

OCTOBER 1, 2018

TWO ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE

THIS NEWSLETTER provides a **PREVIEW OF 2 MAJOR ISSUES** on which convention delegates will be asked to **VOTE** at the Oct. 19/20 convention. Those votes will determine the **FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS** that will go forward to:

1. The **Ministry of Government Relations** about **CHANGES TO THE MUNICIPALITIES ACT**.
2. The **Premier** and the **Ministry of Environment** about protecting our lakes from **ZEBRA MUSSELS**.

1 – THE MUNICIPALITIES ACT

1.1 Background Information

“The Ministry of Government Relations is proposing to open up the *Municipalities Acts*¹ for amendments in the 2019-20 legislative session.”

Provincial stakeholders have been invited to bring forward their suggestions for the ministry to consider. On August 21st, President Garry and Coordinator Lynne had a preliminary meeting with Allan Laird and Andrea Ulrich, Senior Analysts with the Policy and Program Services Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations. Once the Ministry has compiled all the recommendations from all stakeholders, they will be sent out for further review and comment. The Ministry has agreed to await Parcs’ final list of recommendations until after ***our member input at our convention***.

1.2 Editorial Comment – from President Garry Dixon

The resolutions proposed were developed from personal experiences and enquiries from other communities. For example, one OH has been waiting 18 months for their RM council to appoint someone to an appeal board. Another example is that several OHs have been refused spending from their own tax levy account, for such things as buying toilet paper for their public washroom or making a charitable donation to a charity in memory of a long-time resident who passed away.² The number of complaints that the Ombudsman’s office has had to deal with is an indication that some councillors do not realize their duties and are in need of training.

1.3 Resolutions being proposed at convention [see page 2]

NOTE – The actual resolutions have been drafted with the necessary references to ***sections of the Act*** and contain the necessary ***“whereas”*** statements, and will go to the resolutions committee one week prior to convention, as per Parcs Bylaw #9(C). For this preview newsletter, however, we have used **SUMMARY STATEMENTS**. Please read the resolutions on the next page and consider how you will vote when the full resolutions come before the annual meeting, at convention.

¹ Includes the Municipalities Act, The Cities Act and the Northern Municipalities Act.

² One RM has refused to allow payment for OH membership in PARCS.

Resolutions being proposed at convention

- **RE - Disputes between OHs and RMs.**

DO YOU AGREE THAT when the OH and RM set out to resolve their dispute by appointing representatives to an appeal board ***there should be a set time frame [ex: 60 days]*** for the parties to be appointed to the Appeal Board?

- **RE - How OHs spend their OH tax levy funds.**

DO YOU AGREE THAT there should ***be a clearer definition of "purposes authorized by the Act"?*** and DO YOU AGREE THAT ***legal fees should be included as an authorized OH expenditure?***

- **RE - The administrator's power to determine the sufficiency of a petition.**

DO YOU AGREE THAT - There should be provision for ***appealing an administrator's decision on sufficiency?***

- **RE - Complaints about local governments to the Ombudsman's Office**

DO YOU AGREE THAT the Ombudsman's office **should have authority to apply to the provincial court for prosecution of criminal activity?**

- **RE - The need for better trained Councils.**

DO YOU AGREE THAT **training for councillors should be mandatory?**

- **RE - The need for a provincial auditor**

DO YOU AGREE THAT there **should be a rural municipal auditor to review and report on council and administration?**

- **RE - The need for better trained Councils.**

DO YOU AGREE THAT **training for councillors should be mandatory?**

- **RE - The need for transparency about legal opinions.**

DO YOU AGREE THAT **legal opinions to councils be made available to the public?**

- **RE - The requirement for a CPA to do a management audit.**

DO YOU AGREE THAT the **Act be amended such that a management audit not require a CPA?**

- **RE - The need for clarity as to the formation of a municipal district.**

DO YOU AGREE THAT the Act be amended to **provide clarity as to the actual process of forming a municipal district?**

- **RE - The need for more equitable number of voters in RM divisions.**

DO YOU AGREE THAT **the provincial government should review the populations of rural municipal divisions every ten years?**

- **RE - The need for clarity in the definition of voter in an Organized Hamlet**

DO YOU AGREE THAT **there is need for more clarity in the MA and LGEA as to who qualifies to vote?**

