

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association

A Registered Charity



Annual Report - 2010 / 2011

See Us - Website: www.plwa.ca
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Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA)

Annual Report 2010 – 2011

PLWA Overview

The Pigeon Lake Watershed Association was organized, through the merger of two stewardship groups in June 2007. Owned by our members, we are a volunteer association governed by a board of community members and from the watershed including agricultural, cottage and permanent residents, seniors and small business owners. Our activities are accomplished through individual volunteers and committees, and managed through the implementation of an ongoing and annually updated Association “Board Game Plan”

We are a charitable, non-profit environmental advocacy group.

PLWA strives to be apolitical and to serve our membership and to work with all the Pigeon Lake stakeholders based on work to fulfill the mission. Our policy is that persons serving on our board are free from any positional ties with any organization that has regulatory power in the water shed.

Our Mission

To enhance, preserve and protect Pigeon Lake and its watershed as a healthy and environmentally sustainable ecosystem for current and future generations.

Our Primary Roles

To Inform, to educate, to advocate and to protect.

In an effort to fulfill these roles PLWA has been creating a platform of information for members and stakeholders. These reports can be found on the PLWA website.



Our Primary Work

Restoration and preservation of the natural ecosystems such that the water quality and water levels of the lake and its tributaries are at optimum levels.

Engagement of stakeholders in environmental best practices such that all residents, business, industry and municipal governments located within the watershed (or indirectly affecting the watershed) are committed and conforming to best practices, activities in planning, developing, maintaining and utilizing Pigeon Lake and its environment.

PLWA identifies, promotes and advocates for environmentally sustainable land use practices that are conducive to the accepted levels of biophysical impact of the total ecosystem within the watershed, the lake and its tributaries.

A Perfect Day at Pigeon Lake

A perfect day at Pigeon Lake begins with some people heading to the store for a paper, others taking their first coffee sips on decks, farm houses and in The Village; people gaze out at the lake, breathe in the air as leaves rustle in the breeze. A hopeful foursome limbers up with practice swings. Bicycles are pulled out of boathouses. Out on the lake, a Dad sees his kids' eyes light up with that first yank on the fishing line; a sailor comes about, feels the wind fill the sail and the boat start to heel over.

Squeals and laughter carry across the water as teenagers jump off boats into the cold water. A heron flies overhead. Elsewhere on the lake a person feels that unique combination of adrenaline rush and relief when the one ski has been successfully dropped and that back foot finally secure. Afternoon naps are encouraged, chickadees sing, books are read, hummingbirds feed, games are played, water fights fought.

Excited evening paddlers skim quietly within yards of pelicans, behind them the pink sky of the setting sun whose sparkling rays dance off the water. Listen, you might hear the loons call. If lucky, kids get to see a toad or two along the shore and the bats swoop overhead before bed. Flashes in the far sky promise another grand display of lightening, and sure enough, around midnight a symphony of cracks and thunder rumbles starts.

Our little bit of paradise.

Board's Message

Collectively our activities around the lake have impacted the natural systems, accelerating the eutrophication¹ of the lake that naturally takes place over a long, long time. We have experienced major Blue-Green algae outbreaks, unprecedented fish and clam die-offs. This year, hundreds of snails died off and even with large amounts of rain water, algae breakouts and unacceptable E coli levels have triggered swimming advisories.

Water is again flowing over the weir. Monies for the wastewater phase 1 and lagoon upgrades have been announced. Summer Villages not yet on the Regional Wastewater System have tightened their regulations. This brings hope, yet PLWA knows that there is much more to do to restore and protect our piece of paradise.

Even though it is not always evident to the eye: together we have decreased the natural capacity of the watershed and shoreline to filter out contaminants while at the same time we have increased the amount of contaminants going in the lake. PLWA work is about helping all of us to collectively modify our activities to reverse both trends.

Our watershed requires enough of us to adopt perspectives and values that will enable us collectively, to modify our activities. We require enough of us to have a "bigger than self" attitude looking at the bigger picture over the longer term. This is simply thinking beyond what I want for my property to also include what is good for the watershed. We realize many of our members are already doing this, and now somehow we need to instil this way of being here at the lake within more of us.

