CRVWA Water Source

Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

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Like us on Facebook: Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

SUMMER 2014

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc. (CRVWA) is a non-profit non-governmental organization. The CRVWA is dedicated to preserving and maintaining the character and integrity of the watershed through education and awareness.

Our mission is to protect and improve water quantity, water quality, and diversity of the watershed through collaborative planning and facilitating partnership.

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association and FarmLink Marketing Solutions with assistance from Farming Futures are partnering to increase awareness about agricultural production. We would like to thank all of our supporters: Ag in the Classroom, Agrium, Beatty Beef 4-H Club, Dow AgroSciences, Melfort Multi-K, Perrish and Heimbecker-Tisdale, Sask Milk, Sask Ministry of Agriculture, Syngenta, Vital Signs and Graphics and Wright's Greenhouse. We would also like to thank all of the volunteers that took the time to come help out at this event.

The Burger and Fries Farm is designed to increase agricultural awareness amongst students. It will be an educational opportunity that will allow students to better understand and appreciate all of the hard work that goes into food production. We want to ensure that all students taking part in this project will better understand where food comes from. Everything required for burgers and fries will be grown at the farm. Once the harvest is complete students will then make burgers and fries using the crops they helped to plant.

The spring event took place on June 23; grade 2 and 4 students from Reynolds School in Melfort came out and visited the farm for the day. The farm was broken down into four stations. We were fortunate to have the Seed Survivor Trailer with us for the day. At the trailer students were able to learn about the process in which plants grow; the trailer also had various interactive educational games. The Beatty 4-H Club was generous enough to bring a cow/calf pair and a steer; students were able to learn about cattle production as well as the 4-H Club at this station. There was also a crop station, wheat and canola was planted at the end of May. Students were able to learn about what is needed for crop production as well as the process from planting to harvest. The garden station had to be modified a bit due to the wet weather. Students planted "groceries in a bag". The "groceries in a bag" consisted of a tomato plant, a green pepper plant, a seed potato, a couple onions and a marigold, donated by Wright's Greenhouse. Students also enjoyed a BBQ burger lunch and various games throughout the day.

These same students will once again be visiting the farm come fall. Students will have the opportunity to harvest the garden and prepare a burger and fries lunch with ingredients they grew. Fall stations include: harvest the garden, process vegetables, ketchup/mustard/relish station, french fry station, wheat/canola station, watershed station and a supply and demand demonstration. Students will once again enjoy a BBQ burger lunch with french fries.

We will be updating our Facebook page regularly throughout the summer so that everyone can follow the Burger and Fries Farm, if you would like to follow the progress of our farm like us at Carrot River Valley Watershed Association.


Syngenta seeding the Wheat and Canola on May 30


Beatty 4-H Club members with a steer, cow and calf

Students planting a "Garden in a Bag"


Students enjoying the games in the Seed Survivor Trailer

WATER FACT

One drop of oil can render up to 25 litres of water unfit for drinking. Consideration must be taken in everyday activities to ensure that clean water is protected and available for future generations

Meet Collin Letain, Summer Technician

A new member is joining the CRVWA team this summer! Collin Letain is our Summer Watershed Technician for the summer of 2014.

Collin started May 12 and will be with us through until August 22. Collin is currently attending the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. He just completed year two of his animal science degree that will earn him a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture upon his completion of the four year program.

Collin is from the Melfort area as he grew up on his parent's acreage a short distance northeast of the city. He has always had a keen interest towards agriculture, wildlife, and environmental preservation growing up on his parent's elk ranch. Collin also spends time with his father in the field who is an employee of Duck's Unlimited Canada focusing on water management techniques for wetland conservation.

Collin hopes to work with the Carrot River Watershed team to the best of his ability to educate residents of the watershed on water source protection and water conservation techniques throughout the summer.

Water Conservation Awareness Program

Watch for us in your area to receive your own water conservation gift bag!

Water Conservation Booth at Pasquia Regional Park on July 4th

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association is coming to educate you on Water Conservation this summer! The Water Conservation Awareness Program booth will be set up at three locations throughout the summer, educating adults and youth of all ages about the watershed and water use management techniques.

Watershed Awareness will include:

-Exciting interactive watershed model

-Giving away 40 Eco Flow gift bags at every location

-Draws to win a Carrot River Valley Watershed Association backpack, hats and more!

