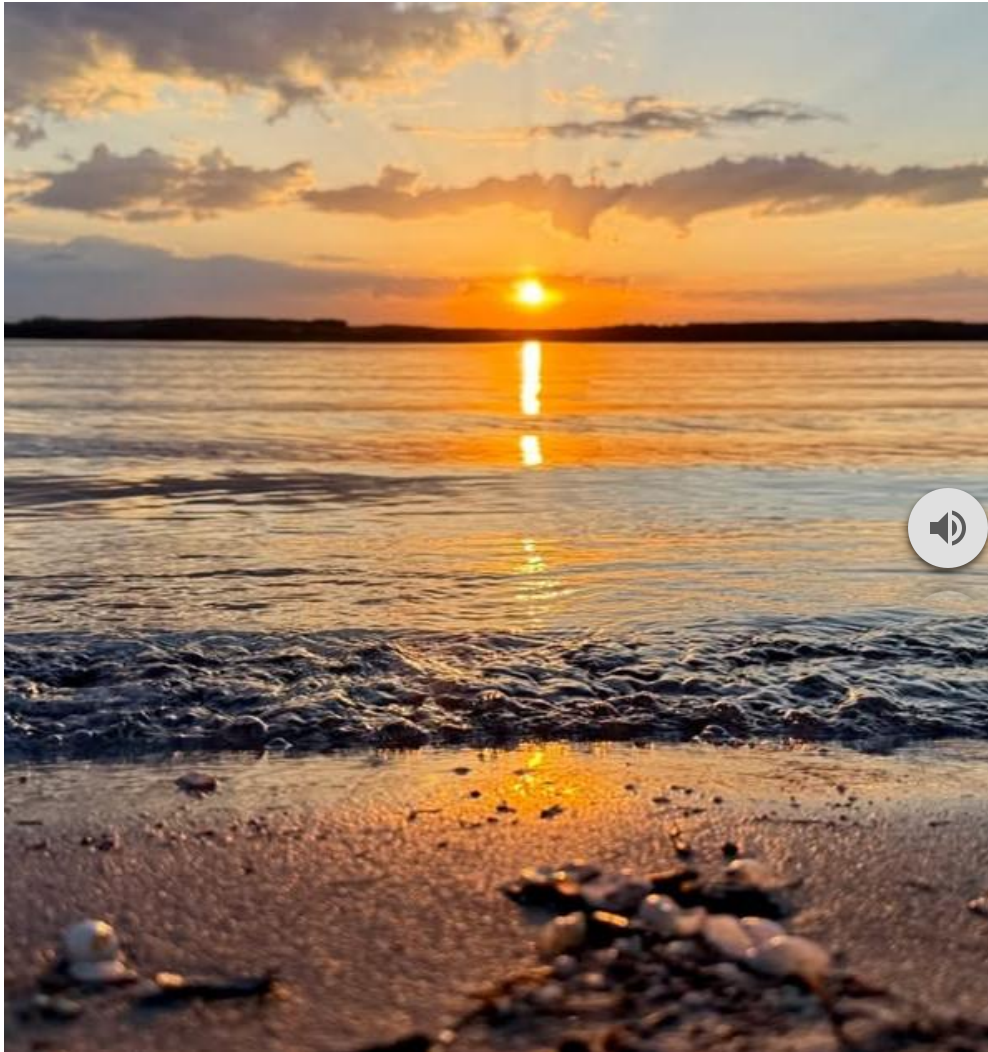


Lac Bellevue

50 years in
the making



Lac Bellevue - the vision

Vegreville Observer Jan 20, 1977:

Starting in approximately 1974 the Vegreville Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has been looking to acquire lake-front property for the purpose of developing a recreational area for use by the Legion members, their families, school groups, church groups, community service clubs and senior citizens with some sort of privacy. The Legion will be fully responsible for this development and will remain the controlling body. The facility will be designed to accommodate both summer and winter sporting activities. The lodge will include dormitories for male and female groups (Scouts, Brownies, Guides, Church and School Groups) as well as older persons who do not have campers or tents for accommodation.

The Round Hut and the H Hut were designed and developed together with community donations, and Legion volunteers.



Round Hut



H- HUT NEARING COMPLETION



NIKE HUNKA

H Hut

In the beginning Round Hut

Mike Hunka
supervising the
loading of logs
near Lac La Biche

197



Logs for the Round Hut came from Lac La Biche, Alberta and were transported by Barney Welsh, Mike Hunka and Paul Soldan; unloaded at the Hunka farm by the above along with Clarence Miskew, Wilf Steinach and Morgan Knott.



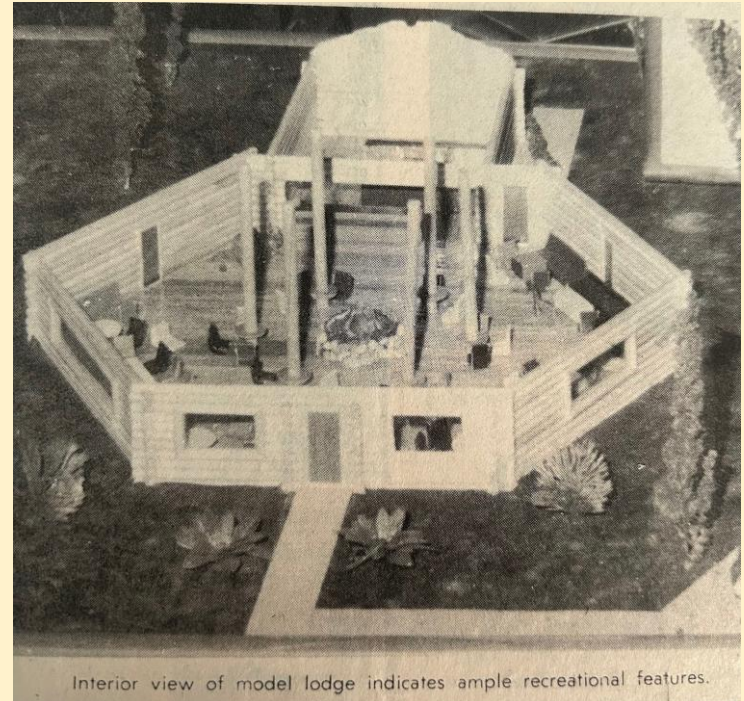
Welsh and Hunka
Trucks loaded
and
enroute home
to Vegreville
L to R :
Clarence Miskew,
Wilf Steinach,
Mike Hunka ↓



In the beginning.... Round Hut

Model of the Round Hut

Branch members devised their own log notching machine for the six sided lodge and no nails or dowelling were used.





