

**PARCS UPDATE #41
MARCH, 2014**



**CONVENTIONS PAST &
CONVENTION 2014**

1. CONVENTIONS PAST

During the past five years, PARCS has been pleased to host a convention every fall, as well as a number of other workshops. Sometimes our presenters are kind enough to leave us a copy of their Power Point presentations or their handouts. Attendees often request copies of these materials.

We have recently catalogued these convention materials which tend to fall into five categories, materials about:

- 1) Cottage communities
- 2) Community initiative
- 3) Lakeshore / environmental protection
- 4) Sewage disposal
- 5) Tourism, recreation and wildlife

The Power Point presentations have been converted into PDF documents for ease of emailing.

Lakeside Development

Municipal development permit required for any lot development

Alteration permits required on or within 5 metres of lake bed from Ministry of Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Bank or boundary of lake where vegetation and soil changes

Lot line

Lake side lot privately owned

Lake bed - Crown owned

Municipal or environmental reserve owned by Crown or municipality

Municipal temporary use permit required for any use of reserve

From Power Point presentation about the MUNICIPALITY'S ROLE IN PROTECTING THE LAKESHORE by Ralph Leibel, Ministry of Government Relations, Catalogue #7



Sewage dumped in a ditch alongside a roadway, from the Power Point presentation: LIQUID DOMESTIC WASTE DISPOSAL by Sam Ferris, Water Security Agency, Catalogue #1

Many of our catalogued materials are workshop presentations made by experts in their fields (see above and left). Others are handouts from cottage communities sharing their experiences at our Member Share sessions (see below).

From the District of Lakeland's DOCK AND BOAT LAUNCH POLICY, Catalogue #20

These materials will be emailed out to PARCS members. Just state the catalogue number from the attached catalogue when emailing your request to parcs@sasktel.net.

2. CONVENTION 2014

Our three most recent conventions were held in the Manitou Springs Hotel and Spa. Prior to 2011, our conventions were held at the Saskatoon Inn in Saskatoon

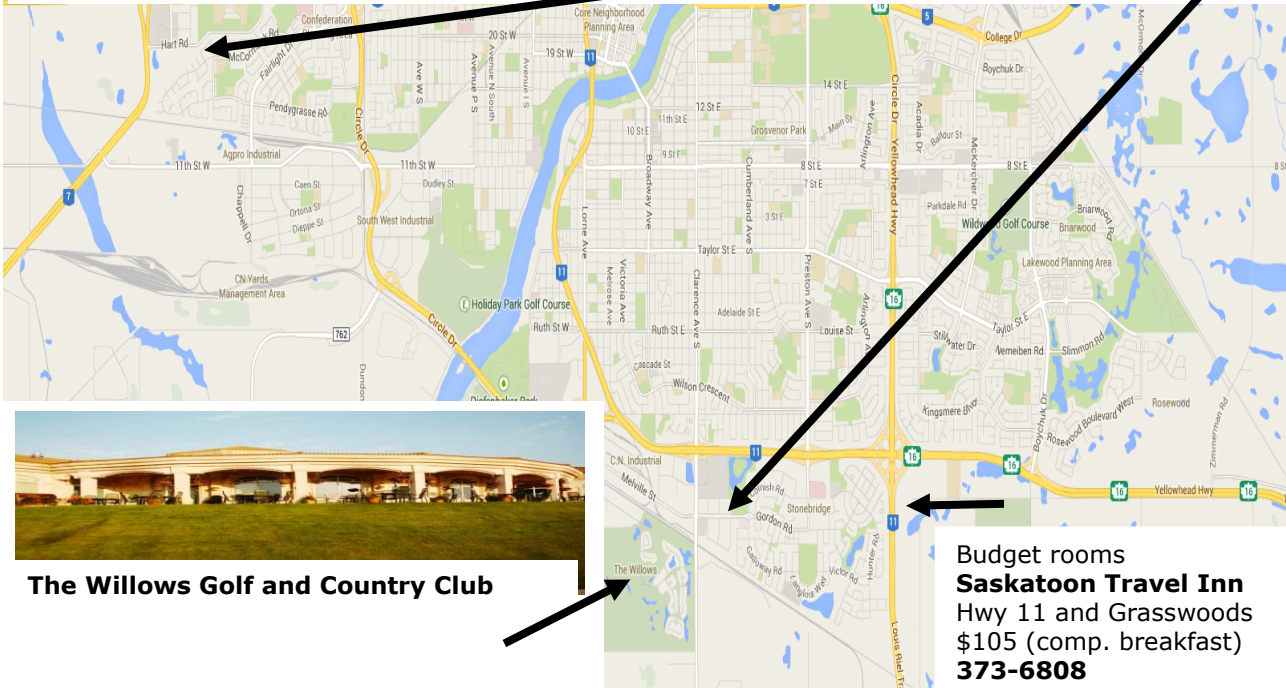
At the 2013 convention, our increasing number of attendees were crowded by the size of the meeting room at the Hotel. Delegates suggested that we try moving the convention back to the city. Therefore, our 2014 Convention, will be held at the beautiful **Willows Golf and Country Club** just south of Saskatoon, on **Fri. /Sat., October 17th/18th, 2014**. Mark your calendar.

