

CRVWA Water Source



Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

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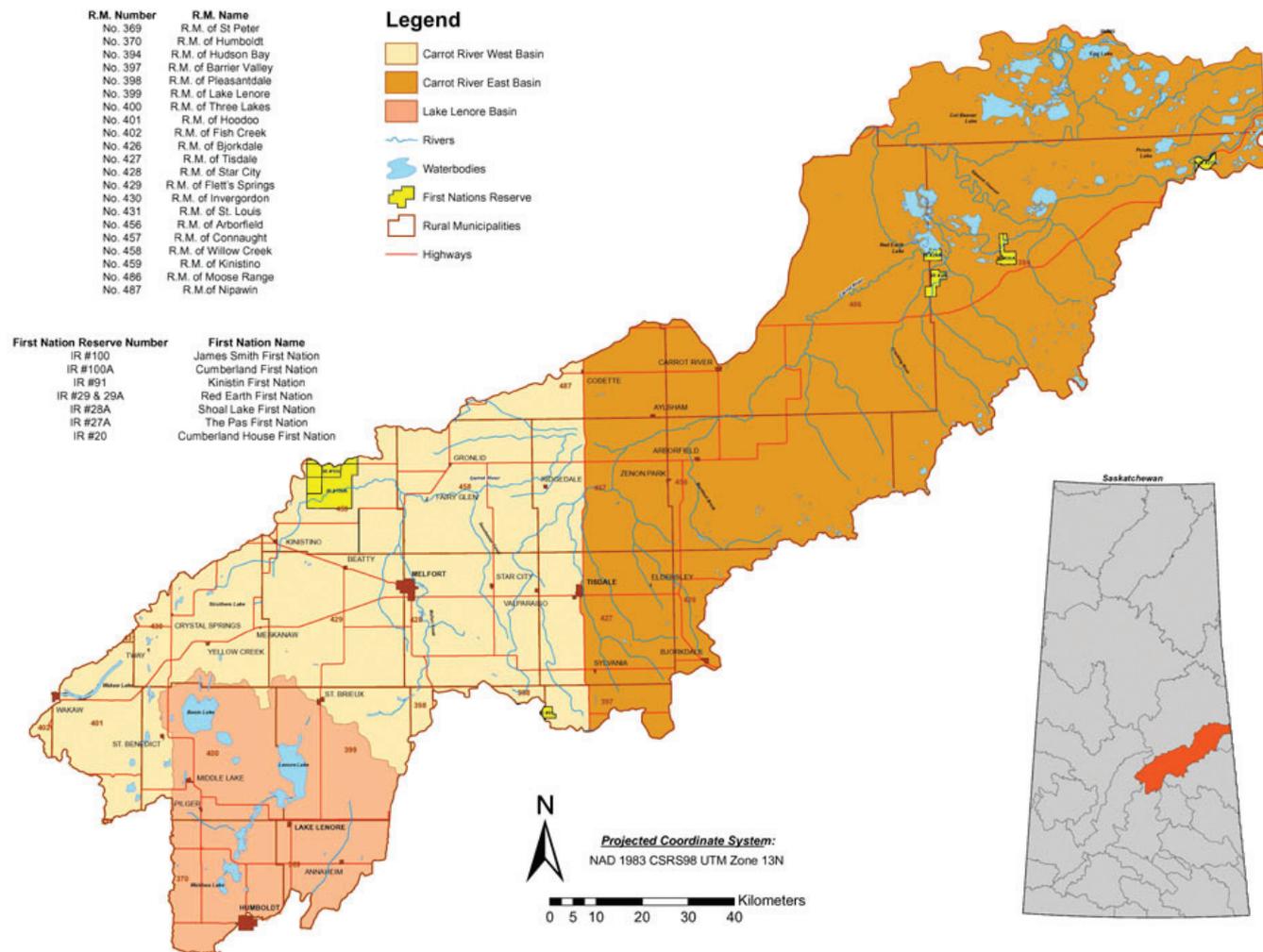
Website: www.crvwatershed.ca

SPRING 2013

Who is the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association?

