



*To Enhance, Preserve & Protect
Pigeon Lake & Its Watershed*

ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

PRESIDENTS REPORT

In 2007/2008 the PLWA was established, in its current form, including the recruitment of directors and members, raising funds, establishment of stewardship and other programs, developing relationships and providing a baseline for the Association's future activities including water quality assessment, the initial State of the Watershed Report and a shoreline video-graphical assessment.

The Mission of the PLWA is to enhance, preserve and protect Pigeon Lake and its watershed as a healthy and environmentally sustainable ecosystem for current and future generations. The Association has a strong priority to educate and inform the public with advertisements in local papers and a website specifically created to improve communication with the membership, policy makers and general public about initiatives, issues and concerns in the Pigeon Lake watershed. (www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com) Please see the website for details.

In 2008/2009 the PLWA continued to advocate on behalf of members and build a strong base for the future activities of the Association and the enhancement of stewardship activities and programs.

- Advocating for the rapid implementation of the Regional Wastewater System expansion. The province has approved funding for the detailed engineering of the option selected by both counties and the summer villages not yet on the regional system. In the interim, most summer villages are requiring ratepayers to convert to holding tanks, to protect the lake and to be ready for the regional system, once implemented.
- Publishing *Guide To Holding Tanks* for use by residents when installing a tank which can be hooked up to the future regional collection system.
- Working with the Province of Alberta; recommending that in the Provincial Park they install a tank and use pump outs until it can be attached to the regional wastewater system.
- Reviewing in-lake techniques to mitigate the blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) and lake water level problems.
- Participating in the development and endorsing of the recommendations of the Pigeon Lake Fisheries Management Plan.
- Completing a review, by the Environmental Law Centre, of all laws, regulations and policies impacting Pigeon Lake and its watershed
- Responding to high density residential development proposals and oil & gas operations which have a negative effect on the watershed. This includes a request to renew a license to withdraw water from the aquifer which charges the springs that feed the lake. To date, it has not been approved for renewal.
- Gaining representation, on behalf of the PLWA on the Boards of the Battle River Watershed Alliance, (which is the designated Water Planning Advisory Counsel for the basin that Pigeon Lake falls within) and the Alberta Stewardship Network.

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- Attending and presenting at local and national stewardship workshops and conferences to expand the Association's learning and networks.
- Assessing the Province's *Land Use Frame Work*, and attending the County of Wetaskiwin's review of their Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw and the County of Leduc's regional area structure plan for the north west portion of the lake

In 2008/2009 the Association expanded stewardship events and programs, including:

- Determining the "Top 10" things residents can do to reduce their impact on the lake.
- Conducting spring and fall Shoreline Clean-ups and a Christmas Creature Count.
- Partnering with the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, *Living By Water Program*, to sponsor
 - Homesite Consultations – free, confidential, on-site review of first and second row cottage properties to inform residents about positive actions that they can make to their home and yard to maintain healthy shorelines and easily reduce impacts on the lake to improve water quality and habitat.
 - Environmental Workshops – Healthy Shorelines 101, to help shoreline and back lot property owners learn best management practices of shoreline living including riparian setbacks, onsite water management and more.
- Partnering with the Counties of Leduc and Wetaskiwin to sponsor, for agricultural residents.
 - Riparian health assessments, Environmental Farm Plan Workshops, on farm water quality testing, stewardship programs, water management, and Alberta Agriculture's Growing Forward Initiatives.
 - Horticulture including Shelterbelt Workshops, tree orders, tree and plant disease, insects and pruning.
- Attending Farmers' Markets, Fairs and speaking at summer village Annual Information Meetings
- Sponsoring Environmental Farm Plan, Shelterbelt and Working Well Workshops and the Love the Lake Pledge – change does not happen overnight; however, if all residents made a number of small changes to their behaviours and to their watershed properties, shoreline habitat and water quality would improve without compromising a resident's lifestyle
- The PLWA Board determined that initial memberships, in 2007 were valid for a two year period, thus 2009 marks the Association's first membership renewal. In addition to individual and family memberships, the summer villages of Argentia, Golden Days and Itaska purchased memberships on behalf of their ratepayers. Due to privacy concerns they can not provide individual's personal information to the Association and have asked their ratepayers to provide their information directly to the PLWA. Membership grew, in 2007/08 to over 1,600 including individuals and those summer village ratepayers for whom the Association received personal information. To date almost 1,000 individuals have renewed their memberships excluding those for who memberships were purchased by their summer village and who have not provided their information to the Association.
- The PLWA received a County of Leduc environmental award and was nominated for the prestigious Emerald Award in recognition of its efforts over the past two years.
- At a special meeting in 2009 PLWA members approved amending Articles of Association and the PLWA gained registration as a Canadian charity under the Income Tax Act.

During the last year a number of PLWA directors retired. On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Association we would like to thank Ray Capowski, WD (Bill) Grace, Peggy Juchli, Brian Johnson, Charles Rees, Eric Seneka and Erwin Zotzman for their dedication and service.



