

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Restored fishery, Lakeside Education and Walk of Fame Planned for Muir Lake

EDMONTON, January 28, 2003– For the past year, the Muir Lake Project team, who are a group of anglers, conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts all wanting to celebrate angling in Alberta, have been working on plans to create an angling (fishing) walk of fame, restore a lost fishery and create an education centre designed to explain the ecology of pot hole trout lakes to school children and adults. Tim Doskoch, Chairman of the Muir Lake Project, announced the plans today.

Mr. Doskoch also released the web address for the project: <http://ecn.ab.ca/edmt trout/muir.html>. The site includes an aerial view of the lake and proposed site for the walk of fame.

Essentially, the Muir Lake Project would entail creating an angling walk of fame to recognize those who have supported Alberta's fishing initiatives and an educational facility designed to explain the ecology of pothole trout lakes. "Our plans for the Muir Lake Project will include creating a lakeside walk of fame to honour the anglers, the innovators and the conservationists who have helped build and protect Alberta's fresh water sports fishery", says Doskoch. "The plan will also address our wish to build a lakeside education centre that will show the connection between anglers, trout and the simple life forms of a pot hole lake. We also strive to create an exceptional trout fishery," he adds.

Muir Lake is located in Parkland County, just north of Stony Plain on township road 540, and was noted for producing large trout in the early 1960's. Successive winter kills, however, extinguished the fishery and the lake is currently barren of game fish.

As part of the plan, the Muir Lake Project team said aerators would have to provide the oxygen needed for trout in small lakes to survive Alberta's winters. There are approximately 20 aerated trout lakes in Alberta.

The lake will be subject to fishing regulations that will ensure trout stocked there grow to a respectable size. These include a limit of one trout per day over 50 cm per angler, the use of artificial lures only, and a seasonal closure from November 1 to May 1 each year.

Outlining the progress to date, Mr Doskoch states "Our group first approached Parkland County in the Fall of 2002 as the County owns the parcel of land slated to host the walk of fame and the education component of the project. At this time Parkland County Council gave approval in principle for the project and directed County administration to work with the Muir Lake project team to bring detailed plans forward to Council. We are now at the stage where we have a concept in place and we are close to bringing our plans forward to Parkland County".

Other groups involved with the Project include the Edmonton Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada, the Northern Lights Fly Tyers and the Edmonton Old Timers Fishing Club.

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