

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

InStream

 NEWS

- NSWA's Fall Photo Contest
- INSIDE the WaterSHED Monitoring Program
- Truth & Reconciliation Day
- Riparian Planning Webinar
- eDNA Headwaters Monitoring Trip
- Canoeing the River with the University of Alberta

NSWA Projects and Events

NSWA's Fall Photo Contest



Watersheds connect people, land and water. Our North Saskatchewan River watershed is full of natural beauty and is a place where people live, work and play. How do you connect to the watershed? Tell us through your photos! Submit your photos or vote for your favourite shots using the link below!

One winner will be chosen from each category, and will receive a \$100 Gift Card from our contest sponsor, Track N' Trail:

Category 1: Awe-inspiring watershed

Category 2: People in our watershed

[PHOTO CONTEST](#)

Blog: Inside the WaterSHED Monitoring Program



WaterSHED is an exciting collaborative project between NSWA, the Government of Alberta, EPCOR and the City of Edmonton. We interviewed an aquatic scientist involved on the project and learned how the data is unravelling new information and data about our watershed, five years after monitoring started.



DISCOVER THE DATA

- How does the North Saskatchewan River's water quality change as it flows east through Alberta?
- How do wildfires impact water quality?
- Why is tributary monitoring important?
- How can you use the data to understand drought risks and flow advisories?

[READ THE BLOG](#)

LEARN TO USE

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ALBERTA RIVERS DATA

September 30: Truth & Reconciliation Day

Wear Orange in Solidarity!



Saturday, September 30th marks Canada's third National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. NSWA's Board and colleagues acknowledge the intergenerational harm caused by residential schools and encourage everyone in our watershed to wear orange to honour Canada's stolen children. There are also a variety of events you can attend throughout the Edmonton area and greater watershed:

- Bent Arrow is hosting an event at the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society in Edmonton - [Register here.](#) See the button below for a more extensive list of events happening throughout the Edmonton area.
- Métis Crossing is hosting an event filled with community, reflection, dialogue, healing, and hope. [Register here.](#) Click the button below to learn about more events:

MORE EVENTS



What's in a name?

Did you know that the North Saskatchewan River's name comes from the Cree word *kis-is-ska-tche-wan* meaning "swift current"? They called the NSR *Kisiskâciwani-sîpiy*, or "swift-flowing river." It was first documented as the Saskatchewan River in 1793 by Alexander Mackenzie.

Riparian Planning Workshops & Webinar



Over the summer, NSWA partnered with Municipal Planning Services to deliver two Riparian Policy Workshops as part of our [***Riparian Health Action Plan***](#). We brought municipal staff together to discuss challenges and solutions for better riparian planning guidelines and bylaw implementation.

Feedback from these workshops is helping inform our upcoming *Riparian Policy Best Management Guide*, an exciting tool to help planners better align new development with riparian health. This will all be further discussed during our upcoming webinar!

On October 6th, **Jane Dauphinee** and **James Haney** from **Municipal Planning Services** will discuss the important role local governments play in stewarding riparian areas through land use and development planning. The speakers will share what has been learned in over thirty years of professional experience in land use policy and regulation with urban and rural municipalities across the watershed, highlighting successes and gaps in best practice.

[REGISTER: OCT 6TH WEBINAR](#)

Environmental DNA Monitoring



NSWA staff went out on an Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling trip in September!

We ventured out to the watershed's headwaters, including the Nordegg River, Brazeau Reservoir, Strawberry Creek, and the NSR's mainstem near Drayton Valley. eDNA monitoring provides an exciting opportunity to efficiently gather data, producing a comprehensive and holistic picture of the species present in a water body. More sampling trips are planned, and ultimately, our efforts will provide information about invasive species presence and general biodiversity throughout the entire watershed. Thank you to the University of Alberta for supporting the data analysis!

University of Alberta NSR Canoe Trip



Thank you for having us!

This was our second year joining Maricor Arlos and her Advanced Environmental Engineering Class on a canoe trip through Edmonton. We enjoyed teaching the students about watershed planning and governance, and appreciated all their questions!

Partner Highlights

CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS



ALMS Conference

We attended ALMS' Annual Workshop and Conference in Sylvan Lake on September 12th and 13th. It was great to learn about the 2022-2023 sampling data and some of their new initiatives.

Also, a big congratulations to ALMS for recently winning an Emerald Award in the Water Category!



How can we protect 100-year old Prairie lakes?

