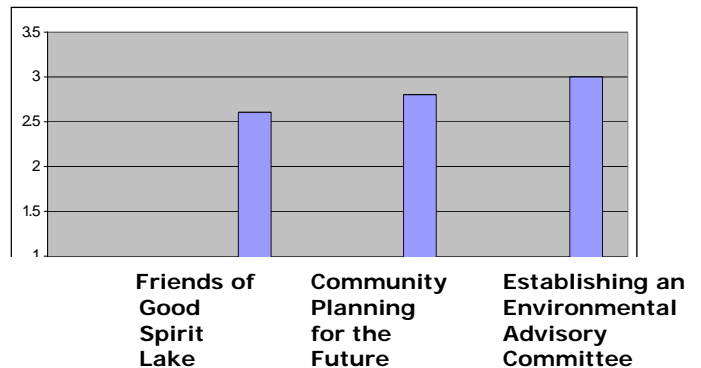


PARCS UPDATE #8 – APRIL, 2010

1. ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION TO SPRING WORKSHOP

The PARCS members who gathered in the meeting room on March 27th came to Manitou Springs Hotel because they care about their lakes and about the natural setting around their lakes.

Participants' enthusiasm for protecting their lakeshore surroundings was evident in the ratings they gave to the three workshops (see graph, with #3 being a perfect rating) and in their feedback comments (see below).



Participants intent on gathering information at the PARCS Spring Workshop

- "Valuable information on a timely issue" (Resort Village of Candle Lake)
- "Your workshops are on the right track. You will grow." (RM of Good Lake)
- "The workshop was very informative, well worth attending" (RV of Wakaw Lake)

1) "Without a Zoning Bylaw the resort community has no way to protect its natural environment"

Joe Jozsa, Community Planner and environmental advocate, began his workshop by outlining the importance of the environment to a resort community, a position that should be captured in the vision and goals of the **OCP** (Official Community Plan). Joe spoke about the natural, recreational and economic benefits of our open spaces and the importance of protecting green infrastructure in resort communities.

"The **Zoning Bylaw** is the means to enforcing the OCP", Joe explained "and should come into being as the result of a community engagement process and the promotion of a green vision."

Joe spoke to the kinds of land-use districts, the management of sensitive lands and environmental reserves, the control of the shoreline, and seasonal protection of sensitive areas. He reminded us that an OCP and Zoning Bylaw give the resort village or municipality control over its precious natural assets.

2) "If we don't do something, who will?"



They took control over the survival of their lake

Allan Widger
Eugene Prychak
Darlene Cleven

Members of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Good Spirit Lake address workshop participants.

Good Spirit Lake, located 30 miles northwest of Yorkton, is popular for its 18 sq miles of shallow warm water, its trophy fish and its eastern shoreline of sand dunes. In 1998, cottage owners, who had become increasingly concerned about the implications of changing water levels in their lake, formed the Friends of Good Spirit Lake Association, an incorporated non-profit organization. The organization has led a number of key initiatives aimed at protecting their lake:

- Undertaking research studies aimed at documenting the changes to the drain-off areas feeding the lake and the effect of these changes on the lake,
- Obtaining a grant from Oceans and Fisheries to conduct a shoreline inventory,
- Working with the National Water Research Institute to collect water samples to arrive at an historical determination of sedimentation rates in the lake,
- Conducting community workshops about the lake's environmental profile,
- Implementing the Water Watchdog Program in neighbouring schools, and
- Informing cottage owners about the implications of their actions on their lake.

Workshop participants were impressed by the dedication and vision of the Friends of Good Spirit Lake who modeled how cottage owners can make positive changes aimed at protecting their lake for their grandchildren.



Participants were intent in their questioning of presenters and in making sure to gather valuable nuggets of wisdom to take home from the sessions at the Spring Workshop in Watrous on March 27, 2010.

