

**Include me on the list of those who support a sustainable future for the Sylvan Lake Watershed**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address will help the Society communicate with you on important issues.

NEW  
 RENEWAL

**\$20 GIVES ANNUAL VOTING/ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

Please make cheque payable to: SL Watershed Society (Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society).

I will assist the Society:  Anyway I can  Membership Dues  Additional Donation  Volunteer  
If you are already a member, please pass on to a friend. Visit us at: [www.slwss.org](http://www.slwss.org)

# SLWSS



## Who are we?

A volunteer, non-profit registered society established in the fall of 1999 to act as an advocate for the protection of Sylvan Lake and its watershed. We operate under a constitution, bylaws, and are run by a board of directors who meet regularly throughout the year.

**Our Vision:** "The natural assets and ecological integrity of Sylvan Lake and its watershed are sustained for Alberta's future generations"

**Our Mission:** "To encourage community-based stewardship of the Sylvan Lake watershed"

**Our Slogan:** "Caring about Sylvan Lake"

## What Do We Do?

- **Achieve** - highest participation in water sampling for Water Quality Awareness Day
- **Deliver** - distribution of "On the Living Edge - Your Guide for Waterfront Living" to over 1,000 Sylvan Lake waterfront and area homes
- **Develop** stewardship partnerships, push for a watershed approach to planning
- **Educate** with initiatives to increase awareness for a healthy lake
- **Identify** environmentally sensitive areas of the watershed - Sign Project in co-operation with Summer Villages
- **Initiate** and support science based studies of the lake and its watershed
- **Monitor** water quality for the 8 Lake Municipalities and Alberta Environment
- **Map** - Watershed Mapping Project - synthesis and summary of numerous scientific and management documents on Sylvan Lake
- **Respond** to lakeside developments - Public Hearings etc.
- **Support** a Sylvan Lake Watershed Protection Plan - choose a future rather than accept an unplanned outcome
- **Volunteer** in Shoreline Clean Up - participate in existing program by others (new initiative)

Your membership/donation will help us continue existing programs and launch new initiatives. A larger membership base will provide:

- A stronger community voice for a healthy lake
- Increased financial capacity to fund society activities
- More ideas, energy and resources from a larger pool

*The days are gone when we could afford to take our Lake's water quality and shoreline health for granted.*

## What Others Say About Us...

*".....I applaud the rigor in which you continue to develop your monitoring program"*

**Hon. Rob Renner Minister Alberta Environment**

*".....Sustainable Resource Development acknowledges your organization's dedication to preserving the benefits of Sylvan Lake's watershed and promoting a stewardship ethic among the community"*

**Hon. Ted Morton Minister Sustainable Resource Development**

*".....We commend you on your efforts to ensure the long term sustainability of Sylvan Lake's water quality ....."*

**Terry Hager Commissioner Lacombe County**

*"..... Your group definitely deserves a pat on the back for the work done to date."*

**Chris Teichreb, M.Sc. P.Biol. Limnologist/Regional Water Quality Specialist, Alberta Environment**

# SLWSS



**SYLVAN LAKE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY**

*...Join the Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society...*



# Sylvan Lake Watershed

The waters of Sylvan Lake and its contributing Watershed provide a significant source of Natural Capital.\*

Natural Capital includes the land and water resources that anchor our quality of life and can be also described as the accumulated assets that our natural environment is providing.

It is the Natural Capital of Sylvan Lake that makes it one of Alberta's premier recreational resources and a desirable life style community.

With a reduction of Natural Capital value, we can expect a reduction in the quality of our recreational experiences and our quality of life.

## Natural Capital Assets of Sylvan Lake to Protect and to Plan For:

- The good quality lake water; in its current Meso-eutrophic condition.
- A consistent and clean water supply to maintain favorable lake levels.
- The remaining natural and upland habitat of marshes, trees and fields that supports such a rich diversity of wildlife and birds.
- The healthy aquatic ecosystem that sustains the lake's rich fisheries.
- The drainages, wetlands, riparian buffers, natural grasslands and woodlots that maintain clean water in the watershed.
- The remaining visually pleasing natural shoreline.
- The current rural character of open spaces and natural areas.
- The sky views and the sense of quietness.
- Ecologically friendly architecture and landscape design.
- Safe boating, swimming, and diving.

