


IFA #1

A person wearing a dark winter jacket, a yellow hat, and carrying a yellow bag is standing on a vast, flat, snow-covered frozen lake. The person is positioned on the right side of the frame, looking towards the left. In the background, a dense line of dark evergreen trees stretches across the horizon under a clear, bright blue sky. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Integrated Fisheries Assessment – Phase One
Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement Inc.
Submitted by: Holly Urban & Melissa Johnson
2011

INTEGRATED FISHERIES ASSESSMENT - Part One

Education and Awareness

The Integrated Fisheries Assessment - Part 1 is a collaboration of various fisheries related projects in the Swan Valley Area conducted during the field season of 2011. This project was primarily funded through the Manitoba Fisheries and Enhancement Fund (FEF) and with support from project partners. The main objective of the project was to develop an integrated proposal to encompass both new and additional phases to past and present programs and research undertaken by SVSFE. Project activities included; fisheries and aquatic research on Whitefish Lake, Wellman Lake, the Swan River, and stocked trout lakes in the Duck and Porcupine mountains; walleye transfer/stocking for the surrounding area; and education seminars/events for youth & the public.

The full report of activities within the IFA #1 report is available, but for simplicity reasons, the report has been sectioned by location/activity to aid in sourcing material related to fisheries within the Swan Valley area. This document contains a summary of activities taken towards public awareness and education during 2011. Education is one of SVSFE's main mandates. This includes; Bowsman School Gr. 5/6 Fishing Trip, Bowsman School Gr. 4 Presentation, Wellman Lake Education Days, Minitonas School Camp, Whitefish Lake - Fisheries Fun Night, Yellow Fish Road, Work Experience and Volunteers, Informative handouts/signage.

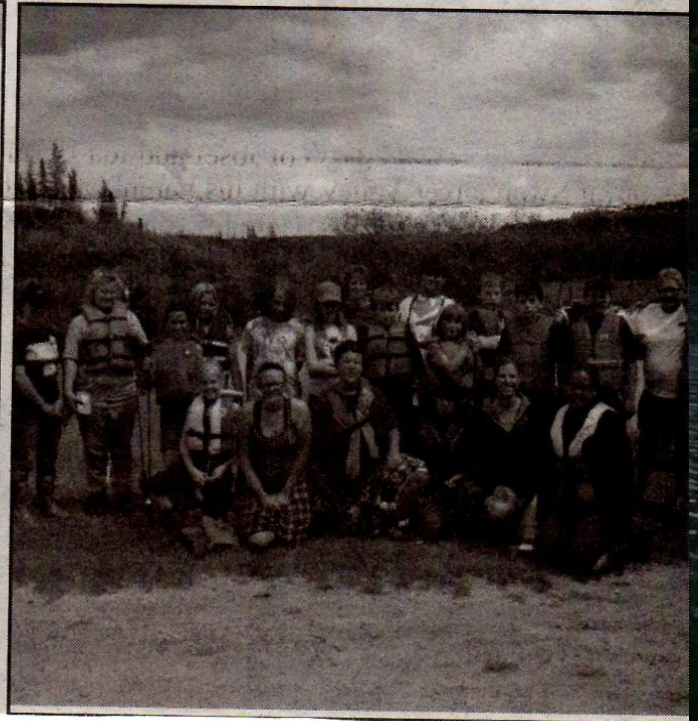
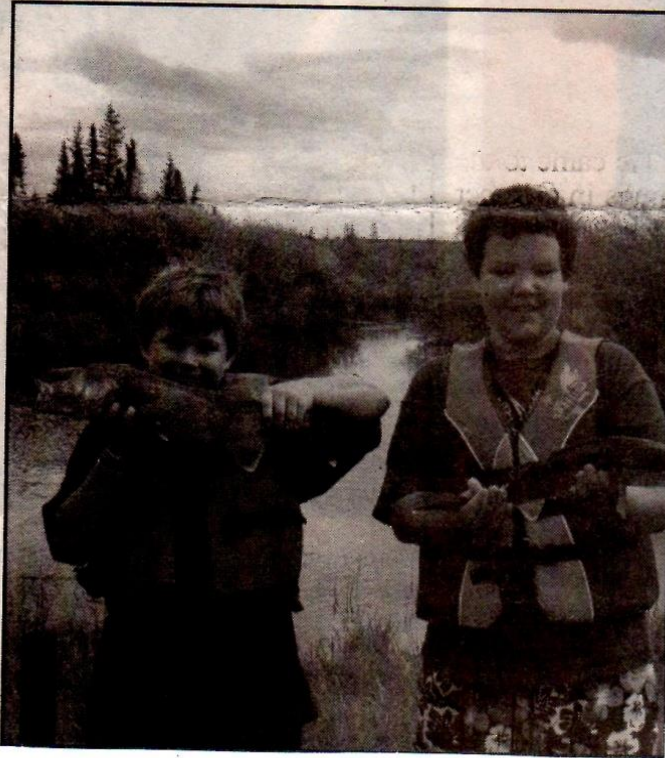
Public Education

