



To Enhance, Preserve & Protect Pigeon Lake & Its Watershed

ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

President's Report

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Association was organized, in its current form, through the merger of two stewardship groups in June 2007. The Association now has well over 1,000 members. The Association's Board of Directors includes broad representation from the watershed including agricultural, cottage and permanent residents, seniors and small business owners.

The Association's Mission was established to: use the best methods available to study the lake and its ecosystems, communicate best practices to users, advocate effective policies by governments and regulators, and take a leadership role in lake and shoreline cleanup.

The lake has been under tremendous strain as a result of excessive nutrient loading and development as evidenced by the cyanobacteria (blue green algae) growth over the past two years.

The Association has been active on a number of fronts:

- Developing open and constructive relationships with stakeholders including the 10 summer villages, 2 counties, a number of provincial and federal government departments at the elected and appointed level and, other stewardship organizations
- Advocating for the Regional Wastewater System expansion to address the ongoing nutrient loading. The six summer villages not on the regional system and both counties have now endorsed the expansion of the system and the County of Wetaskiwin has made the application for funding
- Organizing stewardship and educational programs for residents to learn how to reduce their impact on the watershed including the environmental farm plan, shelterbelt and working well workshops, and the "Love the Lake" program
- Conducting shoreline clean-ups in the fall and the spring removing over a ton of debris
- Facilitating Information Meetings on blue-green algae with Alberta Environment
- Holding an Association Open House to provide information to residents on how they can reduce their impact on the watershed
- Undertaking water quality sampling and commissioning a water quality report that found that nutrient levels in the lake have increased significantly over the past 20 years
- Responding to development proposals and recommending environmental impact assessments of all development within 800 meters of the lake
- Responding to well spacing and drilling inquiries by Enerplus that were within close proximity to populated areas around the lake with a letter writing campaign to the Energy Resources Conservation Board
- Submitting a Statement of Concern concerning an application by MEC Operating Company to withdraw fresh water from the aquifer for injection to enhance oil recovery
- Recommending the assessment by the provincial government of the application of solar bees and other technologies to combat blue green algae growth in the short term
- Working with Alberta Environment under the "Respect our Lakes" program for matching funding for the studies we are conducting and a for a test of solar bees
- Working with the Living By Water group to do confidential assessments of environmental impacts of lake front properties and remedies, which property owners may sign-up for

- Participating on the Sustainable Resource Development Pigeon Lake Fishery Advisory Committee and organizing seminars on effective angling and conservation techniques
- Participating as a member in the Alberta Stewardship Network, Synergy Alberta, the Alberta Lake Management Society, the Pigeon Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce; and
- Soliciting donations and matching funds for our stewardship and research activities

The Association has also commissioned:

1. The initial Pigeon Lake State of the Watershed Report by Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. It will be presented to members at the Association's Annual General Meeting. This State of the Watershed Report contains a number of recommendations that can be used by individual property owners, governments and other stakeholders as the basis for individual and group action. The recommendations will also contribute to our future watershed management planning.
2. A complete review by the Environmental Law Centre of all environmental regulations and compliance programs in place for Pigeon Lake and its watershed at the summer villages, the counties, and the provincial and federal governments. This will be used to build an integrated model of best practices for use by all of these jurisdictions.
3. A fly-over to conduct a video assessment of shoreline conditions around the lake.

There are many things that we all can do to enhance, preserve and protect Pigeon Lake and its watershed. The cumulative effect of these activities can have a significant impact on the lake and its water quality.

All Association members and other watershed residents, businesses and recreational users are encouraged to adopt sound environmental and stewardship practices.

