

Muriel Lake Basin Management Society

Help out with the Roadside Cleanup – June 1 at 1:30 PM Tailgate safety meeting at TWP Rd 604 & Range Road 60

Annual General Meeting to be held on July 27 at Noon at the Muriel Lake MD Campground

Hello friends of Muriel Lake:

Hope you are all doing well. Since the last AGM, the MLBMS has had some additions and some members who have stepped aside. The new board members hope to adequately fill their places.

This year, 2023/24, we have experienced a very mild and dry winter. As a result, we have seen the lake level drop further. Given that, it is important that we continue to monitor the lake and do all we can to ensure its health and vitality. There are lots of opportunities for you to become involved with your lake stewardship society. Read on for details!

Water level last year (August 1) was 555.84 meters above sea level. It dropped through the dry fall to 555.72 in November. Currently it is 555.74, but we are hoping for some good precipitation to start bringing it back.

FIRST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY of the year is the Saturday June 1 Roadside Cleanup for the Gurneyville to Bonnyville road. It's our major fundraiser for the year and we are looking for volunteers to come help. This year we are very fortunate to be getting some help from some Bonnyville students, but we would like to make sure we have enough other volunteers to ensure full coverage of the route. We are meeting at 1:30 PM on Township Road 604 and Range Road 60 across the road from the turnoff to the Bonnyville dump, for a brief tailgate safety meeting before heading over to pick up trash along the side of the highway to Bonnyville. We should be done in a couple of hours. Hi-Visibility vests and garbage bags will be provided. Gloves are recommended. Hope you can make it!

We are again collecting recyclable bottles and cans. This is an important fundraising program for us, raising over \$2000 per year. Friends of Muriel Lake drop off their recyclable bottles and cans at the south side waste transfer station. Alternatively, you can drop off bottles at the Dove Centre in Bonnyville for donation.

This year, the winter oxygen level in the lake was not monitored. The results from last year indicated that the levels could support fish stock through the winter, although the risk to sustainability is still very high. The Alberta Fisheries and Wildlife website has some very good information on fish levels and sustainability risks (<https://www.alberta.ca/fall-index-netting-summaries>). If you would like to participate

next year in the winter oxygen level monitoring, or just want an excuse to take out your snowmobile, please contact us.

We are still monitoring the water level and pressure in aquifers that lie below Muriel Lake. The water pressure is still relatively high in these aquifers, so groundwater is flowing up into the lake. Currently we have only one monitor in service, so we are looking for new locations to install more. The monitor is easy to install/remove, just sensors on the end of a line we drop down the well. If you have a well you are not using and would let us use it, please let us know and we will check it out.

The Society is in the process of purchasing a drone to survey the creeks flowing to Muriel Lake to identify locations where water flow may be restricted due to beaver dams or other causes. This will allow us to determine if there are actions we can take to open these restrictions up (e.g., install beaver deceivers). If you know of any locations that may have such restrictions please let us know through our website or Facebook page and we will check it out.

For the bird-watchers out there, Birds Canada, the national organization for bird preservation, has designated Muriel Lake as a Key Biodiversity Area. They have some very interesting information on the bird populations in the area, and invite comments and additional info (<https://kba-maps.deanrobertevans.ca/site/AB047>) .

This year we are planning for our Annual General Meeting to be held on July 27 at Noon at the Muriel Lake MD Campground. Same place as last year, and hopefully nice weather. Join us to hear more details about the lake and what your society has been up to. All are invited. If you are interested in joining our board of directors, there is room for you to participate. We always need more members!

We have added new material to the web site. Check it out at <http://www.savemuriellake.com/> The DONATE NOW button on the website works - try it out! Tax receipts available. Several new items have been added. If you use Facebook, follow us as we post news there too.

News from LICA (Lakeland Industry & Community Association)

New to Spring 2024, LICA is excited to offer a Riparian Health Campaign!

In response to the [large-scale riparian intactness assessments](#) (2021), and recommendations of the [Beaver River Integrated Watershed Management Plan](#) (2022) the riparian health campaign was developed!

Riparian Areas are the green zones around the surface water of a stream, river, wetland, or lake. It is the transitional area from the water's edge to the upland habitat. A healthy riparian area generally has abundant vegetation including trees, shrubs, and herbaceous cover; formed as a result of water, soil, and vegetation interacting with one another. Intact riparian areas stabilize the banks of water bodies and help modulate water velocities and high-water events thereby reducing erosion. Riparian areas support water quality by trapping and storing sediments and filtering water runoff. They also support biodiversity by acting as animal travel corridors.

If you sign up for the campaign, you will be provided with resources to increase your knowledge and understanding of riparian areas and appropriate riparian plant species. Additionally, you will receive resources to learn how to complete a riparian area assessment on your property and other ways to support healthy aquatic systems. To support community-based restoration, those who sign up for LICA's Riparian Health Campaign will receive a bundle of 10 seedlings to plant in the riparian area on their property. Wild Rose, Red-Osier Dogwood, and Saskatoon are the seedlings offered in the Spring and Fall of 2024. Along with the seedlings a lawn sign will be given for the season, to further publicly display your commitment to healthy riparian areas, and aid in further awareness of the campaign. To sign up, contact LICA! Office: 780-812-2182, Email: Watershed@lica.ca

Kayla Hellum
Environmental Coordinator

This email is from the Muriel Lake Basin Management Society. You are on our membership list as someone who is concerned about the environmental health of this lake and has given us your email address. If you know of someone who would like to receive the emails in the future have them send us their email address, or have them go to <http://www.savemuriellake.com/> and click on the CONTACT button at the top. If you don't want to receive emails from us in future just reply and we will take you off our email list.

Hope to see you soon - at the lake or at an MLBMS event. And we are always looking for people who want to get more involved!