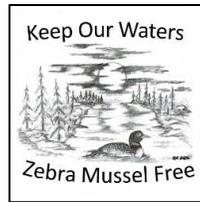


## Citizens for Protecting Our Northern Waterways Inc. (CPONW)



### May 2021 Newsletter

As we approach the open water boating season our group has been busy on a number of important items which are summarized below:

#### Outreach

- In March, we gave a short presentation to the Rotary Club of The Pas on Zebra Mussels, why there is concern, what's being done and how we can help. The presentation was well received with Rotarians demonstrating a genuine concern indicating an interest in helping spread the word about preventing the spread.
- A letter was recently sent to northern lodges that included information that can be shared with incoming guests, prior to arriving, on what to do to prevent the spread of zebra mussels into our waters.
- Given the Covid situation, plans to attend various spring events, such as trade and leisure shows, did not take place. We are hopeful outdoor events will be allowed this summer when we plan to have zebra mussel awareness events at various public boat launches in our region and look forward to sharing information on the threat of zebra mussel invasion and what needs to be done to prevent the spread.

#### Rotary Club Supports CPONW

We were successful in securing financial support from the Rotary Club of The Pas to purchase and place signs at targeted locations to enhance public awareness on what actions are required to prevent the spread of zebra mussels.

The focus of this awareness effort relates to what needs to be done when watercraft have been in a Zebra Mussel infected Control Zone. Signage includes:

- A large sign at the boat launch on the Saskatchewan River in The Pas
- Smaller signs for placement at boat launches including Clearwater Lake, Rocky Lake, and Barbe.

We are very thankful for this support and look forward to working with Rotary on this important project. Note that the information provided on lake signs can also be used as paper hand-outs at planned outreach events.

#### Watercraft Inspection Stations

The government led annual watercraft inspection program will once again be operating in 2021 from late spring, through the summer and into the middle of the fall. Specific inspection and decontamination stations are located at various locations across Manitoba, including just north of The Pas and at Grand Rapids.

The purpose of these stations is to:

- Determine if the watercraft has been in waters known to have zebra mussels of other AIS
- Inspect the watercraft for any evidence of AIS
- If necessary, decontaminate watercraft that have been in infected waters.

Since these stations 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 "google search" MB AIS Inspection Program or check out the CPONW website [www.zebramusselprevention.com](http://www.zebramusselprevention.com). If you have friends who are coming north with their watercraft, please share this important information with them.

### **Status of Zebra Mussel Expansion**

We recently received the 2020 monitoring report 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. Of the 100 water bodies that were sampled, 38 were located in northern Manitoba. The following is a brief synopsis of the results:

- In the NW Region (The Pas/Flin Flon/Snow Lake area) water bodies that were sampled - including, Cedar Lake, Saskatchewan River (The Pas), Cormorant Lake, Lake Athapap, Iskwasum and Wekusko Falls, showed no evidence of Zebra Mussels. This is very good news, however, sampling in Cedar Lake, confirmed the presence of Spiny Waterflea, an invasive zooplankton (a tiny animal species) that forms large, jelly-like masses that can spread to other water bodies on commercial and sport fishing equipment or in standing water in watercraft.
- In the NE Region (Nelson River/Wabowden/Thompson and surrounding areas) extensive sampling confirmed the expansion of Zebra Mussels along the entire length of the Nelson River including Playgreen Lake, Cross Lake, Sipiwesk Lake, Split Lake and downstream of the Limestone Generating Station. Assean Lake, which flows into Clarke Lake just downstream of Split Lake, also tested positive for the presence of zebra mussel larvae (called veligers). The good news is other lakes that were sampled, including Bowden Lake (Wabowden), Paint Lake, Setting Lake and Molson Lake showed no evidence of Zebra Mussels or other AIS.

These results provide important information on the spread of zebra mussels, and other AIS, into our northern waters, and guide the actions of the provincial AIS Unit. In addition, the results are a powerful reminder of the critical importance for owners of watercraft to implement proper AIS prevention measures including Clean – Drain – Dry protocols and ensuring their boat plug is removed when out of the water. And – for a watercraft that has been in a waterbody within a Control Zone, it needs to be properly decontaminated. For more information check out: [www.Manitoba.ca/StiopAIS](http://www.Manitoba.ca/StiopAIS).

The full monitoring report will soon be posted on our CPONW website.

### **Your Local Contacts**

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us.

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We would be more than happy to hear from members of our community on this important issue. Check out our website: [www.zebramusselprevention.com](http://www.zebramusselprevention.com)