-Free tips & information booklets about the watershed and kids' activities

On Location:

Pasquia Regional Park: Friday July 4

Melfort Exhibition Exhibit Hall: Friday July 18

Wakaw Lake Regional Park: Friday August 8

We will be at each location from noon to 5pm

Riparian Area Site Assessments

Throughout the summer the CRVWA Staff will be preforming Riparian Area Site Assessments on various tributaries and sections of the Carrot River. Our goal is to gain a better understanding of the Carrot River Watershed in terms of its overall health.

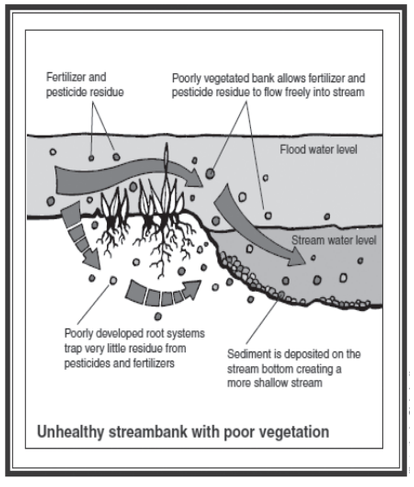
Healthy riparian areas may often be thought of as the transitional zone that exists between the aquatic part of the river and the surrounding upland area. These areas often contain lush, wet vegetation that differs from upland vegetation; sedges, cattails, bulrush, willows and reed grass are often abundant in riparian areas. Riparian areas although small play a large role in determining the health of our environment and river systems.

We will be using the Streams and Small Rivers Riparian Health Assessment, Field Workbook which was originally designed by the Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society.

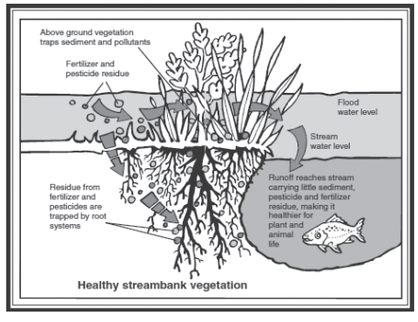
Questions include:

1. How much of the riparian area is covered by vegetation?
2. How much of the riparian area is covered by invasive species?
3. How much of the riparian area is covered by disturbance-caused vegetation?
4. Is woody vegetation present and maintaining itself?
5. Is wooding vegetation being used?
6. How much dead wood is there?
7. Are the stream banks held together with deep-rotted vegetation?
8. How much of the riparian area has bare ground caused by human activity?
9. Have the stream banks been altered by human activity?
10. Are stream banks subject to active lateral cutting?
11. Is the Reach compacted, bumpy or rutted from use?
12. Can the stream access its floodplain?

To view complete workbook visit http://www.pcap-sk.org/rsu_docs/documents/Streams_and_Small_Rivers-Green.pdf or stop by our office.



Collin preforming a Riparian Area Assessment along Goosehunting Creek



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.

Riparian Areas


Healthy Riparian Areas


Unhealthy Riparian Areas

Riparian areas are the transition zones between land and water environments. 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.

Functions of healthy riparian areas include:

- Trap sediments- Sediments accumulate in riparian areas. This sediment is then 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 habitats for fish, wildlife and vegetation.
- Create primary productivity- Riparian vegetation provides valuable forage and shelter.

Degraded riparian areas reduce water quality, reduce wildlife and fish populations, cause property damage and can lead to the loss of agricultural land. One of the most visible effects is bare ground and erosion; the erosion of banks due to a lack of deep rooted vegetation has wide spanning effects. Eroding banks leads to sedimentation and leads to a wide shallow stream with little habitat value. The erosion of banks, property and farmland also comes with increased bare ground. Unhealthy riparian areas although small have the potential to cause wide spread impacts.

Restoring unhealthy riparian areas is key to increasing the health and natural functions of a stream or river. There are many economic benefits derived from increased riparian area habitat, channel stabilization, improved water quality, improved wildlife and fish populations, water retentions and flood protection. Depending on the surrounding land use riparian area zones may vary in width from ten to thirty meters on each side of the stream. The larger the riparian area the better but in some cases a smaller area may suffice.

