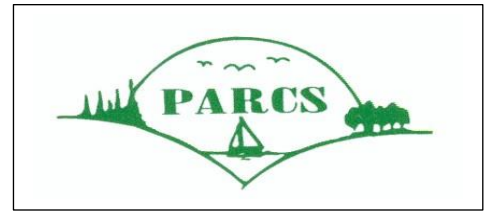


PARCS UPDATE #79, Oct.1/2017



1. CONVENTION SET TO GO

We are in the midst of the last-minute preparations for our 2017 convention at the Saskatoon Hilton Garden Inn on Friday and Saturday, October 20/21.

Plan to check in at our registration desk at 9:00 am. We will have coffee, scones and fruit salad to welcome you. The plenary workshop kicks off at 9:45 am. There will be a free hour starting at 4:00 pm for you to get checked into your hotel room and change into a pair of comfy jeans for the evening (remember evening dress is casual this year). The bar opens at 5:00 pm, with music plus meet and greet. This year's banquet is an old fashioned fall supper with turkey and all the trimmings, and a great selection of pies. The convention adjourns at 4:30 pm sharp on Saturday.

It's never too late to register for our convention. Just send us an email (like the one shown in the insert). You can pay by mail or at the door. I will send you a same-day email confirmation of registration.¹

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The bar opens at 5:00 pm, with music

Good afternoon Lynne,

R—A----- and L---- G---- are wishing to attend the convention

That will be 2 full time registrations, 2x225=\$450

The RM of Marquis will be sending PARCS a cheque for our registration fees.

Please make note of our new email address for the Hamlet. hamletofparkview@sasktel.net

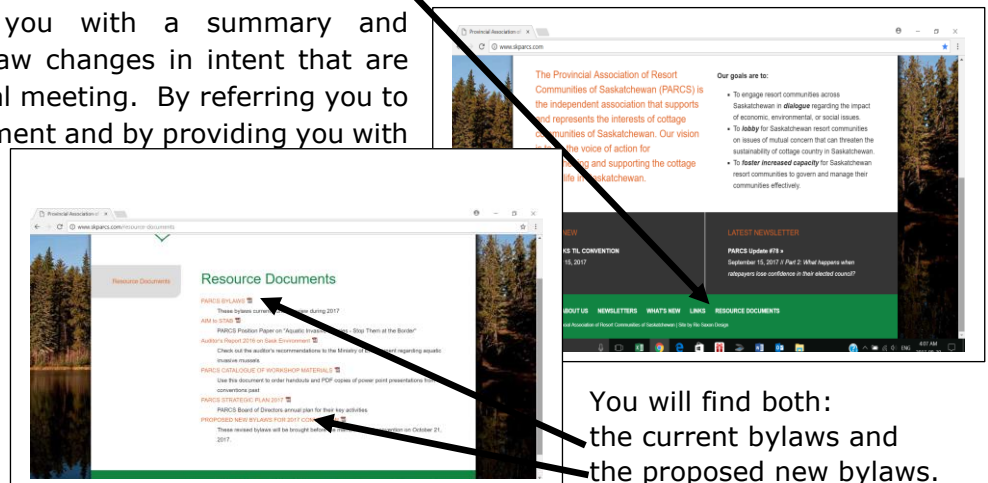
2. BYLAW CHANGES TO BE UNVEILED

The change process:

One of the 2017 priorities set by the PARCS Board of Directors was to undertake a review of our PARCS Bylaws. Past Presidents, Sherry Jimmy led the review with the Board of Directors. Later in the process President Garry Dixon and Coordinator Lynne Saas sat down to do some further refinement, and finally a lawyer was asked to look over our work.

We have not included the full 12 page document that is our proposed set of new Bylaws. To view that document, go to our website at www.skparcs.com. On the bottom of the front page, click on the link to **Resource Documents**.

The next page provides you with a summary and explanation of the main bylaw changes in intent that are being proposed for the annual meeting. By referring you to the web site for the full document and by providing you with the following summary of the main changes, we feel that we are adhering the current bylaws which requires us to provide you with "notice at least 3 weeks prior to convention".



You will find both:
the current bylaws and
the proposed new bylaws.

¹ Although the deadline has passed for accessing the block of rooms at the Hilton, you can phone to see if they still have vacancies by calling **244-2311**

Summary of main changes to new proposed bylaws:

1) Three classes of memberships are defined (**Bylaw #2**):

Active group membership. Groups that can **choose** to be active members:

- 1 - **RM councils** (example: RM of Meota)
- 2 - **Organized hamlets** (example: OH of Maymont Beach)

Cottage owners in organized hamlets are represented by their elected organized hamlet board delegates; cottage owners in unorganized hamlets are represented by their RM council delegate or their cottage owner association delegate.

