

LAKE WABAMUN:
Fallis Informal Launch Area
At Coal Point

I. BEFORE RESTORATION



Riparian
Manageme
nt Area



nt to...

Properties along Beach Way.

mun
e

30m





Beach Way Informal Launch: April 2015. The grassy area on the right with 3 large bird houses was once a substantial mound and over the past 5-6 years has shrunk considerably.



East End of Launch (Road Allowance is to the right, not visible) showing water accumulation and adjacent properties substantially impacted at the East end of Beach Way, Fallis.



Beach Way, Winter 2015. Road Allowance is on the other side of “Birdhouse Island”.



Beach Way, March 2015. Trucks in background parked in Road Allowance; others parked on beachfront. Note access point between groups of trucks which is on Crown property.



Winter 2015: Illegal parking along Beach Way, looking east to Coal Point.



Beach Way looking towards Coal Pont. Winter 2015. All of Beach Way is a No Parking Zone.



Ice Break-up at informal launch Spring 2015. “Birdhouse Island” shown on the right, to the East of the Road Allowance which is in the foreground.



Ice Breakup, Spring 2015. “Birdhouse Island” is on the left. Road Allowance is at the far end on the other side of the “Birdhouse Island”.



II: RESTORE vs. DESTROY

“EARTH DAY” RESTORATION OF SEVERELY
DAMAGED LAUNCH AREA: SPRING, 2015.



Broader view of Beach Way; Road Allowance in background behind birdhouses. Approximately \$7-8,000.00 was spent by environmentally concerned residents and stakeholders for this Earth Day Project. This included leveling out the substantial mud-hole and turn-around used illegally on the beachfront (Crown land).



This photo was taken in April, 2015. Restoration included berms to prevent illegal driving over beachfront, indigenous trees and shrubs, and sod.



Informal Launch Site, Winter 2016: All of these trucks were parked over existing shrubs and sodded berms.



faulkner

Shoreline Along Beach
Way, April 2016



WILDLIFE ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY OVER-USE OF INFORMAL BOAT LAUNCH

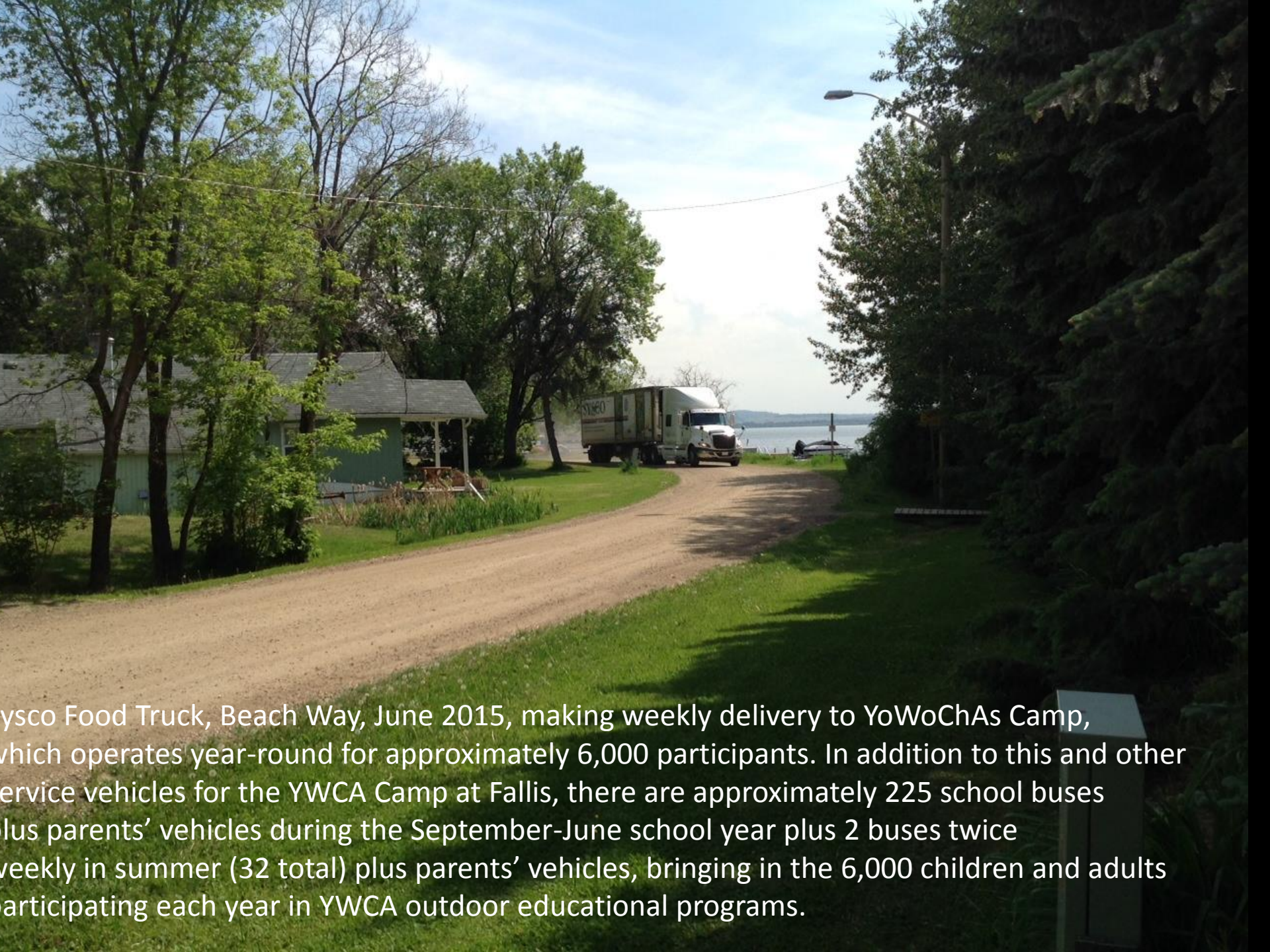
These photos were taken within 400' to
450' feet of the informal launch site.



