

# PARCS UPDATE #52 JUNE, 2015



# FOLLOW-UP TO OUR CURRENT ISSUES

## ISSUE #1 – THE THREAT OF INVASIVE MUSSELS

The article below is from the from the Calgary Herald, May 21<sup>st</sup> edition.

### “Boat infested with invasive mussels intercepted at Sylvan Lake

A boat overrun with invasive mussels was intercepted by Alberta’s watercraft inspectors before it made it into Sylvan Lake on the May long weekend.

It was discovered during one of the mandatory inspections, which started over the weekend on highways coming into Alberta and at lakes across the province.

“It was amazing,” said Cindy Sawchuk of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. “It’s scary, also. It had mussels on it.”

The owner, who had bought the boat in Ontario, was about to launch it at the Sunbreaker Cove launch at Sylvan Lake when the inspectors found the mussels. He was fully cooperative and the boat will be decontaminated by the province’s specialized teams.

Sawchuk said it was one of 269 boats inspected on the May long weekend for the invasive mussels.

Mandatory boat inspections took place across the province on the May long weekend.

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Sawchuk said they found a total of seven “high-risk” boats, which either came from a mussel-contaminated province or state, looked dirty or slimy or had standing water after being in an area with invasive mussels.

Three of those boats were given hot water washes to ensure they were not contaminated, she said.

Officials reminded Albertans to clean, drain and dry their boats to prevent the mussels from damaging Alberta’s aquatic ecosystems.

The invasive species — Zebra and Quagga mussels, are spreading throughout the western United States and Eastern Canada, making it as far west as Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. There’s no record of the non-native mussels in Alberta waterways, but several infested boats have been intercepted in the past couple of years.

It’s estimated it would cost about \$75 million in annual losses if they were to establish



themselves in Alberta’s lakes and rivers due to a drop in tourism dollars, as well as the potential to clog pipes and irrigation canals throughout the province.

If you need more information or see something suspicious on your boat, call 1-855-336-2628 (BOAT)”

**[Editor’s note – the above is an Alberta number. Saskatchewan boats showing possible evidence of these mussels should be reported to the Saskatchewan TIPS # 1-800-667-7562] .**

## **INVASIVE SPECIES - continued**

### **What has PARCS done?** PARCS has:

- Lobbied the Minister of Environment<sup>1</sup> to provide a staff person exclusively assigned to coordinating the fight against the entry of these mussels into our Saskatchewan Lakes.
- Provided each cottage community with a map and contact name for their local watershed (See PARCS Update #49 on the PARCS Website)
- Provided each watershed coordinator with a list (and contact information) for each cottage community within their watershed.

### **What has the Ministry of Environment done?** The Ministry of Environment has:

- Printed printed posters and pamphlet for distribution by volunteers.
- Hosted a coordination meeting with PARCS and the Watershed Coordinators
- Purchased a boat decontamination unit and trained officers in its use.
- Provided an officer and the decontamination unit at the spring Walleye Derby on the Rafferty Dam,
- Set up a training session for the Watershed Coordinators on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**What has the Saskatchewan Association of Watershed agree to do?** SAY has agreed to coordinate the monitoring efforts at the lake level. Coordinators will receive their training on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **What do communiies need to do?**

First, each community needs to exert due diligence. For example, for the Walleye Derby in Elbow at the end of May, we asked one of their committee what they would be doing about the threat of invassive species (note their reply in the insert).

Secondly, ***each cottage community needs to contact the coordinator of their watershed and ask about a meeting of represetatives from each***

***community on the lake for the purpose of make a coordinated plan.***

“He said he always checks the live wells (not for invasive species but for fish being brought in to cheat), but would be sure to watch for other problems during that process. He also said he does a walk around the boats but does not check the bilge area. He says this is really to be handled by Environment, and he was hopeful that they would be bringing their response unit to the tournament, although he did not know this for sure.” They have put up the CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY POSTERS and will be handing out pamphlets.

<sup>1</sup> With a cc to the Premier. The Minister wrote back describing the initiatives already undertaken but making no reference to our request for dedicated staff.

