

Lakescape

newsletter of the



WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Box 1005, Wabamun, Alberta, T0E 2K0

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Summer 2018

Shoreline Restoration Workshop

As a result of the January 2, 2018 ice heave that caused significant damage to shoreline properties on Wabamun Lake, the WWMC organized a Shoreline Restoration Workshop on May 11 and 12, featuring David Polster of Polster Environmental Services Ltd.

Fifty people attended the classroom session on Friday at the Seba Beach Seniors Centre to hear Dave discuss the theory and practice of restoring disturbed areas using natural processes and native vegetation. Most of the participants owned property on Wabamun Lake but a few came from other lakes in central Alberta. Dave showed many examples of successful projects from across the country.

Early Saturday morning, about 20 people showed up to gather willow, dogwood and balsam poplar cuttings. These were then taken to the shoreline property of Pat and Leslie Taylor who graciously offered their property as a demonstration site.

There, with Dave's instruction and guidance, everyone pitched in to plant the cuttings to stabilize the Taylor's shoreline and prevent further damage. They also constructed a wattle fence with the willow cuttings to prevent erosion from wave action. We thank all who participated and trust you'll put your new knowledge to good use.



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The Taylor shoreline 7 weeks after the workshop. The deeply planted willow stakes have sprouted and are rapidly growing roots, helping stabilize the shore.

Workshop Manual for Sale

Many shoreline owners and others could not make the workshop but were interested in purchasing the manual that was used, *Natural Processes: Restoration of Drastically Disturbed Sites* by David Polster. Dave gave us permission to reprint the manual and sell them at cost. We reprinted 20 copies and are selling each copy for \$30. If you wish your copy mailed to you, the price is \$45. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please send a cheque to the WWMC (address at top of this newsletter) or contact us at info@wwmc.ca for more information.

Fertilizer Bylaws

The WWMC congratulates the summer villages of Seba Beach, Lakeview and Betula Beach for passing bylaws that restrict the use of fertilizers and herbicides in their communities. Specifically, the bylaws prohibit the use of fertilizers other than natural compost, and prohibit the use of herbicides except for the control of noxious weeds as defined by

the Weed Control Act. Complying with these bylaws will go a long way to helping prevent cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) blooms and other issues with the health of Wabamun Lake. We understand that other summer villages and the Village of Wabamun are considering similar bylaws and encourage their adoption.

Lake Water Level

After the ice heave and during the restoration workshop there was much discussion about the role the high lake level played in the shoreline destruction. In his presentation at our April 18 meeting, Laurence Andriashek of the Alberta Geological Survey mentioned that the high lake level might have had a minor effect on the ice heave, but the lack of snow depth on the lake ice, followed by the rapid increase in temperature, was the chief cause of the heave. However, people remain concerned about the lake level and its effect on wave action eroding shoreline. As discussed during the restoration workshop, the best defence against wave erosion is a shoreline reinforced by natural vegetation.

We have updated our lake level page on the WWMC website: <http://www.wwmc.ca> (go to Watershed Information). There you can learn about the history and height of the weir at Wabamun Creek, the relative effects of the various factors that affect lake level, including precipitation,

evaporation, TransAlta replacing runoff water, Wabamun Creek and ground water. You can also learn when the lake water level was at its lowest and highest, as well as its current level.



The weir at Wabamun Creek in early April 2018

Love Your Lake

Back in 2016, Nature Alberta started the Love Your Lake project on Wabamun Lake. In 2016, 600 shoreline assessments were done from the water for Parkland County properties around the lake. In 2017, 336 assessments were done in several of the summer villages. If you have had one of these assessments you should receive a letter explaining how to access your personalized property report. These reports can be found at www.loveyourlake.ca.

There is funding available from Nature Alberta to improve your shoreline and help keep the lake healthy. Go to <http://naturealberta.ca/programs/living-by-water/> for more information.

Corporate Members

The WWMC thanks the following businesses, governments and organizations for partnering with the WWMC as corporate members and helping the council achieve its goals.



**Camp Oselia Society, Dairy Queen, Falher Drugs, Seba Beach Ice Cream Stop
Summer Village of Betula Beach, Summer Village of Point Allison, Wabamun & District Lions Club**

If you own or represent a business or organization that is concerned about Wabamun Lake and would be willing to help maintain its health, become a corporate member of the WWMC for just \$100 a year (go to Get Involved at www.wwmc.ca). Corporate members will be acknowledged at WWMC functions, in each newsletter and on the website. For more information contact Neil Fleming by e-mail, fleming.neil@outlook.com or telephone, 780-953-6345.

If you are already a corporate member and would like to see your logo here and on the WWMC website, please send a digital copy to Don Meredith at wwmc@donmeredith.ca