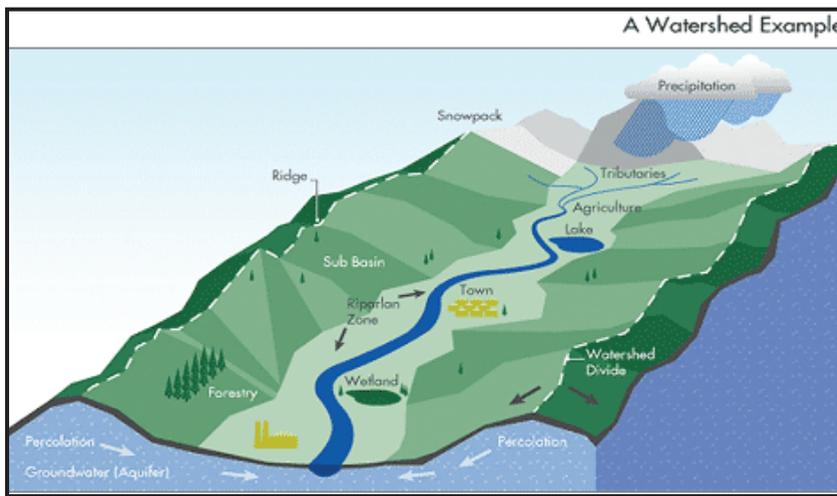
The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc. (CRVWA) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to preserving and maintaining the character and integrity of the watershed through education and awareness. Working to preserve the beauty, diversity, and integrity of the watershed, we will raise awareness and understanding by promoting sustainable environmental, economic and cultural activities. Our goal is to give community members the informed insight and tools they need to make positive changes in the watershed by working together to protect source water and the natural beauty of our watershed for current and future generations.

The Carrot River Watershed, located in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba, covers a total area of approximately 17,500 square kilometers. Of this, nearly 15,750 square kilometers of the watershed are situated in Saskatchewan. The Carrot River Watershed begins in the Wakaw Lake area and includes the City of Melfort, 7 towns, 11 villages, 21 Rural Municipalities and six First Nation Reserves. The total population of the Watershed is estimated at 25,500.



With the help of the watershed planning advisory team and watershed communities, the Association has prepared a Source Water Protection Plan. This Plan identifies potential threats to the health of the watershed and key actions to address these threats to achieve and maintain a sustainable, healthy watershed. The core of the Plan is its objectives, recommendations and key actions. These are grouped into eight categories: Groundwater and Aquifer Protection; Communication and Education; Research; Water Conservation; Water and Watershed Management; Watershed Infrastructure and Engineering; Watershed Stewardship; and Watershed Stressors. By creating and implementing this Plan at the local level, we are able to address issues specific to the Carrot River Valley Watershed. The Source Water Protection Plan will succeed when all communities and residents become active and involved in the Plan's implementation. To request a copy of the Source Water Protection Plan, contact our office at 752-1270 or visit our website at crwatershed.ca.

What is a Watershed?



No matter where we live, we all live in a watershed. A watershed is a geographic area that drains into a specific body of water, such as a river, lake, sea or ocean. However, watersheds are more than just water. They are dynamic, functioning ecosystems made up of a mixture of land and water habitats, which includes wetlands, rivers, lakes, grasslands, urban areas and agricultural lands. Things that happen in one part of the watershed may have both direct and indirect effects on other areas of the watershed. As water passes through our municipalities, farms and urban centers in our watershed, we have a responsibility to ensure an abundant and healthy downstream water supply. Protecting our watershed is vital in ensuring an adequate supply of safe water now and for the future.

Water consumption dramatically increases in the summer months when half to three quarters of treated water is used to water lawns and garden. You can conserve water by purchasing or building a rain barrel...not only is rainwater free but it is also better for your lawn and garden than treated water!



What is Source Water?

Source water is untreated water from streams, lakes, rivers, or underground aquifers that people use to supply their water needs including private wells and public drinking water systems. Source water may come from surface water, such as streams, dugouts, lakes or rivers, and/or groundwater from wells.

What is Source Water Protection?

Source water protection is the act of protecting surface water and groundwater sources from contamination and overuse. It is the first step in protecting our drinking water and ensuring adequate, safe water supplies for generations to come. The drinking water we receive from our local drinking water utilities or individual wells comes from ground water, streams, rivers, springs or lakes in our watershed. Although most water requires some treatment before use, protecting this source water is an important part of providing safe drinking water to the public. Protecting this water requires the participation and involvement of many partners including Rural Municipalities, Towns, Cities, Villages, Land Owners, Resource Managers, and the Public, and the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association was formed to bring these groups together, facilitate partnerships, and begin a grassroots movement to protect the water in our watershed.