Peggy Juchli has continued with the TD Lakeshore Clean-up this Fall and may be contacted at 780-389-4260 to join the clean-up action on individual beaches. Last year over 2000 pounds of garbage was removed from the lake.

In 2009 Board developed a “game plan” which included five major initiative areas:

1. Restoration & Preservation of Natural Ecosystems
2. Water Quality
3. Stakeholders Engaged In Best Environmental Practices
4. Balanced Fisheries Management
5. PLWA Sustainability

For each initiative the PLWA developed longer term objectives, measures of success and specific activities to be completed

In 2009/2010 will be reaching out to watershed stakeholders to encourage them to get involved and implement measures which can help save the lake. Major activities planned include:

- Continue to review in-lake treatment techniques to improve water quality and lake levels.
- Advocate for rapid implementation of the Regional Waste Water System.
- Continue with the second phase of the Environmental Law Centre review – working cooperatively with lake municipalities to identify and implement uniform best regulatory practices.
- Sponsor a cumulative effects Integrated Watershed Management Plan to engage stakeholders to identify issues, develop mitigation strategies and to implement the strategies and measures identified.
- Continuing to expand stewardship and educations programs to provide watershed residents and visitors with the information they need to reduce nutrient loading going into the lake.
- Providing input into the province’s Land Use Framework and both counties’ development plans.
- Support the implementation of the Pigeon Lake Fisheries Management Plan.
- Continue to implement the Board’s game plan and continue to develop PLWA practices.

Membership fees fund the Association’s communication activities but the PLWA relies on donations and grants to fund programs and activities. Our plan for 2009/2010 contains even more aggressive measures to enhance, preserve and protect the lake, including the expenditure of funds. Members who have not yet renewed are encouraged to do so and all members are encouraged to make tax deductible donations to fund the Association’s activities for which income tax receipts will be issued.

YOU CAN HELP BY:

- Identifying and implementing ten things that you can do to reduce your impact on the lake and its watershed and the environment
- Getting involved in Pigeon Lake Watershed Association and other stewardship activities
- Attending the educational activities sponsored by the Association and applying what you learn
- Serving as a good example to your neighbours and visitors and encouraging them to do the same; and
- Expressing your concerns to your elected representatives of the municipal (summer village and country), provincial and federal levels of government



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee

The Committee maintained the Association's website, coordinated the preparation of the Annual Report, prepared newsletters, newspaper advertisements and posters to advise watershed residents of activities, updated materials to support membership recruitment, and coordinated the development of a plan to guide the Association's activities.

The Committee will continue to promote the Association's activities, will be enhancing the Association's website and communication plan, developing more effective relationships with the media and county and summer village administrators, drafting a guideline for blog postings and assisting other Committees in the development of Terms of Reference.

Susan Ellis, Doug McKenzie, Ryan Devlin and Don Smallwood (Chair)

Fund Raising Committee

The fund raising committee has not undertaken and major fund raising activities since the requests were initially made in 2007. As we continue forward in 2009 and into 2010 we will be looking to our members, our community businesses, association partners and government to assist in raising funds for activities to help enhance, preserve, and protect the lake.

Bob Lloyd and Dennis McCoy (Chair)

Finance Committee

The committee is responsible for the financial stewardship of the association, which also includes the preparation of the Financial Statements and Annual Charity Return. The association was granted charitable status by the Canadian Revenue Agency in 2009 and can now issue tax deductible charitable receipts. The association is on a solid financial footing, yet will need to raise significant funds through donations and grants to achieve the objectives we have set in the next few years.

Doug Bell (chair)

Government Liaison Committee

Jim Stevens (Chair)

Membership Committee

From our inception in 2007 the Watershed Association signed up 1241 members. Three of these were made life members because of their generous donations. Initial memberships were extended to April 30 of 2009 since many people signed up late in 2007. Because the Summer Villages of Golden Days and Itaska paid to have all of their ratepayers signed on in 2009, it is difficult to determine how many members renewed (some of the renewals were from Golden Days and Itaska), but I would approximate it at about 40%. That brought the total membership as of August 1, 2009 to 948. In addition to maintaining an accurate list of current members, the Membership committee is also responsible for maintaining a current volunteer list. Many thanks to the volunteers on this committee who assisted with a major mail-out in the spring reminding people to renew. The majority of the mailing is done out of the Pipestone Flyer to the many families who do not have an e-mail address.

The committee is active in promoting the sale of memberships at the Farmer's Market, AIMs and via the summer councils. We are always looking for more members and more volunteers!

Mary Ellan Herman (Chair)



Nominating Committee

The Committee determined the interest of existing directors to continue to serve on the board, recruited new directors from watershed communities to provide broad representation from around the lake, oriented new board members in the Association's activities and plan, recommended Officers for appointment by the Board, and developed a Conflict of Interest Policy for the Association.

The Committee will recommend directors to be elected at the Association's 2010 Annual General meeting, orient new directors, recommend officers for appointment by the Board, advise the Officers and Board on governance matters, draft operating principles and a Privacy Policy for the Association and confirm that required regulatory submissions are filed by the Association.

