

What impact does our sewage, manure, and winter feeding sites have on the health of the Vincent Lake watershed?

The recent interview study with lakeshore property owners of Vincent Lake, Garner Lake, Upper Mann Lake, Lac Sante, and Laurier Lake (Equus, 2000) indicated that the majority of people felt the most important characteristics of the lake were water level, clarity of the water, safety for users of the shore areas, and opportunities to observe wildlife.

Also, you said that we need rules to prevent abuse by people, protect habitat, we need better enforcement, and there is a need to educate people.

In past months the Vincent Lake Working Group* has discussed with you the importance of healthy shorelines like shorelines that grow deep rooted plants like cattails, bulrushes, willows, and tall sedges. Knowing the variety of County, Village, Provincial, and Federal regulations and why they exist can also help. Compliance with regulations will reduce the need for costly enforcement.

What are the regulations and codes of practice that deal with management of sewage, winter feeding sites, and manure in the Vincent Lake watershed?

Leaky septic fields and nutrients like human waste and manure that drain into a water course can lead to water quality related problems. Alternatively, knowing and complying with the regulations and code of practices can help prevent problems. Remember those cumulative effects! Its all our recreation and agriculture, and other impacts, small and

large that add up that can add up to a problem. We are all share in the problems and solutions!

Come join us at our upcoming Saturday, January 27, 2001 meeting in St. Paul. We have organized a number of presentations that will help lakeshore property owners and farmers know more about the regulations and why they exist.

The following are some questions that will help you determine the value of attending this meeting. If you don't know the answers, perhaps you should come to the meeting?

SEWAGE

To facilitate cleaning, what kind of access opening in the septic tank should be provided below the surface of the ground?

What are the installation standards, soil percolation rate, and requirements of the layer of soil between the effluent and the

water table?

Do you know if your tank is leaking? How do I determine this?

WINTER FEEDING SITES

What are the pollution pathways from cattle feeding sites?

What are the options available to you for developing a safe livestock water supply?

HANDLING OF ANIMAL MANURES

Should I be spreading manure on the soil surface? What are the safe options?

What are the nutrient requirements of my planned crop? Does my manure and purchased nutrients meet or exceed these crop requirements?

* The Vincent Lake Working Group includes lakeside property residents; farmers; County of St. Paul; Village of Horseshoe Bay; Cows and Fish Program; Alberta Conservation Association; Public Lands Division, Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture, and

Industry Development of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; Department of Fisheries and Oceans; P.F.R.A.; Ducks Unlimited Canada; Natural Resources

Service and Education Branch of Alberta Environment; FEESA, an Environmental Department of Education Society; and the Riparian and Wetland Research Program, University of Montana.

Agricultural Technology Centre opens

In order to expand client services for the agriculture industry in such areas as production, conservation and the environment, the former Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre has a new name, a new image and new goals.

Operated by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, the facility was officially renamed the Agricultural Technology Centre on January 8, 2001.

"From its roots in equipment evaluation, the expansion into technology development and technology transfer was a natural progression allowing the Centre to evolve along with the machinery industry," says Lund. "This is the

right time to look at the bigger picture and offer new services and technology in a new way. It just makes good business sense."

"We are excited about this new era for the organization," adds Rick Atkins, manager of the Centre. "We took a good look at how our clients' needs for services have changed. We also looked at what impact the Centre's work was having on environmental stewardship, crop diversification and livestock development and decided the timing was right to change the name and focus to reflect the expertise and diverse capabilities of the people and facilities located in Lethbridge."

In the past 12 years, the Centre has conducted approximately:

- 145 evaluations
- 99 research projects
- 156 development projects
- 34 fabrication projects
- 57 computer/electronics projects
- 30 trade shows
- 100+ facility tours by students, producers and researchers from around the world
- 1000+ distribution of evaluation reports
- 200+ presentations to producers, students and technical conferences
- 4000+ direct client consultations; and
- placed a wealth of information on Alberta Agriculture's website.

Machinery and technology has a significant place in the agricultural economy. This sector currently represents a \$2.5 billion dollar industry and employs 10,000 people in western Canada.

With the Centre's new focus, continued emphasis will be placed on water quality, sustainable expansion of intensive livestock operations, conservation of soil and water resources under various cropping systems and a wide variety of emerging issues.



VINCENT LAKE COMMUNITY MEETING

Laws of Vincent Lake that You Should Know About and Why They Exist

For Continued Enjoyment of a Healthy Vincent Lake Watershed Your Recreation, Fishing, and Farming Depends on It!

12 PM to 4:30 PM, Saturday, January 27, 2001
at the St. Paul Senior Citizens Club,
St. Paul (4809-47 Street)

FEATURES:

Open House (Lunch Snacks and Coffee by DeChamplain Catering and Ducks Unlimited Canada).....Information Posters..... and Door Prizes!

A variety of federal, provincial, and local specialists will discuss with you a variety of topics including:

Presentations about the importance of water, what makes a healthy watershed, riparian areas, and the results of the water and fish sampling at Vincent Lake;

Acts and Regulations of Municipal Government, Public Lands, Federal Fisheries, and Provincial Fish and Wildlife..... Septic, Environmental Reserves, Crown Bed and Shore, Access, Uses, Construction, Manure Spreading, Prohibited Activities, Approvalsand More!

Let's Discuss the Final Steps of Involvement and Action..... We need your help in developing land use by-laws for the Environmental Reserve at Vincent Lake!



For further information please contact the St. Paul Public Lands Office at 780-645-6336.