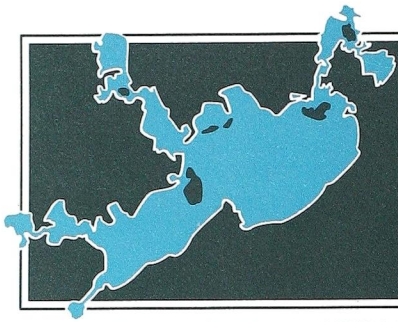


BUFFALO LAKE Management Team

PARLBY CREEK-BUFFALO LAKE WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

INFORMATION UPDATE — MAY 1994

Construction Update — Where are we at now?

Parlby Creek

The channel construction between Highway 50 and the town of Alix is complete. The recently completed Mirror Control Structure successfully provided an initial backflooding during the recent 1994 spring run-off.

The Wildlife Conservation Wetlands embankment and control structure will be completed by the fall of 1994.

Red Deer River to Alix

The pumphouse on the Red Deer River was completed this past winter, including all power transmission lines to the pumphouse site.

The Alix Lake Control Structure, initiated in the fall of 1993, will be completed by June 1994.

Construction Program 1994-95

A careful review of the remaining components was carried out in the fall of 1993, with an effort to incorporate all practical cost savings.

The 1994 budget will allow for the start of the south portion of the pipeline leading from the pumphouse and for the landscape restoration of the Alix Control Structure site. The completion of this project's final construction has been extended at least one year as a result of the department's fiscal restraint program.

Fish and Wildlife Mitigation

The Buffalo Lake Management Team is committed to maintain the ecological integrity of the Buffalo Lake and Parlby Creek areas. Planning and implementing fish and wildlife mitigation and enhancement works for the areas have been ongoing for a number of years. Currently, two important initiatives are underway.

Buffalo Lake/Spotted Lake Pike Spawning Study

A study of pike spawning ecology is currently being conducted with the aid of radiotelemetry equipment. The study tracks radio-marked pike enroute from Buffalo Lake upstream into Parlby Creek to the spawning grounds in Spotted Lake. The study will assist the department to determine the factors that are affecting the growth of the pike population in Buffalo Lake.

Rockeling Bay/Rider Lake Water Management Plan

With the advent of a new water supply for Buffalo Lake, biologists are planning water management regimes that will meet the needs of wildlife such as piping plover and other shorebirds.

How can the lake be stabilized?

The Buffalo Lake Management Team has a number of subcommittees 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 various subcommittees, 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 above sea level. Albertans are invited to comment on this interim recommendation.

Depending upon 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) through 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 reaching the maximum level 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 the following:

- annual evaporation drawdown;
- occasional flooding of the upper shoreline contours; and
- 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, spring run-off and temperature. Pumping will optimize the over winter water level to prepare for the annual spring run-off cycle.

Water level information can be obtained directly from either Environment Canada in Calgary (292-5402) or Alberta Environmental Protection in Edmonton (427-6269).

How do 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 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 map display provides instructions on finding the marker posts. Please 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 to prepare 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 recommendations or any of our activities.

Angus Braseth (Chairperson) 372-3662
Neil Miller 782-3301
Frances Sargeant .....788-3785 / 788-3087
Roy Willard 372-2115
Linda Walton 788-2211
Gary Felker 788-3088
John Lund 747-2438
Adrian van Nieuwkerk 788-3077
Ray Kerber 340-5310
Kim Schmitt 342-1314
Karl Grollmuss.....742-1801 / 275-7762

Buffalo Lake Management Team
Questionnaire

"Your Input Is Important"

The Buffalo Lake Management Team is preparing interim recommendations to Alberta Environmental Protection on the Parlby Creek-Buffalo Lake Water Management Project and your input is important. We request your assistance in developing recommendations on the proposed stabilization water levels for Buffalo Lake.

For your convenience, water level marker posts are being placed along the shoreline in selected locations to indicate the contour elevations proposed. These marker posts will indicate the elevation — 781.20 metres (maximum lake level) and 780.75 metres (maximum target lake level). *Shown on the reverse side of this questionnaire.*

Please review the contour plan information and the water level marker posts on site and provide your comments and concerns on the proposed levels.

Comments received by the Buffalo Lake Management Team will be used in preparing final recommendations to the province.

1. What are your key concerns regarding Buffalo Lake water levels?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

2. Do you believe the stabilization zone of 780.6 metres to 780.75 metres will address your concerns? (please check one)

   ☐ too low ☐ adequate ☐ too high

   Other comments

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. Do you believe changes proposed will address your concerns?

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Would you like to receive the Buffalo Lake Management Team Newsletter?

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Other Comments

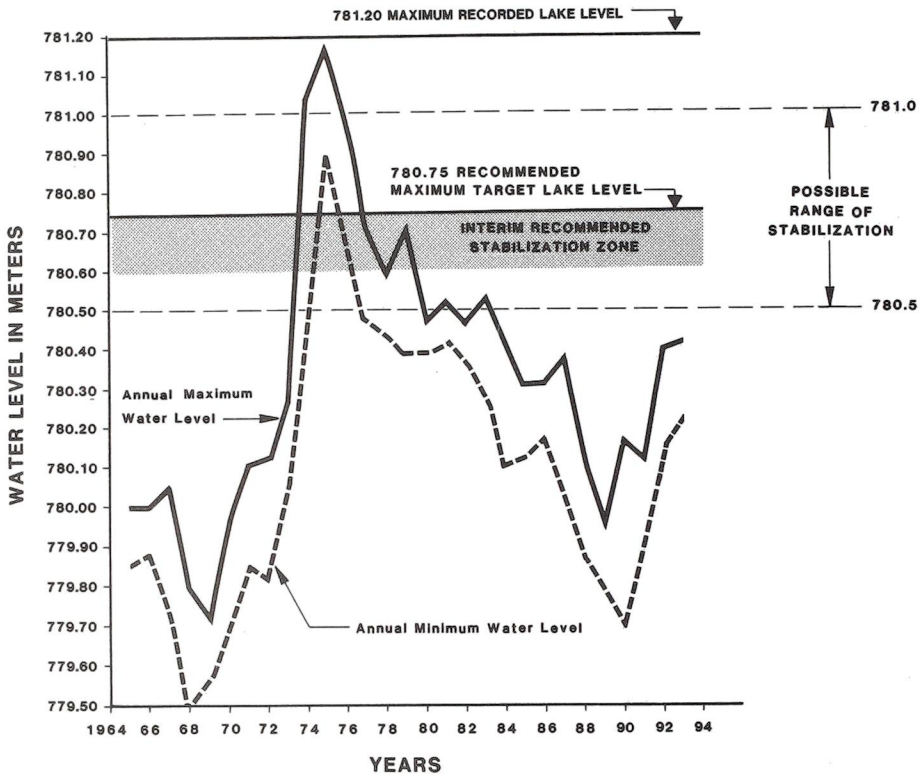
   _____

   _____

   _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____



BUFFALO LAKE WATER LEVELS

Please mail this questionnaire to:

The Buffalo Lake Management Team
c/o Water Resources Administration Division
Water Resources Services
Alberta Environmental Protection
304 Provincial Building
4920 - 51 Street
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 6K8