



To Enhance, Preserve & Protect Pigeon Lake & Its Watershed

Update December 2008

MEC and Silver Woods Applications

On December 2nd the PLWA distributed a Flash to members which included reference to an application by the MEC Operating Company to divert groundwater for industrial injection and also included information on an application by Resland Development for approval of an Area Structure Plan for the proposed Silver Woods development.

MEC Application

We are very pleased to advise that Mr. Helmer has advised us that Alberta Environment has met with MEC and has requested that MEC research and consider the feasibility of alternatives to fresh water for its injection process. The current MEC water license expires on December 31, 2008. A decision has not yet been taken to let it expire or to renew it. We are following this matter closely. All members who submit an email supporting our submission which recommends an alternative to fresh water, should include their mailing address so that Environment Alberta can respond to their submission. The PLWA is very grateful for the support for this initiative which it has received from County of Wetaskiwin, Leduc County, the summer villages, the Wizard Lake Stewardship & Watershed Association and the Battle Lake Synergy Group. This is obviously a matter of considerable concern to residents of this region.

Silver Woods Application

The hearing on Resland's application on the proposed Silver Woods development will be held at the County of Westaskiwin Offices on Thursday, December 11th at 2:00 pm. We will be making a submission to the County on behalf of the PLWA. The Association is concerned about the cumulative impact of high density development around the lake. We acknowledge that both counties have been requiring much better environmental controls including effective wastewater processing and buffers to prevent drainage into the lake, however each proposal presents its own challenges. We have attended the public meetings hosted by the Resland group and smaller group meetings directly with the owners of Resland.

The Silver Woods Area Structure Plan proposes 153 new residences on about 55 acres approximately 400 meters from the lake at the west end of the proposed development along Norris Beach road, to the lakeshore at the east end of the proposed development, directly to the south of the summer village of Norris Beach, and west of Viola Beach and Beachside Estates. It contemplates connection to the regional wastewater system once the system is completed, and interim use of pump out. It also proposes to clear a substantial amount of existing tree and natural vegetation cover, and to replace the vegetation on most, but not all of the perimeter. Drinking water will come from wells which will be drilled and tested in phases and into aquifers which are reported to provide enough flow to meet the needs of the development and any other users. It is not apparent that Norris Beach road will be improved as part of the current proposal. Overall design of the site, which will feature slopes to ponds between the development site and the residents on the lakeshore, gives rise to questions about spring and storm drainage control. Traffic control at the intersection of Norris Beach Road and Highway 13 (at the Petro Canada station) is also a matter we will be addressing.

If you concerned about any of these issues please consider submitting the attached letter by December 11, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. to David Blades, ([dblades@county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca](mailto:d blades@county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca)) with a c.c. to our local County of Wetaskiwin Councillor, Larry McKeever, (lmckeever@county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca), and Jim Stevens (jjkstevens@xplornet.com) who will be making the presentation for the PLWA.