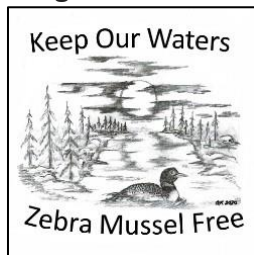


Citizens for Protecting Our Northern Waters (CPONW)



December 2020 Newsletter

Despite restrictions associated with Covid-19, several important activities took place over the summer months and into the Fall. Here is a summary of key activities:

Community Outreach and Advocacy

Website

Work continued on our website and we now own our own domain. During this time of Covid-19 the website has been the repository for helpful information on what our group does, resource material on the threat of zebra mussels, and most importantly what can be done to prevent the spread! Please check out our web-site at: www.zebramusselprevention.com.

Signage

Our group put up posters at several boat launches across the region to help inform people on what must be done to watercraft to help prevent the spread of Zebra mussels into our waters.

Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) Resolution

In July, presentations were given to Town Councils in The Pas and Flin Flon to raise awareness of the threat of Zebra Mussels to our local waters including impact on municipal water supplies. These presentations were well received and a Resolution was prepared and passed by the Flin Flon Council for the AMM to lobby the government for increased financial resources to effectively implement the Invasive Species legislation. This Resolution received support from The Pas, the RM of Kelsey, Snow Lake and Thompson.

We are pleased to report that the resolution was passed at the AMM convention in November. The AMM will be bringing this resolution to the attention of the Minister responsible for Aquatic Invasive Species in the near future. We have offered to assist with information as needed.

Watercraft Inspection Training

For the second year our group hosted a Level 1 Watercraft Inspection Training seminar in Cranberry Portage on July 13th. This seminar was conducted by Candace Parks from the Government Aquatic Invasive Species Unit. We had 17 people attend this seminar from local and surrounding areas bringing the total who have taken this training to 49!

Following the Cranberry seminar, Candace traveled to Norway House Cree Nation where several people received Level 2 self-decontamination training and, in August, delivered Level 1 Watercraft Inspection training in Waboden and at Paint lake.

Many thanks to Candace for delivering these seminars, and to our volunteers for helping make this happen!

Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Grant

We were fortunate to secure a grant from the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund. The grant money will be used to enhance our community outreach initiatives in 2021. We are currently working on securing insurance that is required to undertake the work identified in the grant application.

Financial Support

We secured financial support from both the LUD of Cranberry Portage/R.M. of Kelsey and the Kelsey Watershed District. This support has provided much needed resources for us to purchase of the CPONW domain name for our website and to have the finances to become incorporated as a non-profit entity in Manitoba. We are very thankful for this important support!

General Meeting

We held our first general meeting(s) on September 26th in Cranberry Portage and Clearwater Lake. An important outcome is we now have an official Executive to direct and implement our awareness, outreach and advocacy activities. The Board of Directors include: President – Chris Smith (Cranberry Portage), Vice President – Craig Asselstine (Clearwater), Secretary – Lannie Bosman-Leptick (Cranberry Portage) and Treasurer – Richard Gibbons (Cranberry Portage).

We also have our first regional representatives from The Pas (Marilyn Meyer), Clearwater Lake (Jim Lorden) and Thompson (Don MacDonald). These representatives will support the Executive by providing perspectives, challenges and needs for their region relative to the prevention of Zebra Mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species. Many thanks to those who attended these meetings and who let their name stand for the executive and regional positions. Minutes of this meeting will be posted on the website in the near future.

Incorporation and By-Laws

The first order of business flowing out of the General Meeting was for the Executive to proceed with becoming incorporated as a not-for-profit in Manitoba and to prepare by-laws for the Corporation. Most recently the name, "**Citizens for Protecting Our Northern Waterways Inc.**", has been approved for reservation by the Provincial government. The next step is to file the required paper work and pay the required fee we will be officially incorporated. Becoming incorporated has several benefits including giving us access to more grants and other funding opportunities.

The Executive also drafted the first by-laws for the forthcoming incorporation. These by-laws essentially outline the objective and scope of our group and how we will be governed, and will be shared with the membership for approval at our next general meeting. The draft by-laws will be posted on the website for viewing in the near future.

Should anyone have any questions or would like to learn more about what we have been doing and plans for the future, please feel free to contact any of the Executive as follows:

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