Bowsman students go fishing

FISHING ADVENTURE – The Bowsman School Grade 5 and 6 class ended the year Bowsman style. The class went fishing to Whitefish Lake with SVSFE technicians Holly Urban and Melissa Johnson. Students got to learn a little about the local fishery in the Valley area and got a better understanding of the rules and regulations related to fishing. The day was beautiful and ended with a close “Fishing Feud” trivia game on the beach and the students angling a total of 12 fish, with wall-eye being the No. 1 catch of the day.

– Submitted photos

July 5, 2011



Bowsman School – Grade 5/6



Bowsman School – Grade 5/6



Bowsman School - Grade 4

You can do it
It may take time
And it may be hard
But stick with it
And you'll be fine.



Questions to ask Mrs. Urban.

EAST
Lucy - 1st grade
Sherry - 2nd grade
Charles - 3rd grade
Sally - 4th grade
Liam - 5th grade
Schneider - 6th grade
Pagen - 7th grade
Viola - 8th grade
Peyton - 9th grade



A2 - THE STAR & TIMES Tuesday, December 21, 2010

News

FISH EDUCATION - The Bowsman School Grade 4 class had the chance to learn about the importance of respecting water and fish from Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement volunteer Holly Urban on Dec. 10.



Wellman Lake Education Days

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of the wonderful people involved in the Wellman Lake Field Trip. The children enjoyed all of the stations and learned many new things about the "great outdoors." We often forget, how many children don't have the chance to experience outdoor learning. This was a memorable day!

We acknowledge and appreciate the time that was spent planning and organizing for this event. We, as teachers, look forward to this day just as much as the students do! We couldn't have had a better day or better weather.

Take a look at the attached pictures. The last one is priceless. You know it was a good day when the kids are sleeping on the bus ride home.

Thanks again for a great day. Enjoy the summer!

Nancy Morden

Joanne Betcher

Grade 1 Teachers from Taylor



Minitonas School Camp



Thank You!

Rebecca Honnor Nick Joshua
Colton Jessiah Savana
Megash! Sage Travis
Haley Thompson Nicky Drew Daphne
Migona 2011 Jacky Sam
Brittany Brenda Courtney
Lori-Ann

Thanks for this amazing
learning opportunity and the chance
to make great memories on our
OutdoorEd trip to Wellman Lake

Minitonas
Middle Years
Grade Seven Class
June
2011

Local Fisheries Biologist, Ian Kitch and SVSFE summer student Alison Burgess joined the grade seven Minitonas class at their outdoor camp to educate students on fisheries conservation, local research and a fun day of angling

Fisheries Fun Night

Whitefish Lake: technicians conducted a presentation on local fisheries research during swimming lesson week. Kids enjoyed seeing some of Whitefish Lake's young of the year walleye found hanging out at the Main Beach.



Wellman Lake - Leaf Creek



Yellow Fish Road



YELLOW FISH – Ian Kitch and a group of Grade 4 students were just one group of volunteers who hit the Swan River streets last week to paint yellow fish near drains. Volunteers from Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement, Manitoba Fisheries Branch, Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District, Town of Swan River, Taylor School, Heyes School and Ecole Swan River South School all took part in the Yellow Fish Road program. The yellow fish serve as a reminder for residents to properly dispose of any hazardous household chemicals, like used motor oil, and to use environmentally-friendly alternatives such as compost in your garden, which won't wash away easily with rain.

– Star and Times photo by Derek Holtom



Work Experience



Work Experience

Throughout the summer SVSFE's technicians provided educational opportunities for students to get a hands on experience on fisheries work being conducted in the area. Students were given the chance to conduct or take part in a variety of work techniques including; trap netting, gill netting, seining, electro-shocking, beaver management, surveying, creel surveys and more. The experience gained from these positions caused a strong interest in fishing and knowledge they received will be something they can take with them into their future conservation ventures.



