



## Our gift to the Rivers and Lakes.

The Calling Lakes Ecomuseum (CLEM) and the Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group (LMLSG) have worked hard for the water this year and we have had some fun along the way. Here are members of CLEM at the Fort Qu'Appelle Lions Parade on July 1, 2022 handing out wetland seed kits.

This has been another successful year for our lakes and rivers. CLEM and the LMLSG have brought awareness for water protection. Here is what we have achieved:

- Following the downstream release of untreated wastewater into Last Mountain Lake in June 2021, we wrote letters of concern to the City of Regina, had many discussions, and took part in meetings with City officials, to resolve this recurring problem. As a result, a Water Quality Advisory Committee has been set up between the City of Regina and downstream stakeholders. A representative from LMLSG and from CLEM have been invited to sit on the committee, among others. The goal of this committee is to create open dialogue between the City, downstream water users and community members to share knowledge, discuss opportunities and leverage each other's backgrounds to understand and reduce the impact on Wascana Creek and downstream water bodies in case of another high rain event.

However, recently CLEM has learned that if a power failure occurs at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, the operation of the plant will be compromised, and a discharge of wastewater may spill into Wascana and downstream. CLEM's letter of concern to the City prompted city officials to order an inspection and upgrade to reduce outage time.

- We have been working with PARCS (Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan). PARCS held a virtual 3 session convention in October 2022, open to anyone who wanted to attend. Three sessions: Environmental Panel on Wetlands Tomorrow; Members Fair – Communities Share Their Story; and Ministry of Government Relations.

- We continue to advocate for the conservation of wetlands in this province. A letter has been sent to the Provincial Auditor asking for a follow-up on any progress that may have been made with Water Security Agency (WSA), to the auditor's recommendations in the 2021 Auditors Report regarding regulation of farmland drainage. It appears that not all recommendations have been acted on since illegal drainage continues. Saskatchewan is the only province without a wetland policy.

We have been advised that WSA has organized stakeholder and rights-holder engagement sessions, beginning July 25, 2022, for groups who may be directly impacted by a mitigation policy, and whose advocacy directly relates to wetland management at the provincial scale.

They dedicated a website specifically for an Agricultural Water Management Mitigation Policy. PARCS was invited to these sessions and have summarized their website. <https://www.skparcs.com>

**If you would like to join CLEM or LMLSG please call 306 539 6903**

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday from CLEM and LMLSG**



**CLEM is working with the Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group** to ensure the health of our lakes in southern Saskatchewan.

**For more information, visit [www.lmlsg.ca/SAWS](http://www.lmlsg.ca/SAWS) or our**

**Facebook page [Calling for a Sustainable Quill Lake Solution](#) or [Calling Lakes Ecomuseum](#)**

December 30, 2022