Spring Lake Environmental Advisory Committee
Newsletter Winter 2012

Our Year in Review

The EAC approached the Village Administration this year for help in coordinating and picking up pre-ordered rain barrels for the residents of the Spring Lake. This year there were 14 barrels purchased, which is nice to see that more and more Spring Lake residents are harvesting rain water, thus helping to retain the ground and lake water, while still having thriving gardens. Keep up the good work everyone!

Once again the EAC participated in the Canada Day picnic, put on by the Village. We had two tables filled with information about recycling, composting, local animals, photos of our wonderful landscapes, coloring books and crayons for the kids and a raffle (prizes courtesy of Servus Credit Union in Stony Plain) just to mention a bit of what we had to offer. We had many visitors to our table, we enjoyed meeting and talking with everyone and we look forward to seeing you again next year and sharing information with you.

We have the winners from our 2012 Photo Contest. There were three categories and everyone was invited to submit a photo into any or all the categories. The winners are: Landscape category is Marilyn Sveinson, Wildlife category is Sarah Findlay, and the Enjoying the Outdoors category was won by Rob Milson. Each of the winners have won a $50 gift certificate and a free copy of the Spring Lake Environmental 2013 Calendar. The calendars should be back from the printer and on sale from the Village Office by the first week in December.

As many of you may have noticed, there were two loon nesting rafts **o**ut this spring, one on the west side of the lake and one on the east side. The one on the east side was nested on this year by a pair of loons who produced two babies of which one survived all summer and fall. A total of the three chicks survived to maturity on our lake this summer, which is much better than the two previous years when none did. The nesting raft on the west side was not used by the loons, but it was certainly inspected and tried out by all the other species of waterfowl we have here. Hopefully next spring it will attract a pair of loons.

The EAC again sponsored a fall Shoreline Clean Up this past September with a wonderful turnout of volunteers. Everyone's name was put in a hat for a draw of an Environmental Photo book. The winner of the draw was Hailey Ledwon. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who came out for the couple of hours it took to clean things up.

A reminder to everyone that the EAC has a link on the Village website. Please check it out to see what we have been up to since our beginnings in 2005. We have just had our seventh anniversary as an environmental committee and we still have four of the original members. We have also grown to now having eight members, with the newest one just joining us in September. If you are interested in helping your EAC out for special events or special projects, contact the Village office, leave your name and phone number with them and one of us from the EAC will get back to you.

There has been some new dog signage put up recently as a reminder to all dog owners that anywhere within the Village limits, dogs are to be on a leash and owners are responsible to ensure all feces are picked up and bagged. Any time there is dog feces left for people to step in, it will ultimately work its

way into the water system of the lake, in turn polluting the lake that we all enjoy. So please dog owners, ensure your pets are leashed to keep them safe, and their droppings are picked up and bagged to keep the rest of us safe.

The aerators were placed in at the end of October this year, again with the help of a volunteer from the Environmental Advisory Committee. This volunteer has been helping the Alberta Conservation Association for the past several years**.** A couple of shoreline residents also co-operate by allowing the A.C.A to launch their boat and equipment to connect the power that runs the aerators. A benefit of having the aerators is that the fishing this year was wonderful with some three to four pound trout being pulled out of the lake this year. Very exciting sport for a person of any age!

And speaking of fishing did you know that Spring Lake receives about 15,000 small Rainbow Trout every year for stocking? Typically the Alberta Government through the Environment and Sustainable Resource Department (ESRD) drops in about 10,000 small Rainbow Trout in May and 5,000 more in September.

By December 1, 2012 there will be a reference book available for your perusal regarding Alberta noxious weeds. If you have some plants in your yard you are not sure of what they are, check them out in this new reference book at the Village office. To eradicate, or at least control local noxious weeds, it is important we all work together as a community, so please take advantage of having this reference available.

From all of us on your Spring Lake Environmental Advisory Committee we hope everyone has a safe, warm and fun-filled winter season.