



## **SAGA OF QUILL LAKES FLOODING UNFOLDS**

**. . . by Garry Dixon, PARCS 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

The ever increasing water level in the Quill Lakes has reached the point where emergency measures are required. Since 2005 the Quill Lakes water level has risen more than 6.5 metres and continues to rise an average 2 feet per year.

The Water Security Agency (WSA) also states that if Big Quill Lake rises a further 1 metre it will begin to overflow into Last Mountain Lake, spilling saline waters into the fresh waters of Last Mountain Lake and, potentially, into the chain of lakes downstream in the Qu'Appelle Valley. This potential overflow has the landowners along the lakes very concerned and asking the Water Security Agency how they have let the situation get to this point.

In the fall of 2014 WSA contracted Golder Associates to conduct a flood mitigation assessment of the problem, resulting, in a 67 page report which puts forward twelve recommendations, nine of which are water diversion options. WSA considered diversion four options and is proposing the **Kutawagan Diversion** as the best and cheapest option (\$19M as compared to other options with price tags of \$40M to \$106M).

The Kutawagan Valley lies south west of Big Quill Lake and flows into Big Quill Lake. Saline Creek lies east of Nokomis and drains into Last Mountain Lake. The Kutawagan Diversion Project proposed by WSA would consist of digging a 4 km channel and control structure to allow drainage from the Kutawagan Valley to enter Saline Creek, pass through Peter Lake, and enter Last Mountain Lake at its north east end. WSA states that this diversion would account for about 7% of the water presently entering the Quill Lakes and would create an increasing inflow to Last Mountain Lake of 1.1 to 4.1 cubic metres/second and causing an average increase in the lake's level of 7 cm (2.75 inches).

WSA's concerns stemming from this diversion project center around increased total dissolved solids (TDS) entering Last Mountain Lake and the potential effect on some lake ecosystems. To date, WSA has failed to consider, or ignored, other major increased contaminants such as increased pH, pesticides, herbicides, chlorophyll, etc.

As of August 25, 2015 WSA has discussed, with both the Canadian Environment Assessment (CEA) and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, the possibility of declaring an **environmental emergency exception**. An emergency exemption requires that environmental issues need to be addressed, but work can be completed first and mitigated later (*like dumping sewage in a lake and then saying we will look at the problem later*).

The general consensus from all stakeholders, including the Quill Lake community groups, is that this diversion proposal is only a "band aid" fix and other options are much better.

***An updated status report will be presented at the PARCS convention.***

### **Excerpts from News Release by PC Party of Sask – Sept. 3, 2015**

"This plan which deals with 7% of the water going into the Quills will do nothing but save a portion of the CPR rail track and a couple of miles of Highway #6." Swenson also pointed out "There is not one dollar in the \$19 million price tag allocated to owners of the agricultural land affected."

"Perhaps [***the extra Quill Lakes water***] ***could be substituted for the high quality water out of Lake Diefenbaker that currently supplies the nearby potash industry.*** Our supplies of high quality mountain water in the Saskatchewan River system needs to be safeguarded for future generations of Saskatchewan citizens. We could do that by substituting Quill Lakes water, and help control the lake level"

### **Excerpts from Letter sent to Premier Brad Wall by Cherylynn Walters, Chair of the Crooked/Round Lake Flood Committee – August 25, 2015 (Cherylynn will be speaking at our Convention)**

"The property owners of the Crooked and Round lakes adamantly reject the proposal to lower the Quill lakes water levels by the option outlined in the *Kutawagan Diversion* project. To contemplate any proposal that could in any way increase the level of water in the Qu'Appelle River Basin, cause any ***change in the saline proportions to fresh water***, cause ***further erosion*** and alter/***threaten the ecosystem of the Basin lakes*** is simply reckless.

The property owners of Crooked and Round lakes are taxpayers and voters. Many of our neighbours have sustained major losses to their homes and cottages, and the businesses in the surrounding areas have felt the economic downturn from the flooding of 2011, 2013 and 2014. We are shocked that any consideration of raising water levels would be contemplated. We already know that the lakes that form the Qu'Appelle Valley Basin are overburdened and cannot handle any additional volume of water. The additional water will raise the levels in the lakes, on an annual basis, beyond their capacity, leading to further erosion, imminent flooding, property damage and potential destruction of our ecosystem. Have we learned nothing from the heartache, cost, and loss of the 2011, 2013 and 2014 floods that we have not yet recovered from?"

### **Excerpts from News Release by NDP Party – Sept. 4, 2015**

"This government's reckless plan to divert contaminated, fish-killing saline/salt water into a world-class spawning grounds at Last Mountain Lake, and the Qu'Appelle river basin and lakes could cause irreparable devastation. This reckless plan should be scrapped.

Government is actually trying to bypass an environmental assessment and plow forward. This reckless plan is ineffective, it doesn't fix the problem, and puts so much at risk.

Thanks to so many SK people for taking a stand against this reckless action - environmentalists, conservationists, farmers, fishers, nature lovers, those that cherish our lakes and rivers.

I'm pleased to see a petition on this matter. The more voices now, the better chance to stop this before it's too late."