Did you know ...

The Mundare Grain Annex (donated by Alta Wheat Pool) was dismantled by Legion volunteers and used to construct the H Hut??

The Legion applied and was successful in entering into a contract under the Canada Winter Works Program, four male persons were hired through the office in St Paul to construct the H Hut dormitory that would accommodate a minimum of 48 persons.

Below: Winter Works Employee & Mike Hunka



The article on the right was featured in the Legion Magazine - the one below in the Vegreville Observer.

Lac Bellevue —

In 1974, Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 39, seeing the lack of lakes in the Vegreville area, obtained a Government lease on a campsite at Lac Bellevue, about 12 km northwest of Myrnam, AB.

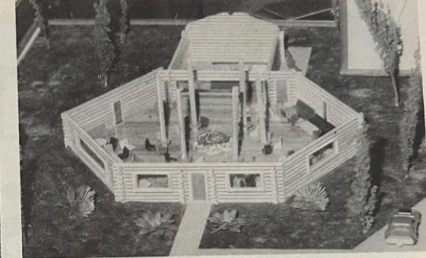
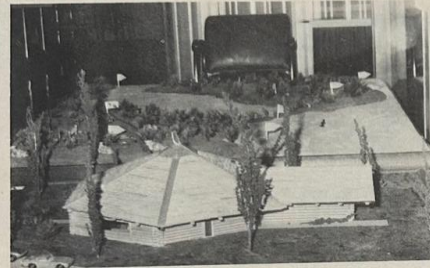
Many hours of hard labor by volunteers, plus financial support from Government grants and from Vegreville and Vermilion legions, have produced a well set up campsite with a white sand beach, showers, lodges, and playgrounds, while retaining the natural environment of tall trees and birds.

Used mainly by veterans and their families, the legion campsite has a few open lots which may be reserved by calling 632-3900.

- written by Betty Hantiuk

Legion

July 1977



Year-Round Recreational Area Being Developed By Alta. Branch

When Vegreville, Alta., Branch is finished, a parcel of land on the east shore of Lake Bellevue some 60 miles from Vegreville will house a unique recreational refuge for Legion members and community groups all year round.

The branch has sought the right site for years, aiming to offer an alternative to other over-burdened recreational areas which, it was felt, were unsuitable for group gatherings or activities.

The Vegreville project will

feature a 2,300-square-foot hexagonal lodge with central fireplace, kitchens and seating for 170. Adjacent will be two modern dormitories, male and female, each accommodating 50 persons. Outdoor toilets and storage buildings will be erected and three drilled wells will provide running water. A trailer campsite, boat docks, miniature sports field and a beach area are also planned.

All buildings will be made of logs bought at Lac La Bi-

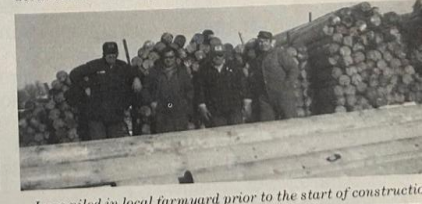
che and trucked to the site. Branch members have devised their own log-notching machine for the six-sided lodge and no nails or dowelling will be used.

Most of the work is being done by volunteers. So far, members have been involved in clearing the site and getting three sections ready for trailers. A road to the lake has been completed and a sewage system installed. Construction of the lodge and dormitories is expected to

begin in the fall.

The recreational area will serve Legion members and their families, school and church groups, service clubs, senior citizens, etc., allowing some degree of privacy. The branch is fully responsible for the project and will remain in control of the area.

Both Alberta-North West Territories Command and the provincial government are looking on the Vegreville Branch venture as a pilot project.



Logs piled in local farmyard prior to the start of construction

Beginning of the Vegreville Legion Lac Bellevue Project H Hut 1978



Tom Murphy, Jim Foote, Mike Hunka, Ernie Brown,
Wilf Steinbach



Caretaker Cabin



CARETAKERS CABIN BASEMENT CONSTRUCTION



VIEW OF CAMPERS - CARE TAKERS CABIN IN BACK GROUND



Cement donated by Twin Lake Construction, salvage material from Vinet's Tom Boy Store

Ribbon Cutting at the Official Opening Vegreville Legion Lac Bellevue Project H Hut



Published in December 1980

Grand Opening!

Left to Right:

Member of Parliament for Vegreville -
Don Mazankowski

Women's District Director - S Barton

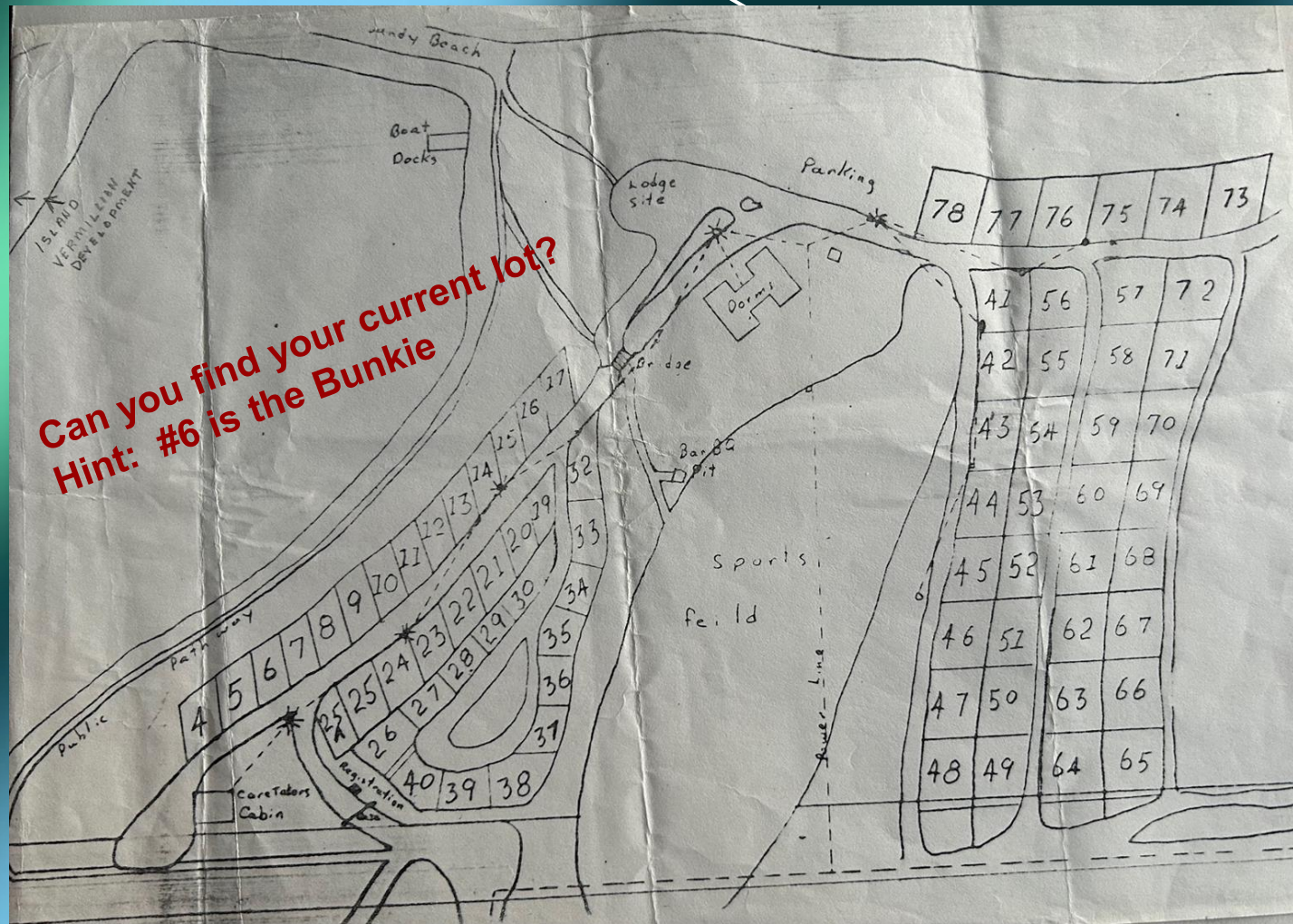
President Vegreville Branch -
G Hoggins

Vice Pres Alta-NWT Command -
Shaw

District Director - R Whitfield

Parade Marshal - S Smolyk
(N Background)

Can you find your current lot?
Hint: #6 is the Bunkie



LAC BELLEVUE LOTS - 1980

LOT	NAME	STATUS	PAID	LOT	NAME	STATUS	PAID	LOT	NAME	STATUS	PAID
5	Well.			29	Gordon Brennan	O	✓	54	Beth Chilibecki	A	✓
6	AL RIDLEY			30	Alex Smoock	O	✓	55	Louise Miller	O	✓
7	AL RIDLEY	H	✓	31	Deleted			56	Stan Sumoch	F	✓
8	Jack Deholt	O	✓	32	Albert Bildfell	O	✓	57	Sam Smolyk	O	✓
9	Paul Hoffer	O	✓	33	FRANK JOYCE	O	✓	58	Keith Shank	F	✓
10	C.R. Langpap	O	✓	34	Clif Littlechild	F	✓	59	Don Maurice	F	✓
11	Bob Imeson	O	✓	35	Earl Giffin	O	✓	60	Sid Smith	O	✓
12	W. Steinbach	O	✓	36	Herb Bowley	F	✓	61	Dail Trimble	F	✓
13	Deleted			37				62	Don Duss	O	✓
14	Dave Ziegler	F	✓	38	Mike Craddock	O	✓	63	Helen Sakalich	F	✓
15	John Nantuck	O	✓	39				64	Bill Russ	O	✓
16	Alex Pavluch	A	✓	40	Al Ridley	#		65	} Vermilion		
17	Thelma Westrom	A	✓	41	Paul Chemerys	F	✓	66			
18	Deleted			42	John Dripdale	O	✓	67			
19				43	Don Bradshaw	F	✓	68	Wayne Johnson		✓
20	Harry Harsula	H	✓	44	Walter Weal	O	✓	69	Willie Nantuck	H	✓
21	Bryan Johnson	F	✓	45	Ray Steinbach	O	✓	70	Sandy Eluck	O	✓
22				46	Barney Weiss	O	✓	71	John Ursuliah	O	✓
23	Bill Czar	O	✓	47	John Johnson	O	✓	72	Barbara Schumacher	A	✓
24	Dave Ziegler	F	✓	48	Termy Maffia	A	✓	73	Barney Weal	O	✓
25				49	Nick Shandro	O	✓	74	Mike Hunka	H	✓

Some of the first Lot Holders on record in 1980

✓	✓	✓	✓	
A	A	F	F	
✓	✓	✓	✓	
75	76	77	78	
✓	✓	✓	✓	
0	F	A	A	0
✓	✓	✓	✓	
50	51	52	53	
✓	✓		0	
25A	26	27	28	

Bob Connell and
playground equipment
leaving his home.
5/5, 1987
Bob and Chas. Longpoor



More playground
construction

Edgar Williams
(Vermilion)
with shovel →
Caister and
Herb Bowley
awaiting
orders ↓



The Original Playground





CLEARING SPORTS AREA



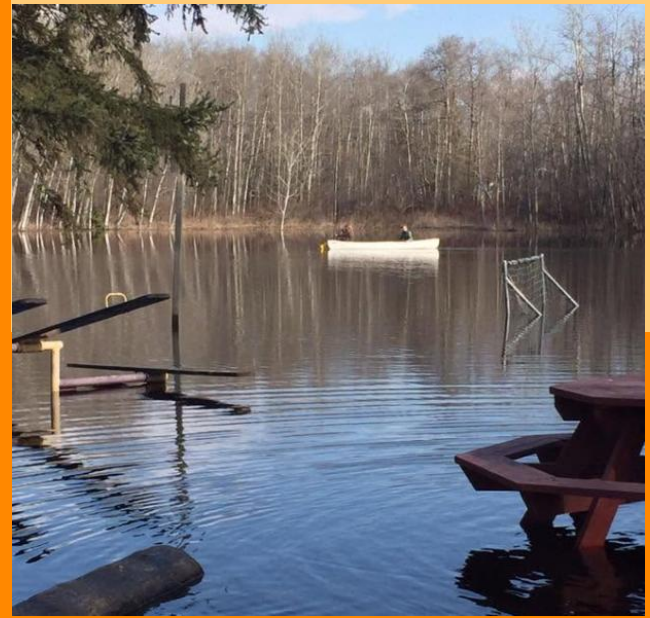
GETTING READY FOR CULVERTS



Playground changes through the years







Playground plus lots of rain - 2017 -

Who needs sunshine when you have puddles to splash in?