Did you know? It can cost up to 40 times more to treat contaminated groundwater than to protect it from getting contaminated in the first place.



Canadians use an average of 329 litres of water per day. Only 10% is used in the kitchen for drinking, cooking and washing dishes. About 65% of water is used in the bathroom. Dual flush or low volume toilets and low flow shower heads are simple upgrades to install in your home to become more water efficient.

How can we protect source water?

By realizing that every drop counts, we can all take individual action and make a difference in protecting our watershed. Something as simple as fixing a leaky faucet or using a rain barrel to collect rainwater for watering our lawns reduces our water use and helps to protect our source water. Recycling, disposing of hazardous materials properly, decommissioning abandoned water wells, maintaining your private wells and septic systems, and managing risks to surface water on farms are just a few more ways that we can all work together to protect our source water.

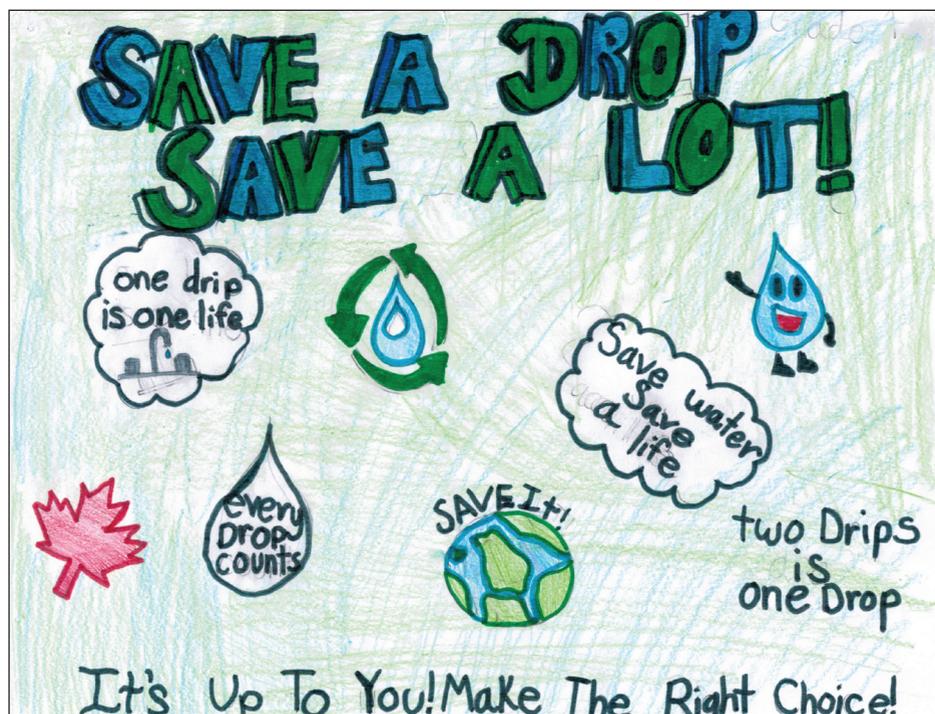
Source water is a shared resource, and it is everyone's responsibility to protect this resource.

