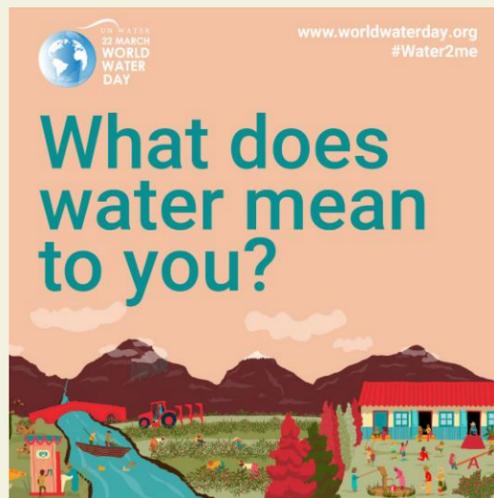




IN STREAM NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021



Did you know that Canada has 20 percent of the world's water?

World Water Day on **March 22** reminds us that all of us are important stewards of global water resources. How does water impact your household, your work, your family, your cultural practices? What are some ways you can conserve and protect our water resources?

You can join the conversation with the World Water Day global community on the [UN website](#). The [YEG WORLD WATER DAY](#) website has links for you to join in on a few virtual events, and to participate in a fun **Walk or Run for Water**. We all live in a watershed - to find out more about the North Saskatchewan River watershed check out the NSWA website.

[North Saskatchewan River watershed](#)

REGISTER FOR WATERSHED WEDNESDAYS



Join NSWA for our **Speaker Series** to be held on the fourth Wednesday of these months:

March 24	April 28	
September 22	October 27	November 24

Each lunchtime workshop (12-1pm) will showcase speakers working on projects in the watershed. Everyone attending the webinar will be entered to win a watershed gift box! The March 24 webinar will feature **lake projects** in the watershed, including:

- **Plans, People and Possibilities at Wabamun Lake - the Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan**
- **A Tale of Two Lakes – A Comparison of Antler and Hubbles Lakes State of the Watershed Reports**

The **Watershed Wednesday** on **April 28** will highlight NSWA's **Riparian Health Action Plan** and the new innovative **Riparian WebPortal**.

Watch our social media and website for more information. Please register for upcoming webinars on Eventbrite.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Time to Renew Your NSWA Membership



It's time to renew your membership in the NSWA

If you would like to vote at the NSWA's Annual General Meeting and be able to be nominated as a Director on the NSWA Board it is important that you register, or renew your registration, as a member **before March 31**. Membership is open to individuals and organizations who support our vision and mission. (If you are on our mailing list you will continue to receive our newsletters and notices - you do not need to sign up again).

[RENEW your MEMBERSHIP](#)

TIME FOR A RIPARIAN LAUNCH PARTY!



As of February 25, 2021, the Riparian Web Portal launched for beta testing. This comes after months of hard work from team lead Mary Ellen Shain (NSWA) and staff from the Battle River Watershed Alliance.

An online workshop was held on February 25th with approximately 30 participants! It was great to have such a variety of on-the-ground project managers attend the workshop. All who attended seemed excited and interested to use the Web Portal as a tool to show and share all the fantastic riparian work being done in the watershed.

- Share data
- Share riparian resources
- Share projects on the ground that encourage more riparian restoration & conservation

There will be another beta testing workshop in the coming months and we encourage all riparian program managers to attend. If you would like more information about the web portal, please email maryellen.shain@nswa.ab.ca. Keep your eyes open for the official public launch this summer.



NSWA would like to thank **EPCOR** for their generous funding support and ongoing partnership with NSWA.

EPCOR has recently published its *2020 Source Water Protection Plan* which compiles existing information on the North Saskatchewan watershed upstream of Edmonton, identifies hazards and risks to drinking water and recommendations on how to manage these risks

A key strategy to manage drinking water risks, is the multi-stakeholder **WaterSHED Water Quality Monitoring project**. This collaborative project between Alberta Environment and Parks, EPCOR, NSWA and the City of Edmonton monitors water quality at 19 stations along the North Saskatchewan River and its tributaries.

[WaterSHED Monitoring Project](#)



ALERT: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES Zebra Mussels in Moss (marimo) Balls

If you have purchased any moss (marimo) balls for your aquarium since January 1, 2021, they must be properly disposed.

Some contain zebra mussels, an invasive species very damaging to watersheds and water intake pipes and systems. Please follow the specific disposal instructions provided by Alberta Environment and Parks in the following link.

ZEBRA MUSSELS IN MOSS BALLS ALERT

VERMILION RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Are you a local landowner, concerned citizen, or nature lover?

