

PARCS UPDATE #3 – AUGUST 31, 2009



1. PROFILE OF A SOUTHERN LAKE

THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

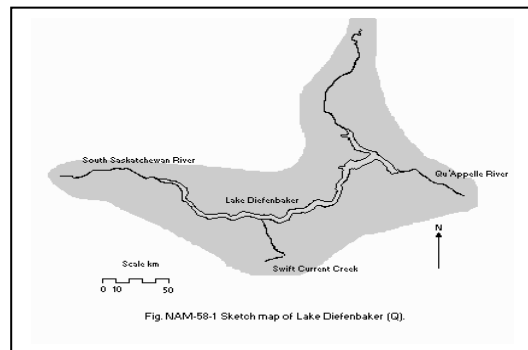
Lake Diefenbaker is the 225 km long reservoir behind Gardiner Dam. The 5-km long dam was opened in 1967, creating the newest lake in the province. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority owns and operates the T-shaped reservoir, regulating the flow of water through the dam to maintain a lake depth that typically varies about 36 feet between the low levels in the spring and the high levels of mid-summer. In the spring and early summer the hundreds of miles of white sand beaches several blocks wide frequently astound first-time visitors who liken them to the beaches in Hawaii. The length of the lake and the prevailing winds make Diefenbaker a heaven for sailing enthusiasts.



RESORT COMMUNITIES ON THE LAKE

There are seven resort communities on Lake Diefenbaker:

- **Beaver Flat** is a resort village on the western end of the Lake with 126 sites. The village pumps irrigation water from the lake to the back of each site.
- **Coteau Beach**, a resort village on the western side of the upper T, has 128 sites and boasts a large community center.
- **Hitchcock Bay**, also on the west side, is a hamlet with 165 sites, each with potable water and natural gas. Hitchcock Bay has a sheltered cove used as a marina for residents' boats.
- **Mistusinne**, on the east side of the upper T, is a resort village with 247 sites, proud of their 9-hole golf course with grass greens and their newly paved streets
- **Palliser Regional Park** has a cottage community of 104 sites perched high on the cliffs, with a spectacular view overlooking the Riverhurst ferry that crosses the arm of the T.
- **Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park** at the lake's west end also has a cottage community.
- **Elbow** is a regular village on the east side whose number of residents doubles when their summer residents arrive to use the spectacular sailing marina or to golf on the 18-hole golf course.



LAKE DIEFENBAKER CHALLENGES

Because of the changing water levels of the reservoir, cottages are set back from the lake and cottage owners don't get to have their own docks. Beach lovers have learned to adjust to the seasonal variations in water levels. As one resident put it, "One weekend the beach is so wide that you have to pack a lunch to make the trip across the beach to the water. A few weekends later, you're spreading your beach blanket up next to the bluffs."

Located in a semi-arid desert-like area of the province, the lake does not feature many trees. Most communities have man-made mini-forests, carefully tended by cottage owners.

LAKE DIEFENBAKER JOYS

Because the lake is so young and because a new supply of water arrives every spring, the waters are typically so clear that you can stand in chest-deep water and see your toes (*which may be blue, however, from the cold mountain run-off!*)

*Next Edition -
Watch for our
profile of a
northern lake.*

Location, location, location – Residents of Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw and Swift Current can get to the lake in 1 or 2 hours, making the cottage communities easily accessible for weekend use.

The endangered Piping Plover nests along the shores of the lake. Coyotes howl at night. You can catch walleye, pickerel, and jack, (*or just visit the fish farm and stock up on fresh Steelhead Trout.*)

2. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AGENDA FOR OUR UPCOMING CONVENTION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. *Registration and coffee*

2:30 p.m. Convention Opening

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. **WORKSHOP #1 – Governance at the Lake**

Panel presentation - Municipal affairs will talk about the rules and processes for governance of organized hamlets, unorganized hamlets, and resort villages. An RM Administrator and a Chair of an Organized Hamlet Board will describe how they work together to administer their cottage community. A Council member of a Resort Village will talk about the challenges and rewards of self-government.

