

2024 Summary

SVSFE FISH CAMP

Project 24-013 SVSFE Rec Angling Day Camps
funded by the Fish & Wildlife Enhancement Fund



A photograph of four young people (three boys and one girl) standing on a boat on a lake. They are all wearing life jackets and hats. The boy on the far left is wearing a red shirt and a black cap. The boy in the center is wearing a blue cap and a red life jacket. The boy on the far right is wearing a black cap and a red life jacket. The girl on the far right is wearing a green shirt and a red life jacket. They are all smiling and giving thumbs up. The background shows a calm lake, a dense forest of evergreen trees, and a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text 'Connecting Youth with Nature and Angling' is overlaid on the bottom left, and the word 'OPPORTUNITIES' is overlaid in large white letters across the bottom center.

Connecting Youth
with Nature and
Angling

OPPORTUNITIES

2024



FISH CAMP

From July 8th to August 2nd SVSFE hosted their 12th annual Fish Camp. Since 2022 SVSFE has hosted day fishing trips which has been extremely successful. Traditionally camp was a 5-day overnight camp (2011-2019). Since 2022 camp has consisted of day trips to two different destinations over a 4-week period. In total, 2024 Fish Camp facilitated 88 different kids (ages 9-14), with most experiencing angling opportunities at two different angling destinations.







Red Deer River



Red Deer River



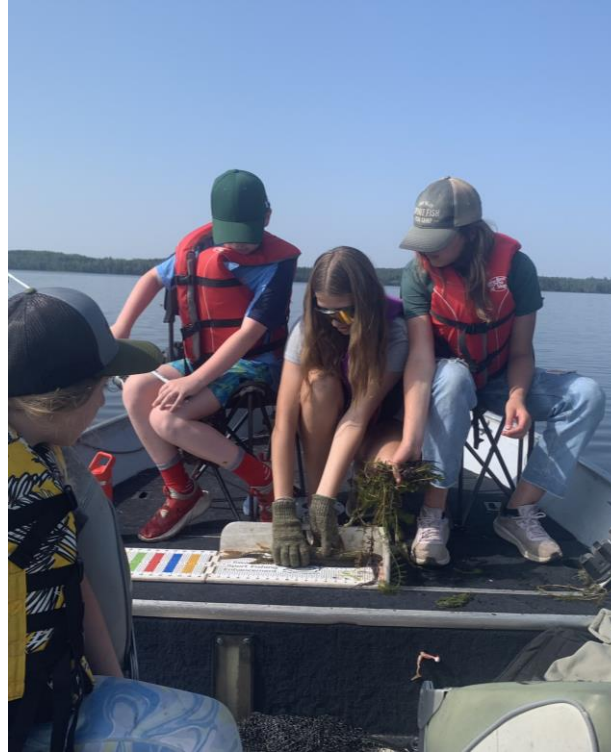
Wellman Lake

The two destinations included The Red Deer River, and Wellman Lake. The Red Deer River is a shore fishing destination with target species being freshwater drum, bullhead, walleye, perch, carp, and goldeye. At Wellman Lake the kids fish from boats with target species being walleye, pike, smallmouth bass, and perch.



Sharing

KNOWLEDGE



Educational topics covered each day include all the aspects of sport fishing. These include: proper fish handling, general fish behavior, fish ecology and seasonal movements, fish anatomy, fish biology, proper catch and release techniques, boat and outdoor safety, knot tying, fishing regulations, fishing ethics, and of course fishing techniques/presentation/lure selection.



The BIG **CATCH**



In total, 587 fish were landed. At The Red Deer River, a total of 259 drum (37 Master Anglers), 95 walleye, 2 bullhead (1 MA), 2 MA carp, 7 suckers (2 MAs) and 12 perch were caught. At Wellman Lake, a total of 100 pike, 69 bass (2 MAs) and 41 walleye were caught. When a Master Angler was caught, kids and their parents were shown the process of registering their fish through Travel Manitoba's Master Angler Program. Overall, the eagerness, willingness to learn, and excitement from the kids was hands down the most rewarding part of the program.





