



# Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Association

RR 4, Site 2, Box 50, Calmar, AB, T0C 0V0 ~ 780-389-3336  
stewardship@wizardlake.ca ~ www.stewardsweb.com/wizardlake

**Newsletter #14**

**Fall 2010**

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



**Laverne Faulkner, Board Chair**

Welcome to our annual newsletter! Lots has happened over the past year, so this newsletter is packed full of information. We think it's important to keep you informed about what we're doing on your behalf.

### **Board Executive**

As you know, Chris Daniel assumed the position on Chair of the WLWLSA board effective our fiscal year start of June 1, 2010. Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, Chris is unable to continue in that capacity, so he is resuming his previous position of Vice-Chair, and I am resuming my position as Chair. Another change is that LeVerne Ellsworth is now our treasurer. Many thanks to Shirley Elder for all her hard work as previous Treasurer. And, thankfully, Ruth Kolodychuk ably continues as Secretary.

### **Annual General Meeting**

We had a great turnout at our AGM this year, held September 11, at Jubilee Park, following the Wizard Lake clean up. Carole Ellsworth did a fabulous job organizing the clean-up, and the following wiener roast. A heartfelt thank you went to April Larkin, Matt Leach and Arja Patrick, board members who did not stand for re-election. And we were really happy to welcome two new board members: Bryan Mason and Tim Purnell. Your hardworking members who are remaining on the board are: Chris Daniel, Kate Daniel, Shirley Elder, Carole Ellsworth, LeVerne Ellsworth, Ruth Kolodychuk, Walter Kolodychuk and me. A copy of the complete minutes is on our website.



*Enjoying the picnic and AGM following the lake clean up.*

I hope you enjoy and find this edition of our newsletter informative. If you have any input or comments for us, please feel free to be in touch with me or any of your board members. Enjoy a great winter in our beautiful Wizard Lake surroundings.

## GRASSROOTS AWARD

*by Carole Ellsworth, Director*

Wizard Lake Watershed and Stewardship Association proudly accepted the Alberta Stewardship Network (ASN) **Grassroots Award** in Sylvan Lake on June 3, 2010 for Community Stewardship Group. This category recognizes stewardship by a community group for their demonstrated commitment and effort to enact positive environmental change within their local community. This community group must be actively engaged in environmental stewardship in their local area and watershed. Such groups may include individuals, industry, organizations, agriculture, municipalities and other forms of local government.



**Walter Kolodychuk, Ruth Kolodychuk, Laverne Faulkner & Albert Faulkner accepted the Grassroots award, plus a \$250 cheque.**

The Alberta Stewardship Network is a provincial stewardship initiative, with partners from federal and provincial government agencies, non-government organizations, community stewardship groups, and Aboriginal communities. ASN was established in 2004 to support and celebrate the efforts of individual stewards and community groups across Alberta.

*Continued on p. 2...*

## WLWLSA RECOGNIZED ACHIEVEMENTS

- Registered society and registered **charity**
- Developed a program for **sampling 7 inlet streams** and 1 outlet stream, with Alberta Environment and Leduc and Wetaskiwin Counties. Water analyzed, data interpreted and compiled by Alta. Environment
- 2010 is our 5<sup>th</sup> year of **water quality testing** by ALMS (Alberta Lake Management Society), part of the University of Alberta
- Completed a **boat survey** to accurately document lake usage for County information, the RCMP and Transport Canada
- Participated with the County of Leduc as part of a 'focus group' for input and consultation on the **Wizard Lake Area Structure Plan**, to plan responsible land use that is compatible with the sustainability of Wizard Lake
- Presently working with Aquality Environmental Consulting to develop a **State of the Watershed Report**
- A **shoreline cleanup** day was held in Sept. 2009, when 61 volunteers cleaned up 4.2 ton or 3815 kilograms of trash around the lake
- Participated in Living by Waters **Homesite Consultation Program** through FAN (Federation of Alberta Naturalists) in summer of 2009
- Formed **5 working groups** to address public concerns: water quality, shoreline & watershed, safety & enjoyment, communication & education, fundraising & celebrations
- Working with PFRA (Federal Agricultural Branch) to update the **watershed boundaries map**.
- Built a **strong sense of community** and awareness with bulletin boards, newsletters, social events, open houses, pamphlet distribution and articles in the local newspapers
- Conducted an in depth study and presentation on the sometimes controversial **lake weir**
- Continuous work toward a **safer and more enjoyable lake**, with RCMP presence, public education, hazard markers, speed limit signs and ongoing meetings with officials voicing concerns over the excessive number of boats using the lake at one time
- Received the Leduc County **Environmental Stewardship Award 2008**
- Nominated for the provincial **Emerald award 2009**
- Maintain our **website** through ASN <stewardsweb.com/wizardlake>

## HOMESITE CONSULTATION PROGRAM

*by Kate Daniel, Board Director*

In 2010, seven homes had consultations completed at Wizard Lake. Jubilee Campground also completed a consultation. The results of all consultations are totally confidential, however in the words of our Homesite Consultant, Jesse Hitchcock, "the Jubilee Campground run a very tight environmental ship." Very encouraging to hear that. We are hoping the other campground on the shores of Wizard Lake will have a consultation in 2011.