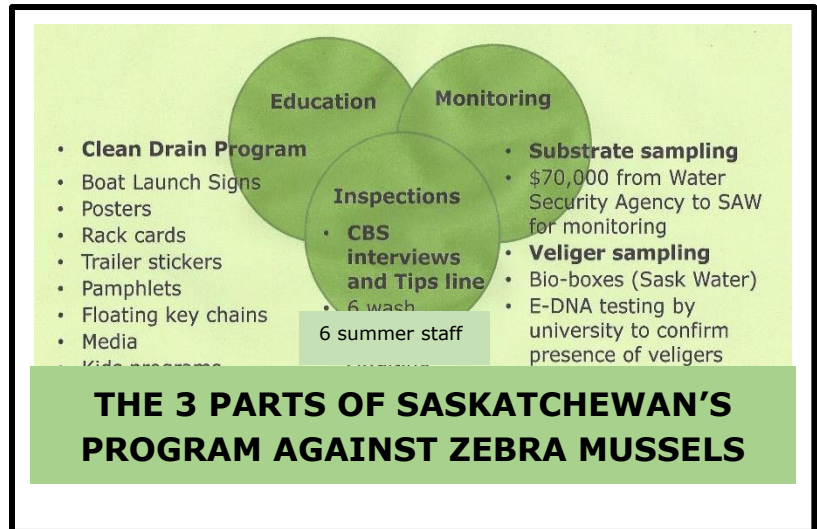
- **RE - The lack of time frame for council motions requiring Ministerial Approval.**

DO YOU AGREE THAT **there be a fixed time for motions requiring ministerial approval to be sent in?**

2 – ZEBRA MUSSELS

2.1 Background Information

In every province or state that has a policy on aquatic invasive mussels, that policy has 3 components: education, monitoring and inspection.

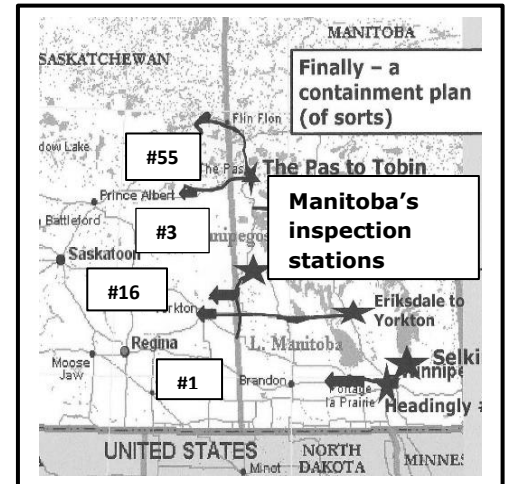


- **Education** is most important for reaching **Saskatchewan boat owners (such as snowbirds)** who might take their boat out-of-province or prospective boat owners who might seek to purchase a boat out-of-province.

- **Monitoring** is important for ensuring a quick response if we do suffer an infestation in one of our lakes. However, if we do have an infestation, we must realize it will be too late to save that lake and others downstream. All monitoring to date, including 2018, has shown **NO MUSSELS IN OUR LAKES.**

- **Inspection stations** are the **only way to keep zebra mussels out of our province.**

- **Alberta** has operated **11 protection stations** since **2015**, (3 on the BC border, 3 on the US border, & 5 on our border).
- **Montana** has operated **30+ stations** (both containment and protection stations since 2 reservoirs were infected in **2016**).
- **Manitoba** opened **6 containment stations** this **past season**, (typically only open for 5 hours a day). Currently Lake Winnipeg, Cedar Lake, and the Red River are infected.
- **Sask** opened **2 protection stations** this past season (1 fixed station **near Estevan** operated **12 hours a day for 4 days a week (1.5 staff equivalents)**, mostly on CBS referrals) Another very part-time fixed station operated near Duck Mountain. Additional hours were allocated for staff at fishing derbies and for the mobile station on #1 one made **a total of 6 staff equivalents in 2018**).



- **Sask also has does follow-up on referral arrangements** with 11 Canada Border Services since **2017** (see next page).
- The **number of hours that a station is open is critical to its effectiveness**

DAYS OPEN	HOURS OPEN EACH DAY	TOTAL # OF SHIFTS	# OF FULL TIME STAFF EQUIVALENTS
7 days per week	24 hours (3 shifts x 2 staff) = 6 shifts	7 X 6 shifts = 42 shifts	42/8 = 5.3 STAFF EQUIVALENTS
7 days per week	12 hours (1.5 shifts x 2 staff) = 3 shifts	7 X 3 shifts = 21 shifts	21/8 = 2.6 STAFF EQUIVALENTS
7 days per week	6 hours (2/3 shift x 2 staff) = 1.4 shifts	7 x 1.4 shifts= 9.8 shifts	9.8/8 = 1.3 STAFF EQUIVALENTS
4 days per week	24 hours (3 shifts x 2 staff) = 6 shifts	4 x 6 shifts= 24 shifts	24/8 = 3 STAFF EQUIVALENTS
4 days / week	12 hrs (1.5 shifts x 2 staff) = 3 shifts	4 x 3 shifts = 12 shifts	12/8 = 1.5 STAFF EQUIVALENTS
4 days per week	6 hours (2/3 shift x 2 staff) = 1.4 shifts	4 x 1.4 shifts = 5.6 shifts	5.6/8 = 0.7 STAFF EQUIVALENTS

