

BUFFALO LAKE MANAGEMENT TEAM

QUARTERLY UPDATE
NEWSLETTER

July, 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1

BLMT Membership

Chairperson: Pud Stevenson

Joe Gendre, (Stettler County)

Brenda Knight (Lacombe County)

Bob Harper (Pelican Point)

Chris Jenson (Spotted Lake)

Lorne Thurston (White Sands)

Don Sproule (Bashaw Bay)

Jack Lyle (Camrose County)

Bill Knight (Parlby Creek)

Jean MacDonald (Commercial/
Landowner)

ESRD: Rick Friedl, Carlin Soehn,
Lorne Cole & Sharina Kennedy

BUFFALO LAKE COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES: AUGUST 23



*Open Houses will be held at the Rochon Sands
Hall and at the Pelican Point County Garage.*

The Buffalo Lake Management Team (BLMT) invites the public to attend the upcoming Open House Community Events on August 23rd. Building on the success of last summers inaugural open houses, the BLMT once again welcomes residents to drop in talk to the team about Buffalo lake, current lake projects and activities, the Buffalo Lake Integrated Shoreline Management Plan (BLISMP), and to bring forward any other recommendations, concerns or knowledge related to the lake!

2014 Open House Highlights:

- Check out the **BLISMP** and find out how it helps ensure the sustainable management of Buffalo lake
- Learn about invasive Zebra/Quagga mussels through an interactive presentation and workshop given by Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (**ESRD**)
- Interact with **Cows and Fish** and the **Red Deer River Watershed Alliance** at their booths
- Learn about lake monitoring being done at Buffalo Lake by the **Alberta Lake Management Society**
- Find out about **Nature Alberta's** Living by Water Project and book a free home-site consultation!
- Learn more about the role of the BLMT and how to get involved!
- Join us for snacks and refreshments!

LOCATIONS:

Rochon Sands Community Hall (10:00am until Noon)

County Garage at Pelican Point (2:00pm– 4:00pm)

Everyone is welcome...We look forward to seeing you there!

The Buffalo Lake Management Team provides insightful representation to governments for the communities and industries around Buffalo Lake. The team identifies and addresses issues regarding the operation and management of the Buffalo Lake – Parlby Creek Water Management Project and monitors land-use and other lake-related issues.

FOR MORE INFO:

www.blmt.ca

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES: PREVENTION IS KEY!

The Buffalo Lake Management Team (BLMT) is committed to helping keep Buffalo lake and all Alberta lakes free of aquatic invasive species (AIS), including zebra and quagga mussels. If introduced to Alberta lakes, these invasive mussels could have severe economic and environmental consequences. They reproduce and spread very quickly, and outcompete native species, which could result in devastated fisheries. There would also be huge costs involved to repair and replace water management infrastructure due to invasive mussel damage. They are also linked to avian botulism, and in some cases promote the growth of blue-green algae in lakes.

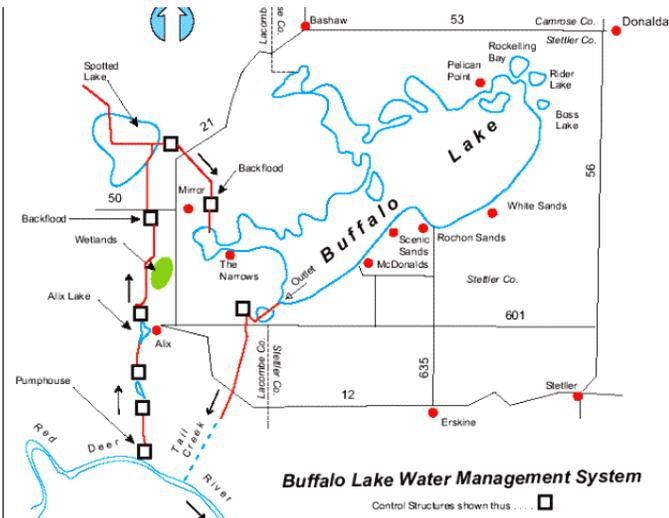
If invasive mussels enter Alberta, there are really no feasible control options, so **prevention is key**. An important strategy for Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) is to prevent the introduction of mussels as “hitchhikers” on boats that enter our waterbodies. The juvenile form of zebra/quagga mussels can live in small amounts of standing water, and adult mussels can survive for 30 days out of water. In partnership with ESRD, the BLMT is actively

Promoting the “Clean, Drain, Dry” message to boaters before and after they launch their boats in Alberta lakes. By cleaning boats and equipment thoroughly, draining all compartments, and drying out standing water, we can drastically reduce our risk of a harmful mussel invasion.

**TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES OR FOR MORE INFO:
1-855-336-BOAT**



Recognize these signs? “Clean, Drain, Dry” signs are being installed at boat launches at Buffalo Lake in partnership with counties and summer villages.



LAKE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

It is no secret that lake levels are high in most lakes in Central Alberta, as they generally have been since 2011. A combination of high snow pack runoff and early spring precipitation into Buffalo Lake this year, increased the elevation in the lake by over one foot (36cm) from fall 2013 to its 2014 peak.

We are currently seeing the lake level drop from its

peak earlier in the season due to increases in temperature and evaporation, combined with a decrease in precipitation. This drop is typical of most lakes in the summer.

Central Alberta lake levels are highly impacted by precipitation and evaporation, and we typically observe this cycle of higher lake levels after the spring thaw and lower levels in late fall after the hotter and dryer summer months. A full supply level (FSL) target of 780.85m was established for Buffalo Lake as part of the Parlyb Creek – Buffalo Lake Water Management project. The project pumps water from the Red Deer River through a pipeline, a series of wetland habitats, open canals, and into Parlyb Creek where it then flows to Buffalo Lake. When FSL is achieved, ESRD suspends pumping to allow the lake water levels to naturally recede to 780.60m before resuming pumping again. Currently the lake is approximately 17cm above FSL and has remained above FSL since 2010, and therefore pumping has not resumed since then.

For more information, visit www.blmt.ca or the Atlas of Alberta Lakes.

Water levels for Buffalo Lake can be viewed at the Alberta River Basins webpage: <http://www.environment.alberta.ca/apps/basins/default.aspx>