

2002 - 2003: Our Successes

The first official program year for the SCCWS was an incredible success. The SCCWS developed a recognizable identity within the Swift Current Creek Watershed by presenting the SCCWS program plan to more than 800 people at local meetings and by advertising on the radio. Besides these promotions and our public education and awareness program (see details below), we have assisted other watershed initiatives such as working with local Prairie Water Care groups, and the Voluntary Septic Tank Testing program at Blanke's Beach, Lac Pelletier. We are also helping out other groups that are just forming in other watersheds!

Public Interest Meetings

Watershed Stewardship & Water Management in Saskatchewan (April 2002)
Water Quality in the Swift Current Creek Watershed (Urban Wastewater, Agriculture, and Recreational Perspectives) (December 2002)
Regulations for cattle on creeks (February 2003)

Workshops and field days

Hosting the "Living By Water" and "Home site Assessor Training" Workshops at Lac Pelletier (June 2002)
Livestock Management and Water Quality Along the Creek (November 2002)

"Know Your Watershed" Newsletters

Swift Current Creek Water Supply System (Vol. 1 No. 1)
Water and Sewer: Necessities of Life (Vol. 1 No. 2)
Water Quality and the Watershed (Vol. 1 No. 3)
2002-2003 SCCWS Annual Report (Vol. 1 No. 4)

Local Relevance

Addressing local matters with discussion and comments. Examples: the provincial "Source to tap" publication, the City of Swift Current sewage effluent release (2003), septic tank testing at Lac Pelletier

Web site Development

(<http://www.t2.net/sccws>)

Local trade shows and conferences

Shaunavon Show-a-Rama 2002
Hobby Gun and Craft show 2002
Focus on Lifestyles (2001, 2002)

Fact sheets

Prairie Water Care, Water Conservation
Recreational Water Use Facts, What is a Watershed, Who are the Watershed Stewards?
Producer Highlight: Dwane Morvik
Swift Current Creek Watershed Facts
Lac Pelletier: Tips for Lakeside Living

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REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

For the 2002-2003 program year, the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards received funding from the Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative (AESI), a program under the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund in Saskatchewan (CARDS). Funding for the CARDS program is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The SCCWS also received financial support from the City of Swift Current. The SCCWS used these funds for expenditures including: newsletter production, advertisement and promotion, travel costs, web hosting and employee salary. Audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending November 30, 2002, are available upon request.

**Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards
General Annual Meeting
May 28th, 2003
2:00 - 4:00 PM
Thomson Room
Airport Road, SPARC, Swift Current**

A Steering Committee Meeting will be held from 10:00 AM - 2:00PM in the Thomson Room before the General Annual Meeting.

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the support and assistance of many persons and organizations toward the completion of this newsletter. In addition to the article contributions listed with each article, the following persons contributed to newsletter content and development: Dan Knutson with the City of Swift Current, Randy McKeil with the PFRA and Bob Springer with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. The City of Swift Current and the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund in Saskatchewan (CARDS) provided the SCCWS with funding for our 2001-2002 project year. Funding for the CARDS program is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

"Know Your Watershed" is a newsletter produced by the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards. Editor: Cher King. Assistant Editor: Jenna King.



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

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Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada



Swift
Current
Creek
Watershed
Stewards

Know Your Watershed

Volume 1 #4

Know Your Watershed

Spring 2003

2002 - 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

How it all began...Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewardship

Information Source: meeting minutes from 1998 to 2002

November '98:

A group of government representatives meet to address water quality concerns raised by the City of Swift Current.

January '99:

A review of the water quality information shows no obvious decrease in quality but the group feels that promoting stream stewardship values and increasing water quality monitoring would still be a beneficial activity because of public concerns regarding water quality.

March '99:

An effluent spill from the City of Swift Current lagoons into the creek.

January '01:

A public informational meeting is held and representatives from all areas of the watershed attend. A steering committee is appointed to discuss future options for a stewardship group.

June '01:

The Steering Committee names the group the "Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards" (SCCWS) and decides on the groups' mission statement and goals. The first publication is released, introducing the concept of watershed stewardship.

September '01:

The first SCCWS General Meeting. A Board of Directors is formed, and the SCCWS apply for program funding.

November '01:

The SCCWS receive funding under the Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative of CARDS and is formally incorporated as the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards Inc.

February '02:

The SCCWS hires a coordinator to start the first education and awareness program year.



Swift Current Creek and its tributaries (Bone Creek, Rock Creek and Jones Creek) are a large part of the livelihood of everyone in the watershed - whether we use their waters for drinking or earning our living.

Photo courtesy of Alma Ferguson.

