

CRVWA Water Source

SUMMER 2019

Happy September!

With the kids back at school and harvest in full swing, fall is fast-approaching. We've had a busy summer here at the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association. Spring was filled with wrapping up our 2018-19 projects and getting this year's projects underway. Some of our projects this summer included the Love Your Lake program at Lucien Lake, surveying for aquatic invasive mussels at 16 lakes in the Carrot River Watershed, partnering with three other watersheds to test for phosphorus in lakes and rivers flowing into the Saskatchewan River, and our Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) demonstration of the WEEDIt technology.

With spring came some staff changes and some new opportunities. Our summer student has returned back to university for his final year after working hard on aquatic invasive mussel monitoring (page 4) and the Love Your Lake Program at Lucien Lake (page 3). Bronwen has been busy writing grazing plans, filling out soil qualifications, and presenting on programming at local field days and events. See her Agri-Environmental Technical Services (AETS) update on page 2.

Be sure to follow us on social media to stay updated, and check out our upcoming events on page 4.

Happy reading!

Hillary Luchinski, A.Ag.

Watershed Manager

CRVWA 2019-20 Members:

Arborfield C&D Area Authority
City of Melfort
Cudworth Wildlife Federation
Kipabiskau Regional Park Authority
Melfort & District Wildlife Federation
Moose Range C&D Area Authority
Pasquia Regional Park
Resort Village of Tobin Lake
Resort Village of Wakaw Lake
RM of Connaught #457
RM of Fish Creek #402
RM of Hoodoo #401
RM of Humboldt #370
RM of Invergordon #430
RM of Kinistino #459
RM of Moose Range #486
RM of Nipawin #487
RM of Pleasantdale #398
RM of St. Peter #369
RM of Star City # 428
RM of Tisdale #427
St. Peter C&D Area Authority
Struthers Lake Wildlife Federation
Tisdale Wildlife Federation
Town of Arborfield
Town of Carrot River
Town of Wakaw
Wakaw Lake Regional Park
Village of Lake Lenore

Who is the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc.?

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc. (CRVWA) is a grassroots, membership-driven not-for-profit non-government organization that is dedicated to preserving and maintaining the character and integrity of the watershed through education and awareness.

In addition to educating and raising awareness about watershed stewardship, we also deliver environmental programs and projects, such as our Natural Edge shoreline naturalization program or the Agri-Environmental Technical Services.

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Agri-Environmental Technical Services (AETS) Update

This spring/summer we've been busy assisting producers with Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) applications. Due to our dry spring and wet summer; grazing management is on producers' minds, so many producers have been applying for tame forage and riparian and native grazing management pre-approvals. We've also had many inquiries on the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program rebates for dugout expansions, new dugouts, and new wells. Remember to contact us before you start your project to make sure you have all the necessary paperwork, so you can access the funding!

Now that we're well into summer, it's a great time to think about getting some funding for any variable rate mapping you may have done in the spring! Variable Rate Mapping helps producers find the amount of fertilizer they need based on nutrient requirements of the soil. This helps reduce the amount of fertilizer one needs and therefore helps keep our waterbodies in the Carrot River Valley Watershed clean and healthy. We can help you access funding through the Farm Stewardship Program and help answer any questions you may have.

Questions or comments? Call Bronwen at 306-920-8166 or email crwatershedaegp@gmail.com! You can also check out the programming at www.saskatchewan.ca/cap.



Bronwen Plumer, A.Ag.

Bronwen Plumer joined the CRVWA on May 9, 2019 as the Watershed Technician. Bronwen grew up in several communities in Saskatchewan and followed a love for nature and conservation to the University of Saskatchewan, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, majoring in Environmental Science and minoring in Rangeland Resources. She also has her Certificate in Sustainability from the School of Environment and Sustainability at the U of S. Bronwen brings valuable plant ID skills and working knowledge of the agriculture industry to the team, and is excited to be working with producers to deliver Agri-Environmental Technical Services (AETS) in the Carrot River Watershed!

