



INTRODUCING YOUR 2011 PARCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Returning PARCS President George Watson takes a question from the floor at the 2010 PARCS Convention.

At the suggestion of the Board of Directors, delegates passed a resolution to reduce the number of members on the Board of Directors from 12 to 8 members. Your 2010 PARCS Board of Directors includes:

- George Watson, President
- Shirley Gange, First Vice President
- Jim Davey, Second Vice President
- Ralph Banda, North West Director
- Larry Zemlak, South West Director
- John Quinn, North East Director
- Kim Sastaunik, South East Director

The Past President position on the Board of Directors is vacant because George agreed to accept a second term as president.

SECOND OF THREE POST-CONVENTION NEWSLETTERS

The first post-convention issue, PARCS UPDATE #14, was devoted entirely to reporting on the session WHO OWNS THE BEACHES? This issue is devoted to reporting on the member sharing sessions. Watch for PARCS UPDATE #16 in early January for reports about those convention sessions presented by visiting “guest experts”.

“THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF STORIES IN COTTAGE COUNTRY”

Our 2010 Convention deliberately included a strand in which resort communities shared their experiences. This issue is a summary of some of the stories that were told at convention 2010. PARCS members share their stories on pages 2-5 about:



- Installing a water treatment plant.
- Piloting a new mechanical sewage treatment.
- Starting a recycling program.
- Starting an environmental advisory committee.
- Encouraging fund raising and community involvement.
- Organizing special events for the entire community.
- Setting up secure off-site equipment storage areas.
- Using a bylaw enforcement officer.

SHARING ABOUT WATER AND SEWAGE

The Resort Village of Aquadeo was told, in 2003, that they could no longer draw water from Jackfish Lake for distribution to the cottages throughout the village. Sask Environment required that the Village proceed with a **POTABLE WATER TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**.

A drilling company drilled four test holes and finally found a source of water one mile north of the Village. The Village trenched from the wellhead to their maintenance/fire hall where they installed a tank fill and a deep line to the village to connect to the shallow lines in the village, expecting to disinfect the main lines and run their new water through the lines. "Not good enough", said SK Environment. It was still non-potable water running through the lines; they needed to build a water treatment plant. Meanwhile, their applications for grants to cover the work were turned down so. After lengthy investigations, the Village went with a Mainstream Bio Sand Filtration System because of low maintenance, simplicity of operation, no water waste and less expense to install than most other systems. The big drawback was the size of the building to hold the tanks.

The Village then put together a business plan, presented it to their local Credit Union and were approved for a loan to build the plant. The next step was the Municipal Board, where the Village discovered that although they had absolutely no debt, they were not approved for the loan to go ahead with their 'compulsory' treatment plant. So the residents had to come up with that money.

The Village felt that the real fun began as they dealt with Sask Water regarding the size of the treatment plant. Although the Village designers and engineers both recommended 50,000 gallons per day, Sask Water insisted on a system delivering 70,000 gallons per day. Today the Village has potable water running through their summer lines but has a real problem in the winter trying to maintain chlorine levels because of the size of the plant versus the low water usage. The most ironic part is that most people still buy bottled water.

The Village continues to ask the questions:

- Why is it, when they were "forced" into building a treatment plant, the capacity was based on both seasonal and permanent residents but operating grants were based only on permanent residents?
- Why do so few Resort Villages receive grant assistance for capital projects? "It is very time consuming to apply for all the available grants, especially 'knowing' that you are never going to receive one."

The Resort Village of Chitek Lake, along with the RM of Hoodoo, received funding from the Building Canada Fund to **PILOT A NEW SYSTEM FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT**. They will be the first in Saskatchewan to utilize this system that begins with the sewage hauler bringing the waste water to the plant and pumping it into the first of 10 tanks. The first three tanks agitate the sludge, and then it is cleaned and ultimately discharged into a slough. The Village plans to use the treated effluent to irrigate a nearby tree nursery.

The system, developed by Ecolibra and call R25, is a stand-alone packaged plant (see photo) that treats municipal sewage and recovers valuable, odour-free bacteria-free water and fertilizers. Compared to a lagoon, EcoLibra describes their R2S system as:

- "Surpassing regulatory requirements, certified and backed by government.
- Environmentally friendly and sustainable,
- Lower in capital costs and overall lifecycle costs,
- Producing clean, safe, bacteria-free, reusable waste water,
- Automated, reliable and simple to maintain,
- Having a tiny footprint (plant is 2,400 sq feet),
- Unaffected by extreme cold or hot weather."

Certainly other resort communities in the province will be watching the Chitek Lake innovation with much interest. Many small resort communities are facing the challenge of moving from field spraying to sewage treatment.



Inside R2S Trailer

SHARING ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The **Resort Village of Mistusinne** decided to implement a **FULL RECYCLING PROGRAM** because they were concerned about the rising costs of hauling garbage 130 km to Saskatoon. The Village discovered that the Town of Outlook (only 75 km away) has one of the best regional recycling programs in the province; they accept all plastics, glass, tin, waxed milk cartons, paper, and cardboard – everything except Styrofoam. The Village began to wonder if they were approaching their garbage issue from the wrong perspective – maybe they needed to recycle more and generate less garbage.

