

BLESS NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2005

A New Board for 2005

January 12th was the date of the annual general meeting held at Fountain Park Pool. A good turnout took place and some special guests provided insights into the future of Big Lake.

Of special interest to all were the discussions regarding the possibility that the Big Lake Natural Area may some day gain provincial park status. A number of BLESS members would like to see this transpire.

The following individuals represent the new board of directors for BLESS:

Dave Burkhart: President
Bob Russell: Past President
Bruce Cameron: Treasurer
Nicolas Bachelor: Secretary
Stuart Loomis: Vice-President
Louise Horstman: Director Education
John Samson: Director Energy
Nick Robinson: Director Membership
Miles Constable: Director Stewardship
Bill Bocock: Director
Leonard Nobert: Director

The BLESS Web Site

The BLESS web site continues to be located at www.bless.ab.ca. Of special interest to bird watchers will be the continuance of the observations made from the viewing platform. Look for 'Bird Sightings at the BLESS Viewing Platform' when searching the home page.



Big
Lake
Environment
Support
Society

Events Calendar

With the hope of encouraging BLESS members to come out and participate in events throughout the year, what follows is a first draft of known activities and projects we are hoping to carry out this year. We will update changes on the web site.

Date	Event - Location
Sat. April 16	<u>Springing to Life at Big Lake I</u> - Viewing Platform @ Big Lake
Sun. April 24	<u>Earth Day Celebration Display</u> - Hawrelak Park, Edmonton
Sat. April 30	<u>Springing to Lake at Big Lake II</u> - Viewing Platform @ Big Lake
Sun. May 1	<u>Spruce Up the Sturgeon</u> - City Hall & shores of river
Sat. June 25	<u>Nature Centre Grand Opening</u> - Little Log Cabin on Sturgeon R.
Fri. July 1	<u>Canada Day Display</u> - Lions Park
July 5-9	<u>Using Your Senses</u> – Theme Week - Summer Nature Centre
July 12-16	<u>Birds & Backyards</u> – Theme Week - Summer Nature Centre
July 19-23	<u>Bugs & Butterflies</u> – Theme Week - Summer Nature Centre
July 26-30	<u>Trees & Wildflowers</u> – Theme Wk - Summer Nature Centre
Aug. 2-6	<u>Water Life</u> – Theme Week - Summer Nature Centre
Aug. 9-13	<u>Birds & Water</u> – Theme Week - Summer Nature Centre
Aug. 16-20	<u>Mammals</u> – Theme Week - Summer Nature Centre
Aug. 23-27	<u>Young Naturalists Achievement</u> - Summer Nature Centre
Oct. 9	Naturefest - City Hall Display Tables

Volunteering Opportunities

BLESS members sometimes ask if there aren't some more opportunities to volunteer at BLESS functions. Too often, too few try to do too much so we think it's time to extend an open invitation to members to call or email regarding volunteer opportunities.

To email BLESS, email bless123@telus.net

To phone for more information, call 460-9169

Our Role as 'Stewards'

BLESS is recognized by the provincial government as the official steward of Big Lake with a mandate to report on changes, especially modifications by 'users' of the Big Lake Natural Area (BLNA). There is a requirement to carry out inspections and to submit reports at least twice a year to the government.

We hope to coordinate our efforts a bit better this year with the involvement of more of the BLESS membership in the inspection process and will make an effort to notify as many as possible in advance of an inspection period.

To help facilitate notification of members, we encourage you to email your interest to the BLESS email site (bless123@telus.net) and we can alert you to possible involvement in hikes or inspections around the lake with suitable lead time once the dates are set.

Give Us Your Feedback

We need to know if you feel adequately informed and involved with BLESS. If not, give us a call or an email and bring your concerns to our attention.

Thanks for your continued interest in the work of the Big Lake Environment Support Society.

Pictures from 2004



The BLESS great blue heron mascot shows up at City Hall to help kick off Spruce Up the Sturgeon



The Earth Day Display at Hawrelak Park was very well received. Lots of fun looking for aquatic life.



The view across Big Lake from the area of the viewing platform in the fall.