

Lake management workshop highlights county concerns

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Rep/Ex Staff

Eighty-two people travelled to Carvel Hall on Wednesday, June 19 for a full-day lake management workshop that covered everything from water quality management to the state of the Sturgeon River Watershed.

Co-sponsored by the Mayatan Lake Management Association, the workshop went from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and featured speakers from Alberta Environment, Parkland County and the University of Alberta (U of A), among others.

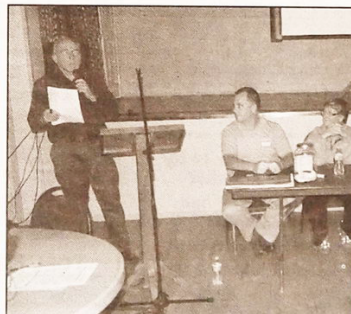
"The purpose was really to provide education on lake management planning, and we invited as many people as we could from wherever we could find them," said Walt Neilson, president of the Mayatan Lake Management Association.

"We wanted to get lots of people who were interested in doing this for their own lakes."

One speaker was Parkland County's Planning and Development manager Paul Hanlan, who Neilson said talked about what the county plans to do in regards to developing lake management plans. Hanlan also delivered a timetable for doing that, the details of which are still being worked out.

Given the amount of lakes in Parkland County, Neilson said lake management is more essential than ever — especially in light of the increasing concerns lakes are facing.

"One of the concerns is toxic



The Mayatan Lake Management Association's inaugural lake management workshop drew a large crowd, featuring speakers such as Parkland County's Planning and Development manager Paul Hanlan (bottom left).

Photos Supplied

algae blooms, which have occurred in a number of lakes," he explained.

"A lot of them are shallow lakes, not too much inflow and not too much outflow. The conditions are fairly static, in terms of the water; what's in the water basin tends to stay there."

Alexander Wolfe, from the U of A's department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, gave a presentation on that exact topic, titled 'Eutrophication processes in Alberta lakes.'

Replete with photos of the unsavory green algae blooms, Wolfe concluded that constant vigilance is necessary to moderate the conditions of lakes.

This was the first time the Mayatan Lake Management Association has created a workshop like this, and Neilson says they may do it again in the future.

"We were quite pleased with the breadth and depth of the information provided. We got information on the science, we got information on the process of lake management, the policy, the regulation," he said.

"I think it really shows that managing lakes in the county is something that has a lot of interest across the county."

The event was also made possible through financial assistance from the Watershed Stewardship Grant Program and Land Stewardship Centre.

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