



Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Association

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Newsletter #2



Message from the Chair:

We are excited to be putting out our second newsletter, thanks to the hard work of Arja Patrick. With the onset of winter (way too early this year!) the activities on and around Wizard Lake look very different: waterskiing has given way to snowmobiling, and fishing now requires a hut and heat!

The activities of the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association have changed as well, but we're still very active. We are using the winter months to start the groundwork with the working groups we set up last summer at the annual general meeting on August 19. The working groups are:

- a) Water Quality
- b) Shoreline and Watershed
- c) Safety and Enjoyment of Water Users
- d) Communication & Education
- e) Fundraising & Celebrations.

If you are interested in working with one of these groups, please give me a call.

The association board also plans to revisit our mission and objectives this winter, to ensure we are a cohesive group and have a common understanding of what we aspire to do.

Stay safe and warm this winter and I look forward to sharing exciting news about the progress of your watershed association in the spring.

Laverne Faulkner 780-389-3336

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006 Report

The **first Annual General Meeting** (AGM) of the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association (WLWSA) was held on Saturday, August 19, 2006 at Conjuring Lake community hall, followed by a barbecue to provide an opportunity for residents of the Wizard Lake watershed to socialize and get to know one another. We had 60 people in attendance, including John Whaley, Leduc County Reeve, and Ruth Harrison, Leduc County Councilor. We were also happy to see members from the fledgling Pigeon Lake Watershed group attend, in order to learn from our success.

LeVerne Ellsworth and Blake Bartlett presented information on the **weir at the east end** of the lake, e

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explaining its purpose and how it operates. Their presentation was very informative; they answered several questions and cleared up some misunderstandings about the weir.

Doug Sawyer, past president of the **Pine Lake Restoration Society**, provided a brief history of their organization, emphasizing the importance and benefit of stewardship groups. Their group is the oldest lake stewardship group in Alberta, and their story is a powerful one.

Pine Lake is similar to Wizard Lake in that it is spring fed. Pine Lake had a serious phosphorous problem which produced an extreme amount of algae which deprived the lake of sufficient oxygen levels. Part of their lake treatment included a hypolimnetic withdrawal system. Part of Doug's message was that communities can take charge and find solutions to their water quality problems.

The Chair's report outlined the **accomplishments of the WLWSA** over the past year, including:

- we're a registered society
- have a number of contacts with environmental experts
- belong to the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, and the Alberta Stewardship Network
- one of our board members, LeVerne Ellsworth, is a board member with the ASN
- have set up a website (www.stewardsweb.com/wizardlake)
- obtained a grant from the Alberta Government, through the Land Stewardship Center of Canada
- are doing lake quality monitoring this summer with the Alberta Lake Management Society
- participated in this year's water quality awareness day
- we are monitoring the lake elevation weekly for Alberta Environment
- worked with the RCMP and counties on the speed limit on west end of the lake
- putting together a stream sampling program to test the runoff that enters the lake in the spring
- have 45 memberships (now 50!)
- held a public meeting on June 3 where we heard your input, and as a result, we have a plan and are setting up a number of working groups.

The **WLWSA business** included amending our bylaws, electing auditors, presentation of our financial report, and electing 5 new board members.

And finally, the WLWLSA would like to thank Ducks Unlimited and Lizzee's Berry Farm for providing some **fabulous door prizes**.

A Big Thank You to Kevin Smyth, Wizard Heights, for removing a pile of lumber from an old fishing hut that was left on the shore of the boat launch at Wizard Heights. We appreciate the clean-up!

Working Group Reports:

Water Quality

Inlet Stream Monitoring

Plans were made to identify inlet stream areas to monitor and to contact Alberta Environment for assistance with procedures for collecting samples and equipment for sampling. Once we determine which streams we will monitor, we will walk in and flag the area where we will be sampling. We propose to have these samples analyzed for phosphates, nitrates, ammonia and bacteria. Sheena Atkin from Leduc/Wetaskiwin County, AESA, has offered to assist us with our program.

Shoreline and Watershed



We are looking into various issues, contacting public officials and gathering information. It looks like a big job but we are a determined group.

Safety and Enjoyment of Water Users

Our mandate is working toward improving, enhancing and protecting the safety of Wizard Lake for the economic and social benefit of all users. This will be accomplished by promoting a safe environment for recreational use. The number of boats on Wizard Lake at certain times present a safety concern but it was agreed that this cannot be restricted, however; some safety issues can be controlled by speed limits. The motorboat congestion entering and exiting the Jubilee Park launch area poses a safety concern as well. The Narrows is considered a dangerous zone with too much uncontrolled traffic in a confined, narrow passage. We will be writing up suggestions

for ski boats starting out from, and dropping off skiers at the Narrows through our Newsletter and postings on the bulletin boards. An 'information sign' posted in that area would be helpful. Large rocks, just under the surface of the water, are a hazard to boats. We propose to flag the problem rocks. We will continue to support the Counties and the RCMP with the 13 km/hr speed limit in front of Jubilee Park and at the west end of the Lake by helping to install, maintain and remove the buoys and the signs.

Communication & Education

We have been in contact with the Leduc County Parks & Recreation Manager, Mr. Dean Ohnesty, and have received permission to build an information kiosk at Jubilee Park. We have already requested funding for this project so it should be accomplished this spring, before the arrival of all the boaters and campers. This newsletter will be hand delivered to all residents of Wizard Lake, however, future newsletters will only be issued to members and posted on bulletin boards. For a membership (\$10 per voter) please call our Chair.

Fundraising & Celebrations

The committee will address fundraising ideas next year when it is known what funding will be required. **Wiz'Spiel 2007!** Saturday, March 10, 2007 – Curling on the Lake. Family Fun for Everyone! Cost: \$10 per person. (Note: at least one member of the team must be a resident or property owner from within the Wizard Lake area). Enter a team of 4; Create a team name, costume (hats), bring a silly broom and dress warm! There will be a concession of hot dogs and hot chocolate. It will be a fun, daytime, non-competitive event so register or volunteer to assist by calling Laura or John at 389-0005.

T-Shirts for Sale: The T-shirts are beige in color and have the WLWLSA logo on it. They look great and might make someone a great Christmas gift! Don't delay – order yours today! Call Laura at 389-0005.

