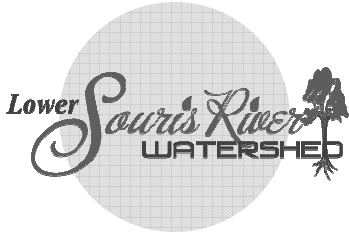


Summer 2011

# Lower Souris Watershed Committee Inc.

An Update from your Watershed Committee

(306) 452-3292



*“balancing the economic, environmental, and social values to sustain and improve the watershed for future generations”*

Lower Souris Watershed Committee Inc.

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## Cheryl Thompson – Lower Souris’ Summer Employee

The Lower Souris Watershed Committee would like to welcome Cheryl Thompson on staff for the summer. Cheryl grew up in Regina and is now raising horses with her fiancé Colin near Fertile. They plan to explore new livestock ventures following her graduation in 2013 from the Veterinary Medicine program at WCVM in Saskatoon.

Cheryl is interested in the work that the Lower Souris Watershed Committee does because “I believe it is our duty as producers (both livestock and grain) to ensure that the land that we use in our day to day lives is healthy and will maintain a balance for the wildlife native to our area as well as remaining healthy to sustain agriculture for generations to come. The only way we can ensure that is by implementing environmentally friendly practices that benefit ourselves as a family, as producers and as members of our ecosystem.” The programs that are implemented through the Lower Souris Watershed also interest Cheryl from a veterinary medicine standpoint as it is important to maintain a healthy environment for the well-being of all animals.

Cheryl will be working with Brandy Woods, Group Plan Advisor, to assist agricultural producers develop grant applications for well decommissioning, improved winter site management and riparian area management projects through the Lower Souris Agri-Environmental Group Plan.

## Does Spring Runoff Have You Worried About Your Well Water Quality?

This spring’s heavy run off and high water levels have many people concerned about their drinking water quality from their wells and cisterns. Increased runoff can lead to surface water infiltration and contamination of wells through damaged well casings, improper seals and poor quality well caps.

The Provincial Disease Control Laboratory offers lab analysis to those with concerns about their water quality. Please contact your Regional Health offices or your local R.M. office for more information or for sample collection bottles and requisition forms.

If you have immediate concerns about your water quality, there are steps that can be taken to address these health risks and ensure bacteriological safety before your water is tested. Boil the well or cistern water at a rolling boil for at least 1 minute before using or use a different water source completely until your lab test confirms that your water is safe to drink.

If you have any questions please contact the water lab at 1.866.450.0000 or check out [www.health.gov.sk.ca/water-testing](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/water-testing).

### INSIDE:

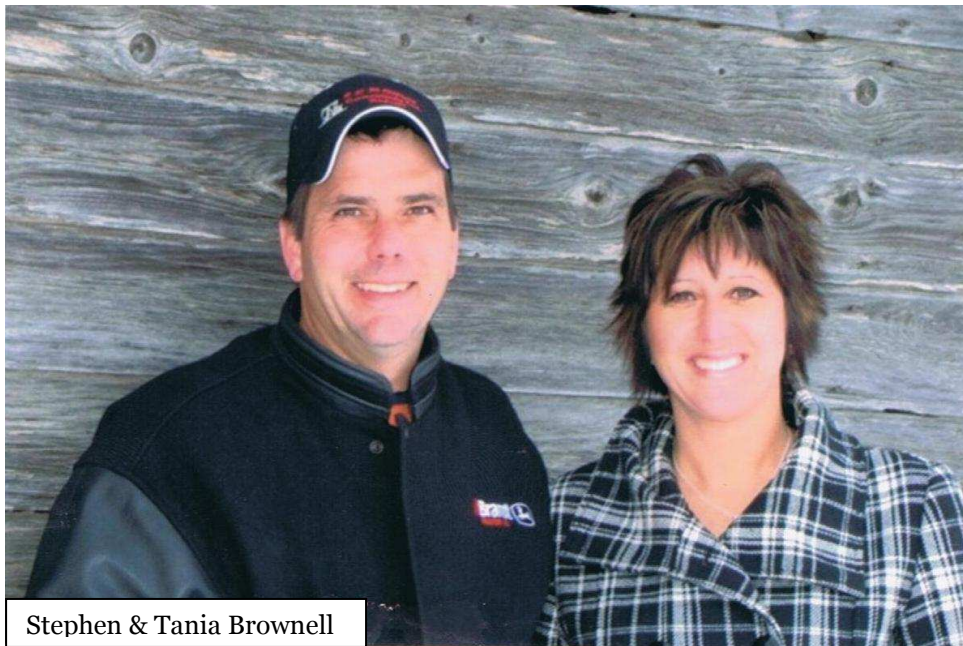
- ~ Meet the newest member of the Lower Souris Watershed Committee
- ~ Test your knowledge about the Lower Souris Watershed and its programs – prizes to be won!
- ~ Help us in thanking Jim Lorette for his contribution to the Lower Souris Watershed Committee
- ~ Find out about an upcoming photography contest



## **Meet Stephen Brownell – New Face on the Lower Souris Watershed Committee**

*By: Karmen Kyle, Communications Director, LSWC*

The Lower Souris Watershed Committee would like to welcome Stephen Brownell on board as its new committee member. Stephen sits on council for the R.M. of Antler #61 (a supporter of the Lower Souris Watershed Committee) and came on the Lower Souris Board in January 2011 as the delegate from the R.M. of Antler and the 4 Creeks Watershed. Stephen became interested in the watershed after hearing updates from the Lower Souris activities by Sheldon Kyle, Watershed Co-ordinator at council meetings.