The Homesite Consultation Program under the umbrella of Federation of Alberta Naturalists, is endorsed by the Government of Alberta. Nature Alberta has to fundraise to keep this program going, RBC is a contributor, and it is important that we as watershed dwellers take advantage of this free opportunity. Nature Alberta gives Wizard Lake so many slots a year usually in July and August.

**If you are interested in having a consultation done in 2011 just call me, Kate Daniel, 780-985-3287.**

Why should you have a homesite consultation? Why not? Nature Alberta provides us literature on which safe cleaning products to use, how to improve your downspout drainage, how to improve the "quality" of the contents of your holding tank and/or septic field. Why does it matter what I put in there? Well it does matter. All of the contents end up in the soil one way or another, when treated by a sewage lagoon, etc.



*Jesse Hitchcock, Homesite Consultant, talks about the program to interested residents at the Daniels' home.*

Ladies, did you know using a lot of bleach which goes into your holding tank or septic field destroys the good bacteria as well as the bad? This is then transferred into the sewage lagoon which has to work a lot harder to clean the dumped contents. There are many handy hints you will benefit from by having a homesite consultation including which weeds to get rid of. Some residents think because they are not on the water edge this consultation does not apply to them, this could not be further from the truth, EVERYONE who lives in a watershed affects the lake.

It is not pertinent what we did 50 years ago, NOW is the time to be aware of what affects the water quality of Wizard. What harm can it do to have a homesite consultation done, it takes about 2 hours and you will learn on how to be a better water dweller. And men, our homesite consultant is not snooping around your property to make you uncomfortable, our consultant is merely doing statistics on how we live at Wizard Lake, it is completely confidential and even my husband learned a lot.

Come on everyone, sign up, let us protect Wizard Lake and be wise watershed dwellers, our grandchildren will thank us.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WIZARD LAKE COMMUNITY

## SHORELINE CLEANUP

**Carole Ellsworth, Board Director**

***The community around Wizard Lake did it again!***

We clearly demonstrated how much we love our shoreline on September 11, 2010, by participating in the Shore and Community Cleanup. For the second year in a row, 60 residents of Wizard Lake and other concerned members of WLWLSA became part of the solution. These conservation champions gathered to clean up the trash that has accumulated on the shoreline and in the watershed. By taking this active role, we contribute to a healthier lake, plus help to ensure safer environments for aquatic life and contribute to preserving natural wildlife and aquatic habitats. This year we collected 3,435 pounds, 1,558 kg. or **1.5 ton of trash**. Last year, in our first community organized cleanup, 61 volunteers collected 4.2 ton of garbage.

Later in the day, this successful cleanup was celebrated with a wiener roast, hosted by WLWLSA. We gathered in Jubilee Park, a perfect setting for a Stewardship event. The Annual General Meeting was held prior to the picnic.

Thank you goes out to:

- **Leduc Parks & Rec.** for opening the park for our use, supplying the garbage bags for the community cleanup, firewood for our picnic and opening the meeting shack for our displays.
- **Sandy Parsons** from Leduc public works, transfer station
- **County of Wetaskiwin** for the dumpster, south shore

The following volunteers organized the cleanup in various areas. Thank you:

**Linda Wilson**, Enchantment Valley  
**Vicki Robertson**, Wizard Lake Estates  
**Ken Litzenberger**, Butterfly Cove, Curilane A  
**Blake Bartlett**, south shore canal & area  
**Cathy Holman**, Curilane B  
**John Reichert**, Wizard Heights  
**April Larkin**, Wizard Ridge  
**Bob Trueman**, Wizard Lake Waterski Club  
**Albert Faulkner**, heavy equipment supplied





## WIZARD LAKE AREA STRUCTURE PLAN 2010

by Chris Daniel, Board Vice Chair

What does this area structure plan mean for our members? The following article briefly outlines the process, concerns, decisions and outcomes.

Back in 2009 Leduc County announced their intention to develop and implement the WIZARD LAKE AREA STRUCTURE PLAN (ASP). Public meetings were held and input received culminating in the first draft being publically presented in October 2009.



This document contained many elements that were contrary to the “Long Term Sustainability of Wizard Lake.” It also contained some severe development constraints. Many of your neighbours including your Association petitioned Leduc County to create a forum for further public input. These actions resulted in a second draft being completed as well as a series of “Focus Group” meetings with representatives from five community groups including your Association.

After a month of intense meetings, the Focus group put forth twenty (20) recommendations, which were presented to Leduc County Council by their planning department. Each recommendation was congruent with each other. Leduc Council accepted either in part or fully 17 of these recommendations resulting in a third draft ASP being developed. This was presented at a public hearing on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This plan was adopted by Leduc Council on July 22, 2010 as well as the Governing Land Use By-Law 7-08 on September 14, 2010. Your concerns regarding the hamlet, extension of Jubilee Park, creation of a board walk, excessive setbacks to development were all deleted from the ASP. A more reasonable approach was taken towards development with conservation, hydrological sensitive and riparian areas identified and protected.

