

2007/08 Annual Report

# BATTLE RIVER

WATERSHED ALLIANCE





# We are all stewards of the Battle River watershed.

The Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) is a not-for-profit organization that works in partnership with communities and residents to improve the Battle River watershed. The Alliance consists of members who provide leadership and guidance in watershed stewardship, education, planning and management.

The Battle River extends 800 kilometres, starting at Battle Lake in central Alberta and flowing eastward to Saskatchewan, where it joins the North Saskatchewan River, and eventually empties into Hudson's Bay. The Battle River has a number of creeks that feed into it, including Pipestone, Iron, Paintearth and Ribstone. The Battle River is a unique prairie-fed river with no mountain flows. The Battle River, its tributaries, and all of the land that eventually drains into it, is referred to as the Battle River watershed. The Battle River watershed covers approximately 30,000 square kilometres (17,667 square miles); 83% of this area is within Alberta; the remainder is in Saskatchewan.

## Vision

A Battle River watershed that sustains the ecological integrity, social, and economic needs of the community it supports.

## Mission

The Battle River Watershed Alliance is an inclusive, collaborative and consensus-based community partnership that is working to guide, support and deliver actions to sustain or improve the health of the Battle River watershed. We will seek to achieve this through knowledgeable community participation and an adaptive approach.



## ...» Chair's Report.

It is always interesting to reflect back and to summarize an organization's yearly activities into a brief 250-word summary. As Chair of the Battle River Watershed Alliance for the past two years, I have been able to see this organization move from a newly formed group to one who has embarked on some pretty exciting ventures. Through the past couple of years, we have been able to engage in some pretty lively discussions on watershed issues, and have had many opportunities to achieve consensus on some important – and sometimes difficult – decisions.

Over the last year, the BRWA has been able to continue work on two very exciting projects. The Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) study looked at populations and varieties of fish species on the Battle River. The Aerial Videography project involved a helicopter, a digital camcorder, and some expert eyes to collect and analyze riparian health data from both banks of the Battle River, as well as Battle Lake. Both projects, which were final-phase continuations from 2007, will provide “snap-shots in time” of the health of the main step of the Battle River.

In 2009, we look to undertake our biggest project yet: the start of a **“State of the Watershed”** report. This report, which will investigate the overall health of our entire Battle River watershed over the next two years, will use a number of key indicators to describe how healthy (or unhealthy) our watershed actually is. Using the results of this report, decision makers – from municipal councils and industry executives, to the individual farmer and landowner – will be able to make better, more-informed decisions on actions which could potentially impact our watershed.

On behalf of the BRWA Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Barb Bosh (ATCO Power), Wayne Ungstad (Individual Landowner), and Doug Thrussell (Alberta Environment) for their valuable involvement in the BRWA over the past year. Each of these individuals has been very important members of the Board, and will be greatly missed.

As the BRWA moves into our third year of operation, I look forward to being involved in the decisions that will be made. As it continues to reach out to new members and supporting agencies, and as it continues to make policy or operational decisions, I know that the BRWA will carry on towards its vision of

**“A Battle River watershed that sustains the ecological integrity, social, and economic needs of the community it supports.”**

### **Jeremy Enarson**

BRWA Chairman  
2006/07 & 2007/08



BRWA would like to thank Alberta Environment and our other supporters for their generous funding contributions. We look forward to their continued support as we move forward on our State of the Watershed project.

# Financials. ←.....

Battle River Watershed Alliance Financial statement. Revenue and Expenses April 1 2007 to March 31 2008

INCOME	April 2007/March 2008		April 2008/March 2009
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
<b>Provincial Government Grants</b>			
Alberta Environment	\$195,000.00		
total grants	\$195,000.00		185,000.00
<b>Contributions/Fundraising</b>			
Town of Lacombe	\$5,425.00		
Ponoka Fish and Game	\$100.00		
total other contributions	\$5,525.00		15,000.00
<b>Other</b>			
Alberta Environment Contract	\$40,000.00		44,000.00
Bank Interest	\$21.43		
Total revenue	\$240,546.43		244,000.00
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Manager Contract	\$66351.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Communication Education Coordinator Contract	\$7,528.76	24,000.00	33,280.00
Office Rent	\$0.00	25,000.00	15,000.00
Office Expenses	\$3,249.71	6,500.00	1,500.00
Telephone	\$617.59	1,500.00	750.00
Internet	\$230.19	1,500.00	750.00
Board Administration (Insurance, etc)	\$850.00	1,500.00	5,000.00
Project expenses	\$40,118.64	40,000.00	69,000.00
Facility rental	\$395.04	2,500.00	0
Advertising	\$1,302.20	2,500.00	4,000.00
Program Materials	60	9,000.00	5,000.00
Evaluation	\$0.00	0.00	0
Staff Travel	\$1,459.42	2,500.00	0
Staff Training	\$0.00	0.00	0
Staff Conferences	\$0.00	0.00	0
Board Expenses	\$2,257.98	10,000.00	7,000.00
Board Travel	\$2,869.19	5,000.00	0
Board Training	\$3,952.83	10,000.00	0
Board Conferences	\$375.49	1,000.00	0
Board Per diems	\$6,460.40	22,500.00	21,000.00
Stewardship Support			15,000.00
Membership Meetings			10,000.00
GST	5,722.12		
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$142,059.50</b>	<b>235,000.00</b>	<b>257,280.00</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Bank Balance	\$98,486.93		
Cell Phone	\$100.00		
<b>Other Assets</b>	\$0.00		
Total Assets	\$98,586.93		
<b>Liabilities</b>	\$0.00		



