



2014 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 2014, the recipient of this award was our Wizard Lake volunteer, Larry MacPherson.-

Wizard Lake is a long, serpentine, lake lying within a steep, glacial meltwater channel just south of Calmar. Close in proximity to Leduc and Nisku, Wizard Lake seemed the perfect location for volunteer Larry MacPherson to call home. Larry has lived at Wizard Lake for 16 years and first became involved with ALMS through the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association (WLWLSA). We asked the WLWLSA why they felt water quality data was important:

"...the WLWLSA Board had a commitment to science, governance, and action. The Alberta Lake Management Society was an obvious choice where to begin with the scientific data. This data provides an important baseline of water quality and continuing monitoring for the chemistry of environmental indicators. Early detection of detrimental changes in water quality because of nutrients or aquatic invasive species is important for implementing a rapid response system." - Carole Ellsworth, WLWLSA Director



Larry MacPherson recording data on Wizard Lake. 2011



Bald eagle at Wizard Lake. Photo by Elynn Murray, 2013.

Larry has been a part of this effort to collect water quality data through the Alberta Lake Management Society for five years. Not only has Larry served as a LakeWatch volunteer, he has also volunteered to check and distribute invasive mussel substrates and was one of the first volunteers involved in our Invasive Macrophyte Monitoring Pilot Program. Larry has been an exemplary volunteer, showing dedication to monitoring and kindness to our technicians. As well, he has always made an effort to involve his grandchildren in the monitoring, fostering

an enthusiasm for science and the environment. As the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award, Larry was asked what his favourite part of volunteering with ALMS was:

I like working with ALMS because the technicians are enthusiastic, bright, and enjoy their job. As well, I like the opportunity to involve my grandchildren in learning and understanding lake stewardship. Whenever my grandchildren have gone out with us, the technicians have coached and involved them. I also enjoy being a part of and helping the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association.



Larry's grandchildren, Jack and Anna, and technician Elynne Murray, collecting a sample for Dreissenid mussel veligers. 2013.

Larry has been an extremely valuable member of the LakeWatch program – without volunteers like Larry, very little data would exist for some of Alberta's most valuable freshwater resources. To learn more about Wizard Lake and 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.



Wizard Lake. Photo by Jessica Davis, 2011.