Stephen & Tania Brownell

Stephen started farming in 1986 specializing in livestock, mainly hogs and a 25 head cow herd. In 2006, he left the hog business. Today Stephen, his wife Tania, and children Justin, Haley and Owen operate a 4000 acre farm. 2300 acres of this is cropped and the remainder is pasture and hay land for a 200 beef cow/calf operation. The cow herd consists of 100 black commercial cows that are bred black Simmental or black angus and 100 Charolais cross cows that are bred Simmental or red angus. They keep about 40 replacement heifers back each year.

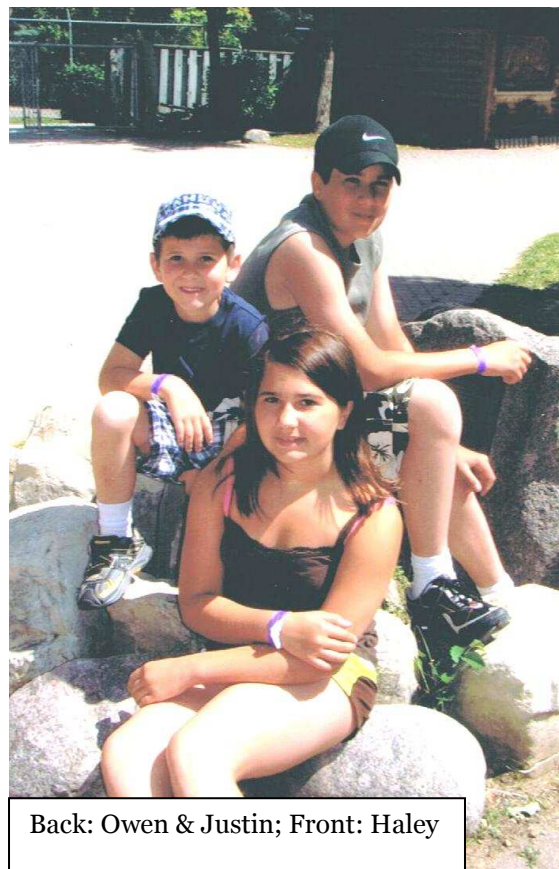
Stephen and Tania implement a number of beneficial management

practices on their farm. They direct seed the crop acres and use GPS for spraying. Some of the pastures are cross-fenced and they utilize a rotational grazing system in these paddocks. The cattle are wintered on the grain land and aren't brought home until close to calving. Their silage based feeding system works well as they feed test before they start. 300 acres of their land is sown to hay to be baled and this is rotated after 4 years of haying it.

Stephen finds many benefits to the work and programs that the Lower Souris Watershed Committee delivers in this area. Stephen comments, "I haven't been involved for very long and am still learning what it's all about. I like the fact that someone is paying attention to water quality and decommissioning abandoned water wells. The Agri-Environmental Group Plan is a good thing." He feels that getting into the schools is a great way to show the younger people that we really care about the environment and raises awareness of that fact.

Stephen is a welcome addition to the Lower Souris Watershed Committee. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience to help make decisions about improving water quality and local programming for communities, farmers and ranchers.

Welcome aboard Stephen!



