



Newsletter

Spring
2006

Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society (LWSS)

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

Remember the Survey of 2003?

Now is your chance to find out what has transpired since then, the progress made addressing your concerns, etc.

As this newsletter goes to print, the LWSS is very pleased to announce that the long awaited "State of the Watershed Report" first draft has been presented to the LWSS. Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. of Edmonton is compiling the report and a presentation event is scheduled for **June 10, 10:00 a.m. Rich Valley Hall** at the AGM of the LWSS. Jay White M.Sc. P.Biol, Principal will be making the presentation. **This meeting is for the public and it provides an opportunity for you to review the report and add your input. Now is your chance – don't miss it!!!** This is a comprehensive, living public document that will serve as a valuable tool for guiding local watershed planning/policy decisions. Financial assistance for the report was received from Alberta Environment (AENV), Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), County of Lac Ste. Anne, Barrhead County #11, S.V. Lake Nakamun, Lac La Nonne Enhancement and Protection Association (LEPA) and the Community Initiative Program (CIP) Grant

Other guest speakers at the AGM will be included to present examples of successful endeavors stakeholders have had in improving water quality. (See insert and agenda.)

1. Farm Water Watch Program (FWW)

This is an "On-farm Site Program" designed to engage landowners within the watershed in the understanding of the impacts their individual activities are having on the water quality on or leaving their property.

The unique part of FWW is that participants play an active role in both the sampling and analysis of surface water quality on their farms. This "active learning" process has proven to be much more effective at motivating individuals to change than indirect educational programs. Collecting samples during peak runoff events and then watching colour changes during the analysis done in your very own kitchen is a powerful educational tool. FWW staff from the Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) will provide on-site support during water analysis to maintain consistency in protocols and to provide guidance in the interpretation of the results. A file of the results and observations is maintained on the farm. All data collected is the property of the participant and is strictly confidential. Participants will have

the opportunity to sample up to 8 locations on their farm over 4 separate runoff events per year.

By providing a simple, easy to use test kit, agriculture producers will be able to test their surface water, enabling them to make appropriate changes to their operation aimed at improving their surface water quality. For information contact: Dave Johnson with the AFGA at 780-437-2343.

2. Home Site Consultation Program

Continuing again for the summer of 2006, individuals owning property on a lake shore or near a lakeshore can take part in the Home Site Consultation Program. Sponsored by the Federation of Alberta Naturalists (FAN) and partnering with the Sandy Lake Restoration Society and the Barrhead Southside Greenhouse, this program is designed to assist in employing environmentally friendly practices on the property to help maintain a healthy shoreline and water health. A trained technician provides consultation in the strictest confidence to the landowner.

Participants will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate for a complimentary shrub, 'riparian plant' leaflet, and an evaluation sheet of suggestions to implement on their property as time and finances dictate. For further information please contact the Coordinator: Jerry Wispinski at 967-2200

3. Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Program (AEFP)

The LWSS sponsored two workshops in the Rich Valley area over the course of the 2005/06 winter. The workshops are usually four hours in duration involving two sessions on different dates. Producers partaking are given a manual with which they can assess their own practices of good management, and identify where environmental changes can be made. It is a comprehensive yet confidential planning process that helps producers make a thorough environmental risk assessment. Once plans are completed and reviewed, producers can apply for assistance through the Canada/Alberta Farm Stewardship Program to receive up to \$30,000.00 in cost-shared financial assistance to implement many of the recommended improvements.

For more information on the EFP process contact the AEFP office in Edmonton at 1-866-844-2337 or visit the website at: www.albertaEFP.com. The local EFP contact in the Lac La Nonne area is Cindy Galliford of Onoway at 780-967-0094. LWSS people to contact: Ed Petrie at 780- 967-5639 or Stan DeZaeyer at 780- 674-4040

Lac La Nonne
Watershed
Stewardship
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4. On-Farm Beneficial Management Practices

Excellent examples of Beneficial Management Practices have been established in the area over the past two years. The Lac La Nonne Enhancement and Protection Association (LEPA) with financial assistance from the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) Grant have demonstrated two Alternative Watering Sources. One example is on the Walter Kirchner Farm using solar power/shallow well method and the other is on the John Wood Farm using a dug-out and a year round motion activated solar powered pump. In both instances, riparian areas were fenced off to keep livestock out during critical times for riparian health. Financial and 'in-kind' assistance was given for both sites.

A third Alternative Watering Source using a windmill and storage tank will be erected the summer of 2006 located on the Stan DeZaeyer property southeast of Lac La Nonne. Financial and 'in-kind' assistance will be provided by the LWSS and LEPA through various grants.

Anyone interested in discussing Beneficial Management Practices, including alternative watering systems may contact the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) at #204-10619-100th Ave. Westlock, phone 780-349-3963 or fax 780-349-6186.

Photo Contest

The photo submissions for 2005 were well received. They were integrated into a 2006 calendar and became a successful fund- raiser for the LWSS. As a result, we are asking again for one and all to submit your favourite photo(s) from local areas and the twelve best will be printed for the 2007 calendar.

DEADLINE IS: **JUNE 30, 2006**

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

**LWSS Photo Contest
Site 17 Box 22 RR 1
Gunn, AB T0E 1A0**

Contact:

Jeff McCammon -President

Site 17 Box 22 RR 1, Gunn AB T0E 1A0

or email laclacnonne@shaw.ca



News from Lac La Nonne Enhancement & Protection Association

Contact: Harvey Thompson – President 780-967-4008

The Lac La Nonne Water Quality Assessment and Improvement Project

Funding by LEPA and the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund (CARD) - the Agriculture & Food Council "The Catalyst".

1. Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program

The second year of the water quality assessment of streams in the watershed was completed with assistance from AAFRD and AAFC-PFRA and LWSS.

Teams of volunteers consisting of agricultural and recreational residents collected samples of the 2005 spring run-off at eight designated sites within the watershed. The water sample analysis tested for nutrients, fecal matter (E-coli), sediment, pesticides and major ions. Flow monitoring was done measuring and recording water flow at each test location each testing day. Contact LEPA for results.

2. Lake Caffeine Study:

Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. And volunteers again tested Lac La Nonne and Majeau Creek for the presence of caffeine. Caffeine is an excellent indicator of human waste present in the water. Results were negative.

3. Beneficial Management Project (BMP)

A second BMP Project is nearing completion on the farm of John and Norma Wood on Majeau Creek Two riparian area were fenced to keep livestock out during critical periods in the spring and allowing for re-growth of willow and natural grasses. An 80 ft. x 200 ft x 18 ft. deep dugout was excavated to provide an alternate watering source allowing for a 3-year supply to serve a 60 cow-calf operation.

The water is drawn out of the dugout by a solar powered motion controlled winter watering system emptying into a water bowl whenever an animal approaches for watering. LEPA and the landowner provided volunteer labour. Shuurman Dragline & Backhoe Services Ltd provided construction of the dug out. Jason Vanrobaeys and Perry Sawchuk (PFRA) and Kerri O'Shaughnessy (Cows and Fish) provided technical assistance. Funding was provided by the CARD grant and LEPA.

"On the Living Edge" Books

Through a generous donation by Sheila and Alf Otto, LEPA presented free copies of the "On the Living Edge" books to Lac La Nonne property owners during the 2005 annual membership drive. The Federation of Alberta Naturalists (FAN) developed this guide for waterfront living.

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