For copies of workshop material go to **Parcs-sk.ca** and click on **Events**

3) "The story of stuff"



Sharing ownership with cottage owners

Shirley Gange describes how the RM of Lakeland formed its Environmental Advisory Committee to ensure that their Council decisions were congruent with cottage owners' desires to preserve and enhance the natural environment of their resort communities.

The RM of Lakeland is unique in the province of Saskatchewan in that this RM has no agricultural land. The RM is, however, home to thousands of cottages on Anglin Lake, Christopher Lake, Emma Lake, McPhee Lake and other resort areas. Like other cottage communities, those in the RM of Lakeland have been experiencing the growth of "stuff" as Councilor Shirley Gange calls it, "bigger houses, bigger boats, more parking on public lands, and more requests for services like landfill". Lakeshore development around the province has almost become 'slough development' as developers scramble to build more and bigger in cottage country.

Shirley described the conflicting interests represented by the many groups: developers, clubs, full-time residents, summer residents, snowbirds and, of course, the RAVE group¹. The invitation to be part of the RM's Environmental Advisory Committee went to every cottage owners association as well as condo associations in the resort communities. Each group was invited to send two representatives to the Committee. The RM provided the committee with meeting space, photocopying support and a \$2,000 annual budget. Committee guidelines state that it is advisory, it is encouraged to include government advisory agencies and it includes a Council member who both updates the Committee about RM matters and also takes Committee issues back to Council.

Shirley described the Committee's first meeting that included a workshop component with presentations from Sask Watershed Authority, Oceans and Fisheries and Sask Environment. Since then the committee has helped with issues like ATV infractions, cleaning up dumping areas, and implementing a cardboard recycling program. The Committee and is currently considering Environmental Reserve Areas and has focused on environmental promotional materials for restaurants and for new cottage owners.

To read about the Committee's terms of reference visit our website at **Parcs-sk.com** and click on **Events**.

Reeve Al Christenson testified that the Committee has been a huge success in the eyes of the RM Council.

¹ *Ratepayers Against Virtually Everything* (hmm...)

2. IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTIONS . . .

1) Information needed about dust suppressants

From the Hamlet of Little Fishing Lake - Do you have any info on road dust control products, other than calcium chloride?

From the Resort Village of Tobin Lake - Does your municipality provide dust control? If so, what do you do, from what provider, is the community happy with the results... please provide any other information that may be helpful.

We pass along these two messages, asking readers who have experience with dust suppressants to email Parcs (saas@sasktel.net). We will forward your replies to these two resort communities (and to any other communities requesting the information).

2) Budget planning for school taxes

Several resort villages in the throes of budget planning have asked about school taxes in 2010. A recent issue of *Municipalities Today* states that the rates for school taxes in 2010 are to be held at 2009 rates.

3) Individual memberships

An administrator from a resort village recently sent in her \$25 to renew her individual membership in Parcs for 2010, commenting, "Can I ask why so few people feel that this organization is important enough to support with a \$25 membership purchase? What happened to all the folks who started it?"

If you have email addresses for former members of the Parcs Board of Directors or for attendees of former Parcs convention, please pass them along so we can include them in our group email list. Perhaps they would like to receive our Parcs Updates (or even become individual members).

4) An invitation you can hardly refuse

The Environmental Advisory Committee of the RM of Lakeland extends an invitation to join them for their Environmental Awareness Day (see insert). They have planned a great agenda including speakers:

- Leslie Tuchek, "Recreation or Environmental Destruction"
- Richard Huziak, "Light Pollution"
- Allan Casey, writer of the book "Lakeland"
- Sask Watershed Authority, "The Spruce River Diversion"
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Oceans and Fisheries, "Preserving our Fish Spawning Areas"

The day also includes:

- Numerous displays including the Sask Environment resources trailer and a wildlife rehabilitation group
- Activities for kids such as "Hug a Tree", a scavenger hunt and much more.

Best of all, the program is free with no advance registration, just show up and enjoy

Environmental Awareness Day

- Saturday, June 19th
- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Village of Christopher Lake, Legion Hall
- No cost