



2013 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 2013, the recipient of this award was our Minnie Lake volunteer, Garry Kissel.-

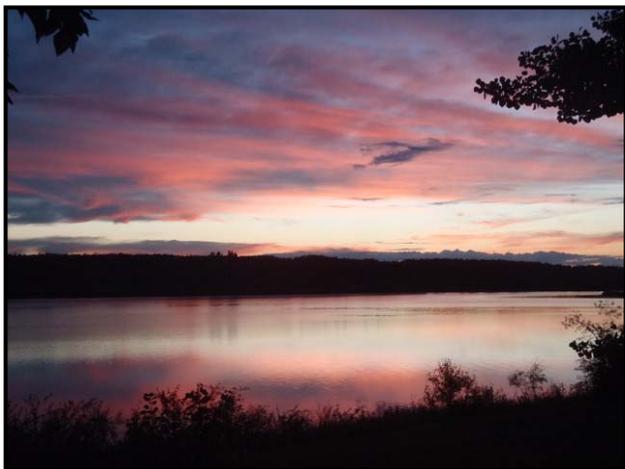
Situated only minutes from the town of Glendon, Minnie Lake is small, clear, and deep, and lies in the Beaver River Watershed. A long time resident of Glendon, Garry Kissel has been involved in the LakeWatch program for six years. Garry first became involved with LakeWatch when the announcement of possible oil developments raised concerns about the future of Minnie Lake's water quality. Garry has been an outstanding volunteer, showing dedication to data collection at Minnie Lake, and a joy to work with. As the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award, Garry was asked a couple questions about his experience with ALMS:



Garry Kissel at Minnie Lake, 2012. Photo by Randi Newton.

What has been your favourite part of volunteering?

I like all aspects of the experience, but I especially enjoy meeting and getting to know the technicians and hearing of their passion for what they are doing is great fun. I learn a lot from them. Spending beautiful mornings on the lake during the summer is not so bad either.



Minnie Lake. Photo by Garry Kissel

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

I believe that having a baseline of water quality data is very important for the future. It is a great way to monitor the effect of oil industry activity and recreational use on our lakes and water quality in the area in general. Catching a change in the chemistry of the water before it is too late is very important.

What are the challenges facing Minnie Lake?

Heavy recreational use and oil drilling in close proximity to the lake are major challenges at this time.

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



Minnie Lake. Photo by Garry Kissel



Minnie Lake, 2011. Photo by Pauline Pozsonyi.