



Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society
P.O. Box 9012 Sylvan Lake
Alberta, T4S 1S6

Annual General Meeting July 28, 2007

President's Report

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society. Thank you for taking the time to attend today.

During this past year the Society has continued its work with the Water Monitoring program. Our capacity to collect samples and measure inflows was expanded by contracting out this work rather than relying solely upon the efforts of volunteers. This change in procedure allowed us to capture and characterize the spring thaw and runoff to a degree never achieved before. The data from this field-work is expected to be compiled and released sometime shortly after October.

Other highlights from the year include the completion of our study and synthesis of key messages and scientific findings in the numerous documents and reports available on the subject of Sylvan Lake. An outcome of this work is the display panels you see here today, which we shall use to support our outreach programs.

We have also been busy with work on the web site; publishing the correspondence and submissions that the Society has made to various levels of government during the course of this year. Please take some time to review these documents the next time you are surfing the web – you can find us at SLWSS.org.

Last February, the Society distributed its Winter Newsletter. Thanks are due to those individuals who made contributions to this collaborative effort. As well, the Society was represented at several workshops and conferences on Stewardship in Alberta. We also attended public hearings and open houses held by developers who are proposing lakeshore developments or marina facilities, and we have provided written responses to approval agencies for

their consideration. On the whole, this has been a busy and productive year for the Society.

Board of Directors

Your Board of Directors consists of a dedicated group of volunteers who bring passion and enthusiasm to the task of stewarding Sylvan Lake and its watershed. We operated this year with a 9 member Board and held 10 regular meetings during the course of the year. At this time the Board of Directors is comprised of the minimum 6 Directors permitted under our Bylaws. If there is a limiting factor to the capacity and therefore, the success of our organization, it is the issue of Board renewal and member participation.

Recognition - Retiring Directors

I regret to report that one of our long serving Directors has presented the Board with his resignation. David Larsen has been with the organization since its inception, representing Camp Kuriokas. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to David for his board participation and wish him well as he moves on to other activities.

Continuing Directors

The Board members who will be serving a second year of their two-year term also deserve recognition for devotion to lake-protection. All have worked diligently to promote the vision and mission of the Society.

**Barry Hilman
Steven Johnson
Wayne Carey
Jim MacSween
Bob Wilson**

I am pleased to receive nomination papers from Kim Schmitt and Lenore Berkeley who, along with myself, have agreed to renew our commitment to serve on the Board of Directors for another two years.

The New 2007-2008 Board

**Kent Williamson
Kim Schmitt
Lenore Berkeley
Barry Hilman
Steven Johnson
James MacSween, Q.C.
Robert Wilson
Wayne Carey**

I am grateful to all of these members for letting their name stand as Director.

Membership

Each year, we struggle with maintaining our membership. The annual renewal can often be overlooked and, though the member believes in and supports the work of the Society, their name falls from our membership roll. In this respect, the Board has proposed, and members here today have accepted and approved a change to our bylaws that will allow us to retain our members until such time as they indicate that they wish to have their name removed from the roll of the Society. Each year, our members may elect to qualify for "active" status by paying our optional annual dues.

The Year Ahead

Looking forward to the year ahead, we will be focused on communicating the key messages you see on the display panels today. We will be focused on retaining and expanding our membership to include more of those many users of the lake. We will be evaluating an expansion of our monitoring program to include additional sites and a broader range of contaminants. Without doubt, there is much work to be done, to educate the people who live and play within the Sylvan Lake watershed on how to minimize the impact they have on this sensitive aquatic environment.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for attending this Annual General Meeting and for your support of the Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Williamson

President,
Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society, 2006/2007
Eight Annual General Meeting, July 28, 2007