

Summer 2011

"News You Can Use"

Mailing Address:
WWMC
Box 1005
Wabamun, Alberta
T0E 2K0

Web Site:
www.wwmc.ca

Email:
ktammaa@hotmail.com

Telephone:
(780) 953-2695

Meetings
2nd Wednesday of each
month. Contact WWMC
for venue.
6:30 p.m.

Lakescape

newsletter of the



WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Welcome New Members!

Our membership campaign is off to a flying start. As of this writing, we have 52 individual and five corporate members. The individual members range from watershed residents through summer residents to occasional visitors to the lake. Thank you for your support!

New corporate members, who have agreed to partner with the WWMC in achieving its goals and objectives, include the **Village of Wabamun**, the **Stony Plain Fish & Game Association/Wabamun Gun Club**, the **Camp Oselia Society**, **Shoreside Management Ltd.** and **Wabamun Lakeside Liquor**. If you have an opportunity to visit these organizations or businesses, please thank them for their support of the WWMC.

If you represent a business or not-for-profit organization who wishes to support the WWMC, download the corporate membership application from the WWMC web site (www.wwmc.ca). As well, you can download an individual application form as the campaign continues.

Date Change—AGM

We've changed the date of the AGM! The WWMC will now hold its first Annual General Meeting (as an Alberta society) on Wednesday, October **19**, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wabamun Seniors Centre (5117 51st Ave., Wabamun). The date was moved to accommodate the busy schedule of our keynote speaker, **Dr. David Schindler** of the U. of Alberta, who will discuss *Preventing algal blooms in Alberta's lakes*. You won't want to miss this one. Mark the date and make plans to attend. We will also be electing our slate of officers for the 2011/12 year and discussing WWMC's plans for 2012.

Call for Nominations

According to the WWMC Bylaws, the election of Board Members and Executive Officers is to be held at the Annual General Meeting in October. Eleven positions on the Board are open this year for nominations. They include positions in the following sectors:

Summer Villages
County Residents
Environmental NGOs
Water Sports NGOs

Industry/Business
Agriculture
First Nations
Members at Large



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www.wwmc.ca and
scroll to the bottom

The election of Executive Officers will also occur at the AGM following the election of the Board of Directors. Only members of the Board may run for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or Treasurer. If you are interested in serving on the board in one of these positions or have any questions, please contact Tom Slater, Chair of the Nominating Committee at 780-960-8612 or e-mail, tom.slater@gov.ab.ca.

Please help the WWMC by serving on its Board!

News Around the Lake

Where did the Falcons go?

One of the concerns with the destruction of the Wabamun power plant was the fate of the peregrine falcons that annually nested there. As reported in TransAlta's *Kilowatt Connection* of June 2011, the pair returned on schedule this year and nested on the plant. Under the guidance of Dr. Gordon Court of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, five eggs were removed from the nest. The eggs were incubated and the young placed in "hack boxes" on cliffs along the North Saskatchewan River. Hack boxes are designed to introduce captive-raised birds to the wild with the least human interference. The young are kept captive in the boxes for 35 days and fed meat through a tube entering the box. When they are ready to fly, the boxes are opened and the birds learn to fly and hunt from the boxes. They will migrate south in the fall and hopefully return in the spring to nest in the same cliffs.

The pair that nested on the power plant will move to another site next spring, perhaps along the river. Some people suggested that a pole be provided for a nesting site in lieu of the power plant, but Gordon Court points out that the birds nested on the power plant because it resembled its natural nesting habitat: cliffs. So, a pole would not work, and the birds will move to another site when they find the plant gone next spring.

Walleye returning to Lake Wabamun

It was tried several times over the last few decades but the re-introduction of walleye to Lake Wabamun was not successful because the fish would not successfully reproduce. Walleye used to naturally occur in the lake, but they were fished out of the lake as long as 100 years ago. The reintroductions failed because it is believed the fish attempted to spawn too early in the spring because of the warm outflow water of the Wabamun power plant. When the eggs hatched much earlier than normal and the young fish entered the colder lake, they did not find enough food to sustain them. With the lake now freezing over, introduced walleye may have a better chance at being reproductively successful.

As reported in TransAlta's June *Kilowatt Connection*, Alberta Sustainable Resources Development with the support of TransAlta is introducing hatchery-raised walleye to Lake Wabamun this summer. The fish were produced from nearly two-million eggs taken from spawning walleye in Lac Ste Anne this May. They are being raised at Cold Lake Fish Hatchery. While most will be released in Wabamun, a portion will be returned to Lac Ste Anne so that lake's production is not compromised.

Board of Directors

Chair: Kelly Aldridge, Seba Beach

Vice Chair: Phil Sutton, boating community

Secretary: Tracey Melnyk, Parkland County

Treasurer: Don Meredith, Stony Plain Fish & Game Assoc.

Directors:

Frank Brunning, Village of Wabamun

Don Cameron, Wabamun Marina

Stan Kobylko, Camp Oselia

Jack Latham, Whitewood Sands

Tom Slater, Alberta

Environment

Reg Wood, Betula Beach

Lakescape is a publication of the Wabamun Watershed Management Council. It is published 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.

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 September 15, 2011.

Parking Fee at Wabamun Waterfront Park

As of July 29, the Village of Wabamun is charging a fee to park a vehicle or launch a boat at the Wabamun Waterfront Park from May to September. A self-serve parking-pass machine has been installed at the north end of the parking lot where users purchase a daily pass for \$2.00 per-day for a single vehicle, \$10.00 per-day for vehicle and boat trailer. Residents of Wabamun do not have to pay the fee, provided they have registered their vehicle at the village office. As well, non-residents may purchase an annual season pass at the office (\$50, single; & \$90 w/ trailer). The fees will be in force from May to September and will help the village recover some of the costs of the upgrades to the park. Contact the village office for more information: 780-892-2699; www.wabamun.ca

Corporate Members

The following businesses and organizations have partnered with the WWMC as corporate members:



Camp Oselia Society

Shoreside Management Ltd.

Wabamun Lakeside Liquor

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 Kelly Aldridge by e-mail, ktammaa@hotmail.com or telephone, (780) 953-2695