These values do not mean that we have to give up everything to be good stewards. For example, adoption of best practices for boating; having newer motors easier on the environment; using fuelling techniques that ensure no spillage into the lake; washing boats which have been on other lakes, so the feared Eurasian Watermilfoil is not introduced into the lake, slowing down when closer to shore to minimize the impact of waves on shoreline wildlife habitat and now again, to minimize erosion. Lake lot developments can find ways with lake side gazebos and 2nd floor balconies to have lake views while keeping or restoring larger natural areas of diverse native trees and bushes on our properties so they can provide us their vital services; filtration of water into the lake, wildlife habitat and shoreline erosion protection.

¹ **Eutrophication** - "The process by which a body of water acquires a high concentration of [nutrients](#), especially phosphates and nitrates. These typically promote excessive growth of algae. As the algae die and decompose, high levels of organic matter and the decomposing organisms deplete the water of available oxygen, causing the death of other organisms, such as fish. Eutrophication is a natural, slow-aging process for a water body, but human activity greatly speeds up the process." - Art, 1993



A healthy watershed is necessary for a healthy lake. A healthy lake is necessary for healthy businesses, communities and property values in the watershed. We can be great lake stewards and enjoy being at the lake.

PLWA work is vital to the long term environment, social and economic health of Pigeon Lake. This report outlines the work we have done over the last year. Our Priority Work is and will continue to be:

- Stewardship education and events; Living by the Lake technical workshops, Homesite Consultations, and supporting Loblaw's Great Canadian Lakeshore Clean-up, Love the Lake Program and the eradication of Himalayan Balsams and other invasive plants.
- Continuing to develop our relationships and strengthening our communications with statutory authorities, including Summer Villages and Counties sharing information and encouraging collaborative decisions based on best practices.
- Organizing a 2012 process for those Summer Villages who are ready and willing to serve the lake by working together on their by-laws and regulations as the first phase of bringing environmental best practices and consistency to living around the lake.
- Continuing to develop an Integrated Watershed lake Management Plan (IWMP) engaging watershed stakeholders and the public to identify issues which negatively impact water quality, recommend and implement associated mitigation strategies.
- Continuing to monitor and support the Regional wastewater servicing strategy for Pigeon Lake.
- Continuing to monitor and report water related issues within our watershed and advocate for appropriate policies.
- Developing a sustainable funding model for our expenditures.
- Grow our membership and volunteer base to ensure program delivery and the expansion of lake stewardship.

The seed monies of a few farsighted donors is reaching its end, as we are realizing more and more of the limits of a volunteer organization. Our membership fees provide only a small portion of our operating budget. We have applied for and obtained grants to support many of our main projects and will continue to source these grants where we can, but without sustainable funding PLWA may not survive more than a year or two.

We have approached the Summer Villages, and are pleased to report that most of these Summer Villages have agreed to contribute a base level of funding for PLWA projects and initiatives for 2010. We hope this support and partnership will continue, providing both the financial stability and relationships needed for the work that needs to be done. We seek the continued support of our members to tell their municipalities how important our work is, and to ask them to continue to support and participate in the PLWA initiatives.

We thank each of you for loving our lake, being lake healthy stewards and continuing to support the PLWA.

The PLWA Board.

PLWA 2010-11 Work Detailed

Shoreline Health & Stewardship

Lake stewardship is the practice of managing our lake through the preventative or remedial actions to safeguard the ecological health of our lake for future generations. The health of the watershed is, to a large extent, the health of the lake. How we live, work and play around the lake is reflected in the health of the lake.

PLWA envisions all watershed residents knowing and practicing the do's and don'ts of living responsibly by the water. This year PLWA continued to support and encourage people to be great environmental stewards by building on previous years' activities, providing and expanding the resources, programs and opportunities for watershed residents to learn and engage in stewardship activities.

