

Lakescape

newsletter of the



WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Box 1005, Wabamun, Alberta, T0E 2K0

[Web](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Email](#)

No. 25

Spring 2022

Let's Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear

Sue Styles, WWMC Chair



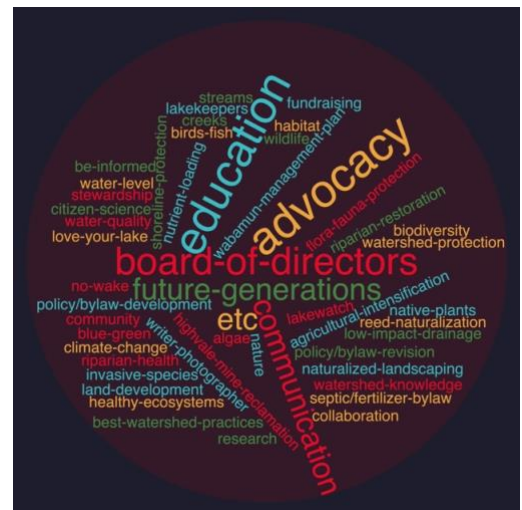
Happy Spring 2022!

It is a distinct pleasure to be serving on the WWMC board of directors alongside fellow WWMC directors. Each director brings a wealth of life/work experience and outstanding skill sets and is deeply committed to protecting Wabamun Lake and watershed. In this newsletter, we introduce and further welcome two of WWMC's newest board directors— Doug Thomas and Denny Thomas. A huge thank you to all the board of directors for your valuable contributions to advancing the health of the watershed.

In the 1st quarter of 2022, the WWMC board has been immersed in work concerning two overarching themes, namely board governance and

implementation of the [Wabamun Watershed Management Plan](#) (WMP). WWMC board governance efforts include formalizing a 3-year strategic plan, advancing by-law revision, and completing an application to register as a charity. Current WMP implementation efforts are centered on initiatives related to the priority WMP focus areas. For a review of the priority focus areas, see the copy of 'page 5 of the [WMP](#)' on the following page of this newsletter. Information about upcoming watershed education events and happenings is also provided in this newsletter.

The implementation of the WMP requires all of us, it requires each one of us to be engaged in the protection of the watershed. There are many aspects, many areas to get involved in. It can be overwhelming to know where to begin. Importantly, it does not matter where you begin to get involved, just PICK ONE aspect to delve in to, to participate in. The motto of the WWMC is Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear; this is in fact a **collective responsibility** - **Let's Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear**. Visit [WWMC.ca](#) for information on the watershed and ideas to get involved. Connect with us to share your involvement in protecting the lake and watershed or your interest in getting involved. info@wwmc.ca







WWMC Get Involved [wordcloud.com](#)








...2

Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan (2020), page 5

Highest risks for Wabamun Lake Watershed

- 
 Invasive Species
- 
 Blue-green algae blooms
- 
 Cumulative impacts from development and climate change
- 
 Nutrient overload from residential development, loss of riparian filter function, and agricultural intensification

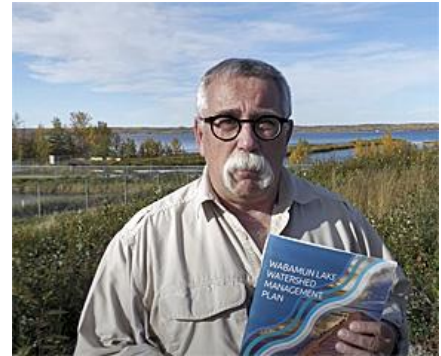
Priority WMP Focus Areas

- 
 Maintaining a collaborative WMP implementation governance structure via a representative Steering Committee
- 
 Continuing to build on educational activities with an initial focus on invasive species, riparian health and agricultural beneficial practices
- 
 Setting up a robust water quality monitoring program that discerns trends and informs decision-makers
- 
 Restoring shoreline riparian function
- 
 Continuing to align municipal policies, plans and processes (e.g., fertilizer and pesticide bylaws, septic bylaws, building and development requirements) that promote watershed health

Finally, the plan lists a number of performance measures to be reported on regularly, to ensure the plan is effective. The plan should also be revisited in ten years to ensure it is still relevant, or sooner, if conditions warrant. Although lake management is a long term commitment, it is hoped that the content of this plan will contribute to a healthy Wabamun Lake watershed, for current and future generations to enjoy.

