



Newsletter

Spring
2010

Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society

www.laclanonnewatershed.com

Phone: 780-436-8280 Email: laclanonne@shaw.ca

Vice-Chairman's Message: What's In It For Me, and You?

I vividly remember a Saturday back in 2003 when myself and about 60 other interested individuals met in Rich Valley to discuss our lakes and watershed. I recall that we expressed concerns about water quality in our lakes, land use practices in surrounding agricultural areas, and shoreline practices of cottagers. Shortly after that meeting, the LWSS was born and a small number of volunteers stepped forward to undertake several projects and initiatives to better understand and address these concerns. We are proud of the many accomplishments of the LWSS and believe that we have made a difference and a positive influence within our home watershed. Further, we believe that we have gained significant profile and relevance beyond our own backyard such that we can contribute to public policy discussion on land and water use in Alberta. Today, however, our biggest challenge is capacity to sustain our efforts into the future. We want to continue with the outreach activities that many of you are aware of (newsletters, information/feedback sessions; physical best management practice projects; and research such as the iron remediation study on Nakamun). We also want to try NEW things. All if this takes time and effort! To this end, we need more active participation - a few hours a month is all that is required. Personally, I have felt and continue to feel that I've made a small difference through my volunteer effort and so can you if you are willing to get involved! Please contact us through the website, call us, or attend one of our monthly meetings to discover how you can contribute to the future of the LWSS. You too can make a difference for the lake and lands you love! *Dwayne Willmer*

INITIATIVES

Watershed Youth Education: This spring the LWSS will host its third annual Wetland Education and Watershed Awareness Day. Grade 5 students from Dunstable and Rich Valley Schools will make their way through four stations intended to meet various objectives of the of the Grade 5 science curriculum (Wetland Ecology) and promote general watershed awareness and appreciation. The LWSS will be working in partnership with the West Central Conservation Group, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Environment, County of Barrhead, Cows and Fish, and Lac Ste. Anne County to deliver the event. Photo credit: Craig Wallace.



Watershed Calendar: Thank you to those dedicated photographers who submitted photos for the 2010 LWSS Calendar Photo Contest. Unfortunately, we were unable to produce a calendar for the current year. Those that sent in photos will receive an Environmental Stewardship Calendar in recognition of their efforts. Photos that were submitted will be eligible for the 2011 contest. We hope that someone will step up and lead this project for 2011.

Upcoming Events

"Lakes: The Naked Truth" **FREE**
Saturday March 27, 2010 12:00-6pm Mayfield Inn and Conference Center, Edmonton, AB. Come and hear talks and visit with us, Gov't & other lake groups. Held in conjunction with the Edmonton Outdoor Show running March 25-28 at the Mayfield Trade Center.

"Watershed Update" **FREE**
Saturday June 5, 2010 Location to be announced but it will be within the Lac La Nonne Watershed Boundaries. Watch the website for further details.

Riparian (Lakeshore) Health Project: Summer 2009 completes the inventory of health and condition of the riparian areas around our three main lakes. All of the final reports are available on our website and results presentations will follow in the watershed. Cows and Fish wishes to thank all of the property owners who worked with their staff over the past two years.

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."

Lac La Nonne Watershed

Feature Focus – Our Counties



Reducing Herbicide Use in Our Vegetation Management Program (VMP)

Just like many local landowners, Lac Ste. Anne County must maintain weed control on both County owned land and roadsides under the Provincial Weed Control Act. Also, we control the amount of brush in the roadsides to reduce the cost of road maintenance, and provide safe corridors for our residents. Trees and brush reduce the visibility at intersections, hide wildlife, and increase the costs of grading and graveling roadways.

Through new technology and new products available we hope to minimize the amount of herbicide used throughout the municipality while still maintaining good results. Some older products (which are still a useful tool) have use rates as high as 7L/hectare while newer products have use rates as low as 0.5L/Ha and can still control the same species. This rate reduction along with the use of mechanical control methods such as mowing and brushing all combine to make an improved integrated vegetation control management program. Our vegetation control equipment has GPS technology to help us monitor our herbicide use and track our progress in weed and brush control.

We try to use many tools in the toolbox available to help us control weeds and brush and help reduce costs of maintenance to our ratepayers, all with an effort to help reduce our impact on the environment.

For more information about the VMP or other Agricultural Service Board programs contact *Geoff Thompson, Agricultural Services Manager – Lac Ste. Anne County* at gthompson@gov.lacsteanne.ab.ca or call Toll Free 1-866-880-5722.



Working to Move Conservation Forward in our Communities

The County of Barrhead Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Management Plan has included a conservation program since 1989. This program involves advising all rate payers on a number of techniques that are environmentally friendly. Through this plan the County of Barrhead has land set aside that has been designated to be left as natural area.

For landowners we have a tax incentive program to maintain riparian areas and woodlots in their natural states. The County of Barrhead has two trained staff to carry out workshops for farmers to complete their Environmental Farm Plans. We have sponsored several workshops, research plots and seminars related to riparian improvements, on-farm watering systems, no till crop management, integrated pest management, energy efficiency, water well, nutrient management plans and pasture rejuvenation.

Our Agricultural Service Board has been a member of or involved with a number of groups to move forward with conservation ideas. These groups are local, regional and provincial in scope. We work with them on demonstrations, workshops and educational materials on a variety of topics such as riparian improvement, cows and cottages, and children's tours.

Our short term future plans are to increase training in integrated pest management and energy efficiency and to develop demonstrations in these two areas. We will also be working long term with all ratepayers to improve our water quality. We are always open to suggestions so please bring your ideas forward. For more information on any ASB programs contact Marilyn Flock at marilyn@phrd.ab.ca or Kyle Meunier at kmeunier@phrd.ab.ca or 780-674-3331 (County of Barrhead).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **2011 Calendar Photo Contest – Deadline June 30/2010**

Please submit photos digitally to laclanonne@shaw.ca

- ❖ 3rd Annual Golf Tournament – August 2010
- ❖ LWSS Annual General Meeting – June 2010

Call for Volunteers

The LWSS needs people for:

Position – Secretary

Project Champions:

Newsletter

Photo Contest and Calendar

Golf Tournament & BBQ

Call Dwayne at 780-940-0942 to put your name forward & for more info.

Who's Who in the LWSS

Chairperson – Jeff McCammon (Lac La Nonne)
Vice Chairperson – Dwayne Willmer (Nakamun Lake)

Treasurer – Bryan McCammon
Secretary – Vacant

Councillors: County of Barrhead - Marcel Gauthier
Lac Ste. Anne County - Michael Dickie

Some of our Stakeholders: County of Barrhead, Lac Ste. Anne County, Lac La Nonne Enhancement and Protection Association, Camp Nakamun, Summer Village of Nakamun Park, farmers, lake residents & visitors. *Thanks to the Lakeside Seniors Recreation Club for hosting our monthly meetings.*

Technical Advisory Committee: Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch (formerly PFRA),

Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society - Cows and Fish, West Central Conservation Group *Research Partner:* University of Alberta

Printing thanks to



Watershed Stewardship Grant &



Alberta Lottery Fund

Community Initiatives Program

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