YOU CAN HELP BY:

- Identifying and implementing ten things that you can do to reduce your impact on the lake and its watershed and the environment
- Getting involved in Pigeon Lake Watershed Association and other stewardship activities
- Attending the educational activities sponsored by the Association and applying what you learn
- Serving as a good example to your neighbours and visitors and encouraging them to do the same; and
- Expressing your concerns to your elected representatives of the municipal (summer village and country), provincial and federal levels of government

MAJOR 2008 INITIATIVES:

- Distributing the State of the Watershed Report and working cooperatively with all stakeholders to identify outcomes that can lead to a cumulative effects watershed management plan
- Expanding stewardship, sustainability and educational activities such that all residents and users can identify and implement activities to reduce their impact on the watershed
- Continuing to lobby for the rapid implementation of a regional wastewater system to address the long term fundamental problem of nutrient loading and the installation of short term measures like solar bees
- Responding to high density residential development proposals and oil & gas operations that have a negative impact on the watershed
- Combating the blue-green algae problem, ensuring adequate testing of the lake water and the protection of public health
- Identifying best practices that will provide guidelines for a long term universal approach to lake water quality and the management of Pigeon Lake and its watershed
- Working with the Environment Law Centre and cooperatively with all levels of government to develop a uniform and environmentally sound regulatory processes for Pigeon Lake

GET INVOLVED

PROTECT THE LAKE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee

The Committee drafted the Association's brochure, prepared posters, newspaper advertisements and newsletters to advise watershed residents of Association activities. They generate materials to support membership recruitment and maintain the Association's website. Relationships were established with the media, provincial government staff, as well as with county and summer village administrators who were very helpful in communicating Association activities to their ratepayers.

Susan Ellis, Doug McKenzie and Don Smallwood (Chair)

Fund Raising Committee

The Committee has been successful in soliciting initial contributions from a number of members to fund the Association's stewardship and research initiatives. In addition, Alberta Environment has provided matching funding for specific projects. Membership fees fund the administrative activities. While a number of activities have been initiated, the full cost of them has not yet been recognized in the Association's finances. As a result, many of the funds raised to date have been allocated to fund activities initiated in 2007 and 2008 and more donations will be required from members to fund future activities.

Bob Lloyd and Dennis McCoy (Chair)

Government Liaison Committee

The Committee developed relationships with the elected and appointed officials of the ten summer villages and two counties which have jurisdiction around Pigeon Lake and with Alberta Environment, Sustainable Resource Development and Transportation and Infrastructure at the provincial level. In addition to lobbying for the interests of Association members and advocating the Association's policies, the Committee has worked with Alberta Environment to obtain matching funding for initiatives and with the Environmental Law Centre at the University of Alberta to initiate a review of all municipal, provincial and federal legislation and regulations affecting the watershed and in order to develop best practices.

Jim Stevens (Chair)

Membership Committee

The Committee has been active at all Association Events selling memberships and providing information about the Association. The Committee maintains the Association's Register of Members and updates members' e-mail addresses on the Association's website. The Committee prepares materials used at Association functions and distributes mailings to those members for whom the Association does not have e-mail addresses.

Too many committee members to name, Mary Ellen Herman (Chair)

Nominating Committee

The Committee recruited directors from many watershed communities which were not already represented on the Board by initial directors of the Association to provide broad representation from around the lake. The twenty two Directors of the Association, elected at the 2007 Annual General Meeting, include members from all summer villages, many other watershed locations and the farming and ranching communities. One half of the directors were elected for a one year term and one half were elected for a two year term.

Don Smallwood and Bryan Kickham (Chair)

Stewardship Committee

The Committee established a working relationship with Alberta Environment and planned a number of events in conjunction with the Alberta Conservation Team and made connections with other stewardship groups including the Alberta Stewardship Network, Cows and Fish and the Federation of Alberta Naturalists. The Committee coordinates a number of stewardship programs sponsored by the Association including, shoreline cleanups, the Environmental Farm Plan, Shelterbelt Workshops, Living By Water – Homesite Consultations and the Association’s “Love the Lake” program through which individuals make a pledge to specific environmental practices and receive a plaque for the entrance to their property.

