



# Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Association

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www.stewardswater.com/wizardlake

## Newsletter #3

Spring 2007



### Message from the Chair:

Wizard Lake is one busy, little lake. Being so close to Edmonton and with the steep banks to protect it from the wind, it is a haven for boats. The boating part of the lake covers about 640 acres, about 7,380 meters long and

580 meters at the widest part and 125 meters at the narrowest. Sharing the lake are fishermen, wake boats, water skiers (Wizard Waterski Club is the oldest, 1961, and largest in Alberta) canoes, jet skis, high powered motor boats and pontoon boats.

The 1980 Wizard Lake Management Plan called for an 12 km/hr speed limit offshore from Jubilee Park and at the west end of the lake beyond Wizard Heights. Following requests by the two municipalities, the federal government (which has jurisdiction over traffic on navigable waterways) agreed to impose restrictions under the Canada Shipping Act. Restrictions were gazetted in the Boating Restriction Regulations.

The July 1998 version of the regulations lists Wizard Lake in Schedule I (all vessels prohibited in posted areas) and in Schedule IV (maximum speed limit in posted areas).

The 12 km/hr zone is a safe area for motorboats to anchor their craft for a quiet day of swimming and anglers are not being bounced around by a speed boat's wake. Pontoon boats are becoming very popular and can now enjoy calm, less dangerous water, as well as canoeists and birdwatchers. Nesting waterfowl enjoy a safer, undisturbed environment. The west end is the spawning ground for Northern Pike.

With the cooperation of the boating community and the RCMP enforcement of the west end 12 km/hr speed limit, Wizard Lake will be a safer and more enjoyable lake for all recreational users.

### WLWLSA MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships expire at the end of May.

New memberships and renewals (\$10 per vote) are available by calling Ruth Kolodychuk at 985-2140. Members will need a new card in order to vote at the AGM.

### A Big Thank You to:

\***Sobeys** Leduc, Bromley Foods Ltd. for donating clear plastic bags used to deliver our newsletter.

\***Urecon** Insulation Ltd., Calmar for providing foam for the buoys.

\***Al Frickey** for cleaning up broken bottle glass left by ice fishermen on the lake.

And, of course, all of our many **Volunteers**

## Working Group Reports

### 1. Water Quality

We are beginning the process of establishing a baseline for water quality by continuing on the sampling process started last year by ALMS. We will compare the measurements to 1996 measurements and establish a new baseline. We feel that a 3 year sample will be sufficient. At that time we will compare the measurements (1996 and 2006-2008) to find if there are any significant changes.

#### Inlet Stream Monitoring

We have chosen to monitor the inlets and outlet for three years (this year being our first) for the following:

- Phosphorus
- Nitrogen
- Nitrate, nitrite
- Ammonia-N
- bactis

After a rather slow spring break-up, sampling of 6 inlet streams and 1 outlet (weir location) was completed on April 13, 2007. The samples were taken in 3 stages due to the slow and interrupted break-up.

1. 2 samples were taken at Cameron's farm area and 1 at the canal near Blake Bartlett's property on March 26.
2. On April 11, one sample was taken at the road on RR 275, about ¼ mile north of TWSP road 280.
3. On April 13 samples were taken at the Wizard Heights location, and at the coulee on TWSP road 480, between RR 273 and RR 274.
4. On April 13 a sample was taken at the outlet weir.

The results of these samples should be available by August of 2007.

### 2. Communication & Education

FAN (Federation of Alberta Naturalists) has developed educational presentations on the following topics:

- Healthy Shorelines
- Septic Systems
- Shoreline Erosion
- Water Quality
- Waterfront Recreation

We are evaluating these and preparing meeting times to present relevant material to the public at Jubilee Park. "On the living Edge – your guide for waterfront living" will be available at the AGM in the summer. It is a terrific handbook to preserving the natural landscape of Wizard Lake.

