

Citizens for Protecting Our Northern Waterways (CPONW)



Given the situation with Covid-19, activities have been limited. Here is an overview of our recent efforts.

Community Outreach

Website

The primary focus of our outreach recently has been the development of our own website. The site has a lot of valuable information. It remains a work in progress.

With north of 53 travel restrictions now lifted, there is increased boat traffic from southern Manitoba. Some of these boats may have been in zebra mussel infected waters (e.g. Lake Winnipeg). Since it is important these boats and other watercraft are zebra mussel free, we created a direct link to the Government watercraft inspection schedule on our website. Travelers can easily find out when the stations are open and can schedule their trip to have their watercraft inspected. For those who have visitors traveling from southern Manitoba with their boats, please share our website to help them plan their trip <https://cponw01.wixsite.com/cponw>

Outreach to Snow Lake/Thompson

An effort has been made to reach out to Snow Lake, Thompson, Setting Lake and Paint Lake. This outreach and education are important since zebra mussels are now in the Nelson River. Although initial contact has been made, follow-up is required.

Distribution of Resource Material

Our mailing list has expanded and we now reach over 70 contacts including individuals, local government, lodges and other outdoor businesses. A few of our committee members have assisted in distributing paper material to local businesses including lodges and tackle shops, mostly in The Pas and Cranberry areas.

Watercraft Inspection Stations

The inspection station at the Clearwater Lake turnoff has been operational since May 15th. With the Covid-19 situation, staffing and manning these stations was initially challenging but are now being manned with a double shift 4 days a week. The remaining 3 days are being manned with a single shift. To view the daily hours of operation, check out our web site!

Watercraft Inspection Training

A Watercraft Inspection Training seminar is tentatively scheduled for the week of July 13th in Cranberry Portage. If you are interested in receiving this training, or simply want to learn more about Zebra mussels and how watercraft are inspected, please contact Chris at 204-923-0017. More information on this seminar is forthcoming.

Other

- Our group has put up posters at several boat launches in the area to help inform people on what must be done to watercraft to help prevent the spread of Zebra mussels into our waters. We have incorporated what is called a "QR Code" so boaters can use their cell phone cameras to easily access our website for more information.
- Specific to the Saskatchewan River, additional signage has been placed at key boat launch sites advising boaters of the additional criteria that is required for decontamination of their watercraft. These additional criteria are necessary since the Saskatchewan River is considered a "Control Zone". A control one is a waterway connected to a waterbody that has tested positive for having zebra mussels – in this case Cedar Lake. The requirement to decontaminate is only required if watercraft are launched in waters other than the Saskatchewan River (e.g. Clearwater or Rocky Lake).

- Ron Black at Bakers Narrows is working to secure local radio time in Flin Flon for us to communicate the concern about zebra mussels, the work our group is doing, and most importantly what can be done to prevent the spread. Stay tuned!
- We received acknowledgement from Government that our funding application to the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund was received. Our current understanding is that project proposals have now been reviewed and the announcement of successful projects is forthcoming.
- We continue to have discussions with the Manitoba Government about establishing an advisory committee that would work with them to address the challenges of zebra mussel prevention and to collaborate on zebra mussel related initiatives.



scan code with phone camera to view our website

Respectively Submitted
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