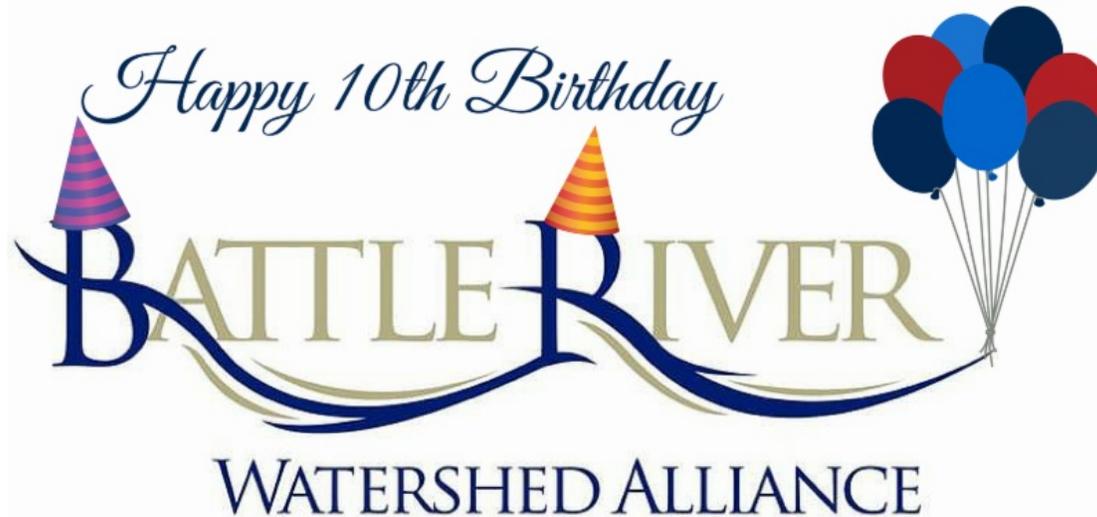


Catch up with your favorite Watershed Alliance!



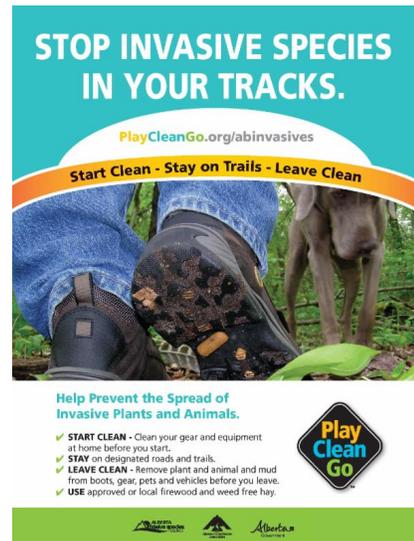
Invasive Hitchhikers: Don't let them catch a ride!

'Tis the season for getting outside and hitting the trails! Whether you're hiking, biking, quading, or otherwise enjoying the great outdoors, there may be some invasive hitchhikers looking to catch a ride.

The seeds of invasive weed species may become attached to clothing, footwear or equipment and be spread to new areas. Everyone can do their part to prevent this from happening. A new initiative of the Government of Alberta, the Alberta Invasive Species Council and the Alberta Conservation Association is encouraging Albertans to "play, clean and go". You can "stop invasive species in your tracks" by making sure your gear and equipment are clean before you leave home, staying on designated trails, and making sure everything is clean again before you leave the trail.

Invasive weed species have the potential to seriously impact the health and biodiversity of the natural areas we know and love. Preventing their spread is something we can all do to ensure that we can continue to enjoy these areas, now and into the future. In doing so, we're also supporting the long-term health of our watershed.

[Click here to learn more about the BRWA's Invasive Species work.](#)



Education and Outreach- Spring Programming

This spring, the BRWA staff were out and about with the watershed's students of all ages. **In May and June alone, we engaged 675 students at 25 events for**

programs including;

- Caring for our Watersheds (grades 7-12)
- Waste in our Watershed Tours (grade 4)
- Discover your Wetland Field Trips (grade 5)
- X-Stream Science (grade 8-12)

Our calendars were completely booked, and we were disappointed to have to turn some schools away.