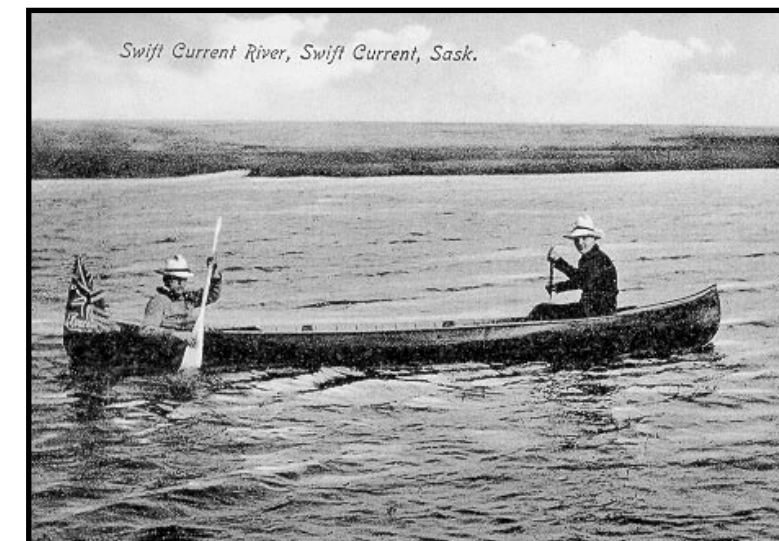
Mission Statement: Enhance water quality and stream health of the Swift Current Creek Watershed by promoting awareness and understanding among water users

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Educate users of the Swift Current Creek Watershed, on a continuous basis, about issues and impacts which affect water quality,

Foster an attitude of individual responsibility toward watershed stewardship

Monitor water quality and riparian health to assist in co-operative solutions regarding water management issues,



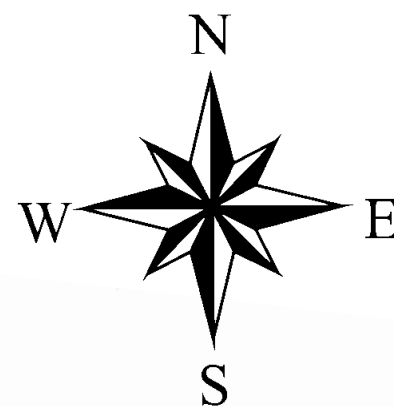
Swift Current River, Swift Current, Sask.

Since the settlers arrived in our watershed, Swift Current Creek has always offered opportunities for swimming, boating and fishing.

Photo courtesy of Swift Current Museum.

Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards

SCCWS Profiles



Bix Biederbeck
Retired Research Scientist

Volunteer Member

When did you join the SCCWS?
Spring 2002

Why did you join?
Because of the activities of SCCWS and its mandate, I became interested in joining and supporting this rural/urban multi-stakeholder group. "Water" is the mainstay for human, animal and plant life and for economic development. Thus access to water and water use are becoming increasingly important issues here in semiarid southwest Saskatchewan. I am convinced that environmental solutions can only be achieved through cooperative and united efforts instead of arbitrary 'top-down' imposition by regulatory agencies of various levels of government. We must learn to work together for the one thing we all have in common - our unending need for clean and safe water.



Reg Parsons
Farmer/Rancher

Member of the Board

When did you join the SCCWS?
January 2002

Why did you join?
I spent many hours learning to swim and playing in the creek as a young boy. In the mid 40's, the Swift Current horse plant killed many horses and dumped their remains in the creek. For a very long time, the creek ran red. From this point on, I vowed to do my part to clean up the creek. I became involved with the SCCWS after being invited to attend a meeting. My goal is to educate people in our watershed to protect the creek.



Doug Smith
Farmer/Rancher

Co-Chairperson

Member of the Board

When did you join the SCCWS?
January 2001

Why did you join?
The Swift Current Creek is a vital element to the survival of wildlife in this area, so the Swift Current Wildlife Federation felt it was essential to have a partnership with the SCCWS. I also have agriculture, livestock, and irrigation interests in the creek, so it's important that good water quality is entering and leaving my land. As a cabin owner at Lac Pelletier, water quality is crucial. The SCCWS had a productive first year and I'm looking forward to working with the Board of Directors, Watershed Coordinator, and Steering Committee.



