

Winter 2017/18 Newsletter

LICA's New Look

With LICA merging the watershed and the airshed into one fluid organization there is great new potential for LICA to grow and develop new programs and projects. LICA has been around for over 18 years and the organization has evolved greatly since then. Today LICA is a Synergy Group, Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) for the Beaver River Watershed and an Airshed Zone with a focus on environmental monitoring, environmental management, and community education and outreach. With all of these incredible changes, LICA was due for a new look.



LICA
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

This new logo clearly represents what LICA is all about at a single glance. Our new logo incorporates the four pillars of the environment—water, air, land and biodiversity. LICA is aspiring to make our new tagline of “Environmental Stewards” a well-known term within our community. With all of these positive changes, the sky’s the limit for what LICA can bring to the region.

Connect With Us

www.lica.ca

Airshed Monitoring: monitoring@lica.ca

Executive Director: arianne@lica.ca

Education & Outreach: outreach@lica.ca

Watershed Program Management: watershed@lica.ca

Reception: lica2@lica.ca

780-812-2182



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Air Quality Health Index

The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is an important tool for everyone. It provides a value for the relative health risk associated with the local air quality. The AQHI is on a scale from 1 to 10, a low number means a lower the risk, and a high the number means a higher the risk. By knowing the local AQHI you can take the necessary precautions in times of high AQHI values, such as a forest fire smoke event.



Air pollution comes from a wide range of sources, but the pollutants in the form of gases and particulates have the greatest influence on our health. Pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, ground-level ozone, and particulate matter fall in this category and are normally referred to as “smog”. The levels of these three pollutants are used to calculate the AQHI value. You can find the local AQHI for Cold Lake and St. Lina on our website www.lica.ca/airshed

Health Risk	Air Quality Health Index	Health Messages	
		At Risk Population	General Population
Low Risk	1 – 3	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.	Ideal air quality for outdoor activities.
Moderate Risk	4 – 6	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you are experiencing symptoms.	No need to modify your usual outdoor activities unless you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.
High Risk	7 – 10	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also take it easy.	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.
Very High Risk	Above 10	Avoid strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also avoid outdoor physical exertion.	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors, especially if you experience symptoms such as coughing and throat irritation.

Alberta Environment and Parks

Special Meeting

Elections will be held to fill a vacant Board of Directors seat, Community Representative. Notice is hereby given that a special meeting for members of LICA will be held THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018, at the LICA office from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Nomination forms are available at the LICA office or contact lica2@lica.ca for an electronic copy. Participants must hold a LICA membership to vote at this meeting. Memberships can be obtained at the door of the meeting for free. Please RSVP to the LICA Office.



LICA
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

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www.lica.ca

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting for members of LICA will be held

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018

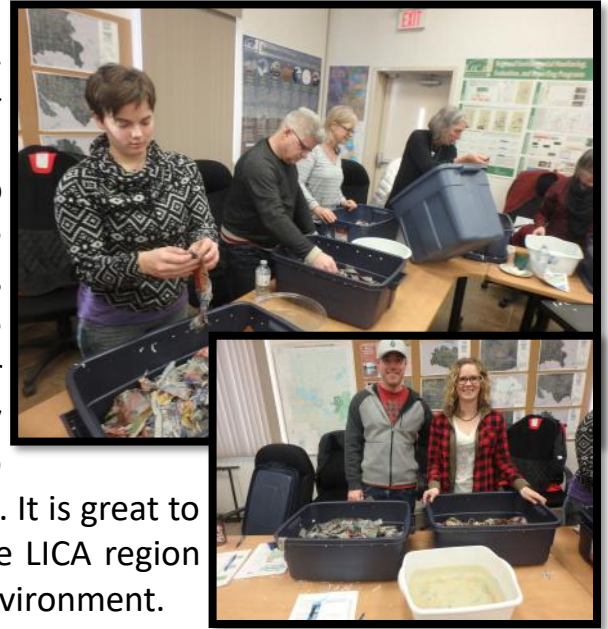
**At the LICA office, 5107W-50 Street, Bonnyville, AB
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

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Community Representative.**

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Participants must hold a LICA membership to vote at this meeting.
Please RSVP to the LICA Office.**

Education and Outreach

Vermi-Compost Workshop: Our very own Education & Outreach Coordinator, Erin Ritchie, put on a Vermi-Compost Workshop this past January. We had a full registration of eager participants wanting to incorporate sustainable living into their daily lives. The Vermi-Compost Workshop covered the positive effects compost has on our air and water quality, how to have a successful vermi-compost, facts about red wiggler worms, and a hands-on portion of building your very own vermi-compost. Everyone was very excited to bring home their new pets in their newly made homes. It is great to think there are 15 new vermi-compost bins out in the LICA region growing every day and contributing to a sustainable environment.



