

Season's Greetings Marina Supporters

After another successful summer season, I wish to recap the 2014 season and inform you what is planned for 2015.

First, the upgrades that we initiated this summer:

- The storage compound at the Main Marina received many lifts of gravel. Weather and time prevented the proper allocation of the material, but it was a good start to its upgrade.
- A proper security chain link fence and rolling gate were installed.
- New signage was purchased for installation next spring.
- The Hanging Heart Lakes and Narrows sites received gravel for the launch ramps and parking lots.
- A hot water tank was installed in the washroom building at the Main Marina.
- Four additional staff were hired to address the peak season rush. An extra launch marshal, a grounds keeper, and two extra staff were added to the Main Marina site.

2014 Investment

Storage Compound (Main Marina)

Gravel	\$13,000
Fence	\$7,000
Signs	\$2,400
Parking lots	\$2,500 (Narrows and Heart Lakes)
Hot water heater	\$250 (Main Marina washroom)
Extra staffing wages	\$6,500

A total of \$31,650 was directed back into the marina sites this past year alone.

To date, over \$119,000 has been reinvested back into these three sites.

Thank you to all those who took advantage of the revenue sharing opportunity this year that saw \$4,400 go directly back to seasonal site holders. This represents an additional 217 moorage nights that tourists were able to take advantage of, thereby, enhancing their stay at Waskesiu and their appreciation for the special place we know as Prince Albert National Park.

Since the revenue sharing concept began, \$9000 has been returned to the seasonal site holders and that number should be increased next season. I have also given away over \$2,000 worth of prizes in the annual spring mail out.

Parks Canada also contributed improvements this year by removing two unusable outhouses, one at the Heart Lakes and one at the Narrows. They also allowed the local fire department to burn down the camp kitchen at the Main Marina which is the first step toward possibly creating a new parking lot.

Spring of 2014 saw a revision of moorage and storage rates. Revisions will occur on a regular basis as we move towards a fair market value for the services offered.

Let's compare marina rates.

Research revealed very few similar stand alone marinas. Most are part of much larger operations which include campgrounds, trailer parks and real estate lots. Their marina services are part of a package offering. Research shows the following rate comparisons for other marina operations within the province.

- Candle Lake Golf Course- \$950 per year; \$100 per year seasonal launch pass with no trailer storage
- Knobles Point, Candle Lake- \$650 to \$1000 moorage sites
- Sunset Bay -\$600 to \$950 for small moorage sites; \$1500 for large moorage sites; \$10 per day launch pass, no seasonal pass available
- Sask Landing -\$850 moorage sites but you must notify the harbor master when removing your boat for more than three days. They then rent out your site and when you return you may have to wait to get a site, possibly in some other spot.
- Waskesiu Marina- Small sites \$550; medium sites \$750; 1 to 20 large double sites \$1000.

The Waskesiu Marina rates are still well below the rates outside the National Park. The users and visitors to Prince Albert National Park expect a higher level of service and a higher level of experience when visiting the three marinas and we will continue to address the need to upgrade the three marina sites and bring marina fees in line with other marina rates.

In the spring of 2014 the Waskesiu Marina Adventure Centre was a finalist in Tourism Saskatchewan's Awards of Excellence for Service Excellence by a business. This spoke directly to the experiences offered. The Marina will continue to offer a very high level of experience to all users through interpretive tours, trips to Grey Owl's Cabin, marina events, and watercraft rentals such as pontoon boats, paddle boards, canoes/kayaks, and fishing boats.

Moving forward, the consulting services of Steven Jonasson have been engaged, to design a new floating docking system for the Main Marina. This is to replace the old fixed piers, to address the issue of fluctuating water levels and to accommodate today's larger and wider boats.

This will mean a change to the marina operations. New policies and procedures will have to be implemented. The policies of the past may not be suitable to moving the marina forward. Most people don't like change, but change is necessary to address boaters' needs both for today and in the future.

As the marina changes and redevelops into a new facility, the marina operation has to change as well. The vision for a new way forward is not only to offer facilities fitting of our National Park but to fill it with users that truly believe Prince Albert National Park is a special place to visit and enjoy. We want marina users that respect and support Parks Canada, the local administration and the marina management and staff. We want marina users that feel they are fortunate to have the opportunity to boat; and enjoy the lakes in this National Park.

Meetings have been held with Parks Canada this past July and again in November. Both meetings were very positive and all aspects of redesigning the marinas were discussed. More meetings will be scheduled with Parks Canada to move the Marina operations forward.

You can get future progress updates by visiting our web site www.waskesiumarina.com . If you prefer direct email, please contact me at www.waskesiumarina.com .

If you prefer to receive a hard copy mailed out, please mail me your request at

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I and the staff look forward to implementing a new path forward for the Waskesiu Marina Adventure Centre.

Cheers and all the best in 2015

Morris Mclachlan