Implementing the Watershed Management Plan

It's one thing to create a [Watershed Management Plan](#) (WMP) but quite another to implement it. The WMP was written under the direction of a Steering Committee made up of representatives from Parkland County, the summer villages, Alberta Environment and Parks, the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance and the WWMC. The same committee will oversee the implementation of the plan. In a video produced for the WWMC, Michael Short of [Let's Go Outdoors](#) highlights the collaborative effort that has gone into producing the plan and how that same effort will be essential to enacting the plan. [See the video here](#). You can download the WMP at our [Studies and Reports page](#), and Michael's first video about the plan [here](#). If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to send them to info@wwmc.ca



Winter Water Sampling



WWMC volunteers completed the final in a series of 4 monthly lake water samplings this March. The Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) has been running this program at 22 Alberta lakes for the past three winter seasons. The program is supported by a grant from Alberta Ecotrust. The sampling was conducted at three sites offshore from the Sundance plant site, Seba Beach and Rich's Point. Water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels were recorded and a number of water samples taken at each site and then delivered to ALMS for analysis. Following analysis, ALMS staff will produce a report containing their findings. The report for the 2021/2022 winter sampling should be available later this Spring. The reports for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 are available on [the ALMS website](#) and on the [WWMC Website/Studies & Reports](#).

Our Logo

Ever wonder how the WWMC logo was created and what it represents?

Back in 2007, when the organization was just getting on its feet, the WWMC commissioned Susan May of [Intrinsic Design](#) to create the logo. Recently she told us, "I wanted to represent life above and below the water with the stylized waterfowl and fish, and thought this was a nice way to include the acronym into the logo since the long-form is quite a mouthful. I'm glad that after all these years, folks still like it. 😊"



Boat Launch Update

Parkland County has informed the WWMC that crews will begin clearing land in the very near future for the approved boat launch site on the south shore near the Sundance power plant. This will be the beginning of Phase 1 of the project, constructing the new launch. Phase 2 will involve closure or restricting access to the informal launch sites around the lake. These efforts will go a long way to helping protect the lake's fragile ecosystem while allowing easier access to the lake for most users.

For more information and to follow the project more closely, go to [Parkland County's Wabamun Lake Boat Access web page](#) to sign up for email updates.

Highvale Mine Reclamation

On March 17, TransAlta held an open house on the Highvale Mine Reclamation Plan. If you were unable to attend, you can still [download the plan here](#) and send any questions you might have to TransAlta.



NSWA Watershed Wednesdays

The [North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance](#) holds a webinar each month concerning an aspect of watershed management. Webinars this year have discussed Climate Change Effects (Feb.) and An Introduction to Watershed Management (Mar.). On April 13, Nicole Kimmel of the Government of Alberta and Bernie Poulin of the Summer Village of Lac Ste Anne will present **Updates on Invasive Species**, including Flowering Rush at Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne. The events are free. [Go to Eventbrite](#) to register for April 13 or download the previous webinars.

Our New Board Members

The WWMC is pleased to announce that at our October Annual General Meeting, Denny Thomas and Doug Thomas joined the WWMC Board of Directors. The following are their brief biographies:



Denny Thomas is a lifelong Edmontonian and a retired Alberta Court of Queen's Bench, trial judge who previously practiced environmental and regulatory law for 37 years. Denny and his family have resided in the Summer Village of Kapasiwin since the 1940s where he also served as Mayor and Councillor for many years. Avid gardeners, Denny and his wife Donna, have long been concerned about the negative effects of human activity on the lake. Focusing on scientific evidence, he has pledged to use his professional skills and knowledge to resolve issues arising from the effects of climate change to preserve the natural values represented by the lake on which he and his family place a very high value.

Doug Thomas is a retired Certified Professional Accountant having graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1980. He has been a part time resident at the Summer Village of Seba Beach for 68 years. He and his wife Terrie have made Seba their permanent residence where Doug served for 24 years as Councillor and Mayor. Doug has also served for many years as a board director for a number of private and not-for-profit companies and organizations. Doug and Terrie are very active in their local community and are passionate about the long-term health of the lake.



Donations

The WWMC gratefully thanks the following people who have donated to the WWMC to continue our work protecting the health of Wabamun Lake: Kelly and Mary Aldridge, Todd Baldwin, Rob Cowley, Sandy Drummond, Neil Fleming, Colleen and David Judge, Doris Kent and John McIvor, Kobylo Family, Don Meredith, Julia Nelson, Cliff Richard, Robarts Family, Bill & Kate Russell, Denise and Bernie Wade.

Corporate Members

The WWMC thanks the following businesses, governments and organizations for joining the WWMC as corporate members and helping the council achieve its goals. Go to [Get Involved](#) for more information about Corporate Membership.

Gold Members



Silver Members



Bronze Members



Falher Drugs, Seba Beach Ice Cream Stop, Hamlet of Wabamun
Camp Oselia Society, Wabamun & District Lions Club, Seba Beach Heritage Society