Don Smallwood and Bryan Kickham (Chair)

Stewardship Committee

Don Davidson, Larry Fisk, Trudy Flesher, Brian Johnson, Jim McGregor, Doug McKenzie, Hugh Sanders and Peggy Juchli (Chair)

Technical & Research Committee

The research and technical committee has spent the last year with greater focus on examining the feasibility of approaches and techniques that have been used elsewhere for cyanobacteria (blue green algae) mitigation and stabilization of water levels through such means as water importation (eg. pumping water in from the North Saskatchewan river; re-charging groundwater springs from the aquifer).

For various reasons our work has led us to further explore the feasibility of harvesting blue green algae blooms by mechanical means and to continue to explore water augmentation possibilities to stabilize depth.

The committee has also been busy supporting the Board and it's members in continuing the excellent programs which support stewardship; in the Board's decision to reduce and eliminate fresh water well injection practices and in supporting the development of a regional wastewater system. The cooperation and involvement of Alberta Environment in providing information and guidance has been extremely beneficial in seeking better ways to manage the watershed and to hopefully increase the monitoring necessary to guide management decisions.

Ray Capowski, Tom Cliff, Robert Gibbs, Harold Hoffman, John MacManus, Dennis McCoy and Randy Conrad (Chair)

Fisheries Management Committee

Members of the PLWA attended work shops held by Alberta Fisheries in Wetaskiwin and Red Deer last winter. Representatives of the fisheries advisory group that the PLWA have a seat on were also present. We were given valuable information on the state of the fishery in Pigeon Lake. Any one wishing to have a copy of the report need only to contact myself or the PLWA Web site.

Abe Silverman (Chair)



Financial Statements of

**PIGEON LAKE WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

Year ended December 31, 2008

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association



To Enhance, Preserve & Protect Pigeon Lake And It's Watershed

RAYMOND J BOBOWSKI
Chartered Accountant

441 Ronning Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Tel: 780 434 0974

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Pigeon Lake Watershed Association

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association as at December 31, 2008 and the statement of operations and changes in fund equity for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Association derives most of its revenue from donations and membership fees, which is not susceptible to complete audit verification. Accordingly, my verification of revenue from these sources was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Association and I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to total revenue, excess of revenue⁴ over expenses and members equity.

In my opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which I might have determined to be necessary had I been able to satisfy myself concerning the completeness of the donations and membership fees referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at December 31, ,2008 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



Chartered Accountant

January 9 , 2009

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association



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PIGEON LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2008, with comparative figures for 2007

	2008	2007
Assets		
Bank account	\$ 198	\$ 10,511
T-Bill savings account	109,660	118,003
Account receivable	105	-
Deposit	0	50
	<u>\$ 109,963</u>	<u>\$ 128,564</u>

Liabilities and Members' Equity

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ 3,673
Members' equity	109,963	124,891
	<u>\$ 109,963</u>	<u>\$ 128,564</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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PIGEON LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Statement of Operations and Changes in Members Equity

Year ended December 31, 2008, with comparative figures for the Period ended December 31, 2007

	2008	2007
Revenue:		
Donations received	\$ 7,200	\$ 137,368
Grants received	-	900
Membership income	8,930	6,835
Alberta Environment support	1,354	-
Interest income	2,857	1,003
	<u>20,341</u>	<u>146,106</u>
Expenditures:		
Land use and regulations legal review	10,421	-
Environmental consulting services	5,953	16,536
Workshops, shoreline clean-up, open house	5,942	146
Printing stationery and supplies	3,856	852
Advertising	3,773	504
Legal services	1,786	-
Website development and maintenance	1,474	2,109
Other expenses	1,119	516
Meeting expenses	945	552
	<u>35,269</u>	<u>21,215</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(14,928)	124,891
Members' equity, beginning of period	124,891	-
Members' equity, end of year	<u>\$ 109,963</u>	<u>\$ 124,891</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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PIGEON LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2008

1. Nature of the Association:

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (the "Association") is incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act. The objects of the Association are to develop and provide programs promoting the protection and preservation of the environment, including the preservation and protection of the aquatic ecosystem and lake environment of Pigeon Lake, Alberta.

The Association applied to Canada Revenue Agency in August 2007 for registration as a charity. The application was denied; however the decision is being appealed.

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association



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ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

Terms of Two Years expiring at the 2010 Annual General Meeting:

- Gene Begg, Upstream Ray Capowski, Mulhurst Bay
- Randy Conrad, Sundance Beach Trudy Flesher, Gilwood Beach
- Bill Grace, Poplar Bay Michael Gaian, Mission Beach
- Mary Ellen Herman, Ma-Me-O Beach Peggy Juchli, Silver Beach
- Bryan Kickham, Golden Days Dennis McCoy, Golden Days
- Don Smallwood, Viola Beach Jim Stevens, Westeros

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

- President: Trudy Flesher
- Past President: Jim Stevens
- Secretary:
- Treasurer: Doug bell

For More Information:

Call: Trudy Flesher

E-mail: info@pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com

Website: www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com

Board Member Contact Information: [http://pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com/Contact Us](http://pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com/Contact_Us)

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