



Newsletter

May
2004

Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Group

Who are we?

With water levels at record lows, and concerns about water quality throughout the watershed on the rise, community residents have taken action.

Following a public workshop held in Rich Valley in 2003, representatives of the local agricultural community, cottage and homeowners, business people, and the counties, formed the Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Group to tackle the challenge of improving the watershed.

The LWSG is dedicated to improving, enhancing and protecting the watershed health for all watershed inhabitants, present and future.

To have a meaningful impact, the group will look at the challenges facing the entire watershed, and is looking for practical sustainable solutions that will benefit everyone in this area.

The group meets monthly and is now pulling together detailed information on the watershed. Working with the community, various government depts. and agencies, and other watershed organizations around the province, the group has begun work on the "State of the Watershed Report".

The Watershed Stewardship Group gratefully acknowledges the tremendous support and technical expertise provided by



Lac La Nonne Watershed showing sub-basins

representatives of Alta. Environment, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Cows and Fish and EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd.

We continue to welcome the involvement and participation of any and all who wish to join this initiative and make a positive contribution to the health of the watershed.

State of the Watershed Report

The purpose of this report is to gather all the data available and/or collected in the past regarding the waters in the watershed including Lac La Nonne, Nakamun, Majeau, Tamarach and Kikina Lakes and their inflow creeks. This data, together with historical information provided by long-term residents of the watershed and recent up to date information will be analyzed to:

- Develop a history of the activities and uses of the lands and water within the watershed as well as changes that have occurred in the watershed in the past.
- Determine the current condition/health of the watershed.
- Determine what additional data is required if any to develop a complete

picture of the current condition of the watershed.

- Determine the contributing influences to water quality and quality trends.
- Develop a benchmark by which we are able to monitor the impact of activities within the watershed.
- Determine and promote the adoption of beneficial management practices within the recreational, residential, agricultural and business sectors of the watershed so that a sustainable improvement in the watershed is attainable.

The LWSG realizes this is an undertaking of tremendous proportion and cost. With dedication and hard work, it is hoped in time the quality of water within the watershed will be safe, healthy and long term.

Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Group

Caring for the Green Zone

You've seen them, crossed them, and walked in them; you may even live on one. **Riparian areas** are the green zones around lakes and wetlands, the emerald threads of vegetation that border rivers and streams, and the lush fringe in valleys. If you drink water, farm or ranch, have a lakeside cottage, fish or watch birds, riparian areas are important to you. They make up a small portion of our landscape but are much more important than their small size would indicate.

What do riparian areas do for you?

Riparian areas perform certain functions or benefits for us when they are healthy. They trap, store and slowly release water; buffer the impacts of floods and droughts; filter water - improving water quality; maintain high levels of biodiversity (fish, wildlife and plants); maintain agricultural production (livestock grazing).



Photo courtesy of Cows and Fish

Tools for managing riparian areas:

- Know the current health of your riparian area (stream, floodplain or lake shoreline).
- Investigate the risks to riparian health on your property.
- Work with others in the watershed to showcase local riparian successes: identify and face challenges.

Contact Cows and Fish for more information (780) 674-8262.

Announcements

Please watch for more information on:

Public Information Meeting **June 2004**

Topics: Who is LNWG?, Water Quality Project Update, Nutrient Management, Living in a Watershed

Public Presentation/Outdoor Field Day/Tour **July 2004**

Topic: Visit stream and lake sites to learn more about local stream and lake management and what makes a healthy riparian area.

Cottager Workshop/Outdoor Field Day **August 2004**

(sponsored by Water's Edge Resource Group)

Topic: TBA



One of the water sampling teams on Majeau Creek, April 2004

Lac La Nonne Water Quality Assessment and Improvement Project by the Lac La Nonne Enhancement & Protection Association (LEPA).

During the months of April and May, 2004 teams of trained individuals have been sampling the spring run off in eight different locations within the Lac La Nonne Watershed.

These samples were taken from streams of the sub-basins. (See map on reverse). Samples are submitted to Enviro-Test Laboratories, a certified lab for analysis of nutrients, bacteria and major ions.

The teams were comprised of two members to each team: one member from the recreational sector, and one member from the agricultural sector.

Weather permitting, sampling will continue all summer and into the fall – providing there is enough precipitation.

In addition, Aquality Environmental Consultants will be doing a caffeine test on Lac La Nonne and Lake Nakamun, with initially, twelve sites on Lac La Nonne to be sampled and Aspen Health will be sampling for bacteria.

The data will be forwarded to the Watershed Stewardship Group to add to the State of the Watershed Health Report.

The testing was made possible by funding from: L.E.P.A. and the Community Riparian Program Grant.

Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development and PFRA have provided technical assistance.

Water is our natural heritage – Let's strive to preserve it