

August 2020



Lakeview Aquatic Consultants Ltd.

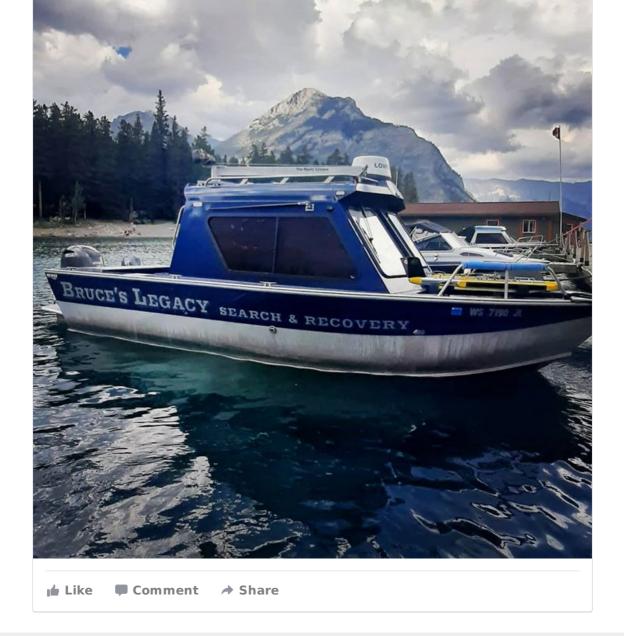


3:14 PM - Aug 2, 2020

Yesterday, I had the incredible opportunity to spend six hours out on the water with Keith & Beth of the non-profit organization Bruce's Legacy. They're here on a three-week search using sonar and a remote operated vehicle (ROV) to recover the body of Yannick Bastien, a man who is presumed drowned in Lake Minnewanka in September 2019. The lake is in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta. It was dammed twice in the 20th century and has dramatic changes in depth (150 - 450 ft) with numerous "holes" and aquifers. Bruce's Legacy has recovered 31 bodies in the last 7 years, but they have their work cut out for them here. Keith's been rescue diving since 1990 and says these conditions are the most challenging he has every experienced anywhere in the world (including last year's recovery in Nepal).

I am grateful to Keith, Beth and Yannick's family (Serge, Caroline, and Chantelle) for allowing me videotape hours of tedious work. I'm putting together a video for YouTube, so please follow us on Facebook (link in bio) for updates when the video will be released. Drowning can happen anywhere anytime, and not all bodies can be recovered to provide families with the closure they need.

#watersafety #drowningprevention #sonar #searchandrescue #recovery #bruceslegacy #lakeviewaquaticconsultnts #banff #technology #lake @ Lake Minnewanka



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Friends & Colleagues,

As fatal and non-fatal drownings spike this summer due to COVID limiting access to lifeguarded pools and beaches, I want to remind you that it's up to us as aquatic professionals to dispel the very basic myths about water safety that continue to promulgate.

The fatal drowning of *Glee* actress Naya Rivera last month prompted a lot of conversations with non-aquatic people about what drowning really looks like. One person in particular said (as though I have secret information), "But

what do you think *really* happened? Drugs? Alcohol? She couldn't just drown."

She could just drown, and she did.

Drowning can happen anywhere, anytime. It cuts across the lines that divide us. By all accounts from Naya's son, they went swimming in water 30+ ft deep, she boosted him back into the boat, and then slipped under. The boat was drifting unanchored, pontoons sit relatively high out of the water, so - sadly - it's probably the case she was too tired to get back in without assistance.

This past weekend I had what was, easily, a highlight of my career, spending a day on the water with Keith & Beth of Bruce's Legacy. Naya's family had closure. The reality is that not all bodies float back up to the surface. Keith & Beth are on a quest to bring closure to the family of Yannick Bastien. His case is just one of many I've read this week where the body has yet to be recovered.

So, as you finish up this work week wondering what you actually accomplished with limited staffing and budget dollars, ask yourself this: Did anyone drown at your facility?

If you answered no, you've done your job. Period.

Katie Crysdale Founder, Lakeview Aquatic Consultants



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by Katie Crysdale Lakeview Aquatic Consultants Ltd.

Tuesday 12, 2020



Virtual Saskatchewan & Manitoba Aquatic Conference (VSMAC)

May 12 - 13, 2020

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