



## Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

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

SUMMER 2013

### A Message from the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Board

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association (CRVWA) is pleased to welcome our new Watershed Manager, Jessica Hutton. Jessica's education and experience with the Upper Souris Watershed Association make her a valuable asset to the Carrot River Valley Watershed team. We are looking forward to helping Jessica make Melfort her home, and to seeing her begin implementing many of the key actions from the Source Water Protection Plan.

The CRVWA held our first Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April, and it was well attended by our members. Elections were held at this time, and the CRVWA Board for 2013 was chosen. We would like to thank our members for their invaluable support and for attending the AGM. We look forward

to continuing to serve our local communities and addressing the specific needs of the Carrot River Valley Watershed area.

We are looking forward to partnering with the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan to assist area agricultural producers with implementing Beneficial Management Practices and Farm Stewardship projects on their farms. By bringing our two organizations together, we will be able to address the importance of source water protection for both the rural and urban populations of the watershed.

If you would like more information on the CRVWA or to become involved with watershed activities, contact Jessica Hutton, Watershed Manager, at 306-752-



CRVWA Board and Staff

**Back row (left to right):** Bud Charko (Carrot River East); Catherine Mazurkewich, Secretary/Treasurer (Carrot River West); Robert Harley, Chairperson (AEGP); Dale Holmgren (Carrot River West); Lionel Dosch (Lenore Lake Basin); Clarence Puetz (Lenore Lake Basin).

**Front row (left to right):** Jessica Hutton, Watershed Manager; Garfield Hnatiuk, Past Chairperson (Carrot River West); Alvin Alyea, Vice Chairperson (Carrot River East)

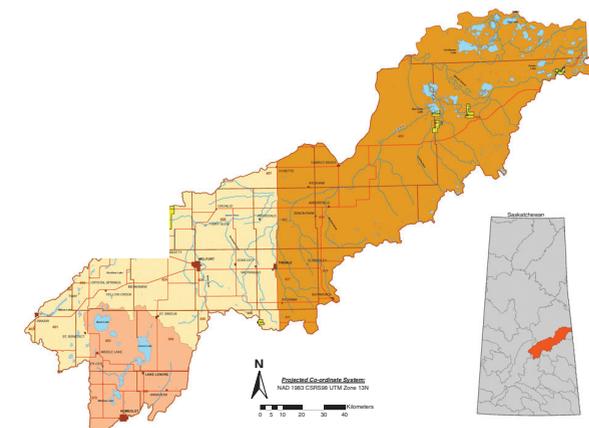
**Missing:** Bud Van Meter (Carrot River East)

1270, email [crvwa2011@gmail.com](mailto:crvwa2011@gmail.com), or stop by the office located at 202 Main Street in Melfort.

### Who is the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association?

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. In 2011, the CRVWA released a Source Water Protection Plan which identifies potential threats to the health of the Carrot River Watershed and key actions to address these threats to achieve and maintain a sustainable, healthy watershed. The CRVWA is now working to address these potential threats and carry out the key actions identified in the Plan.

The CRVWA is pleased to be partnering with the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) to continue to build on the watershed awareness work that the AEGP has been doing with local agricultural producers since 2010. The AEGP will continue to assist producers with applications to the Farm Stewardship Program and raising awareness of Beneficial Management Practices, while the CRVWA will have the opportunity to work with both Rural and Urban Municipalities and residents. Working together, we will be able to bring more programming and projects to our local area and reduce overlap in our services. For more information, contact the CRVWA office at 306-752-1270 or visit us on-line at [crwatershed.ca](http://crwatershed.ca).



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



Freshwater lakes and rivers, ice and snow, and underground aquifers hold only 2.5% of the world's water. By comparison, saltwater oceans and seas contain 97.5% of the world's water supply.

## A Message from the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) Board

### Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan



Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan Board and Staff

**Back row (left to right):** Catherine Mazurkewich, Secretary/Treasurer; Morgan Leigh, Chairperson; Chris Jenkins, Vice Chairperson; Lisa Nemeth

**Front row (left to right):** Lynne Roszell, AEGP Technician; Robert Harley, Past Chairperson

**Missing:** Dean Sturby

The Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) began in 2010 to assist area producers with applications to the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP) and to promote the implementation of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). Since 2010, the Carrot River Watershed AEGP has submitted project applications worth an estimated total value of almost \$965,000 and each year saw a steady increase in the number of BMP projects. In addition to the applications to the CSFSP, the Carrot River Watershed AEGP produced 11 newsletters/flyers, 5 brochures, 10 producer workshops, and participated in various local events and trade shows.

