



L.W.S.S.

Newsletter

Spring
2011

Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society

www.laclanonnewatershed.com

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

Chairman's Message: *It's something worth making time for*

A brand new season is upon us again. A new season also brings new opportunities and a reason to reflect on past successes (and challenges)! Over the last few years it has been both a pleasure and a rewarding experience to be involved with the community here through the Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society ("LWSS"). We have been recognized as a solid prospering stewardship society by provincial, federal, municipal governments, agencies and most importantly our peers in other stewardship groups throughout Alberta! When asked to present our story, it is then that I realize the significant impact (locally and province wide) of our many accomplishments! Our efforts have largely covered three thrusts - education and raising awareness about issues and governance; devising/delivering on the ground programs such as the Living By Water Home Site Consultation Program and Wetland Education Days for Grade 5 students and adults alike; and finally following the government acts/strategies/legislation in relation to stewardship. With the Government of Alberta responsibilities and resources in regard to lake environments stretched so thin, the province has chosen to work with communities rising to the local challenges and organizing into recognized stewardship groups such as ours.

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INITIATIVES & EVENTS

WEED OF THE MONTH

We hope that you have been following the monthly articles on the website (www.laclanonnewatershed.com) and becoming acquainted with identification and management advice for some of the more problematic weeds in the riparian and upland areas of our watershed. The articles are generally posted near the beginning of the month and we have undertaken to share this information with other watershed groups and folks interested in how to best manage noxious weeds. We extend our thanks to the Agricultural Fieldmen from both the Counties of Barrhead and Lac Ste. Anne; Cows and Fish; and Agriculture Canada, for their collaboration and leadership on this project.

In addition to the monthly articles, we are planning a Community Weed Education Day for this summer. We are thrilled to have the Counties, Cows and Fish, and Alberta Invasive Plant Council join us for this event which will provide you with a hands-on demonstration and information and advice on identification and managing problematic weeds.

Community Weed Education Day Sunday July 17, 2011 at 11:00am. Join us at S.V. Nakamun Park Boat Launch (south side Nakamun Lake) ***EVERYONE WELCOME***

Grade 5 Wetland Education Day Tuesday June 7, 2011 at Lac La Nonne for students from Dunstable & Rich Valley

LWSS Annual General Meeting Monday June 20, 2011 6:30 pm Lakeside Recreation Club, Lac La Nonne (more on page 3)

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ
Tentatively set for Saturday August 5, 2011
Check the website for details in near future.

Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) LAKEWATCH Water Quality Sampling – Summer 2011

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Lac La Nonne Watershed

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."

***Iron Remediation Study* Phase 3**

Project Overview As most of you know, a team of researchers at the University of Alberta has been evaluating the use of iron chloride as a means of reducing phosphorus concentrations in water bodies. So far the group has studied the process at a small scale by isolating small columns of water in *Nakamun Lake*. Now, together with the Agri-Environment Services Branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the team is evaluating the processes at a larger scale – in typical *agricultural dugouts*. This component will be the first step towards assessing the potential for whole-lake treatments, but it will also test whether the iron treatment technology is a good alternative to other methods for managing phosphorus in agricultural dugouts. In total **24** dugouts are being monitored as part of the study. Twelve dugouts will act as controls (no iron chloride treatments), and twelve dugouts will act as treatment sites. All dugouts will be monitored for one year prior to treatment (2010), and then for one year after treatment (2011).

Why manage phosphorus concentrations in dugouts?

Agricultural dugouts are often plagued by algae blooms. These blooms have the potential to produce potent toxins and to plug irrigation and spray equipment. Phosphorus contributes to algae growth. Therefore, by reducing phosphorus concentrations in the dugout, it may be possible to reduce the frequency and severity of algal blooms.

What is being measured in the dugouts? The study is measuring a number of water quality parameters but some of the key ones include phosphorus, chlorophyll a (an indicator of how much algae exists), and the types of algae that are present.

When will the dugouts be treated and which dugouts will be treated? The iron chloride will be added to the dugouts in late May or early June 2011. Some analyses are still required before we can choose which dugouts will be the controls and which will have the treatments. If a dugout is one that we think should be treated the research team will contact the landowner to confirm that it will be okay to use that dugout as a treatment site.



Where can I get more information? Please contact Sharon Reedyk (780) 495-5965 or Penny Stephani (780) 349-8455 for more information.
Article courtesy of AAFC-AESB.

2012 Watershed Calendar Photo Contest

Ahhh... life at the lake and around the watershed – what does that mean to you or your kids? Here's an opportunity to showcase how your family feels about the outdoors and being close to nature - enter our 4th calendar photo contest with images that you have taken the time to capture.

There will be prizes and the winning photos will be used in the 2012 calendar. The calendars are sold to raise funds for watershed projects.

Deadline for photo submission is July 15, 2011.

Send photos by email to pvcvg@telus.net and ensure to include your name, address, phone number and a caption or description if you wish.

