

This is the email that I sent out last Thursday -

Update - The former Whitewood Mine lands that were reclaimed to recreational specifications have been offered to the public for free.

The Alberta Conservation Association has accepted the generous offer of TransAlta and now owns the West Pit Lake Area, that is, north of the service road. They have also bought some land that was reclaimed as farmland and the area from East Pit Lake to West Pit Lake is now their longest (7 miles) contiguous wildlife corridor in northern Alberta. Congratulations to the ACA and to all the people of Parkland County and Alberta that will be able to enjoy this beautiful area. (The ACA has almost finished building a public access road there)

However, Parkland County has so far refused to accept the offer of Whitewood Lake (south of the service road).

This lake could and should be used for swimming and other forms of water recreation as well as trails. Now Lake Eden has been closed to the public for some time and so has Spring Lake. Allen Beach closed to the public this summer. The only alternative, Kapasiwin, is full by 10:00 am on a nice day.

Whitewood Lake has been built with this in mind. There is a (highways spec) road into the property, fed from a service road that takes its traffic from the Wabamun overpass and to a lesser extent the Darwell highway.

There is a huge well packed parking lot (the old Parkland cold mix storage area)

A large quantity of sand has been hauled to the beach area

A space for a very large grassy area

The west facing beach area borders on a lake that is kept crystal clear by the gravel that the water flows through.

Parkland County needs this extremely valuable resource in order to attract residents (and their property taxes) as there is a severe shortage of recreational areas at present.

I would like to speak to this issue at the next Parkland Council meeting to find out if the County is going to continue to do nothing on this very important issue, or if it will be necessary to pursue my contacts in the Alberta government, and also the relevant newspapers.

LET'S GET GOING!!!!

Gordon Janssen

Retired Reclamation engineer Whitewood Mine

Shane Getson, the MLA whose riding the lake is in responded -

Gordon,

Thanks for including me on this....makes me scratch my head as to why they are not taking this on. Please continue to keep me apprised of progress

