

# Leduc County Enforcement Services Water Safety Initiatives

Doug Atchison, Manager of Enforcement  
Leduc County

# Why Water Safety?

- Increase in visitor and water traffic to Leduc County Park Areas
- Increase in complaints and severity of incidents
- Proactive approach to respond to an increasing need to manage the safety of watercraft users

# How can this be done?

- “Safe Boating Weekend”
  - Partnering with Leduc County Parks & Recreation Department and Transport Canada
- Designation of Leduc County Peace Officers to enforce under the Canada Shipping Act
  - Authority granted as of November 6th, 2009
- Continued monitoring and increased presence of Leduc County Peace Officers in Parks Areas

# Background

- An excerpt from May 26, 1976 Council Chamber's Meeting reads:
  - 592-76 Councillor Chalifoux:...and further, that Council does not have the means at the present time to control the motor boats, skiers, etc. on Wizard Lake.

# Leduc County

## Bodies of Water

- Pigeon Lake – 97km<sup>2</sup>
- Wizard Lake – 3km<sup>2</sup>
- Coal Lake – 11 km<sup>2</sup>
- North Saskatchewan River – 96km<sup>2</sup>

# Population Surrounding Bodies of Water

## ➤ Pigeon Lake

- 516 residences, 2182 residences along shoreline
- Includes 10 Summer Villages & Pigeon Lake Indian Reserve
- Does not include recreational users

## ➤ Wizard Lake

- 514 residences & 2 campgrounds located along shoreline
- 2201 – 3828 vehicles (for long weekend use for 2008 & 2009)
- 170 boat lifts along shoreline

# Implications

- Legal Liabilities
- Insurance Considerations
- Impact on other P.O. Duties
- Increased Response to Water Accidents
- Renting vs. Purchasing Watercraft

# A Legal Perspective

## ➤ Legal Liabilities

- Civil Liability (Kamloops (City) v. Nielsen)
  - Policy vs. Operational & Enforcement immunity/discretion
- Section 195(2) of the Canada Shipping Act
  - “good faith” principle
- Section 10 – Peace Officer Act
  - -Generally, no increased liability when compared to enforcing other pieces of legislation



# Insurance Considerations

- Leduc County Coverage
  - Automatically extended as new designation considered an enhancement of current duties

# Impact on other P.O.'s

- Rotational Shift Schedule
  - Allows maximum coverage during peak periods
- Summer Officer
  - Approval of this position to facilitate further enforcement of Leduc County Park Areas and in water safety promotion initiatives
- Prevention & Maintenance
  - Through inter-department relationships

# Increased Response to Water Accidents

- RCMP
  - Provincially contracted Police Service responding to water accidents within Leduc County
- Joint Partnership
  - Leduc County – assists RCMP with complaints as requested
  - RCMP also assists Leduc County when necessary
- Implementation of Water Safety Initiatives
  - Enables Leduc County P.O.'s to also be able to assist in these matters if required

# Renting vs. Purchasing

## ➤ Renting – Option #1

- Rate of \$300/hr - \$200 allocated to insurance costs
- Cost prohibitive
  - \$36,000.00 – Estimated Rental Cost for 1 Season
  - \$40,000.00 – Estimated Purchase Price

## ➤ Purchase – Option #2 (better option)

- Low County insurance rates for experienced officers
- Ownership of boat for long-term use

# Watercraft Selection

- 1<sup>st</sup> Choice - 162 Explorer Aluminum Outboard Watercraft
  - Used by various reputable agencies
    - Edmonton Fire Rescue, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, & Parks Canada
  - Minimal Water Requirement
  - Economical to Operate/Fuel Efficient
  - No Frills/Easy to Operate
  - All Aluminum/Easy to Maintain
  - Extremely Stable/Wide 6 Degree Bottom

# Other Operational Uses

- Assisting other Emergency Services within Leduc County
- Assisting Parks & Recreation
  - Currently renting a watercraft
- Assisting Agricultural Services
  - To assist Pest Control Officer with duties as necessary

# Consider

- Leduc County Enforcement Services as a proactive partner in helping to provide and promote water safety in county waters.