

## PARCS UPDATE #87

May 25 /2018

*They are off and running . . .*

### A made-in-Lake-Diefenbaker plan for Lake Diefenbaker

PARCS Update #85 (April 26/2018) described the April 21<sup>st</sup> PARCS Meeting in Elbow, attended by representatives from most of the communities and organizations around the Lake.<sup>1</sup>

At that meeting, a group volunteered to pursue a plan for protecting their lake. Later approved as a committee of the Waterwolf Regional Planning Authority, the group met to formulate a 4-part plan. They named themselves the Lake Diefenbaker Task Force against Zebra Mussels and made a **FOUR PART PLAN** (see following pages) for saving their lake.



### A plan based on the locations of the 16 launches around the lake

Faced with the fact that the province had failed to include an inspection station that would specifically address the incoming traffic on the TransCanada Highway from the east, the committee's first decision centered on where to locate the inspection station(s) for Lake Diefenbaker. Because Lake Diefenbaker is a reservoir, cottage owners on the lake do not have their own launch on their cottage sites. The lake has **16 community launches** as shown in the illustration above. It was decided to implement **citizens' patrols** in the communities and to locate **3 inspection stations in each of 3 locations**: Elbow Marina (north-east), Sask Landing Marina (south-west) and Palliser Park Marina (south central). See map: ★

<sup>1</sup> Danielson Provincial Park, Douglas Provincial Park, Hitchcock Hideaway, Lake Diefenbaker Tourism, Lakeside Marina in Elbow, Lakeside RV Park at Elbow, OH of Hitchcock Bay, Prairie Lake Regional Park, RV of Beaver Flat, RV of Coteau Beach, RV of Mistusinne, RV of Thode, Sask Landing Marina, Sask Landing Provincial Park, Saskatchewan Irrigators, South Sask River Watershed Stewards, Town of Central Butte, Town of Dundurn, Town of Outlook, Village of Beechy' Village of Elbow, Waterwolf Regional Planning Authority.

## A FOUR PART PLAN:

### PART 1 - Citizen Patrols make referrals to inspection stations

Invitations to join the Citizens' Patrol have gone out to each community around the lake, as well as a few communities on the perimeter around the lake. Invitations state the following (*quote follows*):

#### #1 - Getting started:

**Step one** is for your Council or Governance Board to pass a motion agreeing to be 2018 members of the Lake Diefenbaker Task Force. The implication of the motion would be:

- 1) You would pay the fee for 2018 shown. This is a once-only fee for 2018. (We are hoping to cover most of the equipment and infrastructure costs in 2018 from these and other donations. Operating costs for 2019 would be much less or none depending on sponsorships.)
- 2) **We are requesting payment by June 16 or earlier.** We are asking our own communities on or around the lake to help in these initial early start-up costs, as soon as possible.

**Step two:** As soon as we hear from you, the **Coordinators of the Citizens Patrol** will deliver to you:

- **Signs<sup>2</sup>**. (Meanwhile you will have posts put in place and have cut a piece of plywood, 24" x 32" to nail to the post as backing for the sign.) Upon receipt of the signs you will print the cell numbers of the volunteers who have agreed to work as citizens on patrol, using a black permanent marker.
- A **bundle of pamphlets** that you will use to hand out to your citizens and to out-of-province boater that you interview.
- A single copy of a **children's coloring book** that you can copy and distribute to children in your community.

#### #3 - How it will work

- **Your community will find** at least one, preferable more, citizens who will volunteer to be your Citizens on Patrol. They will understand that **being on the Citizens' Patrol means that they:**
  - Will allow their cell phone numbers to be posted on the signs.
  - Will coordinate with the other Citizens on Patrol so that one of them is in the community most of the time.
  - Will carry the phone number of the inspector at the nearest Marina as well as the phone number of the Marina, in their cell.
- **When they receive a phone call** from a driver of an out-of-province vehicle (or from a citizen reporting such a vehicle in the community), the Citizen on Patrol will proceed immediately to the location of that vehicle and engage the driver in conversation, with the following 3 questions:
  - **1st** - Welcome to \_\_\_\_\_. Our community is part of the Lake Diefenbaker Task Force against Zebra Mussels and we have a few questions we would like to ask. **Where are you from?**
  - **2nd** - **Where did you last have this boat in the water?** (**Alert for any provinces to the east such as Manitoba or Ontario, or any states in the US**)
  - **3rd** - **How long ago did you take the boat out of the water?** (**Alert for anything fewer than 30 days**)



<sup>2</sup> One sign for the entrance of your community. A second sign for your community's boat launch.

