

## ► BRWA News

### BRWA Participates in First Nations Riparian Health Assessment Training Workshop

The Technical Services Advisory Group and Cows & Fish held a First Nations Riparian Health Assessment Training Workshop in Ponoka in June. BRWA provided a presentation on the Battle River watershed, discussed the Fish-based Index of Biological Integrity for Assessing River Condition in Central Alberta, and provided an update on BRWA activities and projects.

The two-day workshop for First Nations representatives from across the province included discussion of riparian form/function, riparian management strategies, and the history of, and cumulative effects on, the Battle River. The introductory training for riparian area management and health assessment included hands-on monitoring of the Battle River during an outdoor field day, which provided an opportunity for participants to learn about plant identification and site selection.

### Board Update

The BRWA Board of Directors met with Morris Sieferling, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Sustainable Resources, in August to discuss the Land Use Framework (LUF). Topics of discussion included opportunities for synergy between Watershed Planning Advisory Councils (WPACs) and the LUF, current LUF status, First Nations involvement and Regional Advisory Council (RAC) representation.

The meeting provided the opportunity to discuss how BRWA and LUF can work together to protect the Battle River watershed. Under the LUF, which provides a blueprint for land-use management and decision-making that addresses the growth that has occurred in Alberta over the past several years, RACs are being established in each of the seven land-use regions to provide advice to government on the development of regional plans. The Battle River watershed falls within two land-use regions (the North Saskatchewan and the Red Deer Region). The North Saskatchewan RAC is expected to be established in the next 7-10 months, with the Red Deer RAC expected to form later. WPACs will be allowed one seat on the RAC; BRWA will nominate a person to represent it on the RAC. The government has set a goal of completing the seven regional plans by the end of 2012.

For more information on the LUF, visit [www.landuse.alberta.ca](http://www.landuse.alberta.ca)

For more information on BRWA, contact Manager, David Samm at **1.888.672-0276** or email [battle.river@gmail.com](mailto:battle.river@gmail.com)



Participants in the First Nations Riparian Health Assessment Training Workshop learn about plant identification as they conduct a health assessment along the Battle River near Ponoka.

### Battle River Watershed Students & Park Visitors Take Part in Alberta Water Quality Awareness Day

BRWA led *Alberta Water Quality Awareness (AWQA) Day* activities in the watershed this summer to provide a hands-on educational experience in water quality testing.

In June, twenty-one Grade 5 Viking School students participated in *AWQA Day* with BRWA. Students visited the Viking Golf Course to test a local waterbody and compared their results with data collected from other water sources, including town tap water, well water, reservoir water, dish water and rainwater.

In July, more than 100 visitors at Big Knife Provincial Park celebrated *Parks Day* with BRWA by conducting *AWQA Day* water quality testing in the Battle River.

*AWQA Day* allows participants to test four indicators of water health (dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature and turbidity), which serve as preliminary signs of the effects surrounding land use and activities have on the aquatic system.

For more information on *AWQA Day*, visit [www.awqa.ca](http://www.awqa.ca)

..... We are all stewards of the Battle River Watershed.



## ••► Caring For Our Watershed Contest Completes Third Year

*Caring for our Watersheds: Battle River Proposal Writing Contest* completed its third successful year in May. The contest asks students to answer the question; “What can I do, create, improve or invent to better care for the Battle River Watershed?”

For more information, visit [www.caringforourwatersheds.com](http://www.caringforourwatersheds.com) or contact Maurice Samm, Project Coordinator, at **780-608-1676** or [msamm@telus.net](mailto:msamm@telus.net)

### UNIVERSITY CATEGORY

PLACE	STUDENT	PROPOSED IDEA	SCHOOL
1 <sup>st</sup>	Erin Langager	Paper Recycling	Augustana
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Madison Kobryn	Benthic Macro-invertebrates & Nutrient Enrichment	Augustana
3 <sup>rd</sup>	David Birkigt	Modelling Riparian Alterations	Augustana

### HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY

PLACE	STUDENT	PROPOSED IDEA	SCHOOL
1 <sup>st</sup>	Jeremy Abbott	Exhaust farming	Strome
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John-Dale & James Ma	Water Pollution Charlie Killam	Charlie Killam
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Shawna	The Bags	Charlie Killam
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wyatt Burtusek	Don't Idle Me	Strome
5 <sup>th</sup>	Breana and Kami	Easy Being Green	Charlie Killam
6 <sup>th</sup>	Dilshant Garcha	Watershed Conservation	Charlie Killam
7 <sup>th</sup>	Natasha Kowalchuck	Recycling Awareness	Strome
8 <sup>th</sup>	Ashley Hochhausen	Home & Native Plants	Strome



Dustin Bailey and Evan Hayes conduct electro fishing at the fish passage at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright in May. The Base adopts environmental management practices that ensure an ecologically valuable and sensitive training area for Canadian soldiers.

## WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP GROUPS REMAIN ACTIVE THROUGH SUMMER

Watershed Stewardship Groups in the Battle River watershed continued to remain active over the summer.

*Friends of Little Beaver Lake* has completed riparian field work and is conducting water sampling. The group is working on signage, with plans for a signage ceremony in September. For more information, contact Lorne Ferguson at [lornef@explornet.com](mailto:lornef@explornet.com)

The *Pigeon Lake Watershed Association* (PLWA) held its third Annual General Meeting in August to provide a report on Association activities and financial statements and elect directors for a two-year term. The meeting included displays of environmental and stewardship groups, as well as a session for members to provide feedback on Association activities, and a BBQ lunch with the Board of Directors and Diana McQueen the MLA for Drayton Valley Calmar. For more information, visit [www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com](http://www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com)



Photo credit: Trudy Flesher Attendees take part in PLWA AGM activities.

## Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin Releases SoW Report

*Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin* has completed its State of the Saskatchewan River Basin report. *From the Mountains to the Sea – the State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report* summarizes the state of the fourth longest river system in North America.

To receive a copy of, or presentation on, the *From the Mountains to the Sea – the State of the Saskatchewan River Basin Report*, contact Jennifer Nelson at [partners@saskriverbasin.ca](mailto:partners@saskriverbasin.ca), or call **306-665-6887**. For more information on the conference or awards program, visit [www.saskriverbasin.ca](http://www.saskriverbasin.ca)

### WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN BRWA ACTIVITIES?

- Attend a **BRWA Board of Directors Meeting**, held the fourth Friday of every month.
- Join a **BRWA Committee**.
- Attend the **BRWA Annual General Meeting**, held every November.
- Join a local **Watershed Stewardship Group**.

For more information, contact David Samm, BRWA Manager, at **780-672-0276** or email [battle.river@gmail.com](mailto:battle.river@gmail.com)

## ► News from Alberta Stewardship Network

The Alberta Stewardship Network held its Annual General Meeting and *Stewards in Motion VII* Conference in Fort McLeod in June. With the theme, Local Diversity: *Helping Habitat at Home*, the annual workshop was a feature-filled, inspirational day of sharing knowledge and celebration of stewardship successes with more than 80 participants from around the province.

The workshop also included announcement of the **2009 ASN Grassroots Environmental Stewardship Awards**:

- **Supporting Agency:** Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
- **Stewardship Group:** Moose Lake Watershed Society
- **Stewardship Project:** Medicine Hat Interpretive Program
- **Individual Commitment:** Marina Krainer

### BRWA Attends National Stewardship Conference

The 4th National Stewardship and Conservation Conference was held in Calgary in July. *Strengthening Stewardship – Investing At Every Step* allowed approximately 400 individuals, groups, industry, business, government and non-government organizations committed to stewardship to discuss emerging issues and solutions for the stewardship of Canada's environment. The conference is held every three years in different provinces or territories of Canada and featured the presentation of Wildlife Habitat Canada's six national stewardship awards to promote good stewardship of Canada's forests and agricultural lands.

#### Forest Stewardship award winners:

- Galiano Conservancy Association, Galiano Island, BC
- Elmer, Peter & Andrew MacKay, owners of the MacKay woodlands in Lorne, NS
- Donna Cansfield, Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources

## ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT HOSTS WHELP CREEK SUB-WATERSHED TOUR

On July 28, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development hosted a tour in the Whelp Creek Sub-watershed to provide an update on its *Nutrient Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) Evaluation Project*. Participants examined cropland and pasture sites, as well as the Whelp Creek Sub-watershed outlet and Whelp Creek diversion structure to Lacombe Lake.

Under the project, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and its partners are implementing a five-year scientific evaluation of BMPs in the Whelp Creek and Indianfarm Creek watersheds.

