

BUFFALO LAKE MANAGEMENT TEAM

QUARTERLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

June 2015

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BLMT Membership

Chairperson: Pud Stevenson

Joe Gendre, (Stettler County)

Brenda Knight (Lacombe County)

Chris Jenson (Spotted Lake)

Lorne Thurston (White Sands)

Don Sproule (Bashaw Bay)

Jack Lyle (Camrose County)

Bill Knight (Parlby Creek)

Frank Wells (Rockling Bay)

Dan Hiller (Rochon Sands)

Ivan Purdy (Scenic Sands)

Neil Kostenuk (Pelican Point)

Environment and Parks: Carlin
Soehn & Sharina Kennedy

ABOUT THE BUFFALO LAKE RIGHT OF WAY

In connection with the 1985 Parlby Creek-Buffalo Lake Water Management project, the Government of Alberta purchased a right-of-way (ROW) around Buffalo Lake in the mid 1990's. This water management ROW is comprised entirely of public (provincial Crown) land, which extends from the lakeshore to the 1 in 100 year flood level (781.2m elevation) at Buffalo Lake. The ROW varies in width from several meters to several hundred meters at its widest point—depending on lake water levels and shoreland topography.

The ROW surrounding Buffalo Lake:

- Is public land, managed in the best interest of all Albertans;
- Coincides with the lake flood plain;
- Has aesthetic value, and comprises a significant portion of the lake's riparian area, which is important wildlife habitat
- Is needed to allow for unrestricted water management operations and access to the lake by government staff
- Is subject to erosion from wave and ice action

To prevent unauthorized encroachment on the ROW, protect private property and ensure public safety, the Buffalo Lake ROW must be kept free of obstructions and unauthorized uses, structures and developments. Authorization (written permission) must be obtained from relevant provincial and federal agencies to alter the ROW, build on the ROW or permanently store property on the ROW.



What does "1 in 100 year flood level" mean?

A 100 year flood level means the lake has a 1% probability of reaching that elevation in any given year. The Buffalo Lake ROW corresponds to the floodplain level or area of land that would be inundated.

The BLMT 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

Or contact Pud at

ontarget@xplornet.com

Find out more about Buffalo Lake ROW Management!

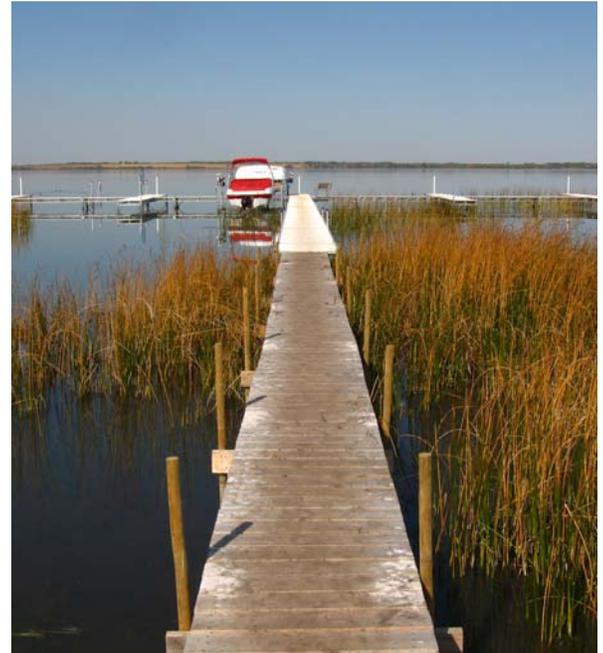
See the *Buffalo Lake Integrated Shoreline Management Plan (BLISMP)*, available at www.blmt.ca.

JOIN US AT THE BUFFALO LAKE MANAGEMENT TEAM OPEN HOUSES!

The Buffalo Lake Management Team (BLMT) invites the public to attend the upcoming Open House Community Events on July 18th. Building on the success of open houses held for the past 2 years, 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!

2015 Open House Highlights:

- Check out the **BLISMP**, learn more about the BLMT
- Learn about aquatic invasive species and speak with fish/wildlife biologists from **Alberta Environment and Parks**
- Chat with representatives from **Cows and Fish**, the **Buffalo Lake Naturalists Club**, and the **Red Deer River Watershed Alliance**
- 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!
- Join us for snacks and refreshments!



BLMT OPEN HOUSE 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!

LAKE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Buffalo Lake is currently at 780.96m which is higher than the water level we saw in fall of 2014 of 780.85m (full supply level) due to the typical snow and runoff going into the lake in the spring. With the lake level still 36cm above the pumping trigger elevation, it is anticipated there will be no pumping into Buffalo Lake this season.

Spring runoff levels in Parlby and Spotted Creek fostered a successful back-flood this season, and Northern Pike from Buffalo Lake were permitted to spawn upstream of the Environment & Parks Spotted Lake structure in coordination with Fish & Wildlife. Environment & Parks staff also coordinated operations with Ducks Unlimited staff for their annual fill of the wetland project upstream of the Mirror back-flood structure.

Check out the [Alberta Rivers app](#) for iOS and Android devices to get lake current lake levels on your smartphone. <http://www.environment.alberta.ca/apps/basins/default.aspx>