



Alberta Water Quality Awareness Day – June 5th 2009 **Albertans are testing water for aquatic health!**

This summer thousands of Albertans will be working together to create a province-wide snapshot of water quality with free water testing kits provided by the Alberta Water Quality Awareness Day program. Alberta Water Quality Awareness Day is June 5th, in support of World Environment Day and Environment Week.

Participants include individuals and families, students and teachers, youth groups and watershed groups in rural and urban areas. A high level of interest and participation throughout the province illustrates the common interest in water protection and preservation among Albertans. Free kits were distributed in early May for the testing of lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands for basic aquatic health.

What is Alberta Water Quality Awareness Day?

Alberta Water Quality (AWQA) Day is a province-wide program focused on increasing the awareness and understanding of water quality and watershed health, through hands-on water quality testing. People of all ages and backgrounds participate in the program, exploring their local streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands with their free water quality test kit from May 1st to August 31st and then posting their findings at www.awqa.ca. The findings are compiled annually to create a citizen-generated snapshot of water quality in our province. The program is modeled after World Water Monitoring Day, a successful global program that promotes watershed protection through public stewardship.

Why is AWQA Day important?

There is a growing concern for water in Alberta, and the recognition that we need to manage our water resources in a more sustainable fashion. AWQA Day provides an accessible and fun way for Albertans to become more familiar with water quality. The program encourages Albertans to take ownership of their water resources at a local level and to become active in their watersheds.

How can I get involved this year?

If you were not able to register for a free kit before April 30th, you will need to find a group that has a kit and is looking for additional volunteers to participate. Contact us for a referral to a registered group and to be sent an E-mail reminder to register for next year's program. You can also bookmark our website, www.awqa.ca and follow along as updates are posted with results, photos, etc.

For more information on Alberta Water Quality Awareness Day please visit www.awqa.ca.

Contact:
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AWQA Day is a program of the **Alberta Lake Management Society** in partnership with:

Inside Education, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Food, Alberta Environment, and the the Alberta Stewardship Network.

Sponsors: **Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows, EPCOR, Shell, TD Friends of the Environment, Gartner Lee, Marie Lake Air and Watershed, Lakeland Industry and Community Association, and Mountain Equipment Co-op**