



Mission

To enhance water quality and stream health of the Swift Current Creek Watershed by promoting awareness and understanding among water users.

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Swift Current Creek Watershed Monitoring Project

In 2004, the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards (SCCWS) embarked on a one-of-a-kind monitoring project which was designed to measure the diversity and health of the Swift Current Creek as well as identify any environmental stressors that may impact water quality. There were three measurable components to the project: water quality data, fish data, and macroinvertebrate data. Monitoring occurred at up to eleven sites, five of these sites were fish and macroinvertebrates and water quality data at all eleven sites throughout the growing season. The SCCWS consider the project a success!

While the creek system is a dynamic entity with extreme geographic differences and annual variability related to flows, spring break-up, rainfall/drought events, winters and human impacts, the results of the monitoring project are clear. Statistics indicate that stream health appears to be in good condition. In fact, over the study period some improvements were seen at numerous sites. The commissioning of the WWTP at the City of Swift Current has had a positive effect on downstream health. More study to quantify this improvement is suggested. This being said, the study did show areas which need improvement. The greatest of these include the presence of nitrogen, fecal coliforms, aluminum and chlorides at some of the sites.

The SCCWS will continue to evaluate the issues identified in the study and make decisions on ways to make improvements at the sites where they occur. Projects such as the Agri-Environmental Group Plan support these changes in the adoption of Beneficial Management Practices. Although the general stream health is in good condition continued effort through public education and co-operative approaches and partnerships will serve to minimize the stressors that are present. The desired result for the watershed is the maintenance and improvement of stream health; proactive management of the SCC will ensure future generations can utilize and enjoy this precious resource. The Swift Current Creek is a valuable resource and a gem we want to protect!

The SCC Monitoring Project was supported by the following partners:

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| Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund in Saskatchewan (CARDS) | |
| Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) | Husky Energy |
| Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) | PennWest Energy Trust |
| Agri Environment Services Branch (AAFC) | Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) |
| Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) | Talisman Energy |
| | Swift Current Wildlife Federation (SCWF) |
| | Village of Stewart Valley Town of Herbert |

Rural Municipalities of

- | |
|---|
| Swift Current #137, SK Landing #167, Excelsior #166 |
| Carmichael #109, Webb #138, Arlington # 79 |

STORMWATER FACTS



When it rains, water runs off from streets, parking lots and building, and into storm drains.



Wash cars in a carwash... NOT in your driveway!

Commercial carwashes collect wastewater and discharge it into a sanitary sewer where detergent and oily pollutants can be removed at the sewage treatment plant.

Storm drains collect runoff from the entire watershed and convey it to streams. This runoff is NOT treated, and often carries contaminants from automobiles, construction sites and other sources into creeks.

Reduce or eliminate chemical pesticides and fertilizers for landscaping and lawns. Run off from your lawn may contaminate the creek.



Did you know that pollutants such as oil, that enter storm drain inlets in the streets are not removed before entering our water.



BOTTOMS UP.



