



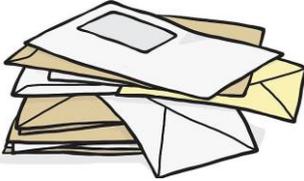
PARCS UPDATE #88 JULY /2018

From our Mailbox

In this issue we share some of our past and recent correspondence

1. Correspondence about VOTING EQUITY

1.1 Looking back through old mail



In October, 2012, Cliff Schmidt, cottage owner at Wakaw Lake, wrote a guest editorial in *Update #30*, stating that “the two divisions that encompass the lakeside communities contain up to 70% of the eligible voters in our RM; yet these ratepayers elect only 2 of the 6 seats on counter.”

In the April 2016 issue of *Update #62*, Garry Dixon described the voting inequity in the RM of McKillop where 970 cottage ratepayers in one division (mostly cottage owners) elect one councillor, while only 68 ratepayers in another division (mostly agricultural dwellers) also elect one councillor.

Yesterday we received an email from the cottage owners’ association in Ontario telling about how one group of cottage owners was able to achieve voting equity.

1.2 Recent mail from our counterparts in Ontario



Terry wrote yesterday, July 5, stating:

“Greetings - Though our mandate is Ontario-based lake associations, I follow the nationwide news on issues facing waterfront residents. The struggle [to ensure] fair and adequate representation is something we face regularly in Ontario as well.

Though the provincial jurisdictions and rules are different, I thought you might find the attached interesting. It is a 2009 ruling from our court of appeal (the

*Ontario Municipal Board, or OMB) that reaffirmed a local initiative to change the ward representation to more fairly reflect the majority of the Township voters, who happen to be waterfront residents. This appeal was initiated when the local council rejected their own committee [because they] were worried about losing their majority votes on Council. **The OMB ruling cited tenets of voter parity from the Supreme Court** in overturning Council’s self-serving decision. I hope this might be useful.” Terry*

The ruling deals with a Town whose Council wanted to continue electing councillors from separate wards. The Town had 3 wards, each of which was represented by two councillors. The population of the Ward containing the cottage properties was 1,401 electors – while the other two wards had populations of 317 and 912 each. In other words, the lakeside residents made up 53% of the Town’s representation but only got to elect 33% of the councillors.

Instead of seeking to redraw the boundaries between the wards, the application on behalf of the lakeside property owners sought to **dissolve their existing ward structure and elect all councillors at large**. The Ontario Municipal Board ruled in favour of the application, stating that “voter parity and effective representation are governing principles of Canada’s democratic electoral system at all level: federal, provincial and municipal” and ordered “that the existing wards of the Town be dissolved.”

The OMB decisions make reference to testimony provided by an expert “in the area of municipal politics and ward boundary issues”. The expert testified that “an electoral system that perpetuates long-defunct component [parts] ... is of questionable value. An at-large system in a small municipality can make a positive contribution to community building.”

To read the full 9-page decision, go to the Newsletters Section of our PARCS website (skparcs.com) and bring it up under the **July 4, 2018** newsletter 88.

2. Correspondence about INVASIVE MUSSELS

2.1 Recent mail from an engineer

R. J. (Bob) Schutzman, P. Eng.
Director, Environmental Affairs Canada
EVRAZ
robert.schutzman@evrazna.com

Bob Schutzman wrote to send a copy of a Journal Article written by Seth Donavon, engineer with the firm Marine Bio Innovations, titled Using Biological Control for Invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels, from the *Environmental Science and Engineering Magazine* (June, 2018).

The article describe ***Zequanox molluscide*** as the “first fully biological control option specifically targeting invasive zebra and quagga mussels in all life stages” and goes on to claim that “there are no lasting impacts to the environment, negligible effects on non-target organisms when used as directed and minimal safety concerns for workers”.

The article describes a “large-scale demonstration project that occurred at the Ontario Power Generation DeCewII Generating station, located in St. Catherine’s Ontario, between 2009 and 2012.”

While the treatment described in the article occurred in enclosed systems and did not achieve total eradication, it promised further refinement for “future use in semi-enclosed and open-water systems”.

To read the full 4-page article, go to the Newsletters Section of our PARCS website (skparcs.com) and bring it up under the **July 6, 2018**, newsletter 88.

2.2 Recent mail from participants at our June 23 Information Meeting at Jackfish Lake

Jim Range, President
Turtle Lake Watershed Organization

“Hi Lynne, just wanted to thank you for yesterday. We both thoroughly enjoyed it as did the other Board members in attendance. You’re a natural teacher!”

Nancy and Jim (Sent from my iPhone)

Awe shucks folks – it was my pleasure – note the photos sent by PARCS North-West Director Sandy McVittie



2.3 Recent mail from our Directors in the North East

Ron Cherkewich, North-East Director, PARCS
Doug Allan, 1st Vice-President, PARCS
Candle Lake

Ron and Doug are gearing up to host a similar meeting in Candle Lake on Sunday August 12th. The first draft of their poster follows on the next page. Mark your calendar.

Reminder to folks with cottages on **Emma, Anglin, Christopher, and McPhee Lakes**, plus the folks with cottages on **Tobin, Wakaw, and Fishing Lakes** – plus cottage communities on **Greenwater Lake, Good**

Spirit Lake, Crystal Lake, Elbow Lake, or Little Swan Lake: THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WHAT YOU MIGHT DO TO PROTECT YOUR LAKE FROM AN INFESTATION OF ZEBRA MUSSELS.

A ZEBRA MUSSEL INFESTATION – ARE YOU READY FOR IT?



A **sandy beach** enjoyed by families and guests . . .

OR

A **deserted beach** with razor-sharp shells piled up a foot deep.



Heading out for a day of fishing and fun . . .

OR

Spending hours scraping shells off the propeller and hull of your boat.



Enjoying your retirement home on the lake . . .

OR

Watching your property values drop.



THE FIRST STEP IS TO KNOW YOUR ENEMY

You are invited to the

Public Informational Meeting

Sponsored by PARCS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1:00 to 3:30 pm

Candle Lake Curling Club (across from Village Office and Hall)

Please register by emailing your name, phone number, and community to: parcs@sasktel.net