

Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

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Spring 2017

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
Kipabiskau Regional Park
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.

Poster Contest Winners!

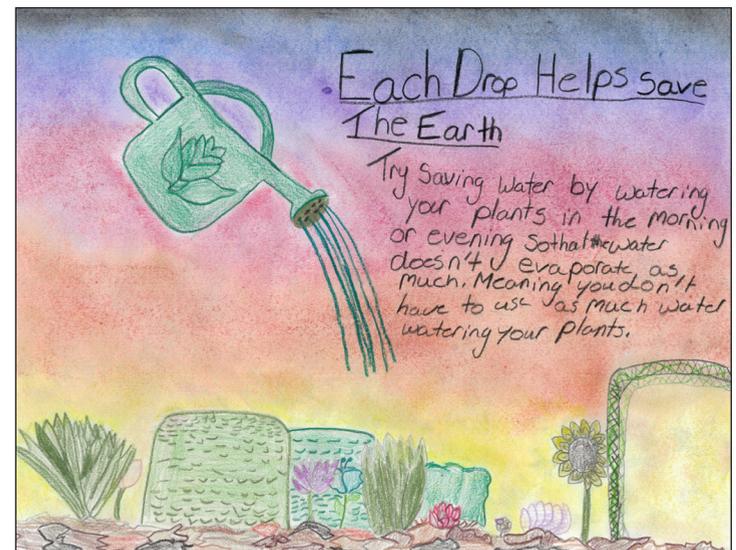
The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association (CRVWA) recently held their annual poster contest. The theme of the 2017 poster contest was “Water Conservation”. The poster contest was open to students in Grades 5, 6 and 7 that attend school within the Carrot River Watershed area. Entries were judged on the accuracy of knowledge and information presented in the poster, appreciation of the water conservation theme in the artwork, relevance to the theme, and the general artistic ability and creativity demonstrated in the poster. The entries were judged by CRVWA staff and executive committee members on March 17, 2017. The top 3 posters were chosen after much deliberation, and the CRVWA is pleased to announce our 2017 poster contest winners are:

First Place: Taylor Enns from Carrot River High School. Taylor 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 Esterhazy on April 7, 2017 for a chance to win the grand prize package with a total value of \$1000.

Second Place: Mykayla Court from Kinistino School. Mykayla will receive a backpack filled with CRVWA merchandise and a bowling pass for Melfort Bowl.

Third Place: Oliver Corbett from Wakaw School. Oliver will receive a backpack filled with CRVWA merchandise.

It was wonderful to see all of the entries from throughout our area, and we appreciate all of the time and effort that all students put into their posters! Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone that entered the contest. Watch for next year’s poster contest in January 2018!



2017 Winner - Taylor Enns from Carrot River



2017 Second place - Mykayla Court from Kinistino



2017 Third place - Oliver Corbett from Wakaw



Even though 70 percent of the earth's surface is covered by water, less than one percent is suitable for consumption. With the earth's population continuing to rise, it is critical that we get smarter about how we use our supply of potable water. Small changes to daily habits can make a big difference!

Source Water Protection Extension Program

Source water is any untreated water found in rivers, lakes and underground aquifers which is used for the supply of raw water for municipal water treatment systems for human consumption. Source water protection is the actions taken to protect that raw source of municipal drinking water from contamination, and is the first step in a multi-barrier approach. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) define the multi-barrier approach as “an integrated system of procedures, processes and tools that collectively prevent or reduce the contamination of drinking water from source to tap in order to reduce risks to public health” (2002). The other barriers in this approach include effective treatment, maintenance of the water distribution system, monitoring and emergency response planning. As the first step in the multi-barrier approach, source water protection is an essential part of any strategy to prevent or reduce contamination risks to a drinking water system.

This winter, our staff have been working with the Water Security Agency to create an inventory of the source water for communities in our watershed area. This inventory will help us to have a better understanding of source water protection concerns and risks, as well as identify which communities continue to operate their own municipal water systems. Many communities in our area have switched to pipeline water sources, and this inventory will also help us to identify opportunities to work with those communities to decommission abandoned water sources.

