



## **BIG QUILL LAKE VERSUS LAST MOUNTAIN AND QU'APPELLE LAKES**

PARCS has recently learned that the **Water Security Agency** is investigating a potential project to divert water away from Big Quill Lake to Last Mountain Lake in order to prevent the rise and overflow of the Quill Lakes, the proposed **Kutawagan Diversion Project**.

Local governments have been invited to a series of meetings (each from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm) as follows:

- **Today Tuesday, August 25th in the Bulyea Community Hall,**
- **Wednesday, August 26th at Regina Beach Memorial Hall**
- **Thursday, August 27th at the Wynyard Civic Centre.**
- **Thursday, Sept. 3 at the Quill Lake Service Centre**

The meetings are advertised "to discuss the information about the project and ensure communities are informed." WSA also promises to host future "open houses". The information in the insert was taken from their website.

The **Crooked and Round Lake Flood Committee** has come out strongly opposed to the proposed project that would divert water away from the Quill Lakes, stating that the project could be harmful to the Qu'Appelle lake system.

The following are excerpts from a CBC news report.

(<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/residents-say-proposal-could-be-disaster-for-last-mountain-lake-1.3197032>)

"We want a unanimous decision by the property owners of the valley and we will join with Calling Lakes as a united front for all of the lakes in the chain," said **Cherylynn Walters**, chair of the committee, ahead of Wednesday's meeting.

"To cease all further activity until there has been full impact studies, full consultation with the property owners ... and an informed decision about how we can address the Quill Lake issue."

### **Quote from the Water Security Website**

Due to the cumulative effects of a number of years of heavy precipitation and run off, water levels on Big Quill Lake and Little Quill Lake have surpassed all previously recorded levels. This has resulted in the lakes joining and flooding infrastructure and agricultural land.

This is unique and challenging for three reasons: the Quill Lakes are terminal basins and therefore do not have a natural outlet; the water in the lakes is saline; and there is the potential for the Quill Lakes to overflow into Last Mountain Lake.

The Water Security Agency (WSA) has studied this issue and has been looking into options on how to protect Last Mountain Lake from the negative effects of an uncontrolled overflow of water from Big Quill Lake while also protecting farmland and highways.

Currently, WSA is investigating a potential project to divert water away from Big Quill Lake to Last Mountain Lake in order to prevent the rise and overflow of the Quill Lakes.

Local governments are being invited to a series of meetings to discuss this information and ensure they are informed of a potential project. WSA will also hold open houses to provide information and answer questions.

WSA commissioned Golder Associates to look at the issue and provide project options to reduce risk of overflow and mitigate damage to infrastructure and farmland. ([www.wsask.ca](http://www.wsask.ca))

Cherylynn Walters says nearly everyone in attendance, which she says was more than 100 people, agreed to submit a petition to the legislature asking that the project not start until various studies are completed.

The issue is record high water levels on Big Quill Lake and Little Quill Lake, caused by heavy precipitation and run off, and subsequent flooding.

"We're particularly concerned about the potential impacts on the highway, the railway, the farmland, and obviously the saline water going into Last Mountain Lake," said Patrick Boyle, spokesperson for the Water Security Agency (WSA).

### **Committee calls project a 'Band-Aid' solution**

The Water Security Agency says the salinity of Last Mountain Lake fluctuates and it already experiences the level it would if the Kutawagan Diversion Project goes through. (CBC)

Although Walters said a solution is long overdue, she said the Kutawagan Diversion Project is not the right one. It would see the Kutawagan Creek diverted away from Big Quill Lake.

The WSA said this would reduce the flow of water into Big Quill Lake, while possibly reducing the flooding of farmland, highways, and the overflow of saline lake water into Last Mountain Lake.

But the Crooked and Round Lake Flood Committee says Kutawagan Creek is saline water itself, so it would be harmful to the very lake the WSA says it's trying to protect.

"It will be an absolute disaster because they're trying to push through a Band-Aid treatment for the Quill Lakes," said Walters. "It's going to push the disaster further down the stream."

Boyle said the salinity of the creek, which is roughly 2,400 millimetres per litre, is equal to what can be seen in Last Mountain Lake, which fluctuates in salinity. "If we don't do anything and [Big Quill Lake] overflows naturally, there'll be 8,000 milligrams per litre of total dissolved solids of natural overflow that'll go into Last Mountain Lake."

### **Consultation questioned**

Walters is also concerned with how this project is unfolding. "You can't just ram this down our throats like this," she said. She is concerned about a tender she saw on the internet for the project and is urging concerned folks to sign the petition at:

**<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-additional-water-from-entering-the-quappelle-river-chain.html>**

Boyle said the WSA will consider that information, as well as its consultation with the public, before making a decision on the project in the fall.

#### **NOTE:**

*Cherylynn Walter* will be one of our speakers at our upcoming PARCS convention. Her topic is "From crises to action"

*Doug Johnson from the Water Security Agency* will be another speaker, addressing "Drainage Issues."

*It promises to be an interesting convention. Have you registered? The Program and Registration Form are attached.*

## 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*

9:45 am *Welcome*

### NEW REGULATIONS GOVERNING COTTAGE COMMUNITIES

10:00 – 11:15 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

11:15 – 11:30 am *Refreshment Break*

### 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 The mandate of Ducks Unlimited as stewards of our wetlands

• **Charles Deschamps**, 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

9:00 a.m. – Reports

9:30 a.m. - Regional Meetings

10:30 a.m. - *Nutrition Break*

10:45 a.m. - PARCS Annual Meeting

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 17

9:00 – 11:30 am **PARCS BUSINESS**

11:30 – 12:30 *Lunch*

### STEWARDSHIP OF OUR LAKES and WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

12:30 - 1:00 pm Operation and maintenance of onsite wastewater systems in sensitive areas

• **Lesley Desjardin**, Sask. Chapter of the Onsite Wastewater Mgmt. Assoc.

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 Illegal drainage into lakes

• **Doug Johnson**, Water Security Agency

2:30 – 2:45 pm *Nutrition Break*

2:45 – 3:15 pm Implications of the "1 in 500 years" guidelines

• **Bart Oegema**, Water Security Agency

3:15 – 3:45 pm From Crises to Action: The Years of Flooding

• **Cherylynn Walter**, 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**