Protecting Sandy Lake from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
August 28, 2018

The Friends of Sandy Lake AIS Committee has formed a company named "Sandy Lake Water Protection Working Group Inc." in order to apply for funding and hire employees.

Sandy Lake Water Protection Working Group Inc. (SL-WPWG) has:

- Constructed a watercraft inspection office and with the assistance of the LUD and permission from Council, has located the small building at the Main Street Boat Launch.
- Inspected watercraft at the boat launch. So far, 4 high risk watercraft were sent to Riding Mountain National Park (RNMP) to be decontaminated. (This year, RMNP has allowed us to send them high risk watercraft for decontamination.)
- Installed 10 "Can I launch here?" signs at lakes identified by the Municipality and are waiting for the 10 signs that are on order to arrive so they can be installed at Sandy Lake and three other nearby lakes.
- Purchased lockable gates and installed them at 3 locations as specified by Council.
- Installed 10 hubs to prevent trailered watercraft from going around the lockable gates. The hubs are 6" x 6" posts (supplied by the Municipality).

The capital costs for this project were covered as follows:

1.	Friends of Sandy Lake	\$ 8,000
2.	Heritage Coop	\$ 1,000
3.	In-kind donations of material	\$ 5,800

- 4. The work to construct the office, place the signs and install the hubs was done by volunteers.
- 5. On weekends, watercraft inspections are being done by a summer student that was hired and paid for by Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve.
- 6. Watercraft inspections are also performed by volunteers trained by the Province of Manitoba.

Trailered watercraft are now directed to launch at the Main Street Boat Launch where they can be inspected.

The Community of Sandy Lake and visitors are very supportive of these initiatives.

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In order to fund the ongoing operating expenses of the Watercraft Inspection Office (WIO), the **Sandy Lake Water Protection Working Group requests Council proceed with a** "**Special Service Rate**". The annual costs to be covered by the Special Service Rate are expected to be \$28,000 and will include:

Local AIS Inspectors (3 summer students)Contingency\$ 24,000\$ 4,000

The Special Service Rate is expected to add \$45.00 to \$50.00 annually to the average tax bill. This levy would be applied to the following property owners (see Figure 1):

- The Local Urban District (L.U.D.) of Sandy Lake
- The Sandy Lake Golf Course,
- Cottage owners on Serenuk Drive and to the north of the L.U.D. of Sandy Lake,

The SL-WPWG will be applying for Federal and Provincial grants to hire summer students. Funds received from these grants would offset the funds collected as a result of the Special Service Rate, therefore, in the second and subsequent years of operation, the Special Service Rate would be reduced to reflect funding from these two sources.

List of individuals that may speak to council:

- Daryl Kines
- Victor Kowall
- Jim Irwin

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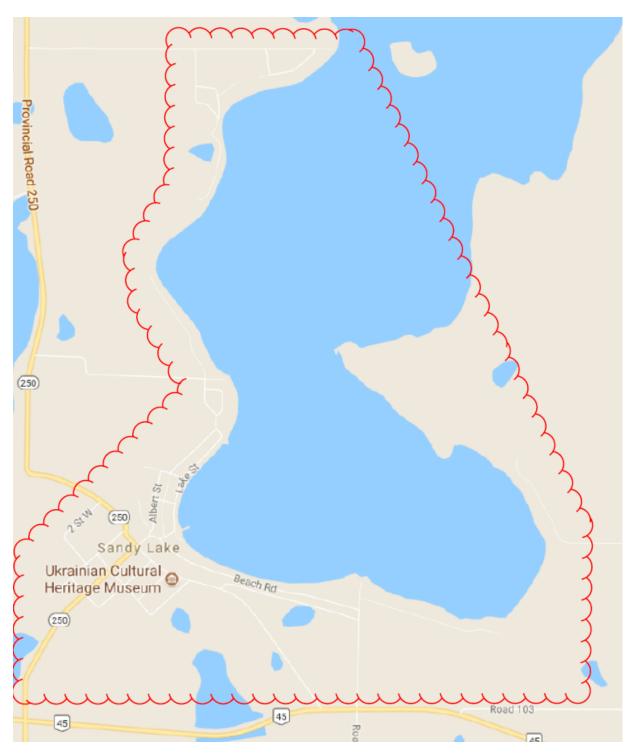


Figure 1 (Proposed area for the AIS Special Service Levy)

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