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS SEMINAR**

Module 1 of the Leadership Development Certification Program – Learn about including roles and duties of elected officials, communication, taxation, council and administrator relationships and decision making.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. *Registration and Breakfast Speaker 9:15 - Announcements*

9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. **OPENING PLENARY SESSION – Is that all there is?**

Leslie Tuchek has a Certificate in Ecological Education and is an advocate for ecological awareness. Ms Tuchek acknowledges that the balancing act of meeting community needs versus commercial wants is a challenge: personal versus community; individual retreat versus tourism; sustainability versus economic growth. But is that all there is? What role does environmental stewardship have in your resort community? Can your district sustain the demands that are currently, and will certainly be, inflicted on it? As a resort community you already deal with many issues but is that all there is?

10:30 a.m. to noon **WORKSHOP #2 – Waterfront Challenges**

Panel Presentation - Transportation Canada will update us about the *Navigable Waters Act (November 2008)* and the new rules pertaining to docks and boat launches. Learn what is legal and what is not. The Ministry of the Environment will outline the roles of the various government agencies and who has jurisdiction over beaches and waterfront.

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. **WORKSHOP #3 – Dealing with Sewage at the Lake**

Panel Presentation - The former chair of a cottage owners group will tell the tale of how they went from field spraying to having a lagoon. The Environment Ministry will unveil new rules for field spraying. An industry rep will talk about sewage disposal options for small communities.

6:00 p.m. *President's Banquet: **Hon. Jeremy Harrison**, Minister of Municipal Affairs*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. *Breakfast and Municipal Affairs Critic*

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **WORKSHOP #4 – Living Peacefully at the Lake**

Learn about bylaw enforcement requirements. Hear from a bylaw enforcement officer about what works and what doesn't and the steps required to put a bylaw enforcement officer to work in your community.

1:00 p.m. *Adjournment*

3. INFORMATION WANTED

We recently received an email from a Councilor at a Resort Village saying that he has attended the PARCS convention the past couple of years and that he would like to receive unbiased information about the different choices for dust control of rural roads. He is asking for information that would include price/km, what preparation must be done before application, how long the product lasts, whether the road be bladed after application, whether a resort village do the work themselves, and whether the product is environmentally safe. Our writer mentions that some communities are using lingo-sulphonate sold by Western Road Management (Saskatoon) and some are using canola oil sold by Milligan Bio-Tech (Foam Lake). He would like first-hand information about these and other options.

NEW PARCS CONTACT

CONTACT - Lynne Saas
 Director of Member Services
 Box 52, Elbow, SK
 Phone - 854-4658 Fax - 854-4412
 Email - saas@sasktel.net

If you can email your information to us, PARCS will forward your information to the interested Councilor.

4. ADVERTISE YOUR EQUIPEMENT FOR SALE

Another of our members writes that their resort community has a JOHN Deere garden tractor (400 series). "The tractor is about 6 years old and requires a new motor. We upgraded to a larger tractor this year and don't want to spend the money fixing the small tractor. We would take \$200 or best offer. This would be a good deal for someone who is willing to do the necessary repairs and who only needs a smaller unit."

If you would like to make an offer on this equipment, email it to PARCS and we will pass it along. Or call us for more information. PARCS will advertise any items for sale from our members.

5. RESERVE YOUR ROOMS FOR CONVENTION

Convention participants who make their room reservations **BEFORE AUGUST 31ST** will be entered into a draw for a **FREE LUXURY SUITE AT THE SASKATOON INN**. Rooms will be available at the convention rate of \$124 until September 14th. **ONLY EARLY-BIRD REGISTRANTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE DRAW**. If your community reserves 3 rooms, you will have 3 entries in the draw. The winner of the early-bird draw will be notified by telephone on Sept. 1st. Reserve early to win!

Call the Saskatoon Inn at **242-1440** or toll free at **1-800-667-8789** early to qualify to win a luxury hotel suite. Be sure to ask for the PARCS convention rate of \$124.

6. PARCS POSITION ON REASSESSMENT

PARCS was asked for their position regarding a possible reduction in the five year reassessment cycle down to a four year cycle. The following was our reply on your behalf:

"Thank you for your letter inquiring as to the position of PARCS on reducing the 5 year reassessment cycle to 4 years. The PARCS Executive do not feel that there is anything to be gained by reducing the length of this cycle. They believe that this would add an administrative burden with very little gain in knowledge, if any at all. Perhaps some direct dialogue with PARCS to explain the benefits may be of some value."

Saskatchewan has **40** self-governing resort villages, **64** organized hamlets that are resort communities, more than **40** unorganized hamlets that are beach communities, **24** cottage communities in Regional Parks, **9** cottage communities in Provincial Parks , plus resort communities in the north. **We love our lakes!**

