

Lakewatch

*The Alberta Lake Management Society
Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program*

Fishing Lake

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2005 Report

Completed with support from:



Alberta Lake Management Society's Lakewatch Program

Lakewatch has several important objectives, one of which is to collect and interpret water quality on Alberta Lakes. Equally important is educating lake users about their aquatic environment, encouraging public involvement in lake management, and facilitating cooperation and partnerships between government, industry, the scientific community and lake users. Lakewatch reports are designed to summarize basic lake data in understandable terms for a lay audience and are not meant to be a complete synopsis of information about specific lakes. Additional information is available for many lakes that have been included in Lakewatch and readers requiring more information are encouraged to seek these sources.

ALMS would like to thank all who express interest in Alberta's aquatic environments and particularly those who have participated in the Lakewatch program. These people prove that ecological apathy can be overcome, and give us hope that our water resources will not be the limiting factor in the health of our environment.

Acknowledgments

The Lakewatch program is made possible through the Lakewatch Chairs, Théo Charette and Ron Zurawell, and the individual volunteers who dedicate their personal time. Lori Neufeld was the regional contact for Fishing Lake and Leon Cardinal was the local volunteer who made sampling possible. The 2005 summer field technician Vien Lam was a valuable and hard-working addition to the program. Numerous Alberta Environment staff also contributed to successful completion of the 2005 program. Shelley Manchur was the Technical Program Coordinator, responsible for planning and organizing the field program. Technologists Mike Bilyk, Brian Jackson and John Willis were involved in the logistics and training aspects. Doreen LeClair was responsible for data management. Théo Charette (ALMS President) was responsible for program administration and planning. ALMS gratefully acknowledges Alberta Environment, the Lakeland Industry and Community Association (LICA) and Lakeland County for their financial support of the Lakewatch program.

Fishing Lake

Fishing Lake (Figure 1) lies to the east of much larger Frog Lake, both of which are just west of the Alberta-Saskatchewan border in the Elk Point area. Both lakes are part of the North Saskatchewan River Basin, with Fishing Lake draining into Frog Lake via an outlet stream in the southwest corner.



Figure 1. Fishina Lake. Photo credit: Vien Lam

Landscape surrounding the lake is best described as gently rolling and is typical of the low boreal mixedwood ecoregion in which the lake sits (Table 1). The lake itself is an elongated S-shape, curving slightly from the southwest to the northeast. The shoreline is fairly irregular, creating numerous small bays and coves. No record of a calculated drainage basin was found, nor values for lake area, average depth and maximum depth.

Table 1. Summary of details describing the low boreal mixedwood ecoregion in which Fishing Lake is situated (adapted from Strong and Leggat, 1992).

Low Boreal Mixedwood Characteristics*	
Vegetation	Aspen, succeeding to White Spruce
Summer	Average Temp. 13.8 C ⁰
	Average Min. Temp. 7 C ⁰
	Average Max. Temp. 20.4 C ⁰
	Month of Max. Precip. July
	Total Summer Precip. (mm) 235.0
Winter	Average Temp. -10.5
	Average Min. Temp. -15.8
	Average Max. Temp. -5.3
	Total Winter Precip. (mm) 61.0
Total Annual Precipitation (mm)	380.0

*precipitation numbers are median values

Neither was a bathymetric map located, as it appears that the lake has never been sounded. Lakewatch sampling efforts place the maximum depth at about 9 to 10 m. There were also no catch records discovered although judging by the name the fishing must have been good at some point in the lake's history.

The lake has some connection to groundwater. Test holes drilled in the mid 1970s as part of a water supply program for the Fishing Lake Metis Colony produced water more reliably the closer they were to the outlet, with dry holes occurring at the northeast end around the inlet. At the time of the drilling, very little surrounding land had been cleared of aspen. Groundwater was found to be very hard with iron concentrations requiring treatment for removal (Kerr *et. al*, 1978).