These are part of a group of 23 pelicans just off Beach Way (Coal Point in background). Taken just after ice breakup, Spring 2014. They did not return for remainder of summer.



Blue Heron, Summer 2014. Taken from west end of Beach Way, approx. 400' from launch area.



ysco Food Truck, Beach Way, June 2015, making weekly delivery to YoWoChAs Camp, which operates year-round for approximately 6,000 participants. In addition to this and other service vehicles for the YWCA Camp at Fallis, there are approximately 225 school buses plus parents' vehicles during the September-June school year plus 2 buses twice weekly in summer (32 total) plus parents' vehicles, bringing in the 6,000 children and adults participating each year in YWCA outdoor educational programs.



Earth Day Project, April 2015, to repair/restore beach front severely damaged by boat launching and ice fishing. No materials were brought anywhere close to water or within Provincial Environment's domain. Project included half day volunteer garbage pick-up from Beach Way to Highway 16 which yielded numerous bags of beer cans, liquor bottles, fast food wrappers and containers

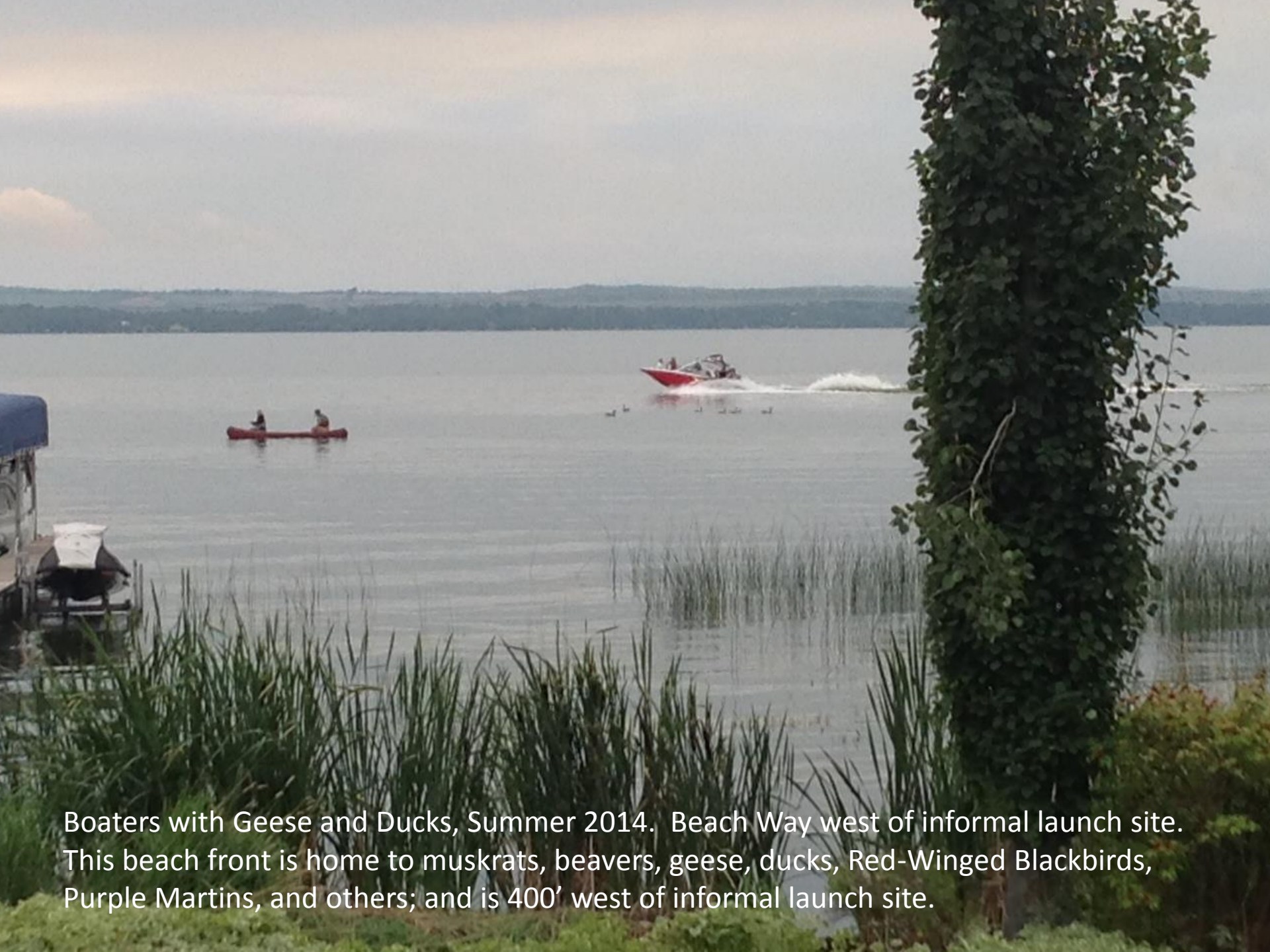


Blue Heron with muskrat (background) Spring 2015. Approximately 400' west of informal launch



Geese and goslings from Wetlands behind Beach Way, Spring 2015. Approximately 400' from informal boat launch site.





Boaters with Geese and Ducks, Summer 2014. Beach Way west of informal launch site. This beach front is home to muskrats, beavers, geese, ducks, Red-Winged Blackbirds, Purple Martins, and others; and is 400' west of informal launch site.



Geese and Snow-Geese Fall of 2014.

“WATERFOWL REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS IS UNKNOWN, BUT IS HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE QUALITY OF FEEDING AND NESTING HABITAT IN UPLANDS AND WETLANDS. IN ADDITION, HUMAN OR PREDATOR DISTURBANCE CAN NEGATIVELY IMPACT REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS”

(P. 105, Subwatershed Study Phase I)



Moose Calf on Beach Way, Winter 2013