Thank you to all of the schools involved this year, and to our sponsors who allow us to offer this programming for free!



Caring for our Watersheds 2016 Finalists

The 2016 Caring for our Watersheds (CFW) program received 95 entries from 165 students from across Central and Northern Alberta. The quality of student ideas on what they could do to improve their watershed continues to increase every year, which was obvious at the final competition. Here, students gave 5 minute presentations to a panel of community judges. These 18 finalists are all inspiring young adults and absolute winners!



2016 CFW finalists, their schools, ideas and prize amount:

School, Town	Group	Idea	Prize Amount
W.P. Wagner, Edmonton	Simran Panesar	Accommodating Biodiversity in our Watershed	\$1,000
Lacombe Composite High School, Lacombe	Rachel Reitsma, Avy Lamb	Lacombe Irrigation Foods Experiment	\$900
Dayslands School, Daysland	Bria Kroetch, Brooke Hochausen, Alarie Guhle	Saving Drinking Water, One Cup at a Time	\$800
Wetaskiwin Composite High School, Wetaskiwin	Emily Jackson	Down Cycle [Plastic Water Bottles]	\$700
Ecole McTavish, Fort McMurray	Kisa Fatima, Raiha Hussain	Learning Grounds/Pollinator Garden	\$600
Londonderry Junior High School, Edmonton	Michelle Wu, Erika Tang, Azure La	Rain Gardens	\$500
Londonderry Junior High School, Edmonton	Suerry Yu, Rachel Low	Willows for Watersheds	\$450
Ecole McTavish, Fort McMurray	Sharar Zaman	Birchwood Trails Dog Waste Dispensers	\$400
Hay Lakes School,	Dana Sych,	Save the Trumpeter Swan	\$350

Hay Lakes	Soren Skaret		
Bashaw School, Bashaw	Bailie McDonald	How 'bout them Wetlands	\$300

Along with their prize amount for themselves, and a matching amount to their school, these students will be given support and funding to help implement their ideas (if they choose). Learn more about the CFW program at caringfourwatersheds.com



About our sponsor, Agrium

Agrium Inc. is an international agriculture business specializing in nutrient management. They are also our long time partner, and sole sponsor of the Central Alberta Caring for our Watersheds contest. They also support the program in 11 other contest areas!

We are proud to work with Agrium on the CFW program. Check out this video to see what they are doing to address Climate Change and sustainability.



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.

Roy and Judy Louis, winners of the OTIS award in the individual category, are members of the Samson Cree Nation. They live on the banks of the Battle River near Maskwacis. Roy is from a family of leadership and former President of the Indian Association of Alberta. Roy is a co-founding member of Peace Hills Trust Company and Peace Hills General Insurance that are now into their 30th year. Judy is a highly motivated, high-energy educational



consultant with a demonstrated track record for fostering learning and promoting multicultural diversity. Both have received awards for their leadership in innovative approaches to education and the promotion of cultural diversity and cultural awareness.

Roy and Judy's dream was to host the Battle River Water Ceremony for four years. Their dream was realized in 2015 when, after four years, the Bend in the River water ceremony was complete. It represents an act of incredible cultural stewardship demonstrating how water, earth and sky are connected.

Visit the OTIS webpage for more details!



Did you Know? Canada & Climate Change

According to the [2016 RBC Canadian Water Attitude Study](#), Canadians believe climate

change to be the biggest threat to our freshwater resources. The study also found Canadians view freshwater as the most important natural resource and about 50% of Canadians have noticed more stories in the news about flooding and drought.

The [NASA Climate Change website](#) states approximately 97% of actively publishing climate scientists agree: "climate warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities".

Being prairie-fed, the Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds are particularly vulnerable to climate change, and associated extreme weather events (such as irregular rainfall patterns). Now is the time to get down to the business of finding local solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change for our communities and ecosystems.

"Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day." -Pope Francis, Welcome Ceremony 2015



Drought and Deluge

Last fall, our Research and Stewardship Coordinator, Susanna Bruneau, was interviewed by Top Crop Manager magazine on the BRWA's drought component of our Watershed Management Plan.