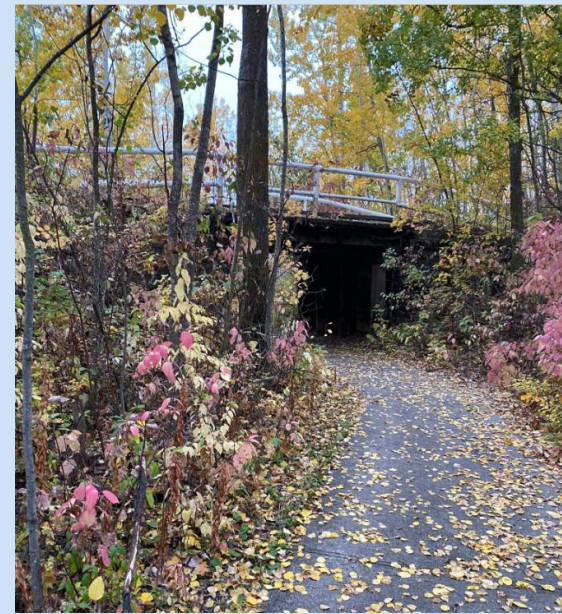
A perspective that you
don't see very often

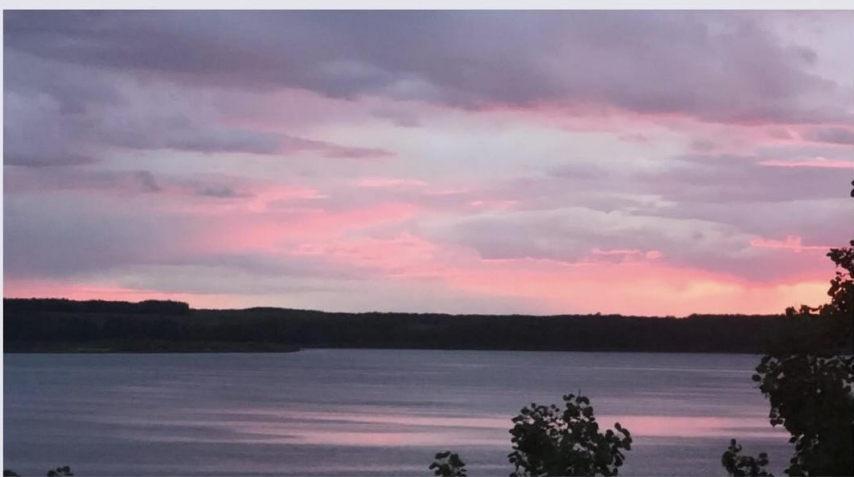
- Photos by Drone -





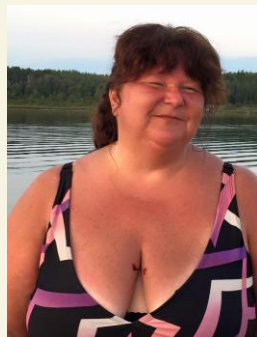
The Bridge





Words can't even do justice to the amazing sky

Barge, BBQ & Blueberry Pie

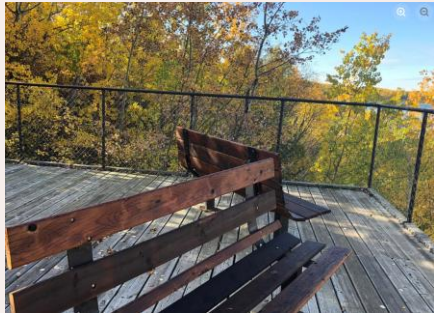
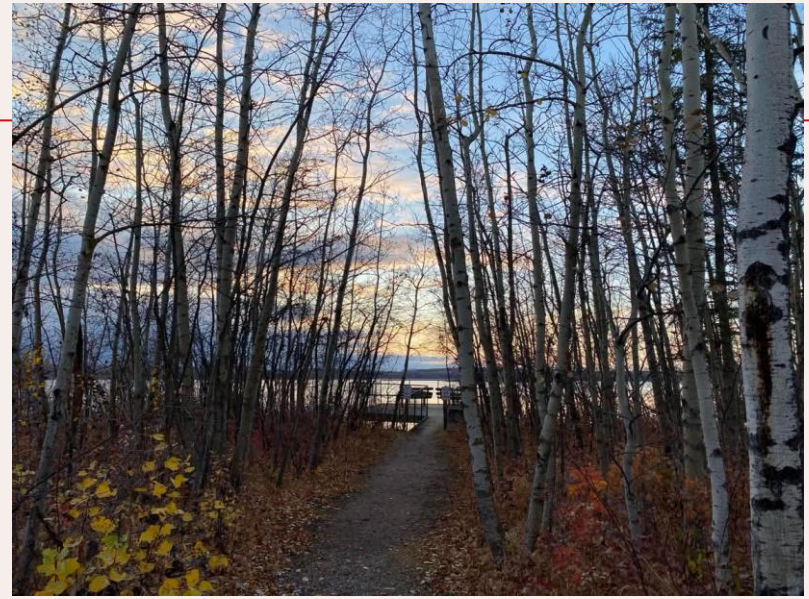
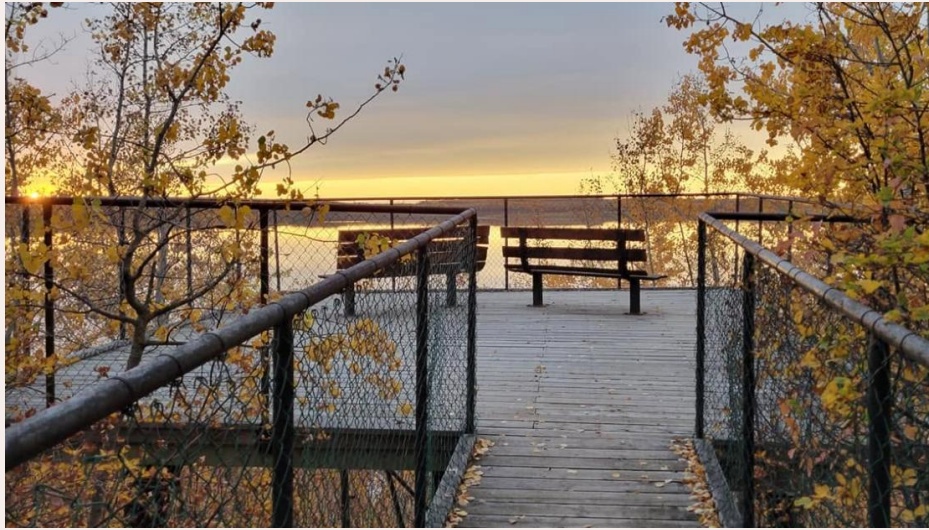


From the patch to BBQ - nothing beats fresh blueberry pie and friends to share it with



mmmmmmm Morgana makes good pie

The Lookout





Wishing you a life of
fireworks
- be bright, bold and
beautiful!