The next step in this project is to identify communities that continue to operate their own

municipal water systems that would be interested in participating in source water protection planning. This planning process would bring together community members and technical experts to identify risks to the community's source water and then identify key actions to help to mitigate or address these risks. Working with the Water Security Agency and CRVWA, the community will work through a five stage planning model based on the work of Dr. Robert Patrick from the University of Saskatchewan. The five stages are:

1. Establish a steering committee – approximately 8 to 12 participants that consist of a mix of local representatives and water management experts that will be accountable to the community, hold meetings, decide rules of membership, etc.
2. Source Water Assessment – collection of background information on water sources, delineation of the source water assessment area, inventory of land use, identification of existing and potential contamination events, and an assessment of the risks to the drinking water sources from the identified contamination events.
3. Risk Management Actions – information gathered during the source water assessment stage facilitates the development of risk management actions that can mitigate or



manage the risks to the drinking water source from the identified contaminants. These risk management actions will include structural (infrastructure such as pipes, pumps, retention ponds, retaining walls, stream bank restoration, etc.) and non-structural (education programs, signage, buffer zone protection, land acquisition, etc.) actions. The identified contaminants and risk management actions together will form the Source Water Protection Plan.

4. Plan Implementation – working to implement the actions that will reduce or manage the risk of contamination of the drinking water source.
5. Review SWP Plan.

If your community is interested in working through the 5 step process above, with support from the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association and Water Security Agency, please contact the CRVWA office at 306-752-1270 or crwatershed@gmail.com for more information.

Growing Forward 2 Funding Program Deadlines

Program	Application Deadline
Farm Stewardship Program Pre-approval Applications	June 30, 2017
Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Applications	August 1, 2017
Farm Stewardship Program Rebate Applications	January 31, 2018

For more information on these programs, application criteria and access to technical support, contact the CRVWA office at **306-752-1270**.

Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator. With cold drinking water on hand, you'll waste less than you would while waiting for the faucet to change temperature for each glass of water.



The Natural Edge - Shoreline Naturalization Program

The Natural Edge Program is designed to help landowners of shoreline properties to create a natural shoreline by planting a selection of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, groundcovers, and grasses suitable for their property. It is an easy step-by-step process that works with landowners to restore the areas of their shoreline that aren't necessarily used for water access. The plants chosen help reduce soil erosion, improve water quality by filtering runoff, and are essential to providing habitat, including shelter and food. We are proud to have partnered with Watersheds Canada to be able to offer this program to shoreline property owners at Wakaw Lake this summer.

Throughout the spring and summer, the CRVWA will be offering free site visits for shoreline landowners.

Following the site visit, project staff will create a customized planting plan indicating the recommended areas for planting and a list of suitable native tree, shrub and wildflower species. This plan will depend upon the input of our landowner partners, and we will work closely with landowners to help them achieve their shoreline planting goals. All advice is optional, and we want to ensure that each planting plan meets the needs of the respective property owners.

Landowners will then approve their individual planting plan and sign a stewardship agreement. This agreement indicates the landowners' commitment to reasonably care for the new plants. Next, our staff will coordinate the

The CRVWA is proud to partner with the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council to offer culvert mapping services to Rural Municipalities in our area. The purpose of culvert mapping is for the identification of maintenance needs, asset management, flooding adaptation, data availability for drainage projects, damage prevention (proximity alerts), survey-grade GPS availability (additional

ordering, delivery, and planting of all the plants on your shoreline. We will provide all the tools, materials, and labour to complete the project. We strongly encourage landowners to participate in the planting, but we do understand that this may not always be possible.

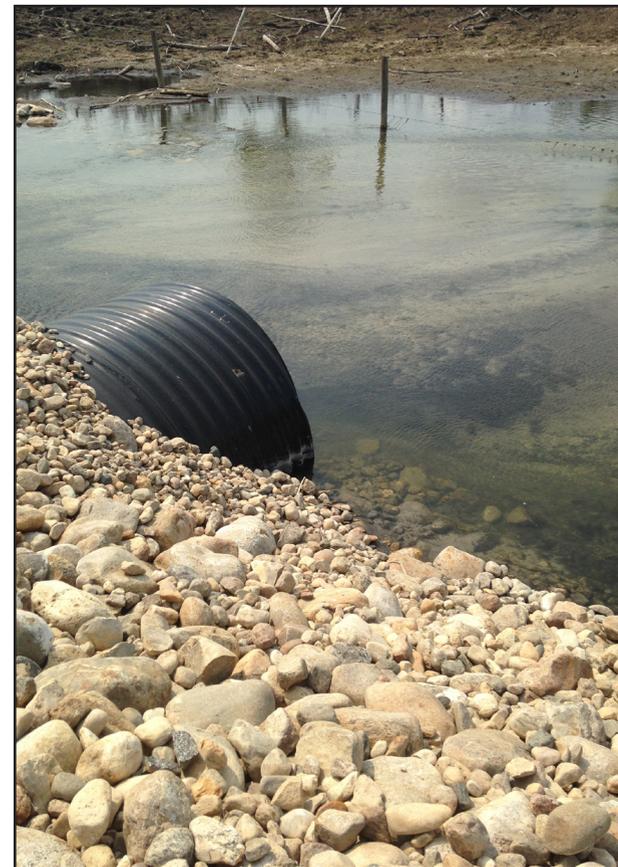
Planting will take place in August and September 2017. This program is being funded through grants received by the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association. To participate in this program, landowners are required to contribute 25% of the total project costs and sign a stewardship agreement. The cost for each project varies depending on the size of the shoreline and the number of plants and materials used. Funding is available for a limited number of projects, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Culvert Mapping for RMs