Family Fun Day: It's back! Alongside the Bonnyville Oil Ladies Society, and the Bonnyville Oilmen's Society, LICA joined in on organizing the return of this beloved event. This frigid, yet beautiful Canadian winter day had all sorts of fun winter activities for the whole family, including sleigh rides, curling, skating, a bonfire, food, hot chocolate, and we even had a fishing contest with many taking part. We thank everyone who helped out with this event to make it possible. To see more great pictures from this event visit our Facebook page!

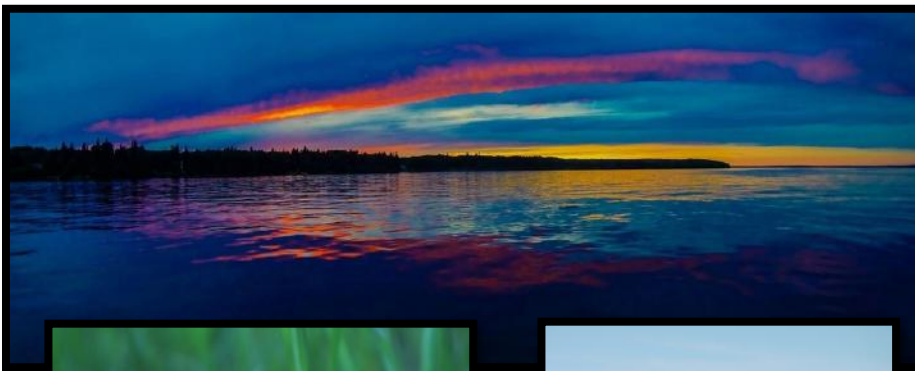


Nature Photography Workshop: This has been our most popular workshop yet, so much so we had to put on a second workshop! We had the pleasure of having Mason Unrau present at these workshops to teach the basics of nature photography. The workshop even included an outdoor session where we had the chance to practice our new skills. LICA encourages everyone to get out and experience nature. Studies have shown that the one thing all environmental stewards have in common is the ample amount time they spend in nature.



Wetlands Lunch & Learn: Government, industry and public members all in the same room to learn about Alberta's Wetland Policy. CPP Environment bought Théo and Jane to give a great presentation on the subject. Real life case studies gave a closer look at the process and stirred up great discussion between the different fields.