The Carrot River Watershed AEGP is excited to be partnering with the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association (CRVWA) to reach a broader audience and pool the resources of our organizations. As local, non-profit organizations, we share a vision of

increasing watershed awareness in our area. This partnership will allow the Carrot River Watershed AEGP to continue with our agricultural focus while assisting the CRVWA with their mandate of serving all residents of the watershed. Working together, we look forward to delivering the new Farm Stewardship Program announced under Growing Forward 2 and launching various projects throughout the area. In addition, the Carrot River Watershed AEGP has received approval through the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Development Fund to begin a 3D fencing project this fall to help area producers determine if this type of fencing would be a viable option to control wildlife damage to livestock feed.

If you would like more information about the Carrot River Watershed AEGP or our upcoming projects, contact Lynne Roszell, AEGP Technician, at 306-852-8328 or visit [crwatershed.ca](http://crwatershed.ca).

## Role of Riparian Areas in Watershed Health

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. 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. In much of Saskatchewan, riparian areas have been dramatically altered by agriculture and human development. These alterations have a negative impact on the health of the riparian area. A healthy riparian area is able to successfully perform many key ecological functions including:

- Trapping sediment – The above ground vegetation, and the below ground root systems of healthy riparian area plants act as filters to prevent sediments and pollutants from entering the waterways.
- Filter and buffer water – Healthy vegetation in riparian areas use nutrients contained in run-off for growth preventing the nutrients from building up in water.
- Protect and maintain banks – Deep-rooted, healthy vegetation increases bank stability and protect shorelines from damaging erosion caused by water as it moves downstream.

- Recharge aquifers – A well-vegetated riparian area can help reduce the speed at which water flows during times of increased run-off. The slower stream flow allows increased absorption of water into the soil, replenishing groundwater reserves and decreasing flood risks downstream.
- Store water and energy – Riparian areas have the ability to hold excess water, acting as a natural sponge storing water.
- Reduce and dissipate energy – A healthy riparian area provides erosion protection by slowing the water flow and aiding in sediment capture.
- Maintain biodiversity – An abundance of water, shelter, and food found in healthy riparian areas can attract all types of wildlife and sustains a diverse population of species.
- Create primary productivity – Enhanced soil development, forage production, and increased vegetation diversity are all benefits of healthy riparian areas.

Implementing buffer strips for riparian areas in croplands, and a grazing management plan in pasturelands can greatly improve the health of riparian areas in agricultural areas. These buffers will decrease pollutants



from fertilizers, chemicals, and manure from entering the waterways, provide habitat corridors for wildlife, and improve soil, water, air and biodiversity. Grazing management plans include providing rest periods from grazing and/or limiting access to riparian areas to ensure that forage produced in these areas is used without degrading the riparian area. Restoring areas that have been over-utilized to re-establish healthy riparian areas contributes to the overall health of our water and waterways. For more information, or to find out more about riparian area health assessments, contact Lynne Roszell, AEGP Technician at 306-852-8328 or [crwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:crwatershed@gmail.com).

## Reminder to Test your Private Water Supply

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association 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 at

least annually or anytime that you suspect contamination may have occurred. Water testing can be done by the Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory or by contacting your local public health office.

Water sampling bottles and forms can be picked up at the Public Health office in Melfort. For more information contact the Public Health office at 306-752-6310.



*Changing to low flow faucets, shower heads and 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 Feature: Common Tansy, *Tanacetum vulgare*

Common Tansy, *Tanacetum vulgare*, is an invasive weed of natural areas, pastures, forest and field margins, and ditches. Common Tansy is currently spreading throughout western Canada and can be found throughout the Carrot River Watershed area. It is a perennial forb that reproduces by both seed and short rhizomes (underground horizontal roots). Common Tansy forms dense stands and the plants contain alkaloids that are toxic to both humans and livestock if consumed or absorbed through the skin in large quantities. However, cases of livestock poisoning are rare because tansy is unpalatable to grazing animals. Introduced from Europe in the 1600's, its foliage has been used medicinally.

Tansy infestations are associated with:

- ✓ Loss of desirable vegetation,
- ✓ Toxicity to humans and livestock,
- ✓ Reduction in pasture carrying capacity,
- ✓ Degradation of wildlife habitat, and
- ✓ Hindering reforestation and restoration efforts.

