

## PARCS UPDATE #18 – MAY, 2011

### 1. FLOODED COTTAGE COMMUNITIES ON THE QU'APPELLE LAKES

#### CROOKED LAKE

The Council of the **Resort Village of Melville Beach** was determined to prepare for the flooding. They filled thousands of sandbags and took them out onto the ice, depositing stacks of sandbags in front of each cottage, for owners to stack. After the first input of water, cottage owners could look down through the water at their submerged dikes.

"We sandbagged for 7.5 feet." said Mayor Dave Boulding. "Sadly, the lake peaked at 11 feet."



The swell of incoming water clawed apart the shoreline and rushed inland, tearing the fronts off many cottages. In the resort village, 34 cabins were flooded; some will have to be written off.

At one point the flow of incoming water from the south was so great that the water in the Qu'Appelle began to flow backward, from east to west!

We asked why Crooked Lake on the eastern end of the Qu'Appelle chain of lakes was the first to flood; after all, the Qu'Appelle River flows into Pasqua Lake from the west.

"It was the Elcapo Creek," said Mayor Dave. "The water roared in from the south, blowing out 6 foot culverts and tossing them up onto the fields. The lake rose 4 feet in 12 hours. Later on, it was the 18 inches of wet snow and 2 inches of rain."

#### ROUND LAKE

Perched high on the cliffs, the cottages in the **Resort Village of West End** were able to avoid the flood waters. Soon the lake waters were lapping against the cliffs such that their administrator phoned PARCS asking for contact information for other cottage communities with experience in **rip wrapping** their shoreline.



## THE WESTERN LAKES

It wasn't long, however, before the swollen Qu'Appelle River was pouring in from the west. By mid-April the waters in **Pasqua Lake** and **Echo Lake** had flooded across the highway and the two lakes had become one, soon to be joined by **Mission Lake** and **Katepwa Lake**.



Ultimately, the four western lakes become a single lake!

The junction of Mission and Katepwa Lakes. ↑

The parking lot at Echo Valley Provincial Park, at the junction of Pasqua and Echo Lake was covered with water and ice early in April. →



At the **Resort Village of B-Say-Tah**, on the south side of Echo Lake, the flood waters poured into the Village, filling the Village Office with 4 feet of flood water. The Office was moved into a rental trailer as staff struggled to deal with the flooding. Unusual winds from the north pounded 4-foot wave up onto the village.

Their Administrator stated that 178 cottages were affected by the flooding, of which 48 were permanent residences that will not qualify for any relief under the **Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP)** – although the Sask Watershed program will provide some help with costs such as pumps and other mitigation efforts (but not for damage to cottages). The Village itself will be dealing with the costs of the deductible charges for both relief programs which are based on a percentage of their assessments. They forecasts deductible costs equal to more than ¼ of their annual operating budget.

The good news, said Administrator Coralen, was the awesome community spirit of the residents. "Those cottage owners whose property was not flooded cooked meals for the people who were fighting the flood. People whose property was flooded out, instead of returning home, turned their attention to helping their neighbours who were still sand bagging. It was truly a remarkable sight."



**The Resort Village of Katepwa Beach** - PARCS spoke with their administrator on day 20 of their recent battle against the flood waters. Exhausted and beleaguered though she was, Glenda spoke with pride about community members' valiant fight against the rising flood waters. Along with some late-day help from Regina Corrections and the La Ronge Fire Department, most of the credit went to the **800 volunteers** who filled **198,000 sand bags** with 17,000 yds<sup>3</sup> of sand!



Volunteers built 8,000 feet of sand bag dikes, each 4 feet high.

A command centre was set up in the Katepwa Beach Community Centre. A professional Emergency Measures Coordinator who lived at Katepwa volunteered to assist the Mayor and Council in managing the disaster.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> it looked like the battle might be lost. Hurricane force winds of 85 km/hr drove massive waves and ice floes up against the shoreline.

When waves began to wash over the heads of volunteers standing on top of this 4-ft-high aqua berm, the area was evacuated to protect the safety of the volunteers.