2018 Photo Contest



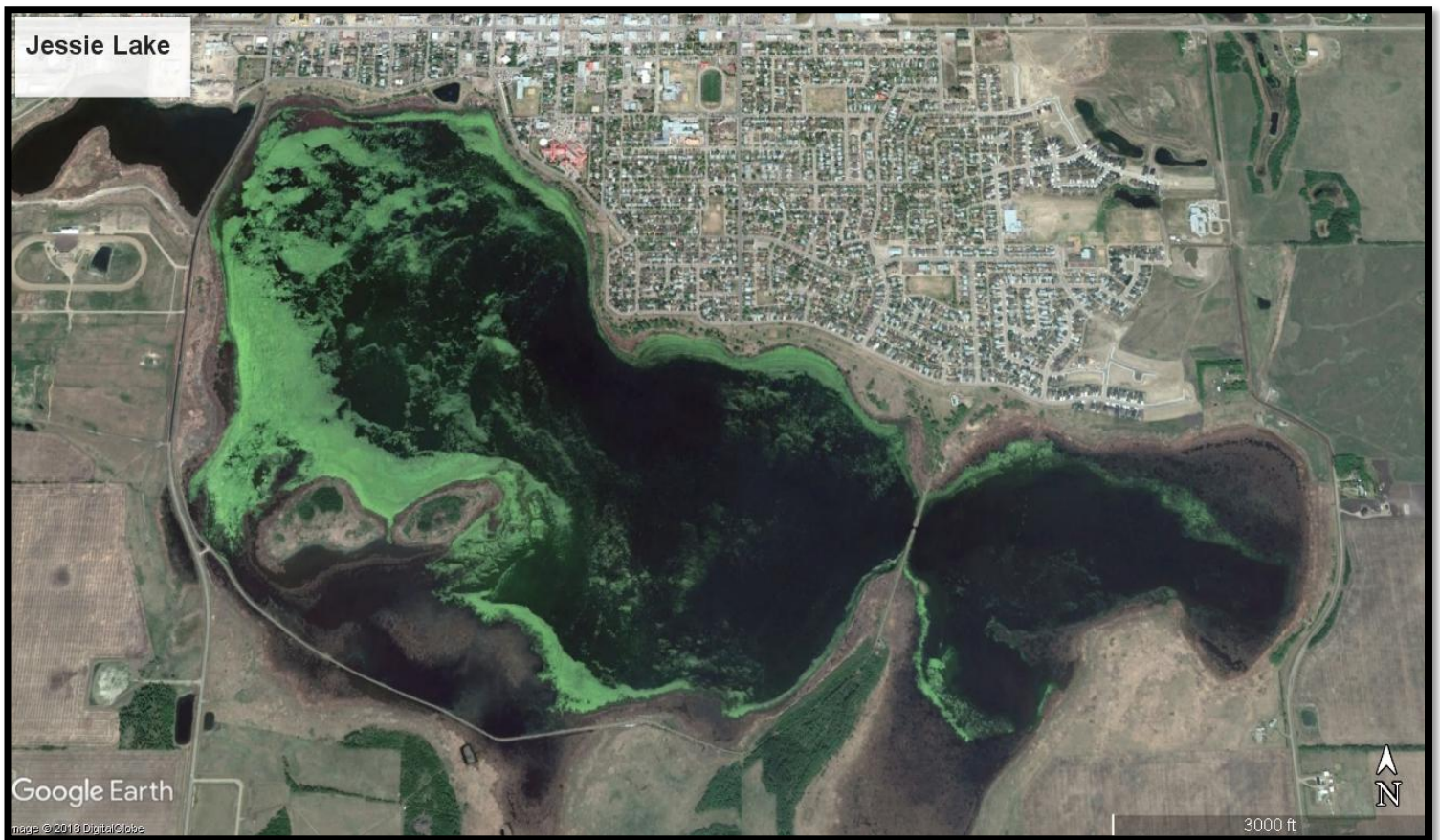
Our 2018 Photo Contest is now open! Enter up to three photos for your chance to win cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place with adult and youth categories. Contest closes June 30th, 2018.

Visit our website for contest entry forms and details.