Convention 2014

Sessions at the Willow Golf and Country Club

Rooms are being held on a first come first served basis. Phone early to hold your room.

<p>Best Western Blairmore, Hwy 7 and 14 20 double queens at \$149 (comp. breakfast) 242-2229</p>	<p>Four Points by Sheraton, 103 Stonebridge Rd 20 double queens at \$159 (restaurant on site) 933-9889</p>
--	--



The Willows Golf and Country Club

Budget rooms
Saskatoon Travel Inn
Hwy 11 and Grasswoods
\$105 (comp. breakfast)
373-6808

Our keynote address at this special convention will be Brad Peters from the **Alberta Lake Management Society**. We have been speaking with this organization for the past two years, trying to arrange for them to share their expertise with our membership. Arrangements for other sessions are in the works. Watch for registration materials in our next newsletter.

We suggest that you take advantage of the special room prices at the **Best Western Blairmore** (\$149 reduced from \$179) and the **Four Points Sheraton** (\$159 reduced from \$189). Call and book one of these **40 rooms** now for the night of Oct. 17th. You can always cancel if things change.

3. BETWEEN CONVENTIONS – WHAT’S NEW

In addition to convention planning, your PARCS Board of Directors has been busy on your behalf:

- As a cost savings measure, we have been learning how to hold our **meetings by teleconferencing**, a big learning curve for all of us.
- We have **updated our web site**. The new web site allows for us to do our own updates and thus to keep it more current. Check out www.parc-sk.com.
- We have continued our lobby on behalf of **fairness in education property taxes** as outlined for you in our January newsletter (see our web site, if you’ve misplaced your copy). We called on the province to:
 - Collect **education tax on farm homes** as is done on residences in towns and in cottage communities.
 - Collect **education tax on cottages in provincial and federal parks** as is done on other cottages in the province.
 - Implement **a tax deferral program for senior home owners**.

On March 7th executive members John Quinn and Garry Dixon, along with coordinator, Lynne Saas, were finally able to meet with Minister Reiter. They argued the case for a minimum tax on all residences (including those on farms and in provincial parks). The meeting was courteous but we did not feel that we had a sympathetic audience. Stay tuned for the budget announcements next Wednesday, March 19th.

- We heard **concerns from cottage communities whose sewage haulers were not allowed to field spread during this past winter**.
 - Residents in cottage communities on Tobin Lake reported that their pump-out fees had quadrupled because haulers were forced to travel long distances to dump in the only lagoon available to them.
 - Year-round residents in cottage communities on Last Mountain Lake were suddenly informed last week by their haulers that services would be cut off immediately because haulers had been winter field spreading. This potentially disastrous situation was averted by the pro-active efforts of PARCS director Garry Dixon on behalf of his RM who was able to negotiate temporary space in a nearby lagoon.
 - Bringing their sewage disposal up to code remains a top concern for a number of Saskatchewan cottage communities.
- Your Board of Directors has been busy year round.

PARCS Directors

For names and contact numbers of the PARCS Board of Directors, check our web site www.parc-sk.com

Whose responsibility is it to ensure that cottage owners have sewage disposal services?

In the PARCS survey conducted last summer (**see catalogue #4**), when cottage communities were asked whether their communities were making plans for new sewage disposal methods to meet the new codes, we were astounded that a few communities replied, “It’s not our concern, that’s between the cottage owner and the haulers.” PARCS would point out that when residents are given permits to build cottages, there is an expectation that health and safety services will be provided.

Some communities asked, “When did these regulation change?” Note that when Sam Ferris addressed the PARCS convention last fall (**see catalogue #1**), he confirmed that the rules against winter spreading continued in effect as they had always been.