Riparian Area Do's and Don'ts:

- Protect shrubs, trees and other vegetation along streams, they help to prevent bank erosion, encourage sediment trap and filter/absorb pollutants.
- Manage livestock in these areas and continue to monitor the riparian area in a similar manner as upland pastures.
- Limit the use of farm equipment in riparian areas; this includes tillage of the riparian area.
- Try to avoid or limit the use of large equipment in riparian areas.

Riparian Area Workshop

Date : Thursday, July 24 2014
Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Location: Ducks Unlimited Canada Bergren Project
Directions: Travel 12 miles north of Melfort on Highway 6 (from McDonald Avenue), Turn onto Bagley Road and travel 2 mile north, Turn East onto grid and travel ½ mile to presentation location. Watch for signs at highway turn off.

Topics:
- Riparian Health
- Rangeland Health
- The Importance of Water
- Plant Identification
- Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) and Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP)

Workshop is free of charge and includes lunch in the field following presentations.

Producers are welcome to bring their own vehicles however parking is limited. Please call to ensure a ride.

RSVP by July 22, 2014 to:
Jessica Hutton at 306 752 1270 or Sarah at 306 920 8166

Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan Technician
Sarah Nye
306-920-8166
crwatershed@gmail.com

Sarah is able to assist you in applying for cost shared funding for the Farm Stewardship Program and the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program.


Grazing and Riparian Area Management Workshop

Date : Tuesday, August 12, 2014
Time: 11:00am to 4:00 pm
Location: Meskanaw Hall and PAMI Research Site
Agenda:
11:00-11:20 Registration
11:20-11:30 Welcome
11:30-12:00 Farm Stewardship Program and Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program
Sarah Nye, CRW AEGP Technician
12:00- 12:30 Lunch
12:40- 12:50 Travel to Field
1:00- 2:00 Functions of Riparian Areas & What to look for in Riparian Areas
Al Foster, Regional Forage Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture
2:00- 3:00 Importance of Water Quality and the Effect it has on Feed Intake for Livestock and Grazing Management Techniques Utilized by Western Beef Development Centre
Dr. Bart Lardner , Ph.D. P.Ag, Senior Research Scientist, Western Beef Development Centre
3:00- 3:30 Questions and Discussion
3:30 Return to Hall
Workshop is free of charge and includes lunch.
Producers are welcome to bring their own vehicles however parking is limited at field site. We will be renting a van to bring producers to PAMI Research Site.
Please RSVP by August 8, 2014 to:
Jessica Hutton at 306 752 1270 or Sarah at 306 920 8166

Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan Technician
Sarah Nye
306-920-8166
crwatershed@gmail.com

Sarah is able to assist you in applying for cost shared funding for the Farm Stewardship Program and the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program.


Everyday Canada loses approximately 80 acres of wetlands. That is equivalent to about 45 soccer fields disappearing in a single day. Wetland conservation must occur so that wetlands can continue to perform their valuable functions such as mitigating flooding, improving water quality and providing habitats.

School Presentations

We would like to thank all of the schools that took part in our watershed awareness presentations this past year. We were invited to visit Wakaw School, Carrot River High School, Arborfield School, Bjorkdale School, Reynolds School in Melfort and Tisdale Elementary School. This year we were able to deliver presentations to approximately 300 students from all areas of the Carrot River Watershed.

Next school year we will continue to deliver school presentations. All schools that request presentations will receive one in a timely manner. We will also be making a second presentation so that teachers can pick which presentation they prefer.

Students learning about crop production at the Burger and Fries Farm

The Grades 2 and 4 classes from Reynolds School ready to head back to school after a day of learning about agricultural production at the Burger and Fries Farm

Upcoming Events

July 4:
Water Conservation Day at Pasquia Park

July 18:
Water Conservation Day at Melfort Exhibition

July 23:
Melfort Research Farm Field Day

July 24 :
Riparian Awareness Workshop

August 8:
Water Conservation Day at Wakaw Lake

August 12:
Grazing and Riparian Area Managing Workshop

Fall 2014:
Well Decommissioning Workshop

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
Government of Saskatchewan — Ministry of Agriculture
Canada

Contact Us
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Regular shower heads use 2 to 10 gallons per minute, whereas a water-saver shower heads uses 2 to 5 gallons per minute. Therefore, a five minute shower with a standard shower head may use 50 gallons of water whereas; a low-flow shower head may use as little as 25 gallons.

WATER FACT