



Vision

The Friends of Lake Sakakawea is dedicated to protecting Lake Sakakawea, advocating for sensible policies that benefit the greatest number of lake residents and users, and educating the public about the recreational, economic, and ecological importance of Lake Sakakawea.

Board Member

ChairmanTerry Fleck
Vice Chairman Michael Gunsch
Treasurer Marie Johnson
SecretaryJill Denning Gackle
Exec. Member..... Ron Stromstad

Committees/Board Member

Access

ChairmanMichael Gunsch
MembersEric Jaeger
Corey Paryzek
Shirley Brentrup
Lisa Lone Fight

Liaisons Terry Fleck
Jill Denning Gackle

Contamination Prevention

Chairs Marie Johnson
Blair Ihmels
Vice ChairmanMichael Gunsch
MemberLisa Lone Fight
Liaisons Terry Fleck
Jill Denning Gackle

Financial Development

Chairman Ron Stromstad
Members Bob Valeu
Marie Johnson
LiaisonsTerry Fleck
Jill Denning Gackle

Public Relations

Chairman.....Daryl Hill
Members Bob Valeu
Shirley Brentrup
Liaisons.....Terry Fleck
Jill Denning Gackle

We're not the ENEMY We're the FRIENDS

Friends of Lake Sakakawea is the only organization focused on the economic, recreational and development aspects of the Lake. We promote access and development, we work proactively with agencies charged with lake management such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and N.D. Game and Fish Department. We work to protect the lake from contamination and from Aquatic Nuisance Species – some which can have a devastating impact on cities, towns and industries. We serve as an organization that brings agencies and stakeholders together to make a good lake great!

Unfortunately, we have been miscast by some as being opposed to the oil and gas extraction industry, which is blatantly untrue. Our Board of Directors consists of a conscious group of intellectuals with varied backgrounds who share a single purpose – to protect the most important resource in North Dakota: Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri River. We simply want to assure that best practices are being used to protect water quality when development occurs.

The Friends Board Members will be meeting with state officials and the congressional delegation in the coming weeks to share our philosophies and to learn where our government officials stand on protecting Lake Sakakawea.



Terry Fleck, Ron Stromstad and Michael Gunsch met to talk about what they'd learned during a recent meeting with the U.S. Corps of Engineers about proposed pipelines under the lake, repurposing or coverage of abandoned pipelines and what decisions on flow-age easements could mean for the lake. Chairman Fleck said, "We need to exercise best practices, best practices, best practices. If we're sincere and care about the resource, we have to use the preferred alternative and best practices again and again and again."

GIFTS FOR GREATNESS

Grant campaign available for improvements

Whether it's a campsite improvement, a playground or an AED (for cardiac arrest victims), the Friends are there to help through a program called, Gifts for Greatness. The program provided more than \$16,000 toward a variety of projects in the past few years. We helped fund playground improvements, a campfire ring at a public campground, several AEDs at concessionaire facilities, ambulance building improvements and even kayaks for public use.

Just send a letter to the Friends with a description of the project, a list of other funding sources, a timetable and location description and details on who will benefit from the improvements.

Grants are awarded in the fall.

Application letters may be sent to Friends of Lake Sakakawea, P.O. Box 309, Garrison, ND 58540.

The deadline is May 1.

THE TOLLY



Tolly Holtan on one of her last fishing expeditions on her beloved, Lake Sakakawea.

Friends to present The Tolly – this fall

Tolly Holtan exemplified the can-do spirit. Tolly and her husband, Byron, developed Indian Hills Resort along with their family before selling it to their daughter, Kelly Jo and Dale Sorge. She was a trailblazer in her spirit and conviction.

Tolly was a strong advocate for lake access and frequently spoke to North Dakota's congressional delegation and even traveled to Washington, D.C. in the 1980s to display pictures of the drought ravaged lake to a federal congressional committee. As an avid outdoors enthusiast, she was inducted into the ND Fishing Hall of Fame in 2015, the first woman to receive that honor.

The Friends of Lake Sakakawea wants to encourage that can-do spirit with a new award, The Tolly, will be presented each fall to an individual who exemplifies the can-do spirit of Tolly Holtan.

Applications are a letter describing the individual's accomplishments and worthiness. Please send to Friends of Lake Sakakawea, P.O. Box 309, Garrison, ND 58540. The deadline is Aug. 1.

2017 Tolly recipient

The late Larry Kerzman, long-time board member of the Friends, was recognized with The Tolly in 2017. Like Tolly, Larry, too, was determined to make the lake region a better place for future generations. He was a promoter of fishing and hunting among young people and was delighted when people embraced our region and left it better than they found it.

Larry was among the first board members of Friends of Lake Sakakawea in 2002, when organization formed after the encouragement of U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan. Larry remained on the board as a director until his death earlier this year.

Fifteen years on a board of directors is a long time. He was there for the creation of the first bylaws and membership structure and set the course for the coming years. Larry established strong relationships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the N.D. Game & Fish staffs, which aided the organization during the next 15 years.

When the state or federal government considered any decisions that impacted Wolf Creek, where Larry made his home, he would pick up the phone or schedule a meeting to express his convictions and try to problem solve when needed. He attended many Corps and Friends meetings during the past 15 years, often as a silent observer who would take his knowledge and relationships to quietly work behind the scenes to improve the Lake Sakakawea region. He often spoke of what he wanted his children and grandchildren to enjoy in the future.

Larry didn't approach the Friends' strategies and plans like they were part of a race. He instead looked at the goals and ambitions as long-term goals. He was there when the Friends hit speed bumps or had to find a different course. He rarely showed his frustration publicly with government regulations or naysayers. Instead he would find ways to navigate the course. For him it was a lifelong love of the region that kept him engaged in the work of Friends of Lake Sakakawea.



The family of Larry Kerzman with Kelly Sorge, board member, second from right.