



## IN STREAM NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

### CONNECTING PEOPLE, LAND AND WATER



It has been a busy summer at NSWA connecting people, land and water.

We are taking a look back over the memories we made at events we have attended and looking forward to the many activities coming up in the next few months. We hope you will join us for an in-person forum, online webinars and follow us on social media for prizes!

One of our favorite events this summer was a recent Outdoor Expo for people new to Canada. The Cooking Lake Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area was a beautiful backdrop for displays from many watershed partners. We met many new friends from around the world and helped to introduce them to our watersheds. Each family received a copy of our book *Living in the Shed* which they can use to explore the River and watershed. Thanks to **Alberta Parks** for arranging this amazing event.

NSWA staff have also attended **Nature Alberta** family nights, Watershed Stewardship Group events, connected with municipal leaders and more.

If you have events this fall that you would like NSWA to attend email [water@nswa.ab.ca](mailto:water@nswa.ab.ca) with details. We value making connections with people from across our watershed.



# Wetland Day Forum

September 22, 2022 | 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

The Kinsmen Club of St. Albert | 47 Riel Drive

Register: <https://bit.ly/3QsHVMN>

Join NSWA on **September 22** for an in-person **Wetland Day Forum** to elevate knowledge and ignite discussions around wetland ecosystem services, programs, and how we can better monitor, conserve, and restore wetlands in the watershed.

We will hear from a wide variety of speakers from Ducks Unlimited, Cows and Fish, Louis Bull Tribe and Strathcona County.

There will also be a chance to explore a cherished wetland in the area - the John E. Poole Wetlands/Lois Hole Provincial Park.

Space is limited - register on Eventbrite!

**REGISTER NOW**



## WIN #glassofthesask PRIZES!

Join **EPCOR** and **NSWA** in raising a glass (of tap water!) to our River and watershed. We had one prize winner already and more to come. Follow us on our social media pages for more prizes.

In the Edmonton area we enjoy excellent drinking water thanks to the work of **EPCOR**, and that water comes from the North Saskatchewan River! Also check out the [Riparian Web Portal](#) - keep riparian zones healthy to keep water healthy.

Find out more information about EPCOR's #glassofthesask promotion and discover how to support local restaurants who are showcasing the [#glassofthesask](#) this summer!.



## REGISTER for the ALMS CONFERENCE

The [Alberta Lake Management Society \(ALMS\)](#) conference is back in person! The conference will be held on September 28 to 29 in St. Albert. This is always a great event to hear from lake experts and to network with many people from the Alberta lake communities. NSWA will be attending this conference and we hope to see you there!

Check out the conference details [HERE](#).



On August 17th, NSWA staff headed out to the Hazeldine Campground to support the **County of Vermilion River's Wetland Adventure Day!** Attendees learned a bit about the North Saskatchewan and Vermilion River watersheds, the importance of wetlands, participated in a pond dip to learn about the bugs that live in wetlands, as well as other family and kid-friendly activities.

For more information on the **Vermilion River Watershed Alliance** check out the [VRWA website](#).

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### NSWA Supporting University of Alberta's Augustana Indigenous Land-based Learning Program



Earlier this year, Augustana received a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada PromoScience grant to develop a program to engage Indigenous K-12 students in land-based, experiential STEM learning opportunities. The program will run for 3 years and aims to create and deliver hands-on programs and activities about biology, chemistry, math, and astrophysics that center Indigenous ways of knowing and land-based learning approaches. The project will involve collaboration between Indigenous communities, Elders and Knowledge Holders, Indigenous-led partner groups, and other partner groups to support program development and delivery.

NSWA was invited by project lead Glynnis Hood, an environmental science professor at Augustana Campus, to support the first land-based youth camp being run through the program. The camp took place August 15-19th at the University of Alberta Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station and the Hesje

Observatory. NSWA staff ran a day of hands-on activities relating to watershed health, water chemistry, and the aquatic bugs that live in Miquelon Lake and Grebe Pond. Eleven Indigenous youth participated and conducted basic water quality testing and completed an aquatic bug survey. The youth had a great time examining the aquatic bugs under microscopes back at the station! It is vitally important to create space for Indigenous ways of knowing in STEM and to build opportunities for Indigenous youth to participate fully and authentically in STEM. NSWA is very excited to be involved in this project and is looking forward to supporting future programs and initiatives.

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## WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



The [Wabamun Watershed Management Plan](#) (WMP) was recently set afloat. This plan provides a multi-stakeholder road map for managing watershed health.