- 3 - **Cottage owners associations** (example: Sutton's Beach Cottage Owners)
- 4 - **Resort village councils** (example: RV of Candle Lake)
- 5 - **Any other community** choosing to be active members (ex: Village of Elbow)

Associate group membership. Groups that may choose to be associate members:

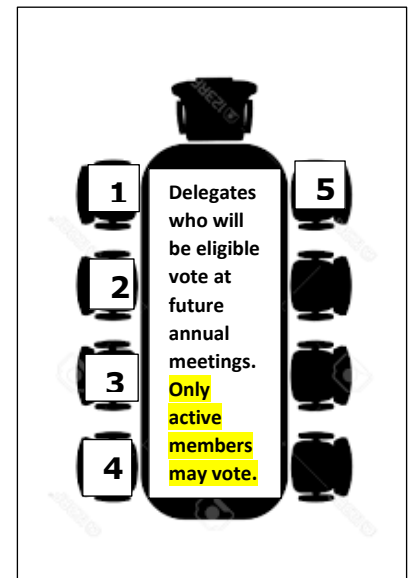
- RM Councils that choose associate membership (example: RM of Mervin)
- A recreational group (example: a windsurfers group)
- A commercial group (example: a company that manufactures docks)

Friends of PARCS individual memberships.

- A former PARCS members (example: Joe Jozsa)
- A current or former person associated with a cottage community (example: Jessie Williams²)

Delegates from all three classes of membership have the right to attend conventions or workshops at member rates and all three have the right hold office on the Board of Directors. Only delegates from active members have the right to vote.

- 2) Membership purchased at any time during one fiscal year remains in effect into the subsequent year until the first issuances of membership invoices for the new fiscal year. (**Bylaw #2 - B**)
- 3) The immediate past-president may remain on the executive for up to 2 terms after which (should the same president remain in office) the executive reverts to 3 members. (**Bylaw #3 - A.2**)
- 4) The definition of quorum is changed to being a minimum of 3. The bylaw requires that all members present either vote or declare their abstention (including the chair). (**Bylaw #3 - F**)
- 5) Annual meetings of a region can not only be held in separate venues during the annual meeting, there is also the option of decentralizing them and holding them in the regions. (**Bylaw #6 - B**)
- 6) The deadline for nominations for executive positions is changed to 10:00 am on the day of elections (with elections no earlier than 2:00 pm on that day) to allow for the option of stand-alone general meetings. (**Bylaw #7 - I**)
- 7) Removed the old #C which provided for a designated number of voting delegates - **implying that the words in red would be removed from our membership fee schedule³** - implying that however many delegates from active member communities come to the annual meeting, that's the number that can vote. (Remember - associate and individual members cannot vote) (**Bylaw #8 - C**)
- 8) Throughout the document, the term CONVENTION had been replaced with the term ANNUAL MEETING, allowing for the option that one day these events may be held separately.



² Both Joe (former councillor for the RV of Mistusinne) and Jessie (current administrator for the Resort Villages of Shield and Thode) purchased individual memberships at one time. Joe sat on the Board of Directors

³ 2017 PARCS MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

- ___ \$60 for 1-30 cottages (2 voting delegates at convention)
- ___ \$150 for 31-49 cottages (3 voting delegates at convention)
- ___ \$225 for 50-149 cottages (4 voting delegates at convention)
- ___ \$295 for 150-249 cottages (5 voting delegates at convention)
- ___ \$425 for 250-499 cottages (6 voting delegates at convention)
- ___ \$600 for 500+ cottages (7 voting delegates at convention)

3. QUILL LAKES UPDATE

The following information is to keep you informed of the events that have taken place since our last communication in August. We (LMLSG) have partnered with representatives from the Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed and a representative from the Sask Beach Council to oppose the Quill Lake Drainage / Diversion Project, as presented by the Quill Lake Watershed Association.

Newspaper articles have been placed in local newspapers.

We requested a meeting with the Minister but have not had one. Our group met with the NDP Environmental Critic to discuss the issues and solutions.