2.2 Editorial Comment – from Co-ordinator Lynne Saas

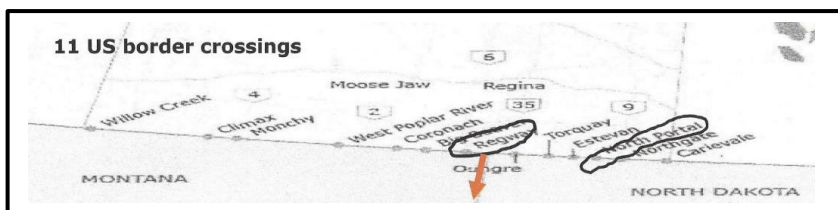
It is my personal opinion that the biggest threat that could result in Saskatchewan suffering an infestation of invasive mussels comes from those persons who have adopted the fatalistic attitude that “an infestation is inevitable – so why waste dollars trying to protect our lakes?” Unfortunately, to date, that may be the unacknowledged opinion of our provincial government.

LITTLE GENUINE CONSULTATION - In 2014 (ch), Parcs put forward a position paper called AIM to STAB³ which called on the province to establish fixed protection stations along the Manitoba and US borders. The paper was never acknowledged. In 2015, Parcs, along with allies recruited to the cause, called on the province to establish a multi-agency task force. While the Task Force came into being, it has devoted most of its agendas to discussing education and monitoring. The Task Force members are informed of decision made rather than being consulted before decisions are taken.

A NEED FOR RISK ANALYSIS - In 2015 (ch), the Provincial Auditor called on the province to adopt a risk-based approach to managing this threat. A risk-based approach would analyze highway traffic coming into our province from infected areas and inspect boats along those highest-risk highways. In the summer of 2018, Parcs consulted with leaders from cottage communities at four consultation meetings held around the province. Leaders from the north-west called on the province to inspect traffic coming in from the east on the Yellowhead and on #3. Leaders from the southeast expressed their feeling of vulnerability to traffic coming in on the Trans-Canada, not only from the east, but also coming up from North Dakota through Manitoba and flowing west. Leaders from the south-west went ahead and set up their own protection plan on Lake Diefenbaker.

NO NEW DOLLARS - In 2018, after Parcs had occasion to speak with Environment Minister Duncan, a verbal promise was made to add ONE fixed station on highway #1 in 2019. There has been no indication of how said station would be staffed. There have been few, if any, new dollars allocated to preventing a mussel invasion. While 6 contamination units and 6 summer staff, along with 1 full-time AIS coordinator are reason for celebration – there is every indication that these expenditures were mostly made by dipping into the Fish and Wildlife Fund. There is no line item in the provincial budget showing dollars devoted to preventing a mussel infestation.

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION – CREATIVE INITIATIVES FROM SASK ENVIRONMENT STAFF – Faced



³ Aquatic Invasive Mussels – Stop Them At the Border

CONVENTION 2018 - 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
 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 \$ **225** = \$ _____
 Names: _____/ _____
- Number of attending **non-members**: _____ x \$ **325** = \$ _____
 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 \$ **40** = \$ _____

TOTAL FEES

\$

- _____ Fees are enclosed
- _____ Fees will follow by mail
- _____ Fees will be paid at convention

Note – Registrations cancelled after October 1st will be invoiced for full fees.

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

HOTEL ROOMS - We have reserved **20 rooms with two queen beds** and **10 rooms with one king bed** for Friday October 19th (and half as many for Thursday, October 18th, and a few for Saturday, Oct. 20th). **Phone: (306) 244-2311**
 Rooms are being held on a first come, first served basis.
You must reserve before Tuesday, Sept 18. On that date, rooms will be released.
 There are other hotels nearby but no rooms have been reserved: the Holiday Inn, at 101 Pacific Avenue - OR - Holiday Inn Express, 315 Idylwyld Drive N. To contact either, call 877-654-0228