



2012 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

-The Volunteer of the Year Award is awarded to a volunteer who has shown outstanding dedication and enthusiasm for the LakeWatch Program. In 2012, the recipient of this award was our Lac Santé volunteer, **Terry Noble**.-

Drawn to Lac Santé by its abundant wildlife, clean water, and wide variety of migratory bird species, Terry's family has had property at Lac Santé since 2005; this is also the year Terry first learned about the LakeWatch program at an open house. Since then, he has volunteered for the LakeWatch program for six summers. After receiving the 2012 award, we asked Terry a few questions about his experience with ALMS:



2012 Volunteer of the Year Award recipient, Terry Noble.
Photo by Randi Newton, 2012.

What has been your favourite part of volunteering?

Without question, it is the ALMS

Technicians I have met over the years that have made this volunteering opportunity most enjoyable. They have all been bright articulate young folks who bring with them a wealth of knowledge and a keen interest in properly sampling the lake. They have all been very professional and willing to share their interests and knowledge about lake testing parameters and about good lake management practices. Each and every outing has been engaging and enjoyable. We have had a lot of fun.

I do have concerns each year about whether or not ALMS will be adequately funded to enable this excellent testing program to be carried on. ALMS provides an extremely important service and more often than not goes without recognition for their efforts. As a volunteer, I know from firsthand experience and knowledge that this partnership of volunteers, lake testing specialists, and analysts plays a key, meaningful role in ensuring that lakes and streams are respected and managed for the future. I remain optimistic that the financial resources will be found to continue with this worthwhile environmental initiative.

Why do you think it is important to collect water quality data?

Water is a very important aspect of our lives. Lakes and streams need to be looked after and this requires an understanding of what is happening to these bodies of water. Sampling the lakes each year allows information to be gathered about the lake. This information forms a profile and over the years this collection of information enables trends to be defined that are both good and not so good. This information forms the basis of developing an action plan for change if required.

What are the challenges facing Lac Santé?

As the population increases around the lake, so does the use of the lake. This increases the potential of doing permanent damage to the lake. Therefore, we all share in the responsibility to become informed about practices and activities that can help keep the lake in excellent condition and at the same time prevent practices and activities that may be detrimental to this valuable body of water. The challenge is to communicate information about what is happening to lake to property owners and users of the lake in easily understandable terms. It is, at times, challenging to educate lake stakeholders and then change behaviors of activities that may be detrimental to the lake.



Lac Sante, 2011. Photo by Pauline Pozsonyi

Terry has been an extremely valuable member of the LakeWatch program – without volunteers like Terry, very little data would exist for some of Alberta’s most valuable freshwater resources. To find out how you can become a volunteer with the LakeWatch program, please visit www.alms.ca or call us at 780-415-9785.



Lac Sante, 2011. Photo by Pauline Pozsonyi