Ooooo s and Ahhhhhh s



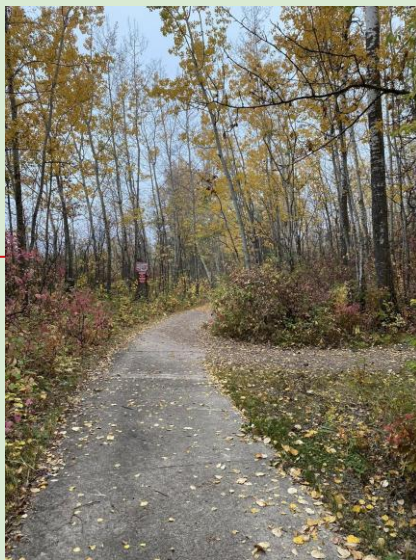
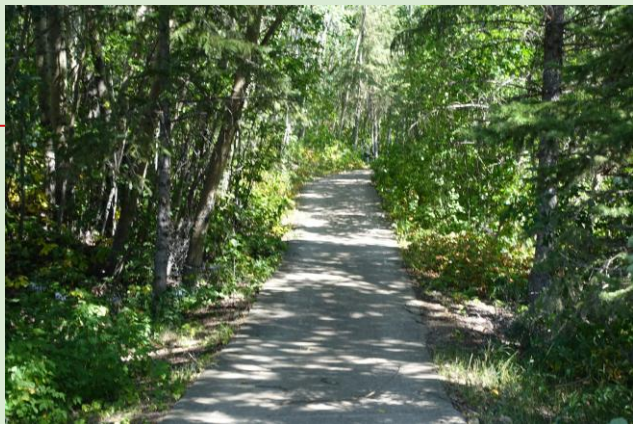
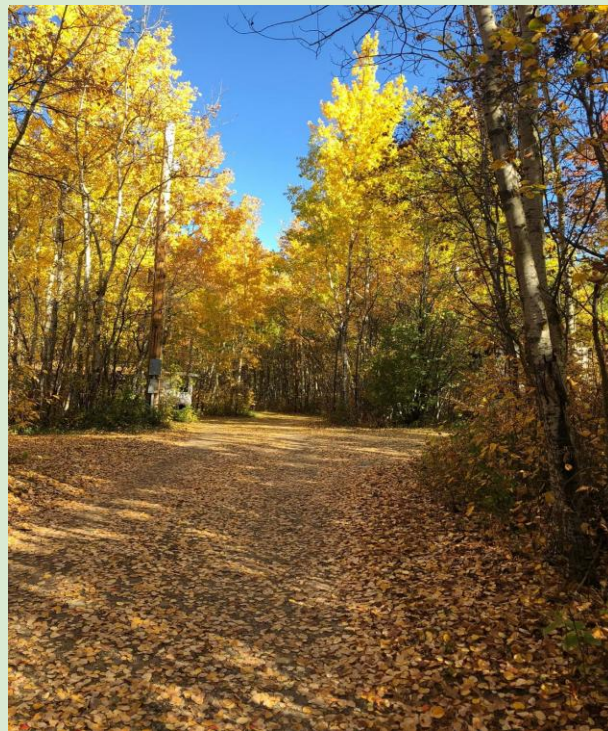
The best memories are made
under the flow of fireworks with
family and friends.



Our Fantastic Lake



The pathways



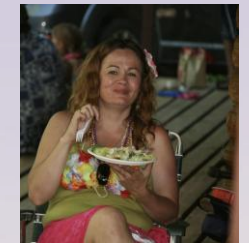
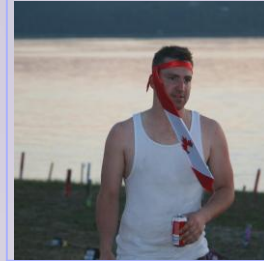
And into the
forest I go to lose
my mind and
find my soul.
John Muir



Lake Luau for Canada Day

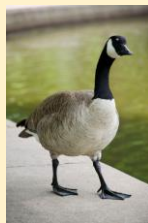


The Friends of Lac Bellevue organized a live band on the beach, pig roast, pina colodas, what a perfect day. Shout out to Guy Campbell and Martin St-Onge for roasting the pig <all day> for a spectacular supper.





Canada Day Bikes & more Parades



Goose approved



Hayduk Family B1



Our family has been coming out to the lake since the early 1990's, here are some fun ones of the old playground and the lake.



Larsen Family D4, A4 and B3

My family is celebrating 29 years of the privilege of having a lake lot at Legion Lac Bellevue this summer. We have moved lots and grown over the years. My son and his family now have their own lot. Which makes this kookum's heart happy.

We started out in 1997 in lot D4, spent many years in A4, and have been in B3 for the last 15 years.

We have seen many changes over the years, but the core of the lakefront has remained the same. A collaborative community where people help their neighbours and community. We pitch in to welcome, help out, celebrate, and make memories with loved ones.

At our core is being out in nature - either in the campground, out in the water, or on crown land trails between us and the North Saskatchewan river. There's always so many fun things to do.

Here's to 50 years of Legion Lac Bellevue! Where we honour and give gratitude to our founding Legionnaires, who with forethought and follow through, have created and left an indelible mark on everybody who has ever stepped foot into the campground.

Morgana Larsen and family



Allen Family A13 & A17

My Grandpa and veteran, Alec Pawliuk, along with my Uncle Don Pawliuk, were part of the crew who cleared our campground, and the beach. My Uncle still to this day likes to point out that only he & Don Hantiuk were sent into the freezing cold lake to pull trees while the 'old guys' stayed on shore. It's pretty special to me to know the lot I now occupy (A17) was cleared by my grandpa and uncle.

My time at Lac Bellevue started when I was 8 months old, on lot A13, in 1986. This was my mom's lot and it was perfect. It used to have a big stand of trees at the front, so it was quite private. Lot A15 was occupied by Johnny and Betty Hantiuk, and then my Grandpa on Lot A17. Fun fact... we were also all neighbours at home in Vegreville.

Throughout the 90's I spent every summer here with my mom, and my brothers and all our lake friends. It didn't matter what the weather was, from May long weekend to Thanksgiving weekend, my mom brought us out to the lake every weekend.



