



SYLVAN LAKE WATERSHED NEWSLETTER / SPRING 2008

SYLVAN LAKE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY (SLWSS)

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www.slwss.org

WATER QUALITY MONITORING:

The SLWSS conducted a two year water quality monitoring program beginning April 2006. The work was funded by the eight municipalities of the watershed and Alberta Environment.

Samples were collected from 5 inflow sites (Northwest Creek, Lambe Creek, Birchcliff Creek, Golf Course Creek, and Honeymoon Creek) and 1 outflow site (Sylvan Lake outlet).

A PowerPoint report was presented to the Sylvan Lake Management Plan Committee (SLMP) March 5, 2008.

MONITORING RESULTS:



Total Nitrogen:

- ❖ In 2006, 10 of 14 samples taken between April 3 and May 29 exceeded the provincial guidelines.
- ❖ In 2007, 23 of 27 samples exceeded the provincial guidelines.

Total Phosphorus:

- ❖ All samples taken exceeded Provincial Guidelines.
- ❖ Loadings indicated the largest source of nutrients in Sylvan Lake come from the streams with the largest inflows, not necessarily the ones with the highest concentration of nutrients.
- ❖ In 2007, the two highest volume inflows were Northwest Creek and Golf Course Creek.
- ❖ Minimal loadings from Sylvan Lake outflow indicated the majority of the nutrients probably remain in the lake.



Kent Williamson photo



Kent Williamson Photo

WATER QUALITY MONITORING / CONCLUSIONS:

The monitoring results indicate the concentrations of nutrients entering the lake are significant and therefore creating a very real risk to maintaining the current very desirable Meso-eutrophic status of Sylvan Lake,

There is ample scientific evidence to support immediate action.

A precautionary, risk based approach is needed to protect the long term economic, social and recreational values of Sylvan Lake, To view the report presented to the SLMP, please visit our website at www.slwss.org.



The Alberta Stewardship Network has awarded our society a \$7,500 grant for more water quality sampling and for an awareness campaign. The program will identify and sample additional inflow channels that have not previously been part of watershed monitoring. Spring runoff from the existing project streams will also be sampled in order to provide two complete years of data. This initiative will help create awareness of ongoing loading from annual surface runoff and storm water events.

Signs, Signs, Everywhere the sign.... The Society will be installing signs at access points around Sylvan Lake noting environmentally sensitive areas of the watershed. This project was initiated by the Summer Villages (Birchcliff) and is funded through an inter-municipal sponsorship program.



May 23rd (Friday)

**Our Lady of the Rosary School
4520 Ryders Ridge, Sylvan Lake**

3:00 p.m – 10:00 p.m

(Free to the Public)

Let's Go Green Together !!!!!

Tips on how to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (composting, rain barrels)

Learn about Community Groups

Buying locally produced foods

Eco-landscaping tips

Keynote Speaker:

Xeriscape by Sara Williams @ 7 p.m.

Composting / Worm Casting with Gillian

McDonald – The Worm Croft

May 30th (Friday)

**Alberta Environment Open House
Bentley's Blindman Valley Ag Centre**

6:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m.

Representatives will be on hand to talk about algae blooms and other lake issues regarding Sylvan Lake and Gull Lake. Health Region representatives will be in attendance as well. Stewardship groups (including ours) will be there with information displays. Mark your calendar and head to Bentley for this informative session.