

# WATER QUALITY MONITORING ON STURGEON RIVER

## Training provided for volunteers to collect data.



**Sangudo, Alberta, Thursday, May 4, 2017 –**

The CreekWatch program is coming to Lac Ste. Anne County, and volunteers are invited to participate. CreekWatch is a progressive province-wide program that connects communities with the citizen science relevant to their local natural areas. Volunteers work as part of a team to research and answer the question “How healthy are our creeks?”

Since 2014, the CreekWatch Program has worked with corporate and community volunteers to collect water quality data and improve habitat. These activities contribute in meaningful ways to the understanding and management of urban natural areas.

CreekWatch engages volunteers in authentic science. Volunteers collect weekly data at specified walk-in sites along Alberta's waterways. Each volunteer team has the use of a portable water quality lab for collecting data on dissolved oxygen, phosphates, nitrates, chloride, pH, temperature and turbidity. CreekWatch provides the leadership, science instruction and equipment for a safe and quality experience. Data comparisons help highlight urban impact upon our local waters throughout the open water season March-October.

CreekWatch publishes an annual report card that grades Alberta waters in a comparison of their scoring for each water quality test. The accumulated thousands of data points – combined with hundreds of volunteer hours – truly amounts to something wonderful thanks to each person's incremental contribution!

**In a bid to attract new volunteers, CreekWatch is hosting a training event scheduled for Friday evening, June 9, 2017.**

“This is a great opportunity for adults and their children to work together on a project,” shared Reed Froklage, Citizen Science Coordinator for the RiverWatch Institute of Alberta. Those interested in participating, or wishing to learn more, are encouraged to visit [www.creekwatch.ca](http://www.creekwatch.ca) or contact Lorraine Taylor, Lac Ste. Anne County Conservation Coordinator, at 1.866.880.5722 or email [LTaylor@lsac.ca](mailto:LTaylor@lsac.ca).

The monitoring location is on the Sturgeon River, at the outflow from the east side of Lac Ste. Anne.



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