

PARCS UPDATE #71

MARCH, 2017



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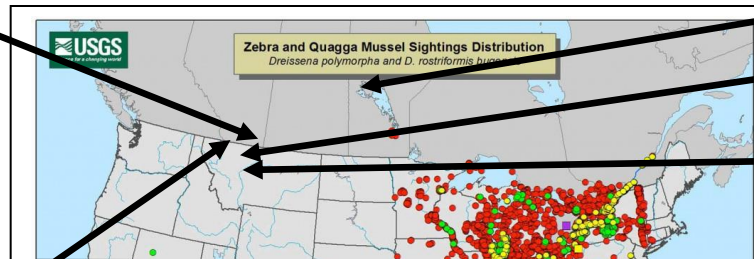
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1. SASKATCHEWAN IS NOW SURROUNDED BY INVASIVE MUSSELS

Coutts, Alberta

on highway #4 is the location of one of the Alberta border inspection sites operated by Alberta's Ministry of Environment.

Upon learning of the Montana infestations, **as of March 2nd**, this inspection site is now open **24 hours a day for 7 days a week**, with trained inspectors and sniffer dogs. Lucky Albertans!



LATEST BREAKING NEWS:

In **Waterton National Park**, Parcs Canada has announced that they are **banning motorized water craft** from the park "in order to try to prevent the spread of invasive mussels which have been found less than **1/2 day's drive to the south**, stating that *"the move is necessary to protect the ecology of their lakes."*

Meanwhile, the **State of Montana** has announced an allocation of **10.1 million dollars** to fight the spread of these mussels into other water bodies in the state. Prudent action!

Cedar Lake, Manitoba

Reservoir near **Shelby, Montana**

Reservoir near **Helena, Montana**

These new infestations significantly increase the threat to: **Tobin Lake** (across the border from Cedar Lake) and **Lake Diefenbaker** (north east of the Montana infestations). Both lakes are part of the North & South Sask River systems – linked to Buffalo Pound Lake, Last Mountain Lake and the Qu'Appelle Lakes.

2. SO WHAT IS OUR SASK MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PLANNING?

- In June of last year, the provincial auditor devoted an entire chapter to "Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species in Saskatchewan", asking the Ministry to "Formalize a risk-based watercraft inspection strategy"¹. The Ministry has recently released a response document, **DRAFT STRATEGY** to a few selected recipients. PARCS has reviewed this paper and finds it to be an excellent summary of **why** but lacking in specifics about **who, when** or **how** – a **starting point for discussion, however**.
- In February of this year, PARCS wrote to Environment Minister Moe, offering to raise fund to operate a pilot **PROJECT BORDER INSPECTION SITE** on the TransCanada border with Manitoba. We are very disappointed that the **Ministry has never replied to our offer**.
- In response to letters from SAW², PARCS, SUMA and SARM asking for a task force, that request has been granted. The first meeting of this multi-agency **TASK FORCE**³ will be held on **April 13th**.
- We have seen no indication that the **BUDGET** on Wednesday, **March 22nd** will offer any hope for action to save our lakes – we can only hope and pray.
- Meanwhile PARCS is committed for the long haul! We will continue to advocate for **STOPPING THEM AT THE BORDER**. We feel that **in light of the breaking news around us, the province may have no choice but to be proactive**. Your postcard support will be needed as we go forward.

¹ To read this chapter, go to the bottom of the front page of our website (www.skparcs.com) and click on RESOURCE DOCUMENTS.

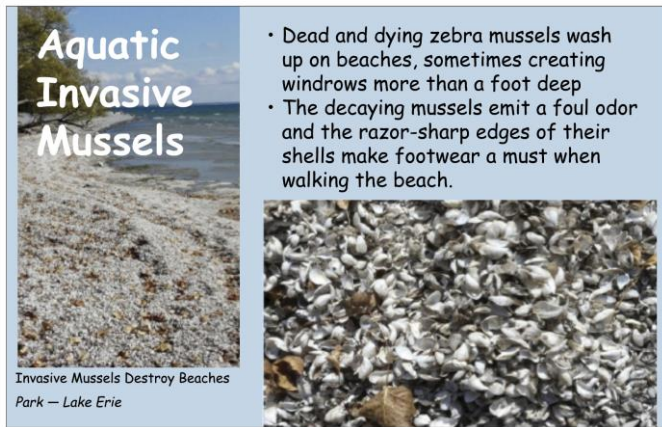
² Sask Association of Watersheds

³ SAW, SUMA, SARM, PARCS, Sask Chamber of Commerce, SaskPower, Sask Irrigators, Ducks Unlimited, Sask Wildlife Federation and other government branches.

3. POSTCARDS FROM PEOPLE WHO CARE

**FROM: R and L P, OH of Taylor Beach
Katepwa Lake**

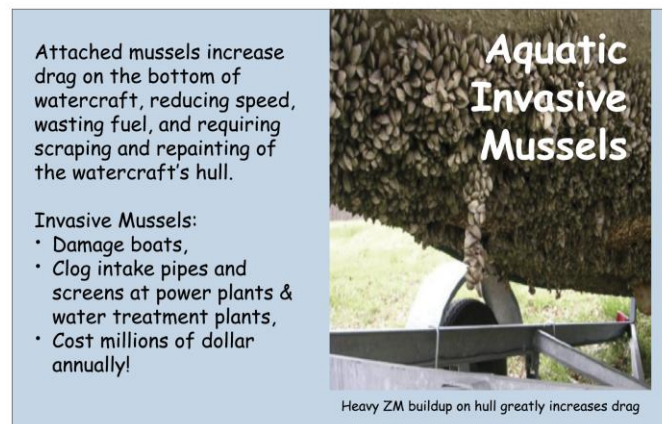
We live on Katepwa Lake and we take for granted the beauty and value of our lake. It is extremely important to us and our community to keep all invasive species from our lake. Please do whatever is possible to prevent the spread of this invasive species from our lake.



