
From
The

SHORELINE

Summer 2004 www.alms.ca

ALBERTA LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's message
- Lakewatch 2003/2004
- Dodd's Lake level dispute
- Moose Lake Plan
- 2004 ALMS Workshop
- 2004 NALMS conference
- Report on Source Protection Conference
- Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup
- Next Newsletter, October 04

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since the last ALMS Newsletter, much has happened! The biggest news is that ALMS was selected by Environment Minister Lorne Taylor to sit on the Alberta Water Council as created under the *Water for Life* Strategy. Twenty other representatives from various sectors were also named to the Council. For details and the news releases, see the ALMS web page (www.alms.ca). Other highlights include:

2004 Workshop, Sept 16 & 17

Curtis Horning is chairing this year's workshop committee and is very busy with workshop preparations for the fall conference. Okotoks has been selected as the conference site for 2004, and the new Centennial Hall will be the venue. This year, ALMS is branching out into the area of low impact development, with a focus of minimizing impacts around urban and rural water bodies. We are hoping to reach a much broader audience with this approach, and believe that this conference will be ALMS' largest to date. Theo Charette has invited several international experts on the subject, and the agenda has already received quite a bit of interest from municipalities and developers. There is demand to have the workshop proceedings published, and we are exploring this possibility. For more information on the agenda or to obtain a brochure and registration form, visit the

ALMS website (www.alms.ca). We look forward to seeing you in September!

Realtor Shoreline Awareness Outreach Program

The Realtor Shoreline Awareness Outreach Program is a collaborative effort between ALMS and the Living by Water Project, funded by the Alberta Real Estate Foundation. The project's purpose is to provide realtors with information about the role played by natural shorelines, and to help protect realtors from potential litigation resulting from misinformed advice to clients about shoreline alteration. Information topics will include erosion, on-site sewage treatment, water quality, and shoreline landscaping. The authors of *On the Living Edge -- Your Guide to Waterfront Living* will present material in a one-day seminar format. So far, dates in Red Deer, Edmonton and Bonnyville have been confirmed.

Septic Tank Waste Management Advisory Committee

ALMS is currently participating in the septic waste management advisory committee that is being hosted by Alberta Environment's Science and Standards Branch. This committee has been meeting monthly since February, and will provide final recommendations to Alberta Environment on septic tank waste disposal practices and legislative requirements later this month. If you would like more details, or would like to pass along your concerns to us, please contact me directly.

Website Update—Calling all web designers!

At the last Board Meeting, the possibility of updating the website was discussed. We have outgrown the current site and would like your help designing a new site. If you have some creative talents and some time to spare, we would like to hear from you.

Welcome Aboard New Board Members

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to welcome David Gursky, Sarah Depoe, Francine Forrest and Janet Remillard to the 2004-2005 Board. These new appointments have all been involved with ALMS in the past and you may recognize some of them from the 2003 Pigeon Lake workshop. We are very excited to have new faces and perspectives joining us on the Board.

Have a safe and fun summer at the lake!

Jay White, M.Sc., P.Biol.
President, ALMS

LAKEWATCH 2003 REPORTS NOW ONLINE!

Alberta Lake Management Society, lake and community associations, and lake residents participated in the 2003 ALMS Lakewatch program. The program collects water quality information and water samples that are analyzed for basic chemical and physical characteristics.

Sixteen lakes were sampled in 2003, including: Angling, Battle, Beaver, Frog, Garnier N, Garnier S, Kehewin, Lac La Nonne, Laurier, Marie, Moose, Muriel, Pigeon, Pine, Sylvan, and Touchwood. Results for the lakes sampled in 2003 were analyzed, compiled into reports, and are now posted on the ALMS website (www.alms.ca). Reports focus on nutrient levels (such as phosphorus), water clarity and major ions. Analyses for heavy metals have also been added in some lakes last year.

Heather Jones is the new 2004 Lakewatch sampling coordinator, as part of an internship through Lakeland College. Welcome Heather and may you have good weather! Eighteen lakes are proposed for 2004 sampling:

Angling, Burnstick, Cooking, Frog, Garnier N, Garnier S, Hilda, Kehewin, Lac LaBiche, Lac LaNonne, Laurier, Long Island, Marie, Mink, Moose, Pine, Sandy, Touchwood.