YARD WASTE

CAR WASH SOAP

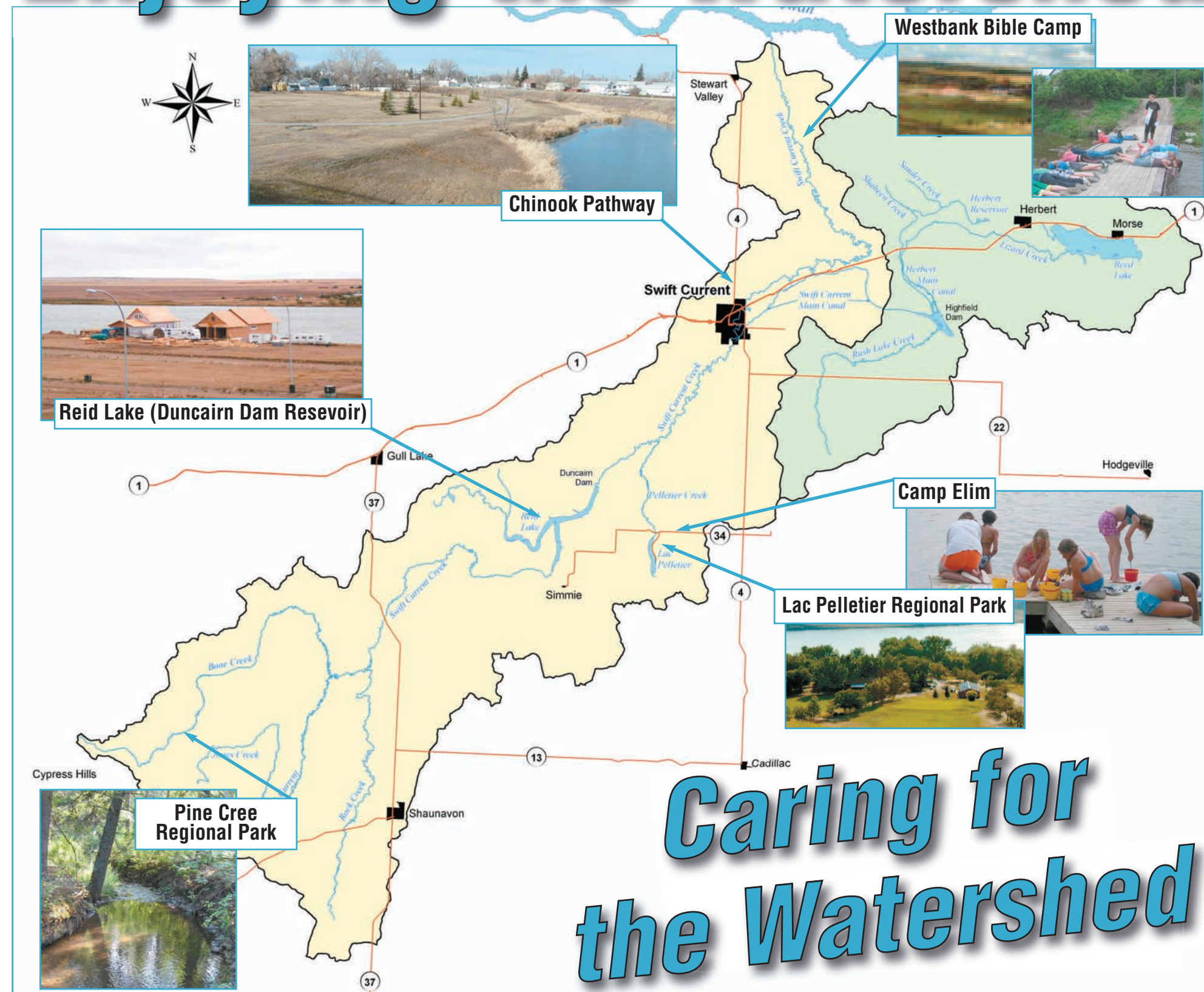
Would YOU drink this??

LITTER

SEDIMENT

Water that drains into the creek from storm drains eventually becomes someone's drinking water.

Enjoying the Watershed



Caring for the Watershed

The Swift Current Creek is the source of YOUR

DRINKING WATER

Please dispose of your refuse at:

- Swift Current Landfill
- Sarcen - 1060 Chaplin Street West
- Recycling Depot-1101 North Railway St. W



SWIFT CURRENT CREEK Watershed Stewards



The Swift Current Creek is the only water source for the City of Swift Current.

Dispose of garbage and recyclable products in a safe way.

WHEN YOU FUEL YOUR BOAT, REMEMBER YOU MAY NOT JUST BE FUELING YOUR BOAT.



Don't leave a sheen. Prevent drips, spills and overfills.

For more information contact:
Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards
778-5007 or <http://www.sccws.com/>



SWIFT CURRENT CREEK Watershed Stewards

Water Allocation – A Right or Privilege

Is water allocation a right or a privilege? This is a question that has been asked a great deal over the years. Allocation carries forward some of the historical practices and to understand the present day method of allocation, it is also necessary to understand how it has evolved over the last 100 years.

Water Rights within Western Canada started with the Federal Legislation in 1894 with the passing of the North West irrigation Act, and remained a Federal responsibility until the transfer of resources to the Province in 1931.

Although responsibility for Water Rights within Saskatchewan's became a provincial responsibility in 1931, the First Provincial legislation dealing with Water Rights was not passed until 1937. A variety of agencies have been responsible for managing the legislation over the years since 1937 including Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Water Resources Commission, Dept of Environment, Sask Water Corp, and Sask Watershed Authority. The basic premise of the Legislation is that all water is the property of the Crown, and to secure a Water Right to use water one must submit an application for a right. Up until 1984 Water Rights were issued based on a priority based system of "first in time, first in right", meaning whoever was first to acquire a water right was also the one to have first right to use the water during a shortage. The legislation also included a priority by type of use. The order of priority was domestic, municipal, industrial, irrigation. Riparian rights were also well protected. Since water rights were issued to the person this meant that if a water right holder sold the land to which a water right was assigned he could transfer the right to the new owner, or seek the approval of the Crown to transfer the right to another location in the basin. The individual could not retain the right without making beneficial use of the water nor could the right be retained for sale independent of the property. Allocation of water for irrigation was initially made on the basis of average available runoff, meaning water could be allocated until water supplies would be reliable in about 50 percent of the years. Under these rules people were happy in years of surplus, but potentially dissatisfied in less than average runoff years. There was little management ability, particularly in water short years. A project with a high priority could potentially demand to receive all its water prior to other of a lower or earlier priority. In the 1970's due to the increasing capital cost of intensive irrigation methods, greater reliability was demanded. For the more intensive forms of irrigation development, water was allocated on a 70 to 85 percent availability basis. Municipal and some industrial allocations were targeted for 100 percent.