Their research indicated that the best recycling center is supervised, to prevent it being used as an alternate garbage dump. The Village owned a large plastic Quonset-style building (about to become empty because they were building a heated all-season maintenance building). They were also lucky that their proposed building was located right next door to their office/golf club house which meant that the admin assistant who worked Saturdays handing out boat stickers and selling golf passes could also slip over to the recycling centre to open it up as required, with negligible increase in the number of hours she worked. The Village determined that all they needed to do was have a recycling trailer built, purchase some used bins for their trailer, hire someone to haul the bins to Outlook and re-educate their citizens. Start-up costs were \$6,600.



After paying Outlook to receive their recycling and the hauler to pull the trailer there, the Village has determined that every bin that goes to recycling costs about 25% less than a bin that goes to the landfill. It has taken about 4.5 years for the Village to recoup its initial investment.

Also, there is the SARCAN factor. When they set up the recycling centre, the Village also set up some extra cardboard bins along the side wall, asking people to donate their refundable items (pop bottles, beer bottles, tetra drink packs) to the *Playground Fund*. The driver takes these items in the back of his truck and drops them off at Sarcana who mail the cheques to the Village. Each year the playground fund earns about \$1,000 this way. Recycling in Mistusinne has become about more than money. It has become about a community's shared pride in doing the right thing for the environment.

The RM of Lakeland established an Environmental Advisory Committee in 2009. Representation on this Advisory committee consists of appointments made from cottage owner and condo associations in the following manner:

- Emma and Christopher Lakes Cottage Owner Association – 4 members
- Anglin Lake Cottage Owners Association - 2 members
- McPhee Lake Cottage Owners Association – 2 members
- Elk Ridge Condo Associations – 1 member for each association

The R.M. Council also appoints a council member to the committee. Council provides meeting space, a limited photocopying expense account and an annual operating fund of \$2,000. The Committee has invited representatives from government agencies such as Saskatchewan Environment, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Oceans and Fisheries, to discuss environmental issues that include shared responsibility. The purpose of the Committee is to advise council on environmental issues that could come from the representatives from cottage owner association or from council. Many initiatives have grown out of this RM sponsored community involvement project. The committee has worked hard on community environmental education in the form of a community workshop and pamphlets for distribution to cottage owners, along with an in-depth program for testing the quality of lake water in the RM.

SHARING ABOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Resort Village of Coteau Beach described **TWO MAJOR INITIATIVES OF THEIR COMMUNITY CLUB**. The first involved the repairs to their Community Centre building. After obtaining a grant for materials, the whole community came together to provide the volunteer labour to replace the roof and floor (see photo).

The second initiative was to raise \$32,000 for new playground equipment. This Club got the community involved in fundraising events such as dances, pizza sales, pancake breakfasts, raffles, festival weekends and barbecues. The children contributed by organizing a cookie and juice sale, wood sale, hot dog lunch, face painting and toy sale. They placed a "goal thermometer" and photos of the future equipment at the playground site so that everyone could be up to date on the progress. The Club also reached out to individuals and businesses.

Donations over \$200 will be noted on a donation plaque to be mounted at the playground. The response to the call for donations was amazing and \$17,000 was received.

The new equipment arrived in early May and a work bee drew 42 volunteers including welders, installers and people preparing lunch for the volunteers. It was great to see the children getting involved with the installation. Some small children were standing on the sidelines watching and waiting. People were chatting and visiting while working together. It was truly a community project and a demonstration of the community spirit at Coteau.

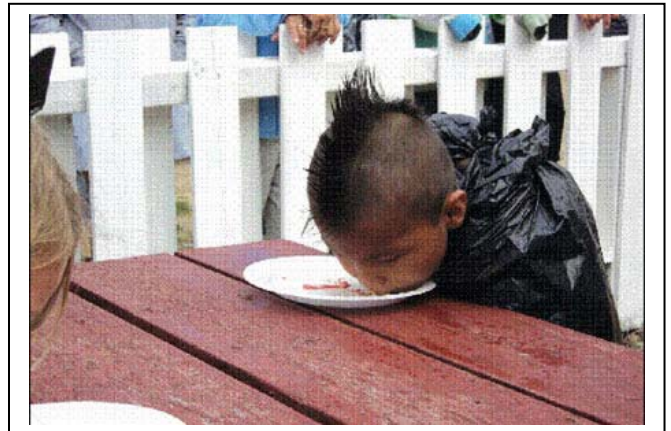
This community of 120 families raised \$32,000 in just over one year, built a new playground and repaired their community centre. Wow!



The Resort Village of Cochin hosts an annual celebration called **COCHIN DAYS** which is held on the second weekend of August. Councillor Lynn Pirot spearheads the organizing of the weekend and usually begins the planning in the first week of April. The phone lines start buzzing and a few of the local year-round residents start calling their friends and families and signing them up for the various events. Meanwhile, Lynn is getting sponsors and donations.