2011 Programs –

- **Home Site Consultations** – (3rd year) Another 22 people took advantage of this opportunity to get their free assessment and comprehensive report of their watershed area. This is available to you whether on or off the lake. Confidentially provided by Nature Alberta, people learn about the best environmental options for their lot, buildings, ground, plants, and waterfront including boats. They are especially good for people prior to making changes on their properties. Some newcomers have reported that if they knew more before rebuilding and making changes, they would have made different choices.
- **Workshops -**
 - **Central Alberta Lake Biology 101** - The biological story of Pigeon Lake, its formation, how lake watershed ecosystems work and the important roles of all the creatures in it including lake levels, algae, fish and aquatic vegetation.
 - **Private Sewage Systems 101** - Septic systems and fields, holding tanks, pumping, treatment systems and PL's regional wastewater system.
 - **Lakeshore Living 101** - The dos and don'ts on living on the lakeshore, the rewards and responsibilities. The biology and regulations.
 - **Invasive Plants** - Learn the concerns about invasive plants. Ask about plants seen around the lake and how to deal with them. Information, resources and answers (led by the AB Invasive Plant Council).
- **Love the Lake Program** – PLWA supports and encourages people around the lake to commit to the lake by making lake healthy choices. Many amazing people continue to promote healthy lake actions in different ways around the lake. Please know plaques are available to put on your property to announce your commitment and to encourage others.

- **PLWA AGM + Open House** (held in conjunction with Respect Our Lakes), has become a great annual event with experts and resources for people to learn and gain new insights. Members share their opinions with PLWA. This year's keynote speaker is David Trew, the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Society (NSWA) Executive Director. Chris Teichreb of Alberta Environment is also speaking on water monitoring.
- **Himalayan Balsam Eradication Campaign** is continuing in its second year in an attempt to rid Pigeon Lake of this prohibited noxious weed. The infestation is massive. Don Davidson from Grandview, is leading the program. Sponsorship from a Summer Village, Leduc County, AB Parks, Sustainable Resource Development and a grant from the AB Stewardship Network, enabled Don to hire several summer students to assist. To be successful, everyone is encouraged to get out and before the plant develops its seeds, to Pick, Break and Drop.
- **Loblaws' Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-Up** –Join in this year September 17th to 25th. Volunteers collect garbage and clean along the shoreline. Again many thanks to Peggy who welcomes volunteers peggatpigeon@hotmail.com and 780-389-4260.
- **Trees Planted** – Native trees such as balsam, willow, cranberry and more service and contribute to the health of the watershed in many ways. Don Davidson planted another 400 trees this year bringing his total to 2500! Another couple also planted 450. See website information: www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com/document/show/4885
- **Waterfowl Paddle & Habitat Conversation** – The weather stilled the paddles but Michael Frost led us through a talk and bird identification exercises. Ideas of what could support spark interest and support waterfowl habitat fostered ideas. Let PLWA know if you might be interested in a waterfowl network or even another paddle and learn session next year.
- **PLWA booth at Farmers Market** – Mary Ellen who organized and spent many a Friday evenings at the Farmers Market called it quits this year. Are you our next coordinator? We just need a few people to donate one or two Fridays, fun and informative. Support for new volunteers is available.

2011 Resources -

- **On the Living Edge, Your Guide for Waterfront Living** were delivered free to members in prior years. They are still available from Nature Alberta for \$14.95.
- Thanks to Nature Alberta, PLWA is selling a limited number of **The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Alberta**. A great resource.



- **Website additions include:**

- **Quick Reference** pictures of 6 top **Bad Shoreline Plants** around Pigeon Lake.
www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com/document/show/4787
- **Slideshows on Riparian Areas** (home page: What's a Wildflower? What's a Weed?)
 - Section 1: Riparian Areas Explained; Native Trees, Shrub, and Reeds
 - Section 2: Native Wild Flowers for Riparian Areas
 - Section 3: Weeds found in the PL Riparian Areas
- **Waterfowl brochure** – Nesting and loafing information, along with some thoughts of to live together around the lake.
- **Wood Duck Boxes** – Cavern nesting birds and creatures have few homes around the lake. Find information on where to get yours, here at Pigeon Lake.
www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com/document/show/4785
- **Better links** (under Stewardship) to great website resources and organizations.
 - **Edmonton Area Native Plant Suppliers**

PLWA Stewardship Connections are important to maintain. Different Directors have attended different conferences and stewardship initiatives on behalf of our PLWA mission and stakeholders. The Battle River Watershed Alliance is one important group for us and participation with CARL, the Central Alberta Recreational Lakes initiative as it brings many watershed groups together in common endeavours.