Work Experience



Patrick Theissen was a year one Land & Water Management Student from ACC. He was a great asset to the project as he possessed exceptional work ethics and a strong interest in the research of our projects.



Work Experience



Brett Wyatt was a Green Team student from Fisheries Branch. Brett was involved in many assessments throughout the summer and developed good teamwork skills and a strong interest in fisheries

Work Experience

Eddie Shao was a summer student for the Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District who had the opportunity to participate field work such as; creek assessments, seining and beaver management. These practical experiences will benefit his pursuit in environmental sciences.



Work Experience



Alison Burgess was SVSFE's summer student hired through funding with Service Canada - Canada Summer Jobs Grant and FEF. Alison conducted Creel Surveys at Wellman Lake, and also participated in trap netting, creek & trout assessments, walleye telemetry and much more. These experiences provided her with organization & communication skills as well as the confidence to carry these traits into her future careers.

Volunteers



Volunteers of all
ages enjoy
participating in
various SVSFE's
projects

Public Awareness: SVSFE's Handouts

2011 FISHERIES RESEARCH & ANGLER SURVEYS AT WELLMAN LAKE

ANGLER PARTICIPATION WANTED!

Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement, with the support of partners and FEF, have recently conducted various studies and programs including telemetry work, trap netting programs, creel surveys, stocked trout index netting, voluntary angler surveys and has also become a strong venue for fisheries education. These programs and projects have been very beneficial for the local area and have attracted attention from all interested public. The results from recent research projects have already contributed to current management and stocking decisions. Many projects require continual or rotational surveys to validate results and to obtain a better understanding of the state of the fishery.

What's happening at Wellman Lake for the 2011 Season:

- **Assessment of Loat Creek and walleye spawning areas with Wellman Lake** – this includes tracking walleye with radio telemetry equipment and assessing the success of the Wellman Lake reef and tributaries.
- **Creel Surveys** – A SVSFE technician will be interviewing anglers at Wellman Lake during the 2011 season from May to August. This will include measuring fish, keeping track of hours fished, counting boats, and recreational craft, etc. When the data is analyzed from interviews we can get information about the effort, biological characteristics, harvest and size distribution of several important species of fish. We can also get an idea of fishing quality and recreational pressure a lake has been subject to. It would be appreciated if anglers would take the time to fill out creel booklets at boat launch sites or provide information to technicians.
- **Phase Two Live Release Trap Netting Program** – in the fall (Sept) SVSFE along with other partners will be conducting year two of the live release trap netting program. Fish caught during the program have and will be tagged with floy tags to identify growth and health of the Wellman Lake fishery. Through the continual mark and recapture SVSFE can assist managers in obtaining an accurate estimate of the relative abundance fish stock and the status of the fishery. We encourage the public to come out and see the action.
- **Tagged Fish INFO** – And don't forget to submit your tagged fish info. There are several lakes including Wellman Lake which have tagged fish. Submitting your info to SVSFE or Water Stewardship Fisheries Branch will provide beneficial information towards the goal of creating an extraordinary fishery within the Swan Valley Region for generations to enjoy.

This project has been funded by Fisheries Enhancement Fund (FEF), Service Canada- Canada Summer Jobs, Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement (SVSFE), Water Stewardship Fisheries Branch, Glad & Wellman Lake Cottage Owners Association, and the Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District.

THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS SURVEY/STUDY AS YOUR INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL TO THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR FISHERIES RESOURCES.

svsfe@mts.net

2011 FISHERIES RESEARCH AT WHITEFISH LAKE

& ANGLER PARTICIPATION WANTED!

Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement, with the support of partners and FEF, has recently conducted various studies and programs including telemetry work, trap netting programs, creel surveys, stocked trout index netting, voluntary angler surveys and has also become a strong venue for fisheries education. These programs and projects have been very beneficial for the local area and have attracted attention from all interested public. The results from recent research projects have already contributed to current management and stocking decisions. Many projects require continual or rotational surveys to validate results and to obtain a better understanding of the state of the fishery.