DODD'S LAKE LEVEL AT CENTER OF DEVELOPMENT DISPUTE

Red Deer Advocate, Apr 14, 04

Opposing parties at an Alberta Environmental Appeals Board hearing on Dodd's Lake all agreed that clay fill should not be added to the Innisfail lake bed or shore to construct housing. But they disagreed on where the lake bed and shore line starts.

Seven Dodd's Lake residents spearheaded opposition on Tuesday to the six-lot development proposed by Hal Willis, arguing that it would be located

on the bed and shore. The lake's water management plan sets the water at a maximum depth above sea level of 937.85 metres, which would accommodate construction. But in the past, the natural level was 938.46 metres at its fullest. There's nothing in the plan to prevent the water to go back up to its full level, said Ray Cerniuk, who represented project opponents at the day-long hearing held at Red Deer Lodge on Tuesday. Approval of the housing project was based on a water management plan that isn't necessarily permanent, opponents said. They asked for the construction permit to be stayed and an environmental impact study be done.

But that's not all they want. There is a water quality issue that has to be properly addressed before any development can proceed, Cerniuk said. Opponent representative Linda Covey said there's been detrimental affects on water quality since the Town of Innisfail lowered the lake level a few years ago. It has resulted in a vile, smelly slime of algae that covers the shore line and steals oxygen from aquatic life. We feel disturbing this area any further would permanently reduce the water quality, Covey said. Fill is destined for the lake's watershed that contains plants, specifically cat tails, that help to improve water quality by cleansing the water moving through them.

Opponents said the Canadian Coast Guard's Navigable Waters Protection Branch, with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, is considering a review of the town's lake management. They said residents were not properly consulted on the town's plan so Fisheries and Oceans Canada could pull its support of Innisfail's water controls. It's really not smart at all to proceed without (Fisheries and Oceans) approval, Cerniuk said. Gilbert Van Nes, an appeals board spokesperson, said it will be up to the board to look at the connection between the housing project approval and the town's management of Dodd's Lake. The appeal was called to consider the impact of the fill on the water in Dodd's Lake. Alberta Environment representatives maintained that there was no impact from fill and argued any concern about water levels should be taken up with the town.

The approval for Mr. Willis in no way controls the water level, said Grant Sprague, a lawyer representing Alberta Environment. The appeal is not about the water management plan of Dodd's Lake. Willis asked the board for an extension to his construction deadline since it was put on hold due to the hearing. He said he heartily agreed with the opponents' concerns about the lake's water quality, but raising the water level would cause more problems than it would solve. We know at one point the lake level was a lot lower. I don't see the town asking for the level to go up if it floods others besides me, Willis said. He said determining the natural water level of the lake isn't easy because silt was known to clog the natural outflow. How much of that was natural could be debated. I don't know if there is such a thing.

Biologist William MacKay, speaking for the opponents, said building on flood plains usually creates problems for homeowners. Presumably no one's ever built (on Dodd's Lake flood plain) because they knew the water level fluctuated that high. If the town hadn't reduced the water level, no one would have contemplated building there, MacKay said. Now the town is also using the lake as a storm water management pond with a water control structure attached to a lake culvert. MacKay said that once the fill is added and the houses are built, water management is impacted. And once water management is impacted, so is water quality via the water level. Unfortunately, managers have allowed water bodies to deteriorate because of politics, he added. The appeals board will make its recommendation to Environment Minister Lorne Taylor in 30 days. Taylor's decision is expected 30 days after he receives the recommendation.

MOOSE LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Moose Lake is located 240 km NE of Edmonton and 3.5 km west of the Town of Bonnyville. Moose Lake is a source of drinking water for the Town of Bonnyville and is one of the most

From The

SHORELINE

June 2004

Vol.12, No. 2

From The Shoreline is the official newsletter of the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS), providing a forum for the communication and exchange of information and experiences relating to the management of lakes and their watersheds.

Editor: Théo Charette

Our goal is to publish *From The Shoreline* quarterly as Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter issues.

