

PARCS UPDATE #74

JUNE, 2017



IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1 - Learning how to cope after aquatic invasive mussels take over.

Page 2 - Year-end report card for Ministries of Environment re aquatic invasive mussels

Page 3 - A preview of convention 2017

Page 4 - Convention Registration Form

1. IS IT NO LONGER A MATTER OF "IF . . . IS IT NOW A MATTER OF "WHEN" . . . ?



Renata Claudia, Chief Scientist for RNT Consulting, told us how, 25 years ago, she had been hired by Ontario Hydro just two weeks before aquatic invasive mussels were discovered in Ontario. For the next 15 years, she learned the best strategies and equipment for controlling mussel damage to equipment in facilities that found their water infected by mussels. Since 2006, she has travelled Canada and the US, passing on her resulting expertise to corporations that are "beneficiaries of being downstream of the infection".

On June 8/9 Renata led a 2 day workshop in Moose Jaw, sponsored by Sask Power and attended by staff from Saskatchewan's water treatment and hydro-electric plants. Members of the Ministry of Environment's Task Force on AIS were invited guests for the first day of the session. The following are a few selected facts from Renata's very informative session:

- Zebra & Quagga mussels are the only adult freshwater mussels that attach to a substrate (hard surface). Their young (veligers) can float several hundred kilometers.
- To survive, the mussels must be in water with:
 - **Warm temperatures** in summer,
 - **Calcium** (at least 10 mg/L) – very common in Saskatchewan
 - **Low levels of potassium** (6.9 to 9.5 mg/L) – a **deciding factor** for our lakes! (see note below)¹
- Mussels do not increase water quality; they move the murky stuff to the bottom of the lake which causes a change in fish habitat to facilitate bottom feeders, which has an impact on tourism. They pollute the shoreline with weeds growing in murky bottoms and washing ashore, along with razor sharp mussels shells. Property values decline.
- Drinking water quality: clearer water but increased taste and odor problems.
- Industrial facilities: decreased flow, plugging of essential components, increased corrosion.
- Infrastructure of concern: drinking water intakes, industrial cooling systems, irrigation systems, floating docks, bridges and buoys, boat hulls, fire protection systems. Antifouling coatings were described (many fail after 12 to 18 months).
- Other technical information was provided regarding pipng systems such as: non-oxidizing chemical treatment (although very toxic), copper-ion generators (different for quagga versus zebra mussels), low doses of copper (can kill adults in warm water), changing phosphorus levels (only effective in small water bodies), mechanical filtration (self-cleaning small pore filters), UV treatments.

¹ For example, high levels of potassium were quoted in Fishing Lake, Humboldt Lake, Little Manitou Lake, Rabbit Lake, and Redberry Lakes (**thus protecting them from these mussels**). On the other hand, Lake Diefenbaker was found to have potassium at levels of 2.8 to 5.5 mg/l (**ideal for the mussels**). Renata Claudia referred to Lake Diefenbaker as "ground zero" for possible mussel infestation in Saskatchewan!

2. AIS REPORT CARDS (for spring 2017): MINISTRIES OF ENVIRONMENT

June is report card month for K-12 students – PARCS decided to issue report cards to the Ministries of Environment in both Alberta and Sask., about their effectiveness in combating aquatic invasive mussels.

	Alberta	Saskatchewan
Public Education	A+ Signage: Large signs at all border crossings.	B+ Signage increasing significantly over last year, especially in provincial parks.
Public Partnerships	A Long standing partnership with ALM (Alberta Lake Management Association). A The Alberta provincial K9 program (sniffer dogs trained to detect AIM) is sponsored by the province's irrigators.	B+ Promising start on April 13 with first meeting of Task Force but no follow-up minutes or meeting date set since. F PARCS' offer to fund a pilot project inspection site went unacknowledged by Ministry.
Monitoring	A "The provincial government monitors using two methods: A substrate check, and water-quality monitoring that includes checking for veligers. A local lab processes water samples, which has greatly decreased the turnaround time from sample collection to results. Private citizens can also contribute to mussel monitoring and data collection, through an online app called EDDMaps. If citizens spot any invasive species, they can report it on the website: www.eddmaps.org/Alberta/ ." ²	B Some lakes have been monitored by their Watershed Associations. There is a provincial data base of information about water quality. However, the public does not know how to use this data base. B+ A new user-friendly data base is being developed in conjunction Dwayne Baker of the Ministry of Provincial Parks. We have no information to date as to how or when it will be unveiled – hopefully soon.
Prevention with Border Checks	A+ Two new inspection stations opened earlier this year at the Dunmore and Coutts border crossings in southern Alberta, bringing the total number of highway inspection stops to 11. "It is mandatory for any vehicles towing boats or other watercraft to stop for inspection at these stations. Environment Minister Shannon Phillips stated that this includes kayaks, canoes and even paddleboards. Failure to stop at an inspection station can result in a fine of up to \$10,000 or 12 months in jail." ³	F There are <u>no border inspection stations</u> set up by Sask Environment. Last summer, Saskatchewan conservation officers conducted a handful of random checks on internal highways within the province. Saskatchewan has <u>no legislation</u> regarding boats being required to stop at border crossing. The border service agent consulted stated that "stopping boats at the Sask border is entirely up to the discretion of the Canada Border Service staff". Saskatchewan has <u>no legislation</u> that provides for para-professional inspectors; only conservation officers are trained to inspect boats – hence few inspections are affordable.
Inspection stations		
Legislation		
Staff	The province has more than 60 inspectors, three mussel-sniffing dogs and two roving inspection crews helping to keep invasive species out of its waterways.	
Working with Canada Border Services	A The Canadian Border Services Agency has agreed to have every boat that crosses the border fill out a form that obtains the same information collected at inspection stations. "They send us the form and we'll be able to follow up with anyone who has a high-risk boat or who for any reason we need to get in touch with," Wilson said. "We'll have all the info we need to do that."	C Saskatchewan's AIS coordinator has collaborated with Canada Border Services, providing some training regarding how to conduct a boat check.

