CRVWA Water Source

Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

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SPRING 2014

A Message from the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

With spring upon us we are often reminded of the importance and significance of water. In the fields we have seen the snow disappear and the vegetation below reappear. We are seeing the creeks and rivers reappearing and in a sense coming back to life. Shorelines and creek banks are becoming green and lush with the growth of new grass and leaves are reappearing on trees. Water is key to the success of so many activities and vital to sustain life itself.

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association (CRVWA) and the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan (CRW AEGP) will continue to work within the Carrot River Watershed to promote sustainable practises to help ensure that our water is protected and sustained for future generations.

The CRVWA works to implement key action items in our Source Water Protection Plan to help ensure that water concerns of both urban and rural areas can be addressed in a timely manner. We work to facilitate partnerships to increase communication and awareness of source water protection. The CRW AEGP works with producers in the area to implement On-Farm Beneficial Management Practises (BMP's) through cost-shared funding available through the Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) and the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) under Growing Forward 2.

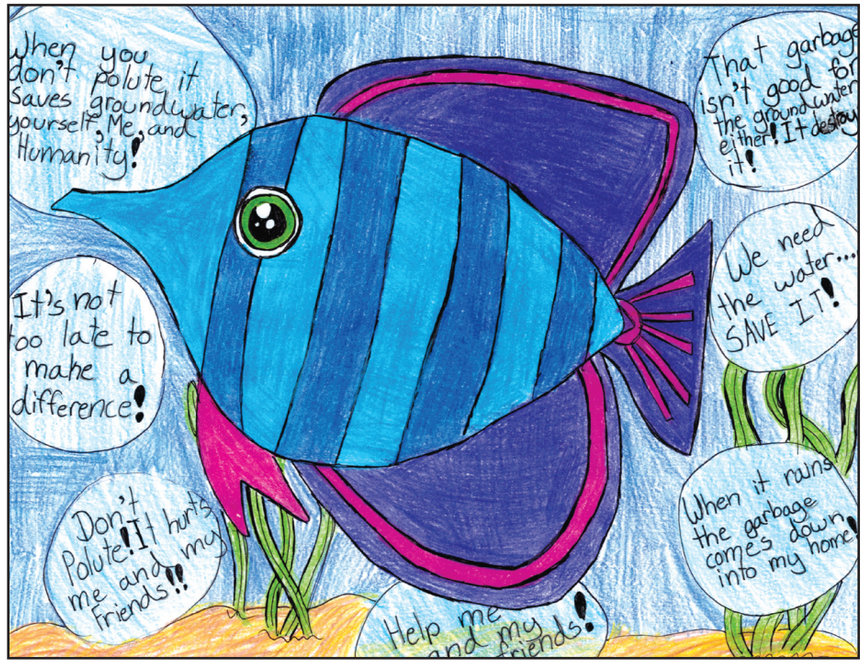
The CRVWA hosted our Annual General Meeting on April 14, 2014 in Melfort. We would like to introduce our 2014/2015 Board of Directors:

Rick Lang, City of Melfort, Chairperson
Alvin Aylea, Town of Arborfield, Vice-Chairperson
Catherine Mazurkewich, RM of Hoodoo, Secretary/Treasurer
Robert Harley, AEGP, Past Chairperson
Susan Schroepfer, Pasquia Regional Park
Bud Charko, RM of Moose Range
Dale Holmgren, RM of Kinistino
Lionel Dosch, St. Peter Conservation and Development Authority
Clarence Puetz, RM of Humboldt

One of the most important things for watershed residents to remember is that we can all make a difference to help protect and conserve water for future generations. Whether it be something as simple as conserving water at home by ensuring none of your taps are leaking or building a rain barrel to collect rain water for use in your yard.

2014 Poster Contest "Groundwater, Below the Surface"

The CRVWA hosted a poster contest in conjunction with the other 10 watersheds in Saskatchewan. The theme of this year's poster contest was "Groundwater, Below the Surface". The contest was open to all students within the watershed focusing on grades 5-7. Local prizes were given to the local winners and the 1st place winner's poster then went on to complete against the other watersheds in Saskatchewan for the chance to win an Outdoor Recreational Package valued at $1000.00.



Congratulations to Julia Frie from Wakaw School!

Julia won a backpack full of prizes as well as a swim pass.

Changing to low flow faucets, low flow shower heads and dual flush toilets will lead to a significant reduction in water usage. For example, a five minute shower with a standard shower head uses 100 litres of water whereas a five minute shower with a low-flow shower head uses less than 50 litres of water.

