



Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Association

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NEWSLETTER #19

SPRING 2014



Harold Hofstra, Chair

Welcome to Another Summer Season at Wizard Lake

The WLWSA is once again promoting **environmental stewardship** by creating awareness. This is done by collaborating with different organizations who offer programs and resources, some of which are listed in this newsletter.

A few of our board members attended workshops this winter, gathering more information for the watershed group. One workshop dealt with **Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Leduc County** attended by LeVerne Ellsworth. This group looked at unique land forms, important wildlife habitat and riparian areas of conservation concerns.

I attended a workshop put on by the North Saskatchewan Watershed Association (NSWA). This workshop dealt with **watershed management** — a balancing act in meeting human need while at the same time conserving the natural system that provides them.

It all begins with awareness and research. We can take small steps to make change in our own backyards; the plants we put in and the fertilizer we use, the type of landscaping we create or the shoreline we develop. They all affect runoff and what's in it.

Remember, what you do will have a meaningful impact on **Healthy Waters – For Future Generations**.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Have you checked out the
new WLWSA website?

www.wizardlake.ca



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| July 1 | Canada Day Boat Parade
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| Aug 8/9/10 | Homesite Consultations, Nature AB
page 3 |
| Sept 7 | Shoreline Clean-Up/AGM
page 3 |



Invasive Species Testing in Wizard Lake

Alberta lakes are threatened by invasive species. These are non-native species that grow along the shorelines and aquatic species that live in the water.

Why are invasive species a threat?

They can damage your lake by:

- Reducing the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of the lake environment.
- Impeding use of the lake for recreational, agricultural, or commercial activities dependent on water.
- Aquatic Invasive Species, in particular, are a threat to the economy especially to the agriculture, tourism, and recreation sectors. They destroy natural lake ecosystems and fisheries, and cost millions of dollars each year.

The species of greatest concern in Alberta currently are:

- **Quagga and Zebra mussels**
- **Eurasian Watermilfoil** (a weed)

Does Alberta have Aquatic Invasive Species?

Not yet – let's keep it that way. **Prevention** is the most effective way of managing Aquatic Invasive Species.



How are Aquatic Invasive Species spread?

Aquatic Invasive Species are primarily spread through the transportation of watercraft from infected waters to unaffected areas. Eurasian watermilfoil is found in BC lakes and throughout the USA. Mussel infected lakes have been found in Manitoba (Lake Winnipeg), Utah, South West USA, and eastern North America. Boaters are discouraged from transporting boats from these areas to Alberta lakes.

Larry MacPherson, Wizard Lake Estates, is in charge of the **zebra mussel program** for Wizard Lake in coordination with **Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS)**.

Four artificial substrates (weighted pieces of PVC pipe) have been distributed in Wizard Lake. They are checked for the presence of attached adult dreissenid mussels. The data (presence or absence of mussels) is sent back to the Alberta Lake Management Society and to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. They may be hard to see, but one will feel a rough sandpaper texture if they begin to colonize. Currently, we do not think that they have reached an Alberta lake, but please report any evidence of attached mussels to **1-855-336-2628 (BOAT)**.

Larry MacPherson will also be involved in sampling for **Invasive Plant Species** on Wizard Lake.

What can I do to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species?

- **Learn** to identify **water invaders** 'invasive plant species' www.abinvasives.ca
- Many shoreline invaders are ornamental plants that have escaped from people's gardens.
- **Clean, Drain and Dry** your boat and equipment before departing a site.
- Aquatic Invasive Species like quagga and zebra mussels can spread quickly and **can live out of water for up to 30 days**.
- Weeds like Eurasian Watermilfoil spread by tiny fragments attached to boats and gear.

Installing the Buoys

The speed limit buoys have been put into place in time for the May long weekend.

Using Blake Bartlett's boat and maneuvering expertise, LeVerne Ellsworth assists Nicholas Moffatt, Parks Planning Supervisor, Leduc Parks & Recreation, to place the speed limit buoys in front of Jubilee Park and boat launch, plus in front of the west end boat launch.

Three buoys are also in place across the lake from the Wizard Heights boat launch to mark the 12 km/hour zone at the west end.

