



Newsletter

Spring
2005

Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Group

Mandate: "The Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Group exists for the purpose of improving, enhancing and protecting the watershed health for all watershed inhabitants, present and future."

Update: Since the first newsletter went out in May of 2004, encouraging progress has been made on the mandate to improve the health of the Lac La Nonne Watershed.

The State of the Watershed Initiative, a living report on the condition of the watershed using all data past, present and future is well underway.

The LWSG is very happy to report that the Lac La Nonne Enhancement and Protection Assoc. (LEPA) has taken the leadership in sampling the inlet creeks during spring run off and was instrumental in installing a Best Management Practice (BMP) project demonstration on the Walter Kirchner farm.

Sampling for caffeine (indicative of human waste) has been carried out on both Lac La Nonne and Nakamun. Aspen Health tested for bacteria in May 2004. A report on all the findings will be a vital component of the State of the Watershed Initiative.

The Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) has continued with its on-going sampling of Lac La Nonne for clarity, temperature, ion distribution, etc.

More of this activity will continue in 2005 to further enhance the database and give a clear understanding of the watershed.

Tools For Success:

1. Funding is a number one priority. Very little can be accomplished without funds. The LWSG is soliciting local Community Clubs, Government, and Corporate Industry for donations.

2. Government Support – Meetings have been held with both Lac Ste. Council and Barrhead County Council. Both Councils give full support to the Groups' initiatives. Our local MLA, Hon. George Vander Burg endorses any and all endeavors that will further improve the health of the watershed.

The Dept. of Environment, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (PFRA) and Cows and Fish are regular attendees at the monthly meetings as well as eight volunteer stakeholders from within the watershed, a Senior Environmental Planner (EBA) and the two Councillors from Lac Ste. Anne and Barrhead respectively.

3. Communication – it is important that each and every stakeholder within the watershed be kept abreast of all activities and initiatives taking place within the watershed. This is done through meetings, newsletters, and newspaper reports.

4. Education –through meetings, videos, speakers, brochures, tours, and workshops.



Nature At Its Finest –Lac La Nonne 2004

Lac La Nonne Watershed

The State of The Watershed

Water is a God given commodity as precious as the very air we breathe and the ground we walk on. Most everyone is aware of the fact that water quantity and water quality is decreasing very rapidly in all areas of the province.

As we look around us we can see a drastic change in the Lac La Nonne Watershed over the course of the years, in the lakes, streams and creeks. Where once there were creeks, there are no more. Where once the shorelines reached a certain mark, they are now at record lows. The water contains high levels of nutrients encouraging the growth of algae and weeds.

People living on or near a body of water are very aware of the ecological changes taking place. Not all can be rectified, nor does it need to be. This is just nature's way. However, data shows that the lakes are high in nutrient content (hypereutrophic) especially Lac La Nonne.

In 2004, the LWSG embarked on a "State of the Watershed Initiative". The initial focus of the initiative will be the development of a report to help provide local residents with a clear understanding of the historic and current conditions of the watershed, insight into the many issues and opportunities throughout the watershed, and serve as a benchmark against which the effectiveness of future stewardship activities can be assessed. It is hoped the report will become the foundation for future decision-making by all stakeholders in the Lac La Nonne Watershed.

The LWSG is presently seeking funding for the completion of this report.

What Can You and I Do?

Everyone living within the watershed has a stake in the welfare of the watershed. That is why we are called "stakeholders". It behooves each and every one of us to reflect on our daily activities and what we can do to help prolong the productivity of the land and at the same time preserve the delicate areas such as the wetlands, shorelines and creek banks. Not only is the wildlife and this generation of mankind dependent upon the quantity and quality of water, but so too, are the future generations. It takes a lot of time, effort and money to restore something that took very little time, effort and money to destroy.

How are we doing? Are we good stewards of the land? Are we proud of what we are doing? What initiatives/projects can be undertaken to improve, help, enhance or protect our water? Do you have any suggestions or ideas? Have you an example of good stewardship that you would be glad to share with other stakeholders?

Please talk to your neighbours over a cup of coffee and give us your feedback. We welcome your input.

Photo Contest

Got any photos of your farmstead, lakeshore, wild life or family activity –good, bad, or the ugly? Submit them to the address below with your name and a brief description of the snapshot. The top twelve will be picked by a panel of stakeholders and submitted for a calendar. You will be able to see first hand the beauty and works of nature right at your back door. All originals will be returned.

Send your picture(s) with your return address to:

**Photo Contest c/o of LWSG
Site 17, Box 22, RR 1
Gunn, AB T0E 1A0**



Photo Courtesy Ducks Unlimited

Contact: Jeff McCammon -Chairman
Site 17, Box 22, RR 1, Gunn or email laclanonne@shaw.ca

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