Check out the Vermilion River Watershed Alliance's monthly blog which features stories and projects relating to healthy water and landscapes.



MARCH BLOG:
Partner Series: Get to Know Chris Elder, Program Coordinator for ALUS - CVR

To learn more, go to:
<https://vrwa.ca/blog/>



Both the NSWA and VRWA appreciate the work of our many partner organizations. This month the VRWA blog features the work of **Chris Elder, Program Coordinator for ALUS - County of Vermilion River.**

The full article can be viewed on the VRWA website.

ALUS projects are also ongoing in the [County of Two Hills](#). Check their website for more information.

GET TO KNOW THE NSWA BOARD



Steve Craik

Steve Craik is our featured Board member this month. He has served on the NSWA Board since 2012 and has been the Treasurer for a number of years.

WORK: Steve is the **Director of Quality Assurance and Environment with EPCOR Water Canada**

EPCOR owns and operates the drinking water and wastewater systems in the City of Edmonton.

EPCOR was a founding member of NSWA in 2003. In his role at EPCOR, he is responsible for EPCOR's water and wastewater testing laboratories and the environmental services and process development teams. Part of this includes the watershed and source water protection program, which is closely tied to EPCOR's NSWA membership. His work involves leading a team of about 60 managers, scientists, technologists, environmental specialists and engineers.

Favorite NSWA memory: Steve enjoys the NSWA Educational Forums and hearing about ongoing projects. One of his favorite memories is the presentation with NSWA to a local high school, to talk about drinking water treatment and watersheds. This was part of the distribution of the *Living in the Shed* book to schools in Edmonton (see photo).



Favorite places in the watershed:

Steve really enjoys the river and river valley as it winds through Edmonton - long bike rides in the river valley from one end of the City to the other, day trips from Laurier to Gold Bar by canoe or raft.

" At times you forget that you are in the middle of a city. It never gets boring."

The area of the watershed between

Nordegg and Abraham Lake is also a family favorite. The camping, fishing, hiking, biking and canoeing are fantastic in this area.

Interesting Hobby: In addition to his outdoor pursuits, Steve plays guitar and sings in a garage rock' n roll band.

Quote: *"For such a diverse Board, with members from multiple backgrounds and experiences, I have to say it functions extremely well. It has been great Board to be part of and I've learned quite a lot over the years from my Board colleagues. "*

OTHER WATERSHED RESOURCES

The **Land Use Framework** has resources on many topics including four webinars on conservation easements. Explore their website for more information.

ALUS Canada is a national not-for-profit organization that supports the delivery of the ALUS program across the country. ALUS helps farmers and ranchers restore wetlands, reforest, plant windbreaks, install riparian buffers, manage sustainable drainage systems, create pollinator habitat and establish other ecologically beneficial projects on their properties. There are many ALUS programs in the watershed including one in the County of Two Hills., Parkland County and the County of Vermilion River.

Several **Working Well** workshops are scheduled in our watershed over the next few months. For more information on how to manage and maintain your water well check out the Working Well website.

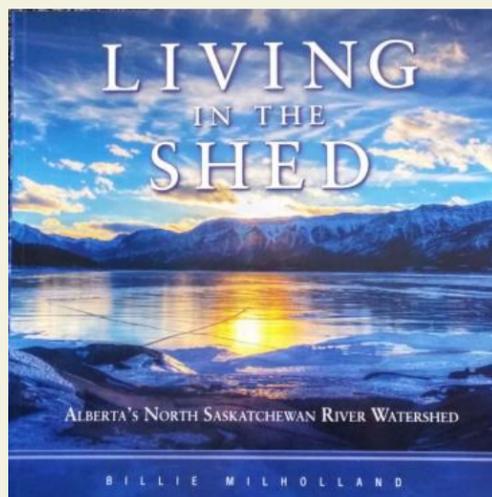
Check out the **Ducks Unlimited** webinars coming up in their **Wetland Knowledge Exchange series**.

Living Lakes Canada has a webinar series to introduce the STREAM (Sequencing The Rivers for Environmental Assessment and Monitoring) project to anyone interested in community-based water monitoring.

The **Land Stewardship Center** has opportunities for acreage owners to apply to fund eligible cost-shared stewardship initiatives on their properties. For more information check their website.

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.



SUPPORT THE WORK OF NSWA

Living in the SHED is a great gift for the nature lovers on your list. Priced at \$20 per copy they can be ordered at our **SHOP**.

NSWA is a registered charity.
For information on supporting our watershed projects
go to our [DONATE](#) webpage.



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