Camp **SUPPORTERS**



MANITOBA
**FISH AND
WILDLIFE**
ENHANCEMENT FUND



First, and most importantly thank you to the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund and The Manitoba Government. Without their support this program would not be possible. Also, a huge thanks to The Swan Valley Credit Union, the Swan Valley Community Foundation, and the Paul Olenick Memorial Fund for providing funds to assist with Fish Camp. A big shout out to all the businesses and volunteers who helped in various ways including: The Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre, Mils Grill, Wellman Lake Lodge, 734 Inc, The Star & Times, Len Thompson, SLWD, Sticky's Bait & Tackle, Mitch's Crawlers, Northern Lites Baits, Swan Title Loans, MB Wildfire Service, Westwood Inn, Valley Water, Matt Black, Bruce & Ursula Taylor, Duane Fleming, Elgin Barnett, Sheldon Brannonier, Jason Villeneuve, Tyler Ashcroft, Tammy & Darren Webster, Norm Bruce, Brian Woloshyn, Todd Yakielashek and Phil Yakielashek.





Program

PUBLICATIONS

In order to share the word about Fish Camp, a variety of media was utilized. SVSFE promoted the day camps on the SVSFE website, The Star and Times (newspaper), SVSFE's Facebook page, member group-chats, parent emails, and through newsletters that were available digitally and distributed to 350+ guests at the SVSFE Fish Supper Fundraiser in May. Posters were also distributed to the Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre (ECFC), and schools within the Swan Valley School Division and shared on their social media.

Success of the program was shared with the community through posts on Facebook, multiple newspaper articles, and word of mouth from those who attended. It didn't take long for news to spread and camp spaces to fill up.

presents

SVSFE YOUTH ANGLING DAY CAMPS

Program funded in part by:



Manitoba  **PAUL OLENICK
MEMORIAL FUND**

2024

Camp Dates

- July 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th – Red Deer River
- July 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th – Red Deer River
- July 23rd, 24th, 25th – Wellman Lake
- July 29th, 30th, 31st, August 1st, 2nd – Wellman Lake



The day camp program will provide youth ages 10 -14 with the opportunity to fish for different species, learning different angling techniques along with exposure to land base

Program PUBLICATIONS

SVSFE

May 2024

SPRING NEWSLETTER

SWAN VALLEY SPORT FISH ENHANCEMENT INC.



WALLEYE RECRUITMENT

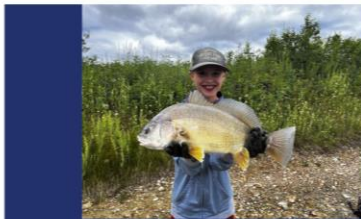
SVSFE monitors walleye recruitment success in several waterbodies each year. Monitoring recruitment measures the success of past habitat enhancement projects. In 2024, surveys are planned for Wellman Lake, Whitefish Lake, and Beaver Lake.

STOCK ASSESSMENTS

Stock assessments are used to monitor the condition and status of fish stocks. This information is used to ensure that lakes and rivers are being properly managed. In 2024, SVSFE plans to conduct a stock assessments on both West Blue Lake and the Birch River.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Partnership programs are long term projects that partner with government and other non-government entities. Programs planned for the 2024 season include AIS monitoring, The Glad Lake Maintenance Program and assisting with Fish Stocking.



YOUTH FISHING DAY-CAMPS

In 2024 SVSFE will be hosting Day-Camps which compose of multi-species angling and land-based education. Day camps will be hosted at Wellman Lake, and The Red Deer River during the month of July. Registrations will be for ages 10-14. Registration will be launched in late May 2024.

