

## Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

202 Main Street or PO Box 40, Melfort, Sask. S0E 1A0

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9am-4:00pm

Phone: 306-752-1270 or 306-920-7228

Email: [crwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:crwatershed@gmail.com)

Website: [www.crvwatershed.ca](http://www.crvwatershed.ca)



Spring 2016

### Poster Contest Winners Announced

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc. (CRVWA) is dedicated to preserving and maintaining the character and integrity of the watershed through education and awareness. We are proud to be a local, grassroots, non-profit organization serving our members:

City of Melfort  
Town of Carrot River  
Town of Arborfield  
Town of Wakaw  
RM of Tisdale No. 427  
RM of Connaught No. 457  
RM of Moose Range No.486  
RM of Kinistino No.459  
RM of Invergordon No.430  
RM of Hoodoo No.401  
RM of Fish Creek No.402  
RM of Humboldt No.370  
RM of St.Peter No.369  
RM of Pleasantdale No.398  
RM of Nipawin No.487  
Melfort & District Wildlife Federation  
Tisdale Wildlife Federation  
Cudworth Wildlife Federation  
Pasquia Regional Park  
Wakaw Lake Regional Park Authority  
Resort Village of Wakaw Lake  
Resort Village of Tobin Lake  
St.Peter Conservation & Development Authority  
Arborfield Conservation & Development Area Authority  
Moose Range Conservation & Development Area Authority

New members are always welcome to add their voices to protecting our watershed by joining the CRVWA. Contact us for more information.

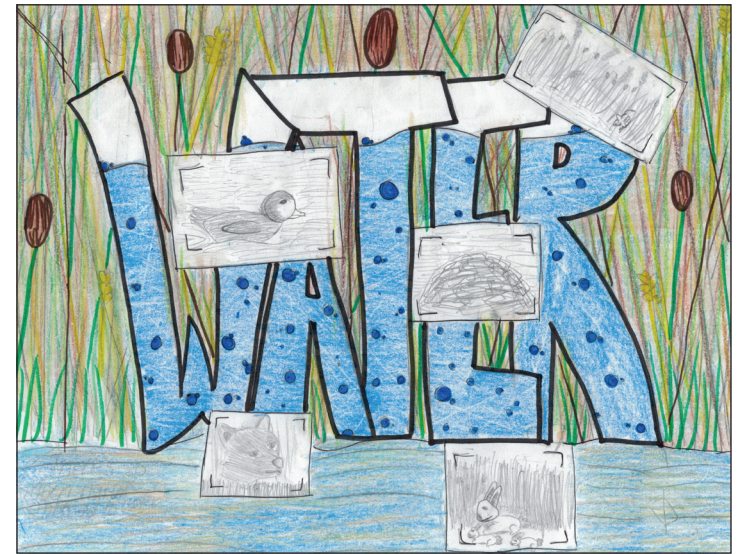
The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association (CRVWA) recently held their annual poster contest. The theme of the 2015 poster contest was "Water & Wildlife". The poster contest was open to students in Grades 5, 6 and 7 that attend school within the Carrot River Watershed area. Entries were judged on the accuracy of knowledge and information presented in the poster, appreciation of water & wildlife in the artwork, relevance to the theme "Water & Wildlife", and the general artistic ability and creativity demonstrated in the poster. The entries were judged by CRVWA staff and executive committee members on March 24, 2016. The top 3 posters were chosen after much deliberation, and the CRVWA is pleased to announce our 2016 poster contest winners are:

First Place: Mercedes Salmond from Tisdale. Mercedes will receive a backpack filled with CRVWA merchandise, a 10 Punch Swim Pass for the Northern Lights Palace Pool in Melfort, and her poster will advance to the provincial poster contest at the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds Conference in Yorkton on April 22, 2016 for a chance to win the grand prize of a \$1000 Cabela's Gift Card.

