

**President's Report
Annual General Meeting
Turtle Lake Watershed Inc.**

July 18, 2009

I am proud to say that our Turtle Lake Watershed Inc. (TLWI) is one of the most active lake stewardship groups in the province of Saskatchewan. We have been engaged in stewardship programs for the past six years, having been incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 2004.

TLWI's mission is "*the maintenance of a healthy aquatic ecosystem within the Turtle Lake watershed basin*". Our Board of Directors views education and citizen involvement as the most effective tools in maintaining good water quality and a healthy fish resource within the lake. To this end, our focus has been and will continue to be on educational initiatives.

We have made some significant accomplishments in our short time as a stewardship organization. Some of these accomplishments have been achieved by the TLWI on our own accord. Others have been in partnerships. Two of our projects have been in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA), the provincial agency responsible for managing water in Saskatchewan. Another two have been in partnership with the Turtleford Community School.

Here's a list of some of these achievements:

- Water Quality Study (with SWA)
- Survey of Impacts of Livestock (with SWA)
- Development of TLWI website
- High quality signage (with assistance from Turtleford volunteer students)
- Survey of winter lake users (with Turtleford volunteer students)
- Annual Shoreline Cleanup
- Series of excellent presentations from speakers on a variety of topics of interest to TLWI
- Distribution of "*Living by Waters Handbook*" and mail out of "*Waterfront Living*" leaflets

To briefly elaborate, our most recent activities over the past six months include:

- A survey of winter lake users (ice fishers) carried out by three students from Turtleford Community School in February and March, 2009. A total of 84 people were interviewed.
- Placement of 15 aluminum signs at high use areas around the lake, primarily at boat launches and some beaches. Each sign frame contains interchangeable summer and winter messages. The sign frames were constructed by the volunteer Turtleford Community School seniors, and have been/are being installed by TLWI Board members.

- Mail out of about 1500 “*Waterfront Living*” leaflets to cottage owners and homeowners around Turtle Lake. These were mailed out by the Rural Municipalities and Resort Village, either with the spring newsletter or tax notice.

As I mentioned in my opening comment, we are one of the most active lake stewardship groups in the province. In addition to our Annual General Meeting, our Board of Directors meets three times a year and we always have excellent attendance. This level of activity doesn’t happen by accident or by chance. To keep a group like ours active and engaged requires dedication and good work by a number of people. I would like to thank a few of these people today.

- *Jim and Nancy Range* – Jim is on our Board and Nancy is Guidance Counselor at Turtleford Community School. Together they were responsible for creating the partnership between TLWI and the School, for overseeing the winter survey of ice fishers and construction of the 15 sign frames.
- The three senior students from Turtleford Community School who conducted the ice user survey and who worked with Jim in constructing the signs, namely *Carlie Tollifson, Hannah Warrington, and Evan Pavka*.
- *Bob Gourlay* – Bob is our Secretary-Treasurer, but he does so much more for TLWI. He is a hard-working person committed to the cause of TLWI, and we are very fortunate to have Bob on our Board. Bob developed our website and keeps it up to date: he applies for grants to DFO and writes very professional and comprehensive project proposals; he looks after all our business affairs including all financial matters, developing meeting agendas and distributing minutes of meetings; and the list goes on. So Bob, I would ask you to come forward and, on behalf of the TLWI Board of Directors, I would like to present you with this small token of our appreciation (presentation of a plaque).

Submitted by:
Merv Swanson
President, TLWI

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