

PARCS UPDATE #75

JULY, 2017



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1. UPDATE: QUILL LAKES VERSUS CALLING LAKES

On July 11th, the Quill Lakes Watershed Association hosted a public meeting in Fort Qu'Appelle for the purpose of "discussing the potential impact of the Quill Lakes on the Qu'Appelle System". Speaker at the meeting was Kerry Holderness, on the Board of the Quill Lakes Watershed Association.

The meeting was reminiscent of the series of meetings held in the summer of 2015 in Bulyea, Regina, Regina Beach, Wynyard and at the Quill Lakes Centre in which the Water Security tried to defend the Kutawagan Project, its proposal to divert water from Big Quill Lake to Last Mountain Lake (and ultimately into the Qu'Appelle Lakes) in order to prevent the rise and overflow of the Quill Lakes. Back in 2015, the Crooked and Round Lake Flood Committee was led by Cherylynn Walters who, at that time, stated that "the property owners of the Crooked and Round lakes adamantly reject the proposal to lower the Quill lakes water levels by the option outlined in the Kutawagan Diversion project. To contemplate any proposal that could in any way increase the level of water in the Qu'Appelle River Basin, cause any change in the saline proportions to fresh water, cause further erosion and alter/threaten the ecosystem of the Basin lakes is simply reckless."

At recent meeting, it appeared that positions have not changed.

Holderness spoke about the possibility of now diverting water from a different source, one without the high salinity properties of the waters that had been proposed two years earlier.

The attendees from the Qu'Appelle Lakes remain adamantly opposed to any new drainage proposal. They spoke about Bill 44, passed in 2016

and giving new powers to the Water Security Agency to fine farmers who do not obtain permits for draining the excess water from their farms adjacent to the Quill Lakes. Chief Todd Peigan of the Pasqua First Nation¹, referring to the fact that the Water Security Agency has yet to issue a single fine for illegal drainage under Bill 44, asked the Agency, **"Why would you expect the Qu'Appelle Valley people to help solve your problem when you won't even help yourselves?"**

This complex problem seems immune to simple solutions.



Illegal drainage of farmland poses big problems for the Quill Lakes who seek to share the problem with the Qu'Appelle Lakes.

¹ Located along Pasqua Lake, one of the Qu'Appelle Lakes

2. BLUE-GREEN ALGAE: AN OLD PROBLEM, A SEARCH FOR A NEW SOLUTION

2.1 BLUE-GREEN ALGAE IN SASKATCHEWAN – The following is the advisory issued on July 20th, 2017 by the Water Security Agency and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, advising people to avoid contact with algae blooms: “Algae blooms occur during calm, hot weather on lakes and reservoirs with shallow, slow moving or still water that have sufficient nutrients. It often gives water a shimmering, foamy and often pea soup appearance and can last for up to three weeks. Heavy concentrations of blue-green algae could appear to be blue-green, bright blue, grey or tan in colour. Direct contact with algae blooms or consumption of algae contaminate water could result in red skin, a sore throat, cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Anyone experiencing symptoms should contact the Health Line at 811 or see a health care provider. Caution should also be exercised with consuming fish and shellfish caught in areas where blooms exist. Blue-green algae blooms can also be harmful to household pets and livestock.”



DANGER - Keep children and pets out of this stuff!

2.2 BLUE ALGAE IN ONTARIO – The Three Mile Lake Cottage Owners Association has partnered with the Muskoka Lakes Cottage Owners Association to undertake a small scale demonstration of an innovative technology to manage blue-green algae. “The board of the Three Mile Lake Association has spent a great deal of time researching the pros and cons of various alternatives used to control algae,” said Sue Walker, president of the Association. “When we heard of the use of ultrasonics we felt it offered the most promising approach for our lake. The board spent the winter assessing the feasibility of its application on our lake.” This environmentally safe technology has been tried and proven effective in the United States, European Union, Australia and other countries, to manage blue-green algae on ponds and reservoirs. It is now being introduced to Ontario for application on larger bodies of water.

Some of the advantages are that:

- It avoids the use of chemicals;
- It requires very little maintenance;
- The technology does not require Environmental Compliance Approval;
- The environmentally friendly ultrasound at the frequencies used to control blue-green algae poses no risk to other aquatic life or to humans.



