

Update



Spring 2012

Hello RiverWatchers!

This update is to thank our existing teachers for using RiverWatch Programs with their students and to provide wait-list teachers with information on a few new developments.

The award-winning RiverWatch Science Program is now the most widespread and in-depth environmental field study available to Alberta secondary science students. This year, we're expecting to work with more than 10,000 students, 120 schools and 32 staff in 10 towns and cities!

We (and unfortunately those schools on the wait-list) seem to be the victim of our own success! Because of program demand from so many schools:

- The program schedule is full a year in advance.
- Large and returning schools are given first priority for bookings.
- Smaller and new schools may fit into the schedule.
- The waiting list is in the thousands of students in both the Edmonton and Calgary areas.

For quite some time now, the demand for our programs has been overwhelming. Over the past year, we've been working toward a major expansion in our capacity to address waiting lists. Our bus fleet doubled last fall. This year, we'll be going north to Athabasca and Lac La Biche for the first time and also revisit our past work in Cold Lake, Drumheller and Medicine Hat.

All our groundwork this year will lay the foundation for seeking new funding for additional equipment and staff. We're aiming to see our existing 14-raft fleet and 32-staff increase by 50% in time for Spring, 2013. Our goal is to accommodate 4,000 new students next year – that's the entire waiting list! For those waiting to make bookings, we hope you'll continue to be patient.

As always, we're looking forward to working with you and your students. Our first goal is to look after existing clients and then work toward finding space for wait-list students. If you have any comments or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you. Best wishes for the school year and we'll enjoy seeing you on the river with us sometime soon.

Sincerely,



Cal Kullman
Executive Director

RiverWatch Institute of Alberta
780. 416.1851 riverwatch@shaw.ca
Suite 433, 17008-90 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5T 1L6