Back: Owen & Justin; Front: Haley

## How Well Do You Know The Lower Souris Watershed?

1. The Lower Souris Watershed is divided into what 3 sub-watersheds?
  - a. Pipestone, Lightning, & Moose Creek
  - b. Pipestone, 4 Creeks & Antler River
  - c. 4 Creeks, Antler River & Souris River
2. The Lower Souris Watershed encompasses how many acres?
  - a. 2.25 million acres
  - b. 1.6 million acres
  - c. 1.2 million acres
3. Which program is delivered to watershed residents through the Lower Souris Watershed?
  - a. Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP)
  - b. School Programs
  - c. Watershed Evaluation of Beneficial Management Practices (WEBS)
  - d. All of the above
4. In 2010, how many individual beneficial Management practices were applied for through the Agri-Environmental Group Plan?
  - a. 52
  - b. 154
  - c. 177
5. In 2010, what was the total value of these projects that were applied for?
  - a. \$200,000
  - b. \$57,000
  - c. \$781,000
6. Where does financial support for Lower Souris activities and programs come from?
  - a. 13 Rural Municipalities
  - b. 7 Urban Municipalities
  - c. Government organizations
  - d. Non-Government organizations
  - e. All of the above
7. Seeding a buffer strip of forages around wetlands, streams and rivers is important for all but which reason?
  - a. Stabilize the stream banks
  - b. Filter contaminants & nutrients from runoff
  - c. Decrease absorption into the soil
  - d. Provide valuable forage for livestock & wildlife
8. In 2010, the forage acres applied for to be buffer strips & improving marginal soils was:
  - a. 2000 acres
  - b. 5100 acres
  - c. 1300 acres
9. The WEBS project is monitoring the effects of the following beneficial management practices except which one:
  - a. In-field bale grazing
  - b. Conversion of cropland to perennial forage
  - c. Cross-fencing
  - d. Nutrient management on cropland
10. The mass well decommissioning project done in the Lower Souris Watershed was in which R.M. and how many wells were applied for:
  - a. R.M. 31; 25 wells
  - b. R.M. 61; 14 wells
  - c. R.M. 123; 25 wells
11. Cost-share funding is available for which of the following BMPs through the Lower Souris AEGP, except which one:
  - a. Off-side watering systems
  - b. Cross fencing
  - c. GPS systems for farming equipment
  - d. Seeding buffer strips
12. School field trips have been organized with which of the following schools:
  - a. Maryfield
  - b. Moosomin
  - c. Redvers
  - d. Carievale
  - e. All of the above
13. Ways to conserve water include all but which of the following:
  - a. Run dishwasher only when full
  - b. Sing in the shower for 20 minutes
  - c. Use a low flow or dual flush toilet
  - d. Water your lawn in early morning or cooler evenings

For a chance to win a prize, answer the above questions and fax to Karmen at 452-6481.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group: Under 10 years: \_\_\_\_\_ 10-18 years: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSORS**

Village of Carievale  
 Village of Fairlight  
 Village of Gainsborough  
 Village of Glen Ewen  
 Village of Maryfield  
 Village of Storthoaks  
 RM of Argyle # 1  
 RM of Mount Pleasant # 2  
 RM of Storthoaks # 31  
 RM of Reciprocity # 32  
 RM of Moose Creek # 33  
 RM of Antler # 61  
 RM of Maryfield # 91  
 RM of Walpole # 92  
 RM of Wawken #93  
 RM of Moosomin # 121  
 RM of Martin #122  
 RM of Silverwood # 123  
 RM of Chester #125  
 Town of Redvers  
 Town of Wawota

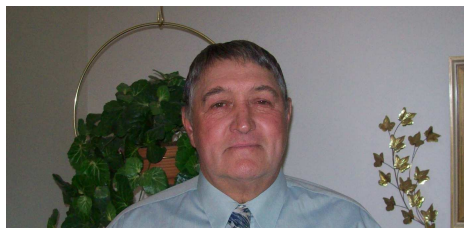
**Jim Lorette - Thank You For Your Contribution to the Lower Souris Watershed**

Jim Lorette's journey with the watershed began in 1996 following complaints of drainage in R.M.'s 31 & 61 resulting in further flooding in Southwest Manitoba. He & Ross Madsen decided to do something and approached R.M.'s in Manitoba and the Three Creeks Watershed was formed. In 1999, this was expanded to include the Gainsborough Creek and was renamed 4 Creeks Watershed. In 2006, the Lower Souris Watershed Committee was formed to include the 4 Creeks, Pipestone Creek & Antler River Watersheds.

Jim says, "I am very proud to have been part of organizing these associations. It would not have been possible without the support of the R.M.s, Manitoba, P.F.R.A., Ducks Unlimited, D.F.O., and SaskWater. A special thanks to Maureen McKegney-Clay, Jeff Olson, Etienne Soulodre, Ross Madsen, Elaine Morgan, John Van Eaton, and the rest of the Lower Souris Watershed committee and staff."

"I believe we have accomplished a whole lot in the last 15 years. We have attracted huge grants and projects and have helped the environment and water quality. I especially like the decommissioning of wells, removal of corrals & feedlots from near water bodies, and the portable windbreaks. As an avid fisherman, I am very pleased with our results. Please keep up the good work."

The Lower Souris Watershed Committee would like to thank Jim Lorette for his contribution to the 4 Creeks Watershed Committee, the Lower Souris Watershed Committee, and overall health of the watershed. We wish him well in his future ventures.

**Coming Events****Lower Souris Annual  
General Meeting &  
BBQ**

July 18

Contact Sheldon Kyle at  
452-3292

**Wawota Wildlife  
Federation Summer  
Camp**

July 20

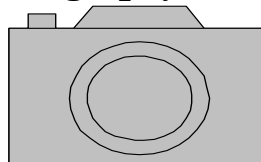
Contact Erin Gardiner at  
739-2324

**Western Canadian  
Feedlot Management  
School**

July 26-29

University of  
Saskatchewan

Contact John McKinnon  
at 306.966.4137 for more  
information

**Photography Contest**

\*\* Did you get great pictures of this spring's flood ?\*\*

\*\* Are you ready to win some great prizes? \*\*

\*\* Are you willing to let the Lower Souris Watershed Committee use your photos in newsletters, on our website & in other publications? \*\*

**Watch for the December newsletter for further details about the 2011 Lower Souris Watershed Photography Contest.**