In August, our small group travelled to the Quill Lakes to observe flooding in that area. We visited the spill point for the Quill Lakes; the point where water from the Quills would drain south if it got that high (almost 1m above where the levels are now). The area is a shallow wide and dry saline area. We saw the saline Kutawagan Lake and a dam, operated by Ducks Unlimited Canada situated at the north end of the saline Pel Lake. This dam stores water in Pel Lake reducing outflows north to the Quill Lakes. THE QLWA proposal would see all this water drained south to Last Mountain Lake. We could also see how water levels at the Quill Lakes have dropped 14 inches from the peak this spring – 36 inches below the spill point. Water levels on the Quill Lakes continue to decline.

We saw the salt flats on Pel Lake where water had receded, revealing a salty crust on the ground. It was startling to see the amount of salt left behind after the water receded back on these Lakes. We find it hard to believe that diverting water "from Pell Lake south towards Peter Lake and Last Mountain Lake" would be considered 'fresh water' diversion.



We saw the Water Security office in Wadena that was opened as a result of the announcement in 2016 to close all illegal drainage operations. To date WSA has not issued a single fine for illegal drainage or closed any of the ditches they say they would.

Illegal drainage continues.

We saw drained wetlands that can be used to store water. These areas along with others can reduce the amount of water going into the Quill Lakes by 38%, which would both lower the Quill Lakes levels and prevent the threat of overflow to Last Mountain Lake. We saw fields with large earth-moving equipment being used to drain more water, (sloughs and marshland), digging channels so more water can easily drain into the Quills. We saw where existing ditches had been deepened to allow more drainage into the Quills. New drainage ditches continue to be dug without anyone from WSA stopping or fining them.



Wetlands are natural storage spaces and have been present on the prairies for thousands of years. Water that producers are draining from wetlands belong to the crown; it's not theirs to drain – a license is required. However, wetlands continue to be drained by landowners illegally without a license.

We have sent letters to both levels of government describing the reasons why draining / diverting water from the Quills would be disastrous to the quality of lake water; fish and aquatic life would be at risk; we would see an increase in algae bloom due to added TDS and agricultural runoff (nitrates and phosphates), the effect it would have on recreational activities, and the potential for more flooding.

In our letter to Honourable Dustin Duncan we asked that a commission be established where a delegation of experts could review all flood mitigation options, so that a responsible decision can be reached, one that does not have a negative impact on our lakes and rivers.

The QLWA have presented their drainage / diversion plan as “urgent”, one that must be started immediately to avoid a natural spillover from the Quills into LML. Lake levels are declining and a hasty decision is often the wrong decision. However it is important that a solution be reached that is cost effective, safe to the environment and one that will serve long term. Expertise in all areas of the environment, public consultation and cooperation with all levels of government is key in finding the answer.

For your information, I have attached the link below which shows the irrevocable damage phosphorous can do to a body of water. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/lake-winnipeg-phosphorus-algae-blooms-1.4293366>

We can't stress enough the importance of public input regarding this issue. Simply put, draining water from the Quill Lake area to LML will be disastrous to our lake and those living downstream. For your convenience, I have provided email addresses below, and ask that you continue to voice your objections to the QLWA Diversion and WSA's lack of enforcement and express your support to use the water storage areas that exists in the Quill Lakes watershed to the following officials.

susan.ross@wsask.ca, dustin.duncan@gov.sk.ca, premier@gov.sk.ca, ralph.goodale@parl.gc.ca

Editor's note: This article was submitted to PARCS by Sherry Forsyth (sherry.forsyth@gmail.com), on behalf of the Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group.

Post Script about convention:

Here's some new information about the following Saturday Sessions:

1:00 to 2:00 pm: **Part 1 - Panel Presentation: Mergers & annexations** will include:

- The first in 2006 which became the **District of Katepwa** and included the Resort Villages of Katepwa, South Katepwa and Sandpoint Beach: advantages gained for these communities.
- The second in 2014, the merger of the **Resort Village of South Lake and the OH of Sand Point Beach** with land between: the process with a mediator.
- The ongoing discussions at **Wakaw Lake**: Maurice Rivard, Mayor of the RV of Wakaw Lake, and Don Gabel, President of POWL⁴ will each discuss the process to date.
- The Acting Administrator for **RV of Candle Lake**, Heather Scott, will describe why they chose mutual service agreements and regional meetings in lieu of seeking amalgamation.
- Finally, what is happening at the **RV of Coteau Beach** and the **RV of Beaver Flat** where new subdivisions have shown up on each of these communities' doorsteps.

2:00 to 2:30 pm: **Part 2 – Ministry of Government Relations** will include information from Bonnie Chambers, Advisory Services, and Jenna Schroeder, Community Planning, about the rules to follow and the differences between mergers versus annexations.

See you at convention!

⁴ Property Owners of Wakaw Lake (cottage owners association)