## **COTTAGE COMMUNITIES AS STEWARDS OF THEIR LAKES - PARCS CONVENTION 2015**

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 16** (At the beautiful Willows Golf Course south of Saskatoon)

**9:00 am** *Registration (Coffee, juice)*

**9:45 am** *Welcome*

### **NEW REGULATIONS GOVERNING COTTAGE COMMUNITIES**

- 10:00 – 11:30 am** New regulations for establishing new OHs and new RVs  
• **Rod Nasewich and Allan Laird**, Ministry of Government Relations  
New regulations for RV and RM councils regarding conflict of interest  
• Ministry of Government Relations, continued

### **UNDERSTANDING THE CAPACITY OF OUR LAKES, KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

- 11:30 – 12:30 pm** Lake Capacity Studies – Lessons learned from working with cottage communities  
• **Vince LaHaye**, Urban Systems

**12:30 - 1:30 am** *Luncheon (Luncheon Speakers – Greetings from Partners)*

### **PARTNERS IN STEWARDSHIP**

- 1:30 - 2:15 pm** The mandate of Saskatchewan Fisheries  
• **Chad Doherty**, Ministry of Environment, Fisheries Branch
- 2:15 – 2:45 pm** The mandate of the fisheries enhancement program and fish hatchery  
• **Adam Matichuk**, Sask Wildlife Federation, Fisheries Project Coordinator
- 2:45 – 3:15 pm** Wetlands: Why they are important to you  
• **Michael Champion**, Ducks Unlimited
- 3:15 – 3:30 pm** *Nutrition Break*
- 3:00 – 3:30 pm** The mandate of Watersheds as stewards of our lakes  
• **Bridget Andrews**, Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW)
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm** What do YOU NEED from PARCS to enhance your role as stewards of your lake  
• **PARCS Directors**, group input session

**7:00 p.m.** **PRESIDENT'S BANQUET**

### **SATURDAY OCTOBER 17**

**9:00 – 11:30 am** **PARCS BUSINESS**

**11:30 – 12:30** *Lunch*

**9:00 a.m.** – Reports  
**9:30 a.m.** - Regional Meetings  
**10:30 a.m.** - *Nutrition Break*  
**10:45 a.m.** - PARCS Annual Meeting

### **STEWARDSHIP OF OUR LAKES and WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT**

- 12:30 - 1:00 pm** Operation and maintenance of onsite wastewater systems in sensitive areas  
• **Lesley Desjardins**, Saskatchewan Chapter of the Western Canada Onsite Wastewater Management Association
- 1:00 – 1:30 pm** Regulatory requirements for private sewage works in resort villages  
• **Kari Engele-Carter**, Senior Public Health Inspector, Saskatoon Health Region

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN PLANNING LAKESHORE DEVELOPMENT**

- 1:30 - 2:00 pm** Integrating conservation and development in resort communities  
• **Gary Howland**, Lumsden Valley Community Association
- 2:00 – 2:30 pm** A New Approach to Water Management in Rural Saskatchewan  
• **Doug Johnson**, Water Security Agency
- 2:30 – 2:45 pm** *Nutrition Break*
- 2:45 – 3:15 pm** WSA role in Applying the "1 in 500 years" (Public Safety section of the SPI Regs)  
• **Bart Oegema**, Water Security Agency
- 3:15 – 3:45 pm** From Crises to Action: The Years of Flooding  
• **Cheryllynn Walters**, Chair of Crooked and Round Lake Flood Committee

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cottage community (or association):

Contact person, name:

Phone number:

Email address:

Easy registration. Copy this form and fill it in. Email it to:

[parcs@sasktel.net](mailto:parcs@sasktel.net)

We will confirm by email.

**CONVENTION** (Includes Friday lunch, Friday banquet plus Saturday lunch, all nutrition breaks)

#### Attending for **both days**

• Number of attending **members** (voting delegates): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 200 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

• Number of attending **non-members**: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 300 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

#### Attending for **Friday (Day only)**

• Number of attending **members** (voting delegates): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 125 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

• Number of attending **non-members**: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 225 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

#### Attending for **Friday (Day plus evening banquet)**

• Number of attending **members** (voting delegates): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 150 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

• Number of attending **non-members**: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 250 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

#### Attending for **Saturday only**

• Number of attending **members** (voting delegates): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 100 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

• Number of attending **non-members**: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 200 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Extra banquet tickets (no spousal packages available): \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### REGISTER SOON by mail or email to:

Lynne Saas, PARCS, Member Services

Box 52, Elbow, SK, S0H 1J0

Phone – 630-9698

Email – [parcs@sasktel.net](mailto:parcs@sasktel.net)

#### TOTAL FEES

\_\_\_\_\_ Fees are enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ Fees will follow by mail

\_\_\_\_\_ Fees will be paid at convention

**Note** – Registrations cancelled after October 1<sup>st</sup> will be invoiced for full fees.

#### MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Rooms are being held on a first come, first served basis. **You must reserve before September 15.**

Rooms will be released after that date. Both hotels are 5 minutes from The Willows. Both are located on the same city lot at 105 Stonebridge Rd (off Clarence Avenue, south of the Ring Road).

#### THE HAMPTONS 665-9898

- 10 kings or 30 double queens at \$149
- Complimentary hot breakfast
- When registering state code: **PCS**

#### FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON 933-9889

- 20 kings or 20 double queens at \$159
- Restaurant on site
- When registering state code: **PARCS** & name **Provincial Association of Resort Communities**