Water Quantity

Pigeon Lake Hydrology

Last year along with a number of the Summer Villages, PLWA commissioned a hydrological assessment to better understand the importance of the relative factors affecting lake level and lake water quality and to make recommendations for lake sustainability. See this report at:

www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com/document/show/4597?keyword=hydrology+assessment

A working group of a lake consortium is exploring the option of water transportation from the North Saskatchewan River to Pigeon Lake. PLWA's received the grants and donations, and paid the consultant retained, on behalf of the consortium.

PLWA is concerned with keeping our membership and watershed residents informed. If and when the consortium proceeds to the point of a water importation application, PLWA anticipates taking on a type of facilitation role, bringing the best information and expertise available, to members and watershed residents to have the opportunity to come together to explore in depth, this topic of water transportation.

Water Quality

Lake Algae

The rains this year have both upsides and downsides. The upsides include that the water level is high enough to have some runoff over the weir. This movement of water through the lake provides some positive flushing assistance to lake water quality. On the other hand, rainwater carries fertilizer phosphates and other contaminants from the watershed into the lake. Often algae blooms follow heavy rainfalls for this reason. "With water levels above the weir elevation, nutrients from the lake would flush and water quality would improve, but nutrient input issues would still need to be addressed."²

PLWA has always been concerned with proper water monitoring. In past years, PLWA volunteers have provided a boat to take the samplers out to get the water samples. This year we are reviewing our role in water monitoring and determining with the Association of Pigeon Lake Municipalities. Alberta Environment takes samples some years. Other years, samples have been taken by the not-for-profit, Alberta Lakes Management Society (ALMS). This year Alberta Environment is taking samples.

Over the course of the last few years the PLWA technical committee has looked into a number of in-lake techniques. Though PLWA does not have the resources, people, technical skills nor funds to look into every item and **ideas from members**, countless hours have been spent web surfing checking out or simply looking for possible techniques applied around North America and abroad which could possibly assist us to mitigate our own **Blue-Green Algae Blooms (Cyanobacteria)**. In spite of what one would view as a worldwide crisis of nitrification of water bodies there are few viable interventions available.

The PLWA technical committee work has included looking into various possible mitigation techniques. Except for dredging all the possibilities are considered experimental. Every water body is unique so, to some degree they are waded into unknowable territory, looking at the various types and levels of risk, and associated costs. In-lake techniques considered by the technical committee have included: Phosphorus inactivation; Food chain manipulation; Artificial Circulation; and Hypolimnetic aeration / Oxygen injection.

Water augmentation, iron remediation and harvesting of nutrient rich mass from the lake have are the areas continue to be of interest and discussion for the committee.

² Page 36, Hydrologic Assessment of Pigeon Lake, Hydrogeology, Water Quality, and Water Balance prepared for PLWA by Worley Parsons, March 2010.

Iron Remediation studies are being conducted on the potential of binding phosphates to iron for algae mitigation while still ensuring a high regard for the broader aquatic health of the lake. PLWA arranged a session with the researcher Diane Orihel and invited Summer Village and watershed County Councillors. It was held in Nisku April 20th and was well attended. Even though the research is in its early stages, there is a lot of interest. PLWA will continue to keep up-to-date on the research and keep our membership informed.

Agriculture

All sectors and stakeholders are part of the current state of the watershed and lake. Agriculture in the watershed has been cited on occasion as a concern of some members, so PLWA wants members to know that there are many initiatives across the agriculture community to continuously enhance their environmental stewardship, adopting sustainable practices and to minimizing any potential nutrient contribution. Best agricultural operations include building up buffer zones around creeks, less tillage and less fertilizer application based on better technology.

Thanks to all our contacts for keeping PLWA up-to-date and knowledgeable about Agricultural Best Practices. Please know PLWA would welcome additional agricultural community members to our board.

Wastewater Systems

A significant portion of Pigeon Lake is not yet hooked up to the Pigeon Lake regional wastewater sewer system. You may recall that PLWA's strategy was twofold:

1. Call for interim measures for those Summer Villages and areas not yet on the regional wastewater system; and,
2. Advocate for Provincial support the application for the Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater Project as PLWA and by calling on our members to write letters.

PLWA's **interim strategy** created and distributed holding tank best practices and an example bylaw to encourage and support Summer Villages to put in place stronger interim measures until regional wastewater system hook-ups are possible. PLWA is pleased that these regulators have responded.

