

Citizens for Protecting Our Northern Waterways Inc. (CPONW)



Who Are We?

We are a coalition of local citizen and business volunteers committed to the protection of our pristine waterways in Northern Manitoba. We have representatives from The Pas, Clearwater Lake, Rocky Lake, Cranberry Portage, Sherridon, Snow Lake and Thompson. We became incorporated as a not-for-profit in 2020.

Our focus is on preventing the spread of invasive zebra mussels which can be transported to lakes and other waters by boat and other watercraft that have been in infected waters.

What We Do

We have three primary focus areas:

Awareness, Outreach and Advocacy – we prepare and distribute helpful information on the threat and potential impact of zebra mussels to our waters. We host workshops, outreach events, and attend various community meetings and local events such as trade shows. We also advocate for enhanced protection of our pristine northern waters.

Government Liaison - we work closely with the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Unit of the Manitoba Government, promoting initiatives to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other AIS.

Resource Material – we assemble and prepare helpful information to assist the public and groups such as cottagers understand zebra mussels and what can be done to prevent the spread.

How do we work?

Governance - we have a core Executive supported by Regional Representatives. Regional Representatives advise and provide perspectives, information and solutions for local areas of concern. Our Executive and Regional Representatives include retired natural resources professionals, lodge and cottage owners, and nature enthusiasts.

Northern Focus – our efforts focus on protecting our northern lakes and waterways from the invasive zebra mussels and other AIS.

Our efforts augment the work being done by the AIS Unit where they have limited resources – they cannot do it alone. We pride ourselves as being a collaborative, credible organization guided by good science with practical, local, solutions.

How Can You Help?

There are several ways to help

1. Learn and share information about zebra mussels with others, and what can be done to stop the spread. Our website has a lot of valuable information.
2. Host meetings to spread the word. We welcome the opportunity to speak to your local group.
3. Become a regional representative for your local community or lake association. This provides opportunity to participate in our group efforts and develop locally specific initiatives to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels into waterways important to you.
4. Express concerns about zebra mussels and other AIS to your elected officials.

To Learn More

We have a comprehensive website that provides the public with information about zebra mussels, the impacts that occur when they are introduced to a lake, and what can be done to prevent the spread.

Our website also includes our CPONW newsletters, minutes from our meetings, our By-laws, and any reports on the work we have done in our northern region. Please check it out at

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

The Manitoba Government also offers an abundance of helpful information that can be viewed at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/stopais/>



Scan QR code with cell phone camera to learn more