

PARCS UPDATE #20 – SEPTEMBER, 2011



1. A VERY BUSY SUMMER



16 cottage communities were represented at the PARCS Summer Workshop at Jackfish Lake on July 16th. The following are some of their comments:

"I think your idea of having this 1-day workshop was excellent, very productive."



"Keep lobbying and keep educating. This was great for new board members. We need to learn about current issues."



"Regional workshops like this are great. Have these workshops more often."



"PARCS needs to keep helping us communicate with one another."



"A wealth of information to take home. Gave us ideas of where our community can go. Informative."



2. INFORMATION FROM SASK ENVIRONMENT ABOUT SEPTIC WASTE

“Improper disposal of liquid domestic (septic) waste is becoming a growing concern in Saskatchewan because it can cause damage to the environment and poses health and safety issues for residents, pets and livestock. Sewage contains organisms such as E.Coli and salmonella, which can cause serious illness. Human exposure to improperly disposed sewage may be direct, or indirect through flies and animals, or where sewage has contaminated drinking water supplies. This is of particular concern for children and individuals that are immune-compromised. Proper disposal and management of sewage waste helps to protect our environment and human health.

This article has been submitted to PARCS by Sask Environment who have also sent along the attached #2 - Fact Sheet on [Septic Waste Disposal](#).

Three members from Sask Environment’s Compliance Branch will be speaking about septic disposal and other topics at both the Lumsden and Wakaw Summer Workshops in August.

The transportation and disposal of septic waste are regulated by [The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations](#). This means that septic hauling operators must get a permit from the local Conservation Officer at Ministry of Environment field offices across the province, in order to operate. Septic waste should be disposed of in an approved sewage system, such as an approved municipal lagoon. If a lagoon is not accessible, an alternative method of land spreading and timely tilling (within four days) on agricultural fields, with written permission from the landowner is permitted. When land spreading, septic waste must be spread more than 100 metres from any watercourse, slough, surface water, water well, highway or road, and should not be allowed to pool or run off into these areas. Spreading should not take place within 1.0 kilometres of communities, occupied dwellings, resort/recreational areas and public places. Dumping of septic waste in landfills is not permitted.

The Ministry of Environment enforces septic waste regulations at three levels: education at the permit and inspection stage; prevention through warnings and notices of violations, and enforcement through the courts if necessary. As cottages open for another season, septic waste hauling operators will be in full demand to service properties and dispose of septic waste. To discourage shortcuts being taken in disposal methods, the Ministry of Environment is calling upon cottage dwellers and permanent residents to help.

When you are hiring a septic waste hauling operator, ask to see their Ministry of Environment permit and inquire where the waste is being disposed. If you believe that septic waste is not being disposed of properly, or if you observe illegal dumping, please report it by calling the toll-free TIP line at 1-800-667-7561 or #5555 on your SaskTel cell phone. In doing so, you are helping to protect our environment and ensuring safe water for your families.”



Sask Environment views lagoons like the one shown here as the preferred way of disposing of sewage.



Above - Lexi Gardner, an Environmental Protection Officer and Kelly Neuert, an Environmental Investigation Officer, respond to a question from a participant at the Summer Workshop at Jackfish Lake.

3. HAVE YOU MARKED THE FALL CONVENTION ON YOUR CALENDAR?

2011 PARCS Convention Program

Friday, November 18th

- Pre-convention workshop: Round Table for hamlets, organized hamlets and RMs
 - 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - Manitou Springs Hotel and Spa
 - Several of our hamlet members have been invited to kick off the discussion in this round-table session.
 - An advisor from Sask Municipal Affairs will be available to answer technical questions.
- Registration
 - 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 - Manitou Springs Hotel and Spa
- Convention banquet and social evening
 - 7:00 p.m.
 - Danceland Historic Dance Hall
 - **Banquet speaker** – Allan Casey, award winning author of *Lakelands*
 - **Celebration of PARCS 25TH Anniversary**
 - Recognition of special guests

Saturday, November 19th

- All sessions at Manitou Springs Hotel and Spa
- 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. – **PARCS annual meeting**
- 11:30 to 12:30 noon – Lunch on site
- 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. – **Lessons Learned from the Flood: Preparing for Emergencies in our Cottage Communities**
 - A panel composed of the Provincial Fire Commissioner, an EMO coordinator from Katepwa and mayors from other cottage communities will provide insights about what a community should have in place for dealing with emergencies.
- 2:00 to 3:30 – **Tourism – Its impact on cottage communities and the challenges it poses**
 - A panel of delegates from cottage communities will be joined by staff from the Department of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport and will discuss the following issues:
 - What are the new initiatives for tourism in Saskatchewan?
 - What is the impact of tourism on our cottage communities?
 - Does provincial funding adequately reflect the new expectations on cottage communities as hosts for the growing tourist industry in Sask?
- Convention adjourns at 3:30 p.m.