ADDENDUM – "B.C. Premier Christy Clark recently announced that "Two brand new border inspection stations will open at Yahk and Midway, bringing the total number of inspections stations in B.C. to 10 locations. The province's busiest station at Golden will be open 24 hours. The remaining nine stations will have their hours extended generally from dawn to dusk. However, the inspection operating season will now run from mid-March until mid-November," the Ministry of Environment said in a media release."⁴

PARCS REMAINS COMMITTED TO BEING THE VOICE ADVOCATING FOR THE MINISTRY TO "STOP THEM AT THE BORDER"!

² <https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/2017/05/01/the-threat-of-invasive-mussels-draws-ever-closer-to-alberta/>

³ <http://globalnews.ca/news/3447862/alberta-government-escalates-efforts-to-keep-invasive-mussels-out-of-waterways/>

⁴ <http://globalnews.ca/news/3345005/bc-to-make-move-on-invasive-mussels/>

3. A SNEAK PEEK AT CONVENTION 2017, with the theme: "Communications"



FRIDAY, OCT. 20: 10:00 am - noon

- TWO HOUR WORKSHOP: MAKING AN EFFECTIVE PLAN FOR COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

FRIDAY, OCT. 20: Afternoon

- WHEN COMMUNICATIONS FAIL, CITIZENS COMPLAIN: THE PROVINCIAL OMBUDSMAN
- THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - A TOOL FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
- WHEN WE ARE FORCED TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH THE COURTS
- SHARING OUR STORIES: Rapid Research followed by Meet and Greet

SATURDAY, OCT. 21: Morning

- PARCS ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, OCT. 21: Afternoon

- MERGERS and ANNEXATION - How they work and What the rules are for making them happen
- WHEN WE SEEK HELP IN RESOLVING OUR DISPUTES: THE ROLE OF THE MUNICIPAL BOARD

MARK YOUR CALENDARS; MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

- Rooms are being held on a first come, first served basis. ***You must reserve before Sept. 19.***
- This year we have arranged rooms for Thursday night, for those delegates arriving the evening before the convention (convention begins at 10:00 am Friday).
- When registering be sure to state which day you will be arriving, and state that you are registering as part of the PARCS convention.

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN 986-5000

- One block from Conference Hotel
- 101 Pacific Avenue., Saskatoon
- 1 block from Midtown Plaza
- 20 (total) kings OR double queens (**\$159 each**) plus 13%
- For **Thursday, Oct. 19 or Friday, Oct. 20**
- **Booking Code: PARCS**
- Discounted parking at \$7.50 per day in indoor heated parking garage
- Must cancel **48 hours** before day of arrival

THE HILTON GARDEN INN 244-2311

- Conference Hotel
- 1st Ave & 22nd St., Saskatoon
- Across from Midtown Plaza
- 20 kings (**\$134**) AND 20 double queens (**\$139**) plus 13%
- For **Thursday, Oct. 19 or Friday, Oct. 20**
- Additional 5 rooms for **Saturday, Oct. 21**
- **Booking Code: PARCS-6**
- Discounted outdoor parking at \$10 per day
- All rooms have fridge, microwave, Keurig K cup
- Must cancel **24 hours** before day of arrival

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS 384-8844

- Seven blocks from Conference Hotel
- 315 Idylwyld Drive North, Saskatoon
- 10 kings with double pull-out couch AND 10 double queens (**\$119 each**), plus 13%
- For **Thurs., Oct. 19 or Fri., Oct. 20 or Sat. Oct. 21**
- **Booking Code: PARCS**
- Free outdoor parking
- Must cancel **72 hours** before day of arrival

Copy this form and fill it in. Email it to parcs@sasktel.net

We will confirm by email.

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY (see previous page)

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Cottage community (or association): _____

Contact person, name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

CONVENTION (Includes Friday lunch, Friday banquet plus Saturday lunch, all nutrition breaks)

Attending for both days

• # attending from **member communities** (voting delegates): _____ x \$ 275 = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

• # attending from **non-member communities:** _____ x \$ 375 = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

Attending for Friday Only (All day, including banquet)

• # attending from **member communities:** _____ : _____ x \$ 175 = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

• # attending from **non-member communities:** _____ x \$ 275 = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

Attending for Friday Only (Day only, no banquet)

• # attending from **member communities** _____ : _____ x \$ 150 = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

• # attending from **non-member communities:** _____ x \$ 250 = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

Attending for Saturday only

• # attending from **member communities** (voting delegates): _____ x \$ 100 = \$ _____

Names: _____, _____

• # attending from **non-member communities:** _____ 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.**

Note that our program theme of *Communications* will be reflected in the convention structure:

- Right before we adjourn for the afternoon on Friday at 4:30 pm Friday, we will introduce you to some **interesting stories** from some of the other delegates. We will then have only ½ hour to change into our casual attire such as jeans (in keeping with the relaxed nature of the evening). When we return for the Happy Hour that begins at 5:00 pm, we will have the opportunity to **meet many of the storytellers individually** – over a beverage from the cash bar. Plan on an evening where you get to meet and greet a lot of other cottage owners.
- Register early and get a room at the Hilton Garden Inn (or nearby), to facilitate this fun evening.
- The banquet menu will also reflect the playful theme of the convention (it's a surprise!)