
From The **SHORELINE**

SUMMER 1999

www.biology.ualberta.ca/alms/home.htm

ALBERTA LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE:

- C President's Message
- C ALMS Annual Conference Information
- C Other Event Updates
- C Water Safety
- C Lake Association Directory Planned
- C Next Newsletter - October

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our summer edition of the ALMS newsletter. Many of you will already have heard of new federal regulations concerning Boating and Boat Safety. As of April 1, 1999 there are new age and horsepower restrictions for boat users and beginning in September of this year, any one born after 1983 will be require *proof of competency* to operate a motorized boat. By September 2002, anyone operating a motorized boat (including PWC) will require the same proof, and finally by the year 2009, everyone who operates a motorized boat will require this proof. More detailed information can be obtained from Mr. Larry Patterson of the Lifesaving Society in Edmonton at (780) 415-1755 or <www.lifesaving.org>.

This is also the first summer in which the new Water Act is in effect. Recent news articles in the newspapers indicate that the Province is getting more serious about unauthorized shoreline modifications and developments. Part of Alberta's fishery decline in lakes can be attributed to the cumulative effect of

losing fish habitat in near shore areas. At Lake Wabamun, cottage owners were found guilty in court and fined for disturbance of the bed and shore (removal of sediment) and for causing the destruction of fish habitat. If shoreline work is being considered, please don't forget to obtain the proper approvals from Alberta Environment.

ALMS' Volunteer LakeWatch Program is fully underway this summer with several lakes participating. If your lake association is interested in participating next year, contact ALMS before November 1, 1999.

Please also welcome Jackie McCall as ALMS' new Newsletter Editor. Publishing a newsletter is a large task for a volunteer to undertake. Please share with Jackie the issues occurring at your lake and any other story leads, issues of interest or comments you may have, so she can create a newsletter where each issue is eagerly awaited.

Finally, we in ALMS look forward to seeing you on September 24 and 25 for ALMS' Annual Workshop at Gunn, Alberta on the shores of Lac Ste. Anne. See you there!

Gerry Haekel

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to try to fill the editor's shoes!

Sharing information is as important to

keeping lakes healthy as undertaking projects, so please send me any information you'd like to share with others at jmccall@cadvision.com or Phone (403) 948-8540.

I'm looking forward to meeting more ALMS members at the Annual Conference (details below). In the meantime, have a safe and happy summer!

Jackie McCall, Editor

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALMS Annual Conference

September 24 – 25, 1999, on the shores of Lac Ste. Anne at Gunn Hall, Gunn, Alberta.

You are invited to the 7th Annual Conference of the Alberta Lake Management Society, to be held in the beautiful, historic area of Lac Ste. Anne.

This conference will provide an opportunity for everyone interested in lakes, including ordinary citizens, academics and governments, to learn from each other about these precious resources. The preliminary program includes:

- C Lac Ste. Anne-Lake Isle Water Quality Management initiative,
- C the state of Alberta's fisheries,
- C toxic blue-green algae,
- C new boating regulations,
- C lake water levels,
- C issues and regulations regarding shoreline use,
- C intensive livestock operations,

- C management of cattle along stream banks,
- C sewage management and regulation,
- C progress report from Pine Lake

Conference fees for both days, including meals: \$50 ALMS members, \$75 non-members, and \$30 for students.

For further information, please contact Patrick Marriott at (780) 427-7033 (toll-free by dialing 310-0000 first), email: Pat.Marriott@gov.ab.ca, or Steve Smart at (780) 430-6706.

Provincial Riparian Conference

Oct. 19 - 21, 1999, Red Deer, AB.

Contact Jackie McCall at jmccall@cadvision.com; phone (403) 948-8540, or Michelle McKinnon at michelle.mckinnon@agric.gov.ab.ca; phone 403-948-8512. Phone numbers are accessible toll free - dial 310-0000.

Bull Trout II Conference

Canmore, Nov. 17 - 20, 1999

Contact Kerry Brewin at kbrewin@cadvision.com; phone 403-221-8369

NALMS

Reno, Nevada, Dec. 1 - 4, 1999.

Contact nalms@nalms.org.
Phone 608-233-2836 (Madison, WI)

Quebec 2000 Wetland Symposium,

Aug. 6 - 12, 2000, Quebec City.