All the best,

Shane



Whitewood Lake

Legend

- Feature 1
- Shell

Church

Beach Area

Grassy Area

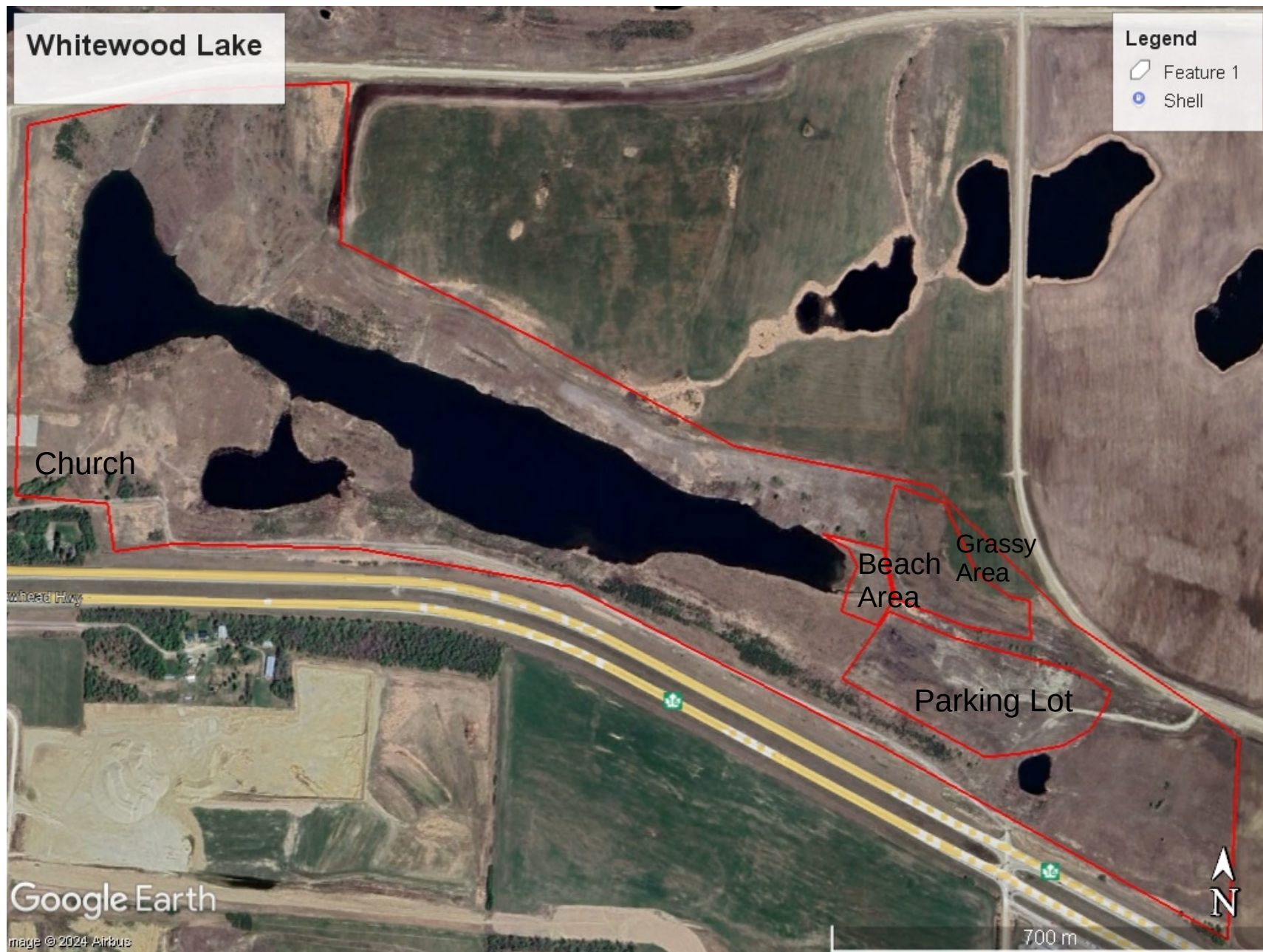
Parking Lot

Wheel Hwy

Google Earth

image © 2024 Airbus

700 m



Whitewood Lake Opportunities

Beach, Swimming and Water Sports -

The beaches at Lake Eden, Spring Lake, and now Allen Beach have all been closed to the public. Kapasawin is full by 11:00 in the morning on a nice day.

The need is overwhelming

Judging by Miquelon Lake, where there is not even any swimming, and where they have so much demand that there are 2 lanes for the traffic coming in – literally thousands of people would take advantage of Whitewood Lake.

The parking lot at Whitewood Lake is over 2 times the size of all the parking lots at Kapasiwin and the biggest parking lot at Kapasiwin is for boat trailers. The Whitewood parking lot is the site of the old Parkland County gravel crusher so it will be ready with very little preparation.

The lake is crystal clear due to the gravel the water runs through and sand has already been hauled to the beach area (under the water). More sand will be needed (from the Parkland County pit next door)

Access is from the service road which is built to Alberta Govt specs and is fed primarily from the Wabamun overpass and to a lesser extent the Darwell highway. Power is available close to the entrance. An entrance road with a gate are already built.

Hiking -

There is an existing trail to the church south of the lake.

Camping -

This is something to be considered at a later date, possibly in conjunction with the provincial government. This is one of the few places in Parkland County that meet the specific requirements for a campground as set out by Parkland County. There is ample adjacent farmland that could be purchased from TAU as the ACA has done.

For example, if the political will existed, the size of the Kapasiwin campground could be doubled.

Summary -

If the County wants to grow its tax base it has to provide the recreational opportunities to attract people, especially to nearby acreages and communities like Wabamun, Stony Plain and Spruce Grove. If our public servants are willing to act in the interests of their voters, this generous gift should be accepted immediately.

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