All Summer Villages now have and are implementing wastewater bylaws that require holding tanks as per our recommendations or some are allowing conditional conversions of some septic tanks to be used as holding tanks. Norris Beach is allowing for the grandfathering of an existing septic system but only if it is proven to be working safely.

Argentia, Itaska, Golden Days and Silver Beach are on the NEPL wastewater line.



Leduc County now require new development close to the lake, or "large" (resort, recreational) developments to require wastewater systems that can be connected to a future regional system.

In addition, more good news. May 5th 2011, a press release announced approval for the allotment of over \$10 million for phase one of **the Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater Project** to proceed. Three years this project has been waiting for funding. This first phase will upgrade the existing lagoon, and move through the detailed planning and construction of the first of the three portions around the lake. See details of the press release at:

www.grandview.ca/download/uploads/documents/0000/4386/Wastewater_Press_Release_May_2011.pdf

Regulations

Many members tell us that enforcement of bylaws is a critical key to improving the health of the lake and watershed. PLWA agrees. Last year PLWA, posted the Discussion Document: Regulatory and policy actions for a healthy Pigeon Lake watershed, the Phase II report prepared by the Environmental Law Centre prepare on behalf of PLWA with the financial support of Alberta Environment. PLWA provided the draft to the Association of Pigeon Lake Municipalities. This report showed us that a good portion of the regulations around the lake are inconsistent and out-of-date with the current knowledge of watershed health.

Pending additional resources, PLWA anticipates working with the summer villages and counties to help to identify and implement best regulatory practices for the watershed. This is a priority item.

Development & Watershed Planning

Development around the lake is happening. Part of how we work, live and play in the watershed requires a sustainable development foundation for its long term health.

Leduc County

PLWA commends Leduc County for bringing in more sustainable regulations through the adoption of their North Shore Area Structure Plan (NSASP).

PLWA attended meetings and made recommendations. PLWA created the opportunity for north shore summer villages to meet with the planners to get concerns and questions discussed. Density levels where decreased. Sustainability issues are more fully addressed with this plan.



Of note, the NSASP was up for the Sustainability Award with the Canadian Institute of Planners and Leduc County. It received honourable mention for its sustainability.

Wetaskiwin County

Wetaskiwin County is also to be commended, as they have initiated work on their Area Concept Plan as an initial phase which would ultimately lead to their own Area Structure Plan. One focus group took place which included representatives from PLWA and two representatives on behalf of the 7 Summer Villages that fall under the Wetaskiwin County (approximately 70% of the Pigeon Lakes watershed).

The Big Picture - Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP)

PLWA work on the development of an IWMP for the watershed made significant progress this year but needs further funding to proceed.

Leading this important initiative, the PLWA launched and engaged many of the key stakeholders, established a steering committee, and produced the scope for the IWMP. The plan will provide an umbrella through which stakeholders can identify issues impacting water quality, develop mitigation strategies and implement the measures identified.

Why, you might ask, do we need to do this when Leduc County has brought in better regulations and Wetaskiwin is working on theirs? Won't those plans be enough? No, those plans while good and important, the scope of those plans will not provide the complete umbrella that an IWMP will provide. PLWA believes representatives from all watershed stakeholders need to work together on all the issues that are impacting the health of the watershed. Coming to a shared understanding of the concerns, finding measures that work best for as many of the stakeholders as possible will enable the implementation of the measures and plans for the future of the watershed.

Ideally, PLWA will raise the funding, continue the process and have an initial IWMP Draft Plan ready for review by a broader spectrum of the community next year.

The PLWA also is continuing to advocate for an inter-municipal development plan to regulate development with the watershed.

Other Developments + Shoreline Projects

Shoreline projects, development and water requests continue to come to the door of PLWA. This year the Cowles Landing Project (by Silver Beach) was brought to our attention, though too late for us to work with the developer on enhancing the sustainability issues we found upon review. PLWA did review the plan against three levels of regulations and the PLWA Sustainable Development Principles and presented these at the 3rd reading to Wetaskiwin County.



This is a typical situation. Developers must give public notice, and PLWA needs to have our members to notify PLWA when they see these sorts of notices. PLWA would like to assist developers and regulators to help ensure compliance and to understand the importance of our sustainability principles. With early stage communications, changes can be made at a lower cost point of their project. The capacity of PLWA to provide this service will vary according to our availability of our qualified volunteers.