### 3. Shoreline and Watershed

We are in contact with the Alberta Gov't regarding shoreline erosion, shoreline reclamation, jurisdiction of the shoreline, information on the 25 ft of public access and a

copy of the license for the weir. We will next proceed on the erosion question.

We had a very informative meeting with Sheena Aitken (AESAs Program Manager) regarding a brochure (Managing Your Waterfront) that she created and sent to lake residents last fall. The group had a meeting with Dave Blades of Wetaskiwin County to talk about Wizard Lake and the Watershed. We also had a meeting with Phil Newman to talk about Leduc County. Minutes are available by phoning Ken Litzenberger at 985-3042.

**4. Safety and Enjoyment of Water Users**

We are working on the following:

- 1) Marking water hazards....large rocks
- 2) Continued cooperation with the Leduc RCMP enforcing the 12 km/hr speed limit in the West end
- 3) Working with the County of Leduc, installing speed limit signs and buoys.
- 4) Gaining permission from Oceans & Fisheries, through Parks & Rec, County of Leduc, for permanent anchors to hold the buoys
- 5) Marking open water hazards in the winter, for skidoos riding on the lake.

**5. Fundraising & Celebrations**

**Wiz'Spiel 2007** was very successful with 12 teams participating and an equal number of observers. Over \$350 was raised and some memberships were sold.



**T-Shirts:** A big fundraiser is the WLWLSA t-shirt sale. More have been ordered and if you are interested, call Laura Reichert at 389-0005 (\$16 each).

**OUR SUCCESS STORY**

It was late 2004 when a small group of motivated residents on Wizard Lake expressed interest in the concept of stewardship and wanted to create a forum for community members to take ownership and responsibility for the healthy future of Wizard Lake. They recognized a growing concern with the lake's water quality, characterized by algal blooms in the summer. They also had safety concerns with the increasing number of powerboats on this small and narrow lake, which is used for fishing, swimming, water

skiing, bird watching and canoeing. Interest in the health of Wizard Lake dated back to the first Lake Management Plan of 1980 and was rekindled with a 1998 draft of a Lake Management Plan which subsequently was not adopted by either the County of Leduc or Wetaskiwin.

By March 2006, this stewardship group became a registered society and in September, 2006, received registered charity status. The WLWLSA is a member of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance and we hold a seat on the board of directors for the Alberta Stewardship Network. Presently, there are 51 families registered as members of the Association. Eighty-five concerned people attended the first public meeting, to express their concerns about the lake and watershed. In August, 2006, 60 people attended the Annual General Meeting and social. The barbeque was a total success, generating community spirit. In 2006 the WLWLSA has received a grant of \$4650.00 from the Alberta Stewardship Network (ASN) and \$500.00 from ESSO Resources for lake water quality monitoring (working with the Alberta Lake Management Society), conferences, barbeque/membership drive, maintaining speed limit buoys and signage, and start up meetings.

The year 2007 promises to be another rewarding and productive year. A new grant of \$4200.00 from the ASN will be used for public education within the watershed, inlet stream monitoring, and bulletin boards will be maintained in communities around the lake, including Jubilee Park, to promote awareness of the long-term sustainability and safety of Wizard Lake. Fund raising activities such as the annual Wiz 'Spiel (curling on the lake) fosters community spirit. Two newsletters have been published and circulated by the WLWLSA.

The focus for the upcoming year will be the working groups that have been formed to achieve the goals of the WLWLSA. They are: *water quality; shoreline and watershed; pleasure and safety of users; communication and education; and fundraising and celebrations.*

If you are interested in any of these working groups, would like to become a member of the WLWLSA, or require information about us please contact the chairperson, Laverne Faulkner at 389-3336 or email at [wizlake@telus.net](mailto:wizlake@telus.net). The website is <[www.stewardsweb.com/wizardlake](http://www.stewardsweb.com/wizardlake)>

**Meet the Board:**



Missing: Laura and John Reichert, Cathy and Chris Daniel