



Waskimo is Cancelled to protect the Bird Sanctuary on Wascana Lake



The Waskimo Festival, a family winter event held on Family Day on Wascana Lake, Regina, was cancelled.

<https://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/waskimo-winter-festival-put-on-ice-as-event-forced-off-wascana-lake>

Part of Wascana Lake is a Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS). This sanctuary was established in 1956, reserved to protect over 100 migratory

birds that nest and feed on the lake. Wascana Lake is a protected urban wetland.

The Last Mountain Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary, located within the National Wildlife Area, was recognized as a special place for birds in 1887. It was officially established as Last Mountain Lake Migratory Bird Sanctuary in 1917 and has since been designated as a Ramsar site – a protected wetland with international importance.

Since 2016 Last Mountain Lake (LML) has been threatened with drainage from the Quill Lake Watershed, a plan to ‘dig a channel’ and force water loaded with saline and nutrients, from the Quill Lake watershed into the MBS and LML. We have been petitioning the provincial government to follow the rules, enforce regulations on agricultural drainage and order an Environmental Impact Assessment that will show the effect that drainage will have on the MBS and LML.

Why such a double standard? The provincial government has cancelled the festival on the lake with an iron fist; and yet this government continues to ignore regulations on agricultural drainage, which is a contributor to flooding at the Quill Lakes.

Call to Action - Please email Premier Scott Moe at premier@gov.sk.ca and ask this question: Will the Saskatchewan Government regulate illegal drainage and protect the Bird Sanctuary at Last Mountain Lake – an area that has maintained special recognition since 1887?



CLEM is working with the Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group to ensure the health of our lakes in southern Saskatchewan.

For more information, visit www.lmlsg.ca/SAWS.