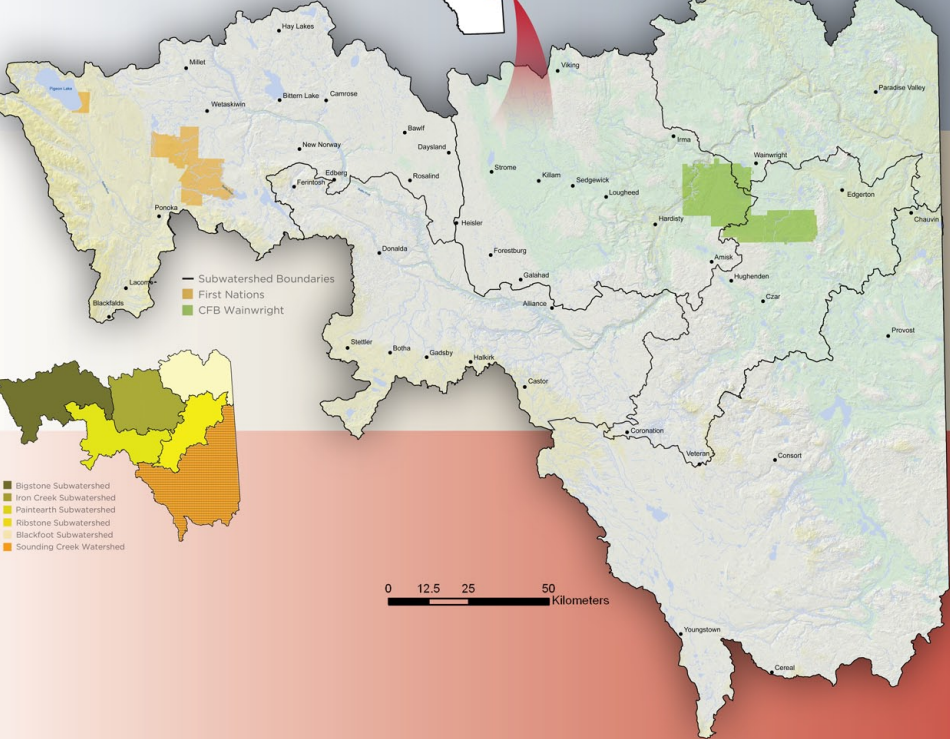


The Evolution of Watershed Management in the Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds

Content for this poster provided by: Grey Nelson, Hidge Lambert, Sarah Skinner and David Samm
Poster design: Line Design Inc.

Battle River and Sounding Creek Watersheds: Part of a larger picture



Governance/Policy

Water-relevant Legislation

Infrastructure, Science and Technology

Landscape (what people did)

Significant Events

The Buzz

ca. 1885
The Eminston, Louis Bull, Montana, and Sarnow Reserves are surveyed.

1902
Proclaimed as a village in 1902, a town in 1904, and a city in 1906, Wetsiwin was for many years the smallest city in the British Empire.

1919
Alberta's first drainage district is formed in the Hidden area. A number of drainage districts are located (all or partially) within the Battle River watershed. Alberta's drainage districts are administered by the Drainage Council.



Battle River near Wainwright, AL 1927 (Dunbar Archives, RD 18-14)

1894
The Dominion of Canada passes the North West Irrigation Act, which allows allocation of water by the government for irrigation and other purposes. Provided that the applicant can demonstrate use of the water, an administrative paper is issued outlining the details of allocation including volume, maximum diversion rate, water source, point of diversion, purpose of use and priority numbers. Water is allocated under a priority system based on the seniority of the license.

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1930
The Natural Resources Transfer Agreement comes into effect. Under this agreement, the Dominion of Canada transfers to Alberta (and other provinces) in 1905 the ownership and ability to manage (through legislative means) most aspects of natural resources, including water. In return, Alberta provides the Water Resources Act in 1913. This statute was designed to serve primarily as a tool for allocating water.

1958
The City of Camrose receives its first water license for 1500 acre feet. They would receive licenses in 1976, 1982 and 1987, totaling 3,000,253 acre feet.

1972
The City of Wainwright receives its first water license for 1500 acre feet. They would receive licenses in 1976, 1982 and 1987, totaling 3,000,253 acre feet.

1999
The Water Act becomes the main legislation dealing with the way in which water is used, allocated, managed and conserved in Alberta.

2004
The Terms of Reference for Phase One of the Battle River Watershed Management Planning Process are approved by the Director under the Water Act.

2006
The Battle River Watershed Development Planning Pilot Project provides recommendations for three tiers of development around Battle Lake. The planning process would later be used to guide oil and gas exploration in the Battle Lake watershed.

2008
Alberta releases the Land-use Framework, establishing seven new land-use regions and calling for the development of a regional plan for each.

2011
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Several million board feet of lumber were cut annually at the Ponoka mills until the lowering of the Battle River in 1905. A sawmill located near Pigeon Lake operated in the 1920s. Logging in the area ended in 1944.



Canadian Pacific Railway bridge over Battle River near Ponoka, Alberta, 1907 (Dunbar Archives, RD 18-14)

Before electricity was readily available, farmers utilized windmills to pump water. On calm days, much time was spent working the pump handle by hand.

1972
In 1972, Alberta Environment builds a dam 200 m downstream of the natural fall at Coal Lake. This reduces Pipestone Creek to a new wet Coal Lake. The lake surface is now 5 m higher, identifying a source of water for the City of Wainwright. The lake generally supports a dense benthic invertebrate assemblage.

1975
In 1975, Alberta Environment installs a sheet-pile flood-cross weir at Driedmeat Lake with an elevation of 684.4 m. Its purpose is to stabilize water levels and to provide more reliable storage to augment downstream flows in times of severe drought. Although the lake level has become more stable with the weir in place, it still fluctuates. For example, between 1975 and 1987, the lake level varied by 1.9 m, and during 1982 alone, it fluctuated by 1.6 m.

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The Great Train Pacific trestle bridge that crossed the Battle River at Duhamel was one of the longest and highest wooden trestles ever built in the world. Built from 1909-1910, the bridge stood only 14 years before it fell victim to railway consolidation. In 1924, the great structure was dismantled and its huge timbers were salvaged for building and repairing other bridges. The river valley near Duhamel again stood quiet, no longer a host to the thundering racket of the iron horse.



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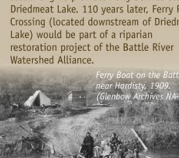
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In response to poor travel conditions on trails and roads in spring, a 30-foot motorboat powered by a woodburning steam engine provided Ferry Service along Driedmeat Lake. 110 years later, Ferry Point (located downstream of Driedmeat Lake) would be part of a riparian restoration project of the Battle River Watershed Alliance.



Ferry Point on the Battle River, 1903 (Dunbar Archives, RD 18-14)

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Henry Rogers' daughters perish in a tornado that destroys his outbuildings near the Battle River. Just over 100 years later, at the Big Valley Junction near Camrose, strong winds and hail destroy a stagecoach, killing one person and injuring 15 others.



Battle River, 1907 (Dunbar Archives, RD 18-14)

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