

Hello RV of Saskatchewan Beach Residents,

Below is some additional information about the Drainage Diversion Project which concerns Last Mountain Lake.

Jackie Wigg

Administrative Assistant

Resort Village of Saskatchewan Beach

DRAINAGE DIVERSION PROJECT IS NOT OVER

Hello,

Please read the information below carefully. Recent events have led residents to believe that the Common Ground Proposal and the threat of saline water entering Last Mountain Lake from the Quill Lakes Basin has been defeated. Not so. In fact, this issue has become more serious and far more complicated than ever.

During the last week of January the Quill Lakes Watershed Association (QLWA) announced it was "withdrawing its current construction proposal of the Common Ground Flood Mitigation Project." They further state that "The Association will continue to seek a managed solution to protect or minimize future damages due to flooding..."

This decision was made just hours after CBC News broke the story that private exchanges between the QLWA and Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment were occurring by email.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/emails-show-very-cozy-relationship-between-sask-gov-t-and-quill-lakes-1.4496750>

The statement from QLWA states their application is withdrawn, not cancelled; therefore we are convinced this project may be re-submitted at a later date with a new name. Meanwhile Kerry Holderness of QLWA continues to promote the Common Ground Drainage proposal.

The Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group, (LMLSG), has partnered with Saskatchewan Alliance for Water Sustainability (SAWS). SAWS is made up of a group of concerned individuals from Last Mountain Lake to Round Lake.

SAWS acquired, by the Freedom of Information Act, all documents pertaining to the Common Ground Project.

SAWS and LMLSG realize there is much at stake. We are supportive of agriculture and sympathetic to farmers who have experienced flooding, however we do not believe drainage is the answer. The solution requires an independent Environmental Impact Assessment prior to any moving of the water from the Quill Lake Basin into the Qu'Appelle Valley river system.

Our goal is to find solutions that benefit the greater good; a long-term solution that will protect our homes and our properties; our fishing industry; and our recreational and tourism industry; while honoring First Nations treaties.

In the next few weeks SAWS will be asking those who love their lake, those who wish to preserve the natural beauty of Last Mountain Lake - for their children and for future generations, to donate to the "Save Last Mountain/Qu'Appelle Lakes Inc."

We have come to realize that we need to hire professionals, the best and the brightest to save our lakes - and this will cost a great deal. We are going to use the money for hosting a Roundtable discussion and social media. The Roundtable will consist of experts with skills in fields of science, industry, the four levels of government, and non-profit organizations. You may visit our website for ongoing information at: <http://www.lmlsg.ca>

.....Please help us help you.....

Sherry Forsyth

Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group