Articles and advertisements submitted for publication must be received no later than **two weeks prior the month of publication**. Article contributors of at least one page per year will receive a free 1-year registration with the Alberta Lake Management Society (value of up to \$25). Contributions can be made by increments (quarter and half pages) adding up to one page over one year.

Please address all articles and letters to:

Editor, *From The Shoreline*
Alberta Lake Management Society
c/o Department of Biological Sciences
University of Alberta
Edmonton, CANADA T6G 2E9

The opinions and advice expressed in the newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily imply endorsement by the Society.

Permission is granted to reproduce articles with appropriate credits.

©2004 Alberta Lake Management Society

important lakes for recreation in northeastern Alberta.

Although the water quality of Moose Lake is well-known, there is a lack of information and awareness on the remainder of the watershed to make informed land management decisions. Water quality assessments of all major streams and lakes in the watershed, and land use/cover assessments will provide the background information necessary to increase public education and awareness for community-based land management. The goal of the proposed project is to work with local communities and stakeholders to create an action plan for long-term land management by increasing knowledge, understanding, and education.

Local concern for the state of Moose Lake and its watershed has increased substantially in recent years due to increased development pressures and a dramatic drop in water levels. In response, the Moose Lake Water For Life Committee was formed in October 2002 to address these concerns. A community open house was held on June 26, 2003 to solicit public feedback on water quality of the lake and health of the watershed. The meeting was well received with approximately 80 attendees. Public education of current information on Moose Lake watershed water and riparian quality was initiated. The following issues were identified as important:

- Amount and quality of water flowing into Moose Lake.
- Environmental sustainability of future developments
- A healthy fishery
- Healthy riparian areas by increased awareness and landowner involvement.

The framework to implement the Plan will include identifying roles, responsibilities, budget and funding, long-term monitoring needs and priorities. Each component of the project will need to be evaluated and monitored for its success, performance and compliance with the existing legislation, regulations and standards.

The Plan, to be completed in December 2004, will strive to balance community, economic, and environment issues and

values and will guide decision-making in future years.

For more information on the Moose Lake Watershed Management Plan, please contact John Foy, M.D. of Bonnyville, (780) 826-3171.

2004 ALMS WORKSHOP
Smart Growth: Protecting our Watersheds Through Low Impact Development

September 16 & 17, 2004
 (Thursday and Friday)
 Foothills Centennial Centre
 Okotoks, Alberta

You are invited to participate in the 12th Annual Workshop of the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS).

Our purpose is to bring together lake users, scientists, government, industry, special interest groups, and the general public to explore and discuss problems facing Alberta lakes and watersheds, and the technologies and management strategies available to restore and enhance them.

The 2004 workshop marks a significant undertaking for the Alberta Lake Management Society. Our workshop theme this year will highlight an emergent urban and environmental issue: minimizing the impacts of urban sprawl on the natural environment with a focus on areas near water bodies.

Cities across Alberta are expanding at an unprecedented rate, and urban sprawl continues to threaten the quality of our wetlands, rivers and lakes. As water quality and quantity are major environmental concerns and ultimately affect local economic development, it is very important that new developments minimize aquatic impacts. With these thoughts in mind, this year's workshop entitled *Smart Growth: Protecting our Lakes and Watersheds* is very timely.

What to expect:

- Presentations by international experts on low impact development.
- Tour of low impact development sites in the region.
- Forum to meet and share information with other professionals and lake

residents interested in lake and watershed management.

- Relaxed and affordable workshop

Please send the completed registration form to:

Alberta Lake Management Society,
 Attention: Colleen Prather,
 c/o Creek Ecological Ltd.
 4800 – 93 Avenue,
 Edmonton, AB, Canada, T6B 2P8
 Or FAX to (780) 492-9234.