1

SVSFE

May 2024

Lake Investigations and Development

SVSFE has been creating, managing, and maintaining sport fishing lakes since the 1980s. In 2024, SVSFE will be investigations dozens of undeveloped lakes in the Duck and Porcupine Mountains to determine viability for Sport Fish Introductions.

The lakes chosen came from conversations with local anglers, hunters, trappers, and government personal. We are excited to start building morphological databases on these waterbodies and begin developing future stocking plans with Manitoba Fisheries.



FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT FUND

Project funding through The Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund helps ensure our fisheries and wildlife resources remain healthy and productive, for the benefit of all Manitobans. FWEF has been a major supporter of SVSFE over the years and we are very grateful of the Fund.



JOIN OUR CLUB

SVSFE has an excellent team and are always welcoming new people who love our local fisheries and bring fresh ideas. If you are interested in joining the SVSFE team, contact us today!



2

sports

Section B | Vol. 124 - No. 30 | Tuesday, July 23, 2024



WHAT A CATCH: (TOP LEFT) Olivia Davy (left), Hunter Rose (centre), Axel Cober, (right) with three Freshwater Drum fish caught at last week's Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement Youth Camp at Red Deer Lake from July 15 to 18. The day camp program provides youth ages 10 to 14 with the opportunity to fish for different species, learn different angling techniques and exposure to land based knowledge with a focus on angling.

Submitted Photos

GET READY TO TRAVEL THE WORLD

 **PASSPORT PHOTOS**
Any country. Please bring specifications for non-Canadian requests
  **FIRE ARMS (PAL) PHOTOS**
Printed or digital copies available
  **IMMIGRATION PHOTOS**
Permanent Resident, citizenship, etc. Please bring specifications for non-Canadian requests

SWAN & VALLEY
STAR & TIMES

CALL TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

704 MAIN STREET
204.734.3858

WWW.STARANDTIMES.CA

Program

PUBLICATIONS



Submitted Photos

WHAT A CATCH: Colton Clousen with a Common Carp at the Swan Valley Sport Fish Enhancement's Youth Angling Day Camps last week at Red Deer River.

A8

news | August 20, 2024

The Swan Valley Star and Times

SVSFE fish camps net another successful year

Jennifer Laviolette
Editor | Star and Times

The Swan Valley Sport Fish Enhancement (SVSFE) ran another successful summer of youth fish camps. Several local youth gained angling knowledge and experience at local lakes surrounding the Valley.

"Our fish camp ran a total of 16 days facilitating somewhere between eight and 11 kids per day," said SVSFE Fisheries Technician Brock Koutecky. "The first

eight days were spent at the Red Deer River, while the final eight days were spent at Wellman Lake. Kids can attend each location one time, therefore most kids were able to come two days with one day at each location.

"Once camp registration was open, we were full within the first 48 hours and had kids on the waiting list. After getting a better grasp of demand, we were able to accommodate the kids on the waiting list by

finding other volunteers and increasing daily capacity for a few days at each location. In the end, every registered kid was able to come at least one time, and in total, we facilitated a total of 88 different kids in 2024."

Youth learned a variety of angling skills that they got to test out during the camp. Some of them experienced reeling in their very first catch Master Angler.

"The educational component focuses on all the aspects of sport fishing," said Koutecky. "Topics include knot tying, safety, fish behaviour, fish anatomy/biology, fish ecology and seasonal movements, proper fish handling techniques, fishing ethics, and of course angling techniques, presentation and bait selection."

"There were so many individual highlights. Many of these include stories about a specific kid catching their first fish ever, or their first Master Angler ever, or their first bass ever for example. There were sure a lot of excited kids experiencing a first and the excitement that came with those mo-



Submitted Photo | Swan Valley Sport Fish Enhancement

SVSFE reeled in Valley youth to participate at their angling camps this summer. The camps were in such high demand that there was a waiting list this year.

ments."

SVSFE is already planning for next year's youth fish camps and determining what changes or improvements can be made.

