

**Village of Spring Lake
Environmental Advisory Committee
Fall '07 Newsletter**

Fall Shoreline Clean up – On a rainy September 22nd, we were pleased to have 17 volunteers help us with our regular Shoreline clean up. We were able to fill the Village dump truck with dozens of bags of garbage, as well we were successful in retrieving beached and abandoned pontoon boats and a row boat. As some of the veterans of several shore line cleans up stated, it is pleasing to see that each year we are finding less and less trash on our lake's shoreline. The day was wrapped up with a BBQ hosted by the Environmental Advisory Committee. A special **thank you** is in order to those who braved the weather and came out to help with our successful clean up, and to Adam Ledwon and the staff at Spring Lake Resort for organizing the clean up.

Spring Junk Swap – in keeping with the spirit of our shoreline clean up this fall, the EAC members are planning a spring curb-side junk swap. You know the saying “One man's junk is another man's treasure”. Well we would like to put this saying to the test. Watch for information this spring on the Village bulletin boards and in our Spring '08 newsletter for date and time.

Did you know?

Spring Lake is known as a ‘seepage lake’ and lakes such as ours are typical in this area. These bodies of water have no surface water inflows or outflows. Most water comes from groundwater flow; springs in our case.

Spring Lake, like many lakes in Alberta, is what is called a ‘**eutrophic lake**’. Lakes become eutrophic in a natural process as the lake ages and become more productive. This normally takes thousands of years to occur. We as humans, through our various cultural activities have greatly accelerated the eutrophication process in thousands of lakes around the world. Runoff or seepage from fertilized lands such as cow pastures, urban lawns, and even golf courses are just some of the sources of these nutrients. Partially treated or untreated domestic sewage is another source.

Phosphorus or phosphates act as powerful stimulants for algal growth. Algae bloom can lead to oxygen depletion and subsequent fish kills. As we know Spring Lake is relatively shallow overall and lake warming in the summer can occur very quickly. Warmth, sunlight and nutrients all add up to the potential for algae proliferation and shallow water weed growth. Because of low bottom dissolved oxygen some eutrophic lakes struggle to maintain their fish populations through an extended winter.

There are a variety of steps we can take to slow or limit the eutrophication of Spring Lake. A few examples of these steps are:

- ☺ Do not incur any shoreline vegetation damage or losses. Cutting grass in wide swaths down to the shoreline should be avoided.
- ☺ Plant trees and shrubs or protect your wooded areas. Removal of trees and shrubs causes more rain to hit the ground and run off rather than landing on leaves and branches.
- ☺ Keep land clearing to a minimum. Re-vegetate any bare areas to minimize erosion to the lake.
- ☺ Do not burn brush or leaves near the shore. Similarly, ash dumping from stoves, fireplaces or fire pits anywhere near the shoreline negatively impacts the lake's biomass.

- ☺ Try not to use outboard motors in shallow areas – as is much of Spring Lake’s shoreline! The nutrient-laden bottom sediments can be churned into the overlying water which may cause increased algal growth.

Our common sense in managing phosphorus pollution is essential. Minimizing erosion is also crucial. Irresponsible tree cutting, removing stumps, bushes all enhance the probability of pollutants, including nutrient pollutants entering Spring Lake.

Our local and migrating bird populations can not help but do their bit to literally dump their wastes into the lake. Let’s not speed up Spring Lake’s eutrophication by our cultural practices and we will have many more generations enjoying the beauty and presence of one of Alberta’s cleanest lakes.

Submitted by Morey Madsen, BSc. , member of Spring Lake EAC

For more information on this topic by Morey Madsen, copies will be available shortly and can be picked up at the counter at the Village Office.

Pitch In Canada – as mentioned in our Spring ’07 newsletter this takes place every spring, usually late April or early May. This is a country wide activity in helping to clean up all of the winter debris that gets blown into communities from ‘who knows where?’. If we are all careful throughout the winter months, this will make our task easier come spring in getting our local area spick and span. Also, through the Pitch In Canada initiative, many communities offer large item pick ups on a one time only basis. The EAC will discuss this option with the Village over the winter months to see if we can accommodate this type of service to help clear out large unwanted items for our citizens.

ATV Trauma Information – statistics show 87% of ATV injuries were caused by children under 16 operating adult sized ATVs. Male children under the ages of 14 account for more than 60% of ATV-related deaths in children. The majority of ATV-related fatalities result from injuries to the head and neck. So in keeping these statistics in mind and with the winter season fast approaching, everyone who uses ATV vehicles within the village, please ensure you keep yourself and your children safe by wearing the appropriate safety gear, driving responsibly and using the appropriately sized ATV for your age and skill level. Also, ensure you are riding the ATV in the appropriate areas and not trespassing or damaging your neighbor’s property. For more information on ATV safety, Google: Injuries – All Terrain Vehicles. (Information drawn from ATV Injury Fact Sheet, 2004).

Our members - as a reminder, following is a list of the Village of Spring Lake Environmental Advisory Committee members. If at any time you have questions, concerns or ideas to pass onto the members, please feel free to give any one of us a call.

Scott Hayes	968 – 3974 council rep. and co-chair
Rene Morrisette	963 – 0556 – co-chair
Archie Naismith	968 – 2799
Morey Madsen	940 – 5820
Bonnie Hall	963 – 6709
Adam Ledwon	963 - 1453
Paul Chauhan	968 – 0974

From all of our members have a safe, happy and tranquil winter – enjoy the beauty and peacefulness that surrounds all of us within the Village of Spring Lake.