Don Davidson, Larry Fisk, Trudy Flesher, Brian Johnson, Jim McGregor, Doug McKenzie, Hugh Sanders and Peggy Juchli (Chair)

Technical & Research Committee

The Committee coordinates the Association’s analysis and reports on environmental matters and advises the Association’s Board of Directors on technical issues. Activities included water quality sampling, initiating the Association’s initial State of the Watershed report and reviewing issues associated with the Regional Wastewater System expansion. The Committee also analyzed the application of Solar Bees and other techniques to reduce algae blooms and is reviewing their application in Pigeon Lake with Alberta Environment.

Ray Capowski, Tom Cliff, Robert Gibbs, Harold Hoffman, John MacManus, Dennis McCoy and Randy Conrad (Chair)

PIGEON LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2007

Assets

Bank account	\$	10,511
T-Bill savings account		118,003
Deposits		50
		\$ 128,564

Liabilities and Members' Equity

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$	3,673
Members' equity		124,891
		\$ 128,564

Statement of Operations and Changes in Members' Equity
Period ended December 31, 2007

Revenue:		
Donations received	\$	137,368
Grants received		900
Membership income		6,835
Interest income		1,003
		146,106
Expenditures:		
Environmental consulting services		16,536
Website development and maintenance		2,109
Printing stationery and supplies		852
Meeting expenses		552
Advertising		504
Honorarium – Dr. David Schindler		250
Shoreline cleanup project		146
Display banner		135
Other expenses		131
		21,215
Excess of revenue over expenses		124,891
Members' equity, beginning of period		-
		\$ 124,891

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

PIGEON LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2007

1. Nature of the Association:

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (the "Association") is incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act. The Association's purpose is to (a) preserve, protect and enhance to aquatic ecosystem and lake environment of Pigeon Lake, Alberta, through the development of programs for the Pigeon Lake Watershed and (b) to undertake activities to restore the level of Pigeon lake, Alberta, to prior set and agreed upon levels and (c) to undertake activities to restore the fish habitat of Pigeon Lake, Alberta.

The Association applied to Canada Revenue Agency in August 2007 for registration as a charity; the application remains pending.

2. Comparative figures:

This is the first year of operations and therefore figures for prior years are not available.

RAYMOND J BOBOWSKI
Chartered Accountant

441 Ronning Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Tel: 780 434 0974

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Pigeon Lake Watershed Association

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association as at December 31, 2007 and the statements of operations and changes in members equity for the period then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Association derives most of its revenue from donations and membership fees, which is not susceptible to complete audit verification. Accordingly, my verification of revenue from this source was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Association, and I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to total revenue, excess of revenue over expenses and members equity.

In my opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which I might have determined to be necessary had I been able to satisfy myself concerning the completeness of the donations and membership fees referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at December 31, 2007 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

"R J Bobowski"
Chartered Accountant
April 28, 2008

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

Terms of One Year expiring at the 2008 Annual General Meeting:

Tom Cliff, Thorsby
Brian Johnson, Vasa
Doug McKenzie, Itaska Beach
Charles Rees, Norris Beach
Abe Silverman, Grandview

Shawna Dennis, Iron Horse
David Marvin, Argentia Beach
Al Olson, Sandholm
Eric Seneka, Crystal Springs
Erwin Zotzman, Warburg

Terms of Two Years expiring at the 2009 Annual General Meeting:

Gene Begg, Upstream
Randy Conrad, Sundance Beach
Bill Grace, Poplar Bay
Mary Ellen Herman, Ma-Me-O Beach
Bryan Kickham, Golden Days
Don Smallwood, Viola Beach

Ray Capowski, Mulhurst Bay
Trudy Flesher, Gilwood Beach
Michael Gaian, Mission Beach
Peggy Juchli, Silver Beach
Dennis McCoy, Golden Days
Jim Stevens, Westerose

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Jim Stevens
Secretary: Trudy Flesher
Treasurer: Bill Grace

For More Information:

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- Website: www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com
- Board Member Contact Information: http://pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com/Contact_Us

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