"We are still in the process of making plans for 2025, but at this time we feel that we were able to accommodate demand and will probably make a few adjustments in future years," said Koutecky. "I don't think we will expand the pro-

gram in terms of time, but will likely increase staff and volunteers which will therefore increase daily capacity."

A lot of work went into planning and establishing the youth fish camps, from funding to volunteers.

"We would like to thank our program funders, The Manitoba Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund, and the Manitoba Government," said Koutecky.

"This program would not be possible without their support."

"Also, a huge thanks to Swan Valley Credit Union (SVCU), the Community Foundation of Swan Valley, and the Paul Olenick Memorial Fund for providing funds to assist with fish camp."

"A big shout out to all the businesses and volunteers who helped in various ways including The Elbert Chartrand

"A big shout out to all the businesses and volunteers who helped in various ways including The Elbert Chartrand FC, Mil's Grill, Wellman Lake Lodge, 734 Custom Apparel & Promo Inc., Swan Valley Star and Times, Len Thompson Lures, Sticky's Bait and Tackle, Mitch's Jumbo Crawlers, Northern Lites Bait, Swan Lake Watershed District, Swan River Title Loans, Manitoba Wildfire Service, Westwood Inn Hotel and Indoor Waterpark, Valley Water, Matt Black, Bruce Taylor, Ursula Taylor, Duane Fleming, Elgin Barnett, Sheldon Brannonier, Jason Vill, Tyler Ashcroft, Norm Bruce, Brian Woloshyn, Todd Yakielashek, Phil Yakielashek, Tammy Webster, and Darren Webster," said Koutecky.



MPI ACCREDITED WINDSHIELD
REPLACEMENT & REPAIR SHOP



(204) 731-1602
www.236autoglass.ca
236autoglass@gmail.com

Program PUBLICATIONS



Swan Valley Sport Fish

22 hours ago · 🌐

...

Today, we are wrapping up the 2024 Fish Camp! Over the past four weeks we facilitated angling opportunities for 88 kids at two different fisheries, landing 587 fish and 9 different species. Thank you again to all the young anglers who participated in Fish Camp. It is always a pleasure to meet such great kids that truly enjoy the outdoors and have the passion for sport fishing.

We would like to thank our program funders - The Manitoba Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund, and the [Manitoba Government](#). This program would not be possible without your support.

Also, a huge thanks to [Swan Valley Credit Union \(SVCU\)](#), the [Community Foundation of Swan Valley](#), and the Paul Olenick Memorial Fund for providing funds to assist with Fish Camp. A big shout out to all the businesses and volunteers who helped in various ways including: The [Elbert Chartrand FC](#), [Mil's Grill](#), [Wellman Lake Lodge](#), [734 Custom Apparel & Promo Inc.](#), [Swan Valley Star and Times](#), [Len Thompson Lures](#), [Stickys Bait and Tackle](#), [Mitch's Jumbo Crawlers](#), [Northern Lites Bait](#), [Swan Lake Watershed District](#), [Swan River Title Loans](#), [Manitoba Wildfire Service](#), [Westwood Inn Hotel and Indoor Waterpark](#), [Valley Water](#), [Matt Black](#), [Bruce Taylor](#), [Ursula Taylor](#), [Duane Fleming](#), [Elgin Barnett](#), [Sheldon Branconnier](#), [Jason Vill](#), [Tyler Ashcroft](#), [Norm Bruce](#), [Brian Woloshyn](#), [Todd Yakielashek](#), [Phil Yakielashek](#), [Tammy Webster](#), and [Darren Webster](#).



MANITOBA
FISH AND
WILDLIFE
ENHANCEMENT FUND



👍 Ursula Taylor, Brock Koutecky and 51 others

1 comment · 8 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Album Fish Camp 2024 - Wellman Lake



Swan Valley Sport Fish

16h · 🌐

...



