



# Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Association

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NEWSLETTER #19

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*photo by Laverne Faulkner*

## VOLUNTEERS - A Meaningful Definition

"The broadest, and maybe the most  
meaningful definition of volunteering:

Doing more than you have to because you  
want to, in a cause you consider good."

*Ivan Scheier*

### CHAIRS' MESSAGE

On September 7th the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association held their annual Shoreline Cleanup. A big thank you to all who helped pick up garbage along the lakeshore, subdivisions, and park.

We saw some new faces helping out and many joined us for a wiener roast and the annual general meeting including Mayor John Whaley, Councillor Tanni Doblanko, and Councillor Keith Johnson. Without volunteers where would we be at?

In our busy and often demanding society it could be hard to find time to step forward and volunteer. For those that do step forward the rewards are more than self-fulfilling. By getting involved we show others the compassion and commitment we are willing to create for a better quality of life for those around us.

Several board members that stepped down this year were prime examples of volunteers willing to commit time toward informing and engaging the community around Wizard Lake. A BIG thank you goes out to Walter Kolodychuk for his insight, Cathy Holman for her years of service as secretary and Carole Ellsworth, WLWSA founding member, thank you for your direction.

Like many areas in our society WLSWA continues to seek new members and volunteers to help out. If you have an interest in and concern for Healthy Waters for Future Generations, please become involved. Contact Harold Hofstra, at 780-986-1823 or any of our other board members.

Once again **Thank You to All Our Volunteers!**

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're  
worthless, but because they're priceless."

*Sherry Anderson*



*Harold Hofstra, Chair*



## INVASIVE PLANT SURVEY AND ZEBRA MUSSELS

by Larry MacPherson

This year, as in the previous year, zebra mussel substrates were deployed at four locations on Wizard Lake. The substrates are small cement tubes which are suspended from piers in the water. They were monitored throughout the season and there were no indications of mussels. They will be deployed again next season.

In previous years, Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS), did water quality testing, but this year Wizard Lake was selected, among others, for an invasive plant survey. This involved targeting 60 to 70 sites on the lake. With the use of a rake head tied to a rope, we pulled in plants from the lakebed on the shoreline and in depths to 3 metres. The technicians identified the plants and, in some cases, took samples back to the lab for further analysis. The survey was performed 3 times through the summer. Certainly, our lake is healthy with an abundance of plant life, but no invasive species were found. My thanks go to Alyssa and Jesse, the ALMS technicians, for their work and enthusiasm.



**NOTE:** WLWLSA would like to acknowledge all the time that Larry has put in with lake water sampling and this summer with the invasive plant survey. His pontoon boat has spent many volunteer hours on the lake with this work. As well, thank you Larry for taking charge of the placement and readings of the zebra mussel substrates.

## SHORELINE AND COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

by Carole Ellsworth

WLWLSA has once again taken a stand against shoreline litter. On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> approximately 58 residents within the watershed hit their neighborhood, the lake, shoreline, roadways and ditches, and community areas to pick up litter.

<b>2009</b>	4.2 ton of garbage collected
<b>2010</b>	1.5 ton of garbage collected
<b>2014</b>	1.1 ton of garbage collected

How is it possible that in 4 years another 1.1 ton of trash was generated and left scattered around by people using Wizard Lake? Why?

The Shoreline and Community Cleanup makes a difference. It is a great way for you to connect with your family and neighbors to make a positive change in a healthy Wizard Lake. **Let's continue to keep our waters healthy for everyone.**



Our successful day was celebrated by the participants with a wiener roast at Jubilee Park. Linda Bartlett and Dallas Cummings manned the BBQ and did a great job!

Mayor John Whaley and Councilor Tanni Doblanko (Leduc County) and Councilor Keith Johnson (County of Wetaskiwin) were part of the action.

Thanks to Wheels & Waves, Wizard Lake Marine, Leduc County and County of Wetaskiwin for donating great door prizes.

Thank you Dean Ohnesty, Parks & Recreation, Leduc County, for welcoming us to the Park, opening the meeting shack for our use, supplying garbage bags for the cleanup and firewood for the gathering. Thank you Public Works, Leduc County, for placing the dumpster at Jubilee Park for trash collected.

Thank you to the stewards who organized their community: Helen Schick (Enchantment Valley), Brian Scobie (Wizard Lake Estates) Ken & Jean Litzenberger (Curilane A & Butterfly Cove), Blake Bartlett (Inlet Canal), Les Holman (Curilane B), Mike Parsons (Wizard Heights), Gert MacDonald (Wizard Ridge), and Louis Wanat (Ski Club).