The complex and controversial issue of appropriate developmental setbacks from the lake and other water bodies, i.e., streams, was influenced by an intricate formula (matrix model) developed by Jay White, Principal of Aquality Environmental Consulting Limited, Edmonton. This matrix model was used by Leduc Council as a basis for determining suitable setbacks from the Wizard Lake shoreline/riparian areas and a degree of latitude was afforded Leduc County in the implementation process.

Another controversial topic included in the ASP was the number of residences per quarter section which will be determined by preset guidelines.

With regard to boat safety, of particular interest to Wizard Lake Estates, none of these recommendations, agreed to by all members of the Focus Group, were incorporated into the third and final draft. Leduc Council with the aid of county staff developed their own “Boating Plan Strategy” without consultation with the County of Wetaskiwin or with any of the “community groups.” It was indeed fortunate that we had one of the worst summers on record which prevented a serious issue on our lake due to excessive boat traffic. With respect to “Safety and Boating,” then Mayor Molzan committed to our Association that Leduc Council would review these issues with us.

The entire ASP process driven by Leduc County was not necessarily in the best interest of “the long term sustainability of Wizard Lake” but Leduc County did develop implementable guidelines, processes and developmental principals for future development in the Wizard Lake Watershed area.

In conclusion your Association supported reasonable and responsible development always accepting environmental recommendations with a view to conforming to our mission statement.

The Association would like to thank all those members who provided their comments and suggestions. I would also like to acknowledge that during this ASP process I received invaluable assistance from Mr. Ken Litzenberger and Mr. Larry Staples who contributed countless hours and significant insight into this complex and critical matter affecting all of us. For a full review of the WIZARD LAKE AREA STRUCTURE PLAN, please visit the Leduc County website or contact Leduc County for a copy.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Watch for another fantastic **Wiz ‘Spiel** in March 2011!  
If you’d like to help, or just want to make sure your team gets entered, call **Lynn Little, 780-389-3571**.  
\*\*\*\*\*





## LAKEWATCH PROGRAM

*By Carole Ellsworth, Board Director*

The Lakewatch Program is a community water quality testing program offered to concerned Albertans who are interested in collecting detailed information about their local lake or reservoir. ALMS (Alberta Lake Management Society) technicians assist local volunteers to test the lakes 5 times during the summer, collecting important physical data such as water temperature, clarity and pH. Once all the data is collected, a water quality report is produced for the lake, including recommendations that both educates lake users and guides water restoration and management efforts.

Wizard Lake was 1 of 10 lakes sponsored by ALMS to be part of the testing program this summer. Wizard Lake Stewardship wishes to thank Larry MacPherson for donating his time to organize this summer's sampling program and taking the ALMS technician, Emily, out in his boat to collect the data.

Emily is a soon-to-be graduate at the University of Alberta and will be completing her BSc. degree with a specialization in Microbiology at the end of April 2011.

Prior to WLWLSA being formed, ALMS had tested Wizard Lake last in 1996. Because WLWLSA approached ALMS, we were extremely fortunate to be included in their Lakewatch program in 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2010. ALMS provided the expertise and equipment for sampling and testing. Once the 2010 data is available, we will know how the lake water quality has changed over the past 14 years. Without this program we would not have been able to do the sampling and testing, and thus determine what we are working with, and work with the experts to proceed to improve the water quality of our lake, if required.



*Beautiful fall colours at Wizard Lake*

## Definition of Stewardship

*Every steward has his or her own definition of what stewardship means to them. Most often, stewardship evokes a sense of personal responsibility for ensuring our natural resources are sustainably managed for our own quality of life, and for future generations.*

## BULLETIN BOARDS

*by Ruth Kolodychuk, Board Secretary & Kate Daniel, Board Director*

Have you noticed the face-lift that some of the WLWLSA bulletin boards have recently received? Thank you to Walter Kolodychuk for cleaning up and re-staining four of the boards. The remaining four will be stained as soon as time and weather permits.

At one of our board meetings there was talk of moving some bulletin boards to more accessible locations. It was decided that if communities, e.g. Enchantment Valley, want to move their WLWLSA bulletin board to a new location, they can take the initiative to coordinate equipment and "First Call," and contact Walter Kolodychuk, 780.985.2140 so he can oversee that the bulletin boards will not be damaged in any way.



These bulletin boards are an important tool for getting information out to the Wizard Lake community. The public is welcome to post notices on these boards and donations to WLWLSA for their usage are welcome. **Phone Kate Daniel at 780-985-3287.**

The board of directors wants to thank Carole Ellsworth for purchasing and distributing flowers to the members who look after the bulletin board sites. A special thank you to the members who watered and cared for the flowers during the growing season, adding beauty to our neighborhood. Thank you all!

**Being a member of WLWLSA is now easier than ever! You can now buy a lifetime membership for \$40.00.**

**No more reminders, no more cheques to mail, no more money from your pocket.**

**Just call Ruth Kolodychuk at 780-985-2140. New 1 year membership is \$25.00.**