

PARCS UPDATE #22 – NOVEMBER, 2011



1. REASONS TO REGISTER FOR CONVENTION



Extended deadline for registrations:

- We will now accept your registrations until November 15th.
- There are still a few rooms left at the Spa (although not at the convention rate).
- See page 3 for a list of places and rooms available for last minute registrants. RESERVE NOW!

Interesting and informative topics:

- Is your community prepared for an emergency?
- Where should PARCS set its targets for future lobby efforts?
- Should the province recognize the contribution of cottage communities to Sask tourism?



A 25th anniversary celebration

- Our birthday banquet will be a traditional Ukrainian meal served in the historic Danceland hall followed by visits with old friends.
- Our keynote speaker will be Allan Casey award winning author of *Lakelands*.

A chance to relax

- Have a swim at spa.
- Take a stroll along the shore,
- Our program is low-key.
- All you hard working cottage dwellers deserve a break!



2. REGISTER NOW

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**
 - Plans for dealing with member input from the summer workshops
- 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 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 full time attending members who also attended a summer workshop:
(*) _____ x **\$70** = \$ _____

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

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3. THERE ARE STILL A FEW ROOMS AT THE INN(S)

As of today, November 4th there are still the following accommodation options for the night of November 18th:

- At the Manitou Springs Spa – 7 regular rooms at \$115 for single occupancy (946-2233).
- At the Salty Surf Inn – 1 room open, approximately \$75 (946-2110)
- At Brown's Inn – 4 rooms with 2 beds at \$100 and 2 room with 1 bed at \$80 (946-2863)
- At the Shady Rest B & B – 2 rooms at \$60 (946-2741).
- At the Serenic View – 4 rooms at \$100 for single occupancy (946-3821)
- At the Manitou Executive Retreat – A 3 bedroom suite for \$180, bring your council (946-3634)
- Others – At the Lakeside Inn (946-3456) or the Harmony House (945-2707)

4. LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS



A Profile of Wakaw Lake

After our visit to Wakaw Lake last summer, we are planning a feature story on the beautiful lake with so many different kinds of cottage communities and so many challenges.

This photo was taken from the north east shore facing south west.

Tree Planting at the Lake?

We usually go to the lake to find the trees. But with all the clearing of trees for new development, many cottage communities are interested in re-forestation.

A future edition will feature an article by a forestry expert, drawing on the example of a southern cottage community whose citizens undertook to rebuild their forest.



5. LOOKING BACK ON THE SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Paul and Sharon Benson attended their first PARCS workshop this past summer in Wakaw (and took out new memberships). They shared the report that they took back to their cottage community (the Hamlet of Spruce Grove) and we are sharing it with our readers.

The tradition of “going to the lake” has changed. Cottages are now more like a second home or even a principal residence.

Implications:

1. **Higher infrastructure demands** - This is noticeable in the growing need for better sewage systems. Resort communities are beginning to develop partnerships with neighbors to achieve the economy of scale needed to move forward toward lagoon or mechanical systems of sewage disposal. Some places in Saskatchewan already have by-laws prohibiting land spreading. Within the next five years, if it is allowed at all, land spreading must have an Environmental Protection Plan. Most provinces have discontinued the use of land-spreading.
2. **Building communities involves more than bricks and mortar.** It involves fostering a sense of belonging and ownership of the outcome of decisions. Various lake resorts shared that they use work bees, shared planning and honoring of volunteers as ways of engaging neighbors with one another.
3. **Encouraging law and order; living together peacefully.** The enforcement of by-laws drafted by the community is the responsibility of the community. The RCMP is rarely involved in the enforcement of local by-laws. Some communities have employed by-law enforcement officers. Lakeland RM uses an officer plus “doorknockers”, a notice that is hung on the door knobs of people who have broken local bylaws as a way of educating and reminding them of the by-laws.
4. **Protecting our eco-systems.** We need to be thinking of the pressures caused by house size, parking, docks, the size of boats and motors, ATVs, chemical control of weeds and raw sewage. Some resort communities have an Environmental Advisory Committee to look at the effect of intense development on the lake. Others have elected a representative to their local RM Council. The common area between our lots and the water belongs to the governing RM. If we want a say in the decisions that are made that have an impact on the lake, we need to be represented on the decision-making body. All cabin owners are eligible to vote in local elections. We want to avoid turning recreation into wreck-reaction.

Things We Learned:

- The process of working on a community development plan for local issues is a critical step toward compliance. We need to have broad agreement before bylaws are put into place.
- Community building is an important part of life at the lake.
- We must have a go-forward plan for septic waste. The present system is time-limited and may have an unwanted environmental impact.
- We would benefit from having a representative on the RM Council. As a stop-gap alternative, someone from the community could attend RM meetings as an observer.
- A committee to consider the long-term impact of sustained development on the lake would be a benefit to all of us.