charge), additional infrastructure mapping (road signs, residences for civic addressing program), and for identifying environmental issues (erosion, invasive weeds, abandoned wells). If your RM is interested in this service or would like more information, please contact the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council at 306-549-2360.



For more information, contact the CRVWA at 306-752-1270 or crwatershed@gmail.com.



Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and you can save up to 6 litres a minute...that's could add up to over 350 litres a week for a family of four!





Aerating your faucets, investing in a low-flow toilet, choosing efficient shower heads, and opting for a Water Sense rated dishwasher and washing machine can add up to big water savings. For example, you can reduce water usage by 40% to 50% just by installing low-flush toilets.

Fencing to Protect Surface Water

It is important to protect our surface water resources within the watershed. One way in which we can do this is through managing sources of above ground contaminants. Livestock can be a source of contamination to our surface water when they are granted direct access to lakes, rivers and streams.

When livestock have direct access to a water body, their manure has a negative impact on water quality. This kind of contamination can lead to an increase in water borne microbes which can be detrimental to livestock health; it can also add an undesirable taste and odour to the water. Furthermore, nutrients from manure can cause unwanted algal growth in our natural water bodies. When algae die and decompose, dissolved oxygen in the water is depleted, which often causes fish kills. Decomposing algae can also generate offensive taste and odour problems. Toxins from algae and cyanobacteria can cause illness and/or fatalities to livestock, wildlife, and people.

In addition to adding unwanted nutrients and contaminants, livestock also can cause physical damage to the riparian area of natural water bodies. The riparian area is dominated by water loving vegetation and occupies the transition zone between the water body and the higher upland area. Livestock hooves will churn up the soft dirt at the edge of the water causing sedimentation of the water body and causing damage to the bank. Livestock will also trample and browse the riparian vegetation and leave bare soil in disturbed spots. This leaves the riparian area in a state that is vulnerable to erosion and

impacts the key functions of this important ecosystem. Riparian areas act much like the kidneys of the ecosystem; they filter runoff water from the surrounding landscape removing sediment, nutrients and even some toxins. Riparian areas also reduce erosion through stabilizing banks with an extensive roots system and creating a vegetative cover to protect soils from the erosive force of moving water, as well as recharging ground water aquifers, mitigating the impacts of flooding and drought, and providing habitat corridors for wildlife.

One simple Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) that livestock producers can use to protect surface water is fencing to protect surface water. Under this BMP, exclusion fencing is used to prevent livestock from directly accessing natural water bodies including lakes, creeks, streams and rivers. Cost-shared funding is available to eligible producers under the Farm Stewardship Program under

Growing Forward 2 for 50% of eligible costs for the construction of exclusion fencing to exclude livestock from surface water. The funding is available for the materials, equipment and labour used to construct the portion of permanent fencing which runs adjacent to the natural water body and restricts the livestock from accessing that water body. Contact Charlotte Gayler, Technician, with the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association (306) 920-8166 or (306) 752-1270 or crwatershedaegp@gmail.com or www.crwatershed.ca to find out about eligibility requirements and information on how to apply.



Stop a drip! A running toilet can waste up to 700 litres of water each day. At one drip per second, a faucet can leak 11,350 litres in a year.

Did you know? We are on Twitter and Facebook!

Follow us @crwatershed or www.facebook.com/CarrotRiverValleyWatershedAssociation