



Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Association

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To Whom It May Concern:

This is a reference letter of support for the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS).

The Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association is a new volunteer stewardship group concerned with Wizard Lake and its watershed. Wizard Lake is located approximately 60 kilometers southwest of Edmonton, and is a very busy recreational lake, popular for camping, fishing and waterskiing.

Our association was formed, in part, because of water quality concerns, characterized by algal blooms during the summer. One of our first priorities was to quantify the water quality and to establish some base data regarding the lake, which required sampling and testing. Because we are a volunteer community group, we did not have the necessary expertise and funds to proceed.

ALMS had tested Wizard Lake last in 1996, and we were extremely fortunate to be included in their Lakewatch program in 2006. ALMS provided the expertise and equipment for sampling and testing, and we were more than happy to provide the volunteers and boats needed. Once the 2006 data is available, we will know how the lake water quality has changed over the past 10 years. Without this program we would not have been able to do the sampling and testing, and thus determine what we are working with, and make a plan to proceed to improve the water quality of our lake.

Community-based lake stewardship programs are growing in Alberta. For the large part, these are volunteer groups with legitimate concerns, but little money and expertise. Without the assistance of ALMS to provide the expertise needed to help us move forward, improving the quality of our lakes would be severely hampered, and perhaps stalled. It is important to the health of our lakes that ALMS and the Lakewatch program continues to receive funding.

Sincerely,

Laverne Faulkner,
Chair