Sustaining the Sylvan Lake Watershed's abundant Natural Capital requires a much greater commitment to planning, policy development, municipal coordination, scientific pursuit, and resource management than is currently occurring in the watershed.

## The Current Situation

The Lake continues to absorb pollution each year; human activities within the watershed are known to be the primary source.

With a continued loading of pollutants, the lake is at risk of losing its desirable Meso-eutrophic condition. If this happens, the Lake will become eutrophic, with algae blooms, increased in-water vegetative decomposition, and low oxygen conditions. Fish kills, offensive odors, green soupy water, and swimmers itch are characteristics of a lake in eutrophic condition.

There is no accountable, collectively agreed upon, statutory document to guide a common vision, mission, or set of goals for the Lake and Watershed.

The resident community and the recreational users of the lake have not, in any effective way, identified and communicated to the municipalities and government agencies what remaining Natural Capital assets require protection.

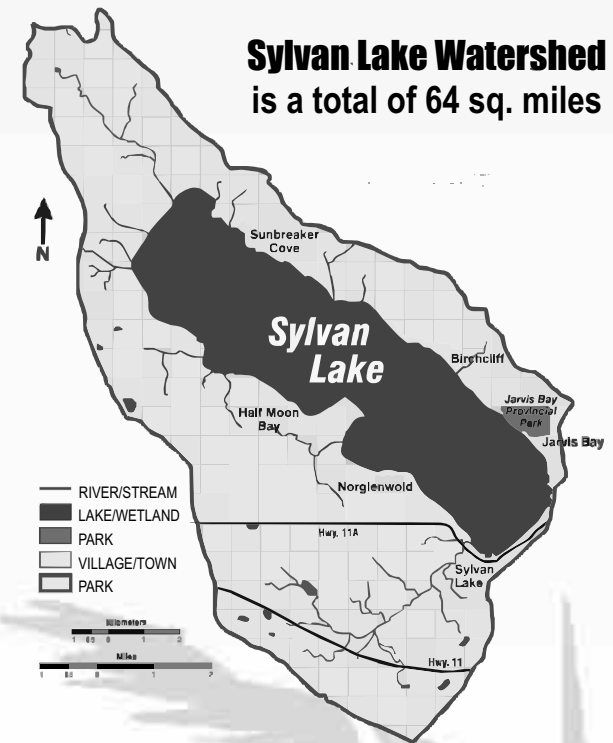
## Innovative Solutions

- Proactive, collective and anticipatory planning is required to identify issues and provide effective, long-term solutions to the erosion of the Watershed's Natural Capital.
- Future Watershed Planning needs to include:
  - Confirmation of the specific Natural Capital assets valued by the community of users and residents.
  - Leadership from all eight municipalities in the watershed.
  - Support and involvement from the provincial ministries of Sustainable Resources, Environment and Municipal Affairs, Rural Development, Infrastructure and Tourism, the Federal Ministries of Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society, and private landowners. The City of Red Deer (60,000 day users) and downstream water consumer and other identified stakeholders.
- Cooperative planning, acquiring the best science and effective application of new policies and beneficial management practices will have significant economic, social, and environmental benefits.

## The Reward

A model watershed community with a plan to sustain its Natural Capital assets.

**Sylvan Lake Watershed  
is a total of 64 sq. miles**



## Choose the future of the Sylvan Lake Watershed

*...rather than accept a future outcome with no plan to sustain the Watershed's Natural Capital.*

**The Watershed needs you.** Help plan for and protect the Natural Capital that makes it such a desirable place to live and play.

**Sylvan Lake Watershed Stewardship Society**  
**www.slwss.org**



PRINTED ON 100%  
RECYCLED PAPER