In 1984, the Saskatchewan Water Corporation (SaskWater) was created, governed by legislation called The Water Corporation Act, which combined various agencies into one organization. Surface water, groundwater, and drainage legislation was included in SaskWater's domain. The Water Corporation Act removed the priority of use by number and type. Allocations of water became protected solely by availability. For example the goal for municipal and some industrial allocations is a 100 percent firm availability. The volume allocated is based on the project needs and for municipal projects, their future needs as well. The goal for reliability of irrigation allocations, depending on the irrigation method ranges from 50 to 85 percent. Irrigation projects are allocated anywhere from one third of an acre-foot per acre for backflood-drainage projects to 1.5 acre-feet per acre for intensive water use developments. Riparian rights are limited to the use of water only if there is water in the stream; there is no longer an ability to demand that flow be maintained. Water Rights approvals were affixed to the land titles such that the water rights would extend to subsequent land owners in a similar manner as to the originate person granted the Water Right. In the case of domestic stock watering projects the water right would stay in effect as long as the project works existed and was being used. In the case of irrigation and industrial projects the water right would have been issued as a term license with an expiration date, which could be considered for reissue upon application by the land owner.

In 2002, The Water Corporation Legislation was in part replaced with The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, and again in 2005 with The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005 and is administered by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. The changes to the Water Rights included the transfer of water right and allocation activities to the Authority. Although some less significant administrative changes were incorporated, the method of water allocation remains effectively the same with the Authority as it was with SaskWater. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act 2002 (and 2005) did include the increased emphasis on source water protection and conservation related activities.

Submitted by: Gord Hagen A.Sc.T., Supervisor, Sask Watershed Authority
Kevin Wingert P Eng. Watershed Engineer, Sask Watershed Authority
Rob Wiebe, P Eng., Manager, AAFC Operated Projects, AAFC – AESB

3 of our Stewards

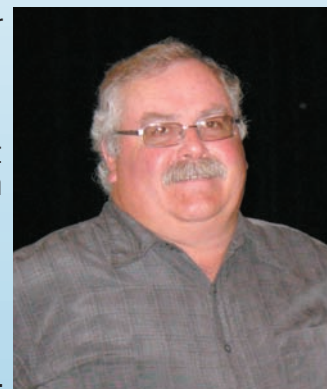
Harold Martens

Harold is the Reeve for the RM of Excelsior and has been with the SCCWS since it was first formed. Harold is the Chair of the SCCWS as well as the South Sask River Watershed Stewards so he brings extra experience in the planning process.



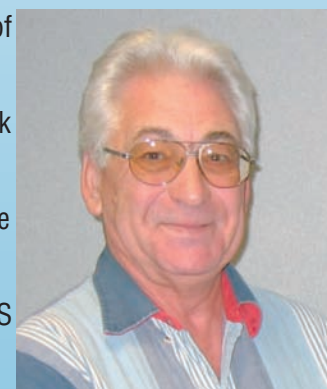
Frank Glenn

Frank is a retired farmer and has been with the SCCWS since 2005. He is a councilor with the RM of Swift Current and has been with them for 7 years. Frank faithfully attended watershed planning meetings and his perspective on issues was always appreciated.



Al Kildaw

Al is the former Mayor of Herbert and has been with the SCCWS since the group began the task of watershed planning. Al missed very few meetings throughout the 3 years of watershed planning and his dedication to the SCCWS was valued.



Upcoming Events

AESB Shelterbelt Planning Workshop

No Charge

April 15, 2010, 2-4pm
Thomson Room - SPARC
Research Centre
RSVP Craig 778-5003

Ranching from the Ground Up Tour in conjunction with Native Prairie Appreciation Week

June 23-24, 2010
Contact
Jessica Williams
778-8604

**Volunteers don't get paid,
not because they're worthless,
but because they're priceless.**
-Sherry Anderson



SWIFT CURRENT CREEK
Watershed Stewards