



Information Sheet

SLSA – has been formed to develop a sustainable Water Management Plan (WMP) for Skeleton Lake. Identified concerns relate to Quantity of Water, Quality of Water, Overdevelopment, Riparian Area Health, and Health of the Fishery and are to be reviewed as either short term or long term goals of the plan.

Concerned Property Owners – currently there are over 1150 concerned individuals who have signed up as members of SLSA. This number continues to grow as more people realize that a viable plan is being developed to save the lake. Are you a member? If not, please contact us and join today.

The Plan - needs to factor in interests of numerous stakeholders while addressing the short term more immediate concern of water quantity, along with the longer term issues that will help to make Skeleton Lake a sustainable, model aquatic ecosystem. Many of the other issues become more manageable once the quantity issue is corrected. The plan needs to identify practical ways in which to restore the water balance equation by working towards;

- (a) Increasing Inflow
 - Investigate manmade water diversion options
 - Investigate groundwater disruptions once identified
 - Restore disrupted watershed flow where possible
- (b) Decreasing Outflow
 - Encourage Boyle to secure an alternate source of water
 - If necessary, build a weir at point of outflow
 - Educate local land owners about responsible use of the lake water

Development - Relative to many Alberta Lakes, Skeleton Lake is overdeveloped. This development can negatively impact on the watersheds ability to supply water to the lake as well as increases local demand on the lake itself.

Lake	Size of Lake (km2)	No. of Lots
Skeleton	7.89	920
Amisk	5.15	117
North Buck	19	211
Long	5.84	220 campsites
Baptiste	9.81	800 Approx.
Island	7.81	165 Approx.

Watershed/Watershed Ratio – On a relative basis, Skeleton Lake has a very small watershed ratio which limits its ability to realize meaningful inflow. This, when combined with unsustainable outflow issues, and developmental disruptions to inflow combines to create a unique challenge for Skeleton Lake. The result has been declining

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water levels even during years of average or above average precipitation.

Lake	Ratio	Lake Area (km ²)	Drainage Basin Area (km ²)
Skeleton	4:1	7.89	31.7
Amisk	45:1	5.15	234
North Buck	5:1	19.0	100
Long	14:1	5.84	82.4
Baptiste	29:1	9.81	288
Calling	8:1	138	1090
Island	8:1	7.81	63.2

The Narrows - One Lake or Two ?

- Skeleton Lake has two main basins connected by a low area called the “narrows.”
- The North Basin is smaller, but almost twice as deep as the South Basin.
- The narrows was approximately 7’ deep at its deepest point just 8 short years ago.
- The narrows is now less than 6 inches deep at certain points and soon the North Basin will be entirely cut off from the South Basin.
- Without the North Basin flowing into the South Basin, the water that Boyle draws from the lake, will come exclusively from the South Basin which will cause its level to drop exponentially, accelerating the decrease dramatically.
- Without the connection to the South Basin, the North Basin will not be connected to the main fish spawning area and may see a decrease in necessary oxygen and water flow to maintain its current aquatic health and fishery.

Implication of Inaction:

- Lake deteriorates until it no longer has recreational value
- Cottagers abandon the area or spend less time at the lake
- Economic repercussions for area including declining property values
- Loss of fish and water habitat

How Can You Help?

- sign up as a SLSA member and ensure that all members of your family over 18 years of age are also signed up. There is strength in numbers.
- volunteer to help on one of the committees or on a project by project basis
- provide a personal or corporate donation
- share your great ideas with us and get involved to implement them.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS AND FOR DOING YOUR PART TO HELP OUT