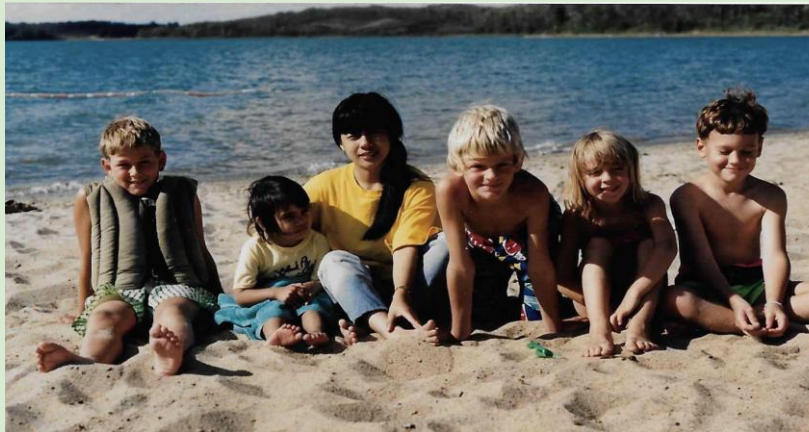
A17 - Grandpa on Grandpa's Lot

Section A was the place to be if you were a kid late 80s/early 90s. This place seemed to be run by the kids back then. We had forts deep in the bush. We knew where to find all the gardener snakes. And we loved racing our bikes down the hill. I remember the 'big green dock' and catching minnows. I used to love riding paddle boat around the bay with my mom. It was always called 'the Bay' because it used to be connected to the lake. Now people call it the lagoon, but it will always be the bay to me!

There used to be a beautiful wide path on the peninsula I loved to walk, and every year there would be hundreds of dragonflies. In fact, I loved the peninsula so much that my mom had to make up a story so I wouldn't go there on my own as a young child. You know those loons you hear every night in the summer around 8pm? She told me those were children who went to the peninsula without their mom and got lost, and in the sound of the call of the loons she'd say 'Where are we'. I'll give her credit, I never did go by myself.



Alec Pawliuk with all his children and grandchildren on lot A17. Ken & Mer Pawliuk and three daughters Eileen, Kathlyn, Nicole. Grandpa Pawliuk with Keith Robert & Bonnie Allen, Don Pawliuk, Peggy Allen & Sean Allen, Gayla Robert & Trevor Robert, Don Allen



Alec Pawliuk's grandchildren - Don Allen, Kat Pawliuk, Kat's cousin, Sean Allen, Bonnie Allen, Trevor Robert

As a kid, I always enjoyed visiting with the retirees. My step-Granny Bessie over in D, or the Bowlie's who were camped out in the cul-de-sac in A section. But of course my favourite person to visit was Grandpa, on his lot which he had a sign 'Haven of Rest'. All grandpa had was an old canvas tent and that's what he slept in under the stars.

Eventually, my grandpa was ready to give up his lot. My mom moved from A13 to A17, and eventually in the early 2000s I took over the lot. Not much has changed on A17. The old deck that took up much of the lot was torn out, and quite a few loads of gravel were brought in to level out the slope. And now we sleep in a trailer.

While things of course have changed over the years, what remains is a vibrant community and beautiful, peaceful campsite. A17 is still 'Grandpa's Lot'. The most beautiful thing is the memories of those who have passed still live on at Lac Bellevue, and I know that's true for many others who have decades of memories across generations at Lac Bellevue.

Thanks, Bonnie



Peggy Allen (Pawliuk), Bessie
Pawliuk, Mer Pawliuk, Pawliuk
grand-child

Dupont Family A4

I learned of Lac Bellevue from Jessica Mcafferty in F8. She brought me out for a weekend and I was instantly in love. The following week, I began volunteering with the Legion and became a member. I rented a seasonal lot the next summer and have now had my permanent lot A4 for the last 4 years. A4 was previously Morgana Larsen's lot now in B4.

I joined the board the same year I received my permanent lot and have been the Events and Volunteer coordinator since. I will always be grateful to Jessica for introducing me to this awesome space and community."
Jenn



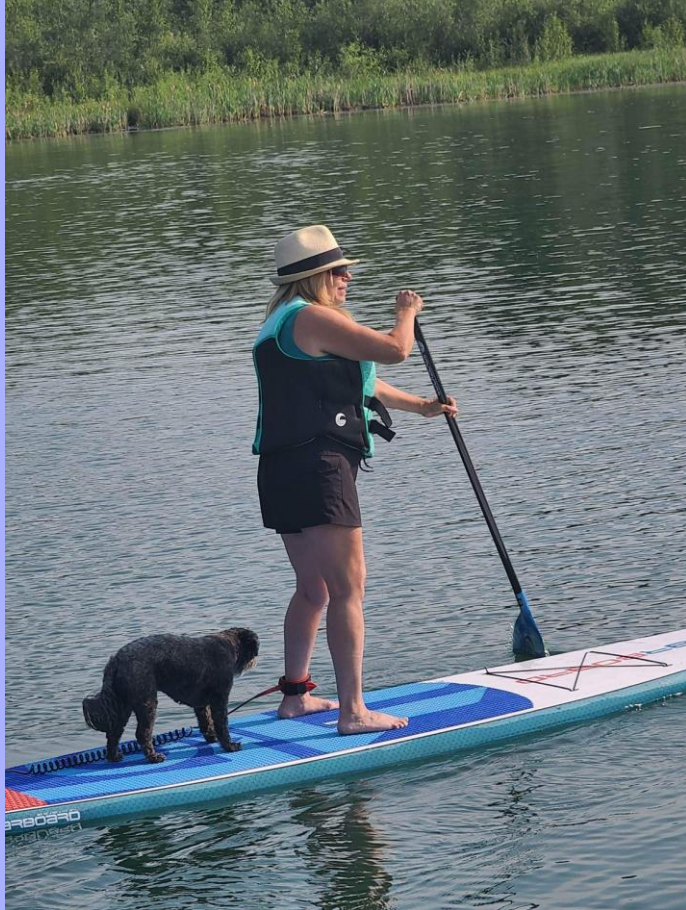
Ursuliak Family B5



Three Generations



Piat Family A27

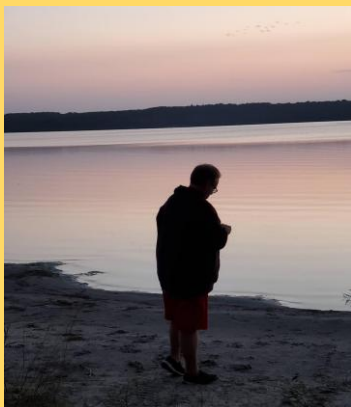


Ewanchuk Family

C-5

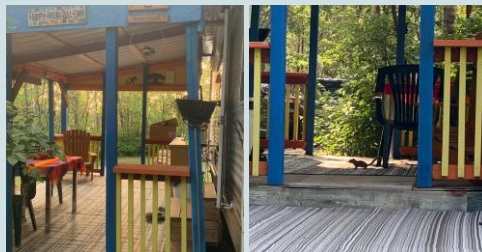
We took over the lot from Luc and Debbie Lizotte in 2017. They passed on a beautiful spot with a covered deck that we appreciate immensely. We enjoy nature and all that it has to offer. We often have friends or family visiting as it's such a beautiful place to be. The Lac gives us a chance to immerse ourselves in some of our favorite pastimes. We love fishing and trail riding, and we get to use our favorite toys, our boat and side by side. We are quite fond of visiting with our Lac friends and we also enjoy the quiet, as being on our own is a real luxury.