What's happening at Whitefish Lake for the 2011 Season:



- **Conducting year two of "End of Spring Trap Netting" at Whitefish Lake** – this program will take place during late May early June. The ESTN protocol is a live release method, and is essential for obtaining growth information, health conditions, habitat utilization and requirements. Through the continual mark and recapture SVSFE can assist managers in obtaining an accurate estimate of the relative abundance fish stock and the status of the fishery. We encourage the public to come out and see the action. The last scheduled pull date is the morning of June 4th, 2011.
- **Monitoring North and Lagoon Creek** - while trap netting is in progress monitoring of spawning creeks will be performed. This will include monitoring flow and assessing abundance of fry/egg. North Creek has been recognized as an important factor to spawning walleye and the conservation of these spawning walleye within the creek is appreciated.
- **Swimming Week Fun Night** - Technicians will be holding a fun night of Whitefish Lake on fun fish facts and research practices along with some games to demonstrate to the youth and public their role in sustaining the fishery within Whitefish Lake.
- **Tagged Fish INFO** – And don't forget to submit your tagged fish info. There are several lakes including Whitefish Lake which have tagged fish. Submitting your info to SVSFE or Water Stewardship Fisheries Branch will provide beneficial information towards the goal of creating an extraordinary fishery within the Swan Valley Region for generations to enjoy.

This project has been funded by Fisheries Enhancement Fund (FEF), Service Canada- Canada Summer Jobs, Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement (SVSFE), Water Stewardship Fisheries Branch, and the Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District.

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Signage

ATTENTION ANGLERS: TAGGED FISH

SWAN VALLEY SPORT FISHING ENHANCEMENT HAS INITIATED NUMEROUS PROJECTS ON WELLMAN LAKE INCLUDING TELEMETRY, MARK-RECAPTURE AND STOCKING. WALLEYE HAVE BEEN TAGGED WITH RADIO TELEMETRY TAGS (FIGURE 1). ALL SPECIES SAMPLED DURING TRAP NETTING WERE TAGGED WITH FLOY TAGS (FIGURE 2). INFORMATION FROM THESE FISH WILL BE USED TO HELP MANAGE THE FISHERY.



FIGURE 1 WALLEYE TAGGED WITH RADIO TELEMETRY TAG



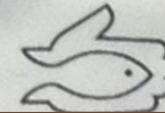
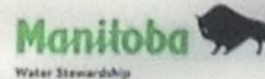
FIGURE 2: SMALL MOUTH BASS TAGGED WITH FLOY TAG

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MANAGING WELLMAN LAKE.

INFORMATION NEEDED: TAG #, DATE CAUGHT, LOCATION OF YOUR CATCH, YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND WAS THE FISH RELEASED? E-MAIL INFORMATION TO SVSFE@MTS.NET OR PLEASE CALL

FISHERIES BRANCH AT (204) 734.6814 OR MAIL INFORMATION TO:

MANITOBA FISHERIES BRANCH 201 - 4TH AVE. S. BOX 640 SWAN RIVER, MB R0L - 1Z0



SWAN VALLEY
SPORT FISHING
ENHANCEMENT INC.

In addition to signage that has already been posted at stocked trout lakes, Whitefish Lake and Steeprock Lake, this sign was installed in three different locations at Wellman Lake.

A Special Thank - You!

SVSFE would like to acknowledge the importance and benefits the Fisheries Enhancement Fund brings to our recreational fishery. The stamp is always a reminder that a portion of the license fee helps fund projects to educate the public and to ensure that future generations will enjoy fishing as much as the present population does!

A special thank you to the following individuals for helping to make the IFA#1 project a success! Ian Kitch, Lloyd Rowe, Bruno Bruederlin, Intermountain Sport Fishing Enhancement, Don Stokotelny, Kyle Murhead, Patrick Theissan, Joel & Marilyn Delaurier, Arch Dowsett - Blue Lakes Resort, Manitoba Fly Fisherman's Association, A.J Sutherland, SVSFE Directors, University College of the North, Eddie Chow, Parks Staff and to the individuals we may have missed.

Project Funded by:

**Fisheries Enhancement Fund, Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District,
Glad & Wellman Lake Cottage Owners Association, Swan Valley Sport
Fishing Enhancement & Service Canada - Canada Summer Jobs**

Project Partners

- Water Stewardship – Fisheries Branch



- Swan Lake Watershed Conservation District



- Glad/Wellman Lake Campers & Cottage Owners Association



- Manitoba Fly Fisherman Association