Additional qualified volunteers, able to assist with our planning and development would be appreciated.

Healthy Fishery

Despite the unprecedented fish die-off last year, the 2011 Pigeon Lake commercial fishery reported the following:

February 14th - 18th, commercial fishers battled poor access onto the lake and very cold temperatures. This resulted in lower than expected catch numbers. Fishers pulled whitefish quantities ranging between 13-109 fish per net with an average of 47 fish. The net average fish weight was 3.7 lbs.

February 22nd - 26th, seven commercial fishers took part during more favourable fishing conditions. The average fish catch per net was 57 with an average net fish weight of 3.9 lbs.

The total whitefish catch over the 8 days was 30,528 kg out of an allotted 50,000 kg for the period.

The Association

Members + Membership

This year we say good-bye to Mary Ellen who has worked countless hours for the health of the lake, and for PLWA. In addition to managing and often manning the booth at numerous Lakedell Farmers Markets, she worked to keep our membership information correct; and to conduct the annual membership drive sending letters out to everyone, collecting moneys everything else that entails.

Being a full-time resident, and part of the Pigeon Lake community Mary Ellen has been a key connection for PLWA and will be greatly missed.

PLWA membership numbers continue around 400, similar to last year. We need membership support to build our association and to grow the strength of our voice. PLWA has reported on the good work being done and the areas that need more work.

The annual membership cost has been kept to a low annual renewal fee of \$10 per individual and \$20 for a family (2 Adults and all youth under the age of 18). This low cost to enrol doesn't generate all the monies needed to carry out our mandate so we invite you to encourage as many others as you can to join.

Members can also make tax deductible contributions to support PLWA activities.

Newsflashes and newsletters via email or snail mail are sent to all our members.

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean."

Ryunosuke Satoro a Japanese Poet

Directors



Left to Right: Gene Begg, Dennis McCoy, Ryan Devlin, Marilyn Kane, Hugh Sanders (Back Row), Mary Ellen Herman, Doug Bell (Back Row), Emile Beaudry, Susan Ellis, Michael Gaian. Missing: Al Olson, Don Smallwood, Tom Cliff

The volunteers Directors of PLWA have put in numerous hours to do all they can for the health of the lake and watershed.

PLWA has recognized this year that too few are doing too much. It is now critical for PLWA's organizational sustainability to hire a part-time staff.

Assuming that PLWA realizes the funding required to hire a part-time staff, there will still be opportunities for Directors and volunteers to be actively involved on the various committees.



PLWA has vacancies available for more Directors and volunteers. Any volunteer must truly believe in the mission, and be willing to work from the existing foundation of policies and plans.

PLWA is especially interested in people with competencies in the areas of: biology, finance, fundraising, volunteer engagement, development, communications and any aspects of water management and watershed conservation, to serve on our different committees and to fulfill more of the programming we would like to accomplish.

Board members are elected volunteers at the Annual General Meeting for a two year service term from the date of the AGM. Directors may be re-elected.

PLWA continues to work to have a board be representative of different stakeholder groups from around the lake, along with a good mix of capabilities. To avoid some potential conflicts of interest, and to help ensure the board is concerned with the health of the whole, people interested in serving but who currently hold an official position as a Pigeon Lake regulator are not eligible to serve.

2010 and 2011 PLWA Directors

Director	Committee	Sector / Beach
Emily Beaudry	Nomination	Argentia
Gene Begg	Government Relations	Agriculture / Farm
Doug Bell	Treasurer & Finance	Crystal Springs
Ryan Devlin	Communications	Mulhurst
Tom Cliff	Technical & Research	Agriculture /Bison Ranch
Susan Ellis	Communications & Stewardship	Itaska
Michael Gaian	Technical & Research	Mission Beach
Mary Ellen Herman	Membership	Ma-Me-O
Marilyn Kane	Stewardship	Poplar Bay
Bryan Kickham	Vice President, Nominations	Golden Days
Dennis McCoy	Fundraising	Golden Days
Al Olson	Government Relations	Sandholm
Hugh Sanders	Stewardship	Crystal Springs
Don Smallwood	Secretary, Land Use & IWMP	Viola Beach



Please find the names of new Directors starting their term as of the 2011 AGM will be listed on the website found via Contact Us, then Board Contact List.