- Rob and Nathalie

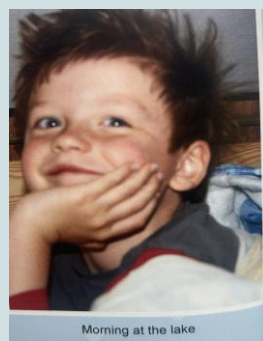




Jamison Family B6



A few of our favorite memories



Morning at the lake

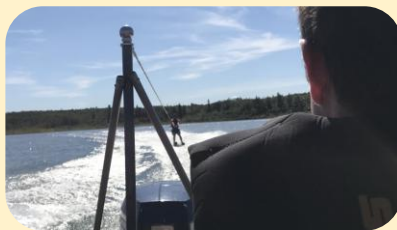


- 01, Sand .. glorious sand
- 02, 03 Making Sandcastles
- 04, Lake hair - great sleep
- 05, Friends
- 06, Fire
- 07, Marshmallow time
- 08, Rainy Day Puzzles
- 09, Paddleboarding



Lazowski Family

C2



Lot C2 - Jeff & Darlene Lazowski

Back on the day 21 years ago May /2005, we packed up our little scamper + trailer with our boys Dustin & Tyson. We headed North to this beautiful golden nugget called Lac Bellevue Legion Campground. We camped on Lot C5 for the first couple years then we moved to Lot C2 across from the Playground / Park. The lot holders before us were the Boyko Family from Vegreville, & before them the original lot holders were the Drysdale Family from Vegreville.

We feel so blessed & have treasured so many great memories & adventures over the years with our family, friends & fellow comrades. "Many" Walleye fish caught, quadding trips to river/cabins, beautiful beach days/sunsets & enjoying those northern lights/stars, just to mention a few."

We were so happy when Dustin & Taylor & Tyson & Shyla became Legion members / Volunteers & new lot holders May/2025 section A of camp. Lot 20 & 25

Jeff has been a volunteer Electrician at Bellevue over the years & now our boys have stepped up as Electricians as well. We look forward to many more years & great memories at Lac Bellevue. Truly is a home away from home for us & so many!!"

Lazowski Family A20

Taylor and Dustin Lazowski

We became the proud owners of Lot A20 in 2025, formerly owned by Rob and Jill Knutson.

My husband, Dustin Lazowski, has been coming to Lac Bellevue since 2007. He grew up spending summers at the lake with his parents and brother, creating many great memories over the 19 years at Lac Bellevue.

Dustin and I met while travelling in Thailand in 2022. I visited Lac Bellevue for the first time - July long weekend in 2023, during our first summer of dating. We spent the weekend tubing with Dustin's parents, watching the fireworks, and meeting many members of the lake community.

Today, we're happily settled into our own lot, A20, and now have our own boat to continue the tradition of making memories on the water just like the first summer together with Dustin parents, Darlene and Jeff Lazowski. We look forward to many years of tubing, water skiing, relaxing, and spending time with friends, family, and our fellow Lac Bellevue community members.



Roberts Family B4



First time we visited Lac Bellevue was August 2013. It was friends from our son's baseball team that convinced us to come out as they talked about this lake all the time. We had a fabulous weekend and immediately put our names down on the waiting list. It took 2 years to get a site but we love the site we got and have not moved.

We have made a lot of new friends out here as well as convinced old friends to come get a lot as well. In 2020 we purchased a boat since we could not travel during covid. We were very grateful to have this place to enjoy during that time. At the end of the 2023 season I joined the lake coordinators as a communications coordinator. I really wanted to help get information out to all the lot holders and really try to make the community connection stronger. I became the lead coordinator in the fall of 2024 with big ideas and dreams for this campground.

One of my biggest pushes was for a cabin to be built so that family and friends had a place to stay if they didn't have a camper. This bunkie was completed during the summer of 2025. Now in 2026 our focus is celebrating 50 years of this great campground.

A gazebo dedicated to our founding fathers will be built and general clean up of the campground is under way to celebrate August 1st festivities. As my daughter got a lot this year we are looking forward to the upcoming years and enjoying family time and creating many new memories.



And
then
there
was
Doug

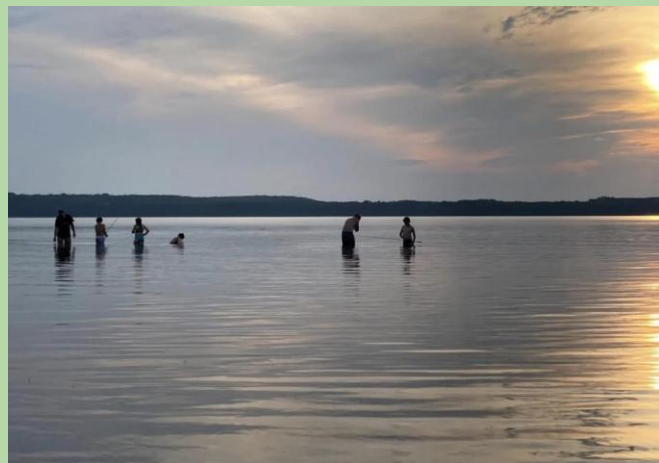
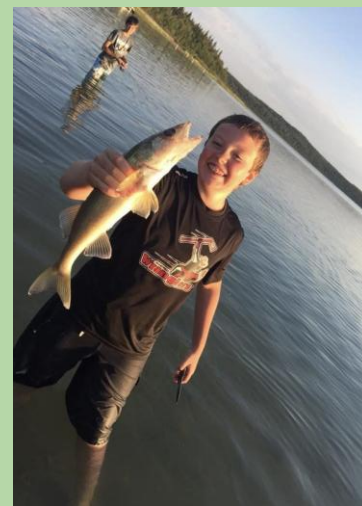


Doug changed his status from Lot Holder and became the most recent in the role of caretaker of the Lac. He has been ensuring the security and safety of the Lot Holders, as well as making sure that the clean up and repairs are done as needed/ required.