REGISTRATION FORM	
2004 ALMS Workshop Alberta Lake Management Society	
Name: _____	
Organization (if relevant) _____	
Address (City, Province, Postal Code) _____	
Phone _____	Fax _____
Email _____	
Payment Category Fee	
Registrations received by Aug 15, 04:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$85.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Booth (2 registrations)	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$50.00
Registration after Aug 15, 04:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$60.00
Credit Card Payments (VISA, MC) will be subject to a \$5 service fee. Phone 490-5711 or fill in below:	
VISA/MC #: _____	
Expiry (MM/YY): _____	
Name on card: _____	
Signature: _____	
Early registrations will be entered in a draw! Due to space restrictions, ALMS may limit registration to the first 350 received.	
Please check if planning to attend:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Afternoon Tour (no charge)	

Registration fees cover two days of presentations, coffee breaks, lunch each day, Thursday banquet (with cash bar), and a tour of local LID projects. **Make cheques payable to the Alberta Lake Management Society.**

All registrants except for students will receive a membership in ALMS valid until September 31, 2005

Cancellation policy: 90% refund before Sept. 1, 10% refund after, except for medical reasons.

For more information please contact:

Curtis Horning
(curtis.horning@gov.ab.ca) or at (780) 963-6131 ext. 264, toll-free in Alberta by dialing 310-0000 during office hours, or visit our website at www.alms.ca for the latest workshop news.

2004 NALMS CONFERENCE

Lakes: habitat for fish, habitat for people

The British Columbia Lake Stewardship Society is hosting the 24th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society, November 3 to 5, 2004, Victoria Conference Centre. The host hotel is the Fairmont Empress (toll free 866-540-4429 or www.fairmont.com).

The theme is "Lakes: habitat for fish. Habitat for people". Preliminary Session topics include: introduced aquatic species, paleolimnology, lake restoration, integrated watershed management, climate change in lakes, protecting fish habitat, stewardship, legislation, education, urban lakes, new technology, assessing lake trends.

Pre and post conference workshops (Tuesday and Saturday) will be held on watershed planning, using GIS, and algal identification. Saturday field trips will include Victoria's water supply reservoirs, Butchart's Garden and a local winery. An evening reception will take place on Wednesday at the BC Royal Museum.

If anyone is interested in submitting a paper, contact the Program Chair Don Holmes before July 15 (250-573-2928).

Please visit www.nalms.org for more info.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION SPECIALTY CONFERENCE

Capri Hotel, Red Deer, AB
May 18 & 19, 2004

The Western Canada Water and Wastewater Association's, Alberta Provincial Council, and Alberta Environment held this conference on May 18th and 19th, 2004. This was the first time in Alberta that municipalities, utilities, government and consultants convened to share information and ideas on protecting surface and ground water sources.

Source water protection is the first step within a multiple barrier approach to provide safe drinking water. Reducing contaminant entry into natural waters decreases the need to remove them through water treatment. Experience has shown that source water protection decreases public health risks and water treatment costs by improving or preventing the deterioration of source water quality. Source water protection is also a key component to achieving the three goals of Alberta's *Water for Life* strategy:

- Safe, secure drinking water supply
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

Distinguished presenters from the Alberta Lake Management Society included: Jay White, Aquality Environmental Consulting, who spoke about watershed delineation, and Al Sosiak, Alberta Environment, who spoke about the Pine Lake restoration program.

A big thank you to all who presented, chaired, organized and attended this conference!

Conference information is available at http://www.wcwwa.ca/Seminars/ABPC_Seminar.htm. Speaker presentations will be posted soon on this web site.

Beth Michener
EPCOR Water Services

PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP!

The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup (GCSC) is one of Canada's largest environmental direct action programs. The Vancouver Aquarium started the Shoreline Cleanup over 14 years ago, growing from a local beach cleanup to a national program present in every province and territory.

The GCSC is the perfect opportunity for school groups, community groups, and families to get involved in hands-on conservation that has a measurable effect on the environment. Cleanups are more than just collecting trash; they engage communities to create solutions that ensure the cleanliness of Canada's waterways.

Besides collecting trash for a local shoreline, you will also be collecting important data. With every cleanup, you fill out an International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) data card. Every piece of garbage collected is recorded, sent back to the Vancouver Aquarium, and is tabulated. As an example, in 2003, over 150,000 cigarette butts were picked across Canada.

Take advantage of the lowest water levels in decades and participate in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup! Remember to use proper footwear and mind your pets as shorelines often contain broken glass and other sharp objects. To participate in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup or for more details, please visit the website <http://www.vanaqua.org/cleanup>.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submissions to the editor must be received by **September 15, 2004** to be considered for the Fall newsletter.

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

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

Editor