Invasive Plant Management Workshop

The CRVWA and the CRW AEGP partnered to host an Invasive Plant Management Workshop on March 26, 2014. The workshop was held in Melfort at the Kerry Vickar Center. The workshop was open to the public and was well attended by urban residents, producers and industry.

Speakers and topics included:

Early Detection & Rapid Response
Chet Neufeld, Executive Director
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan

Invasive Plant Identification & Control
Al Foster, Regional Forage Specialist
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

SARM Invasive Alien Plant Program
Harvey Anderson, Invasive Weed Specialist
SARM Invasive Alien Plant Program

Farm Stewardship Program & Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program
Sarah Nye
Carrot River Watershed AEGP Technician

Invasive Weeds: Common Tansy and Scentless Chamomile

There are many invasive weed threats in Saskatchewan and within the Carrot River Watershed. However, two of the most prevalent in our watershed at this time include: Common Tansy, Tanacetum vulgare and Scentless Chamomile, Matricaria perforata. Common tansy and scentless chamomile are both prevalent throughout western Canada and are becoming increasing concerning for the Carrot River Watershed.

Common Tansy

Identification:
Stems are branched, erect, often purplish-red, and dotted with glands. There are many stems per plant and grow up to 1.5 to 2 m tall.
Leaves alternate on the stem and are deeply divided into numerous narrow, individual leaflets with toothed edges.
Flowers are yellow, numerous, and button-like, occurring in dense, flat topped clusters at the tops of the stems. Flowering occurs from July to September.
Seeds are yellowish brown achenes with short, five-toothed crowns. Seeds remain viable and can germinate for up to 25 years.

Habitat:
Common Tansy may be found in riparian areas, tame forage, native pastures, roadsides, waste areas and gravel pits.

Control:
Grazing: Tansy is unpalatable to cattle and horses, but sheep and goats are reported to graze on it.
Cultivation: Since this plant is rhizomatous, flowering stems can re-grow from severed roots, therefore cultivation is not a control option.
Mechanical: Regular mowing can reduce seed production but must be repeated to eliminate regrowth from rootstock. The most effective control method combines mowing or hand cutting with chemical control and encouraging competition from native vegetation. Repeated stem removal depletes the food energy stored in roots.
Chemical: Picloram, dicamba and glyphosate can be effective on tansy when applied properly. Herbicide control may not be an option for environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands or riparian areas.
Biological: While there are organizations researching this area, there are currently no known biological control options for common tansy.


Common Tansy


Common Tansy


Scentless Chamomile


Scentless Chamomile

Scentless Chamomile

Identification:
Stems are hairless, highly branched and have branches that are curved upwards. There are many stems per plant and grow up to 6 to 36 inches tall.
Leaves are smooth and finely divided almost like carrots, leaves are alternate on the stems and usually occur without stalks.
Flowers are daisy like with a yellow center and thin white pedals, pedals occur individually on the stem tips. Flowering occurs from June to October.
Seeds are about 2 mm long and are dark brown or black, with three distinct light-brown ribs. Reproduction is by seed and seeds can be viable for up to 15 years.

Habitat:
Scentless chamomile may be found on roadsides, yard sites, riparian areas, cropland, tame forage, native prairie, waste areas and gravel pits.

Control:
Grazing: Scentless chamomile is generally unpalatable to grazers and its seeds can survive digestion.
Cultivation: Late fall and early spring tillage will control rosettes. Frequent, shallow tillage can help exhaust the seed bank by repeatedly destroying germinating seedlings. Equipment must be cleaned after.

Mechanical:
Mowing can prevent seed production but plants will re-bloom below the cutting height. Hand-pulling can prevent spread into new areas and is effective on small infestations. Pulled plants should be burned or bagged and sent to the landfill. Burning infestations that have finished blooming can prevent seed spread.

Chemical:
Picloram and clopyralid are effective. Late fall or early spring applications will control rosettes. Several products are registered for use in crop situations. Herbicide control may not be an option for environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands or riparian areas.

When "natural capital" such as wetlands are gone society must turn to capital improvements such as increased water purification, flood mitigation and soil retention strategies. These "fixes" are more expensive to build, operate and update than those provided by nature.

Youth Presentations and Workshops

The CRVWA has been fortunate to visit many schools within our watershed. To date we have visited Arborfield School, Bjorkdale School, Carrot River High School, Wakaw School and Reynolds School. The school presentations focus on source water protection, types of potential pollutants, ways to decrease pollutants entering our waterways and water conservation. We would like to thank all schools that took part in our presentations. All schools that request presentations will receive presentations in a timely manner, the CRVWA staff are able to deliver presentations year round.

