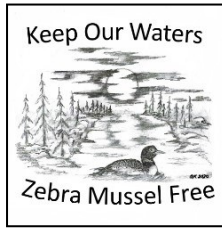


Citizens for Protecting Our Northern Waterways Inc. (CPONW)



Summer Newsletter 2022

As we embark upon summer in beautiful Northern Manitoba, it's time to report on the important work our group has been doing to help keep our waters free off zebra mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species. Here are the highlights:

Awareness and Outreach

Commencing in April we participated in the Flin Flon Trade and Leisure Show followed by The Pas Trade Show and the Cranberry Portage Artisan Market. During these events we interacted with the public and shared information on zebra mussels, their impact, and what we can do to prevent the spread into our pristine northern waters.



We also met with the Schist Lake/Big Island Lake Cottage Associations and plan to meet with others to expand our outreach and network to help prevent the spread.

Over the course of the summer, we will be hosting awareness events at various boat launches across the north. If you see us there, please stop by to say hi and learn about what you can do to prevent the spread of Zebra Mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species!

Highway 10 Billboard Sign

We recently secured the appropriate approvals to place a large highway sign on Number 10 highway north of The Pas/OCN.

Once again The Pas Rotary Club stepped up to provide base funding for this awareness project that will be combined with grant money provided by the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund.



We have received strong support from the R.M of Kelsey who agreed to have this sign placed on land under their administration. The sign will be in place sometime during the summer

Expanding Regional Representation

Our volunteer network has expanded with the addition of four new Regional Representatives including Snow Lake (Tony Brew), Sherridon (Sheryl Matheson), Opaskwayak Cree Nation (Dianne Ballantyne) and Chemawawin First Nation (Sheldon Bourassa).

We welcome these new volunteers who will bring important regional perspectives to our group efforts to stop the spread!



Status of Zebra Mussel Expansion

We recently received the preliminary results from 2021 monitoring from the provincial Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Unit who is responsible for coordinating testing and assessing the presence/absence and expansion of Zebra Mussels and other AIS across the Province.

The following is a brief synopsis of the preliminary results for Northern Manitoba:

- In the NW Region (The Pas/Flin Flon/Snow Lake area) water bodies that were sampled included Cedar Lake, Saskatchewan River, Clearwater Lake, Cormorant Lake, Davidson Lake, Simonhouse Lake, South Moose Lake and William Lake. Only Cedar Lake tested positive for the presence of zebra mussels and spiny Waterflea. The other lakes remain free of zebra mussels!
- In the NE Region (Nelson River/Wabowden/Thompson area) extensive sampling confirmed the expansion of Zebra Mussels along the entire length of the Nelson River, and also the Kettle River that flows into the Nelson River near Gillam. The good news is lakes upstream of the Nelson River including Paint Lake, Setting Lake, Northern Indian Lake and Threepoint Lake showed no evidence of Zebra Mussels or other AIS.

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. Once the full report is available it will be posted on our CPONW website.

Watercraft Inspection Stations

The government watercraft inspection stations are once again in operation. Since these do not operate 24/7 it's important for

those transporting a watercraft to check the hours of operation and adjust their travel plans accordingly. Simply check out https://www.gov.mb.ca/stopais/spread/watercraft_inspection.html to determine the hours of operation. If you have friends who are coming north with their watercraft, please share this important information with them.



Fish And Wildlife Enhancement Fund Grant

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

This Grant will provide CPONW with much needed financial resources that will be combined with other financial contributions to enhance and expand various outreach activities outlined in this newsletter.

Projects and activities outlined in our 2022 grant proposal can be on the CPONW website:

<https://www.zebramusselprevention.com/news-and-updates>



Monitoring for Zebra Mussels

This year we are assisting the provincial AIS Unit by monitoring selected lakes for presence/absence of Zebra Mussels. So far we've placed "substrate samplers" in five lakes within the NW Region (Kississing Lake, Lake Athapap at Bakers Narrows, First Cranberry Lake, Rocky Lake and Wekusko Lake).



Simply put, a substrate sampler is a series of plastic plates that provide a clean surface for zebra mussels to attach to if they are present in the water. Samplers are suspended in the water column above the bottom. We have chosen to place these samplers off selected docks adjacent to boat launch sites.

Additional monitoring activities undertaken in collaboration with the provincial AIS Unit are planned throughout the summer and will be reported via our [Facebook Page](#) and future newsletters.

Web Site and Facebook Page

To learn more about zebra mussels and what our group does please check out our [web site](#) and [Facebook Page](#)

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