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# From The SHORELINE

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Winter 2005 [www.alms.ca](http://www.alms.ca)

ALBERTA LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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It would be an understatement to say that a lot has happened since our last newsletter in June. The first meeting of the Alberta Water Council happened in August, and ALMS represented the non-profit lake environment sector. Environment Minister Lorne Taylor, as he then was, was present to see his vision come to fruition and wish the Council well. Council has now met on three occasions, and we are well on our way to the implementation of the Water for Life Strategy. We are currently reviewing the new Provincial Wetlands Policy.

Other highlights include:

### 2004 Workshop

Curtis Horning was responsible for chairing *Smart Development: Protecting our Lake and Watersheds Through Low Impact Development*, ALMS' best-attended conference to date. The conference committee worked overtime to put together a first-rate product that was both timely and topical. Théo Charette, the Program Chair, was able to attract well-respected scientists from the field of Smart Development. Our Okotoks hosts should also be named for their support in helping out with the local arrangements, sending Town officials and presenting some of their forward-thinking undertakings. Conference proceedings will be available shortly to all registrants. In the meantime, all the speaker presentations can be found on the ALMS website ([www.alms.ca](http://www.alms.ca)). Finally, we would like to thank all of our sponsors for their generous support: The Calgary Foundation, The Shell Environmental Fund, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Alberta Real Estate Foundation, City of Calgary Wastewater, Town of Okotoks, Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd., Ducks Unlimited Canada and Inland Pipe. I believe that interest in this

topic will spawn several other spinoff low impact development initiatives.

### Realtor Shoreline Awareness Outreach Program

The Realtor Shoreline Awareness Outreach Program was a collaborative effort between ALMS and the Living by Water Project, funded by the Alberta Real Estate Foundation in partnership with the Alberta Real Estate Association (AREA). The purpose of this project was to provide realtors with increased information about the role played by natural shorelines, and to help protect realtors from potential litigation resulting from misinformed advice to clients about shoreline property development. The authors of *On the Living Edge -- Your Guide to Waterfront Living* presented their book to 560 AREA member offices, and to 70 participants at fall workshops in Red Deer, Edmonton and Bonnyville. Overall, this program was very well received.

### Septic Tank Waste Management Advisory Committee

ALMS participated in the septic waste management advisory committee that was hosted by Alberta Environment's Science and Standards Branch. This committee provided recommendations to Alberta Environment on septic tank waste disposal practices and legislative requirements. The final report is now on the ALMS and Alberta Environment website:

<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/waste/domw/water/pubs/FinalReport.pdf>

### Website Update—Calling all web designers!

At the last Board Meeting, the possibility of updating the website was again 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.

### Seeking New Board Members

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to ask anyone who is interested to please consider serving on our Board of Directors. You will have an opportunity to work with some of the most dynamic lake management and water quality professionals in the province. Experience is not required, and we enjoy working with new people and new perspectives on our Board. Please come to the March AGM and find out more. AGM dates and details will be mailed with this newsletter.

As this will be my last President's Message, I would like to say it has been a pleasure working with the Board of Directors and all of our membership over the past two years. Together we have accomplished so much, including being a Provincially-recognized group in the lake conservation sector in the *Water for Life Strategy*. Thank you all so very much for your time, efforts, inspiration and ideas. It has been both a pleasure and an honour working with all of you.

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

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT!

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ALMS Board of Directors member Jay White presents a cheque for \$1,000 to Stephanie Neufeld, for her

scholarship proposal entitled: "Effects of conversion of boreal forest to agriculture land on small stream ecosystems in the Lac La Biche watershed." The ALMS student scholarship is a new initiative and was offered for the second time. Stephanie will present results of her M.Sc. thesis research, which the scholarship supported, at the ALMS annual general meeting on March 18th.

## REPORT ON NALMS 2004 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN VICTORIA

The 24<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) was held November 3-5, 2004 at the excellent conference facilities at the

beautiful Empress Hotel in Victoria. The Alberta Lake Management Society was well represented at the symposium, with presentations by various ALMS members and our president Jay White manned our chapter display. As with every NALMS symposium, there were a range of pre-conference workshops, tours, and social activities. The latter took full advantage of the many excellent brewpubs and British ambience of Victoria.

The technical program was solid, with roughly 180 oral presentations and posters and over 400 delegates in attendance. The symposium theme "Lakes: Habitat for Fish, Habitat for People" allowed the organizers to showcase lake management programs in British Columbia. Of particular interest to limnologists from Alberta, who are used to dealing with highly enriched systems, were the various programs that involve nutrient addition to enhance salmon production in typically unproductive lakes in BC.

Another strong theme related to nutrient limitation. Dave Schindler and co-workers demonstrated that lakes in the Experimental Lakes Area in the Canadian Shield of Ontario are phosphorus limited. However, there is evidence that it can be more complicated in highly enriched systems, and you can run into trouble if you don't consider other limiting factors. A.R. Dzialowski spoke about productive Kansas lakes that seemed similar to our prairie lakes, and found only 8% were solely limited by phosphorus in algal assays. The rest were limited or co-limited by nitrogen. Roger Bachmann and others spoke about Lake Apopka and Okeechobee in Florida where they have spent over \$100 million to buy watersheds and control phosphorus loading to control algal blooms and restore the bass fishery, with little success. A vigorous debate continues about how these lakes will respond over time.

