



Swift  
Current  
Creek  
Watershed  
Stewards

# Know Your Watershed

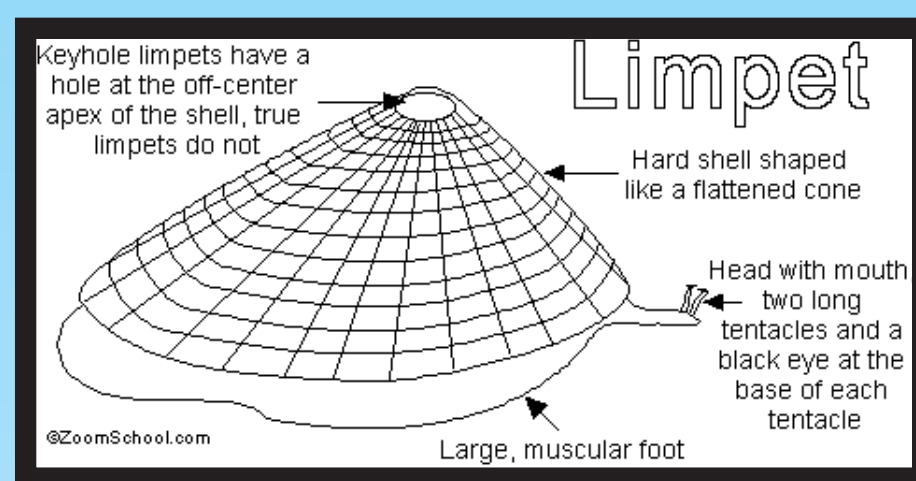
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Know Your Watershed

Summer 2005



## IMPORTANT DISCOVERY FOR THE SWIFT CURRENT CREEK WATERSHED STEWARDS



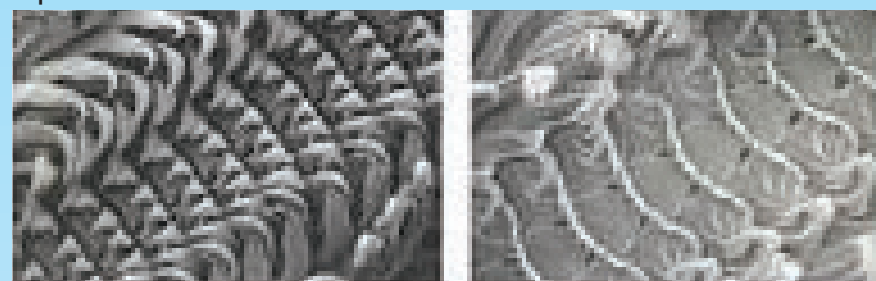
The SCCWS have found a freshwater limpet in the Swift Current Creek

**Diet:** Limpets are herbivores (plant-eaters) that eat during the day. They eat algae and other aquatic vegetation. Limpets eat using a radula, a rough tongue-like organ that has thousands of tiny denticles (tooth-like protrusions).

**Anatomy:** The soft body is divided into the head, the visceral mass, and the foot (which is small). The limpet has a long pair of tentacles on the head, it has a light-sensitive eyespot located on the base of each tentacle. The biggest limpets (marine) are up to 4 inches (10 cm) wide, but most are smaller. The limpet's shell is not coiled.

**Predators:** Many fish, starfish( in marine systems) and birds eat limpets.

During the 2004 Monitoring season a freshwater limpet was found in the Swift Current Creek.. This is a substantial find for the group as freshwater limpets have not been previously identified in the Swift Current Creek or southwest Saskatchewan .A limpet is a gastropod, a soft-bodied invertebrate (an animal without a backbone) that is protected by a very hard, flattened conical shell. They are related to snails and clams. Limpets cling tightly to a rock using the muscular foot. During the day, limpets move around by rippling the muscles of the foot in a wave-like fashion, looking for food. They return to the same place on their rock each night. No one knows exactly how they find their way back to the same spot each time.



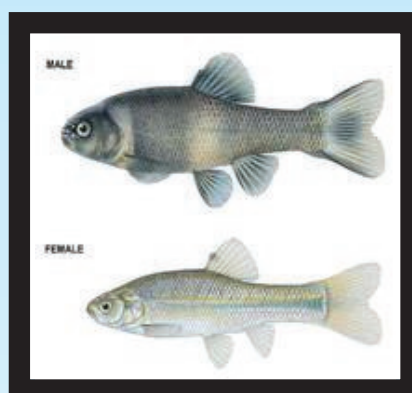
Tongue-like organ of the limpet

*Thirst teaches  
the value of water.*  
Russian Saying

### THE FATHEAD MINNOW MAY BE THE WATER "CANARY"

The SCCWS are engaged in a 4 year bio-assessment of the Swift Current Creek. They will determine the "Health of the Watershed" by using various indicators. The fat head minnow will be one of these indicators. It has been likened to the miner's canary, the delicate creature whose death served as an indicator of toxic gases.

The absence or presence of fathead minnow populations in the creek will be indicators of the health of that sampling site.



### Best Wishes Cher

The Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards would like to thank Cher King for all the hard work that she has done over the last 3 years. Cher joined the stewards in Feb 2002 and has accomplished a great deal in this short time. She developed and implemented the **Swift Current Creek Monitoring Project** and is credited with being the lead on a team that found a freshwater Limpet not previously recorded in southwest Saskatchewan. Cher has worked tirelessly for the stewards and we wish her well in her future endeavors.  
May you be always have nothing but creative memories Cher!



### A Day on the Creek Bank!!

*Some of the things you may see if you sat quietly on the banks of the creek!!*



*We won't have a society  
if we destroy the environment.*  
Margaret Mead

***The SCCWS are thankful for support.***

As with all Non-Profit groups fundraising is a large part of the work of the stewards. We gratefully acknowledge the support of all our contributors.

SWIFT CURRENT WATERSHED STEWARDS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEIR SPONSORS AND FUNDERS FOR 2004



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