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Love Your Lake Program Comes to Lucien Lake



By Tim Fagnou
Watershed Summer Student
Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc.

The Love Your Lake is a program put together by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. The program uses shoreline assessments as a tool to raise awareness about how human activities and alteration of shorelines have potential impacts on water quality. The program uses the assessments to offer suggestions to landowners on how to improve and maintain the health of the shoreline on each particular property.

Since 2016, the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association (CRVWA) has been bringing the Love Your Lake program to local lakes in our watershed. Wakaw Lake was the first lake to be surveyed, and since then surveying has been done at Struthers, Dixon, and Tobin Lake. This summer [we brought] the program to Lucien Lake.

The shoreline assessments are completed by the CRVWA staff. All the surveying takes place from a boat which is anchored offshore. We use the collected data to make notes of each owner's property which allows us to provide personal recommendations for each individual that are tailored to the specific characteristics of their property. Once the data collection is complete, we build a report including property details, the health status of your shoreline, and recommendations to help improve shoreline health. These suggestions are completely voluntary and solely to inform and educate landowners on why a healthy shoreline is important and how they could work to improve its health. This report is made available to the property owners to keep and reference it at any time using an individualized, private code. Property owners can view their report online or request a hard copy. There is also an overall lake summary report given to the lake organization which provides them with valuable information about the overall health of their lake's shoreline. All personal reports are kept strictly confidential, and no personalized information will be put into the lake summary report.

Having a healthy and natural shoreline brings a variety of benefits. It helps limit the pollution that enters the lake, reduces erosion, and provides a habitat for wildlife. For lake front properties, a 30-meter wide buffer of native vegetation is recommended to achieve all the benefits of a healthy shoreline. While a 30-meter wide buffer is not realistic for most properties, having any natural vegetation to act as a buffer can still have lots of positive effects for your shoreline.

Some general best practices include not mowing your grass right down to the water and instead letting it grow, planting native trees and shrubs to provide stability to the soil, and leaving fallen logs and aquatic plants for wildlife and fish habitat. Maintaining or creating a natural shoreline is a great step towards lake and wildlife conservation while at the same time having a beautiful addition to your property. If you are interested in bringing the Love Your Lake program to your lake or naturalizing your shoreline, you can visit www.loveyourlake.ca or contact us at (306)752-1270 or crwatershed@gmail.com.



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Aquatic Invasive Mussel Surveying

This summer, the CRVWA and our taskforce of volunteers monitored 16 lakes for invasive aquatic zebra and quagga mussels. In addition to deploying substrate samplers to check for adult mussels, we were also able to test for veligers (larva) at Tobin Lake and Wakaw Lake in July and August. Lakes with substrate samplers include:

- * Tobin Lake
- * Wakaw Lake
- * Kipabiskau Lake
- * Greenwater Lake
- * Marean Lake
- * McBride Lake
- * Struthers Lake
- * Lake Lenore
- * Lucien Lake
- * Frog Lake
- * Deschambeault Lake
- * Jan Lake
- * Amisk Lake
- * Lower Fishing Lake
- * Little Bear Lake



Thank you to our volunteers and to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund for helping us keep aquatic invasive species out of our waters!



Stay updated!

Facebook @CarrotRiverValleyWatershedAssociation

Instagram @Carrot_River_Watershed

Twitter @crwatershed

Upcoming Events:

Well Decommissioning Workshop

October (Date TBD)

Location: TBD

Call the CRVWA at 306-752-1270 for more information

Tisdale Regional Services

Producer Appreciation Night

October 28, 2019

Register by calling the Tisdale Regional Ministry of Agriculture Office at 306-878-8842 .

Prince Albert Regional Services

Producer Appreciation Night

October 29, 2019

Register by calling the Prince Albert Regional Ministry of Agriculture Office at 306-953-2363

Pasture Management Workshop

November (Date TBD)

Cudworth, SK

Call the CRVWA at 306-752-1270 for more information



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