

Summer 2014

"News You Can Use"

Mailing Address:

WWMC
Box 1005
Wabamun, Alberta
T0E 2K0

Web Site:

www.wwmc.ca

Email:

info@wwmc.ca

Telephone:

780-487-0828

Meetings

3rd Wednesday of each
month, 6:30 p.m.
Contact WWMC for
venue.

To 'Like' WWMC on
Facebook

or

'Follow' WWMC on
Twitter, go to

www.wwmc.ca and
scroll to the bottom

Lakescape

newsletter of the



WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

County Selects Stantec to Help Develop Wabamun Land-Use Plan

Parkland County is moving ahead with its program to develop land-use plans for the county's recreational lakes. On September 11th, the county announced that it had selected Stantec Consulting to help develop the plan for the land around Wabamun Lake (<http://bit.ly/1wirDmi>). As stated in the release, "Throughout the project Stantec Consulting will be working closely with Parkland County, its regional partners and the Technical Advisory Committee comprising of the Province of Alberta, the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance and the **Wabamun Watershed Management Council**. The project is slated to begin October of this year and to be completed by late spring of 2016."

Council Update

by Stan Franklin, WWMC Chair

A lot has been happening this summer both on and off the lake with regard to the council. The following is a brief summary of just some of those activities:

Riparian Assessment Project

The Aquality State of the Watershed report (published last summer) identified certain information gaps in the various studies of Lake Wabamun. A detailed and up-to-date mapping and interpretation of the shoreline/riparian area of the lake was one of these gaps. The project was undertaken in partnership with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance. The WWMC secured grant funding of \$10,000 for the project from the Alberta Land Stewardship Centre.

The first phase of the project was completed in late August. This consisted of high resolution photography of the riparian area taken by a camera mounted on a drone or unmanned aerial vehicle. The drone flights were supported by boats operated by WWMC volunteers. The entire shoreline was photographed except for a portion of the east shore where rock shoals prevented the controller in the boat from maintaining contact with the drone. Interpretation of the images by NSWA will begin in early September. Interim results will be provided to Parkland County for use in its Lake Wabamun Watershed Land Use Planning project which is currently underway.



View of Seba Beach from drone

Board of Directors

Chair: Stan Franklin,
Sundance Meadows

Vice Chair: Dan Saunders,
Boating Community

Secretary: Jack Latham,
Whitewood Sands

Treasurer: Neil Fleming,
Seba Beach

Past Chair: Kelly Aldridge,
Seba Beach

Directors:

Paul Cardinal, Member at Large
Larry Duchesne, Member at Large

Randall Heil, Wabamun Home Hardware

Stan Kobylko, Camp Oselia

John McNab, Parkland County

Don Meredith, Stony Plain Fish & Game Association

Dave Mussell, Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development

Ken Petruk, Member at Large

Nicole Richardson, Pineridge Golf Resort

Charlene Smylie, Village of Wabamun



Natural Shoreline along Paul Reserve



Cleared shoreline



House with natural shoreline

Lakescape is a publication of the Wabamun Watershed Management Council. It is published up to four times a year for the benefit of council members as well as other stakeholders in the Wabamun watershed. All material is copyright the WWMC, unless otherwise specified.

Volume 4, No. 2.

[Note: There was no winter issue of *Lakescape* in 2014]

Editor: Don Meredith
(wwmc@donmeredith.ca)

Submissions

Lakescape welcomes contributions from WWMC members and others who wish to inform members about issues or events in the Wabamun area. Please keep submissions brief and to the point. All submissions are subject to editing for length and clarity. For more information, contact the editor: Don Meredith
wwmc@donmeredith.ca

Deadline for the fall edition is November 15, 2014.

Emergency Response Services

Emergencies or distress events that occur on lakes within Parkland County fall under the jurisdiction of Parkland County. The county has on call emergency responders who, among other skills, are trained to deal with on-water emergencies or distress. The county has a Zodiac stationed in the Summer Village of Seba Beach and a Boston Whaler, Zodiac and Sea Doo in the Village of Wabamun. Rescue boats are also stationed in Devon and Stony Plain.

The proper course to follow in the event of an on-water emergency is to call 911. The operator will assess the situation and deploy appropriate resources. If the circumstances warrant or require the involvement of the RCMP, that will be a decision for the 911 operator or those to whom the operator reports.