Brandon Stoner, an employee of Jubilee Park assisted from shore. Albert Faulkner was absent from this year's crew.

The Leduc County by-law officers will have their boat in the water this summer, and the RCMP will be patrolling, with their boat, to enforce safe boating.



WLWLSA wishes everyone a wonderful, safe summer of water activities on Wizard Lake.



Wizard Lake Boat Safety Focus Group

Report by Chris Daniel, Vice Chair. WLWLSA



Boat safety continues to be a priority for WLWLSA as well as Leduc County and the County of Wetaskiwin. On November 26, 2013 a further Boat Safety meeting was convened by Leduc County and provided the following for information to our members.

The Leduc County RCMP and Peace Officers reported that in 2013 they conducted 21 boat patrols between them resulting in some 60 boat compliance checks both on and off the water, a total of 6 charges were laid.

The following items were discussed resulting in follow up actions and items for consideration:

- Continued need for enforcement at West End launch
- Encourage enforcement patrols during peak boating times (hot afternoons), when possible
- Continued inspection of boats entering the water has proven to benefit lake safety
- Improve no parking signs on roadways near the Jubilee boat launch
- Review Jubilee Park staffing and revenue collection in Sept to ensure the launch is managed during hot Sept days.
- review closure of overflow parking

In conclusion this focus group continues to provide input to Leduc County and the RCMP which benefits our lake for all users and helps create a safer environment for us all.



A Splash of Trivia

The following are 'ice out' dates that have been recorded by Carole Ellsworth throughout the years.

These dates are based on observations of no ice present from the narrows, west. The average date is April 26th.

1982 » May 10	1993 » April 28	2004 » April 13
1983 » April 24	1994 » April 18	2005 » April 20
1984 » April 15	1995 » April 23	2006 » April 22
1985 » April 25	1996 » April 24	2007 » May 02
1986 » April 21	1997 » April 27	2008 » May 04
1987 » April 22	1998 » April 19	2009 » May 04
1988 » April 10	1999 » April 25	2010 » April 20
1989 » May 01	2000 » April 25	2011 » May 06
1990 » N/A	2001 » April 27	2012 » May 02
1991 » N/A	2002 » May 15	2013 » May 06
1992 » April 12	2003 » May 01	2014 » May 01

Lakes in the News

Reprinted from Alberta Lake Management Society, New Wave March 2014



The Edmonton Journal recently published a video of a fish kill in the making at Lake Isle. The article that accompanies

it **"Alberta Fish Kill This Year Could Be Worst Ever"** (March 16, 2014) as well as the editorial **"Fish Kill is a Signal We're Out of Balance"** (March 18, 2014) a few days later are worth reading.

We believe that lake management is one of the most significant environmental stories in Alberta — certainly most visible to Albertans. We applaud the Journal's coverage and hope for more in depth stories focused on the solutions to the problems.



**Homesite
Consultation
Program**



August 8, 9 and 10, 2014

Living by Water is once again pleased to bring the Homesite Consultation Program to Wizard Lake! This is an opportunity to work one-on-one with trained Shoreline Advisor regarding your property and learn tips and tricks to help make your property more lake-friendly. The Shoreline Advisor will focus on your concerns and interests, touching on key areas such as erosion, development, wildlife-human conflict, invasive plants, and nutrient loading. They stress the importance of remedying existing concerns and proactive change!

Please contact **Kate Daniel**, WLWLSA representative at **780.985.3287**; or a Shoreline Advisor at **780.427.8124**; lbw@naturealberta.ca to book your free and confidential consultation today!

Shoreline Clean-Up

Take a Stand Against Shoreline Litter —

In conjunction with the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up, a major Wizard Lake clean-up is being organized by WLWLSA. **Sunday, September 07, 2014** is your chance to get together with friends and neighbors to help keep the waters and shores of Wizard Lake clean. The meeting point will be at Jubilee Park, followed by a wiener roast and the AGM.