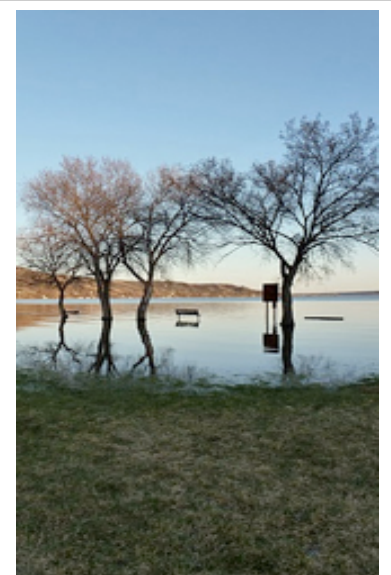


In the end, only a couple of permanent residents were asked to leave their homes at Katepwa Beach. These were soon pumped out, allowing residents to return. The almost 2-miles of dikes stood firm against the flood waters.

### **PARCS AND THE FLOOD OF 2011**

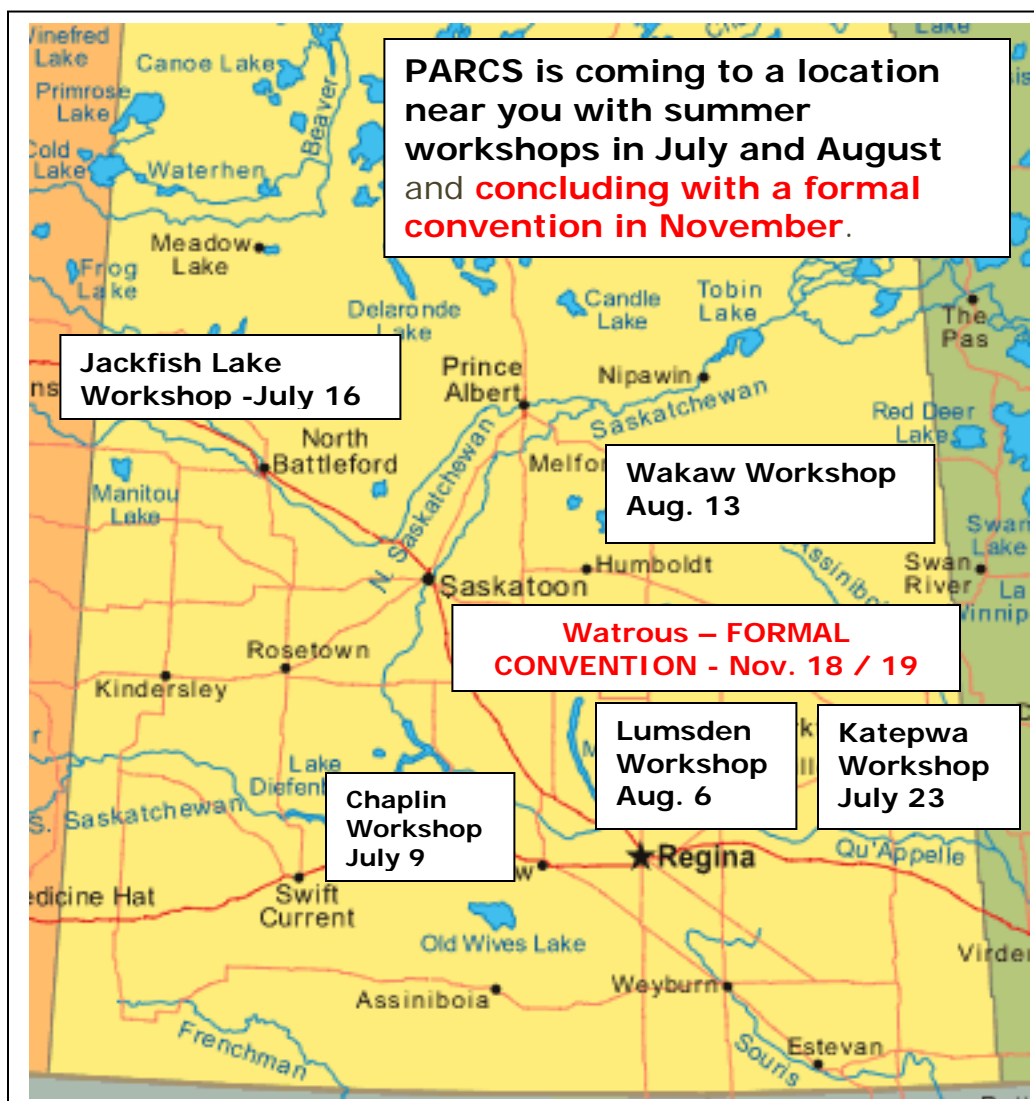
When the Sask Watershed Authority learned that PARCS had email contact with many of the resort communities in the flood zone, they twice called upon PARCS to put out ***emergency advisories*** to these cottage communities.

