

Who We Are....

The Clear Hills Watershed Initiative (CHWI) was formed in 2006, as a response to incoming industries putting pressure on a healthy ecosystem.

Through volunteer work and cooperation with many non-profit organizations, we have formed a stewardship group in Clear Hills County to help protect one of our most precious resources.

Our objective is to establish a benchmark of water quality within the region. We also hope to help establish better water practices throughout the region and educate our public about water quality issues, while still encouraging new industries in the region.

Lastly, we want to work together with other groups in the region to create an even better ecosystem than what we already have.



This unnamed lake is situated in the Clear Hills, feeding the Whitemud River. An old beaver dam is partially responsible for its existence.

Sponsors



Alberta
Stewardship
Network



Partners



Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands



Clear Hills Watershed Initiative



Did You Know?

While 80% of Alberta's water supply lies in the Northern part of the province, 80% of our water demand comes from the southern half of the province.

Alberta is estimated to have much more groundwater than surface water.

However, only 0.01 per cent of this groundwater is believed to be recoverable.

Source:

<http://www.albertawatersmart.com/altafacts.html>

“Throughout the history of literature, the guy who poisons the well has been the worst of all villains.”
~Author Unknown

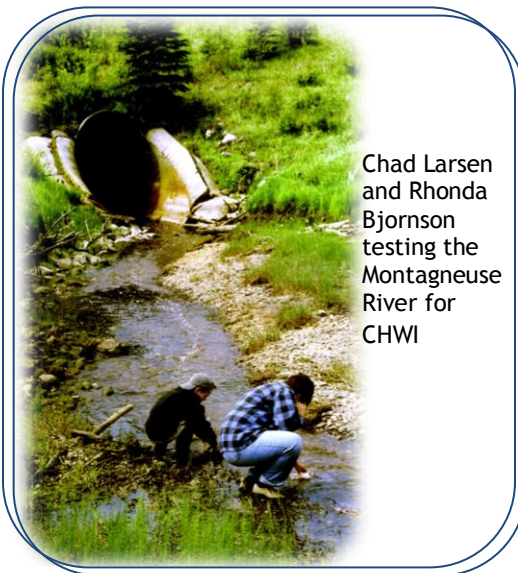
Web site:
www.clearhillswatershed.com

What Have We Been Up To?

The CHWI since its inception has been taking water quality samples in many of the streams in the southern half of the County on a regular basis.

We have also been busy working on a website to help provide a centralized space to share information with the community and likewise to have the community share with us.

We have also had speakers come into our meetings. Some have been those helping with the new Water for Life program in Alberta. Others such as Ducks Unlimited have been addressing programs which many in the area may use in the future.



Chad Larsen and Rhonda Bjornson testing the Montagneuse River for CHWI



The Montagneuse River in the fall of 2008. Clearly this will affect wildlife, aquatic life and riparian growth.

Government Monitoring Programs

Monitoring has been occurring in our region for awhile now on specific lakes and streams by Environment Canada, Alberta Environment and Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESAs).

Environment Canada has been monitoring the Eureka, Clear, Montagneuse and Hines Creek since 1971. This data can be found at www.wsc.ec.gc.ca/hydat/H2O.

Alberta Environment has been monitoring the Notikewin, Doig and Clear rivers since 1982. Also water levels at both Sulphur and Stoney lake.

What's Next For Us?



The coming years will be important ones in the region as nuclear, bioenergy, and hydroelectric energy come to the forefront. Data collection will be invaluable and we hope to continue to expand this process. One of our main goals, as always, will be to gather the information we have and present it to the public and encourage public participation in our future endeavours to facilitate education on water related issues. Lastly we hope to begin to rectify situations that are causing harm to our watershed.

