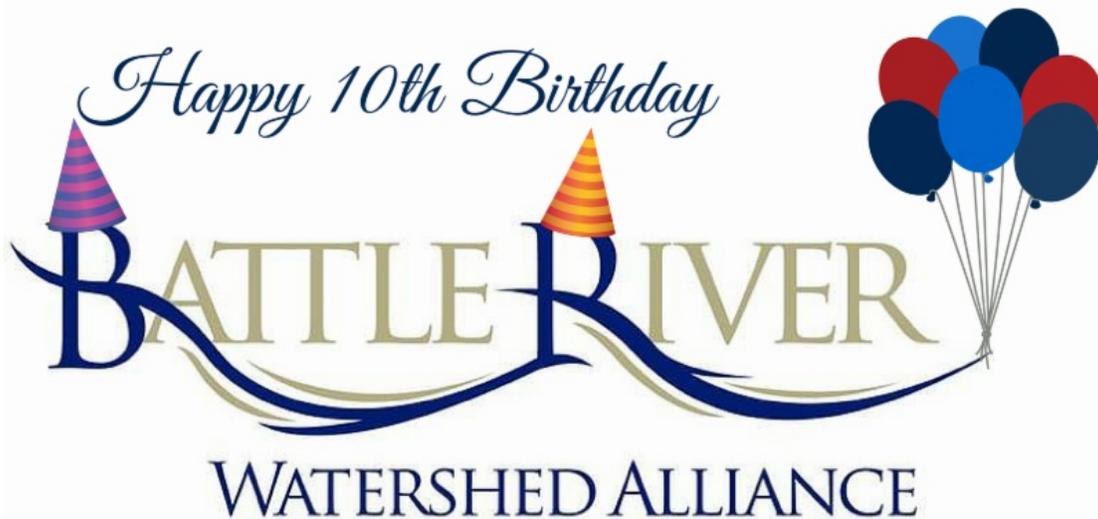


Catch up with your favorite Watershed Alliance!



It takes an Alliance to help a Watershed

In 2004, a group of concerned Battle River stakeholders came together with Alberta Environment to develop a plan for the health and sustainability of the Battle River and the communities that rely on it.

In April 2006, we embarked on becoming a Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) under the Government of Alberta's Water for Life Strategy. The final pieces were locked into place on November 30, 2006 when members of the "Battle River Watershed Alliance" (an incorporated society) held their first Annual General Meeting. It was a very exciting day to say the least! Our work had started.

10 years later, here we are, still working to connect people to place for action. During our first ten years we have been blessed to have 43 people represent their sector on the Board of Directors. Beyond the board, we attribute our success to the hundreds of municipal staff, landowners, businesses, researchers, government staff and community members who make "The Alliance" a true collaboration, to make this place we call home healthy for us and our families.

We look forward to another 10 years of working with you.

David Samm,
BRWA General Manager

BATTLE RIVER
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

The *Current*

New Watershed Management Planning Work- Invasive Species

Watershed Invaders:

Weeds, Mussels and More

Two aquatic invasive species that have been getting a lot of media attention in Alberta lately are zebra and quagga mussels. They haven't yet been found in any lakes or rivers in the province, which is great news. Once they are present it's hard to get rid of them, and they can cause a lot of damage. The Government of Alberta has estimated costs of about \$75 million in annual losses if these mussels were to become established in the province. There is already great work being done to prevent mussels from entering Alberta, including education and awareness programs and mandatory watercraft inspections on major highways entering Alberta. The BRWA is looking into ways we can extend the reach of these programs in our watershed.

[Click here to learn more about our Invasive Species work!](#)

CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT

Props, boats and natural ecosystems can be ruined by zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species. Take a few simple steps to preserve our lakes and fisheries: **CLEAN** off the plants and debris. **DRAIN** bilges and ballast, and **DRY** any wet areas of your boat.

ZEBRA MUSSELS 2.8 cm
QUAGGA MUSSELS 2.8 cm
EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

DON'T LET THEM CATCH A RIDE
STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES:
1-855-336-BOAT (2628)
esrd.alberta.ca

EID ALBERTA Invasive Species Government



Forestburg "Managing our Wetlands and Riparian Areas" Meeting Notes

On March 4, the BRWA hosted a public engagement meeting in Forestburg to discuss management of riparian areas and wetlands in the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds.

