberger             |
| 4. Curilane B & weir area              | ...Shirley Elder & Chris Daniel |
| 5. Sandy Point & Ski Club              | ...John Hermans                 |
| 6. Ski Club                            | ...Louis Wanat                  |
| 7. Inlet Canal (south side)            | ...Blake Bartlett               |
| 8. Wizard Heights                      | ...Al Frickey                   |
| 9. Wizard Ridge Estates                | ...Matt Leach                   |
| 10. Boat launch RR275                  | ...LeVerne Ellsworth            |
| 11. Bentley Campground                 | ...Gord Bentley                 |

**Fast facts:**  
The #1 unusual item found during shoreline cleanups across the country in 2005 was shopping carts, second place went to car parts, followed by underwear in 3rd place.

Boats are also going to be used to clean up the shoreline that can't be reached from land. **Albert Faulkner** is coordinating this. Each boat will be assigned a portion of the shoreline to clean.

Each group leader will meet with the site coordinators, Albert Faulkner and Carole Ellsworth, at the day use parking lot at Jubilee Park at 1:00 PM. Supplies such as garbage bags, garbage tongs, plastic gloves, liability waivers, and data sheets will be distributed. The group leaders will then return to their zone to organize their volunteers and the cleanup will begin.



### A BONUS...Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association will host a wiener roast at Jubilee Park at 4 PM to celebrate our day.

**Did you know?**  
Cigarette butt litter is the world's greatest environmental litter problem. It is estimated that 1 in 3 cigarettes end up as litter, and once littered, they can leach chemicals such as cadmium, lead and arsenic into our environment within an hour of contact with water. Year after year, cigarette butts are the most commonly found item during the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, and last year our participants collected over **214,000** of them.

### KNOWLEDGE IS POWER (BOATING)!

By Aryn Kassam, The Pipestone Flyer Sept. 3, 2009 (reprinted with permission)

**Fact:** 66% of people who drown are within 15 meters of shore.

**Fact:** 43% of people who drown are within 2 meters of safety (dock or boat).

**Fact:** 100% of these accidental deaths could be prevented with the right knowledge.

Wouldn't you like to have this kind of knowledge? As of September 15<sup>th</sup> 2009, possessing a pleasure craft operator's card will be mandatory across Canada. If you are found operating a pleasure craft (which is anything used for pleasure activities) on the water without the operator's card, you will be fined \$250. For a fraction of this price, only \$75, you can attend a course that will give you the knowledge to use your pleasure craft safely and intelligently. You will also receive an operator's card at the end of the course, so you won't have to worry about that \$250 fine.

A gentleman named Ross Bradford, who represents the company of Forensic and Nautical Consultants of Canada Inc., and is based out of Edmonton, is running weekly sessions in Leduc, Spruce Grove, and Sherwood Park. In the two and a half hours with Mr. Bradford, you will learn about age-horsepower restrictions, relevant parts of the Criminal Code of Canada, right of way procedures, how to operate a vehicle near swimmers, fueling dangers, and distress equipment. In this common sense approach to boating, you will get the knowledge that is not only required, but extremely important. Mr. Bradford said: "The information in this course may save someone's life". If that's not worth \$75, I don't know what is.

Time is running out before this operator's card becomes mandatory so **contact Mr. Bradford at (780) 469-6196 and book your course today!**

Leduc sessions: **Sept. 14, Oct. 6, Oct. 29** from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at the Leduc Chamber of Commerce.

## WIZARD LAKE LEVEL LOWEST in RECORDED HISTORY



LeVerne Ellsworth taking measurements

Every year, LeVerne Ellsworth reads an elevation gauge placed in Wizard Lake, for Alberta Environment.

For 2009, LeVerne Ellsworth's records show that the lake has dropped 20.6 cm. or 8.1 inches from May 30, 2009 to Sept. 13, 2009.

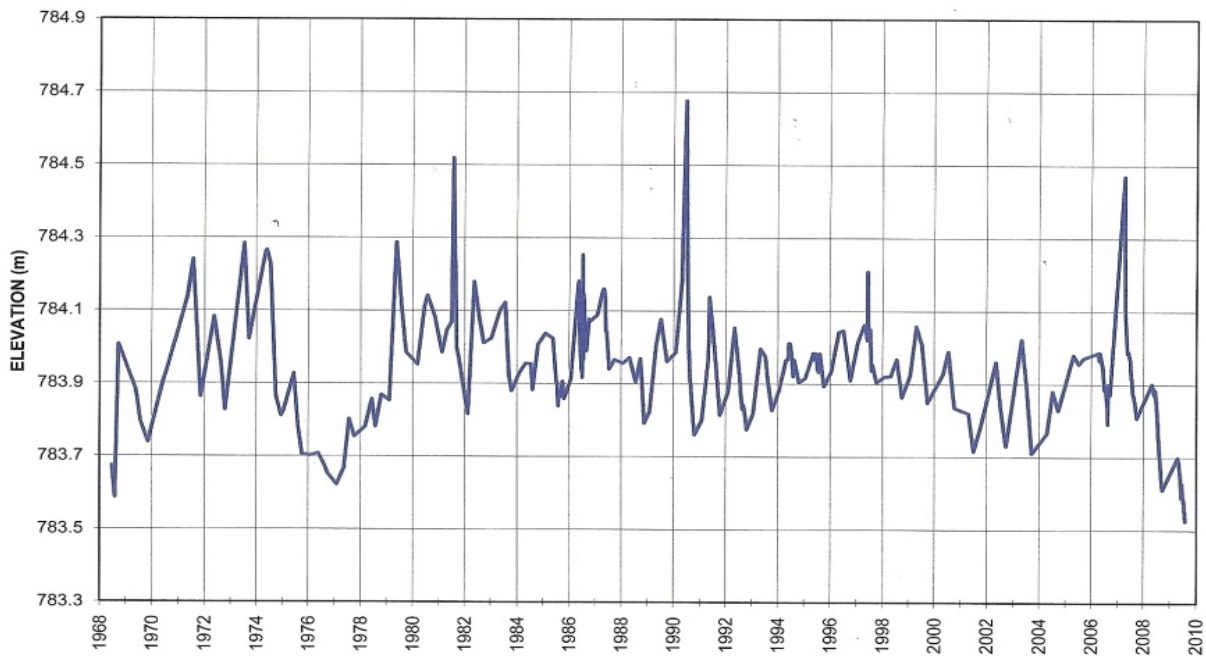
The following figures are taken from Alberta Environment actual lake elevations compared to a fixed bench mark.

August 29, 2006: level 783.843 meters
August 30, 2007: level 783.871 meters = 0.028 meters or 1.1 inch higher than 2006
September 1, 2008: level 783.711 meters = 0.16 meters or 6.29 inches lower than 2007
August 30, 2009: level 783.586 meters = 0.125 meters or 4.9 inches lower than 2008

The lake level has **dropped 0.285 meters or 11.22 inches from Aug. 30, 2007 to August 20, 2009.**

Alberta Environment historic levels show that Wizard Lake on August 30, 2009 is at the lowest level recorded, since records have been kept in 1968.

### WIZARD LAKE NEAR LEDUC (05DF901) Historical Water Levels



LATEST AVAILABLE W.L. = **783.526 M ON AUG 30/09.**

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