- If either of the alerts come up, the Citizen on Patrol **asks the driver to take the boat to the nearest Marina** (Elbow, Palliser Park, Sask Landing) for a formal inspection.
- In the presence of the vehicle's driver, the Citizen on Patrol **phones the cell phone of the inspection person**<sup>3</sup> at the closest Marina and says to the inspector (example follows):

"Hi \_\_\_\_\_, This is \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_. We have a boat here that was in a lake in Manitoba about a month ago. We would like to send him over for an inspection. Yes, right now please. OK, he's driving a red SUV and pulling a blue pontoon boat. His license number is \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>4</sup> He's on his way right now." The Citizen on Patrol thanks the driver for being cooperative.

- If the driver is non-cooperative, the Citizen on Patrol informs the driver that he/she will then have to phone the TIPS line and report the vehicle's license plate number. The vehicle will then be required to meet an inspector at a designated location at a designated time. If the driver still refuses to go the Marina, the Citizen on Patrol calls the TIPS LINE to report this boat.
- **If the inspector finds evidence of zebra mussels**, the inspector will either call the TIPS line requesting a decontamination unit or, if a decontamination unit has been purchased for Lake Diefenbaker, call the Lake Diefenbaker decontamination operator to come in."

**TIPS: 1-800-667-7561**

## PART 2 - Trained staff check boats referred by the citizens patrol

The Task Force plans to hire **3 specially-trained hourly employees** who are trained to do inspections and who will work at each of the **three largest boat launches** on the lake<sup>5</sup>. They have been in conversation with the managers of these marinas who have been receptive to the plan. The Task Force hopes to share the costs of these employee with the marina operators (staff will also collect launch fees and do other duties as assigned by the Marina operators). Sask Environment has promised that Ministry staff will come out and train these employees in the inspection process.

## PART 3 – If mussels are detected, the boat is decontaminated

Ideally the Task Force would like to purchase **two decontamination units** to be located at each of: the northeast at the Elbow Marina and the southwest Sask Landing Marina<sup>6</sup>. For each unit, they will seek to train a mechanically-capable **on-call hourly employee** for conducting a decontamination. Sask Environment has assured us that they will come out and train the person(s) operating the decontamination unit(s).

**Note - The three steps in this process are similar to what happens at the Canada/US border where:**

- 1) **Border officials conduct an initial interview (as do the citizen patrols),**
- 2) **Suspect boats are referred to trained inspectors,**
- 3) **Infected boats are decontaminated.**

<sup>3</sup> Each Citizen on Patrol carries the cell phone number of the staff member at the Marina who is trained in inspections – and also the phone number of the Marina in case there is no answer to the first call. If that trained inspector is not on duty at that time, he/she can be called in and paid overtime to do the inspection.

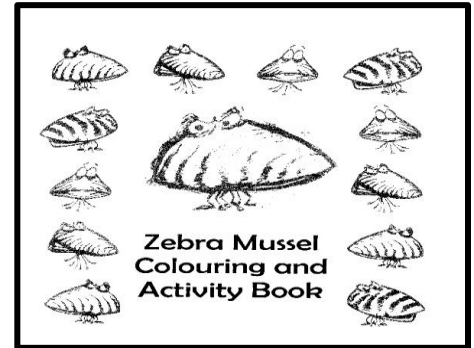
<sup>4</sup> Taking the license number helps ensure that the driver travels to the inspection site.

<sup>5</sup> The Elbow Marina, the Sask Landing Marina and the Palliser Park Marina.

