

NEWS **You** **Can Use!** **- Fall 2009**

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WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Summer Activities 2009

Homesite Consultations

As part of its Nutrient Reduction Strategy to keep Wabamun Lake clean and healthy, the WWMC continued its Homesite Consultation program this summer at Moonlight Bay and Kapasiwin. Owners of 22 shoreline properties volunteered to have a consultant evaluate their sites in terms of improvements that could be made to reduce nutrients going to the lake. Each owner received a confidential report that recommended voluntary actions the owner can make to improve the health of the lake and increase property value.

The program is based on the premise that change to improve the environment must begin at home. By evaluating how lakeside property owners impact the lake, they become aware how small positive changes can improve lake health.

The program is sponsored by the WWMC, the Federation of Alberta Naturalists and the Alberta Conservation Team. The WWMC plans to continue the program in the summer of 2010.

Watershed Management Plan

The Council is continuing its development of a management plan for the Wabamun watershed. It has been reviewing the original watershed management plan *Lake Wabamun Management Plan: 1985* (view at www.wwmc.ca under "Watershed Information - Studies and Reports") which it plans to use as a base for a new plan. Once the Council has developed a draft plan, they will take it to the broader community for review and discussion.

Shoreline Naturalization Workshop

As a result of the homesite consultations the WWMC sponsored at Seba Beach in 2008, council member Kelly Aldridge hosted a shoreline naturalization workshop for his neighbors at Seba Beach last August. Volunteer consultant, Sheldon Helbert, led the discussion with a presentation about the importance of shoreline vegetation to the health of the lake, the tools required to do a restoration, how soil should be stabilized, and how to use native plants. This was followed by a discussion of where and how to get permits from the various levels of government, how to ensure you retain the recreation value of your property, and how to keep your neighbors happy with the project. This information will be posted on the WWMC web site.



Kelly Aldridge and Sheldon Helbert address workshop in Seba Beach.

What can you do?

Stay informed about the work of the WWMC by visiting our web site at www.wwmc.ca.

Ask to be put on the WWMC mailing list by emailing info@wwmc.ca or using the form on the web site.

Volunteer to help with WWMC education and awareness programs in the watershed.