As part of the annual PARCS convention on November 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> in Watrous, representatives from a number of these cottage communities will sit on a panel for the purpose of ***Debriefing the Flood of 2011.***



There's a new view at the beaches along the Qu'Appelle Lakes this summer.

## 2. AN EXCITING SUMMER PROGRAM FOR COTTAGE COMMUNITIES



### Our agenda at each WORKSHOP:

**10:00 – 12:00 noon** – Issues facing cottage communities today – An overview of the current issues facing cottage communities in Saskatchewan and tell how cottage communities are dealing with these issues.

**12:00 – 12:30 noon** – Lunch on site

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m.** – A dialogue with Sask Environment - The manager of your local Sask Environment Compliance Region will present an overview of their new process for handling permit applications and doing audits of cottage community practices. This session will also include updates about sewage (hauling, field spraying, on-site wastewater, and regional lagoons), water (both potable and non-potable systems), and garbage (landfills, transfer sites, etc.).

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m.** – How can PARCS best represent you? - Cottage communities will have the opportunity to voice their concerns about current issues and provide input to their PARCS Board of Directors about future directions for cottage country in Saskatchewan.

**THE CONVENTION** - The **formal part of our convention** will occur on **Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> in Watrous at the Manitou Springs Spa and Hotel** in Watrous. Our agenda includes Allan Casey, Canadian award winning author of Lakeland and a session on Debriefing the Flooding. Come and help PARCS celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



### 3. WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT THE SUMMER WORKSHOPS

It is very important that we hear from cottage communities about attendance at the summer workshops - **SOON**. It's very easy to register – just send us an email like the one shown here. →

We need to know the number of communities attending in order to know whether we should hold that site.

Once we get the name of your community on the list, we will confirm by email and check with you later in June regarding the number of people attending.

Remember, because we have decentralized the same workshop to 5 handy locations, there will be no hotel costs for your community to attend this PARCS workshop. Registration costs are minimal and can be paid on site.

#### This is all we need from you:

Hello,  
We would like to let you know that we have 1 person attending for sure and perhaps 4 more to Chaplin on July 9th. We will forward the information to you as soon as possible but wanted to let you know that we will be attending.

Regards,  
Lori Harper  
Office Clerk  
Resort Village of Manitou Beach

This is a *rare opportunity* for your cottage owners to share with other cottage owners. Why not plan NOW to bring a car load to the workshop near you?

#### Workshop fees – can be paid on site:

- \_\_\_ \$25 for one participant
  - \_\_\_ \$50 for two participants
  - \_\_\_ \$65 for three participants
  - \_\_\_ \$80 for four participants
  - \_\_\_ \$95 for five participants
- Fees include lunch.

#### Choices for locations of the workshop:

- \_\_\_ Saturday, July 9, 10:00 a.m. in Chaplin (Legion Hall)
- \_\_\_ Saturday July 16, 10:00 a.m. at Jackfish Lake Golf and Country Club
- \_\_\_ Saturday, July 23, 10:00 a.m. at Katepwa Beach (Community Hall)
- \_\_\_ Saturday, Aug. 6, 10:00 a.m. at Lumsden (Legion Hall)
- \_\_\_ Saturday, Aug. 13, 10:00 a.m. at Wakaw (Legion Hall)

### 4. WHAT ABOUT CONVENTION?

The formal part of convention will happen after the provincial election. Remember:

- Location – Manitou Springs Hotel & Spa
- Friday, **November 18<sup>th</sup>**
  - Registration at 6:00 p.m.
  - President's Banquet at 7:00 p.m. at the historic Danceland
  - Evening Speaker – Allan Casey
- Saturday, **November 19<sup>th</sup>**
  - Panel presentation on Debriefing the Flood of 2011
  - Annual Meeting – Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition
- The final agenda and final registration fee structure will be released in July.

#### To make advance reservations:

Manitou Spring Hotel & Mineral Spa - 946-2233  
Lakeside Inn - 946-3456  
Harmony House - 946-2707  
Serenic View B&B - 946-3821  
Manitou Retreat - 946-3634  
Brown's Motor Inn (suites) - 946-2863