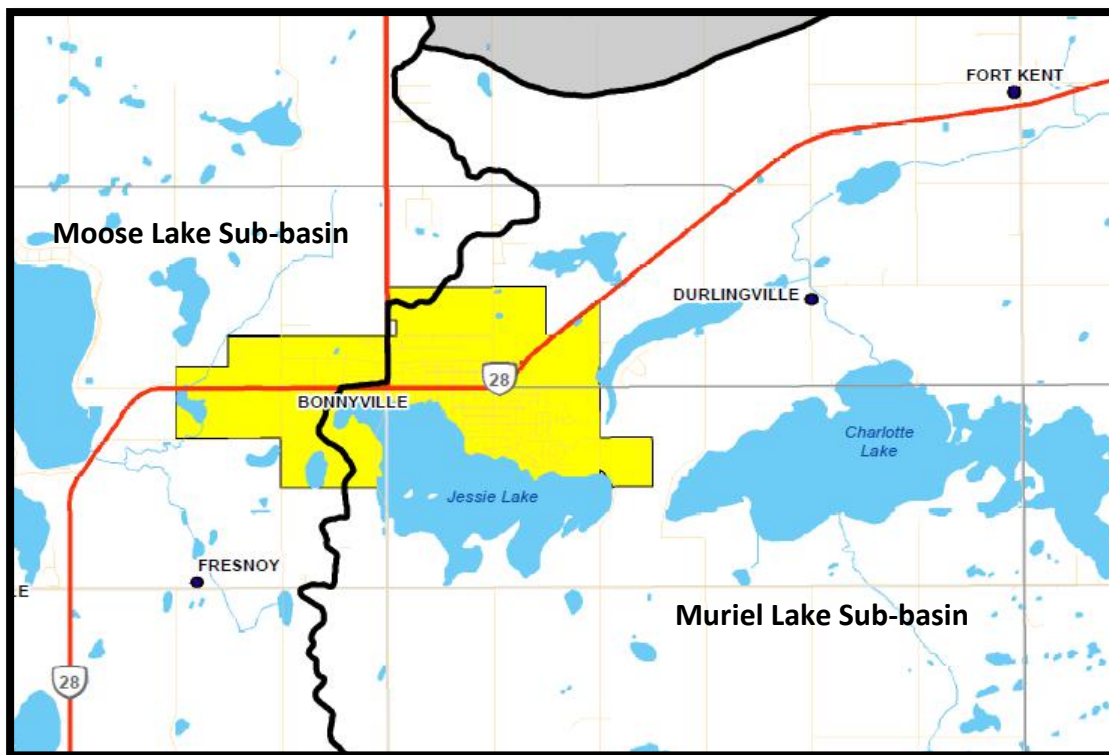
www.lica.ca/education/

Jessie Lake Restoration Update

The results from the water sampling during the summer of 2017 are in, and they have produced some interesting results! Jessie Lake has a very high chlorophyll-a and total phosphorus concentrations, making it hypereutrophic (very productive). The phosphorus levels in Jessie Lake are greater than 10 times the average levels found in the other 10 lakes sampled in the LICA region in 2017. However, microcystin levels were low, indicating that we did not capture any toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) activity during our two sampling events. High conductivity points in Jessie Lake act like a typical shallow wetland-type system which we have seen in the area. More information in regards to the water quality of Jessie Lake and the other lakes sampled in the region can be found on the Alberta Lake Management Society Website. www.alms.ca



High levels of phosphorus in a lake can lead to an increase in the growth of algae, causing an algae bloom. The google earth image from Jessie Lake in 2017 shows the extent of the algae problem. The H₂S gas released from the decomposing algae is what is most likely responsible for the odour that is emitted from Jessie Lake throughout the summer months. In order to resolve the odour from Jessie Lake, we need to first reduce the phosphorous currently in the water, as well as reduce what comes in from the surrounding area. LICA is working through this issue with specialists from their technical working group and will have more updates on this as the year progresses.



The water chemistry sampling that was completed in 2017 consisted of basic grab samples from the causeway bridge and Gurneyville road twice during the summer, and these two sites showed very similar water chemistry. We are planning to expand this sampling in 2018 to include the full suite of sampling in accordance with the ALMS Lakewatch program. This will include 5 samples taken throughout the summer and will include water chemistry analysis, water clarity, Secchi depth, oxygen profile and microcystin levels. In order to complete this full sampling launching a boat onto Jessie Lake will be required. We are currently looking for a volunteer with a small fishing boat and the desire to improve Jessie Lake. Anyone interested can contact the LICA office at (780) 812-2182

CARS Program

LICA's newest program, Clean Air Responsible Schools (CARS), is now up and running at the following schools; Le Goff, Art Smith Aviation, Elizabeth Metis and Dr Brosseau. Students in these schools received an interactive presentation all about air quality from Inside Education. Afterwards, the students had a chance to test out the Air Beams which allow the students to collect their very own air quality data around their school. The participating teachers are able to sign out the Air Beam throughout the year for their class to collect even more citizen science data. LICA is really excited to be offering new programs which educate students and teachers about our Airshed.



Hiring a Summer Position

LICA is currently seeking a full-time Summer Employee from the end of April until the end of August to assist with various programs.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist in the delivery of all Education and Outreach programs and events
- Assist in the implementation of the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program
- Provide support for all basic administrative tasks, including data entry, filing, & answering phones
- Provide support to the Executive Director and Officers of the Board of Directors

For more information and how to apply visit our website www.lica.ca

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Annette Hobart

Secretary Treasurer
Monty Moore

Chair

Andrea Woods
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LICA is grant funded by