WATER FACT One drop of oil may contaminate 25 litres of water

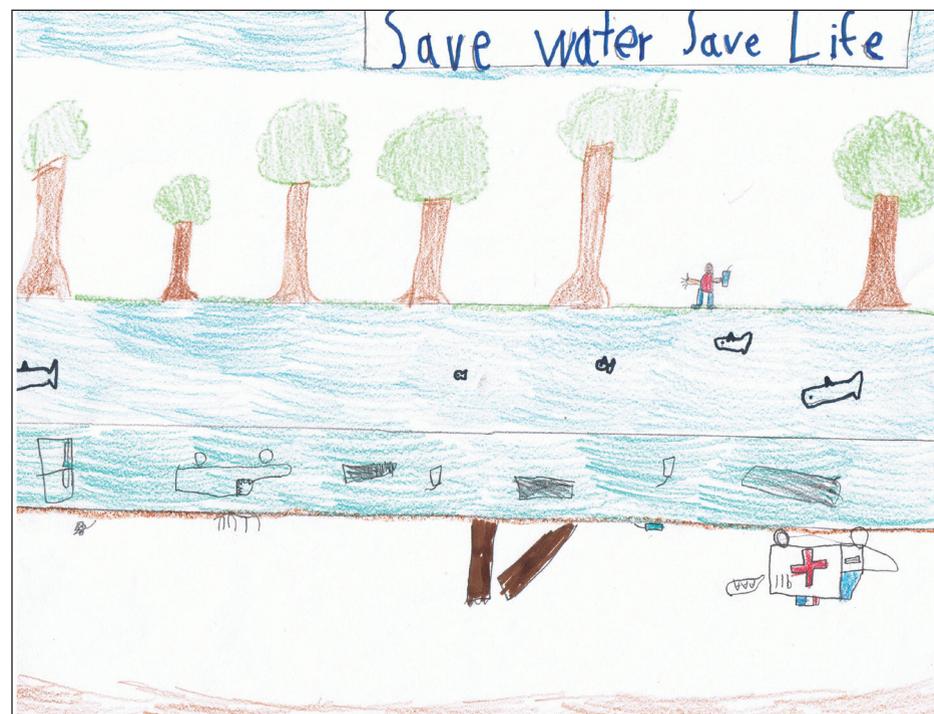


Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc. Announces Poster Contest Winners

This fall, the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc. held its first poster competition for schools within the watershed area. The poster competition was open to all watershed area students from Grades 1 through 6, with the theme for the contest being "Save Water Save Life". Numerous entries were received from several schools within the watershed. Posters were judged by the CRVWA board members, and the criteria for judging included originality, content, relevance, and creativity. The poster contest winners are Zachary Taylor, a Grade 4 student from Arborfield School and Julia Frie, a Grade 4 student from the Wakaw School. Each winner was presented with an Ipod Touch in November 2012 at ceremonies in their schools. The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc. would like to thank all contest participants for their time and effort that were put into their entries, and congratulations to Zachary and Julia.



Julia Frie is the winner from Wakaw School.



Zachary Taylor is the winner from Arborfield School.



A wetland is any area that holds water. This may be temporary or permanent. For example, some wetlands only hold water for a month or two each spring while others always are wet. Wetlands have many vital functions including moderating the effects of floods, droughts, climate change and erosion; filtering water to help provide clean source water; and providing essential habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife in Canada. Despite their importance, we continue to lose wetlands in Canada at an alarming rate. According to Ducks Unlimited Canada, we lose 28 acres of wetlands per day in Saskatchewan. In some areas of the province, over 90% of the wetlands have already been lost or severely degraded.

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association gratefully acknowledges the valued support of our members:

Town of Carrot River
Town of Arborfield
RM of Tisdale #427
RM of Nipawin #487
RM of Connaught #457
Tisdale Wildlife Federation
Pasquia Regional Park
Aborfield Conservation & Development Area
Authority
Moose Range Conservation & Development Area
Authority
RM of Moose Range #486
Town of Wakaw

RM of Kinistino #459
City of Melfort
Wakaw Lake Regional Park Authority
Resort Village of Wakaw Lake
RM of Invergordon #430
RM of Hoodoo #401
RM of Fish Creek #402
Melfort & District Wildlife Federation
RM of Pleasantdale #398
St.Peter Conservation & Development Area
Authority
RM of Humboldt #370
RM of St.Peter #369

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Municipalities, Communities, and Special Interest Groups: Become a CRVWA Member Today!
Source water affects everyone, so everyone should have a chance to get involved in protecting it!

A New Partnership for Watershed Awareness and Protection

The Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan and the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association are pleased to announce the merging of our websites and the development of a partnership between the two organizations.

Since forming in 2010, the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group has been promoting farm stewardship and assisting producers with the implementation of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) on their farms. This organization has been working directly with farmers to help them improve the environmental sustainability of their operations and apply for cost-shared funding available through the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program. As well, the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan produces a quarterly newsletter that is distributed to rural residents of the Watershed.

By merging our websites, the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association and the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan hope to more effectively and efficiently deliver information and programs, while increasing watershed awareness for the benefit of all residents of the Carrot River Watershed. For more information, visit us on-line at crwatershed.ca.



Contact Us

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crwatershed.ca



Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

WATER TIP!