Sincere appreciation to the Directors retiring this year for their contributions to PLWA and the lake. 2011 Retiring Directors are: Gene Begg, Mary Ellen Herman, Bryan Kickham, and Dennis McCoy. Dennis McCoy, Bryan Kickham and Mary Ellen Herman have all been especially long serving. Each helped to launch PLWA in the early days.

Communications

PLWA's communications to its members has been identified by the board as a top priority. The Communication committee is led by two Directors who are dedicated to keeping PLWA connected and people informed. This has proved to be a huge job requiring many hours of work on our website, preparation of documents and reviewing of materials for our members. We are in constant need of help from anyone with document management, good grammar, website expertise or simply assistance posting and distributing information around the lake would be most welcome.

Municipality Relations

- Many Summer Villages welcomed a 10 minute PLWA update from at their Annual Information Meetings from one of the PLWA Directors. PLWA was very pleased with the invitations and opportunity.
- PLWA has begun providing monthly Summer Village briefings and to attend when possible, the Association of Pigeon Lake Municipalities meetings.
- PLWA very much appreciated Sylvia Roy's , the Chief Administrative Officer for seven summer villages, nomination of PLWA for the Good Earth Day Canada prize of \$10,000. Unfortunately, PLWA was not selected however it was an honour to have been nominated.

Membership Communications

Board Meeting Minutes

- Please be aware that approved Board meeting minutes are available on the website under "About the PLWA". This has been done in an effort to be as transparent as possible with our decisions and activities.

Annual Report

- Annual reports for 2007-08, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are available via our website.

Annual Meeting

- In addition to an interesting speaker and an Open House at our Annual General Meeting, PLWA has brought in organizations, expertise and resources for our members. PLWA Annual Meetings are a key time for our members to hear of our work and to provide us feedback on our activities.
- Directors wear name tags and we encourage people to talk to us at the AGM.
- Due to resource issues, we are discontinuing “the wall” postings. However, if enough people tell us they miss it, we would consider reviving it next year. It is always an interesting read!

Newsletters & Newsflashes

- Over the last couple of years, two annual six page spring and fall newsletters have been issued pack full of our activities.

This spring, the Newsletter was distributed by email and only mailed to those members for whom we have no email address. Plans to distribute the newsletter with the Pipestone Flyer were abandoned when their distribution was briefly disrupted in the spring just when we wanted to send it out. Anyone who has not yet seen the last newsletter is encouraged to find it on the website.

www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com/document/show/4350 .

We would like to follow in the path of several Summer Villages and send our newsletters by email only unless requested otherwise. This eliminates cost and it reduces paper waste. In order to do this, we are requesting that you provide us by way of membership your email address so that we can provide you with this information. We do not sell or pass on this information.

- Three newsflashes have gone out this year have primarily to announce PLWA activities and events.
- Soon PLWA will be conducting a survey to find out what members priorities are, as well, what communications want and to identify which topics are of most interest to them.

Website

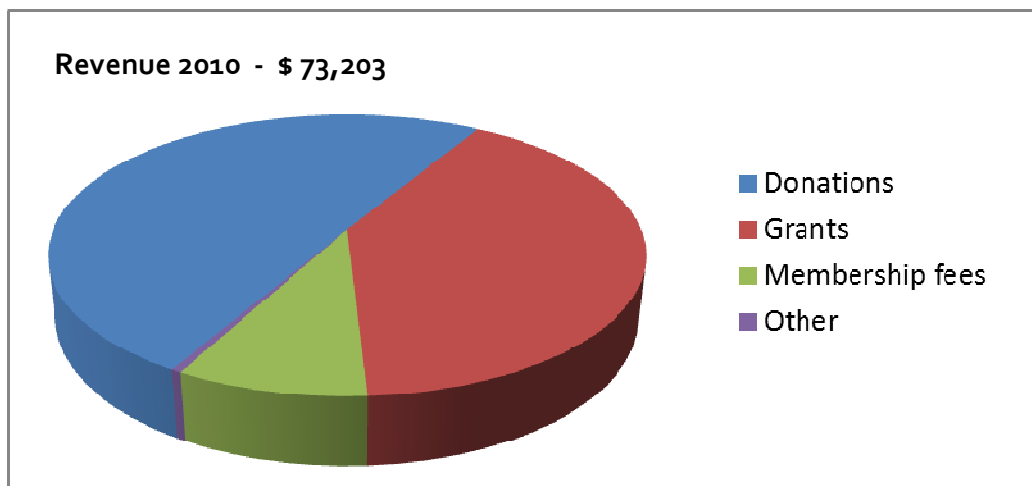
- The website has become one of the primary vehicles of communications with members. This year the PLWA website was been given a complete overhaul. Many of the reports, resources and documents were difficult to find. Now the website is better organized and the search feature is much more effective. If you haven't been for a while, please look again. Also, that long address has been shortened to www.plwa.ca .