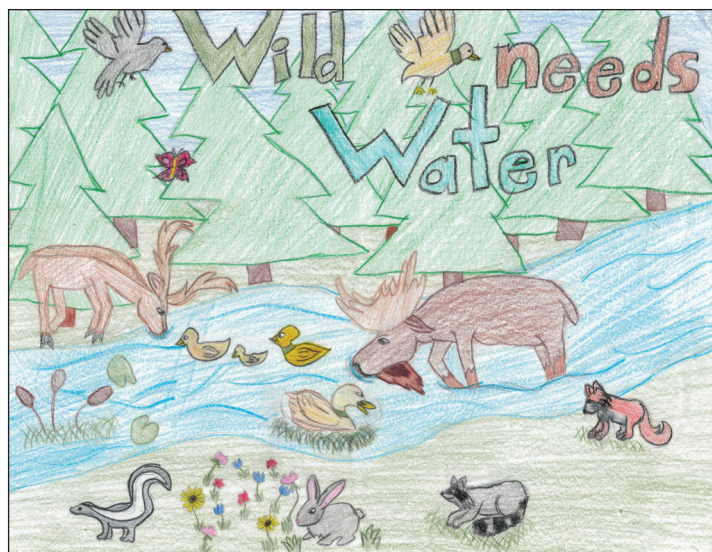
Second Place: Annalise Lauen from Tisdale. Annalise will receive a backpack filled with CRVWA merchandise and a bowling pass for Melfort Bowl.

Third Place: Brigette Wanamaker from Tisdale. Brigette will receive a backpack filled with CRVWA merchandise.

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone that entered the contest. Watch for next year's poster contest in January 2017!



2016 Second Place - Annalise Lauen



2016 winner - Mercedes Salmond



2016 Third place - Brigette Wanamaker



*A tap that drips 6 drops per minute will lose 1200 liters of water per year. That's the equivalent of 7 bath tubs down the drain!*

## **Love Your Lake Launches at Wakaw Lake**

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association is very excited to be part of a program called Love Your Lake. Love Your Lake is a shoreline assessment and stewardship program developed by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. We will be working with the RM of Hoodoo #401 and Resort Village of Wakaw Lake to deliver this program for all shoreline property owners on Wakaw Lake. This is the first year that Love Your Lake is being offered in Saskatchewan, and we are looking forward to having Wakaw Lake be one of the first lakes in our province to participate in this program.

Love Your Lake is an education and outreach program that aims to encourage and engage shoreline property owners in shoreline stewardship. It will also develop benchmark data to help us to design and implement stewardship projects at Wakaw Lake, and measure their effects in the future. Every shoreline will be vi-

sually assessed and shoreline property owners will be able to order a copy of their personalized shoreline property report. This property report will contain voluntary recommendations and resources that will help shoreline property owners improve or maintain their shoreline health and consequently improve the health of Wakaw Lake.

Natural shorelines are extremely beneficial as they act as filters helping to reduce pollutants that enter lakes, help to protect against erosion and provide vital habitat for amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and fish. But our actions, sometimes unknowingly, can have a huge impact on this delicate interface. Love Your Lake will recommend simple, yet meaningful, actions specific to each property that shoreline property owners can implement.

We are looking forward to delivering this pro-

gram on Wakaw Lake this summer. Be sure to visit [LoveYourLake.ca](http://LoveYourLake.ca) for more information on the Love Your Lake program or contact our office at 306-752-1270 or [crwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:crwatershed@gmail.com)

## **Aquatic Invasive Mussels Monitoring Project Expanding in 2016**

Zebra and quagga mussels are aquatic invasive species that first moved in the Great Lakes in the late 1980s. Since that time, both of these invasive mussel species have moved west and have infested numerous lakes in the USA and eastern provinces. In 2013, zebra mussels were found in Lake Winnipeg prompting concern that they may move into Saskatchewan waterbodies. These invasive mussel species have no natural predators in North America, reproduce prolifically, and are adapted to live in various conditions. Once they enter a waterbody, they can cause economic and environmental damages beyond measure.

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association (CRVWA) launched an Adult Invasive Mussel Monitoring (AIMM) project at Wakaw Lake in 2015. In the first year of the project, 13 substrate samplers were deployed from the docks of vol-

unteers at locations around the lake. This year, the CRVWA would like to expand the program to include more substrate sampler locations at Wakaw Lake, and will launch substrate samplers at the Resort Village of Tobin Lake. These small substrate samplers can be attached to docks or boat lifts, and they sink to the lake bottom. The substrate samplers are used to help determine if adult zebra or quagga mussels are present in the lake. If any invasive mussels are found, contact Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment at

1-800-667-7561. If you would be interested in participating, or would like more information, please contact the CRVWA at 306-752-1270 or [crwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:crwatershed@gmail.com).