The *Nutrient BMP 2008 Progress Report* is available at [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca) (type 'Nutrient Beneficial Management Practice Evaluation Project' in the 'Search' option).

#### Countryside Canada award winners:

- Dylan & Colleen Biggs, owners of TK Ranch, east-central Alberta
- Ernie Ewaschuk, a lifelong proponent of stewardship from St. Albert
- Land Stewardship Centre of Canada, Edmonton



Photo credit: Sarah Hipkin See descriptions below

The Alberta Stewardship Network was chosen by the conference planning committee to administer a special *Strengthening Stewardship' Legacy Project* grant. This one-time grant will be awarded to a local stewardship group in Alberta for a project that addresses actions identified in the conference Strategic Road Map, and supports community-based action, improved environmental health, and public awareness of the value of stewardship and conservation. Final details on the grant and application process will be announced on the ASN website towards the end of fall 2009.

Post-conference updates, webcasts of plenary sessions, conference presentations and posters, and the report on the State of Stewardship in Canada can be found on the conference website [www.stewardship2009.ca](http://www.stewardship2009.ca)

L to R: 1) Preston Manning spoke at the conference about recommendations to strengthen stewardship in Canada. 2) Participants in the national stewardship conference signed pledges to take good care of Canada's environment and encourage others to do the same. 3) The pictures are from young elementary school students in Alberta, showing their hopes for Canada's environment.



BRWA Communications & Education Committee members Adelle Kientz, Maureen Lynch, Phil Boehme and Shayne Steffen take part in the Nutrient BMP Study Whelp Creek Sub-watershed Tour in July in Lacombe.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Up to 90% of bacteria can be filtered from water passing through a wetland? Learn more about this and other wetland facts by visiting [www.ducks.ca](http://www.ducks.ca)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Agriculture

**George Poruchnek** – Landowner

**Doug Fletcher** – Landowner

### Business/Industry

**Carol Wilson** – BRWA Treasurer,  
Alberta Beef Producers

**Darcy Allen** – Encana

### Environment

**Tracy Scott** – BRWA Vice Chair, Ducks  
Unlimited Canada

**Jim Stevens** - Pigeon Lake Watershed Association

### First Nations

**Leonard Standing on the Road** – Montana  
First Nations

**Vacant**

### Individual

**Harley Louis** – Montana First Nations

**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

**Greg Nelson** – Alberta Environment

**Shane Mascarin** – Department of  
National Defense

### BRWA Committee – Chairs

Education/Communications – **Rotating**

Executive – **Jeremy Enarson**

Policy – **Jeremy Enarson**

Finance/Fundraising – **Carol Wilson**

Watershed Planning –

**Leonard Standing On The Road**

## Coming Events

**River Rally 2009** is being held September 29 to October 1 in Devon, as part of the Watershed Protectors program funded by Petro-Canada. For more information, visit [www.albertaecotruct.com/capacity/events](http://www.albertaecotruct.com/capacity/events)

The **Alberta Water Learning Network** is holding its second in a series of three learning retreats from October 1–2 at Pigeon Lake. For more information, visit [www.sustainabilitynetwork.ca](http://www.sustainabilitynetwork.ca)

**WaterEDWest Conference 2009: A Confluence of Ideas** is being held from September 10–13 in Banff. BRWA will be among the presenters. For more information, contact Jason Toner at **1-888-421-1497** or visit [www.wateredwest.ca](http://www.wateredwest.ca)

The **Watershed Planning and Advisory Council Summit** is being co-hosted by BRWA on October 26–28 in Camrose. Join WPACs from around the province as we discuss watershed issues of common concern. For more information, contact David Samm at **1-888-672-0276**

## Available Resources

Applications are being accepted for the **Growing Forward Water Management Program**, which provides technical assistance and incentive for the creation of a Long Term Water Management Plan on the farm. Any active producer with a minimum of \$10,000 farm commodity production per year is eligible. For more information, contact the Ag-Info Centre at **310-FARM** or visit [www.growingforward.alberta.ca](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca)

The Alberta Water Council's Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems Project Team has produced two short reports: **Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems – a Working Definition**, and **Recommended Projects to Advance the Goal of Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems**. The reports are intended to advance the Water for Life strategy's goal of healthy aquatic ecosystems. For more information, visit the Alberta Water Council website at [www.awchome.ca](http://www.awchome.ca)