## Board of Directors.

The BRWA Board of Directors meets monthly to discuss watershed issues and its ongoing projects. BRWA would like to thank both individuals, and organizations who allowed their staff to participate on our Board of Directors, for their valuable in-kind contributions of time and expertise. BRWA gratefully acknowledges the commitment of our Board members; their contributions correlate directly to our organization's success and are greatly appreciated.

### Agriculture

**George Poruchnek** – Landowner  
**Doug Fletcher** – Landowner

### Business/Industry

**Carol Wilson**, Alberta Beef Producers  
**Barb Bosh** – BRWA Treasurer, ATCO Power

### Environment

**Shane Mascarin**, Department of National Defense  
**Tracy Scott** – BRWA Vice Chair, Ducks Unlimited Canada

### First Nations

**Leonard Standing on the Road**, Montana First Nations  
**Carol Wildcat**, Montana First Nations

### Individual

**Wayne Ungstad** - Landowner  
**Midge Lambert** - Landowner

### Municipal Government

**Jeremy Enarson** – BRWA Chair, City of Camrose  
**Wayne Richardson** - County of Paintearth  
**Brenda Shantz** - County of Wetaskiwin

### Prov/Fed. Govt Academia

**Doug Thrussell** - Alberta Environment  
**Phil Boehme** – Alberta Agriculture & Food

### Staff

#### Manager

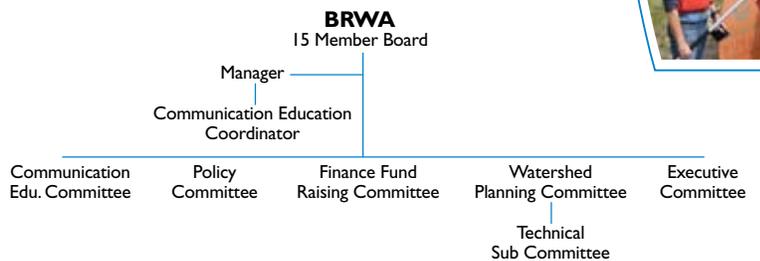
The BRWA Manager position is contracted to Sammiam Consulting, David and Maurice Samm. David is the lead consultant.

#### Communication Education Coordinator

The BRWA Communications & Educator position is contracted to Maureen Lynch Consulting.



### Board Structure



### BRWA Standing Committees

BRWA has five standing committees.

- 1 **Communication Education Committee**  
Chair: **Tim Belec**
- 2 **Policy Committee**  
Chair: **Wayne Ungstad**
- 3 **Finance Fund Raising Committee**  
Chair: Treasurer **Barb Bosh/ Carol Wildcat**
- 4 **Watershed Planning**  
Chair: **Leonard Standing on the Road**
- 5 **Executive Committee**  
Chair: **Jeremy Enarson**

## ...> 2007/08 Goals & Activities.

The BRWA is an effective, efficient and sustainable Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC):

- 1 Prepared AENV Grant Funding Package
- 2 Held regular meetings of the 5 standing committees - Education/Communication, Policy, Watershed Planning, Finance, and Executive.
- 3 Established Work Plans, Project Priorities, Schedule, and Budgets
- 4 Developed, maintained and reported on BRWA committees; their Terms of Reference, desired outcomes, success indicators, issues and opportunities, and actions
- 5 Revised 3-yr rolling Strategic Business Plan, Annual Operating Plans and budgets
- 6 Generated and maintained a database of meeting facility locations, and their details, within the Battle River Watershed
- 7 Met monthly with Board of Directors and held regular Board knowledge, function, and development sessions
- 8 Held Board Retreat to discuss future directions and initiate State of the Watershed Report.
- 9 Established, implemented and monitored Per Diem & Honorarium for eligible board and committee members

