

## Minutes of LLAPS Meeting April 16th 2009

*(thanks to those who persevered and found parking despite the PACE Performance happening at the same time and forcing us to re-locate to the computer lab)*

Bob P called the meeting to order at 7:10. He passed on Doug R's regrets who decided to keep his cold/flu germs away from the assembled masses.

Bob introduced Deb Epps, a Ministry of Environment biologist working out of the Nanaimo office. In addition to her Ministry responsibilities, Deb also serves on the Board of Directors of the BC Lake Stewardship Society of which Langford Lake is a member with Rob H acting on our behest as water sampler.

In her work with MoE, Deb is responsible for monitoring over 40 lakes on the island. She tries to extensively sample or study 12 – 15 lakes per year. They usually target the Spring as sampling time when they check all sorts of algae/ nutrient readings. Levels of dissolved oxygen (DO) is a good predictor of water quality/health. Deb and her crew use a 3 year rotational study for most lakes – Are they meeting objectives from the last monitoring period? The Minister of Environment and Deputy Ministers sign off on these objectives so they are aware of water quality issues in each of these island lakes.

She studies the “toxic invasion” – basically algae blooms and decreased DO levels. Florence Lake is a lake they do overturn sampling for and they have data from 1997-2008. Florence Lake Spring time sampling is indicating a rise in total phosphorous. Use of fertilizers, septic field leakage and the like are all contributors to this problem which ultimately results in lower levels of dissolved oxygen. This is likely the reason Florence Lake has been left out of recent fish stocking plans.

Glenlake has been sampled from 1981 – 2008. A report on the effectiveness of the aerator was done in 2005. As a result of the data, a new aerator was installed in 2005 and it seems to be working more effectively reducing phosphorous levels, while maintaining better temperatures and levels of DO. However, monthly sampling was done in 2008 showing that during the heat of summer, the bottom half of the lake is sorely lacking healthy supplies of DO.

Deb emphasized that protection of the riparian zone around our lakes is crucial to maintaining water quality as the natural vegetation acts as an irreplaceable filtration system.

Langford Lake was sampled monthly in 2005 and there have been good sets of previous data available for comparative purposes. She is scheduled to do monthly sampling this year from May to Oct measuring levels of dissolved oxygen.

***Deb is hoping to find people who will volunteer to do weekly sampling on all three of our lakes.***

Deb followed her presentation with a Q & A session. One question pertained to coordination of water quality preservation. Deb said that most of the action in safeguarding water quality was falling to regional districts and local governments. A

second question pertained to a possible ban on pesticides- Deb said that so far they have been far less prevalent and therefore less of a concern than fertilizers and septic seepage that show up in water analysis.

After Deb had finished, Don Lowen was introduced. While attending as an audience member, Don explained that DFO is coordinating work to develop environmental guidelines to protect and enforce fish habitat. He felt that the work Deb was doing and the grass roots concerns expressed by LLAPS were the type of thing that would receive a favorable hearing at the Federal level.

Evan Murray was introduced. He is a Royal Roads student working on a project to determine how phosphorous is / has entered Langford Lake. His water sampling studies will show whether the current aerator is successful in limiting the release of sediment trapped phosphorous. Using a mathematical model, he will hopefully be able to predict external loading increases from developments like Westhills and Goldstream Meadows. He acknowledged that his primary sponsor is Langford's Parks Department which may or may not decide to publicly distribute his findings since they will in fact own his report.

At the close of the meeting, Deb again asked for volunteers to help with weekly water sampling for Glenlake, Florence lake and Langford Lake. She and /or one of her student assistants would be willing to explain what needs to be done and would be able to provide the necessary equipment. If you are interested, please contact her at: [Deb.Epps@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Deb.Epps@gov.bc.ca)

Bob adjourned the meeting at 8:45.

Reminders: If you have not already done so, please pay your ten dollar 2009 membership fee to our treasurer, Ann Nelms.

Our next meeting is Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Christian Audet will be our guest speaker. The Wild Bird Center (WBC) of Langford will endeavor to provide the Langford Lakes Area and Protection Society with interesting bird feeding tips and stories.

Topics will include but not limited to:

Which birds to expect in your yards;

The various types of feeders; Tube, Hopper, Woodpecker, Nut feeder, Finch, Squirrel Proof, window feeder, ground feeder, etc;

Suet and Seed Cake;

Hummingbird and nectar;

Seeds; and

a WBC initiative (approved by city of Langford) - the mounting of 5 to 8 nest boxes on the Nixon Trails (see Para 7:

[http://www.cityoflangford.ca/documents/minutes/Regular\\_Council/08-10-06.pdf](http://www.cityoflangford.ca/documents/minutes/Regular_Council/08-10-06.pdf))

Open question period