## **ISSUE #2 – NEW CRITERIA FOR:**

- (1) ESTABLISHING NEW ORGANIZED HAMLETS**
- (2) INCORPORATION NEW RESORT VILLAGES<sup>2</sup>**
- (3) DISSOLUTION OF COMMUNITIES WITH FEWER THAN 100 POP.<sup>3</sup>**

In 2013, the Policy Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations issues a discussion paper on their proposals regarding the above topics of particular interest to small communities. PARCS prepared a Position Statement and met with Ministry staff to present our position on your behalf.

In 2015, The Ministry returned for further input regarding their specific proposals for amendments to *The Municipalities Regulations* in order to complete implementation of amendments to *The Municipalities Act* in 2013-14. This spring your PARCS Board of Directors met with Rod Nasewich and Allan Laird from the Ministry to discuss these proposed regulations. Although your PARCS Executive was disappointed that the Ministry had not granted the specific guidelines proposed by PARCS, they were gratified that the new regulations made allowance for Ministerial exception which, we felt, would address some of the specific concerns of resort communities.

PARCS has invited representatives from the Ministry to ***speak at our fall convention*** and to present these new criteria to our membership, along with a review of PARCS presentation of the issues and their effects on our communities.

## **ISSUE #3 – MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT “REP BY POP”**

The following is a further explanation of the term “rep by pop” for cottage communities”

“Let me explain using the provincial example. Saskatchewan members of the legislature are elected under “rep by pop”. Each constituency consists of roughly 13,000 voters within its boundaries (plus or minus 5%). The population quotient is determined using a formula found within the Elections Act. Every 10 years a Boundaries Commission is established to review the boundaries, and if necessary to redraw the boundaries to maintain “rep by pop”. That is why, in 2012, the Boundaries Commission changed the number of Sask constituencies from 58 to 61. With the exception of the two northern constituencies, all the current boundaries lines have changes for the next provincial election. We are maintaining rep by pop at the provincial level.

In 1914 legislation divided each Saskatchewan rural municipality into 6 divisions with approximately equal populations. Today, if your RM had “rep by pop”, each of the 6 councillors would be elected by approximately 200 electors. So one would expect that if, out of the total 1200 ratepayers, 987 live in cottage communities, about 75% of the councillors would be from those cottage communities. You are not alone, many rural municipalities do not have “rep by pop”.

## **ISSUE #4 – PERMANENT COTTAGE RESIDENTS MISSED DURING ENUMERATION**

In past provincial elections, people whose permanent residence was located in a cottage community were not always enumerated for the voters list (often because enumeration took place in the fall when many cottage residents were away from their cottages).

***We strongly urge that Resort Village Councils and Organized Hamlet Boards forward page 4 of this newsletter to all permanent residents in their cottage communities.***

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<sup>2</sup> And regular villages

<sup>3</sup> Population meaning permanent residents as per census Canada

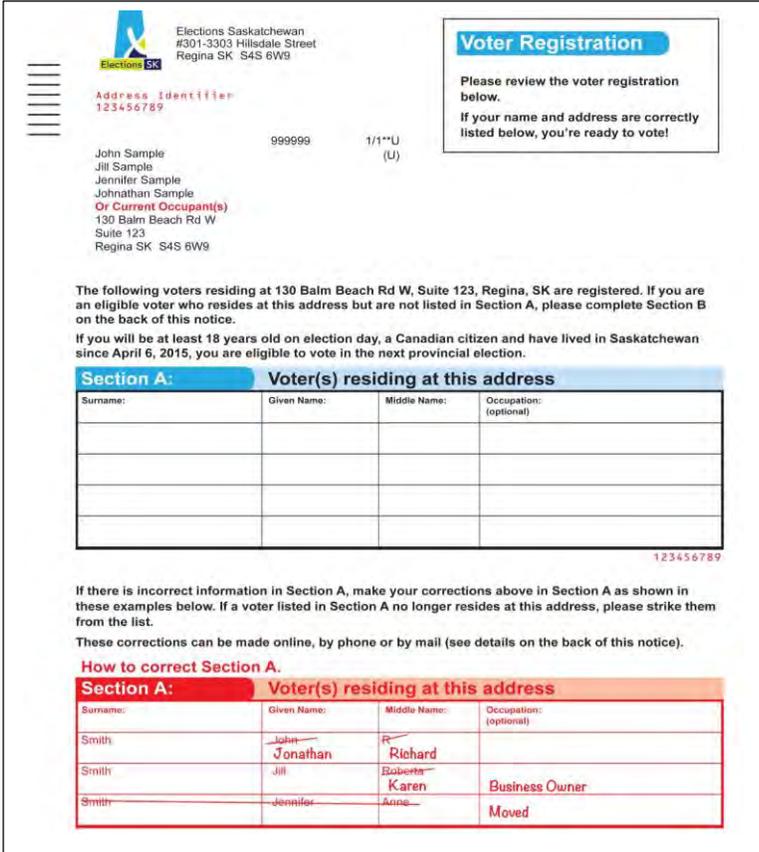
**TO – ELIGIBLE VOTERS WHO ARE PERMANENT COTTAGE RESIDENTS** <sup>4</sup>

