



Pigeon Lake Watershed Association Impact Report – 2021

PIGEON LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN RECEIVES TWO AWARDS IN 2021

Caring for the Lake Together – Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan named the 2021 Emerald Award recipient for water initiatives from the Alberta Emerald Foundation.

The Plan also received the Alberta Professional Planners Institute Award of Planning Merit. Nominated by Municipal Planning Services and CCP Environmental, the APPI awards acknowledge meritorious plans and projects, undertaken in whole or in part by members of the Institute, that significantly contribute to the livability of communities in Alberta.



Implementing the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan

The mission of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (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 organization plays a lead role in facilitating community action, advocacy and education, supports policy changes to promote beneficial land use management practices, and partners with the GOA, non-profits and the universities to invest in initiatives and research for the lake. Our work benefits Pigeon Lake. In turn, a healthy lake supports recreation opportunities and the economic viability of the region to benefit all communities in the watershed.

Resources and funding for Pigeon Lake

It is an ongoing challenge to find sustainable funding to support the organization and the PLWA programs. In 2021, our work to protect the Lake was made possible by generous donations from individuals and families in the community, sales and fundraising events, grants from the Government of Alberta, Government of Canada, Alberta Real Estate Foundation, Edmonton Community Foundation, and Alberta Community Partnership (administered through of the Summer Village of Grandview). We also received financial and In-kind support from the municipalities around Pigeon Lake. Thank you to all those who support our work!



Pigeon Lake Watershed Association Lead Role: Community Action, Advocacy & Education

Implementing the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan



COMMUNITY ACTION

- Welcome to the Lake – Packages for new residents
- 2021 Planting Challenge
- Boat Refueling Best Practices
- Clean Runoff Residential Property Assessments
 - Residential Property Assessment Guide
 - Residential Clean Runoff Landscape Plans
 - Mulhurst Clean Runoff Demonstration Garden Landscape Plans
- Invasive Species Prevention Program
 - Advocacy to Reinstate Watercraft Inspection Stations
 - Official Watercraft Inspection Station Mulhurst Bay
 - Emergency Meeting of External Stakeholder Groups
 - Invasive Species Prevention Campaign
- Pigeon Lake Leaders Session
- Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup
- PLWA AGM Business Meeting

PLAN OBJECTIVES

Watershed Stewardship Advocacy & Education Encourage landowners to adopt proactive lake-friendly environmental management practices, landscaping and activities.

Clean Runoff: Promote clean runoff practices on private and public properties as per the Alberta Clean Runoff Action Guide

Shoreline Practices and Restoration: Provide guidance documents, technical information, and support to shoreline landowners to implement healthy shoreline practices, shoreline restoration, and lake-friendly landscaping.

Continue noxious weed and invasive species eradication programs

Invasive Species: Complement the Government of Alberta’s province-wide efforts with local initiatives to improve education and build local defenses to keep out aquatic invasive species. Measures include monitoring, public education, signage, and other initiatives

Improve regional collaboration, partnerships and organizational effectiveness to promote collective action.



ADVOCACY

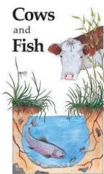
A proposed Village West Area Structure Plan was circulated in December 2021. PLWA reviewed the proposal, environmental policy, and comments from municipalities. PLWA believes the environmental effects are not fully assessed nor is the development proposal balanced

in terms of economic versus environmental quality trade-offs. The PLWA outlines the environmental significance of the area and formally appeals to the proponent to address how this development will avoid harming the lake.

STEWARDSHIP

In 2021, PLWA kicked off the Clean Runoff Property Assessment Program. Residents met with PLWA staff and a Landscape Architect from McElhanney to assess opportunities to better slow and filter stormwater runoff from their property. Participating residents received clean runoff landscape plans along with a Plant Resource Guide. A landscape plan was also completed for a new clean runoff garden in Mulhurst Bay.