<http://www.cqvb.qc.ca/>

LAKE UPDATES FROM AROUND ALBERTA

Gull Lake Management Plan Review

Over the past two months the team of consultants have been gathering information and seeking public opinion on land and water based issues concerning the management of Gull Lake. Several maps depicting Current Land Use, Access and Transportation

Network, Important Upland Wildlife Habitat and Vegetation Areas, Critical Waterfowl and Fish Habitats, Agricultural Capability, Permeability, and Groundwater Discharge Rate have been created based on recent research.

As a part of our public consultation, we conducted a landowner survey within the watershed area. Over 1400 surveys were mailed; we have now reached a 30% return rate with over 400 responses. The majority of the respondents to the survey was satisfied with the facilities and services available within the Gull Lake watershed and does not want to see additional development. While the results from this survey are important, it is realized that these results represent landowners in the area. Both the consultants and the Steering Committee understand the value and limitations of this information.

To get input from other stakeholders in the Gull Lake area, two public consultation sessions were held. With over 40 people attending the July 22nd Crestemere consultation session and over 80 at the July 24th Bentley session, the meetings were a success. The public was given the opportunity to view and critique the data collected thus far and offer any additional information they thought would be pertinent to the review. Several questions and concerns regarding environmental quality and future development issues were discussed during the question and answer period.

A user survey will be conducted in the Gull Lake vicinity, providing further public input. The survey will be administered during the first week of August, weather permitting.

The completion of the public meetings and surveys will bring us to the next phase in the review process, the preparation of a draft plan. The consultant team will spend the next few weeks reviewing comments, examining the survey results, and preparing the draft plan update. A draft Gull Lake Management Plan Update is expected

to be available for public review in late September.

We would like to thank those who attended the meetings and/or completed and returned the survey. Your views and opinions are critical in the formulation of an updated Gull Lake Management Plan.

*David Towle,
Scheffer Consultants*

BOATING NEWS



Water and Alcohol Could Put You on the Rocks

Many people are misinformed or uninformed about the legal, personal and physical risks of drinking alcohol during water-related activities.

Are you at risk?

C MYTH: A few beers have little effect on a swimmer or boater.

FACT: All types of alcohol could affect physical co-ordination and hamper the ability of a swimmer or boater. The effects of one bottle of beer are the same as one small glass of wine or one shot of hard liquor.

C MYTH: Most drownings occur when people are swimming.

FACT: Over 60% of all drownings occur when the victim falls into the water unexpectedly, from a wharf, shoreline, or boat. Autopsies have shown that over one third of these victims (mostly males) were impaired by alcohol.

C MYTH: Drinking while boating is not a serious offence.

FACT: Operating a boat while impaired can be just as dangerous as drinking and driving a car. Police boats carry portable Breathalyzer units and criminal charges can be laid.

C MYTH: Drinking on the beach before a swim is harmless fun.

FACT: Alcohol impairs judgement and gives a false sense of ability. You may take risks, which you would not consider under normal circumstances. It is against the law to consume liquor in a public place, such as a beach or wharf.

C MYTH: People rarely fall overboard when standing up in a small boat.

FACT: More than half of all boating accidents result from standing up. Alcohol affects your balance, increasing the risk of falling overboard. Consuming alcohol while boating increases the need to stand for relief.

Please develop a responsible attitude. Remember that mixing alcohol and water activities could put you on the rocks.

Canadian Red Cross Society

Safety: Don't Leave Shore Without It.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) requires that all boats under 5.5 metres (18 feet) in length must be equipped with the following items:

- ' An approved Personal Floatation Device (PFD) or approved life jacket for each person on board.
- ' A bailing device.
- ' Tow oars and oarlocks or two

paddles.

- ' An efficient sound signal (whistle).
- ' A class B1 fire extinguisher if the boat has an inboard motor, a permanently-fixed or built-in fuel tanks or a cooking or heating appliance that burns liquid or gaseous fuel.

In addition to required equipment, emergency planning should also include:

- , A complete change of warm clothing stored in a waterproof container.
- , Flashlight, matches, rope and knife suitably stored.
- , Energy rations such as chocolate, nuts and raisins.

**Hypothermia:
The unseen enemy**

Hypothermia is the cooling of the body below 37° C (98.6° F). In hunting and fishing accidents, hypothermia occurs during and following exposure to cold, either from immersion in water or extreme cold air temperatures.

If the body is not insulated the most important heat loss areas for causing core hypothermia are the head and neck, chest (especially sides and armpits), and to a lesser extent, the groin.

The symptoms are shivering, mind confusion, numbness in the hands and feet followed by unconsciousness, and finally, death. Fishing in cold streams, waiting quietly in early morning duck blinds, and even stalking game in wet underbrush can bring on hypothermia. Loose, layered warm clothing including a cap or a wool hat is a must.