*Saskatchewan residents double their water usage during the summer months. Rain barrels, xeriscaping, leaving lawns more than 6cm tall and leaving grass clippings behind are all ways that we can help reduce our summer water use.*

## Farm Stewardship Program

The Growing Forward 2 Farm Stewardship Program assists eligible producers with cost-shared funding to implement Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to help maintain or improve the quality of soil, water, air, or biodiversity resources. Each BMP has an individual funding limit; however, the total funding that an applicant can receive through this program is \$50,000.

Producers can apply to the Farm Stewardship Program through an Agri-Environmental Group Plan or Environmental Farm Plan. Select BMPs are available through a local Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP). In addition to assisting producers with applications and access to technical support for BMPs, AEGPs provide education and awareness of agri-environmental issues where actions taken by multiple producers within an area can have a measurable impact on

the environment. The Carrot River Watershed AEGP is one of 14 AEGPs in Saskatchewan. Our AEGP Technician is available to provide producer level support to the Farm Stewardship and Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Programs, as well as agri-environmental education to producers and municipalities. Producers with an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) can apply for any of the Farm Stewardship Program BMPs, either on their own or with the assistance of the AEGP Technician. EFPs are a self-assessment tool designed to help producers identify and improve environmental effects of their individual farm. For more information about the Farm Stewardship Program, AEGP or EFP program, visit [www.saskatchewan.ca](http://www.saskatchewan.ca) or contact our AEGP Technician at 306-920-8166 or [crwatershedaegp@gmail.com](mailto:crwatershedaegp@gmail.com).

<u>Beneficial Management Practice (BMPs)</u>	<u>Cost Share</u>	<u>Funding Limit</u>	<u>Pre-approval or Rebate</u>	<u>AEGP* or EFP** only</u>
<b><u>Livestock Site Management BMPs</u></b>				
Relocation of Livestock Confinement Facilities	60%	\$50,000	Pre-Approval	AEGP
Fencing to Protect Surface Water	50%	\$10,000	Rebate	AEGP
Farmyard Run-Off Control	50%	\$30,000	Pre-Approval	AEGP
Riparian Area Grazing Management & Fencing	50%	\$10,000	Pre-Approval	AEGP
Carcass Disposal Planning	75%	\$30,000	Pre-Approval	EFP
Native Rangeland Grazing Management & Fencing	50%	\$10,000	Pre-Approval	AEGP
<b><u>LAND MANAGEMENT BMPs</u></b>				
Natural Waterway Erosion Control	75%	\$30,000	Pre-Approval	AEGP
Water Flow & Erosion Control	50%	\$20,000	Pre-Approval	AEGP
Improved Creek & Stream Crossings	50%	\$20,000	Pre-Approval	AEGP
Protecting High Risk Erodible & Saline Soils	50%	\$10,000	Rebate	AEGP
Multi-producer Erosion Control Phase 1	75%	\$150,000	Pre-Approval	AEGP
Multi-Producer Erosion Control Phase 2	50%	\$500,000	Pre-Approval	AEGP
Shelterbelt Establishment	\$600/mile	\$5,000	Rebate	EFP
Native Plant Establishment	75%	\$10,000	Pre-Approval	AEGP
Weather Data Collection & Monitoring	50%	\$1,000	Rebate	EFP
<b><u>AGRICULTURAL WASTES</u></b>				
Plastic Grain Bag Roller	50%	\$5,000	Rebate	EFP
Used Oil Storage	50%	\$2,000	Rebate	EFP
<b><u>Precision Farming BMPs</u></b>				
Variable Rate Fertilizer Equipment	30%	\$5,000	Rebate	EFP
Variable Rate Mapping	30%	\$2,000	Rebate	EFP
<b><u>MANURE MANAGEMENT BMPs</u></b>				
Manure Storage Enhancements	30%	\$50,000	Pre-Approval	EFP
Manure Application Equipment	30%	\$30,000	Rebate	EFP
<b><u>IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT BMPs</u></b>				
Irrigation Management Planning	50%	\$2,000	Rebate	EFP
Irrigation Equipment Modification	30%	\$50,000	Pre-Approval	EFP
Variable Rate Irrigation Technology	30%	\$15,000	Pre-Approval	EFP
<b><u>ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS</u></b>				
Environmental Solutions	20-50%	\$50,000	Pre-Approval	EFP