- The last two AGM's included Evaluation Forms. The percentage of responses was so low we are discontinuing the form of feedback. While we have enjoyed a packed house each meeting, even if everyone attending took time to fill in the evaluation, we would still not have a good representation of the wishes of the PLWA membership.
- We plan on conducting a short evaluation via the web with our members and hope people will take the few minutes required to go through it.
- During the last two AGM's, members have been encouraged to post "on the wall" with sticky notes, questions and concerns. Each year the communications committee has grouped and responded to all these notes. See PLWA AGM Q & A Responses on the website. Find last years at www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com/document/show/4786

We are committed to keeping our members informed.

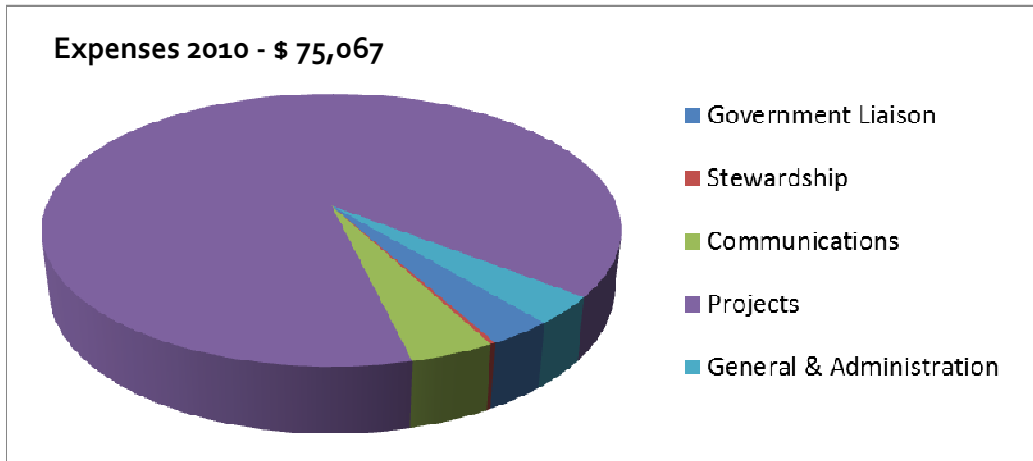
Financials

A snapshot of Pigeon Lake Watershed Association 2010 financials are depicted below. For further details see the financial documents posted on the PLWA website.



PLWA will continue to apply for grants to support many of our main projects however; increasing our revenue, hiring a Program Coordinator and having ensured sustainable funding are essential. Otherwise PLWA may not survive more than a year or two.

The addition of a PLWA Program Coordinator position in the coming year is required. This position will enhance program capacity, attend to a portion of our work and help ensure strong connections with members, volunteers, donors, partners and other key stakeholders.



Pigeon Lake Watershed Association			
Year ending December 31, 2010			
		Budget	Actual
		2010	2010
Income			
	Donations	20,500	36,800
	Grants	5,000	29,645
	Membership fees	6,500	6,420
	Interest & Miscellaneous	900	338
Total Income		32,900	73,203
Expenditures			
	Membership	1,000	
	Government Liason	3,500	2,310
	Stewardship	9,600	185
	Technical	250	
	Communications	6,150	3,024
	Fisheries	250	
	Projects	23,680	67,060
	General and Administration	4,400	2,488
Total Expenitures		48,830	75,067
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures		(15,930)	(1,864)