Along with Susanna, other drought and flood researchers from Manitoba and Saskatchewan, including Dr. David Sauchyn, discuss drought and flood adaptation in the Canadian Prairies, in the context of preparing for extremes. The article came out in the Western Edition April 2016 issue.

[Click on this link](#) to view a copy of the article.

Upcoming Events

*Inviting All Bakers
(and Pie Eaters!)*

Saskatoon Pie Contest



Fabulous Prizes to be Won!
Bring your pie before 11am on day of the event

Event #1

Where? Ponoka Farmers Market
(The Ponoka Arena)

When? Wednesday July 20th 2016

Event #2

Where? Camrose Farmers Market
(Duggan Mall)

When? Saturday July 23rd 2016

Call 1-888-672-0276 to RSVP or email jenna@battleriverwatershed.ca
For more information, visit our event (Ponoka and Camrose) "Saskatoon Pie Contest"
on Facebook or check out our website www.battleriverwatershed.ca/pie-contest



Pigeon Lake Watershed Association AGM and Clean Runoff Open House

Saturday July 9th at the Lakedell Agricultural Large Hall.

The Clean Runoff Open House is being designed to showcase the launch of the Alberta Clean Runoff Action Guide, the approaches in the guide, and the various projects to help people move towards making their own changes that we all need to do for the health of the lake.

For more information visit the PLWA event page at: plwa.ca/item/1060705

Ponoka Riparian Field Day

Tuesday July 12th at MSW Farms in Ponoka County, 4:00pm-8:30pm. Free Supper Included!

Join us on the banks of the Battle River to learn about the health of the river, measuring the health of riparian areas, riparian plant ID, riparian management options.

www.battleriverwatershed.ca/PRRP

Ponoka Saskatoon Pie Baking Contest

Wednesday July 20th at the Ponoka Farmers Market, in the Ponoka Arena.

www.battleriverwatershed.ca/pie-contest

Camrose Saskatoon Pie Baking Contest

Saturday July 23rd at the Camrose Farmers Market, in the Duggan Mall.
www.battleriverwatershed.ca/pie-contest

Battle River Watershed Festival
Saturday August 20th at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park.
www.battleriverwatershed.ca/festival

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

Our New Team Member: Jenna Szuch



This May the BRWA welcomed Jenna as their Summer Program Assistant. Jenna hails from Calgary where she just completed her BSc in Environmental Science with a concentration in Biological Sciences. Jenna will return to the University of Calgary in the fall to complete a minor in Chemistry.

While at UofC, Jenna and her team conducted an eight-month study focusing on the sources of flow and water quality degradation in the Elbow River watershed. Jenna believes a strong understanding of groundwater-surface water interaction is vital to watershed management, as well as headwater and aquifer protection.

So far Jenna has been assisting with our spring field trips and education programs. Over the summer she will become more involved in the Ponoka riparian projects and research for the Traversing Terrain and Experience Atlas. She is passionate about watershed management and ecosystem protection, and hopes to be able to continue working in watersheds in the future.

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

2016 Annual General Meeting and our Board

At our AGM on June 20th, Jim Geddes was elected as the BRWA's newest board member. Jim isn't altogether new, as he was on the committee which formed the BRWA 10 years ago! Welcome Jim! Thank you to all of our past and current board members who make our work possible.

2016-2017 BRWA Board:

Category	Board Member
Academia	Les Parsons
Agriculture	John Pearson Wayne Richardson
Business/Industry	Jim Geddes Barb Bosh (Vice Chairperson)
Environment	Diane Hanson Lorne Ferguson
Individual	Hugh Sanders (Chairperson) Midge Lambert Al Corbett
Municipal Government	Bruce Cummins Corinne Kelts Robin Benoit
Provincial Government	Melissa Orr-Langner Shane Mascarin
AB Environment and Parks Advisor	Jamie Bruha



The 2016 AGM was held at the beautiful Circle Square Ranch near

First Nations Cultural
Advisor

Roy Louis

Halkirk, in Paintearth County.

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

STAY CONNECTED:

