



## SOUTH PEACE FRINGE AREA OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN - Nov. 6, 2009

### Kiskatinaw River Watershed

- Meeting with Peter Caputa, City of Dawson Creek Watershed Steward.
- Power point attachment coming soon with complete details.

### Area resident

- met with Allen Watson, who noted that he was not representing Swan Lake Enhancement Society (SLES)
- Need to identify and address Environmentally Sensitive Areas in the region
- There needs to be watershed improvements made
- locations of proposed secure waste landfills
- The east side of the lake is very steep and there are concerns regarding sewer percolation
- There should be some sort of protection from direct drilling under the lake
- Potential crisis for creeks and surrounding area with secure landfill
- Other concern is the dropping level of the lake
- Shoreline erosion is a big issue as well
- Convert the lakeshore guideline into policy

### Bear Mountain Pasture Association Meeting Notes

- Biggest issue for us is the loss of forage
- A big issue for us is the amount of industrial traffic that runs right through the pasture
- The oil and gas pressure is getting huge now
- We have identified 12 well sites in the pasture
- No taxes collected on Crown Land
- There needs to be "direct taxes" which would mean less taxes for local residents and local benefits to residents
- Most of the titled land is controlled by the Agricultural Land Commission and because of ALC specific regulations many farmers are unable to retire at their home place
- Two separate entities that need to be looked at are 1) home site subdivisions or exclusions and 2) opportunity to subdivide into quarter sections
- There needs to be a radius around Dawson Creek that allows farmers to split off chunks of land
- What balance are we looking for? 40 acre parcels are often too big.
- What about clustering 5 acre parcels, surrounded by 40 acre parcels
- Closer to town is advantageous for subdivisions, closer to amenities. There is a need to concentrate subdivision close to town
- Keep industrial nodes tight and highlighted in the OCP
- It seems that ALR exclusions in the southern part of the province always seem to be at the expense of residents in the north

- It would be interesting to see the total numbers for ALR exclusions and the locations of these exclusions
- There needs to be watershed considerations taken into account during the process
- Be aware that any regulations created within this watershed can impact our grazing ability
- The City of Dawson Creek is looking at having zero impact "above the City water intake."
- Need to be sure that our cattle concerns are considered and addressed
- Need to target where the contaminants are coming from rather than target all uses. Need to scientifically prove the source of contaminants, rather than banding all users of this area
- We have been applying many new management practices where practically possible for the protection of this watershed. I.e. Built a lot of fences to keep cattle away from sensitive areas, built dug-outs for water to keep the cattle from water at the river, locating salt shacks in suitable locations, etc.
- It seems that every other year there is another study done for the Kiskatinaw River and its watershed, but nothing more gets done
- There is a need to acknowledge other users and activities
- We have noticed the tendency to only look at the short term issues, rather than look at the long term picture. We need to start looking long term
- Water is the largest of issues in this area
- We need to go one step further when identifying water users. Need to include industrial users as well
- When looking at possible commercial nodes, we need to be targeting the areas along highways. This could be used to try and stimulate these areas.