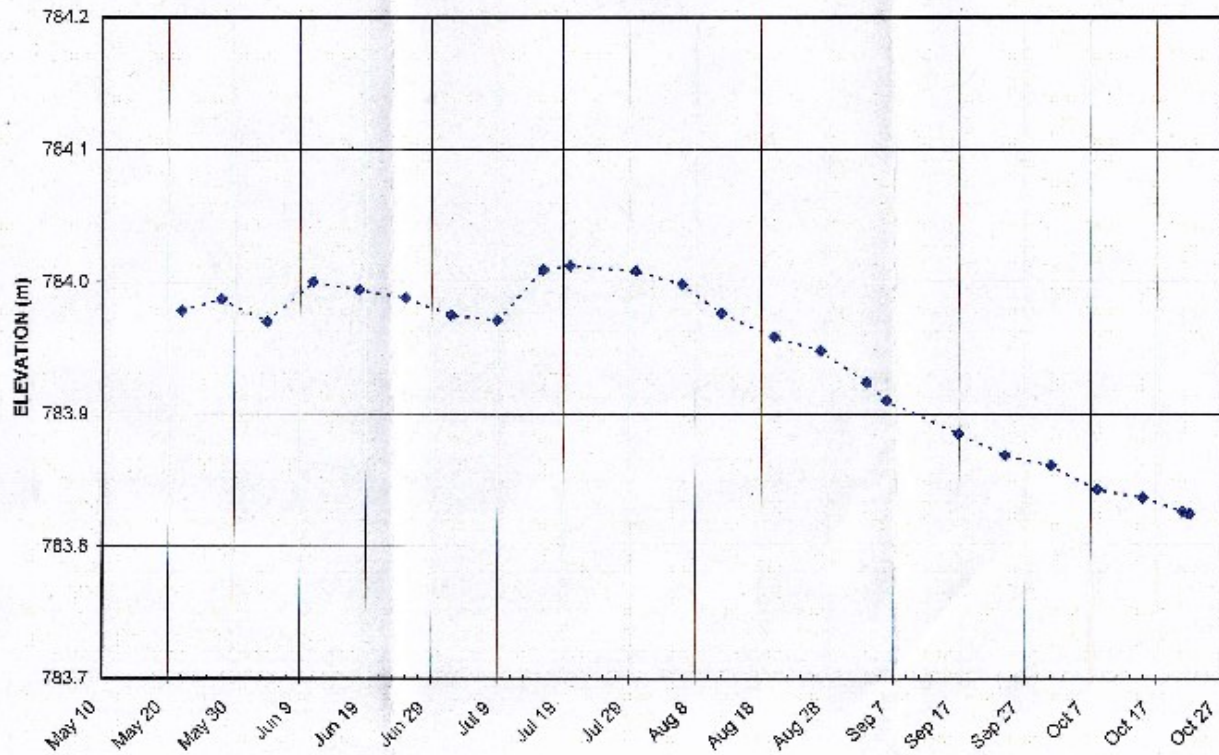
Watch the bulletin boards and check out www.wizardlake.ca for further details.

Help keep Wizard Lake clean for everyone. Looking forward to seeing you there.



WIZARD LAKE NEAR LEDUC (05DF901)

Daily Water Level for 2012

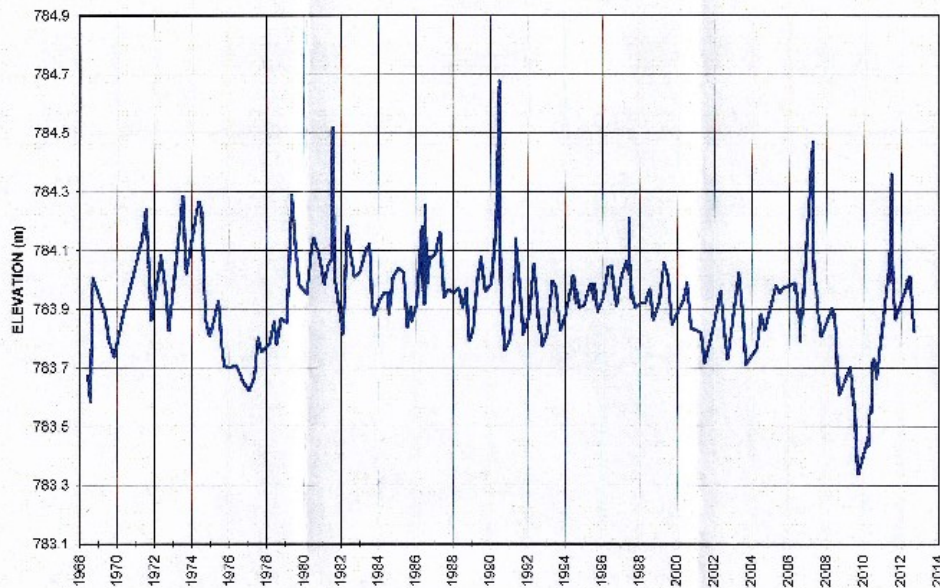


LATEST AVAILABLE W.L. = **783.825 M ON OCT 22.**

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT
MONITORING PROGRAM DELIVERY

WIZARD LAKE NEAR LEDUC (05DF901)

Historical Water Levels



LATEST AVAILABLE W.L. = **783.825 M ON OCT 22/12.**

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT
MONITORING PROGRAM DELIVERY





April Larkin

Spotlighting a Local Artist

APRIL LARKIN and her husband, Matt Leach, reside in Wizard Ridge Estates.

April and Matt are active members of WLWLSA and have served on the Board of Directors.

The journey started about 10 years ago. Being adopted I needed to find my Metis roots in my art. Over 40 years I have painted. My first oil painting was an Indian face copied from a postcard. I remember I stayed up all night at age 16 to complete it.

Over the years I switched to acrylics and watercolors. I painted many florals, boats, outdoor scenery and lots of commission works. But my heart yearned for more. One

day I walked into Sun and Moon Native Artisans Gallery in Edmonton. They were giving a 6-part series on lessons from Master Native Artists. My spirit soared. Back to my roots.

Dale Auger, a Sakaw Cree, was a talented, respected, educator and native artist. As he shared his secrets of how to release spirit, a miracle happened. Old native faces appeared on my canvas. Visions of night spirits in Teepees and wolf and bear were always present. I was home.

I developed a process of small dots of acrylic paint that represents beading. I wanted to keep the Metis art alive. Not many people know of Metis art which has certain floral designs and colors as far back as the 1850's when the first settlers arrived. The Floral Beading People were the Metis. Quills and beads were used on clothing and hide.

Recently a call went out to all Alberta Native Artists to participate in a Historical Event. To have original pieces of art displayed in Fish Creek Provincial Park in Calgary, Alberta. It has taken 20 years to have a vision completed. The Historical Society restored the Bow Valley Ranch through funding and donations to preserve the history of the first settlers to Alberta. You can read the story at <http://www.bowvalleyranch.com/artisan-gardens.html>.

I was honored to be one of the 67 artists chosen. The art is displayed in outdoor installations, for life, with benches and 3 pieces of art in the shape of an arrowhead at each end. The art is protected from all elements, winter and summer. There are also many pieces of bronze statues and walking trails with native grasses and gardens. So called the Artisans Gallery. Robert Bateman is included in my group.

The piece selected is a beaded design from 1850. It was used on the Metis, "Octopus Bag" or Fire bag. I painted the background to represent hide as it would be hard to preserve real hide in the installation. That is what I use now in my dot paintings.

This has been a huge honor to show my art in a Historical Event. Fish Creek Provincial park is open daily for viewing.



**Wizard Lake
CURILANE** is hosting

CANADA DAY '14

BOAT PARADE

**Tuesday, July 1
2:00 pm**

Come to the parade!

Bring your
boat & meet at
2:00 pm on the water at
Daniel's pier at Curilane
(SE side of lake) – look
for the Canada
Flag

ANY kind
of boat is welcome
to be part of the
parade
– just show
up!

Decorate
yourself and your
boat in red and white
Canada Day colours

For
more info
call 985-3287

The parade route:

- Curilane east along the shore
- north to Jubilee boat launch
- west along the north shore,
past the park to the ski club
- back east to Curilane.

No boat?
No problem.
Stand on shore to
wave and cheer
us on!

Supported by

**Wizard Lake Watershed
&
Lake Stewardship Association**



MULTI-FAMILIES *GARAGE SALES*

South Wizard Lake Road

Twp Rd: 480/271022

Sat. May 24, 2014

9:00 am - 5:00 pm



"Sharing our
space with
friends"

photos submitted by Blake Bartlett

