

COMMUNITY

Residents learn rules of lake preservation

Cottage association and bylaws could follow

By Keith Robinson
Staff Writer

Approximately 75 people attended the Saturday afternoon session of the Vincent Lake community meetings.

The focus of the afternoon dealt with the laws of the lake and why they exist. However, it was much more in detail than that.

Gerry Ehlert, P.G.R. manager, of the Northeast region, says the afternoon proved to be successful.

Of those in attendance 18 have attended previous meetings while many others were from out of town including Edmonton and even Airdrie.

The background information that was shared involved healthy shorelines, water samples, fish net results and regulations (locally, provincially and federally) dealing with septic waste, bed and shore and environment reserves.

"Some of the areas we people were supportive of include development of cottage owners

association and helping to establish land use bylaws," explains Ehlert. "The County (of St. Paul) will consider putting the bylaw ideas into the readings."

One of the potential bylaws discussed includes written permission from the County when someone wishes to construct or renovate near a watershed.

Kelsey Spicer, of the Cows and Fish program says anything going into the watershed can disrupt the natural balance.

"A lake is like a bathtub," explains Spicer. "Sediments and

nutrients are easily transported into a watershed. What goes in...stays in."

The key things to maintaining the lake are the amount of natural vegetation and the types of vegetation in the watershed.

Since the last water testing, Vincent Lake has not moved in regards to the phosphorous content in the lake.

St. Paul Fisheries technician Dick Brown says the fish data that was collected last fall is very vital.

"The tests nets gave us 300 walleye, 70 pike and no perch. This

only a couple of the classes are strong.

Brown adds this means they will not open the lake this year for walleye.

In regards to pike, a new regulation will be

implemented this year with a 0-bag limit for those over 63-cm. They must be a catch and release.

And other means will be used to further and try to gather perch data.



Gerry Hackel, a riparian and land management specialist, explains Vincent Lake has not changed greatly in the last 10 years.