



BUFFALO LAKE Management Team

PARLBY CREEK-BUFFALO LAKE WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

INFORMATION UPDATE

OCTOBER 1993

Construction Update — Where are we at now?

Parlby Creek

The channel construction is now complete from Highway 50 to Alix. As well, the Mirror Control Structure is complete and will be operating by spring runoff, 1994.

This fall, construction will begin on the Wildlife Conservation Wetlands which involves embankment dykes and control structures. This should be completed by the fall of 1994.

Red Deer River to Parlby Creek Diversion

In the fall of 1992, construction began on the pumphouse at the Red Deer River. This is scheduled to be complete in November 1993.

All right-of-way negotiations for the diversion route are complete.

Construction timetable extended

In an effort to reduce overall project costs, all remaining components are being carefully reviewed. This review should be complete later this year and will extend the project's construction phase at least one year.

How can the lake be stabilized?

The Buffalo Lake Management Team has a number of sub-committees including water quality and quantity, tourism and recreation, fish and wildlife, land use, and agriculture. Using the findings of past studies and balancing the needs of the various sub-committees, the Management Team has proposed an interim stabilization zone. The team proposes an operating water level for Buffalo Lake of between 780.6 metres and 780.75 metres. Albertans are invited to comment on this interim recommendation.

Depending on the amount of water available from the Red Deer River, water would be pumped at a maximum rate of 1.43 cubic metres per second (50 cubic feet per second) via Parlby Creek from the Red Deer River to Buffalo Lake. When the lake level reaches 780.75 metres, pumping would stop until levels drop below 780.60 metres. The team recommends that the maximum level be reached by early July, to benefit recreation activities on the lake.

Water management goals for Buffalo Lake are aimed at maintaining the natural ecological process, which includes:

- annual evaporation drawdown
- occasional flooding of the upper shoreline contours
- stabilization levels that fall within the natural water levels and are well below maximum historic levels.

Water levels on Buffalo Lake will continue to be dictated primarily by natural events such as rainfall, snowfall and temperature. Pumping will only have a minor influence.

Water level information can be obtained directly from either Environment Canada in Calgary (292-5402) or Alberta Environmental Protection in Edmonton (427-6279).

How can I learn more about the stabilization zone?

For the convenience of local residents, special markers have been set up along the shoreline to allow you to see the actual target lake levels. As well, contour maps are being displayed to show how much area the lake will cover at the target zones.

These contour maps are found at the following locations:

- Rochon Sands Community Hall
- Old McDonald's Farm office
- White Sands - adjacent to the summer village workshop on Lakeview Drive
- Pelican Point store
- Pelican Point Country Campground office
- Bashaw Golf Course office

Each display provides instructions on finding the marker posts. We encourage you to review the contour maps and the water level markers and provide your comments to the Buffalo Lake Management Team. (Brief questionnaires are available at the display sites.) These comments will be used by the team in preparing final recommendations to the Alberta Government.

How do I get further information?

We invite you to contact members of the Buffalo Lake Management Team if you have questions about our interim recommendation or any of our activities.

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