

COMMUNITY

A profile of Vincent Lake's fish

By the Vincent Lake Working Group*

Vincent Lake's northern pike, yellow perch, and walleye are well known to the local community. Whether we are talking fish of the past or present, one of the vital links between ourselves and a healthy and productive fishery is a healthy and productive riparian area and littoral zone.

A healthy, riparian area and littoral zone provide pike, perch, and walleye, the following benefits:

- vegetation for pike and perch to spawn eggs on;
- protection for newly hatch fish;
- food like insects and zoo plankton (tiny animals that resemble plants);
- protection for smaller fish from predation;
- ambush cover for larger fish to prey upon the smaller fish;
- cool, shade in the summer time for all sizes of fish;
- and nutrient rich waters (eutrophic) that support plants, zoo plankton, insects, and fish.

The following is some information about Vincent Lake's fish.

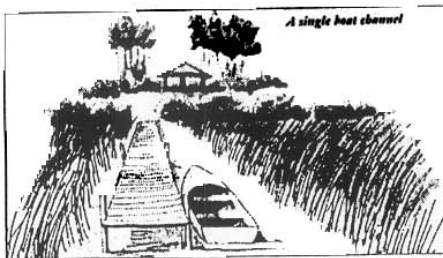
Northern Pike (jack) — will spawn in flooded vegetation in shallow bays; currently considered in a vulnerable state and harvest restricted to 3 pike and over 63 cm.

Yellow Perch — food source for pike and walleye; over harvested, population near collapse.

Walleye (pickerel) — introduced fish, 118,510 planted from 1967 to 1992; population appears growing, however, can not support a harvest (presently catch and release only).

What do you think some of the reasons for the present "less than healthy" fishery resource at Vincent Lake are? In addition to the present low water levels in the lake.

Riparian Tip — To better protect the fishery resource of lakes, consider a single boat channel.



MEETING - 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, St. Paul Senior Citizens Centre...

We will talk about fish and more! For further information con-

tact Gerry Ehlert at 780-645-6336.

*The Vincent Lake Working Group is a partnership of interested individuals and groups whose purpose

is to provide awareness, education, and tools that will foster an increased understanding of the importance of healthy and properly functioning riparian areas for recreation, agriculture, and many other benefits and values. Members include: the County of St. Paul, Summer Village of Horseshoe Bay, Cows and Fish Program, Alberta Conservation Association, PFRA, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Alberta Environmentally

Sustainable Agriculture Program, Riparian Wetlands and Research Program. For additional

information call Gerry Ehlert at (780) 645-6336.