It's the same technology used in fish finders and depth sounders. This is similar technology that is used in the medical treatment for physiotherapy, lithotripsy of kidney stones, high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) for non-invasive surgery, fetal and organ imaging and dental hygiene. The firms of CanDetec Inc., and McQuest Marine Services Limited will be delivering and overseeing the project. Combined, these companies have extensive experience in water resources management, nutrient assessment, hydrology and sonar surveys of lakes and rivers.

"We have chosen a small bay, which experiences little boat traffic, in which to conduct the experiment," said Walker. "It will be a single floating offshore unit with a solar system to operate the ultrasound unit and the pump that will slowly rotate the CanDock float. The unit will be five feet in diameter and sit in four feet off the water. It will be equipped with reflectors and a flashing light. Hazard buoys will be used to warn boaters."

FOR MORE INFORMATION – Three Mile Lake Association
 (705) 769-3262 brtanner@rogers.com www.3milelake.ca



Initially there will be a two month evaluation period to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the ultrasound treatment. If deemed effective in the trial period, the treatment will be continued for the remainder of the ice-free season. While ultrasound will not eliminate the original conditions that support the proliferations of algae blooms, it does control their growth rate minimizing their potential to form blooms and scums within the treated area. "We are very pleased that the Muskoka Lakes Association supports this initiative and appreciate their assisting the Three Mile Lake Association both financially and administratively," concluded Walker.

3. SEWAGE HAULING GETTING SAFER IN SASKATCHEWAN

In an interview with PARCS on November 30, 2012, Sam Ferris of the Water Security Agency predicted that: "During the next five years (until 2017), it is expected that land spreading will be phased out (although there may always be some communities where land spreading remains a necessity, such as when an existing sewage works is more than 50 km away or the owners of nearby sewage works will not allow its use)". In a recent interview with PARCS president, Garry Dixon, Sam Ferris provided a report on his prediction, reviewing 2015 & 2016 data.

NOTE:

PARCS recently received a call from a cottage community wanting to report on a sewage hauler operating without being registered. We provided Sam's contact information:

Sam Ferris, Executive Director of Environmental & Municipal Services, Water Security Agency
 (306) 787-6193
sam.ferris@wsask.ca

Sam's data shows that the percentage of haulers using lagoons increased by 8% while the % doing land spreading dropped by 7% - moving closer to his earlier prediction.

Year	Number of Permitted Septic Haulers	Using Lagoons or Mechanical Sewage Works	Only Doing Land Spreading	Using a Combination of all Three Practices
2015	226	159 (70.4%)	48 (21.3%)	19 (8.4%)
2016	246	193 (78.5%)	36 (14.6%)	17 (6.9%)

4. TO CELEBRATE CANADA'S 150th, THEY PLANTED A "NATURAL" MINI-FOREST

For the residents of the Resort Village of Mistusinne, their village history began 50 years ago on Canada's 100th birthday. In 1967, Gardner Dam was completed, resulting in the 150 mile-long Lake Diefenbaker. The resort village was laid out beside the new lake on an empty landscape of wild prairie grasses and was ultimately to become home to several groves of trees planted by park officials. Over the years, however, many of these early trees died prematurely, partly due to drought but also, sadly, due to human interference such as pruning and tilling.

In honour of Canada's 150th birthday, a group of Mistusinne citizens determined to plant a small forest to replace a grove of tree stumps and skeletal dead trees. The old trees and stumps were removed; holes were drilled for each of 150 Scots Pines, in various sizes from three feet to five feet tall. The mini forest was laid out in two clusters with an open meadow in the center.

The committee's vision was to maintain these new trees and their grassy surroundings in the most ecologically friendly manner. The committee consulted forestry expert Dieter Martin about the trees and plant ecologist, Dr. David Schellenberg at the Semiarid Prairie Research Centre about the natural grasses in the meadow. Upon their advice, it was decided that the natural grasses around the trees and in the meadow would be left untouched. The plan is to allow the pinecones to fall and establish themselves in the protection of the tall grasses, a natural forest renewal system. While two irrigation standpipes with hoses were installed to allow for hand-watering the new trees until they have become established or in a season of extreme drought, the long term plan is to allow the trees and grasses to become adjusted to the natural conditions.²

The committee volunteers have worked hard to plant and tend to their little forest, to build the observation area and create the winding path into the meadow. However, their most challenging task has been explaining the reason for not wanting to mow the natural grasses in the meadow. They point out that mowing the naturalized prairie grasses would open the way for the intrusion of dandelions and leafy spurge. They want a meadow of natural prairie grasses without weed infestations.