👍 Ursula Taylor, Ian Kitch and 34 others

1 comment · 4 shares

Program

PUBLICATIONS



Swan Valley Sport Fish

July 22 at 4:54 PM · 🌐

With 2024 Fish Camp nearing the halfway point we thought we'd share some of our favorite moments from the past 2 weeks. Total fish caught was 377 with 42 Master Anglers. A huge thanks to all the financial supporters - Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund, [Community Foundation of Swan Valley](#), [Swan Valley Credit Union \(SVCU\)](#), The Paul Olenick Memorial Fund, and the [Manitoba Government](#). Massive thanks to our volunteers [Bruce Taylor](#) [Ursula Taylor](#) [Matt Black](#) [Tyler Ashcroft](#) [Jason Vill](#) and Norm Bruce. And Thank you to Candace and Staff @Mil's Grill for feeding the kids. Two weeks at Wellman Lake begins tomorrow!



Amber Nacia

Huge thank you to **Swan Valley Sport Fish** for giving the kids this amazing opportunity! Looking at all the smiles on the kids faces and the stories when they get home is just amazing! So many memories to last a lifetime ❤️

3w Like Reply



Album Fish Camp 2024 - Red Deer River



Swan Valley Sport Fish

July 22 at 4:45 PM · 🌐



Bruce Taylor, Jason Vill and 75 others

14 comments · 19 shares

Program PUBLICATIONS

Swan Valley's Post



Brett Sara
Awesome!!!!

3w Like Reply



Carolann Woodley
Yes a great learning experience for the kids 🐟 thanks...good catch Skyler.💙

3w Like Reply



Darren Rowe
Awesome stuff!

3w Like Reply



Reid Minish
The pictures are fantastic and huge shoutout to "everyone " who organized and participated in this experience. The kids will remember this experience for many years and many will share it forward. Great job.

3w Like Reply



Gary Wowchuk
Awesome!

2w Like Reply



Gerry Hall
Wow what a great fishing experience given to a great bunch of new fishers waybto go !!!



Comment as Swan Valley Sport Fish



Alison Burgess
Looks like a good time!!

3w Like Reply



Brant Broome
Nice ones!

3w Like Reply



Rose Campbell
Thanks for all you do!!

3w Like Reply



Henry Rasmussen
WOW!!

3w Like Reply



Jennie Cowan
Looks like a great season!

3w Like Reply



Amber Naclia
Huge thank you to **Swan Valley Sport Fish** for giving the kids this amazing opportunity! Looking at all the smiles on the kids faces and the stories when they get home is just amazing! So many memories to last a lifetime ❤️



Alex Borecky
This is such an important program!
Providing youth with summer activities that allow them to build skills and gain knowledge of a sport/hobby that can passed down generations.

22h Like Reply



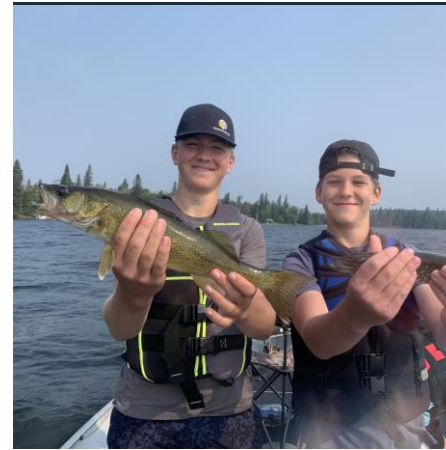
Program **FEEDBACK**

- “Thanks for taking my goofball son fishing today! He had a blast! You guys are awesome!!” – Aaron (Parent)
- “That’s awesome man thanks for doing this my kids love it! Tell Holly Thank you too” – Jeremy (Parent)
- “Thank you the boys had such an amazing day” DeeDee (Parent)
- “Yes!!! I heard alllll about it! A chatty child with fish stories = lots and lots of talking about it lol. Thanks for the pics” – Treena (Parent)



