

Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society

President's Report

10th Annual General Meeting September 19, 2009
Lions Hall Sylvan Lake

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society. Thank you for taking the time to attend our 10th AGM today. As our brochure states our mission is "to encourage community-based stewardship of the Sylvan Lake Watershed"

Looking Back

Board of Directors

The Society is ran by a team of 10 volunteers who sit on the Board of Directors (...introductions). By-Laws require a minimum of eight and a maximum of sixteen members. At our first board meeting a year ago we agreed to meet every second month if possible. We then met in November, January, March and June at the Sylvan Lake Library.

We were able to achieve considerable success this past year.

Research and Science – report to follow re:

.BMP – Concluded Best Management Practices and stream monitoring project (2008 ASN)

.Riparian Pilot Project on Golf Course Creek (2009 ASN).

.Lake Monitoring - Alberta Environment limnologists have assisted in preparing a long-term lake monitoring program

Board members personally attended: Watershed Protectors Conference, Environmental Law Centre, RDRWA State of the Watershed Report, open houses for Skyy Country Golf & RV Park, Lacombe County Area Structure Plan. Made submissions at: Sylvan Lake Management Plan Committee meetings, Public Hearings for Jarvis Bay LUB/MDP, Birchcliff LUB, sent letters on Sylvan Lake Park Boundary issue, completed an Alberta Environment Water Body Setback questionnaire and assisted the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance with an Eco Trust grant application.

Outreach initiatives

Published a spring newsletter. Attended Marina Bay Home Owners and Rotary Club meetings. A fourth panel was added to our display and was utilized at Town of Sylvan Lake Enviro Expo, Summer Village Annual Meetings etc.

Researched but rejected a watershed calendar project. Submitted but were rejected for 'Blue Water' funding for a newspaper watershed awareness initiative.

Newspaper articles in the Sylvan Lake News and other publications did provide watershed education and exposure for the Society.

Membership

"Drive for Five" (500 members) continues. A mail out (vs. Email out) renewal was very successful. Our strength is in numbers, in a large pool of talented, diverse, energetic and caring people.

(note* Rob Renner - Environment Minister letter)

You are counted as a member unless a written request is sent to the secretary to be removed from the membership roll. An active or member in good standing (voting privileges) means you have paid the annual dues of \$20.

A very gratifying aspect has been the large number of membership renewals (160+-) and donations (over \$2100) sent in by those who support our efforts. Thank you letters are being sent out.

Conclusion

We met, went to meetings, public hearings, wrote letters, donated time, asked for money, spent money and tried to make a difference!

The Society is in good shape, in good hands and in very good finances. The year ahead will continue to challenge. Pressure to urbanize the natural landscape will not abate. A Protection Plan to mitigate the impact of development should remain a priority.

I would like to thank the entire Board for being dedicated 'watershed warriors' and for volunteering their valuable time to be a voice for a sustainable watershed. It is because of you we will eventually achieve success in protecting the lake.

I'd like to repeat a quote from last year.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has".

.... Margaret Mead

On behalf of the Board of Directors thank you again for attending this meeting and for your support of the Watershed Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Johnson
President 2008/2009
Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society