Check out our partners at the Wabamun Watershed Management Council's (WWMC) video feature for CBC! They discuss their work sampling with ALMS, *LakeWatch Program*.

OTHER PARTNER INFORMATION

Duck and Run 2023: On October 14th & 15th, Ducks Unlimited is hosting several races. Run, walk, or waddle in their 5K, 1K, or 10 K in-person or virtual races!

Edmonton Public Library Flow Exhibits! The FLOW exhibit is currently showcased at ten different EPL locations, including Stanley A. Milner, Strathcona, Clareview, Londonderry, Whitemud Crossing, Highlands, Jasper Place, Lois Hole, Riverbend, and Woodcroft.

DROUGHT INFORMATION

Alberta experienced a very hot and dry summer this year. The [Canadian Drought Outlook](#) noted abnormally dry to extreme drought conditions throughout southern Alberta, and looking ahead, Environment and Climate Change Canada's long-range forecast projects a greater likelihood that [El Nino conditions](#) will persist with above-average temperatures and below-normal precipitation this winter. **Alberta's government will be monitoring the**

situation throughout the Fall and is working closely with water users and local governments to help manage and conserve water, where possible.

Additional Resources:

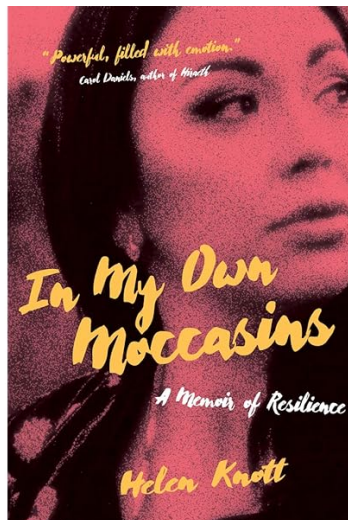
- [Drought webpage](#)
- [Stages of Water management factsheet](#)
- [Get to know your water flow factsheet](#)
- [Learn to use Rivers Alberta](#) (Video)

Celebrating our Watershed

ART, CULTURE AND HISTORY

INDIGENOUS LITERATURE AND ART

Engaging in Truth and Reconciliation



In My Own Moccasins: A Memoir of Resilience, Helen Knott

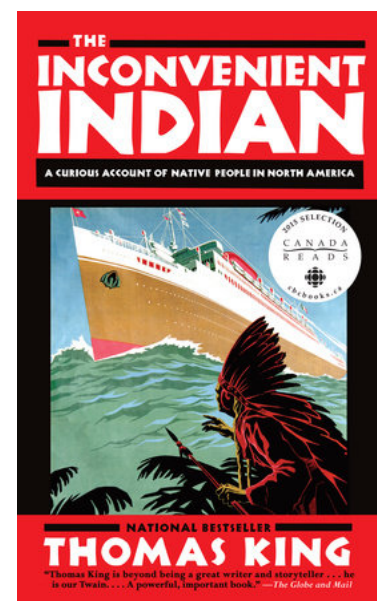
“An unflinching memoir of addiction, intergenerational trauma, and the wounds of sexual assault from a resilient, emerging Indigenous voice.”

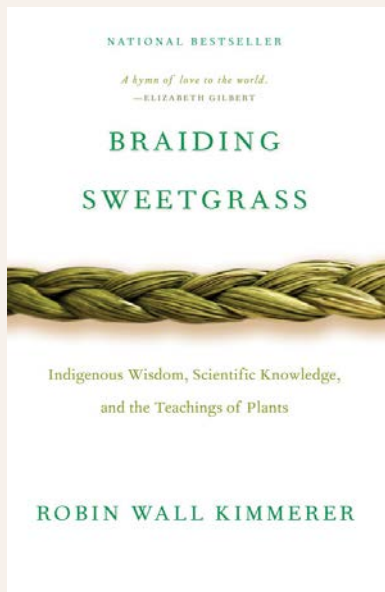
[Link](#)

The Inconvenient Indian, Thomas King

“Rich with dark and light, pain and magic, *The Inconvenient Indian* distills the insights gleaned from Thomas King's critical and personal meditation on what it means to be "Indian" in North America...”

[Link](#)





Braiding Sweetgrass, Robin Wall Kimmerer

"In a rich braid of reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world."

[Link](#)

DONATE



YOUR SUPPORT GOES A LONG WAY

NSWA is a registered charity. You can donate to support our projects and ongoing work in the watershed. More information on donations is on our website.

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