“Birdhouse Island” area to the west of Road Allowance. This has for many years been the home of numerous Purple Martins though in the past few years their numbers are diminishing, possibly since when boats are launched, (particularly when they are nesting or their young are about to fly), they become very agitated. These birds nest only in man-made houses; and these 3 have historically been maintained by adjacent property owners. According to *The Edmonton Journal* (Wednesday, July 9, 2014 p. A9) their population is plummeting. The Western Grebe, already devastated by a prior oil spill, is now on the Threatened Species List from loss of shoreline habitat disturbed by human activity (*Edmonton Journal*, Thursday, July 31, 2013, p. A9).



No Wake Zone buoys, purchased by approximately 15 lakefront owners at a cost of approximately \$420 each.



Speed Bumps and signage paid for and installed by Fallis lakefront owners along Beach Way. This property is immediately adjacent to the informal launch area, though they occur elsewhere.



**SHARED
ROADWAY**



SLOW 30

III: CURRENT STATE OF BEACH WAY, FALLIS



NO
PARKING
ON THIS
ROAD













20
km/h



NO
PARKING
ON THIS
ROAD



NO
PARKING
ON THIS
ROAD



SOLUTIONS?

Executive Summary

Fallis, Alberta is a hamlet located on the north shore of Wabamun Lake.

On behalf of our community of Fallis, the Fallis Residents Committee formed to develop and circulate the enclosed questionnaire to Fallis property owners to document their views in an organized and objective manner.

We delivered 89 questionnaires (one per property) and received 43 responses (one per property) for a 48.3% response rate. The fact that all Fallis residents could respond privately meant that many views and experiences were freely shared.

The Fallis Residents Committee is hopeful that the questionnaire results will help to create discussion and understanding in our community. In addition, the various levels of government with authority and responsibility for these topics need to consider the results of this questionnaire and respond to the concerns raised.

