



**CHRISTINA LAKE STEWARDSHIP  
SOCIETY**  
**Christina Lake Watershed Management  
Plan Annual Review**  
**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

## **Questions and Answers**

- Questions to Mike Sokal, Environmental Impact Biologist for the Environmental Protection Division of the Ministry of Environment
  - Q: Terry Mooney – Do we have native mussels here?
  - A: Yes (Lisa Tedesco) but she was not sure on the number of species but they are much larger than Zebra and Quagga Mussels. Andy Gilmore (EWM Control Program) also stated that they see them when diving.
    - Note: You can find more about this at the Christina Lake Stewardship Society Interactive gallery, but for your information there are 5 species of mussels in this area, with one being a Species at Risk (Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel)
  - Q: Cher Wyers – What kind of changes are coming to the Ministry of Environment?
  - A: Some big changes are happening, but he still is not sure what the outcome will be.
- Questions to Andy Gilmore, Crew Supervisor for the Eurasian Watermilfoil Removal Program for the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Environmental Services
  - Q: Lillian Yeagher – Where does the milfoil go?
  - A: It is taken to Durand's Nursery to be used as organic fertilizer.
  - Q: Heather Ling- When you pull the milfoil, do you see more milfoil returning or are there native species moving in to?
  - A: It is mostly milfoil that comes back, but there are some native species that come back too and the team is careful not to disturb the native species.
  - Q: Peter Bowen – Because this program is paid for by the taxpayers of Christina Lake, is there a possibility that BC Parks can contribute? (Directed to Ryan Elphick of BC Parks)
  - A: Unfortunately no, they only have enough money to do small patches on park land.
  - Q: Tanis Stephenson – Does ice on the lake have an effect on milfoil growth?
  - A: It does have somewhat of an effect, but the milfoil does not grow in temperatures of <50°F anyways.
- Questions to Lisa Tedesco, Habitat Biologist for the Ministry of Forest lands and Natural Resource Operations and Boundary Invasive Species Society Director

- Q: Christine Thompson – It seems like a lot of these invasive species are garden escapes, are local nurseries aware of this?
- A: They are working on educating the local nurseries.
- Q: Ian Robbins - Are blooms on the Fragrant waterlily the same as the native Yellow waterlily?
- A: No they are much different, and the shapes of the lily pads are also different.
  
- Q: Lillian Yeagher – Do the Fragrant waterlilies control milfoil growth?
- A: No (Andy Gilmore), the milfoil grows beneath them.
  
- Q: Christina Thompson – What is the appropriate way to get rid of invasive species?
- A: Bag them and take them to the dump.
  
- Questions to Dave Webster, Conservation Officer
  - Q: Ian Robbins – Is something being done about the people dumping carcasses and hunting waste up Chase Rd.?
  - A: We think we know who is doing it, and we are dealing with it. It is fine to leave your hunting waste up in the bush, but it is not good when people dump in rural areas.
  
  - Q: Cavan Gates – Is this area part of the wolf's range? And are there any impacts from them?
  - A: Wolves are transient and go where the food is. Their first impact will be on the large ungulates, and they will push the deer out. There has not been a lot of evidence of their predation on livestock.
  
  - Q: Dave Durand – What about the Gilpin Range wolves?
  - A: People in that area have said there has been damage to livestock but we cannot determine whether it is wolves unless we see the carcass.
  
  - Q: Stephanie Gillis – What about wash stations in Christina Lake (for Zebra and Quagga mussel decontamination)?
  - A: There is a portable wash station available in southern BC for onsite decontamination, but there is a large cost to this.
  - Peter Bowen – commented on Idaho's Sticker Program as a possible funding source.
  
- Questions to Dawn Guido, Practices Forester for B.C. Timber Sales
  - Q: Dave Durand – Are you taking the possible effects of climate change in to account during reforestation?
  - A: Yes we are. We even choose species based on this and use more of a mix of trees.
  
  - Q: Cavan Gates – What is the average size of a clearcut?

- A: 1-40 Hectares with 40 hectares being the maximum. There is no size limit on Lodgepole pine stands due to the Pine beetle.
- Q: Tanis Stephenson – Do people have to abide by the same rules when logging on private land?
- A: No. They can pretty much do what they want on private land.
  - Note: Crown waterbodies do have regulations on private land.
- Q: Susan Harrison – Is it possible to bring in a machine and chip the waste rather than burn it?
- A: It is expensive, but it is something we are looking into. The piles are burnt to reduce the waste in these areas and provide areas to plant.
  - Note: Further information is required on the potential for value-added products. Rather than burning this wood, could it be used for products that can bring income back into the area?
- Questions to Graham Watt, Project Coordinator for the Kettle River Water Management Plan
  - Q: Richard White – What are the goals of the Kettle River Water Management Plan?
  - A: These are in a discussion paper that you can read online. Water conservation is one of these goals.
- Questions to Jenny Coleshill, Project Manager for the Granby Wilderness Society
  - Q: Bob Ellis – What do you mean Ward's Lake is healthy?
  - A: There are good levels in the water table possibly due to heavy spring rains, or a possible diversion.
  - Q: Terry Mooney – Is there provincial legislations in place for riparian areas?
  - A: Where salmon are - in Section 9 of the *Water Act*, and the *Fisheries Act*. Federally it is still a problem and there is no protection of Species at Risk on private land.
    - Note: *Riparian Area Regulations* are effective in Van Isle, Okanagan, and the Southern West Coast (Vancouver, etc.). It has not been implemented provincially in our area.
    - Note: The RDKB discontinued an initiative to establish a riparian area development permit area due to concerns raised by waterfront property owners.