

## **2016 Marina Message**

Welcome to spring 2016 and wow what a spring it will be.

Last year it was announced that Parks Canada will invest over \$29 million dollars into Prince Albert National Park, with \$7.5 million of this slated for Main marina infrastructure improvements.

Phase one was started in the fall of 2015 and consists of rebuilding the main entrance road, all interior roads, and a new parking lot. The existing storage compound has been expanded and has a lift of gravel applied for proper drainage. The Waskesiu Marina has invested in the expansion of this storage compound.

Phase one will be completed this spring and when finished the roads, boat launches, and sea wall walkway will have been rebuilt with new pavement.

I don't anticipate any delays in opening May long weekend. Traffic will be restricted by construction work but the boat launches will be open and access to the lake will be as usual.

Access to the storage compound will depend on the spring weather however I foresee it will be operational by May 1<sup>st</sup> as well.

Phase two of the Main marina rebuild consists of the removal and replacement of all the fixed wooden piers with a new state of the art floating system that will allow for fluctuating water levels. The tender for this work will be out this spring of 2016 and construction slated for this fall with completion for spring of 2017.

### **The removal of all fixed docks will start Sept 15, 2016.**

All dock boxes, mooring lines, and protection devises must be removed by September 15, 2016.

I anticipate there will be some form of construction taking place at the Main marina over the next two years. The marina will not only look different but there will be different traffic flows, signage, and day parking. We are developing marina policies and procedures to adapt to these changes. These improvements can't happen all at once so I am asking for everyone's patience as we work through this wonderful challenge.

As usual, the Waskesiu Adventure Centre will continue to invest in improvements and upgrades not only at the Main but at the Hanging Heart lakes and Narrows marina sites as well.

2015 we invested over \$60,000 in improvements including:

- \$15,000 for gravel at the Main marina storage compound, Hanging Heart Lakes and Narrows' sites.
- A new state of the art water pumping system at the Main marina.
- Re-shingling, painting, and staining buildings at all the three sites.

-Removal and replacement of aging deck boards on all the piers at the Main marina and the purchase of two new finger docks.

2016 will see us invest heavily in the Hanging Hearts and Narrows marina's parking lots and infrastructure.

We look forward to continuing to offer a high level of customer service to enhance your experience while visiting the three marina sites.

Last year the Waskesiu Adventure Centre was a finalist for Sask Tourism's 2014 Awards of Excellence for Business of the Year (under 20 employees). We were very proud of our lead guide, Natalie Matheson, who received Sask Tourism's 2014 Employee of the Year Award. She was also a finalist in the 2015 Canadian Tourism Awards for Employee of the Year.

This year the Adventure Centre is a finalist for 2015 Business of the Year Service Excellence, Business of the Year (under 20 Employees), and Natalie is again a finalist for Sask Tourism's 2015 Employee of the Year Award.

Awards are presented in Regina on April 14, 2016.

We are looking for part time staff to assist at the boat launch shuttling people to and from the new parking lot. If you are interested please contact our marina office.

The Main marina office will be open May 1st, 2016, the phone number is 306-663-1999 and our winter office number is 306-763-1278.

As always we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer boating season.

Morris and Susan McLachlan *Clay Cross Management Ltd*

Terri Kobel-Nesbitt *Site Manager*

Natalie Matheson *Lead Guide Waskesiu Adventure Centre*

Ron Kuiper *Narrows Site Manager*