

October 2014

Dear Regina Residents

Thank you for your concern about the quality/quantity of the water draining into the Qu'Appelle watershed.

We are asking you to phone your City councillor and share your water quality concerns with them. To find out who your councillor is, go to the City of Regina web site at [www.regina.ca](http://www.regina.ca) and select "City Council and Committees" on the menu on the left. Next, select "Meet your City Council". Click the map on the area in which you live and contact information for the relevant councillor will appear. Phoning is the most effective way to contact your councillor. Email is the next most effective method.

Below you will find background information, together with a series of questions for your councillor. Please consider asking your councillor these questions, along with any others that may arise as you read the background information. You can also read more information at [www.4callinglake.ca/regional/environment](http://www.4callinglake.ca/regional/environment)

*Please note there is a very good chance that your councillor will point fingers at others and not accept their share of downstream pollution. If you can ask them not to point fingers and focus on their impact that will be very helpful.*

#### **Background #1**

The City of Regina's report "Long Term Water Utility Plan" (2013) states that the existing wastewater lagoons are overloaded and under review.

In June 2014 the City of Regina released over 850,000 cubic meters of sewage that bypassed the pumping station after being partially treated. An additional 265,000 cubic meters of sewage bypassed the pumping station after only being screened. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> Sask Health closed 28 beaches in the Qu'Appelle Valley due to E.coli contamination. On July 9<sup>th</sup> Water Security Agency for the Saskatchewan government admitted that Regina's dumping "may have contributed to the issue".

***Question #1 Do the Mayor and Council wish to be remembered as doing the bare minimum, or do they want to be remembered as innovative thinkers who played a significant role in cleaning up the Lower Qu'Appelle watershed?***

#### **Background #2**

Presently our sewage system removes 95% of the phosphorous and none of the nitrogen. We are the only major city on the prairies that does not remove nitrogen.

The new plant is required by Federal law to remove the nitrogen. There are two processes to do this. One method converts the nitrogen to a gas form. The other is converts it into nitrates. As nitrates can be sold, the conversion to nitrates means some of the cost can be recovered. Has the City of Regina built this into their plan?

***Question #2 Can you tell me if the city will be removing the nitrogen and turning it into gas or will they be turning it into nitrates which in turn can be sold?***

### **Background #3**

In the Leader Post on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> Premier Brad Wall notes expected growth for our province. The article states that the Government of Saskatchewan is planning on growth of about 20,000 people in the City of Regina by 2020. With development comes paved roads and loss of wetlands to hold waste water.

***Question #3 What is the city's plan to hold its waste water so that it does not discharge this water downstream?***

### **Background #4**

There has been a lot of finger pointing related to the pollution problem in Pasqua Lake. The City of Regina often points the finger at farming and ranching as the cause of this pollution. However, Dr Leavitt from the University of Regina has been studying the Qu'Appelle system for over 20 years. His research has found that 70% of the nitrogen pollution that comes into the Qu'Appelle system is from Regina. This has polluted Pasqua Lake to a level over 500% from pre-colonial times. In spite of that we are still pointing fingers some 20 years later with no concrete action being taken.

***Question #4 Does the city of Regina have a plan to work with researchers, scientists and the provincial government to help clean up the pollution that they have created downstream?***

### **Background #5**

Pat Wilson, the director for the Water Works for the City of Regina stated that there is \$8 million dollars allotted to tweak the new treatment plant design.

***Question #5 Can you share with us what the eight million is for?***

### **Background #6**

Research done for Environment Canada by Dr. Marely Waiser has found residues from products like aspirin derivatives, estrogen and antibiotics downstream from Regina. These residues have known effects on the eco system.

***Question #6 Does the new treatment plant remove these toxins? Does the city have a plan to show leadership and to build relationships with pharmaceutical companies to deliver state of the art sewage treatment plants that remove these toxins affecting our eco systems?***

### **Background #7**

The City of Saskatoon and the City of Yorkton are working with Duck Unlimited to build Urban wetlands in to their community plans for sustainable growth. These urban wet lands help to hold and filter water.

Here's another link to the City of Saskatoon Wetland Policy

<http://www.saskatoon.ca/DEPARTMENTS/COMMUNITY%20SERVICES/PLANNINGDEVELOPMENT/FUTUREGROWTH/LAN DUSEPOLICYANDDEVELOPMENT/Pages/WetlandPolicyProject.aspx>

. Dr John Pomeroy: Smith Creek Research

<http://words.usask.ca/news/2014/06/11/u-of-s-research-show-re-establishing-wetlands-may-reduce-flood-destruction/>

***Question #7 Does the City of Regina have plans to follow suit of the City of Saskatoon and the City of Yorkton to build urban wetlands into their sustainable community development?***