<sup>6</sup> However, these units cost approximately \$35,000 – so the Task Force recognizes that they may be limited to one for the first year.

## PART 4 – Education

The education component includes: **pamphlets** that will be distributed to each residence in the community and to each boat owner interviewed, **children’s coloring books**<sup>7</sup> that will be distributed within each community, and a **Facebook Page** which is up and running.



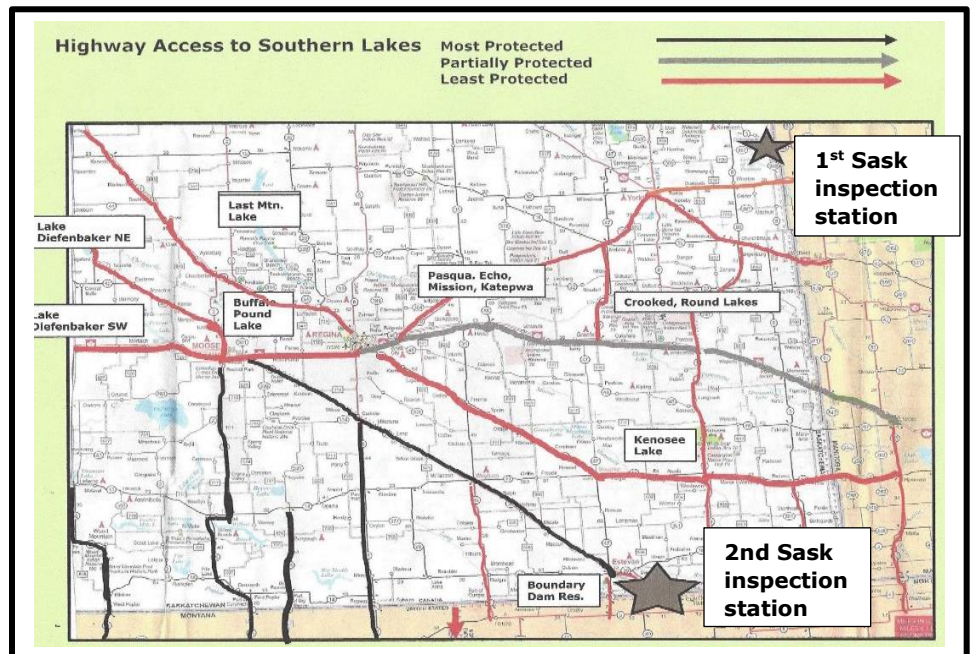
## ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

### 1) How is the Lake Diefenbaker Task Force raising money to pay for their plan?

A **Donors’ Prospectus** has gone out to groups who use Lake Diefenbaker waters, asking for their financial support. However, even if the only monies were from local communities, the plan could ahead, albeit without decontamination unit(s)<sup>8</sup>.

### 2) Why does the Lake Diefenbaker Task Force not feel protected by the new inspection stations recently introduced in the province?

There are excellent reasons for the locations of the two new provincial inspection stations (one near Duck Mountain, another south of Estevan). However, neither does much to protect against traffic from southern Manitoba or North Dakota. The Trans-Canada is only partially protected by the station at Headingly on #1 in Manitoba because it is only open part-time.



**Saskatchewan lakes remain highly vulnerable to infected boats travelling from southern Manitoba and from North Dakota.**

### 3) Is the Lake Diefenbaker Task Force plan suited to other Saskatchewan lakes?

Not necessarily. Each lakeshore community should consider its own situation. Meetings are planned for:

- **Qu’Appelle Lakes** on Sat., May 16, at 1:00 pm, Legion Hall in **Fort Qu’Appelle**
- **Northwestern Lakes** on Sat., May 20, at 1:00 pm, Aquadeo Hall, **Jackfish Lake**
- **North-eastern lakes** – date to be announced in July at **Candle Lake**.

<sup>7</sup> Courtesy Sask Environment

<sup>8</sup> Meaning that owners of infected boats would have to wait for a decontamination unit sent out after a call to the TIPS line.