\*\*EFP=Environmental Farm Plan

*Over-watering lawns is hard on the pocketbook, environment and the grass. Over-watering weakens the plants' root system and drains nutrients away from the soil. An average lawn only requires 2.5 cm of water per week, and less than that if it has rained.*



### Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Annual General Meeting to be held on April 28, 2016

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 1pm at the Kerry Vickar Center in Melfort. The AGM will include presentations from the Water Security Agency on the new drainage regulations and Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds on the role of watershed stewardship groups in the province, as well as an update from the AEGP and CRVWA. Each member organization was sent an information package with all of the details. This is also an excellent opportunity for non-member organizations to come and learn more about the CRVWA and the benefits of becoming a member. If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please contact our office at 306-752-1270 or [crwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:crwatershed@gmail.com)





*Clean and Green! Front-load washing machines use about 40% less water per load and 50% less energy than traditional top-load models. Front-load washing machines also require less detergent, helping to decrease the waste water treatment required.*

## Protecting Our Groundwater

Ground water wells allow us to access water held underground in aquifers. This is an important source of water for many homes and farming operations throughout the watershed. Protecting our ground water ensures that this valuable resource will remain viable for generations to come. Inspecting wells on a regular basis, performing maintenance when required, and paying attention to any changes in the water coming from the well are all important steps that you can take to ensure that ground water sources are maintained and protected.

The location of the well is important to consider. A well should be on well drained ground, away from surface water runoff, standing water, and potential sources of contamination such as barns, corrals, septic systems, landfills, etc. Also, the well should also be at least 50 feet from any trees to ensure that the tree roots do not become an issue for the well.

The condition of the ground around the well head, the cribbing and the well cap are also important. The area around the well head should be built up with clay soil and sloped away from the well to reduce the risk of surface water entering the well. The well casing should extend several feet above the ground level and should

be free of rust and/or cracks. Also, a waterproof well cap should be secured in place on top of the well. Without a properly installed well cap and intact cribbing, rodents such as mice, contaminants, and insects may be able to gain direct access to the water in the well. There is cost-shared funding available to eligible agricultural producers to assist with protecting existing wells through the Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program. Contact our AEGP Technician at 306-920-8166 for more information.

Finally, test your well water. Rural water users should regularly test the water quality of their private wells and cisterns that are used as sources of drinking water, because it is your own responsibility to ensure that water from your well and/or cistern is safe for consumption. This water should be tested at least annually, but you should have it tested more frequently if you have had mechanical problems with equipment associated with the well or cistern; if you notice changes in the taste, smell or color of your water; or if you have experienced problems at or near the wellhead such as flooding or ground disturbance. Sample bottles, requisition forms, and more information may be available through your local public health office. You can also

contact the Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory in Regina at 1-866-450-0000 or visit <http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/lab>. Other valuable information on water quality for private water supplies is available at: [http://www.saskh2o.ca/WaterInformationFactSheet\\_Drinking\\_Private\\_Health.asp](http://www.saskh2o.ca/WaterInformationFactSheet_Drinking_Private_Health.asp)

If you have an old abandoned well on your property, it is important to properly decommission the abandoned well to protect our groundwater resources, as well as our loved ones, livestock, pets and equipment. Well decommissioning projects may be eligible for 90% cost-shared funding through the Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program. Contact our AEGP Technician at 306-920-8166 or [crwatershedaegp@gmail.com](mailto:crwatershedaegp@gmail.com) for details and to apply.



## Tree Planter and Plastic Mulch Applicator For Rent

The CRVWA has a plastic mulch applicator and tree planter that are available for rent to for the public. This equipment is available on a first-come, first-served basis,

and rentals must be booked at least 48 hours in advance. It is the responsibility of the renter to pick up and return the equipment to our storage location. Rates are \$75 per day, with a \$75 deposit required at the time of booking

the equipment rental. Member organizations of the CRVWA receive a 50% discount on the rental rates. For more information, contact the CRVWA at 306-752-1270 or [crwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:crwatershed@gmail.com).



*The average Canadian uses 333 liters of water per day. That's 2.7 times more than people in Germany and almost 30 times more than people in Africa.*

**Did you know? We are on Twitter and Facebook!**

**Follow us @crwatershed or [www.facebook.com/CarrotRiverValleyWatershedAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/CarrotRiverValleyWatershedAssociation)**