Caring for the Lake Together branding and stewardship resources were added to the PLWA website. Branded window stickers are now featured in storefronts around Pigeon Lake including a QR Code to direct people to resources on the website. A *Caring for the Lake Together* social marketing campaign, on twitter, Instagram and Facebook, reached 57,000 (including a reach of 3200 weekly on Facebook). PLWA members also received stewardship information twice a month from May to September and updates were shared through the municipalities. PLWA conducted webinars on alternative farm programs, land conservation, clean runoff, shoreline and riparian health, native plants, and best practices for living with beavers. Featured healthy-lake partners:



NEW RESOURCES

[Clean Runoff Property Assessment Tool](#)

[Rotating banner on PLWA website to highlight stewardship resources](#)

[Welcome to the Lake Packages](#)

[Watershed 101 Webinar and Primer](#)

Boat Refueling Spill Prevention FAQs

PLWA Staff promoted best practices when refueling boats at Pigeon Lake. Information was shared through a social marketing and campaign, we worked with local gas stations and boat supply stores to promote the use of Gerry Cans and other refuelling accessories designed to help reduce spills in the lake. New resources to guide residents are available on the PLWA website.

[What is the best way to prevent spills when refueling the boat?](#)

[What attachments for a jerry can help prevent gasoline spills?](#)

Policy Statutory Plans & Bylaws Recommendations in the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan

Lead Roles: Municipal, PLWMP Steering Committee, and Government of Alberta

PLWA Supporting Engagement & Resource Development

PLWA provided feedback during public meetings as municipalities revised land use bylaws and drafted intermunicipal land use plans. Thank you to the municipalities for their ongoing commitment to including enhanced environmental protections and policies from the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan and Model Land Use Bylaw in statutory plans. The North Pigeon Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan between Wetaskiwin County, Silver Beach, Argentia Beach, and Golden Days was approved in 2021. And, there was significant progress towards approving the South Pigeon Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan between County of Wetaskiwin and the Summer Villages of Crystal Springs, Grandview, Norris Beach and Poplar Bay.

NEW RESOURCES

1. **Residential Construction - [Residential Construction Quick Reference Guide for Property Owners](#)**
Primary Audience: Landowners & Contractors
Secondary Audience: Development Officers
2. **Watershed Regulations, Land Use Bylaws Implementation Guides**
Consultant: Municipal Planning Services for Pigeon Lake Watershed Association and Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan, Steering Committee
Primary Audience: Municipal Councils – Crystal Springs (Pilot), Argentia Beach, Silver Beach, Norris Beach, Golden Days, Sundance Beach, Leduc County

PLAN OBJECTIVES

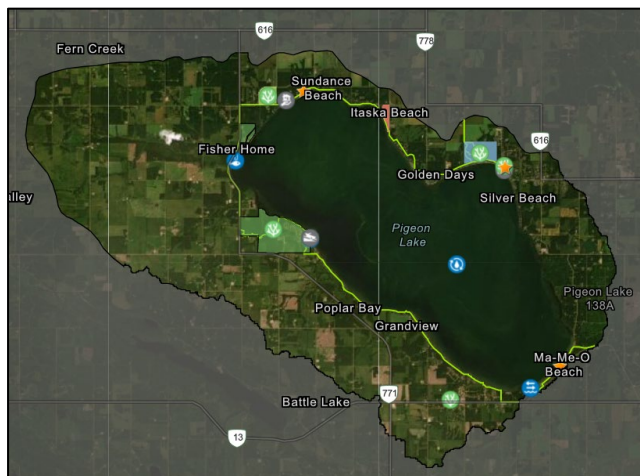
Statutory Plans & Land Use Bylaws:

Retain Natural Vegetation
Protecting Wetlands
Protecting Lakeshore Environmental Area
Sediment and Erosion Control
Clean Runoff e.g., limitations on hard surfaces
Clean Runoff Action Guide
Groundwater Conservation
Shoreline Protect including tributary setbacks
Shoreline Modification Restrictions

Science & Technical Recommendations in the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan

Lead Roles: PLWMP Steering Committee, Municipal, and Government of Alberta

Advancement of Science: Identify knowledge gaps relating to the formation of cyanobacteria blooms and techniques for meaningful reductions. Prioritize specific investigations and research projects. Source funds and implement ongoing research for Pigeon Lake.



Research and monitoring were the focus of the Pigeon Lake Leaders' Session in 2021 cohosted by PLWA and the Alliance of Pigeon Lake Municipalities. Presentations included remote sensing data from the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute and Vinebrooke Labs, LakeWatch monitoring was presented by Alberta Lake Management Society and the information about the newly purchased monitoring buoy was presented by Alberta Environment and Parks.