During the summer, NSWA's Watershed Planning Coordinator, Kelsie Norton, facilitated and participated in the Wabamun WMP Implementation Steering Committee meeting, that brought together the [Wabamun Watershed Management Council](#), Alberta Environment and Parks, [Alberta Lake Management Society](#), [Parkland Counties Sustainability Manager](#), and a motivated Parkland County Councillor. The committee delved into engaging discussions around implementation strategies to create a pathway that will turn plans into actions. The meeting was followed by a scenic tour around Wabamun Lake, allowing the committee to get up close to tributaries around the lake, the site of the new Parkland County boat launch and even potential restoration sites.

The implementation strategies are mainly focused on water quality, which can be affected by various parameters such as leaking septic systems, invasive species, and high nutrient run-off. These strategies will compliment a 3-year Strategic and Communications Plan that will further advance collaborative watershed management for Wabamun Lake.

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## NOMINATION as a CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER



The Governments of Canada and Alberta have officially accepted the nomination of the Alberta section of the North Saskatchewan River as a Canadian Heritage River.

The nominated section includes the entire 718 km of the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta from the Banff National Park boundary to the Alberta- Saskatchewan provincial border. The 49 km section of the North Saskatchewan River within Banff National Park was previously designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 1989.

The River can now be considered for full designation under the Heritage Rivers System. Thanks to [Smoky Lake County](#) for their work on this project involving many partners. Check out the news release.

[Heritage River Nomination](#)

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**SAVE THE DATE for NSWA WEBINARS THIS FALL**



### WATERSHED WEDNESDAYS WEBINARS - FALL 2022

**Watershed Wednesday webinars** will return on **October 5, November 2 and December 7th**. These online webinars are over the lunch hour (noon to 1 pm) and will feature speakers on our fall theme - **Biodiversity in Our Watershed** - from bats and bugs to fish! Join our watershed community to learn more from various experts. Sign up on Eventbrite for the Biodiversity series this fall.

[Register now!](#)



### RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL WEBINARS

Join the **North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance** and the **Battle River Watershed Alliance** on **November 15 and 16** for interactive webinars on the **Riparian Intactness Assessment Project**.

In the 101 workshop, you will learn the Why and How of the Riparian Intactness Assessment Project, how it applies to your work, and how it can improve the health of our watersheds.

In the 102 workshop, you will gain login access to see and understand riparian data and be trained on adding your projects to the site. Attendance at the 101 workshop is necessary before taking the 102 workshop.

For more information and to register use these links:

[Riparian 101](#)

[Riparian 102](#)

Anyone involved in the kind of work being done by the NSWA knows how important it is to effectively engage with our watershed citizens and stakeholders in ways that allow everyone to participate. Whether it's a multi-stakeholder committee, community forum, or online engagement, it is essential that we consistently strive to use the most appropriate engagement design, approaches, and techniques.

I have been a member of the [International Association of Public Participation \(IAP2\) Canada](#) for many years, have taken their Foundations, Planning, and Techniques training, and now will be able to attend the upcoming 2022 IAP2 North American Conference in Banff. I have been to past conferences and highly recommend attending, in large part because of the connections that I made with other engagement professionals.

This year's conference theme is Connecting with Purpose, and the 2-day program is full of sessions that focus on Indigenous engagement, diversity and inclusion, online delivery and so much more. Check out the [IAP2 Conference page](#) to register or find out more. If you're attending the conference, it would be great to connect. Shoot me an email at [scott.millar@nswa.ab.ca](mailto:scott.millar@nswa.ab.ca).



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## OTHER WATERSHED RESOURCES

**Alberta Environment** has published new notices for the [North Saskatchewan River Hazard Study and the St. Albert Flood Hazard Study](#). The notices provide the public with updates about study progress, and what (if any) revisions we are working on in response to feedback we received from our draft study engagement.

Check out this rating of the [Natural Areas for various Canadian cities](#) - Edmonton has some definite advantages and highlights including the proposed development of Canada's first urban Indigenous cultural site at Whitemud Park.

A website with information on [Alberta's Native Trout](#) provides information and tools to help protect and support these important species.

Check out the [NSWA DISCOVERS](#) section on our website with watershed resources and activities for adults and children. There are many activities to encourage watershed learning for your family.

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## SUPPORT THE WORK OF NSWA

The NSWA accepts donations through the **ATB Cares** program which matches 15% of every dollar donated to Alberta-based charities through their [ATB Cares Web Portal](#). It is easy to use and automatically issues a charitable tax receipt for donations \$10 and over.

For more information on supporting our watershed projects go to our [DONATE](#) webpage.



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