The Battle River watershed community is aware of, and understands the ecological, social and economic values provided by a healthy Battle River watershed:

- 1 Developed Communications Strategy
- 2 Responded to more than 12 requests for speaking engagements, presentations, and community events to achieve exchange information, build partnerships and promote BRWA membership
- 3 Published 4 issues of BRWA newsletter **The Current**; (March, June, September, December)
- 4 Held Annual General Meeting in Camrose, November 2007

5 Held summer information meeting in Pigeon Lake, August 2008

6 Enhanced design and content of BRWA website.

There is broad community and partnership involvement or support for the BRWA, its Vision, Mission, Goals, Strategies and Actions:

- 1 Identified active or forming Watershed Stewardship Groups in the Battle River Watershed
- 2 Made BRWA presentations to municipal governments within the Battle River Watershed
- 3 Established communications, education and consultative relationship with the Alberta Water Council and Alberta Stewardship Network
- 4 Identified and nominated outstanding watershed stewardship candidates in the Battle River Watershed candidate for ASN environmental award
- 5 Provided support for community watershed projects, such as the City of Camrose Water Festival and Caring For the Battle River Project
- 6 Met with local representatives looking to form a Watershed Stewardship Group at Lacombe Lake.

The ecological, social and economic health of the Battle River watershed is sustained or improved:

- 1 Participated in the provincial Watershed Planning & Advisory Council Summit November 2008 and regular WPAC conference calls
- 2 Provided advice on, and actively participated in, provincial initiatives: Alberta Water Council's Water for Life Renewal, Wetland Policy review, and Watershed Planning and Framework Governance, Cumulative Effects workshop, Provincial Land Use Strategy.
- 3 Initiated BRWA State of the Watershed project; developed Terms of Reference for the SOW.
- 4 Supported Battle River Index of Biological Integrity Study

# Projects.

## Index of Biological Integrity Study (IBI) . . . .>

This summer, BRWA continued with its Index of Biotic Integrity Study (IBI) on the Battle River. This multi-metric approach uses fish assemblages to assess the biological condition of the watershed, with fish and river riparian areas being used as indicators to assess the health of the river ecosystem. The study provides baseline data for use in the BRWA State of the Watershed Report.

## Aerial Videography Capture & Riparian Health and Integrity Assessment: Battle River

This summer, BRWA continued to work with Alberta Environment to complete aerial videography on the Battle River. Following up on last year's efforts, contractor George Walker, along with BRWA's Maurice Sann and Wayne Ungstad, flew the remaining half of the Battle River watershed in a helicopter to conduct aerial videography capture and a riparian health and integrity assessment. The efforts help to measure the effect of human activities on the Battle River watershed and will provide valuable scientific data for use in the BRWA State of the Watershed Report.



## Signs of Life Project . . . . .

BRWA continues to work with the Land Stewardship Centre of Canada to serve as a pilot site for the Signs of Life project. The Signs of Life project is designed to encourage partnerships for the signage of rivers, creeks, canals, lakes and wetlands visible from major highways in Alberta. The project aims to help draw attention to waterbody values and raise the public profile of watersheds.

Project components include identifying locations for Battle River crossing/border points that are not yet signed and development of a local waterbody fact and information sheet. BRWA is also looking to develop the project further with First Nations in the watershed by marking Battle River crossings with signs in Cree syllabic and phonetic on the Montana Band Reserve and range roads.

## Teacher Inservice

BRWA held a Teacher Workshop with five Battle River School Division teachers in August; the half-day workshop featured a trip down the Battle River in Augustana College voyager canoes, presentations by Cows & Fish and Ducks Unlimited & giveaway flash drives linking to watershed information to school curriculum.



## Did you know?

The Battle River starts at Battle Lake in central Alberta and flows eastward into the North Saskatchewan River, eventually emptying into Hudson's Bay

The Battle River is a unique prairie-fed river with no mountain flows

Several local watershed groups and community organizations are working on conservation & protection initiatives to manage for a health Battle River watershed:

The Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society has developed a demonstration site in the Battle River watershed along the Iron Creek to promote good watershed management

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Association has produced a State of the Watershed Report to help in the protection of Pigeon Lake

For more information about the Battle River Watershed and how you can get involved visit our website:

**[www.battleriverwatershed.ca](http://www.battleriverwatershed.ca)**

Or contact us at:

**T: 780.781.2972**

**E: [info@battleriverwatershed.ca](mailto:info@battleriverwatershed.ca)  
Box 1926, Camrose, AB T4V 1X8**



**BATTLE RIVER**  
WATERSHED ALLIANCE