



HAS SASKATCHEWAN DODGED THE BULLET IN 2015?

Gord Mayer, member of our PARCS Board of Directors, makes frequent trips from his home in Alberta to his cottage on Iroquois Lake in north-western Saskatchewan. He travels on the Yellowhead Highway, #16, through Lloydminster. As he enters Alberta, he notes the checkpoint on the edge of the highway instructing vehicles towing boats to pull over for an inspection. The last time he travelled that way, he pulled over and had a chat with the inspection officer. She informed Gord that so far this year she has found 8 boats infected with the invasive Zebra or Quagga Mussels. Each time, the boats were decontaminated and the boats ultimately allowed into Alberta. The Alberta lakes were thus protected from contamination.

Because the closest known lakes already infected with these invasive species are in Manitoba or the United States, we can assume that those 8 boats likely travelled through Saskatchewan on their way to Alberta. They would not have been stopped as they entered Saskatchewan because our province has a different approach to *safeguarding our lakes*, one that could be compared to "locking the barn door after the horse has bolted".

IN SASKATCHEWAN the approach to combatting these invasive species is an **educational approach**. The "Clean, Drain, Dry YOUR BOAT" program, co-sponsored by the Sask Ministry of Environment and Sask Power, is a "program focusing on raising public awareness to protect Saskatchewan waterways from the spread of harmful AIS".¹ Their literature requests boat owners, "before returning home from out of province, coming to visit or moving between waters within the province" to clean, drain and dry their boat. Our Ministry of Environment has also implemented a TIPS number (**1-800-667-7561**) for reporting suspect invasive species, purchased a single decontamination unit and trained conservation officers in its use. The Saskatchewan Watersheds have committed to assisting with this educational program. PARCS has offered the watersheds contact information for the cottage communities in each of the watersheds. Perhaps your community been approached and invited to an informational session. Perhaps you have been provided with posters to put up at your marinas and boat launches. Perhaps you have volunteered to take water samples from your lake and submit results to the provincial data base.²

At the PARCS convention (see program on page 3), delegates will have an opportunity to ask Sask Watershed speakers about the uptake to the Ministry's educational program.

IN ALBERTA, in the spring of 2015, the Alberta Government enacted changes to legislation³ aimed at protecting their provincial water bodies from the infestation of aquatic invasive species. The law state that, when highway signage indicates that a watercraft inspection station is open, it is mandatory that all carriers of water-based vessels must report to the onsite inspectors to have their boats, trailers and other water-related equipment checked for invasive species such as the zebra and quagga mussels. ***It's the law.***

¹ From the Clean, Drain, Dry brochures and posters

² To determine whether the horse has indeed bolted out of the stable.

³ <http://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/province-introduces-mandatory-boat-inspection-legislation>

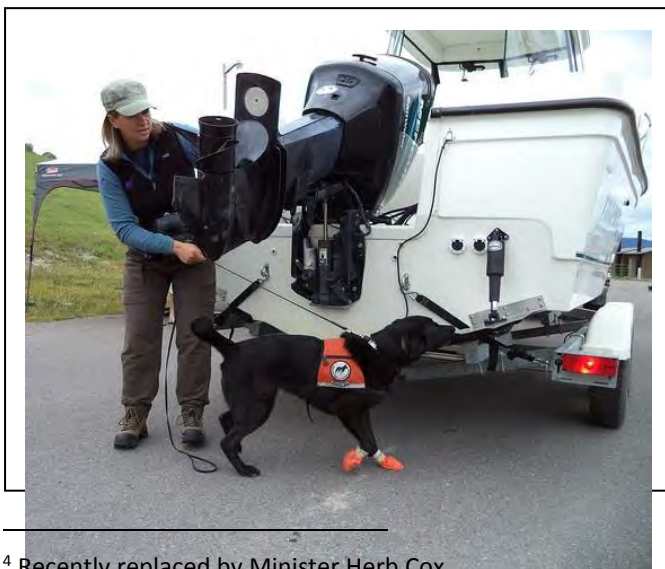
In Alberta, bypassing an open inspection station while carrying a water-based vessel is a violation of the Fisheries Act and can result in fines to individuals of up to \$100,000 or 12 months in prison, in addition to creative sentencing orders that may be issued to convicted persons at the discretion of the courts.

Kyle Fawcett, Alberta's Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, states that **"Aquatic Invasive Species are one the largest threats facing Alberta's waterways and biodiversity. The inclusion of mandatory boat inspections and sniffer dogs to our Aquatic Invasive Species program are essential tools in our arsenal against a zebra and quagga mussel infestation."**

Scott Moe⁴, Saskatchewan's Minister of Environment, in response to a letter from PARCS expressing our concerns about the threat of these invasive species, replied on May 6th announced Aquatic Invasive Species Week and invited PARCS to **a media event unveiling the province's educational program.**

Saskatchewan does not have a border inspection program, either at the Manitoba or at the US border. While such a program would be costly, perhaps we are being penny wise and pound foolish, as we examine the Alberta government estimates of the annual cost of an invasive mussel infestation⁵:

Power generation	5,938,487
Drinking water systems	20,839,921
Boat maintenance	390,600
Recreational Fishing	21,830,892
Water mgmt. structures	8,841,373
Water diversion intakes	3,910,000
Property values	<u>13,789,500</u>
Total annual cost estimate	\$ 75,540,773



Craig Peterson, Councillor for the RV of Mistusinne on Lake Diefenbaker recently commented to PARCS on his bewilderment upon visiting Alberta on Highway #7 and encountering the MANDATORY BOAT INSPECTION sign. Craig knows that "Lake Diefenbaker has been designated as the second most at-risk lake for mussel infestation because of its many international fishing derbies. Why is our province not stopping this menace at our doorstep?"

The organizer of one of those fishing derbies theorizes, "We had a very cool spring, preventing the mussels from spawning. I'm hoping we dodged the bullet this spring. Next spring we probably won't be so lucky."

⁴ Recently replaced by Minister Herb Cox

⁵ http://www.aema.alberta.ca/documents/ema/A5_Aquatic_Invasive_Species_Alberta_Approach_to_Prevention_and_Response.pdf

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 (Coffee, juice)* **9:45 am** *Welcome*

NEW REGULATIONS GOVERNING COTTAGE COMMUNITIES

10:00 – 11:30 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

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**, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Fisheries Project

Coordinator

2:45 – 3:15 pm Wetlands: Why they are important to you

- **Michael Champion**, 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**

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17

9:00 – 11:30 am **PARCS BUSINESS**

11:30 – 12:30 *Lunch*

9:00 a.m. – Reports
9:30 a.m. - Regional Meetings
10:30 a.m. - *Nutrition Break*
10:45 a.m. - PARCS Annual Meeting

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR LAKES and WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

12:30 - 1:00 pm Operation and maintenance of onsite wastewater systems in sensitive areas
• **Lesley Desjardins**, Saskatchewan Chapter of the Western Canada Onsite Wastewater Management Association

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 A New Approach to Water Management in Rural Saskatchewan

- **Doug Johnson**, Water Security Agency

2:30 – 2:45 pm *Nutrition Break*

2:45 – 3:15 pm WSA role in Applying the "1 in 500 years" (Public Safety section of the SPI Regs)

- **Bart Oegema**, Water Security Agency

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

- **Cheryllynn Walters**, 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

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

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.

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**