Highlights of Questionnaire Results:

We encourage everyone to read the extensive comments provided by respondents. Strong consensus was shown on these topics:

- **Gravel Pit:** 70% of respondents are not in favour of the proposed gravel pit to be located north of Fallis – south of Highway 16 along Range Road 52
- **Parking:** 63% of respondents do not want the County to provide more off-street parking for non-resident lake users
- **Enforcement:** 51% of respondents want increased enforcement by the RCMP/Peace Officers
- **Garbage Cans:** 60% of respondents want the County to provide public garbage cans in Fallis that the County would maintain
- **Shoreline:** 60% of respondents agree with the installation of devices to restrict motorized vehicles from accessing the Beach Way shoreline while allowing lifts and piers to be installed
- **Boat Launch:** 74% of the respondents selected as their first choice, either Option A or B, supporting a change to the Beach Way informal boat launch in some manner. 14% of respondents selected Option C – Do nothing.

Option Description	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Not Ranked	TOTAL
Option A: Close Boat Launch	23%	30%	28%	19%	100%
Option B: Gate & Residents Only Access in Summer	51%	30%	2%	16%	100%
Option C: Do Nothing	14%	21%	49%	16%	100%
No Option Ranked with this #	12%	19%	21%		
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%		

WABAMUN LAKE SUBWATERSHED LAND USE PLAN PHASE I

May 12, 2015




Figure 4-39 Riparian Health Assessment Results by Subdivision and Hamlets

SOURCE: North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance 2015

NOTES: Green = Healthy, Yellow = Moderately Impaired, Red = Highly Impaired

FALLIS: "Riparian Health has Been reduced for a considerable Length of shoreline with 34% highly impaired and 9% moderately"

Stantec: Phase I, Wabamun Lake Subwatershed Land Use Study, p. 92



LAUNCHES	ISSUES / CONSIDERATION	DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL			RATIONALE
		LOW	MED.	HIGH	
Fallis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate percentage of use and moderate demand for increased development 	◆			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal launch locations associated with access to the lake Unstable shoreline conditions and shallow water present challenging launch conditions
Seba Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting amenities however no fuel Second highest percentage of use and high demand for increased development Good wave conditions 	◆			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching not encouraged by summer village due to a lack of vehicle/trailer parking and poor bed and shore conditions Little space for the development of a public launch Water depth requires improvement

14. In Section 9.0 "Recommendations" it suggests that Secondary (i.e. Fallis) or "informal" launch locations continue "for use by adjacent residents" with "formal access controls".

LAUNCHES	RECOMMENDATIONS	PHASING	PARTNERSHIPS/APPROVALS
EXISTING			
PRIMARY			
Wabamun Lake Provincial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue the planned upgrading of a hand launch to a vehicular launch and improve the configuration of the existing parking and ramp access 	Short Term (2-5 yrs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parkland County Provincial Government Federal Government
Village of Wabamun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of launches in conjunction with the redevelopment of the public pier Expand existing parking and improve vehicle circulation to accommodate increased use 	Short Term (2-5 yrs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parkland County Village of Wabamun Provincial Government Federal Government
SECONDARY			
Informal/Others*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain informal launch locations for use by adjacent residents and formalize access controls 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parkland County Summer Village Provincial Government Federal Government

15. The Study did not consider or note the considerable environmental impact of ice fishermen and their vehicles and the year-round use of the area.

16. Alberta Environment officers who were asked to come to view this site and the Wetlands at various times over the next year did not agree with that conclusion.

PHASE II BOAT LAUNCH STUDY:
Section 9.0 "Recommendations"
Secondary (Fallis) locations continue
"for use by adjacent residents" with
"formal access controls"

Boat infested with invasive mussels intercepted at Sylvan Lake



COLETTE DERWORIZ, CALGARY HERALD

More from Colette Derworiz, Calgary Herald ([HTTP://CALGARYHERALD.COM/AUTHOR/CDERWORIZ](http://calgaryherald.com/author/cderworiz))

Published on: May 21, 2015 | Last Updated: May 21, 2015 3:39 PM MDT



CALGARY HERALD,
May 21st, 2015. This was 1 of
7 high-risk boats coming from
a mussel-contaminated province
or state.

Cost: \$75 million annually if
they established themselves
In Alberta's lakes & rivers



ZEBRA AND QUAGGA MUSSELS

Sightings: Medicine Hat, Sylvan Lake, Vermillion, Dunmore and Coutts

Mussels build, layer upon layer, in irrigation pipelines, reducing water flow to a trickle. They've been such a problem in areas of Manitoba and Ontario's Great Lakes region that the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association is helping to fund inspection stations armed with sniffing dogs. Last summer, Alberta Environment reported two boats with zebra mussels and in May inspectors found a boat near Sylvan Lake contaminated with mussels from Lake Ontario. The cost of a freshwater mollusk outbreak would be felt in sectors like power generation, drinking water systems, recreational fishing, boat maintenance and, most significantly, in falling property values. And one mussel can infest an entire lake.

*"And one
Mussel can
infest an
entire lake"*

ENTITLEMENT
CANNOT
TRUMP
THE ENVIRONMENT