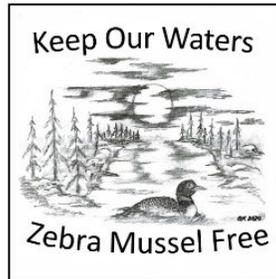


Citizens for Protecting Our Northern Waterways Inc. (CPONW)

December 2021 Newsletter



Despite Covid 19 restrictions, our dedicated group of volunteers had a busy summer.

Zebra Mussel Awareness Events

Public awareness remains a key activity for our group. Although everyone seems to know about zebra mussels, and all agree they don't want them in our northern waters, not everyone who owns a watercraft is aware of the Clean – Drain – Dry steps to help prevent the spread.



To enhance public awareness, we held several summer/fall events. We set up at several boat launch sites including at Bakers Narrows, First Cranberry Lake, Iskwasum Landing, Wekusko Falls, Rocky Lake and Clearwater.

We talked to boat and other watercraft owners about zebra mussels, the impacts to waters when they become invaded and preventative measures. Promotional item and hand-out material were shared with interested visitors.

As we approached fall additional awareness events were held in The Pas including at Extra Foods, the R.H. Johnson Arena Vendor Sale and at Culture Days

Expanded Website/Facebook

Recognizing the importance of digital and social media, in combination with challenges to reach the public in person due to Covid 19, we enhanced our website and established a Facebook page. Check it out!

CPONW Website: <https://www.zebramusselprevention.com/>

CPONW Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CPONW01>



Rotary Club Sign Project

With financial support from the Rotary Club of The Pas we purchased signs that were placed at targeted locations to enhance public awareness on what actions are required to prevent the spread of zebra mussels when a watercraft has been in the Saskatchewan River, or any designated Control Zone.

Sign locations includes:

- A large sign at the boat launch on the Saskatchewan River in The Pas
- Smaller signs at launch sites a Clearwater Lake (5 sites), Cormorant Lake, Landry Lake, Rocky Lake (2 sites), Barbe Lake, Red-Rock Creek and Opuskaw Bay at Moose Lake.

We appreciate the assistance of Parks Branch who placed the signs within Clearwater Lake Provincial Park .





Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Zone Notice

The **Saskatchewan River** is part of a **Control Zone** to prevent the spread of AIS such as Zebra Mussels which have been found in Cedar Lake.

When leaving a Control Zone

If transporting your watercraft* to any other waterbody, by law, you are required to have it, and items that have been in the water, **decontaminated**.

- **Free** decontamination is available at Clearwater turn off north of The Pas.
- Decontamination is **not required** if returning to the Saskatchewan River the next time the watercraft is used.
- Dispose of all remaining bait in the trash before leaving the shore.

When leaving this or any waterbody

- Remove aquatic plants, mud and drain all water including the live well and motors before leaving the shore.
- Dry watercraft, motor, trailer, and items that have been in the water.
- Keep drain plugs removed when transporting the watercraft.

Do Your Part

Keep Our Waters Zebra Mussel Free!

For more information Visit: Manitoba.ca/StopAIS, or call 1-877-867-2470

This notice is provided by: Citizens for Protecting Our Northern Waterways Inc. (zebramusselprevention.com) with support from the Rotary Club of The Pas



Scan code with cell phone camera



*a watercraft includes boats, canoes, kayaks, personal watercraft

Status of Zebra Mussel Expansion

In August juvenile zebra mussels (veligers) were detected in **Lake Manitoba** at the Narrows by the Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Unit through their ongoing monitoring efforts.

Given the proximity to Lake Winnipeg this discovery was not unexpected, but significant in that Lake Manitoba is connected to Lake Winnipegosis.

In September the Provincial AIS Unit announced that, for the first time in 6 years, Zebra Mussel veligers were detected in **Cedar Lake**. Originally detected in 2015, the documented presence this year confirms the importance of getting watercraft decontaminated if they have been in the Saskatchewan River and transported to northern lakes such as Clearwater.

We remain zebra mussel free and these results are a powerful reminder of the importance of our work and the critical need for owners of watercraft to implement proper AIS prevention measures including **Clean – Drain – Dry** protocols and ensuring boat plugs are removed when being transported



Fish And Wildlife Enhancement Fund Grant

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Manitoba Fish And Wildlife Enhancement Fund (FWEF).

This Grant provided CPONW with the financial resources to purchase displays and promotional materials for use at our various outreach events as described earlier in this newsletter.



Through these collective efforts, traffic to our CPONW website increased by close to 70% compared to 2020 with almost all traffic being new visitors. Our outdoor public outreach events reached over 235 people and 68 individual watercraft. CPONW volunteers logged close to 200 volunteer hours toward these events.

Our final report on our 2021 activities has been prepared and submitted to the FWEF and can be viewed on the CPONW website at <https://www.zeramusselprevention.com/news-and-updates>

Plans for 2022

We will continue to advocate for greater government support to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and work with the Manitoba AIS Unit to provide our perspectives and insight into how they can enhance their prevention activities.

Our public outreach efforts will continue by attending various public venues including trade and leisure shows, as well as hosting boat launch events.

We will be reaching out to new cottager and community groups to expand our efforts and applying for another Fish And Wildlife Enhancement Fund Grant. If successful, the additional financial resources will be used to expand and strengthen our outreach throughout the north.

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