WWMC Funding and Memberships

You receive this newsletter free-of-charge because you are on a list of people who have indicated they wish to obtain information from the Wabamun Watershed Management Council. The WWMC is a registered not-for-profit (non-charitable) organization totally run by volunteers. We raise funds for specific projects by applying for grants, etc. There is no specific funding for on-going administrative expenses such as printing, website maintenance, etc.

You can help the WWMC by becoming a member for \$25 (go to www.wwmc.ca, and click on Get Involved). A membership entitles the member to vote at the AGM and help direct the council's activities. The WWMC also accepts donations. The Board requests that those interested in the watershed consider either buying a membership or making a donation. Thank you.

Putting Your Watershed Lawn to Bed for the Winter

[Editor's Note: the following was first published in the August 31 Pigeon Lake Watershed Association newsletter and is reprinted here with the permission of the PLWA (www.plwa.ca).]

With autumn nearly upon us and winter rapidly approaching, anyone who likes a healthy lawn needs to do a few things to prepare your lawn to winter well. Many homeowners think lawns need less care in the fall because the grass grows more slowly. In fact, just the opposite is true. During this time of year, grass is busily absorbing energy, moisture, and nutrients in preparation for a long, dormant winter.

Remember the key to having a "healthy-lake" lawn are the "healthy-lake" lawn maintenance practices which promote the health of the soil.

Read on for what to do in the fall and know that there is more information gathered for our watershed residents on the PLWA website: <http://www.plwa.ca/pages/healthy-lake-lawn-care>

1. Mowing

Mow your lawn, as needed, throughout the fall remembering to let the grass clippings go onto the lawn and never taking more than 1/3 of the height of the grass at a time. Then as the season draws to a close, drop the mower's blade to its lowest setting for the last two cuttings of the year. That will allow more sunlight to reach the crown of the grass.

2. Mower maintenance

Your mower blades should be kept sharp to reduce damage to the grass. Sharpening the blades and cleaning the mower reduces the possibility of introducing disease to the lawn. This should be done once a year. Some people like to do this in the fall before it is put away for the winter and ready to go in the spring.

3. Fall Lawn Care

Air and water are important factors in the promotion of healthy roots, firmly compacted soil means the soil will be low in both. Provide air to your lawn soil by aerating spring and fall. A manual aerator, even a pitchfork will do.

Ideally the weather will cooperate and water lawns with the optimum 2.5 cm or 1 inch of water once a week. The limited watering promotes deep roots.

4. Over-seed

Fall and spring is the time to over-seed with the recommended seed mix. Use drought tolerant species such as Creeping Red Fescue, Tall Fescue and Ryegrass. Kentucky bluegrass has a short root system and requires more nutrients and water for vigor, so no more than 10% Kentucky blue grass is recommended. If you can find some with at least 5% clover even better as clover fixes atmospheric nitrogen to the soil and naturally feeds the grass.

5. Compost

Ideally you will spread a light layer of topdressing, made for your lawn with your own compost created in the watershed using the "browns and greens" found here, meaning that you keep the net addition of nutrients to zero.

Applications should stay at least 3 metres from the creek or shore, if there is no buffer zone between the grass and lake, triple the distance back from the water or creek—even if it is now dry. Composts have low levels of nutrients and while they bind into the soil, if there is no buffer zone of plants with deep roots, storm-water runoff will carry some of it into the lake. Be lake smart and avoid this happening.

6. Leaves

A mat of leaves covering the lawn traps moisture and promotes fungus and other lawn killing diseases. Mulch or rake and remove leaves before the snow comes.

Collected leaf mulch can be a good insulator around the base of bushes and plants and around the edges of lawns providing overwinter habitat for predator insects such as lace wings and ground beetles who are friends of trees and gardens. Wait until the May long weekend to take up these leaves.

Leaves are also an important ingredient for you compost. Start a compost pile now with your fall leaves; there will be more coming out on composting over the next year. Alternately, for light leaf fall mulching will shred and dissipate the leaf mat and add nutrients to the soil.

Corporate Members

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



Camp Oselia Society, Falher Drugs, Kokanee Springs RV Park, Seba Beach Ice Cream Stop, 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. Corporate members will be acknowledged at WWMC functions, in each newsletter and elsewhere. For more information contact Neil Fleming by e-mail, nfleming@shaw.ca or telephone, (780) 437-3204.

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