There were some excellent papers on biomanipulation, where the food chain in a lake is manipulated to control algae. There really aren't many cost-effective methods to control algae in lake shallow lakes aside from biomanipulation. The method has been used for years in Europe, but good case

studies in North America have been rare. Steve Souza gave a very good report on improvements in a New Jersey lake (Culver Lake) attributable to biomanipulations, and C. Perrin spoke about fertilization and biomanipulation to successfully restore kokanee to a BC lake.

Lastly, some presentations described the use of Phosphex for treatment of influent high in phosphorus. This recently patented method uses waste slag from steel production to produce effluent < 20 µg/L total phosphorus.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of "Lake and Reservoir Management (Cooke, Welch, Newroth, and Peterson) – sometimes called "The Cook-book" - was announced at the symposium. Pre-orders can be made through the CRC web site for \$104 US, compared to a list price of around \$129 US.

Next year's 25<sup>th</sup> International Symposium in delightful Madison, Wisconsin (November 9-11, 2005) promises to be excellent. See the NALMS web site at [www.nalms.org](http://www.nalms.org) for details

Al Sosiak  
ALMS board member

## 2004 LAKEWATCH REPORT

It was another successful year for the Lakewatch Program: 19 lakes were sampled. The program has become the main lake water quality sampling program in the province. Lakewatch is also invaluable for various locally-driven watershed projects, such as the Pine Lake Restoration Program, the Cold Lake Beaver River Water Management Plan, and the Lac LaBiche and Moose Lake Watershed Management Plans.

Heather Jones was the Lakewatch Technician in 2004 and has been one of ALMS's best. She speaks very highly of Lakewatch volunteers and they speak highly of her. Not only has she gained valuable experience as a water quality technician, but she's also had the opportunity to participate in community events, such as the Marie Lake Ecosystem Discovery Day.

From The

### SHORELINE

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*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 submitted for publication must be received no later than **two weeks prior the month of publication.**

Please address all articles and letters to:

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

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Over the past two years, the Lakeland Industry and Community Association (LICA), based in Bonnyville, have enabled sampling of half of the lakes in the Lakewatch program. I am happy to report that LICA has extended its devotion of collecting baseline water quality information through community-involvement. They are committed to sample 9 to 10 lakes per year up to 2010 as part of their Regional Water Sampling Program. LICA is truly a model of how individuals from the public and local industry can come together and create meaningful information- and education-sharing opportunities.

We have begun writing Lakewatch reports and we hope to have them finished by spring. I'd like to thank those of you who have given us feedback on the structure and readability of the reports. In accordance with your feedback, one improvement we hope to make this year is to make the reports more readable for a non-technical audience. Keep checking our website ([www.ALMS.ca](http://www.ALMS.ca)) for updates and let us know how we can better serve you.

Théo Charette  
ALMS board member

## **MARIE LAKE ECOSYSTEM DISCOVERY DAY – July 24, 2004**

Setting up a large tent on the shore of Marie Lake - some 30 km north of Cold Lake - Théo Charette and Joe Prusak of Alberta Environment, Northern Region, organized the Marie Lake Ecosystem Discovery Day, an event that drew large crowds and even rated front page coverage in the Bonnyville Nouvelle newspaper. "Public interest was tremendous," says Théo, "and so was the support we received."

This was a full-day event, which included interactive activities and information on aquatic invertebrates, algae, water quality, shoreline protection, fish, and even a bird walk. Volunteers on hand included Cal Sikstrom, with Imperial Oil Resources, Neil Michelutti, a research associate with Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta, Francine Forrest (AAFRD), volunteers Tyler

Brekko and Crystal Downey, Alan McIsaac of the Marie Lake Campground Society, Kim Dacyk, (Living by Water), Heather Jones of the Alberta Lake Management Society, Alan Hingston (AENV) and Wes English (SRD).



*The venue: on the shore of Marie Lake.*



*Heather Jones, ALMS Technician, displaying water testing techniques.*



*Francine Forrest, AAFRD, helping a future Limnologist identify Marie Lake algae.*



*Wes English, ASRD, and helpers use a seine net to see what fish can be found.*

Special thanks go to the sponsors: the Marie Lake Air and Watershed Society, Imperial Oil, the Marie Lake Campground Society, and CFB Cold Lake.

The following are pictures taken during the event. Enjoy!

## **SUMMER ENVIRONMENTAL EXCHANGE – APPLY BEFORE FEB 15<sup>th</sup>!**

Join an international non-profit working on watershed conservation, sustainable development, and cultural exchange at two of the most studied lakes in the world: Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia and at Lake Tahoe in California and Nevada!