To Treat Hypothermia

Get to a dry, warm, sheltered area and remove your wet clothing. Put on warm clothing, and wrap yourself in blankets or a sleeping bag to conserve body heat. If possible, build a fire. Apply warm objects 40 - 45 C (i.e. wet towels, water bottles, chemical heat packs) to head, neck, and trunk - be careful to avoid burns.

Survival Tips

- , Wear your PFD or lifejacket at all times. Try your PFD or lifejacket on in safe water prior to boating.
- , Don't overload your boat.
- , Always sit to shoot, cast, urinate, or to start the motor.
- , Keep weight low and evenly distributed in the boat.
- , Anchor from the bow - never the stern.
- , Man overboard - clothing will help you float if you slowly move to shore - waders - if belted - will float.
- , Never consume alcohol or drugs while boating, fishing, or hunting.
- , Stay warm and dry - carry a change of clothes in a waterproof bag, dress in lightweight layers to combat hypothermia. File a trip plan and check the weather.
- , Take a Red Cross Small Craft Safety Survival and/or Swimming Survival Course today and be prepared for an emergency.

For more information on water safety, contact the Canadian Red Cross at www.redcross.ca, or the Canadian Coast Guard at www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca.

What's the difference between a lifejacket and a personal floatation device?

A lifejacket are designed to keep and unconscious person afloat on his or

her back, face up, and with the head clear of the water.

A **personal floatation device** is designed primarily for swimmers and has less buoyancy and turning ability than an approved lifejackets, but will keep a conscious person afloat. There are many varieties, with added pockets and other features to store tools for fishing and hunting.

Whatever your choice, it should be a fully approved model carrying the DOT authorization and approval. Never buy a product that does not carry this important qualification.

WHAT'S NEW

The Canadian Wildlife Service is undertaking a "**Common Loon Pollutant Study**" to get a better handle on lead poisoning as a result of using lead fishing lures and hunting shot pellets. They are collecting dead loons to aid the study.

For more information, contact Mark Wayland in Saskatchewan. Email: Mark.Wayland@EC.GC.CA. Phone: (306) 975-6340. Mailing address: 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 0X4.

The Canadian Nature Federation is in the last year of the "**Canadian Lady Beetle Survey**". This is part of a larger biodiversity initiative. Everyone is able to participate by recording the location and kind of ladybug seen. Information reports must be in by November 15, 1999. All cottage families and school groups are encouraged to participate.

For more information, contact Catherine Austen, Communications Officer. Phone (613) 562-3447. Email: cnf@cnf.ca. Web site: <http://www.schoolnet.ca/vp-pv/ladybeetle>.

Private Sewage Disposal Regulations have been updated. See

media release:
<http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn199905/7685.html>. The regulation itself can be seen at
<http://www.gov.ca/oc98/1999/599/99-232.html>.

Available for purchase is the **Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 1999**, published by the Safety Codes Council. Contact Keith Metcalfe at (780) 413-0099 or metcalfe@safetycodes.ab.ca.

Also available is the new **Framework for Water Management Planning** that has been sent out for public review. Copies are available from the Information Centre (403) 297-3362.

Copies of the new **Water Act** are available from the Queen's Printer or can be viewed and downloaded from: <http://www.gov.ab.ca/qp/ascii/acts/96/W03P5.TXT>.

DIRECTORY OF ALBERTA LAKE & WATERSHED ASSOCIATIONS BEING CREATED

ALMS has undertaken a project to compile a provincial listing of the associations and societies that have an interest in lakes, rivers, water quality and watershed management issues. This directory will be a valuable resource for groups and other individuals by providing key contacts for these associations enabling them to contact and consult with each other.

To be of use and value will require the willingness of the associations and societies in Alberta to participate in the directory's creation. Enclosed in this newsletter is a Directory Listing form which can be filled out and returned to ALMS. Information can also be phoned in or e-mailed in.

For information on the project, contact

the ALMS Community Liaison Committee (Heather Davies, (403) 272-6361, daviesbh@telusplanet; John Lilley, (780) 464-5238, lilley-lec@msn.com; or Gerry Haekel, (780) 427-4767, haekel@agric.gov.ab.ca).

NEXT NEWSLETTER - DEADLINE

Articles to the editor, etc. must be received by **October 1, 1999** to be considered for the winter newsletter.

We welcome your letters, newsletter articles, event notices, and suggestions for improving the newsletter.

Let us know what's happening in your lake neighbourhood this year!

Editor