



To Sustain And Enhance Our Lake For Future Generations

The Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group, (LMLSG), was formed in 2002 as the result of concerns expressed by the cottagers and residents of (perceived) effluent entering Last Mountain Lake. We formed a stewardship group and began regular meetings to discuss what we could do to ensure that Last Mountain Lake remain a non-polluted and healthy ecosystem.

Our mission is “To Sustain and Enhance our Lake for Future Generations”. Our goal is to steward and monitor the health of Last Mountain Lake, while sustaining the resources for the communities that depend on them.

In 2002, with the assistance of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA), we developed a Water Quality Monitoring Program that would effectively measure both the chemical and biological conditions of the lake water. This program enabled us to monitor the quality of our lake water, with the goal of early identification of water quality stressors and to create a historical database for future generations. Metal signage is placed at several areas around the lake that indicate the two baseline stations and seven shoreline-sampling sites.

Some of our other programs and accomplishments include:

1. With the assistance of Nature Saskatchewan, we developed educational programs and workshops and presented them to resort villages along Last Mountain Lake.
2. Developed a Communication Strategy program that outlined eco-friendly choices for lakeside property owners.
3. Implemented a Leafy Spurge Project, a biological treatment procedure that eradicates this invasive plant which is endangering the prairie grassland around Last Mountain Lake. Leafy Spurge has been eradicated in the drop areas.
4. Created a Fuel Spill Recovery Program, introducing a new methodology of removing hydrocarbons from water. This program instructed marina staff how to safely contain and remove spilled fuel from the water; and provided education and (free) equipment to boaters to reduce and remove petroleum accidentally spilled into the lake.
5. Registered our group as a non-profit organization.
6. Hosted workshops at local schools and community centers, providing educational material, brochures etc. that described the benefits of maintaining good environment practices at the lake.

The above-mentioned programs have been successful due to private and public grant funding; and due to the committed volunteers, who donate their time, efforts and personal resources when required.



To Sustain And Enhance Our Lake For Future Generations

In the spring of 2017, we were faced with the threat of the Common Ground Drainage Project, a plan to drain highly saline water from the Quill Lake basin into Last Mountain Lake without an Environmental Impact Assessment. So LMLSG partnered with the Saskatchewan Alliance for Water Sustainability (SAWS) and together we were successful in preventing that project from proceeding. The project was withdrawn in January 2018.

A major rain event on June 11, 2021 caused flooding and sewer back-ups in the City of Regina, triggering a release of 5.2 million liters of untreated storm water and wastewater downstream into Last Mountain Lake. LMLSG did not learn of this discharge until several weeks later. We are currently working with City of Regina officials as they improve their communication policy and their commitment to provide additional funding for infrastructure upgrades that will prevent further releases downstream.

In the summer of 2022, LMLSG was contacted by a volunteer group of local residents, who were faced with the threat of a large campground development planned for a unique green space located between the resort villages of Pelican Pointe and Sun Dale. After reviewing the situation, LMLSG became very concerned about the effect a development of this size would have on the wildlife habitat and natural landscape bordering Last Mountain Lake, the negative effects that excavation would undoubtedly take place to accommodate 232 campground lots, and the high concentration of boat traffic and significant shoreline damage in an already heavily concentrated area of Last Mountain Lake. We gave our full support to those volunteers who were trying to preserve this green space. With additional assistance and support from Nature Conservancy, this amazing group was successful in maintaining this natural green space in perpetuity.

We will continue our efforts to encourage eco-friendly lifestyle living at the lake, while monitoring lake water quality in Last Mountain Lake, so that residents, their families and friends may continue to enjoy the recreational activities resort communities provide.

For further information please refer to our website at: www.lmlsg.ca

Volunteers are welcome.

Submitted by Sherry Forsyth
On Behalf of Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group