

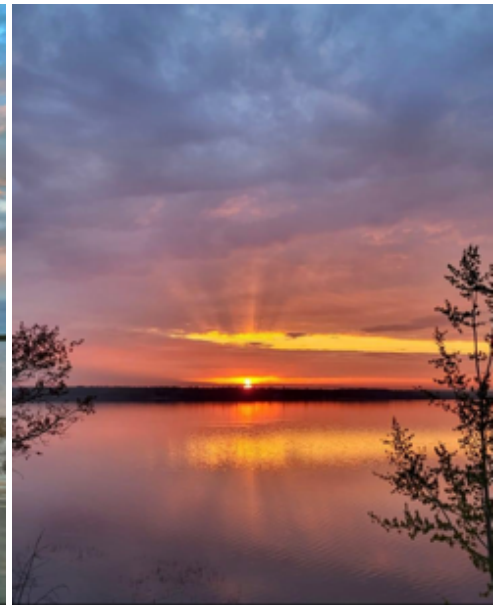
Spring Newsletter

Lac La Nonne Enhancement and Protection Association

Welcome to our 2023 spring newsletter!



Picture taken by Cathy Hudson



Picture taken by Diane Lander

Presidential Message

Summer 2023 is in full swing already with this beautiful weather. LEPA was busy in 2022 with some new initiatives. We have a draft of the updated State of the Watershed report and we had a successful Fishing Derby and Annual Regatta. Our 4 initiative groups have been busy working on improving our water quality, our streams, the fishery and lake level.

Within this newsletter we have a few updates, fun facts and summary of the past year. Check out our upcoming events at the top of this page and keep an eye out on our website for updates! We look forward to seeing you at our Annual General Meeting on June 3rd.

Stay safe and have a great summer!

Rod Kause, President

Upcoming Events

June 3, 2023 – Annual
General Meeting

July 15, 2023 – Annual
Boat Regatta

President
Rod Kause

Vice President
Bernie Krec

2nd Vice President
Patty Wierenga

Treasurer
Maureen Teha

Secretary
Jerrica Brown

Directors
Jill Brown
Jim McLeod
Brian Mitchell
Jade Kause
Leon Marciak
Marc Vermeulen
Sofia Hamm
Ben Elzen

Councilor LSA
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State of the Watershed

LEPA is working with Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd. to update our State of the Watershed 2006 report. This will include a review of the original report and updating based on current information. Sections that will be reviewed include:

- Water quality and quantity,
- Land cover and land use, and
- Riparian and wetland health

An updated statistical analysis, GIS analysis, mapping and regulatory review will also be a part of the updated report.



The updated report will be finalized before our Annual General Meeting. Please keep an eye out and to review a copy, check out our website!

Did you know? – Muskrats do not hibernate. They forage for food under a meter of ice and snow in the ice-cold water and almost complete darkness. They play an important role in the ecosystem by rejuvenating semi-aquatic plant species as well as being prey to many carnivores.

Lac La Nonne Through the Seasons



Let's Keep our Lake Clean!

Litter is hazardous to wildlife, fish and other animals because:

- Animals can get their head stuck in jars, cups or other kinds of containers that smell of food, causing them to suffocate or starve to death when they are unable to get the container off their head.
- They can cut themselves on cans and broken glass, which can be fatal or lead to infection.
- They can get their heads or another parts of their body stuck in plastic six-pack rings, making it difficult for them to swim, fly or move.
- Animals will eat household waste and cleaners from garbage bins that can be toxic, causing extreme illness or death.
- They will eat plastic or latex (e.g. balloons) that they mistake for food, which can make them sick or block their digestive tract and cause them to starve.
- They can get caught in plastic bags.
- Lastly, they can get tangled in string, ropes, or netting, rendering them unable to free themselves.

We all have a part in protecting the lake. Please help in taking all your garbage and items with you after a fun day at the lake. This also includes cleaning up ice fishing huts at the end of the season!



Did you know? – Lac La Nonne in French means “the nun” and has an uncertain origin dating back to the early 1800s. The Cree name for the lake, mi-ka-sioo, means “eagle”. Unknown, but the lake may have been named for the white-winged scoter, a duck commonly found on the water and is similar to an English duck known as “the nun”. Another suggestion about the meaning of the “the nun” was that the lake was named for the nuns at the nearby Lac Ste. Anne Mission, even though the mission was not founded until 1878.

Wild Alberta

Wild Alberta completed a video and a podcast with our president, Rod Kause, regarding the 2023 Fishing Derby! Scan the QR code below to find a copy!



4th Annual Fishing Derby

This year's fishing derby was held on February 19, 2023. We had a huge turn out as the weather cooperated with us this year! As usual we had amazing prizes donated from various businesses and people who support LEPA each year. Without these contributors our fishing derby would not be as successful as it has been.

Shelley Woohoo has a food tent set up and everything was delicious. She enjoyed the event and we will definitely have her back for future events!

We wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who participated in our 4th Annual Fishing Derby! With all the support we were able to raise \$4,481, one of our best years yet!



Did you know? – Despite their name, adult mayflies frequent the skies near clean water in late spring or early summer. So, while you may wish to steer clear of insects while enjoying the summer sun, keep in mind that seeing mayflies near a body of water is a sign of healthy water. The adult lifespan typically lasts from one to two days. This stage does not fly, and most species dies shortly after mating and laying eggs. So hang in there cottagers, they are nature's miracle to feed our birds and water life!

