

**Summer 2015**

**"News You Can Use"**

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**Meetings**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each  
month, 6:30 p.m.  
Contact WWMC for  
venue.

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# Lakescape

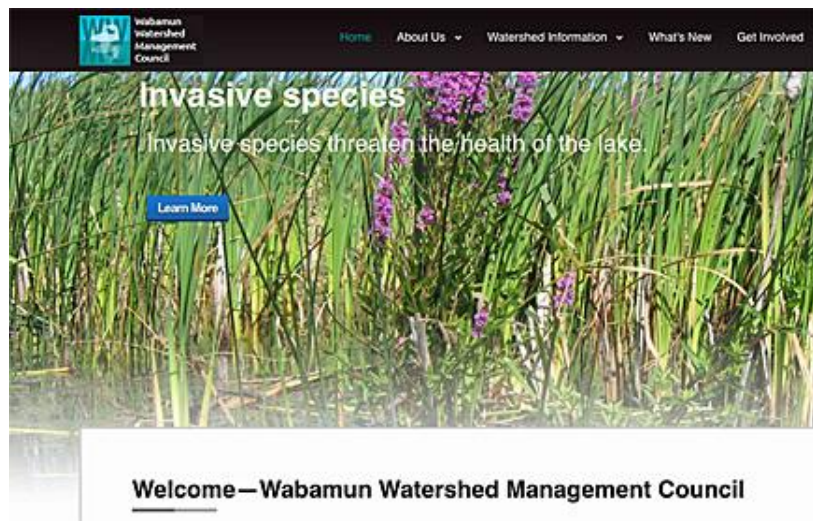
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## WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

### New Website Launched

Our new website is published and alive at [www.wwmc.ca](http://www.wwmc.ca). We have restructured the site with the help of the Haptic Group of Spruce Grove. There are many new features allowing you easier access to information about current issues and the many documents and presentations we have produced over the years, including copies of newsletters and meeting minutes. We have added a page about the Lake Water Level, including a link to current lake level information from Alberta Environment and Parks (go to the Watershed Information menu).



### Council Update

by Stan Franklin, WWMC Chair

In our May 25th e-mail report regarding the "Riparian Health Assessment of Lake Wabamun", we advised that Board volunteers would be distributing copies of the Nature Alberta book, ***On the Living Edge***, to shoreline residents. This excellent, well-illustrated book outlines best practices for shoreline residents.

This distribution has now been substantially completed. Copies of the book were purchased by the Summer Villages of Seba Beach, Betula Beach and Lakeview and were provided to the WWMC for distribution to shoreline residents. In addition, Parkland County purchased a supply of the books for use within the County and provided sufficient copies to the WWMC for distribution to County shoreline residents.

During July and August, WWMC volunteers walked through the three Summer Villages and the County subdivisions and interacted with the residents at each property where books were delivered. By the time that distribution of the books is complete, approximately 600 shoreline properties will have been visited.

## Board of Directors

**Chair:** Stan Franklin,  
Sundance Meadows

**Vice Chair:** Dan Saunders,  
Boating Community

**Secretary:** Jack Latham,  
Whitewood Sands

**Treasurer:** Neil Fleming,  
Member at Large

**Past Chair:** Kelly Aldridge,  
Seba Beach

### Directors:

Paul Cardinal, Member at Large  
Larry Duchesne, Parkland  
Resident

Stan Kobylo, Camp Oselia  
Don Meredith, Stony Plain Fish  
& Game Association

Dave Mussell, Alberta  
Environment & Sustainable  
Resource Development

Wally Nicholaichuk,  
Environmental Community

Brian Novak, TransAlta Utilities

Ken Petruk, Member at Large

Nicole Richardson, Pineridge  
Golf Resort

The response from residents was overwhelmingly positive and there was recognition that what individuals do on their own piece of shoreline can and does make a difference to the overall health and sustainability of the lake—and by implication lakeshore property values. One needs only look south to Pigeon Lake to observe that what happens in the riparian zone of the lake matters and has a profound effect on the health of the lake, recreational use and property values.

## Fund Raising and Membership

It's that time of year again to raise funds for the work of the WWMC. Last year, we changed our membership policy, allowing anyone who had an interest in preserving and improving the health of the lake to be a member simply by signing up for our e-mail list at no cost. We did not want people to feel restricted by membership dues from the information we provide—everyone's concerns and opinions are important. That of course does not solve our financial needs. So, we must once again request that if you can do so, please send a donation to the WWMC. We have made it easy to donate online through PayPal with our suggested donation of \$25. Just go to our website ([www.wwmc.ca](http://www.wwmc.ca)) and click on the Get Involved link at the top of the page, choose Donations and click on the PayPal button. Otherwise, send a cheque to the WWMC at Box 1005, Wabamun, AB T0E 2K0. All donations are greatly appreciated. We are too small an organization for charitable status but the board can assure you every bit of donated funds is used to support the goals of the WWMC. Thank you!

## Beaver Creek Conservation Site

**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 5, No. 2

**Editor:** Don Meredith  
([wwmc@donmeredith.ca](mailto: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](mailto:wwmc@donmeredith.ca)



Beaver Creek flows into Wabamun Lake on the southwest shore. As one of the few creeks flowing into the lake, it is an important source of lake water and a spawning area for fish such as northern pike. Corporate WWMC member, TransAlta Utilities, donated 26 hectares (64 acres) of the land around the creek to the Alberta Fish & Game Association Wildlife Trust Fund. On Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, the AFGA and Trans Alta officially opened the Beaver Creek Conservation Site with a picnic and special presentations. WWMC board members Stan Franklin, Kelly Aldridge and Don Meredith attended for the council.

Speeches by Mayor Rod Shaigec of Parkland County, Doug Butler of the AFGA and Brad Fenson of the AFGA's Wildlife Trust Fund extolled the value of the site to the health of the lake and community. A highlight of the proceedings was an aboriginal blessing ceremony presented by Cindy Bearhead, a cultural advisor for the Paul Band, and her son Karlton.

The Beaver Creek site includes a wetland that was once a mine-settling pond. Wetlands are important parts of lake watershed ecosystems. They filter water entering the lake and provide habitats for many species of wildlife, including insects, frogs, waterfowl, mink and perching birds. The site includes several natural communities, such as aspen forest, timothy-grass meadow and a riparian, birch-willow shrub land. Deer, moose, red fox and many species of birds can be seen on the property.







The site is now open to the public. Only foot access is permitted to protect the wildlife habitat. The AFGA Wildlife Trust Fund manages the site, and like all other trust fund properties is meant for the public to enjoy for generations to come.

## 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, 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. 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](mailto: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](mailto:wwmc@donmeredith.ca)