

Lakescape

newsletter of the



WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Box 1005, Wabamun, Alberta, T0E 2K0

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Welcome Back



Hi. I'm Dave Ball. I've been Chair of the WWMC board for the past year, a director on the board for a couple years prior, and a lake resident for almost 25 years. I took over the Chair when we thought we saw a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel and we would surely be back to normal by now. No such luck. Our AGM on October 20 will again be solely through Zoom. It works, but I really miss the personal face-to-face. Hopefully next year.

It's been well over a year since we issued a newsletter. The last one was published in April of 2020 when the first wave of the pandemic was just getting underway and we really had no idea what was coming our way. Summer plans had to be changed as we proceeded with finalizing the Watershed Management Plan. Of course, instead of face-to-face meetings, open-houses or presentations, we had to rely on online meetings and webinars to get our work done. But get it done we did. We now have a **Watershed Management Plan** to guide decision makers in the future. As well, we continued our work helping the Alberta Lake Management Society with its ongoing water sampling program at the lake. This year a new sampling program began relating satellite imagery to algal blooms on the lake. I hope that you find the following articles on these topics interesting

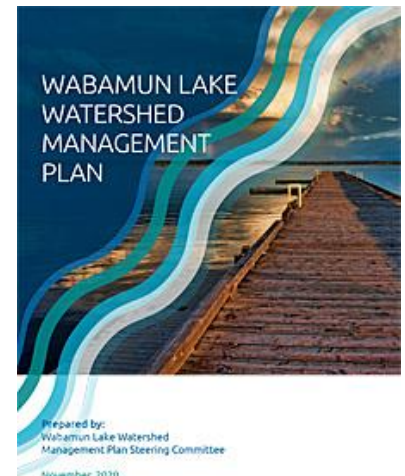
Watershed Management Plan

It's been a long road but after 15 years of research, planning and meetings, Wabamun Lake now has a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) to direct decision makers as how the lake should be managed to protect its health and the values so many come to the lake to enjoy. Go to our [Studies and Reports page](#) to download a copy of either the two-page summary or the full report.



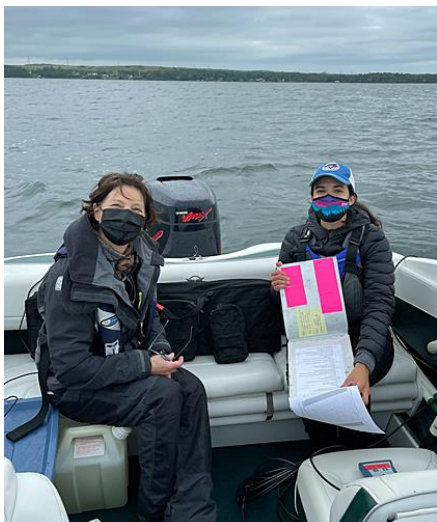
The report outlines the key risks to the lake, including invasive species, blue-green algae, nutrient loading, climate change and the resultant cumulative effects. It establishes goals and objectives for water quality, wise land use, maintaining viable aquatic ecosystems (including fish populations) and engaged stewardship.

It also identifies what the next steps and actions should be, including water quality monitoring, restoring natural shorelines and educational programs for ensuring wise watershed use.



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Water Sampling



Sue Styles (WWMC) and Brittany Onysyk (ALMS) sampling the water on Wabamun Lake

Our water sampling with the Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) continued this year. With the capable assistance of Caleb Sinn, Bradley Peter, Brittany Onysyk and Tina McLean from ALMS, WWMC volunteers were on the lake 7 times throughout the summer months. Regular sample collections and water characteristics (temperature, clarity, conductivity, oxygen levels, etc.) were recorded at 9 different locations in June, July, August and September. This data will be combined with the winter sampling data to produce a yearly profile of how the water changes through the seasonal cycles and will be summarized in the LakeWatch report described below.

The other 3 sample days were coordinated with satellite imagery of the lake in June, August, and September. They included samples from 35 GPS-determined locations looking at water clarity, and concentrations of chlorophyll and dissolved solids. This data, when compared to the satellite images of the lake will help to build a data base that will be interpreted by a program from the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute. The ABMI program will produce images displaying size, timing, intensity, and duration of algal blooms. The WWMC is very pleased to be a part of this new initiative being developed by ALMS which will help advance our understanding of Cyanobacteria dynamics and lake management.

LakeWatch Report

The Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) released its latest LakeWatch Report on Wabamun Lake, including the sampling that occurred in 2020. The report is based on the water and vegetation sampling ALMS and the WWMC did over the last few years. The full report can be downloaded from the WWMC website at [Studies and Reports](#) or from the [ALMS website](#).

From the report introduction: LakeWatch has several important objectives, one of which is to collect and interpret water quality data from Alberta's Lakes. Equally important is educating lake users about aquatic environments, encouraging public involvement in lake management, and facilitating cooperation and partnerships between government, industry, the scientific community and lake users. LakeWatch reports are designed to summarize basic lake data in understandable terms for the widest audience, and are not meant to be a complete synopsis of information about specific lakes. Additional information is available for many lakes that have been included in LakeWatch, and readers requiring more information are encouraged to seek those sources.



Highway 16 Access Management Study

A concerned watershed resident notified the WWMC about the construction associated with the proposed closing of many of the local access routes to Highway 16 from west of Range Road 62 near Gainford to the Wabamun interchange. The building of additional service roads to move traffic to the remaining interchanges will apparently affect some tracts of forest and wetlands that drain into the lake. For more information about the study and to take the public engagement survey, go to [Highway 16 Access Management Study](#).

Municipal Elections

Alberta municipal elections happen on Monday October 18. If you are doing some research on who is worthy of your vote in Parkland County, a question you may want to ask your candidates is "If elected, how would you contribute to maintaining or improving the health of Lake Wabamun?" The lake is in Division 5 and 6. For a list of all candidates seeking election on October 18 go to the [Parkland County candidates page](#). Why not make the health of our lake an election issue?

Donations

The WWMC gratefully thanks the following people who have donated to the WWMC to continue our work protecting the health of Wabamun Lake: Todd Baldwin, Rob Cowley, Neil Fleming, Colleen and David Judge, Doris Kent and John McIvor, Kobyloko Family, Don Meredith, Julia Nelson, and Cliff Richard.

Corporate Members

The WWMC thanks the following businesses, governments and organizations for partnering with 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