Fun Facts

- Lac La Nonne lake area is approximately 12.28 km²
- Maximum lake depth is 20 m
- Volume of the lake is 95,956 dam³
- Lac La Nonne was a stop on the Klondike Trail that continued to Dawson Creek, Yukon
- The Hudson Bay Company established a trading post at Lac La Nonne in the early 1800s

Stewardship Showcase

LEPA is proud to share an article written by the Land Stewardship Centre!

In this Stewardship Showcase we feature a community group that is leading by example with their conservation efforts in Lac La Nonne.

Landowners want to do what's best for their local watershed and practice conservation in their own backyards. But many don't know where to start. That's where the [Lac La Nonne Enhancement and Protection Association \(LEPA\)](#) comes in. Providing accessible public education and encouraging biodiversity in the Lac La Nonne area, they ensure the lake will be there to be enjoyed for generations.

LEPA has been dedicated to promoting responsible land management on Lac La Nonne since 1985. Over the last 30 years, they've accomplished a lot – most recently, constructing an educational centre on the lake in Klondike Park. The educational centre serves as a launching point for the conservation work the group has dedicated themselves to doing.

Through public education, LEPA leads by example in promoting stewardship in the community surrounding Lac La Nonne. With the support of a [Watershed Stewardship Grant](#) from Land Stewardship Centre in 2019, LEPA expanded their public education and communications efforts.

While the grant enabled LEPA to modernize their website and level up their communications, they didn't stick to just tried and true public education work through posters and social media. These are just part of LEPA's ongoing community outreach and education. Another huge component of this work is leading by example. By addressing the problem of invasive species in riparian areas, pulling weeds and planting native species that benefit the local landscape, LEPA has set an example for residents in the area.

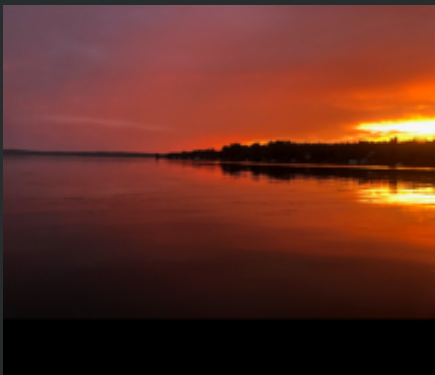
“By using native vegetation in the landscaping of the park, we show residents that native vegetation is aesthetically pleasing and beneficial to local flora and fauna,” LEPA's president Rod Kause says.

With help from the County of Barrhead, Highway 2 Conservation, Cows and Fish and the Athabasca Watershed Council, LEPA harnessed volunteer power to plant native species in the area around the lake and remove invasive Canada thistle, white cockle and escaped ornamentals that had taken hold in the riparian area.

They also made use of the newly constructed Klondike Park Educational Centre to post signage about conservation. The signs, developed with the

Seen at Lac La Nonne

Here are some pictures shared from all the lake lovers on the Facebook page!



support of the [Athabasca Watershed Council](#), provide valuable context to the work going on in the park and the riparian area around Lac La Nonne, and promote sustainable recreation on the lake.

But what generated the most interest around the community was the boots-on-the-ground, get-your-hands-dirty work of conservation. Seeing volunteers pulling weeds and planting native species has encouraged the community to do the same on their own properties.

The work of conservation requires all of us to walk the talk – to not just tell others how important the watershed is, or how destructive invasive species can be, but to mobilize and address these problems around the lake, setting an example for the whole community.

None of this valuable conservation work would be possible without partnerships.

“Without the Watershed Stewardship Grant, we would not have been able to enhance the park in order to provide educational, physical and recreational examples of what responsible lake enjoyment looks like to residents and visitors alike. Enhancements to the park will be around for people to enjoy for years to come,” Rod adds.



Klondike Park Educational Centre at Lac La Nonne

ALUS Program

County of Barrhead has joined the ALUS program and is off to a great start! ALUS is a program available to farmers and ranchers to help support them with projects that provide



ecosystem services for the benefit of the landscape. Ecosystem services delivered through ALUS projects include cleaner air, cleaner water, erosion control, flood and drought mitigation, pollinator and wildlife habitat. The program provides financial and technical support for the implementation of these projects and annual payments to its participants to ensure the ongoing stewardship of each of their ALUS projects.

In 2022 the County of Barrhead had producers that recognized the importance of healthy wetlands and riparian areas. There were four projects completed: a wetland exclusion fencing and offsite waterer placement project, two wetland exclusion fencing projects, and a wetland exclusion/creek riparian fencing project. In total 142.92 acres were protected.

Success of this first year can be attributed to the principals that ALUS is based on: it is community driven and farmer delivered. In early 2022 the Partnership Advisory Committee (the PAC) was set up. PAC is primarily made up of local farmers that determine the parameters of the program and decide on projects to be funded. Agricultural producers who participated in 2022 were very enthusiastic and worked hard to get these projects on the ground to improve their operations. Agricultural producers are stewards of the land and the ALUS participants we had in our first year of operations really exemplified that.

We are excited to continue growing the ALUS program! If you are interested in the program or would like to learn more, please contact Lisa Card at 780-674-8069 or email Lcard@countybarrhead.ab.ca

Lisa Card, Coordinator for ALUS Barrhead-Westlock-Athabasca