We also delivered a presentation to the Girl Guides in Melfort. The Girl Guides took part in a presentation that focused on the types of pollution, ways to prevent pollution and water conservation methods.

The Pathfinders and Rangers in Melfort took part in our Rain Barrel Workshop that we hosted on April 13, 2014. This workshop allowed the groups to learn about the importance of water conservation well building a rain barrel. All participants received the parts to build a rain barrel and during this workshop the rain barrels were assembled. Once the rain barrels were complete the participants were able to take the rain barrels home free of charge as a method to conserve water in the summer.

Summer Water Conservation Tips

Canada is viewed as a water rich country, this often lead to the misconception that water is in an endless supply. Water must be managed like any other valuable resource. Sustainable and smart water usage will ensure that there is enough clean water for future generations.

The average Canadian uses 343 litres of water per person each day. Of this 343 litres 10% of it is used in the kitchen for drinking, cooking and washing dishes. About 65% of water is used indoors in the bathroom. Water use dramatically increases in the summer when half to three quarters of treated water is used to water lawns and gardens.

Tips to Conserve Water during the Summer Months

- Watering lawns and gardens in the early morning and evenings will help to reduce evaporation of water. Watering on calm days will further limit the evaporation and drift.
- Ensure that sprinklers avoid impermeable surfaces such as driveways. This will help to limit runoff into storm drains.
- Watering lawns and gardens slowly will help limit runoff and ensure that water is absorbed.
- Consider planting native vegetation, this will further limit the amount of water required during the summer.
- Hand watering garden plants will ensure that water is directly applied to the plant root zone. This is a simple step that can limit water waste
- A rain barrel will ensure that rain water can be collected and used to water lawns and gardens. Collecting rainwater allows for the conservation of water, limits the strain on storm drains and is actually better for lawns and gardens than treated water.
- Use a broom to remove debris from paved surfaces instead of washing with water.

Riparian Areas

What are riparian areas?

Riparian areas are the transition zones between land and water environments, and the abundance of water and water loving plants set riparian areas apart from the drier upland areas. While they only cover a small percentage of the landscape, riparian areas have an important role in overall watershed health that extends far beyond the area that they occupy.

What are the functions of healthy riparian areas?

- Trap sediments- Sediments accumulate in riparian areas. This sediment is than able to trap and store nutrients and pathogens that may be harmful to the aquatic ecosystem.
- Filter and buffer water- Riparian vegetation is able to absorb and uptake contaminates, nutrients and pathogens.
- Protect and maintain banks- Deep-rooted vegetation increases bank stability and resistance thereby decreasing the erosion of the banks.
- Recharge aquifers- Riparian areas are ideal areas to recharge ground water aquifers since they are moist and lush areas.
- Store water and energy- Riparian areas have the ability to hold excess water thereby decreasing the impact of flooding and increasing ground water recharge.
- Reduce and dissipate energy- The reduction of energy leads to less erosion and less transportation of erodible materials.
- Maintain biodiversity- Riparian areas maintain and create habitat for fish, wildlife and vegetation.
- Create primary productivity- Riparian vegetation provides valuable forage and shelter.

Healthy Riparian Area

Unhealthy Riparian Area

In Saskatchewan 17% of land is stated to be wetlands, this means that Saskatchewan has 11% of Canada's wetlands. Wetlands are decreasing at a dramatic rate threatening water supplies, natural habitats and recreational usage.

WATER FACT

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.

Testing Your Private Water Supply

We would like to remind residents to have their private water wells tested. If your drinking water comes from a private well the water should be tested for bacteria at least annually or anytime that you suspect contamination may have occurred. Water testing can be done by the Saskatchewan Provincial Health Lab. For more information such as, collection instructions, shipping and cost call the Provincial Lab at 1-866-450-0000.

Thank you to our Members!

Town of Carrot River
Town of Arborfield
RM of Tisdale #427
RM of Connaught #457
Tisdale Wildlife Federation
Pasquia Regional Park
Arborfield 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
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!
Have a voice in source water protection.

Growing Forward 2 — A federal-provincial-territorial initiative
Water Security Agency
Carrot River Valley CRVWA Watershed Association
Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan
Government of Saskatchewan — Ministry of Agriculture
Canada

Contact Us
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Water consumption dramatically increases in the summer months when ½ to ¾ of treated water is used to water lawns and gardens. You can conserve water by purchasing or building a rain barrel… not only is rain water free but it is also better for your lawns and gardens than treated water.