The local theatre group, Cochin Community Players, provides the Friday night entertainment. Local artists have an art sale on Saturday and provide workshops for children. Other events include a slo-pitch tournament, a Craft Sale, a boat parade, a bike parade, a petting zoo, children's games, a paddle boat parade, spike driving, a horseshoe tournament, a beer gardens with a live band, a huge fireworks display and a spaghetti eating contest (see photo).

Sunday is a pancake breakfast that usually feeds 350 to 400 people and is prepared by Council. Sunday afternoon is a Children's Carnival. Lynn hosts a volunteer barbecue on Sunday evening for any and all volunteers to attend.



From the local groups to council members, visitors and residents, young and old, this is the one weekend when the entire community comes together and helps to make Cochin Days a success. The committee starts work in May and in August and after the event is over they are still working at compiling all the new ideas into a folder for the next year. "Without our huge volunteer base the weekend would not be the success it is."

Cochin Days are a super example of a Council activity aimed at community building.

SHARING ABOUT AN ORDERLY COMMUNITY

The Resort Village of Echo Bay implemented a **SECURE PUBLIC STORAGE SYSTEM** to prevent the untidy effect of boat trailers, utility trailers, ice fishing huts, and other materials that were spilling onto Municipal Reserve lands and into the treed areas around the village. In 1997 Council submitted a sub-division plan to Community Planning that included two parts:



The first part was a secured public rental storage area (see photo on the right) where cabin owners in the resort village could rent space and store up to two items on a yearly basis.

The second part involved small storage lots that could be purchased (see photo below) by cabin owners in the resort village. The prices of the first 19 mini lots varied from \$2,400 to \$3,000. When 21 more lots were developed in 2009, these sold for \$7,800 and were a complete sell out by the spring of 2010.



In both phases the cost of the lots included fencing on three sides. Owners of the storage lot were responsible for the gate to the front of their property.

The storage lot developments answered the need for storage space and provided the resort village with a small profit which was used in other village infrastructure projects. A win, win situation!

The Resort Village of Candle Lake decided that they needed a **BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER** when they considered how they had grown into a large resort community with more than 1,600 property sites, over 500 seasonal recreation vehicle sites and 300 provincial camp sites within the Resort Village. This mix of long time visitors and residents with seasonal "vacationers" is not always a good blend. One segment of the population believes the lake is where you go to leave rules behind, others don't want to see any change from how things were done fifty years ago and yet others realize that community changes necessitate regulations and consistent enforcement.

Issues that seemed to be surfacing on a regular basis included the "private" use of municipal and public reserves, noise violations, dogs running at large, use of recreation trailers on undeveloped residential lots and 'unsightly' properties. The Resort Village Council entered into a contract with EPS Management, a Prince Albert firm that specializes in municipal bylaw enforcement with services contracted on a part-time basis, with the bulk of the hours being during the busy summer season. The main objective of Council was not to generate revenue from violation tickets, but to have residents and visitors comply with bylaws. After a review and revision of some of their bylaws, the Village decided to focus on the main issues listed above. With the input of EPS, "doorknockers" were printed which proved useful as a method for advising property owners of non-compliance issues, providing a timeframe for compliance or requesting the owners to contact Administration.

To read more about these sharing sessions, visit the PARCS website at parcs-sk.com and click on the Events page.

The goal of the Resort Village was to first educate and inform people of bylaws, then to advise them when there was non-compliance and finally to work with property owners towards compliance. A uniformed bylaw enforcement officer driving a marked 'bylaw enforcement' vehicle began work for the Resort Village on July 1st, 2010. The officer assigned to Candle Lake is familiar with the area and has worked well to educate and inform. He has also worked closely with the RCMP, Provincial Conservation Officers and others such as the Fire Chief and the Building Inspector. Property owners are becoming aware of bylaws and the need for compliance. Many positive comments have been received and most residents are happy that bylaw enforcement is being carried out!

SHARING ABOUT COPING WITH DISASTER

The Organized Hamlet of Burgis Beach was represented by the Chair of their Organized Hamlet Board, Darryl Stevenson who, as guest presenter at the convention banquet, shared pictures and anecdotes about the flooding at Chrystal Lake during the past summer. The following collage presents highlights from Darryl's sharing session.



Lask Watershed's control structure for governing the water levels in Good Spirit Lake was unable to prevent the devastating floods precipitated by long term wetland drainage to the north of the lake and worsened by last summer's record levels of rainfall.



As water flowed into the Organized Hamlet of Burgis Beach, the Hamlet Board, aided by the Rural Municipality of Good Lake brought in loads of sandbags and hired security officers to move off the sightseers who were impeding the disaster relief efforts.



Waves washed into cottage sites (see photo on left) pounding against garden doors and flooding dozens of homes. Waters penetrated many of the sand bag dikes (see photo bottom left).

The RM and Village built roads through the water, hauling in hundred of loads of crushed rock. The roads acted as dikes and the cottage owners pumped water from the village back into the lake. Sadly, 45 homes will have to be rebuilt. Permanent residents without insurance will qualify for the province's disaster assistance. Seasonal cottage owners will not receive any assistance from the province.