**Thank you to everyone involved with the cleanup and for taking ownership of our watershed.**



## CAROLE ELLSWORTH, FOUNDER, WLWLSA

by Laverne Faulkner

Carole Ellsworth has decided the time has come to take a break from sitting as a board member of the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association. We felt that this occasion couldn't go by without taking time to thank Carole, the founder of this association. So I want to take a small trip down memory lane and talk about how we started through Carole's efforts, and the key role and many contributions Carole has made to this organization's success.

Carole is dedicated, hard working, and visionary in many ways. She was convinced that we couldn't sit back and allow the quality of our lake environment to be dictated by others, even if they are well meaning like our elected officials, or those with the loudest voices or with the most money. There had to be a way to collectively, on an ongoing basis, give input, guide and ensure the voices and wishes of the silent majority are heard. One way of doing that is by building a strong organization, with solid principles, and hard working people.

The seeds of the WLWLSA were first planted in 2004. Carole first heard the word 'stewardship' from Bert Hadley. Bert had a cabin in Enchantment Valley in those days, he was a business man who was appointed to head up Leduc County's Wizard Lake Management Plan, drafted in 1998, but subsequently not adopted. Stewardship was an extremely new concept back then and

none of us knew what it really meant. Hard to believe now. But Carole saw the possibilities and invited Bert over for coffee to pick his brain. She obviously saw the advantages of pursuing the concept here at Wizard Lake and put together a small group to sit down and brainstorm our hopes for Wizard Lake. You can go to the WLWLSA website and read all the minutes from meetings back when we started toddling, to get an understanding of the many, many hours it took to understand what we wanted to do and how to go about doing it. No small task to tackle the daunting work involved in putting together the infrastructure of a society, a charitable organization, obtaining funds, and ensuring it reflected the wishes of the community, to speak on behalf of the community.



Our first public meeting in 2006 at Conjuring Lake Hall met with an overwhelming turnout. Obviously stewardship was an idea that resonated with many people who

were just waiting for Carole to get something off the ground.

Besides having the wherewithal to recognize a good idea when she heard one, all the benefits of having a stewardship group here, and the determination to see it up and running, Carole has been the most hard working and motivated member of the board over the years. That old saying that *"if you want something done ask the busiest person you know"* is really true. Carole doesn't step to the front and take the most high profile role. She gets things done in the background, quietly and with determination. The first person to put up her hand to volunteer no matter what else she's got going on, and often for things no one else wants to do.

Just a sampling of Carole's many contributions over the past 10 years:

- applied for and obtained society status and registered charitable status
- completed many grant applications for funds and all the follow up paperwork required
- lead the inaugural safety and enjoyment working group
- researched the speed limit on the lake, requesting and liaising with the RCMP to start patrolling the lake
- contact for Oceans and Fisheries, Cows and Fish, and many other government bodies
- organized the logistics and volunteers for every hand delivery of posters in the watershed
- organized the boat survey to finally collect hard data regarding the boating situation on the lake—now a reference document referred to often
- organized many public meetings and Awareness Days and the food required, including the food for board meetings, food for the wiz spiel; whenever we needed food, Carole provided
- fought for and ensured Wizard Lake was included in the water quality testing program with ALMS, which Larry MacPherson carries out, as well as the Invasive Species testing program now
- maintains our photo album



Laverne Faulkner, Harold Hofstra, Carole Ellsworth, Blake Bartlett

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- makes the many phone calls needed to look for and recruit volunteers for a whole load of different activities
- initiated and organizes out the shoreline cleanup program
- developed both our old and new websites, lately working with another volunteer to get the new one up and running



*Thanks Carole* for having the initial idea, the foresight to understand the wide ranging benefits of a stewardship group, the motivation to start the action required, and all your hard work over the years that ensured the successful organization we have today. We owe you a debt of gratitude and though I know you will continue to be involved with the stewardship group, this Board will sorely miss your voice at the table.



## WLWSA BULLETIN BOARDS

by Kate Daniel

We have eight bulletin boards around Wizard Lake to inform you of special events or concerns which are of interest to all lakereaders. These boards are located at Enchantment Valley, Wizard Lake Estates, Butterfly Cove, Curilane A, Curilane B, Wizard Heights (east) and Wizard Heights (west) and Wizard Ridge.

It takes time and effort to keep you updated and we would like to thank those members who are involved in posting information, planting flowers, and the upkeep of the boards. There apparently is a mysterious person who planted beautiful marigolds at the Enchantment Valley board! We want to acknowledge and thank Ruth Kolodychuk who is retiring after many years of planting and maintaining the flowers at the Curilane B board.

We do allow some business advertising on our bulletin boards and a donation payable to WLWSA would be much appreciated. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how to improve our bulletin board communication or would like to be involved in their upkeep please contact Kate Daniel 780-985-3287. The bulletin boards are an important communication tool for all users of Wizard Lake and whatever support you can provide will ensure their continuation.