Convention Registration

(mail or fax or email)

Name of Community:

Contact email:

Contact phone no:

Number of attending **members:**
(**voting delegates** - Friday workshop and banquet, Saturday breakfast & lunch and Saturday sessions)

_____ x **\$120** = \$ _____

Number of attending **non-members:**
(**nonvoting delegates** - Friday workshop and banquet, Saturday lunch and Saturday sessions)

_____ x **\$220** = \$ _____

Number of **Saturday only** delegates:
(Saturday lunch & Saturday sessions)

_____ x **\$100** = \$ _____

Number of extra banquet tickets:

_____ x **\$20** = \$ _____

(no spousal convention packages available)

Number of walk-in registrations for
SATURDAY AFTERNOON ONLY (no meals)

_____ x **\$50** = \$ _____

TOTAL Enclosed: = \$ _____

Names of Voting Delegates

Questions? Call or email

Lynne Saas
Coordinator of Member Services
Phone - 854-4658
Fax - 854-4412
saas@sasktel.net

4. USEFUL ATTACHMENTS TO THIS NEWSLETTER

• FOR THOSE COMMUNITIES THAT WERE VICTIMS OF THE FLOOD

The attached 8-page document [2011 Post Flood Shoreline Restoration and Stabilization Protocol](#) is being distributed at the request of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The document provides information about **shoreline cleanup** and **shoreline stabilization** such as vegetative plantings, rock rip rap, retaining walls above the ordinary high water mark, along with measures to protect fish and fish habitat when stabilizing the shoreline.

The last two pages provide information about the **times when in-water construction is not allowed due to fish spawning** in the spring and in the fall/winter. To use the charts it is necessary to first determine the fish species living in the water body where you wish to carry out repair work.

The last page provides the **contact information** for each of the Prince Albert Office and the Regina Office of **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**.

• FOR THOSE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE USING FIELD SPREADING

The attached document on [Septic Waste Disposal in Saskatchewan](#) is distributed at the request of Sask Environment. The document provides information about current regulations around field spreading.

The last page of the document contains **contact phone numbers** for each of the 44 **Sask Environment offices** in the province.

The contact information in both of these attached documents should likely be posted on all of our bulletin boards. Also note that the **TIPS HOTLINE CAN BE USED TO REPORT ANY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRACTIONS - not just for poachers!**

PUMPING SEPTIC WASTE INTO THE LAKE!

PARCS recently received a phone call from the mayor of a cottage community that is one of the victims of the 2011 flooding. The mayor reported that a number of cottage owners were pumping their septic tanks directly into the lake. The mayor's efforts to mobilize either the Health Region or the RCMP to stop the process were to no avail.

PARCS phoned an Environmental Compliance Investigator who in turn mobilized a team of Conservation Officers to make calls on the cottage owners in that community.

• FOR COMMUNITIES IN THE SOUTH AND NORTH EAST

There's still time to register for the Summer Workshops in Lumsden and in Wakaw. Sask Environment will be on hand to provide more information about issues raised in this newsletter. See Attachment #3 with this mail-out.

5. IN OUR AUGUST ISSUE

- A summary of the issues and concerns from the three summer workshops at Jackfish, Lumsden and Wakaw,
- A guest article about tree planting in cottage communities,
- More details about the presenters and the sessions at our fall convention at Manitou Springs.

Now is the time to reserve your hotel room at the Manitou Springs Hotel and Spa for the fall convention. There are still some rooms left at our convention rate of \$110 (single), \$120 (double). Call **946-2233**.



Conservation Officer Peter Schultz checks over his notes while in attendance at the PARCS Summer Workshop at Jackfish Lake on July 16th.