Special acknowledgement to the Summer Village of Crystal Springs and the In-Lake technical Committee for funding the purchase of the Monitoring Buoy, which provides an array of new data in a real time manner. AEP has now compiled a summary of the data from the Buoy after one season in the lake.

NEW RESOURCE

[PLWA Watershed Interactive Map](#)

Features of the map include conservation areas, points of interest, drainage courses, shoreline intactness data and more.

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAMS

- 17 residents volunteered at Pigeon Lake as Citizen Science monitors. The monitoring programs included:
- The Alberta Lake Management Society, LakeWatch Zebra and Quagga Mussel Monitoring
- The Alberta Lake Management Society, Winter LakeKeeper, water quality sampling
- Spring freshet sampling of creeks and outfalls
- Core sediment sampling

STEWARDSHIP

DONATIONS

\$27,583

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES
CONTRIBUTING TO PROGRAMS
FOR PIGEON LAKE

A graphic with a dark teal top section containing a white icon of a hand holding a plant and the word 'STEWARDSHIP'. Below this is a light teal section with the word 'DONATIONS' in large teal letters, followed by the amount '\$27,583' in large red letters. At the bottom, in smaller teal letters, it says 'INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES CONTRIBUTING TO PROGRAMS FOR PIGEON LAKE'.

ACTIVE COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

PLWA Board of Directors

Wayne Buskas, Past President, Ma-Me-O Beach
Michael Gaian, Vice President, Mission Beach
Betty Ann Lough, Secretary, Argentia Beach
Bob Gibbs, Silver Beach

Dave Crombie, Mulhurst Bay
Peggy Juchli, Silver Beach
Daniel Kenway, President Sundance
Rick Melia, Treasurer, Golden Days

Kevin McKee, Johnsonia
Samuel Minde, Samson Cree Nation
Ian Rawlinson, Crystal Springs
Felix Sperling, Itaska Beach

PLWMP Steering Committee

Chair

Robert (Bob) Gibbs, (Chair) PLWA Director

Maskwacis Cree Nations

Melanie Daniels, Consultation Coordinator,
Louis Bull
Chad Simon (Nipiy committee),
Samson Cree Nation

Leonard Standing on the Road, Chief,
Montana Band

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association

Catherine Peirce, Executive Director
Daniel Kenway, Director

Summer Villages

Don Davidson, Mayor, Grandview
Randal Kay, (APLM Chair), Mayor, Golden Days
Ron LaJeunesse, Deputy Mayor, Crystal Springs
Brian Meaney, Councillor, Poplar Bay

Rural Municipalities

Glenn Belozer, Councillor, Leduc County
Nicholaus Moffatt, Parks Planner, Leduc County
Dale Woitt, Councillor, County of Wetaskiwin

Alberta Environment and Parks

Arin MacFarlane Dyer, Integrated Resource Planner,
AEP

Healthy Lake Partners

Sarah Skinner, Watershed Planning Coordinator,
Battle River Watershed Alliance

Pigeon Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce

Richard Conrad, Vice President
Tom Karpa, Chair

PLWMP Science Committee: Don Davidson, Mayor Grandview; Evan DeLance, Spatial Data Scientist/Land Use Analyst, Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute; Bob Gibbs, PLWMP Steering Committee Chair; Arin MacFarlane Dyer, Integrated Resource Planner, AEP; Catherine Peirce, Executive Director, PLWA; Bradley Peter, Executive Director, Alberta Lake Management Society; Caleb Sinn, Program Coordinator, ALMS; Rolf Vinebrooke, Professor Biological Sciences, University of Alberta; Guests: Paul Drevnick and Ron Zurawell, AEP

Welcome to the Lake Working Group: Cameron Benbow, Realty One Group (Chair), Christine McFarland, Maxwell Progressive; Cathren Dorchester, Royal LePage Parkland Merrick Duggan, Realty One Group Catherine Peirce, Executive Director, Pigeon Lake Watershed Association. The project also has support from partner groups in Alberta included Nature Alberta and the Alberta Lake Management Society and Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership and the Central Alberta Real Estate Association

Residential Development Checklist Committee: Don Davidson, Mayor Grandview; Bob Gibbs, PLWMP Steering Committee Chair; Randal Kay, Mayor Golden Days; Ron LaJeunesse, Deputy Mayor Crystal Springs; Catherine Peirce, Executive Director, Pigeon Lake Watershed Association