Program **FEEDBACK**

- “He had a blast all the days, You and Brock do a great job, Thanks again!” – Kelly (Parent)
- “Thank you so much! This camp is Jacob’s only chance to fish and he just loves it!” – Fauna (Parent)
- “Keaton had an awesome time – thank you for all your time and efforts” – Kassi (Parent)
- “5 Stars!!!, great communication, great program, and always appreciate seeing the pictures of everyone’s catch. You do an awesome job! Thank you again! There’s a reason it fills up so quickly! The kids just love it! – Becky (Parent)



Program **FEEDBACK**

- “First year for Jaxson and he will definitely be back. He enjoyed every second of it. Thanks so much” – Jordan (Parent)
- “This is such a great opportunity for the kids to learn about fishing and he can’t wait to go again next year. My daughter is looking forward to going once she’s old enough also! Job well done! – Lindsay (Parent)
- “I have nothing but good things to say about this program and I’ve heard nothing but good things. You guys go above and beyond with this. Regan will be aged out now, so my only wish is there would be a few teen aged days. I would pay for a program like this! He has had such a blast and has learned so much” – Chantelle (Parent)



Program **FEEDBACK**

- “This is a fantastic program. We are vey appreciative that this is available in our community” – Lynn (Parent)
- “The Buchanan kids had a blast! All positive, everything about both days. They’ve even convinced their younger 9 year old sister that next year is a must... looks like I have to register earlier! Thanks again. What an amazing opportunity you are giving to our valley’s young anglers” – Melissa (Parent)





Program
FEEDBACK



“Thank you so much that Severyn had chance to attend Fishing camp. It was amazing. He got a lot of positive experience, he caught Master Angler and we registered it. Also thank you for the gifts. It’s very nice. Thank you for making our kids happy” – Tanya (Parent)



Program
FEEDBACK



“You are great people and I am looking forward to attending the camp next year” – Severyn (Camper)

“Keep up the great work hosting these kids. Such a great opportunity to learn tips and tricks and create enjoyment for fishing”

- Nicole (Parent)



Program

FEEDBACK



“Thanks for your hard work and interest in teaching young people angling and taking care of the environment”

Stan Anderson (community member)



Program
FEEDBACK



“Fabulous program guys and thanks for all your hard work” – Cheryl Dahl (SVSFE Director)



Program

FEEDBACK



“Love the idea of the tub under the measuring board. Sure helps to protect the fish” – Duane Whyte (SVSFE Director)

Lessons

LEARN'T



First, but most importantly, when hosting a program of this nature organizers require the ability to adapt. Weather conditions, angling quality and the age/personalities of youth change each day. Camp coordinators improvise daily – as the conditions change fishing quality, and new personalities bring new challenges. It is imperative that coordinators tailor to the children's skills and interests daily to make the day more enjoyable for all. By doing this these young anglers were able to stay engaged and experience a variety of opportunities.

As Fish Camp continues each year so does demand and popularity, and with that comes increased registration. In 2024 we were able to send out reminder emails the days prior to ensure kids registered didn't cancel last minute. Last minute cancellations are problematic because there is often kids on the waiting list that could've attended with some advanced notice. For this reason, we recommend that continuing with daily reminders as part of the operation procedure. Furthermore, due to demand we were also forced to increase daily capacity on a few occasions to ensure no kids missed out on Fish Camp. This included finding more boats/volunteers to accommodate. In future, it would be advisable to have contingency plans and other volunteers lined up prior to registration as there is a good chance registration and popularity of the program will continue to grow.

CONCLUSION

It is with great pleasure that SVSFE can report on the completion of this very popular program. The appreciation from the children, their parents, and the community was overwhelming. With every day we adapted and learned to make the program more enjoyable and efficient. SVSFE hopes to continue providing youth with the unique opportunity for years to come.