

2015 WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

We would like to welcome Riley Jestin and Krista Wempe who have volunteered their time to the Committee this fall.

Riley is a Board member and a professional engineer. Krista is a medical doctor with a biology background. Existing members Kevin Moulds and Al Bradshaw look forward to this valuable expertise and new energy.

As some background on the committee, it was formed in the fall of 2009 to represent the Board in discussions with government and non - government organizations to establish the quality of water in Kip and determine, if possible, the cause of excess algae bloom on Kip.

During discussions with various water agencies it was discovered that the University of Regina had been conducting water tests and studies of lake habitat on 20 lakes in the province since 2004 and that Kip was one of the lakes being tested.

In the summer of 2010 the Park Board hired the university to do sediment samples on Kip in an attempt to identify sources of nutrient contamination in our lake. Some HOT SPOTS were identified and many hours have been spent by the committee doing follow up.

One major source of pollution that was identified is our own backyard. During the last 3 years the committee and Board have spent many hours on new bylaws, education and enforcement relating to septic tanks, outdoor toilets and outdoor showers.

Unlike other sources of contamination this is something we have direct control over and fall lease inspections would indicate we are making some progress in this regard.

We trust that all leaseholders and RVers will look at their own septic and gray water systems and do whatever is necessary to lessen their pollution footprint on Kip.

The Board is adamant about preventing activities that pollute the lake and offenders will be subject to the new bylaws. The Board and Park Manager will work with individual situations however it is your responsibility to initiate contact.

Kip is under more pollution pressure each year as our lake gets busier. With 184 cabins and 86 RV sites everyone's LITTLE BIT can add up to something the lake can not recover from.

The Park will continue to do their part as they are putting in septic tanks on the lakeside RV sites and have put in 2 new tanks and toilets on this site. The old RV sites will be dealt with as budget allows and as soon as possible.

This fall 13 water samples were taken from sources coming into Kip including the big lake on the south side of Kip. These samples will be analyzed by the U of R and we hope to do the same sites next spring. The university continues to sample Kip spring and fall as part of the 20 lake study. This year to year data plus the new samples can hopefully identify areas that require attention.

Kipabiskau is a beautiful place. Please do your part to look after it.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Ken Peterson at 306-873-2500 or any Board member.