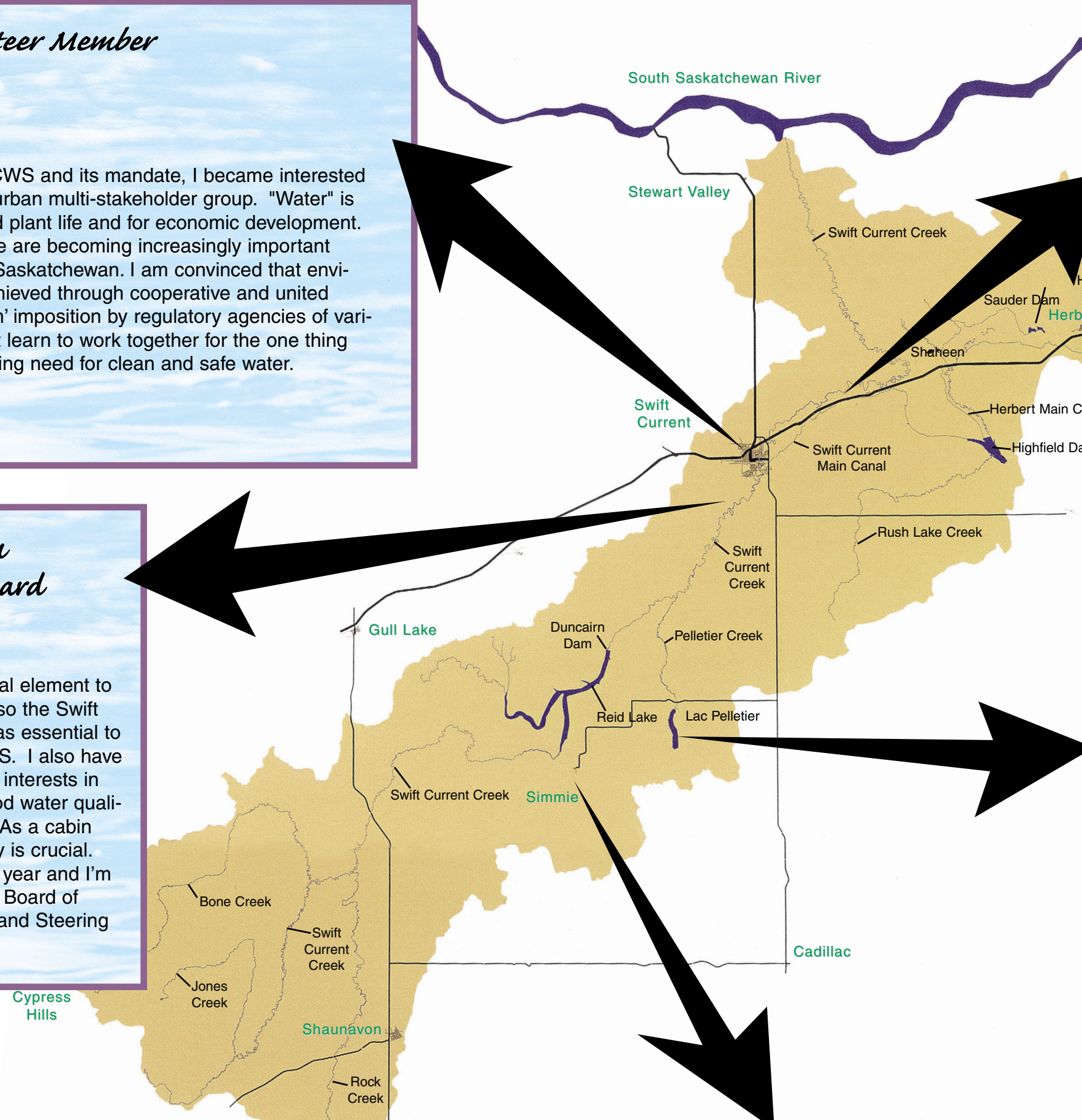
Joan Williamson
Retired School Teacher and Farmer's Wife

Co-Chairperson

Member of the Board

When did you join the SCCWS?
January, 2001

Why did you join?
I'm interested in improving and sustaining good water quality as well as insuring safe drinking water supplies at Lac Pelletier. Recently, I was involved in a Lac Pelletier Cabin Owners committee focused on getting a lagoon for septic tank dumping at Lac Pelletier. The committee spent many hours at meetings with Sask Water, Sask Environment, PFRA, etc. Eventually our mission was accomplished with the approval of a Federal-Provincial Infrastructure grant. I was invited to an informational meeting about developing stewardship group (SCCWS) and have been an involved member ever since.



Board of Directors

As of May 2003

Joan Williamson
Doug Smith
Reg Parsons
Darren Fiddler
Ian George

February, 2002
13 Active Members and
56 on the Mailing List

March, 2003
22 Active Members and
110 on the Mailing List



Glenn Bratvold
Retired Farmer/Rancher

Volunteer Member

When did you join the SCCWS?
January 2001

Why did you join?
The creek has been an integral part of my life even before Duncairn Dam was constructed in the early 1940's. Our family also owned a cottage at Lac Pelletier since 1967 and I have been concerned about water quality in the lake for my children and grandchildren. The Prairie Water Care group are active volunteers who sample and analyze the lake water at several sites once a month. The group also take samples from about fifteen community wells around the lake. The SCCWS have raised substantial public awareness of water quality in this watershed.

Sponsors and Donors

Without the effort and assistance of our sponsors, donors and supporters, the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards would not have delivered the range of public education and awareness activities in our 2002-2003 program year. Sponsors provide direct financial support for our programs and administration, and donors provide necessary materials, equipment and person-hours at no cost to the SCCWS. We thank all of the following individuals and organizations for their contribution to our success:

Sponsors:

Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund in Saskatchewan (CARDS)
City of Swift Current

Donors:

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration	Farm Credit Corp
Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation	Pioneer Coop Agro Centre
Sask Water	RM of White Valley
Saskatchewan Environment	RM of Arlington
City of Swift Current	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Southwest Naturalists	RM of Carmichael
Nature Saskatchewan	RM of Excelsior
CKSW 570	RM of Lac Pelletier
Saskatchewan Agriculture and Rural Revitalization	RM of Sask Landing
Swift Current Wildlife Federation	RM of Swift Current
Shaunavon Wildlife Federation	RM of Webb
	Partners for the Sask River Basin