About 30 people came to join the conversation on the proposed implementation guidelines for both riparian areas and wetlands.

In addition to roundtable discussions, the group had the opportunity to hear from two wetland specialists.

[See the Meeting Notes here](#)

Stewardship Update- 2015 OTIS Award Winners

The BRWA proudly presents the Outstanding In Stewardship (OTIS) award every year to a business/organization, youth, and individual who were chosen for their hard work, dedication to stewardship, and positive watershed impacts.

On March 22nd, we handed out the 2015 Youth OTIS award to **Mina Shin and Brooklyn Green**

Avid golfers, Mina and Brooklyn from Ponoka were worried about what effects pesticides sprayed on the course would have on their watershed. As part of their Caring for our Watershed project proposal, they researched the

effects of pesticides and solutions to reduce them. They found that birds are natural insecticides, eating many of the pesky insects that golfers dislike. To build awareness of this topic the girls were present at the golf course spa event to give away information cue cards, cash wash coupons and natural beauty products. They also held a draw for a bird house. They hoped that the information and products would help people become more aware of what they use at home.

With help from local businesses and family, Mina and Brooklyn built 75 bird houses to put up at the two local golf courses (one house at each of the 55 holes plus extra) to encourage the natural reduction of unwanted insects. The golf courses were happy to be involved and support these young stewards. Mina and Brooklyn are happy to see their ideas in action and look forward to enjoying a round of golf with more beautiful birds on the course, and less pesticides in their watershed.



[Visit the OTIS webpage for more details!](#)



Education and Outreach Programs- Waste in our Watersheds

We humans make a lot of waste- but how does it affect our watersheds? Grade 4 students from the Camrose area will soon find out on this day long field trip of water and solid waste management!

Working with Alberta Health Services and the City of Camrose, the BRWA is excited to be piloting this tour in May.

Thanks to the Battle River Community Foundation for the start-up funding!



What can you do to improve your watershed?

The Caring for our Watersheds program invites students in grades 7-12 to answer this question in a 1000 word proposal for a chance to win up to \$1,000.



Additional funding is available for students or clubs who would like to make their ideas a reality!

Students must submit their proposals online by April 7, 2016 at CaringForOurWatersheds.com. Visit the site or contact the BRWA for guidance and tips for success!



Spring migration is beginning for many birds who travel from far and wide to nest in Alberta's wetlands, forests and prairies. Unfortunately, songbird populations are declining rapidly across North America. Power lines, habitat loss, wind turbines, windows, and pet cats are just some of the human-based causes of bird mortality. But you can help! If you have large windows on your home or workplace, put visual markers on them. If you have a cat, keep them inside, or limit their hunting during nesting times and ensure they wear a bell.

For more ideas check out the [Canadian Wildlife Federation](#) or [Cats and Birds.com](#)



Board Member Spotlight: Corinne Kelts

Corinne grew up on a mixed farm south of Consort in the Sedalia area in Special Areas #3. She studied business at Lakeland College in Vermilion prior to her current 33+ year career with the Special Areas Board. She started in admin and steadily moved her way up to Manager and is the Administrator for Special Areas #4 in Consort.

Corinne has always had a great interest in agriculture, native prairie and water so is pleased to be a municipal representative member on the BRWA. Corinne and her husband Bruce farm and ranch west of Consort. They have a daughter who is a teacher and a son who is a Journeyman Millwright working on his second ticket of Machinist. They are proud to have them both remain and work in the Special Areas.

[Learn more about the BRWA Alliance Management, board and staff on our website.](#)

Upcoming Events

Bird Impact Reduction Day April 12, Part of National Wildlife Week. For information check out the [Canadian Wildlife Federation](#)

Project Wild Thing Film Screening April 13, Camrose Public Library.

Caring for our Watersheds Final Competition May 14, Reynolds-Alberta Museum, Wetaskiwin. Open to the public, watch the 10 finalist in this year's competition present their ideas on what they can do to help improve their watershed.

Battle River Watershed Alliance Annual General Meeting June 16, County of Paintearth.

For more information on these and all of our events, visit the [News and Events](#) page.

Battle River Watershed Alliance
780-672-0276 or 1-888-672-0276
otis@battleriverwatershed.ca
www.battleriverwatershed.ca

