

BLESS



Big Lake Environment Support Society

P.O. Box 65053, St. Albert, AB T8N 5Y3

Mr. Théo Charette
President, Alberta Lake Management Society
P.O. Box 4283
Edmonton, Alberta
December 11th, 2006

Dear Mr. Charette,

On behalf of the Big Lake Environment Support Society, I wish to thank you and your organization for helping us fulfill our mandate as stewards of Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park. Big Lake is the most significant natural feature of the province's newest park.

The water quality of Big Lake is under threat from nearby urban expansion as well as upstream agricultural and industrial activities. The provincial government last carried out water sampling and testing of Big Lake in the mid 1990s.

The ALMS decision to sample Big Lake this year was opportune for our organization as BLESS purchased equipment this year to develop field test capability for our own organization. This capability will benefit our future water quality monitoring and stewardship efforts for Big Lake.

We appreciate the opportunity to leverage the sampling expertise provided by the person you hired while conducting our own field tests in conjunction with the ALMS sampling. The results of ALMS laboratory testing will be useful in checking the accuracy of the tests we carried out using less sophisticated field equipment.

Stuart Loomis, the principal BLESS volunteer who, along with myself, spent many hours on Big Lake with ALMS staff gathering water samples, also volunteered -- as a member of the Sandy Lake Restoration Society -- to obtain water samples of Sandy Lake for the ALMS Lakewatch program this year. Such synergies developed between stewardship groups are invaluable as they help to build a strong network of informed and experienced volunteers committed to preserving Alberta's valuable water resources.

We believe the ALMS Lakewatch Program contributes significantly to the province's Water for Life strategy and trust the program will enjoy continued funding and expansion in future. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the program this year.

Sincerely,

Dave Burkhart
President, Big Lake Environment Support Society