

THOMSON LAKE REGIONAL PARK **2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT**

Thank you for reading through this document, which is intended to provide an overview of the accomplishments of the staff and board of directors who strive to make this park a place where all generations can come together to enjoy safe recreation in a natural setting at an affordable cost. Our hope is that Thomson Lake Regional Park is a place where people want to return to year after year because of the unforgettable memories that are created here.

I want to begin this report by thanking the board members who are no longer on our board of directors since the last annual meeting. The board is very appreciative of the contributions provided by Gavin Harrow (Cottage Owners Assoc), Jim Rodgers (R.M. Of Sutton), Jason Meyer (Town of Lafleche) and Robert Bowler (Town of Gravelbourg) during their tenure on the park authority. Being a board member is not an easy task as some of the decisions made are not always popular but are always done in the best interest of the park. The departure of these people meant the arrival of four new board members. Welcome to Karen Schaitel (Cottage Owners Assoc.), Cory McIntosh (R.M. Of Sutton), Joe March (Town of Lafleche) and Lucien Sicotte (Town of Gravelbourg).

Last fall, the board hired Praxis Consulting to help it review its governance structure and align its constitution and bylaws to the new Regional Parks Act and Regulations. This process resulted in the creation of a new constitution which will be presented to you later at this annual general meeting. We have much more work to do as a board with respect to adopting new bylaws because our current ones are twenty years old and need to be updated. As our bylaws are updated, they will be posted on the website for everyone to review so please check monthly for any new bylaws which will be presented to the board at their monthly meetings. The board has and will continue to create committees to assist administration in the areas of governance, budget/finance, human resources and infrastructure/maintenance. The creation of these committees will provide the board an opportunity to do research and work outside of board meetings and report back to the board on their findings. Committees do not have the authority to make decisions but can make recommendations to the board based on the research they have done. It is also hoped that down the road we can get working groups formed as a means of getting feedback from users of the park. Examples of working groups would include: campers/seasonal site users, cabin owners and golfers. The benefit of working groups will be to provide a voice and ensure sustainability in each focus area.

It is fair to say that the board's focus over the past several months has been to get its own house in order before tackling some of the bigger items that are also part of the board's mandate such as long range planning. Once the board feels comfortable with the governance structure that it has created and has all the bylaws and policies updated it will move on to other matters of importance.

I would also like to update you on some of the work that has been completed since the last annual meeting as well as some of the upcoming projects:

- The application to community planning and land titles for the development of titles on Finch Crescent and Oriole Way is now complete. This began almost two years ago and was finalized over the winter. If you live on Finch Cres or Oriole Way you can now look up the lot you have leased by going to the land titles site (www.isc.ca) and

creating an account if you do not already have one – then you can do a quick search by entering your lot number, block number and plan number 102211221. The cost of having these titles raised was approximately \$33,000 plus GST. Thank you to Bruce Anderson for his work in getting this accomplished.

- The shoreline restoration project on hole number 7 was completed over the winter and came within budget. We partnered with Old Wives Watershed Authority and Sask. Wildlife Federation and were approved for a grant through the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program which covered a majority of the cost of this project. The tendered cost for the project was \$73,000 which was awarded to Mihalicz Excavating of Assiniboia and the out of pocket cost to the park was \$19,500. Many thanks to Kory Packet who donated his time and expertise in the design of this project. It is hoped that we can do a similar project on hole #6 this coming year, however that will depend on whether we are able to secure a grant again. It is also likely that the green on hole #6 will have to be re-located due to its close proximity to the shoreline so this may add cost to the project.
- The second cell lagoon project was completed last summer. The contractor was Gee Bee Construction and the cost of this project totaled approximately \$224,000 plus GST. This project came in well under the anticipated budget of \$375,000.
- Last summer, the campground was provided with new garbage containers, tables and benches as well as a new playground structure.
- Sixteen of the twenty northern sites were put up for lottery again this spring and names were drawn at Innovation Credit Union in Gravelbourg on April 3, 2017 along with the 3 seasonal sites that we given up this year.
- Sask Tel has agreed to bring high speed internet into the park and the expected installation date is July 2017. Application forms are available at the office.
- The marina will be extended out this year to improve access to the existing marina slips.
- The pool will be painted and change room floors will be refurbished before opening this summer.
- More solar lighting will be installed on Finch Crescent and Oriole Way.
- The pool concession was renovated and some new equipment was purchased last year. This summer, the pool concession and the clubhouse concession have both been contracted out to Garth and Gilette Coghill. The clubhouse will open on May 1st and the pool concession will be open when the pool opens. We look forward to our working relationship with the Coghills as we try a new management model for the clubhouse.
- The golf course has new recycle/garbage bins that were built by park staff and crusher dust will be applied to cart paths in the coming weeks. New ball washers, cup holders and flag sticks were purchased thanks to a donation from the ladies golf club. Last summer, Jackie Huyghebaert and Adele Olson hand painted the mapping on the rocks at each hole to spruce them up – thank you ladies!
- The pickle ball court is currently open for use and mini golf will be installed in the near future. Thank you to the Cottage Owners Association for their all the work and fund raising involved in making the pickle ball court a reality and to Terry Newell for her fund raising to bring a mini golf course to the park.
- The BMX track was regraded and crusher dust applied. Thanks to Harold Haubrich for donating his time and equipment to get this accomplished.

As you can see we are very fortunate to have so many people donate in a variety of ways to help make this park such a popular attraction. Please do not be offended if I have forgotten anyone who has donated as it certainly is not intentional. We can't forget the people who keep the park running day after day, year after year. We have a very dedicated hard working staff who take great pride in the work that they do and we all benefit from that so on behalf of the board and all park users thank you for all that you do!! I know that they don't hear it often enough so please make an effort when you see them to thank them personally.

In closing, the board appreciates the effort that each of you make for attending this meeting – it shows that you all care about the success of the park! Maybe next year we could turn this evening into a fund raiser for the park and offer a supper before the meeting – just a thought!

Respectfully submitted,

Aline Kirk
Chairperson