The committee invites visitors to drop by the observation area in the midst of the forest, to sit on the bench in the open meadow, with the grasses blowing in the wind, and enjoy the view of the lake. In addition to the 150 Scots Pines planted as a reminder of Canada's 150th birthday, two White Spruce were planted beside the bench as reminders of Canada's two founding nations, and as a reminder of the First Nations whose lands these once were, "*on the crown of a hill, for all to see, [they've] planted a scarlet [Amur] maple tree*".³



Entrance to the meadow of natural prairie grasses, located in the middle of the forest, with a view of the lake.

² There are other "natural forests" that have been planted in southern Saskatchewan. For example, the forest planted 50 years ago, one km north-east of Mortlach, on the bare prairie, is today a self-renewing forest with thick under growth and a new crop of evergreen seedlings every year.

³ Canadian poet, Bliss Carman

5. PROGRAM FOR CONVENTION 2017

THEME – COMMUNICATIONS – SHARING OUR STORIES

FRIDAY, OCT. 20

- 9:30 am *Registration, Coffee and nutrition*
- 10:00 am **Welcome and announcements**
- 10:15 to 12:15 **Planning for Effective Communications**
Plenary workshop (Dr. Lynn Gidluck, Benchmark Public Relations)
- 12:15 to 1:15 pm *LUNCH*
- 1:15 to 2:30 pm **When Communications Fail and Citizens Complain**
The role of the provincial ombudsman (Office of the Ombudsman)
- 2:30 to 3:00 pm **The Community Newsletter – A tool for effective communication**
- Manitou Matters – Resort Village of Manitou Beach
 - Collingwood Newsletter – OH of Collingwood Estates
- 3:00 to 3:15 pm *NUTRITION BREAK*
- 3:15 to 4:00 pm **When we are forced to communicate through the courts:**
The Tobin Lake Story
- 4:00 to 4:30 pm ***Sharing our Stories, Part One (Rapid Research)***
- 4:30 to 5:00 pm *Break before evening events*
- 5:00 pm *HAPPY HOUR*
Sharing our Stories, Part Two (Cocktails and Communication)
- 6:00 pm *PRESIDENT'S BANQUET*

SATURDAY, OCT. 21

- 9:00 to noon PARCS BUSINESS, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS
- 12:00 to 1:00 pm *LUNCH*
- 1:00 to 2:00 pm **Part 1 - Panel Presentation: Mergers and annexations**
- 2:00 to 2:30 pm **Part 2 - Ministry of Government Relations: The rules to follow**
- 2:30 to 3:15 pm **When we seek help resolving our disputes:**
The role of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board (Sask Municipal Board)
- 3:15 to 3:30 pm *NUTRITION BREAK*
- 3:30 to 4:30 pm **How to be proactive about planning with our neighbours**
(SARM, Community Planning)

Copy this form and fill it in. Email it to parcs@sasktel.net
 We will confirm by email.
MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY (see next page)

6. 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!)

7. 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

8. MOST POPULAR LAKE IN SASKATCHEWAN

Which lakes in Saskatchewan are the most popular for cottaging? Where are people spending their time when they "go to the lake?" These questions prompted the magazine Prairies North to reach out to the Association of Saskatchewan Realtors to find some answers. Here is the answer they provided based on sales of cottage/recreational properties in the province over 12-month, two-year, and five-year periods:

Top lakes in the province

1. Emma Lake has consistently been the most popular lake by sales at least for the last five years.
2. Wakaw Lake was the fifth most popular lake five years ago, but is now the second most popular.
3. Jackfish has moved up to 3rd from 4th within the last five years.
4. Turtle Lake was the 4th most popular lake by sales volume last year, down from 2nd five years ago.
5. Kenosee Lake has moved up to fifth from sixth place in the past five years.

Interesting trends

- Candle Lake declined in sales volume, as it was the 3rd most popular five years ago, but only 7th last year.
- Wasciesiu doesn't make the top 20 for last year's sales, even though it has typically been one of the 20 most popular lakes over the last five years. This trend might be caused by a low number of listings.
- Iroquois Lake barely made the top 20 five years ago, but last year it was the eighth most popular by sales volume.
- Christopher Lake went from 20th to 12th most popular by sales volume.
- Cochin (the town on Jackfish Lake, which made the top five) has moved from 14th to ninth by sales volume.