LWSS Annual General Meeting



Monday, June 20, 2011

6:30pm

Lac La Nonne Lakeside Recreation Club House

Turn east on TR 575 from Highway 33 and follow the road to the lake

Board Elections - Project Updates - Future Initiatives

Guest Speaker: Connie Simmons, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Athabasca Watershed Council

“The Athabasca – impacts, issues and the power of stewardship”

County Council



Update



The LWSS wishes to thank Councillor Michael Dickie (Lac Ste. Anne) and Marcel Gauthier (Barrhead) for their past participation with our group. Their respective representations and contributions to the LWSS have been valuable to our on-going activities and agenda and we continue to value the Counties as a Major Stakeholder in our on-going and future mission. As both Michael and Marcel have now moved on to other challenges, we are pleased to recognize the representation now from Councillors Wayne Borle (Div. 3, Lac Ste. Anne), Bob Clark (Div. 2, Lac Ste. Anne), and Doug Drozd (Div. 1, Barrhead). We are looking forward to their contributions in growing the relationship among all stakeholders in the Watershed. As recently noted by Wayne Borle, "Lac Ste. Anne county Agricultural Service Board appreciates the proactive approach in dealing with environmental initiatives and awareness for the Lac La Nonne Watershed Stewardship Society. The County knows that there are issues and concerns for fresh water in the future. We are fortunate that we have a group such as yours in our community that is working to protect and conserve this precious resource that we all need."

Stakeholder Corner:

Lac La Nonne Enhancement & Protection Association



We continue to be active in the community and watershed. Join us for our:

- *AGM* on June 25 at 10:00 a.m. at Camp Encounter
- *Annual Boat Regalia* schedule for August 20
- *Annual Silent Auction* September 17 at the AG Center (arena) in Rich Valley

For more information on these upcoming events and update on the revisiting the Agriculture BMP projects in collaboration with Cows & Fish go to our website at www.lepa-ab.com.

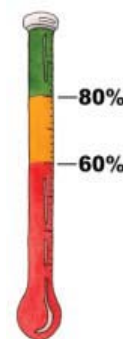
Agriculture BMP Riparian Health Check-Up

By Cows and Fish

It has been five years since the first agriculture beneficial management practice (BMP) projects were set up in the Lac La Nonne watershed. On these projects a change in the timing of livestock grazing in stream floodplain (riparian) pastures was made in 2005 along with creation of alternative watering systems in order to “take the pressure off the creek”. In the first year, the baseline data told us that the riparian areas had some issues with respect to filtering runoff and storing water underground – both important functions for intermittent streams that feed Alberta lakes. In 2010, Cows and Fish went back to these projects to check on the riparian

health after five years. The results are interesting and will be presented June 25 at LEPA AGM:

Project #1 (Kirchner): slight improvement within the **healthy but with problems** category. Project #2 (Woods): improved from **healthy but with problems** to **healthy** category. Project #3 (DeZaeyer): will be revisited this summer (2011).



Financial support for the BMP revisit provided by LEPA and RBC Blue Water Project Fund.

Chairman's Message ...continued from page 1

In addition to on the ground projects and community education/ awareness building, another critical element to our efforts is Watershed Management Planning. There are many resources available in both funding and expert assistance to organized community groups following the path laid out by various levels of our government. The first step for such support is the completion of a State of the Watershed Report, and as I hope you know, we are Alberta's first grass roots stewardship society to complete such a Report in 2006! In fact Alberta Environment developed a framework from staff experience with our group in the creation of our report. We have worked with numerous partners over the past several years to fill many of the data gaps identified for our watershed and it's time to embark on an update of this document which is integral in the provincial strategy for developing solutions to water clarity/quantity and overall watershed health for future generations.

You will all be glad to hear that we have once again joined up with some professional help to bring all the segments and stakeholders together for the Update of our State of The Watershed report and continue towards the next step – a Watershed Management Plan. It is absolutely critical to engage all counties and summer villages with the local community in this regard. Via leadership from Cows and Fish and Water Matters, The Royal Bank of Canada issued a grant to move this strategy forward! Both Counties and summer villages have expressed desire to be at the table working as primary stakeholders in this initiative!

I'm very pleased to witness this next great step for the LWSS and the community at large. I am also very sad and disheartened to advise it's time for me to move on. I have a number of professional, family and personal issues requiring more care and attention than I presently have. I have been a large supporter (and will always continue to be) of the group's efforts and successes. I have been with the group since its beginning and I have expanded my personal knowledge of local issues to the extent that I feel the purpose of LWSS is very much in line with my own new found sense of environmental values. I am resigning following this years' AGM after our new Board of community stakeholders whom are elected to take the group forward have settled into their positions. With so much support from the various levels of government and the positive momentum the LWSS is heading in, it's critical to get further community involvement. Please consider your involvement over the upcoming year and attend the AGM.

Sincerely, Jeff McCammon

Who's Who in the LWSS

Call Dwayne at 780-458-8926 for more info on LWSS, initiatives & events

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

Treasurer – Bryan McCammon
Secretary – Vacant

Councillors: County of Barrhead – Doug Drozd
Lac Ste. Anne County – Wayne Borle and Bob Clark

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, Summer Village of Birch Cove, farmers, lake residents & visitors. *Thanks to the Lakeside Recreation Club for hosting our monthly meetings.*

Technical Advisory Committee: Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Agri-Environment Services Branch (formerly known as PFRA), Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society - Cows and Fish, West Central Conservation Group *Research Partner:* University of Alberta

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