Winter Aeration Information for Spring Lake

● Spring Lake is known as a eutrophic lake and like many lakes in our region, is gradually getting more shallow and producing more organic material which compete for available oxygen.

● The aerators pump oxygen into the water during the winter so the ice does not starve the lake of oxygen which is needed to keep fish and other types of wildlife alive.

● Up until 2023, the Alberta Conservation Association supplied all of the equipment and labour for installing and removing the aerators for our lake.

● In 2023 the Alberta Conservation Association in partnership with the Edmonton Trout Fishing Club; then in turn the Edmonton Trout Fishing Club in partnership with the Village of Spring Lake, have taken over the equipment, installation, removal and electrical costs of the aerators.

● Fencing and signage is put up once the aerators are installed to discourage people and animals from going near the open water and thin ice.

● Some water evaporation occurs but it is minimal relative to the rate that occurs in the warmer seasons.

● Some years, oxygen levels are recorded during the winter months to ensure the aerators are doing their job. This is done by the Alberta Conservation Association.

● Due to the winter aeration our lake benefits from increased oxygen levels which in turn helps many types of plant life and small invertebrates flourish rather than dying off.

● These plants and invertebrates provide food for other birds, amphibians and reptiles and the biodiversity of our lake increases.

● Over the years since the aerators have been operating, it has helped bring in more Ospreys, Pelicans, and more pairs of Blue Herons and Grebes as some examples. This has also helped our lake to support the four pairs of nesting loons that have called Spring Lake home for many years.