In past provincial elections, people whose permanent residence was located in a cottage community were not always enumerated for the voters list. Elections Saskatchewan is currently in the process of compiling a **PERMANENT REGISTRY OF SASKATCHEWAN VOTERS**.

For the upcoming provincial election<sup>5</sup>, only a few areas will be visited by enumerators.<sup>6</sup>

Instead, during the last week of May, letters were mailed listed on the federal registry of voters. The photos on this page show you what your letter should look like. **IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A LETTER** or if there are errors on your letter, you should:

- 1) Register online at <http://www.elections.sk.ca/voterregistration/>, or
- 2) Register by phone by calling **1-877-958-8683**, or
- 3) Mail in your reply to the address on the letter.



**Voter Registration**

Please review the voter registration below. If your name and address are correctly listed below, you're ready to vote!

**Section A: Voter(s) residing at this address**

Surname:	Given Name:	Middle Name:	Occupation: (optional)

**How to correct Section A.**

**Section A: Voter(s) residing at this address**

Surname:	Given Name:	Middle Name:	Occupation: (optional)
Smith	<del>John</del> Jonathan	<del>R</del> Richard	
Smith	Jill	<del>Roberta</del> Karen	Business Owner
Smith	<del>Jennifer</del>	<del>Alice</del>	Moved

at least 18 years old on November 2, 2015, a Canadian citizen and have lived in Saskatchewan since April 6, 2015, you are eligible to vote in the next provincial election.

**Missing or Additional Voters**

Given Name: *required	Middle Name:	Occupation: (optional)	Date of Birth: YR / MM / DD *required

Register or update your information

2. **Telephone**  
Call us 1-877-958-8683.

3. **By Mail**  
Mail this Voter Registration Notice to us in the envelope supplied by July 31, 2015.

**From Saskatchewan's Chief Electoral Officer**

Electoral Officer is in the process of establishing a permanent register of voters for Saskatchewan no longer need to collect information from voters before every election.

When this register was established an information sharing agreement between Saskatchewan and Elections Canada.

This notice was provided by Elections Canada to Elections Saskatchewan under the Access to Information Act.

If the information on this voter registration notice is correct, you are helping build an accurate voter register in Saskatchewan. In the future, all provincial voters lists will be produced from this register.

Thank you for helping improve the



Dr. Michael Boda  
Chief Electoral Officer  
Province of Saskatchewan

**IT'S UP TO YOU TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE SASKATCHEWAN VOTERS' REGISTRY!**

<sup>4</sup> If your cottage is your primary residence then you must cast your vote in the constituency where your cottage is located. It doesn't matter if you are a snowbird who departs early in the fall, you can still vote by absentee ballot.

<sup>5</sup> The next Sask Provincial Election is scheduled for **November 2, 2015**. If a federal election is called this fall, the Permanent Registry of Voters will be used for the **deferred Provincial Election on April 4, 2016**.

<sup>6</sup> Areas that have changed in recent years such as Stonebridge in Saskatoon or Harbour Landing in Regina (among others)