The Tahoe-Baikal Institute is now accepting applications for its 15th annual Summer Environmental Exchange (SEE). This is a great opportunity for recent college graduates and young professionals interested in environmental, political, and international careers to experience, first-hand, the workings of an international non-profit organization. The 10-week program (5 weeks in America; 5 weeks in Russia) includes training and educational workshops, hands-on internship projects, and cultural exchange.

Please visit the SEE website (<http://www.tahoebaikal.org/projects/exchange>).

## **LET'S GET OUR HANDS WET! Alberta Water Quality Awareness Day, June 5 to 11, 2005**

There is strong support for the first annual Alberta Water Quality Awareness Day. People are ready to roll up their sleeves, get wet, and gain first-hand experience in assessing the health of their watershed. The email survey circulated to ALMS membership in December generated over 140 responses of people and organizations across the province interested in participating in a province-wide water awareness day. Plans are underway to host this event during the week of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the same time as Environment Week.

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How will it work? Anyone interested sampling water in his or her local watershed will be invited to register online to receive a free water quality test kit. The kit will include materials to analyze four basic water quality parameters: pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and water clarity. The registration website will be launched in early March – stay tuned for updates.

Findings from lakes, streams, rivers, coulees, wetlands, reservoirs, irrigation canals and ponds will be collected via an on-line database and reported back as a snapshot of water quality across the province. Groups are encouraged to incorporate sampling as part of another water-related event and to be active in protecting their watersheds.

Funding and support for this program is provided by Alberta Environment, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, EPCOR, ALMS and the Alberta Fish and Game Association.

Sarah Depoe  
Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural  
Development

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## **MOMENTUM BUILDS FOR LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT IN ALBERTA**

Speakers from ALMS's 2004 workshop have initiated the formation of the **Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership (ALIDP)**. The ALIDP is comprised of municipal and provincial governments, provincial agencies, and non-profit agencies with a stake in promoting changes in land development practices so that the degradation of natural environment is prevented or reduced.

The primary goals of ALIDP are to:

- 1) Facilitate the development of Alberta LID strategy to promote changes in land development practices so that:
  - sites will be designed to mimic the natural hydrologic conditions to the extent possible
  - adequate stormwater source controls will be implemented where suitable
  - performance targets for stormwater runoff volume and rate reduction will be achieved

- 2) Coordinate the regulatory, technical and communication aspects of LID implementation
- 3) Develop a public outreach program, continuing education program, and facilitate workshops
- 4) Identify an action plan that will address stakeholder needs and ensure that the stakeholders concerns are addressed on a timely basis
- 5) Develop financial strategies and funding mechanisms, and
- 6) Anticipate future issues related to sustainable development, watershed protection, climate change, etc.

The website for this initiative is not up and running yet but stay tuned. For more information, feel free to give Théo Charette a call at (780) 427-0903 or email at [theocharrette@hotmail.com](mailto:theocharrette@hotmail.com).

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## **UTILITY BILLS AID BACKYARD CREEKS**

**From the Statesman Journal, Salem, Oregon, January 26, 2005**

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For Arnold Goldberg, buying electricity means much more than lighting his home. With every electric bill, Goldberg, 67, is helping native fish, stream banks and water quality in local streams.

Salem Electric's habitat-improvement program allows customers to contribute to local watershed councils by checking a box on their bills. "I love this program," Goldberg said. "I think it is a real responsible thing for a utility. It appeals to me because it is a way that I have of contributing to the environment -- to improving it -- and it is absolutely necessary."

Goldberg is the first customer to sign up under the habitat-improvement program through Salem Electric, a cooperative that serves parts of Salem and Keizer. Donations from customers directly help their local streams. Marion County donations go to the Claggett Creek Watershed Council, and donations from customers in Polk County go to the Glenn-Gibson Watershed Council. "The projects will be done in places that people frequent, like Claggett Creek Park," said Bob Roth, Salem-Keizer watershed coordinator. "So (the money) doesn't go out of sight, out of mind."

Roth said the councils also will use the money to educate residents about their role in maintaining stream health.

Roth said he hopes that many people participate and donate all that they can. "It's important for folks to understand that the quality of the work we can get done is based on community volunteers and our resources," Roth said. "Grants can come and go, but if people contribute, we will have a base. Then we won't be living or dying by the grants."

Salem Electric will provide money to the watershed councils twice a year, and the councils will report annually on their projects. The utility will take 5 percent of the donated funds to cover its administrative costs. "It seemed a natural fit," said Terry Kelly, member-services manager at Salem Electric. "We buy all of our power from Bonneville, and 90 percent of their power is from hydrodams." He said that because dams affect fish, it seemed natural for Salem Electric to help restore fish habitat in the area where it operates. This program is similar to a former program called For the Sake of Salmon. The utility collected \$18,000 in five years from about 100 customers for that program. After that nonprofit closed its doors in February, Salem Electric began its search for a new recipient. "I think this will be more successful than For the Sake of Salmon because we are helping watershed councils in local neighborhoods," Kelly said. "We want our customers to have input in their own watersheds."

For more information on the program, go to [salemelectric.com](http://salemelectric.com)

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## **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Submissions to the editor must be received by **April 15, 2005** to be considered for the Spring 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!

Théo Charette, Editor

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