## HARNESS RACING — NORTHLANDS PARK COLOURS DINING ROOM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2014 — 5:30 P.M.

**Everyone is welcome!**



Now that summer is over it's time to turn our attention to getting together for a fun evening at the races!

Once again we are pleased to announce the upcoming harness racing event at Northlands Park on Friday November 28, 2014 hosted by WLWSA. We have a group booking for 50 near the finish line so invite your friends and neighbours.

The evening starts off with a buffet dinner in Colors Dining Room. The cost is **\$22.25 per person** (\$17.95 + 5% GST + 18% gratuity). Drinks are separate and payable to your server.

Please confirm the number of people attending by e-mail to [chrisddaniel@xplornet.com](mailto:chrisddaniel@xplornet.com) and ensure payment by cheque (made payable to Chris Daniel) is received at PO Box 1143, Calmar, AB T0C 0V0 **by November 17<sup>th</sup>**. Chris or Kate Daniel can be reached at 780-985-3287 after November 5th.



## BUOY REMOVAL

The buoys were taken in for the winter on September 16, 2014.

Blake Bartlett volunteered his pontoon boat to assist Nicholas Moffatt, Parks Planning Supervisor and Shane Loov, Parks Officer, Leduc County, to remove the buoys from the water. LeVerne Ellsworth was also on board to help out.



## KEEP WIZARD LAKE CLEAN AND PRISTINE

by Greg Boorman, Nature Alberta



**Homesite  
Consultation  
Program**



Thanks to the help of WLWLSA, The Living by Water Project will be moving onto its seventh year of educating residents at Wizard Lake. Over the past 6 years, The Living by Water Project has visited 35 properties at Wizard Lake providing homesite consultations to residents interested in reducing their negative impact on the lake.

Wizard Lake is predisposed to the risk of blue green algae blooms because of the high levels of phosphorus that exist in sediments surrounding the lake. To add to that, the changes in land use occurring around the lake have increased the amount of phosphorus entering the lake. Converting just one acre of forest into one acre of urban land creates ten times more phosphorus runoff. Increased phosphorus creates a higher risk of water quality issues that lead to fish kills, restricted recreational use and plummeting property values.

The Living by Water Project targets these problems by educating residents through a homesite consultation. A homesite consultation is a free, confidential and relaxed visit to your property from a trained shoreline advisor. Shoreline advisors help you understand how you and your property impact the lake and gives recommendations on how you can reduce your impact on the lake.

Common issues that are addressed are erosion problems, invasive species, harmful household products and yard practices. Simple changes to shoreline property practices go a long way in reducing the cumulative effects of development at Wizard Lake. The more residents know about their effects on the lake, the better they can balance the recreation, environment and future of the lake. For additional information on this valuable program you can visit [www.naturealberta.ca](http://www.naturealberta.ca)

To sign up for a homesite consultation during the summer of 2015 contact:

Kate Daniel, WLWLSA, 780-985-3287  
catherinedaniel@xplornet.com

Greg Boorman, Nature Alberta, 780-427-8124  
lbw@naturealberta.ca

## DON'T MESS WITH ALBERTA!!

by Lee Scobie

On Sunday, September 7th, WLWLSA held their Shore and Community Cleanup. People of all ages and sizes volunteered to clean up garbage in and around the lakeshore and the ditches of the surrounding community. Participants in trucks, quads, boats, and on foot used lots of garbage bags to transport the trash.

As our four year old grandson helped us pick up trash that was mindlessly discarded in the ditches and the park, he asked "Who throws their garbage on the ground?" My sentiments exactly! Having picked up countless cans, bottles, paper coffee cups, cardboard beer boxes, plastic bags and containers, and more cigarette butts than you would ever hope to see in a lifetime, I wondered myself why people treat Mother Earth so badly. I'm sure the countless service organizations who perform this task along our highways and in communities feel the same.

By the way, those cigarette filters do not biodegrade and I wondered as I picked them up off the public beach why someone would want to subject their children to a sandy beach full of filters, or why one would think it reasonable to empty their ashtray in the ditch. As for beer bottles and cans, each one is worth a dime if you recycle it!

Perhaps as city dwellers, we don't see the garbage so readily but when you live in the country every piece of garbage lying in the ditch is an affront to our beautiful surroundings. Trash in the lake is even more harmful to bathers of the human kind and fish and wildlife that make their home in the water. Before you throw another piece of trash out the window or from your boat, please consider the back wrenching work it takes to remove it (*especially if you have a tender sciatic nerve like mine!*). It's not difficult to have a little trash bag or container in your vehicle and empty your own garbage. Having travelled in many third world countries where the water and the land is polluted with garbage, I can assure you that Canada is indeed paradise and let's all think twice about discarding trash so we can keep it that way.



**Please — let's not mess with Alberta!**