*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.
- Seeds are yellowish brown achenes with short, five-toothed crowns. Seeds remain viable and can germinate for up to 25 years.

*Prevention:*

Because of its long medicinal and horticultural use, Common Tansy is still available in plant nurseries and from herbal remedy suppliers. Gardeners should not purchase Common tansy. If you find Common tansy on your property, you should take steps to eliminate the plant to prevent its spread.

*Control:*

**Grazing:** Tansy is unpalatable to cattle and horses. Sheep and goats are reported to graze on it; however, this practice should be closely monitored to ensure the safety of the livestock. Grazing is not a recommended control method for Common Tansy.

**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 Common 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.

If you would like more information about invasive weeds in our watershed, contact Lynne Roszell, AEGP Technician at 306-852-8328 or stop by our office at 202 Main Street in Melfort.



## Storm Water Runoff is a Source of Pollution

During summer rain storms water quickly drains off of impermeable surfaces and enters the storm



water sewer system through storm drains. Storm drains are clearly visible on streets. In cities and towns where there is an abundance of impermeable surfaces water is not able to naturally infiltrate into the ground. Impermeable surfaces include streets, driveways, parking lots, and buildings. These impermeable surfaces increase the amount of runoff. This runoff drains through streets accumulating various pollutants along the way. This water is quickly deposited into nearby lakes, rivers and streams. Storm water is not treated to remove pollutants that accumulate in the runoff. Possible

contaminates include: oil, fertilizers, pesticides, sediments, pet waste, bacteria, road salt, cleaning supplies, automotive fluids and garbage. All of these contaminants can have negative impacts on the water quality of lakes, rivers and streams as well as aquatic species.

Let all pull together and take responsibility to implement proactive measures to prevent contaminants from entering storm water sewer systems and ultimately local lakes, rivers and streams.

Canadian adults use an average of 329 litres of water/day. Out of this 329 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

- Watering lawns and gardens in the early morning and evening will help to reduce the evaporation of water. Watering on calm days will further limit evaporation and drift.
- Ensure that sprinklers avoid impermeable surfaces such as driveways. This will help to limit runoff into storm water 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 better for lawns and gardens than treated

water.

- Use a broom to remove debris from paved surfaces instead of washing with water.
- Instead of kids running through a sprinkler on hot summer days consider filling a kiddie pool or using handheld water toys.

For more water conservation tips contact the CRVWA office.

## CRVWA Staff

### Watershed Manager - Jessica Hutton, BSc



Jessica Hutton joined the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association in the position of Watershed Manager in May 2013. Jessica completed her Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Applied Disaster

and Emergency Studies from Brandon University. During her time at Brandon University she focused on environmental and water-related issues.

Jessica grew up on her parents' farm near Redvers, SK. She has always enjoyed the beauty of nature and outdoor activities. In the summer of 2012, Jessica worked with the Upper Souris Watershed Association where she gained experience and knowledge in the role of watershed organizations and source

water protection.

Jessica is eager to implement programs, educate residents about source water protection, and address potential watershed threats throughout the Carrot River Valley Watershed. For more information about the CRVWA, upcoming events and current projects, contact Jessica at 306-752-1270 or email [crvwa2011@gmail.com](mailto:crvwa2011@gmail.com).

### AEGP Technician- Lynne Roszell, BScA, PAG



Lynne Roszell joined the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) in March 2011. Lynne completed a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BScA) from the University of Saskatchewan in 1999

and recently obtained her Professional Agrologist (PAG) designation from the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists. During her time with the Carrot River Watershed AEGP, Lynne has enjoyed assisting producers with applications to the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program and raising awareness of source water protection from an agricultural perspective. Lynne looks forward to continuing to assist producers with the new programming available under Growing Forward 2 and working with the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association.

If you have any questions or require more information about the AEGP, the Farm Stewardship Program, or upcoming AEGP activities, please contact Lynne at 306-852-8328 or e-mail [crwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:crwatershed@gmail.com).

## Thank you to 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!  
Have a voice in source water protection.



### Contact Us

Carrot River Valley Watershed Association  
Mail: PO Box 40, Melfort, SK, S0E 1A0  
Office: 202 Main Street  
Open Weekdays 8:30am-4:30pm  
E-mail: [crvwa2011@gmail.com](mailto:crvwa2011@gmail.com)  
[crwatershed.ca](http://crwatershed.ca)



Canada has some of the world's most extensive water resources. But we also consume far more per person than in other countries. Each resident uses about 260 litres (57 gallons) of water each day this is about 10 times the global average.