

**From:** Susanne Ashmore \*\*\*PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED\*\*\*

**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 4:00 PM

**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX

**Cc:** Susanne Ashmore; Wasa Lake Land Improvement District

**Subject:** Wasa Lake Land Improvement District - Comments on the BC Water Sustainability Act

### **Living Water Smart - BC Water Sustainability Act**

The Wasa Lake Land Improvement District appreciates the opportunity to take part in the public process of updating the current Water Act Legislation.

Each property at Wasa Lake is dependent on its own well and septic system. Clean drinking water, and a healthy lake are tied to the social, economic and the environmental health of our community.

#### **These are our comments:**

BC Water Sustainability Act - Policy Proposals;

#### **Water Supply, Water Security -**

- The principle that groundwater should be a publically owned resource, clearly stated in legislation.
- The principle of assessing a watershed's function and capacity before any new water use allocations (licences) are given.
- Assessing watershed capacity through **Aquifer Management Plans** in groundwater dependent communities, such as Wasa Lake, before the approval of new developments. *(The **culmative** capacity of existing users and new development applications)*
- The principle of determining "minimum" flow standards in each major river or stream system for environmental and human needs.

#### **Water Quality and Protection of Human and Environmental Health -**

- Land Water Connection and the New Sewerage Regulations. In communities where each property has its own well and septic system the final inspections for sewerage systems should be done by government. A Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP), should not be inspecting their own installations. **The New Sewerage Regulations are as strong as the least ethical ROWP.** Who speaks for a community and groundwater health when the New "Industry Supported" Sewerage Regulations fail?
- Integrated approach for natural resource management. Streamlining of government jurisdictions in water management. Foreshore setbacks on lakes and watersheds established and **enforced**. A **reasonable** budget for government personnel to liason with lake communities in the areas of **Lake and Watershed Management Planning, Monitoring and Enforcement**.
- The consideration of water in all land use decisions. At Wasa Lake the Official Community Plan should include a Lake Management Plan and an Aquifer Management Plan.

#### **Community, Regional, and Economic Development -**

- The value of our properties and the lifestyle we enjoy at Wasa Lake are tied to groundwater and lake health. Take away dependable clean water and our community would likely "dry up" and move away. In Alberta this scenario is already happening in the community of Sandy Beach. *(Edmonton Journal - July 18th 2010 - Conol Piense staff writer) Lake that was once a summer playground is totally dying. "Old walkways lie forgotten, stretching out into overgrown fields and a algae filled marsh .... On some stretches of road 'for sale' signs are popping up like weeds on nearly every home. ....It needs to be looked after carefully because if we don't have water, we don't exist."*

The Board of the Wasa Lake Land Improvement District