**FROM: RH, OH of Evergreen Beach
Brightsand Lake**

Premier Wall:

I am sure you know that **"an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"**. In this case an ounce of prevention could save many thousands of pounds of unwanted invasive mussels. Please make boat inspections mandatory at our borders and stop this from happening!



FROM: AH, OH of Little Fishing Lake

Dear Premier Wall,

Please be proactive in saving this province billions by implementing a mandatory boat inspection at all border crossings.

As this issue has been brought to the attention of your ministers for the last two years, there is no reason that the funding cannot be worked into this year's budget.

Please do not be known as the party that dropped the ball on this important preventive measure. Thanks,

Economic Impacts of Aquatic Invasive Mussels

- The costs for hydro-electric power will likely mean higher power bills.
- Irrigators will face big challenges.
- Property values will drop.



FROM: T and J B, Lake Diefenbaker

Please Hon. Mr. Wall, continue to be pro-active in your actions! Implement inspection stations NOW! Waiting and watching will be too late! An invasive species contamination of our pristine waterways is not an example of being pro-active!
You want to invest in our future – then prove it.

TO:
Honourable Brad Wall
Premier of Saskatchewan
226 Legislative Building
REGINA, SK
S4S 0B3

**SAMPLES
from the
first batch of
POSTCARDS
Delivered
March 20st
to the
Premier's
office**

**FROM: RD, OH of Cudsaskawa
Wakaw Lake**

Mr. Wall,
We need to do something other than just hope other provinces or organizations will protect our lakes and rivers. I urge that the province follow the province of Alberta and establish border inspections between Manitoba & the USA. Please take the actions required to protect our water

**FROM: Executive of Little Swan Subdivision
Little Swan Lake**

Infestations of aquatic invasive mussels have been discovered in two reservoirs in Montana, near Saskatchewan.
We are asking our government to take appropriate action (now) at all our borders, to prevent mussels from entering our Saskatchewan watershed(s).
The cost of prevention may be high but not as high as the cost of ongoing cleanup if/when this evasive species enters our water systems!

FROM: SG, Anglin Lake

Even in times of fiscal restraint, our natural resources, such as our lakes, must be protected.
They are the only lasting legacy for future generations.

FROM: ES, RV of Shields

As a resident on Blackstrap Lake I am very concerned. The zebra mussel would not only affect fishing in the area, and our irrigation system but would also have far reaching impacts on other users, such as potash mines, area farmers using irrigation, and Blackstrap provincial park. **Please act now before it is too late.**

FROM: JQ, Candle Lake

Dear Premier Wall
An infestation of Zebra Mussels in our lakes is a very strong possibility within the near future. Although education programs for the public are great we need stronger action. Implementation of border checkpoints on water craft entering our province would greatly assist to prevent invasive species getting into our lakes and rivers. Remember: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

PARCS will continue to forward postcards from people who care about our lakes.

Long after the budget has come down, we will continue to remind our provincial government about the need to protect our lakes

Just send a name, email address, and message to parcs@sasktel.net. We will transcribe and deliver your postcards to the premier.

If the budget makes provisions for new dollars for border inspection site, your postcards can offer our thanks to the premier.

4. FINAL TID-BITS

INTERESTED IN THE QUALITY OF YOUR LAKE WATER?

At a recent meeting of PARCS President, Garry Dixon, with officials from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, it was revealed that the agency has data on the quality of the water in many of our Saskatchewan lakes, based on long term and on recent sampling. The Watershed Authority will release that data upon our request. **If you are interested in adding your lake to the list for which PARCS will request data**, send an email to parcs@sasktel.net saying that you would like to request this data for *NAME OF LAKE* and state the *NAME AND CONTACT EMAIL FOR YOUR COMMUNITY*. Please make your request by April 20th. PARCS will arrange to have the data passed along to you.

A REQUEST FOM THE RV OF LUMSDEN BEACH

The Resort Village of Lumsden Beach is trying to determine what to do with significant archival materials gathered during its 100 years of existence. In order to avoid 'reinventing the wheel', we are wondering if other members of PARCS have gone through a similar process and could share their insight or learnings. The types of materials include; Council Minutes, Taxation Records, Audited Financial Statements, Maps, Photographs, Signed Agreements and other physical memorabilia. If your municipality put a plan in place to handle such materials and would be willing to share your process with us it would be greatly appreciated particularly if there was a company you hired to assist your endeavours. If you wish to respond please send an email to <lumsdenbeach@sasktel.net>. Thanks.

REMINDER:

April 1st is the deadline for applications under the Community Initiatives Grant Program for their **Community Grant Program** with grants of up to \$25,000 for single community projects.

Check out their web site at:

<http://www.cifsask.org/grants>

These postcards will be delivered by PARCS President, Garry Dixon, to the Premier's Office at the Legislative Building on **today, March 20th**

