

PLWA Success Stories –Awareness and Action in our Lake Community

We thank all volunteers, concerned community members and the public for helping to get the message out there. **PLWA's membership** has grown to more than one thousand strong. Let's keep the momentum going- the greater the numbers- the greater the voice and the stronger the action!

Over two hundred people attended our first **Annual General Meeting** to hear Dr. David Schindler, an internationally recognized scientist, and Jay White, of *Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd.* PLWA commissioned Jay White, to prepare a '**State of the Watershed Report**' to address the preliminary Pigeon Lake water quality test results done in August. Questions from the audience demonstrated the deep concern everyone shares about the destruction of the Lake environment and the strong drive needed to implement positive changes that must be made NOW.

PLWA was able to reach out to the lake community by hosting a table at the **Lakedell Farmers' Markets**. Everyone's concern increased as the water quality in the lake deteriorated. What was that gunk in the jar?!? Blue-green algae and the white fish kill were the topics everyone wanted to know about. **Why did it happen and how can we prevent it from happening again?** Thanks to the people from *Cows and Fish, Living by Water, Alberta Environment (Respect Our Lakes), Capital Health* and others, printed information was available for everyone. We can all help by disposing of sewage properly, severely limiting fertilizer and pesticide use and maintaining a healthy riparian (shoreline) area. Please check out our top things you can do to help (Shirley- *please link to where this info is*)

In September 2008, sixty three volunteers participated in the **TD Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up**. It took twenty six hours to collect over 1,600 pounds of garbage and debris from ten beaches around the lake. Thirteen tires were collected and 'donated to the Lakedell 4H clubs. Imagine the toxins from 1342 cigarette and cigar butts or the sheer volume of 1,113 beverage containers and food related items.

Fireworks debris is a major concern as 973 pieces were removed from the Lake! When people enjoy summer fireworks displays please encourage them to check the area for fireworks garbage in the daylight. *Complete results are posted-----(Shirley can we include this info somehow?)*

This winter PLWA sponsored three *Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Workshops*. As several of our board members also completed this program we now highly recommend it. The implementation of *Best Environmental Practices* in the agricultural and acreage communities, combined with the efforts of all property owners in the watershed, will improve the health of the lake.