

## WHAT IS THE LIVING BY WATER PROJECT?

*The Living by Water Project (LbyW)* is a national initiative developed in 1997 by two British Columbia waterfront residents. *LbyWs* a unique, education project designed to help waterfront residents employ environmentally-friendly practices on their property to help maintain shoreline and water health. Since 1999, under the direction of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, *LbyWs* has been operating within the province of Alberta providing information to shoreline residents about the do's and don't's of shoreline living.

## WHAT IS THE HOMESITE CONSULTATION PROGRAM?

The Homesite Consultation Program involves home visits made to waterfront residents by a trained technician. The Technician works with the resident to identify actions to improve environment-friendliness of the home and/or property. The consultation addresses five aspects of shoreline living including: 1) buffer zone; 2) built structures; 3) yard; 4) house; and 5) boating.

## WHY SHOULD THE COMMUNITY GET INVOLVED?

*LbyW* encourages shoreline residents to respect the role shoreline habitats play in the enjoyment of their everyday lives.



Users have a shared responsibility to recognize the potential impacts our activities have on aquatic systems both above and below the high water line. When everyone's property and water-based activities are combined, the result is called "cumulative impacts". Cumulative negative impacts help to accelerate the deterioration of the lake, whereas, cumulative adoption of beneficial practices could go a long way to improve conditions at your lake.

## HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM SAVE YOU MONEY?

By booking a homesite consultation, a Homesite Consultation Technician will provide recommendations as to what alternative actions you can institute on your property which could possibly save you money and increase your property value. By taking small steps to better your own backyard environment, you will in turn

be helping to preserve your piece of paradise.

## INCREASED PROPERTY VALUE STATISTICS:

Researchers at Minnesota's Bemidji State University have shown increases in water clarity can increase property values up to \$423 (US) per foot of lake frontage. This means that preserving the water in your lake can retain or even increase your property value.

## DOES A SITE CONSULTATION COST YOU MONEY?

NO! The *Living By Water Project* is an educational program run by the Federation of Alberta Naturalists - a non-profit, non-government organization. *LbyW* works towards helping landowners' save time and money while preserving the lake's shoreline. FAN does provide tax receipts for donations made to *LbyW*.

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Lakes west of Edmonton have a Homesite Consultation Coordinator who will set up meetings and activities that can help you get involved with your shoreline's environment. Please contact your community's representative to find out what's happening in your community.

TIPS FOR HELPING BETTER YOUR  
LAKE'S ENVIRONMENT.

- Enjoy the natural beauty of shorelines
- Minimize runoff from your property
- Clean up garbage from the shoreline
- Keep pets away from the lake's edge
- Avoid alteration to natural shorelines
- Protect/restore natural plants along the local shoreline
- Minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Wash clothes and shower **away** from the water's edge
- Maintain septic systems
- Use oil absorbing bilge cloths for your boat instead of bilge cleaners
- Practice safe refueling
- Reduce wake by slowing down to 5km/hr within 160 m (500 ft) from shore
- Discourage off highway vehicle use along shorelines

**Federation of Alberta Naturalists**

***Living By Water Project***

11759 Sroat Road  
Edmonton, Alberta T5M 3K6  
Phone (780) 427-8124 Fax  
(780) 422-2663 c/o FAN  
www.fanweb.ca  
www.livingbywater.ca

**Homesite Consultation Technician**

**(780) 427-8124**

**Homesite Consultation Coordinator**

**Barbara Kleespies**  
**(780) 418-0452**

Please phone us if you have any questions/concerns or would like to **book** your homesite consultation



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