

What is an Eco museum?

Museum = a building + a collection + visitors

Eco museum = a territory + a heritage + a community

Our Calling Lakes Ecomuseum (CLEM) is a museum without walls and our treasured item is our water.

Our Goal – is to increase the quality of life (jobs, environment, health, culture and social values)

Our Vision The vision of the Calling Lakes Ecomuseum is to create a culture borne out of action, awareness, communication, and trust (AACT), as a means of contributing to and strengthening the integral well-being of the Qu'Appelle Watershed by ensuring the environmental, economic, social and cultural values of the community.



How we came to be

On July 1, 2014 we had 28 beaches closed in the Calling Lake region due to high levels of E coli. The City of Regina was permitted by the Saskatchewan Dept. of Environment to bypass raw and partially screened sewage into Wascana and the Qu'Appelle River System. And for seven days the Department of Health posted warnings that the water was unsafe.

On Aug 20th a community meeting was organized at the Treaty Four Governance Centre. This meeting was organized by the working group consisting of File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, Calling Lakes District Planning Commission and Friends of the Katepwa Park. The first thing we did was connect with the University of Regina – best thing we ever did.

Long Term Goals of the Calling Lakes Ecomuseum:

Goal #1 Youth Engagement

Goal #2 Communication Strategy

Goal #3 Educate - Becoming Water Friendly Users

Who we have partnered with

1. Motherwell Homestead – National Park
2. Lower Qu’Appelle Water Shed Stewards
3. Saskatchewan Water Security
4. Calling Lakes District Planning Commission
5. File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council
6. Pasqua First Nation School
7. Standing Buffalo School
8. Fort Qu’Appelle Chamber of commerce
9. Fort Qu’Appelle Branding committee
10. University of Regina - United Nations Regional Center of Experts on Education
11. Saskatchewan Provincial Parks – local to the area (Katepwa & Echo Lake)
12. EPCOR - City of Regina’s new Sewage treatment plant owner/operations
13. MP Ralph Goodale
14. Agricultural Canada; formally the PFRA
15. Trans Canada Trail - The Great Trail
16. Havelock Community
17. Environmental Engineering Department at U of R
18. Ducks Unlimited

Work we have done with our partners

- We have built a working relationship with the City of Regina and Epcor. They understand that we “Love our Lakes”. This did not just happen – we have learned how to apply political pressure. We are very impressed with the work done by EPCOR and the City of Regina for the new treatment centre and the upgrades to the McCarthy pumping station. We are in good hands.
- Working with the District of Katepwa and the Lower Qu’Appelle WaterShed we completed the “Love your Lakes” stewardship program. Three goals have been identified:
 1. Ensure septic tank health
 2. Repair the riparian area with the non shedding Katepwa Poplar
 3. Removal of the railway ties. (Prov Park in Katepwa have removed their wall to ties)
- Working with the Havelock Community and the RCE we ensured 320 responses were sent to the Minister of Environment’s request for the Yancoal Environmental Impact Study. As a result of this work the Ministry of Environment build into Yancoal’s environmental plan three clauses for community engagement.
- Hosted the 2015 Water Festival – and encouraged our community to shift to phosphate free shampoos and to reduce boat gas spillage at the dock.
- Worked with the fourth years students at U of R to study – two cell lagoon capacity. Out come – we need to promote low flush toilets, low flow shower heads and rethink lawns.
- Worked with our partners to respond the Minister of Environment plan to move water thru Katawanga to LML to solve the Quill Lakes flooding issue. The Minister reversed their decision.
- Fall 2015 Hosted the United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development spring 2016. We are very happy to share 5 projects from our Region received recognition for their work.



Our Plans for this year 2017

- **Increase membership – by attending our local festivals and pow wows.**
 - We would like to build a communication strategy which includes email and social media. This communication helps to build our togetherness. Our togetherness ensures a future for our children and our community.
- **Promote shoreline health (\$250- \$500)**
 - Working with our partners Nature Saskatchewan and Love your Lakes we would like to promote shore line health (septic tank health, rethink our lawns and removal of railway ties) thru pamphlets.
- **Window Water Festival (\$1000 - \$1500)**
 - The window water festival will cost just under \$3000 and the goal is to use windows of unoccupied stores to transfer knowledge about shoreline health.
 - We would need to work with our businesses and the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle with the goal to dress our windows like we care and expect our tourists to care.
 - We believe climate change is not hard – it starts with rethinking your lawn, making sure our septic tanks work and remove rail way ties from the shore. Fort Qu'Appelle is not average we are amazing and just watch us make a difference.