FISHING



Bears, Birds, Bats, Beautiful Nature



We find
comfort,
calm, and a
fresh sense
of
perspective
in nature.



Obstacle Race **BELLEVUE BLAST**

July 18, 2015

Lac Bellevue, Alberta

START 10:00 AM



Luc Lizotte looking after the water challenge



Getting hyped up .. ready for the start whistle



Gathering at the open space waiting for the start - over 100 people registered from across Alberta and Saskatchewan



The Running Room donated numbers, a starter, the inflatable starting line.



Got a bus donated from Garry Zayac to drive people from the finish line back to the parking area.

Some of the fun and challenging obstacles

This was one of the largest fundraising events hosted by the Friends of Lac Bellevue, Spearheaded by Sheryl Jamison, supported by the members of the Lac. A massive advertising campaign including interviews on the radio, social media platforms and multiple newspapers; followed by a campaign of asking for donations, obtaining licences and participation from across provinces through the Running Room. This was truly one of the most complex endeavours besides the actual development of the Lac itself.







Amazing Lac Skies



What a
special day!

Thank you to
Captain
Brandon Philp
for your
service and
the fly-by -
you make all
of us proud-
especially your
momma
Maureen



Building of the New Rec Hut

Our brand new Recreational Hut (Rec Hut) has a great room, full kitchen, disability washroom, men's and women's showers, and two large bedrooms that can accommodate up to 16 people each.



And adding a storage area attached to store extra chairs and tables.

Grand Opening of the Recreation Hut



The newly built Rec Hut replaced the old H-Hut. Unfortunately, the H-Hut had to be retired and demolished.



Rec Hut



**New and improved location for
gatherings and some fun games to play
on rainy days
(thanks to Friends of Lac Bellevue)**

Our Bunkie



One of the goals for the start of the Lac Bellevue missions was to host members even if they didn't have camping gear - the H Hut was the go-to, but after the new Rec Hut was built with a smaller sleeping footprint, additional space was required to accommodate more people to mirror the original 1974 proposal of 48 sleeping spaces available.

In 2024 it was voted that a cabin be built so that family and friends had a place to stay if they didn't have a camper. This bunkie was completed during the summer of 2025 with this incredible view.



Spring 2026 - the Bunkie is open for business!



Annual Tree Cutting





Tree cutting is done as maintenance on a yearly basis by our volunteers with the assistance of an arborist. Harvesting mature or dying trees clears the space on the forest floor, allowing new seedlings to take root and thrive. It also minimizes the possible damage to lot holder's property. The trees are cut up for firewood.





Burn Pit - A control burn is done on a yearly basis to deal with some of the scraps from tree cutting. Once again an event that takes place thanks to the volunteers.



Winter Wonderland at the Lac

So many wonderful winter sports can be enjoyed at the Lac such as snow shoeing, sledding, ice fishing and many more.



Clubs, Groups and Associations

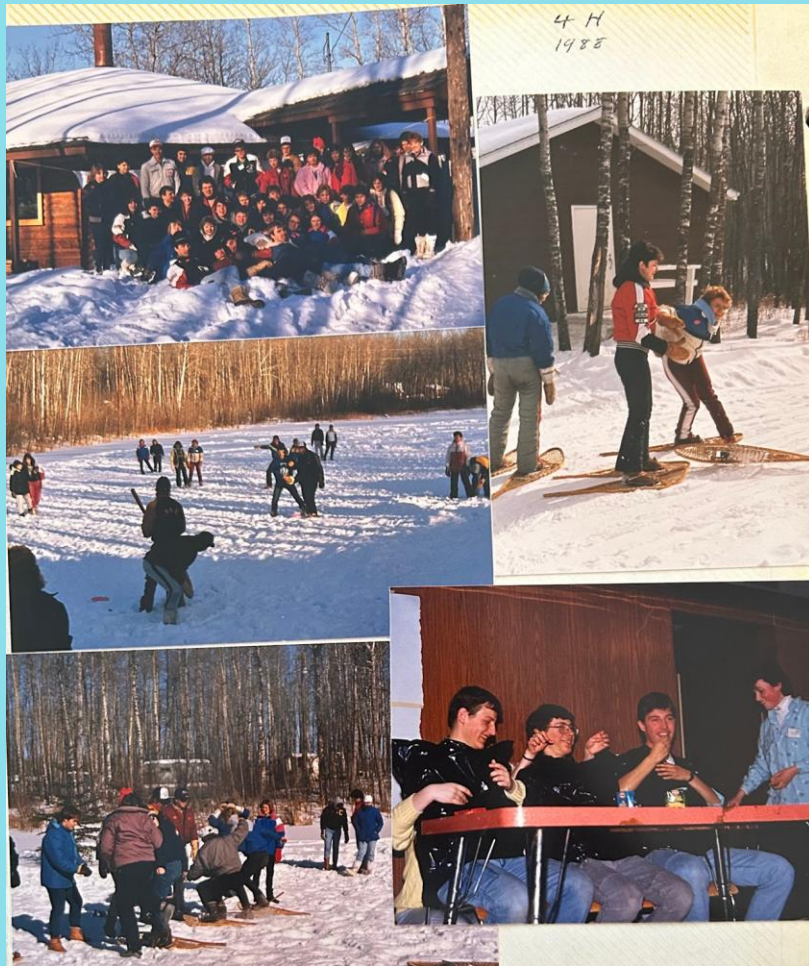


Vegreville Karate-Do held their retreats at the Lac in the 90's



Boy Scouts

Before the
playground
was created



Dear Bruce & Shirley:

Enclosed, for your scrapbook, is a group photo taken at our Northeast Region 4-H Winter Camp held March 11-13/88.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Love
Yvonne Love
Regional 4-H Specialist

YL/jmf

**1988
4H Club**

4-H one of the clubs who enjoyed their winter camp at the Lac Bellevue site

Promise!!

.. the new outhouse by F section will be here soon



Quads - Bikes - Snowmobiles



The Beach at the Lac



Weed picking on the beach



Volunteers keep our beach beautiful.





The old beach-comber
Betty Hantink (right) and
her son Mark visiting
from Waterloo, ON, July 89
(Marion Stewart's pictures)



What the buoys used to look like.



After raking the beach! Lol



Weed picking on the beach



Hard work goes
into keeping our
beach looking
great!



July 1989





Friends & Fun





*Live in the sunshine,
Swim in the lake,
Drink the wild air.*

