

**Presentation to Council of Harrison Park**  
Protecting Sandy Lake from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)  
October 31, 2017

Friends of Sandy Lake has formed a committee to investigate, make recommendations, and to go forward with implementing appropriate measures to protect Sandy Lake from being invaded by Zebra Mussels. At its meeting of September 3, 2017, recommendations were presented and approved for implementation before the boating season begins in 2018.

It is important to note that, although our ongoing activities are focused on protecting Sandy Lake, the Province is interested in what levels of protections can be established through the will and participation of local players to protect their lakes. The awareness of AIS threats and the high level of concern has created a unique situation at Sandy Lake where the Province, our local community, municipal government and individuals are working together to explore to what extent Sandy Lake can be protected from our new Zebra Mussel and other invasive species threats that are on the horizon. From the perspective the Province and the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve, it is hoped that we can not only protect Sandy Lake but that guidelines can be established that other concerned communities can implement.

This proposal is intended to restrict boat launching activity to the main dock at Sandy Lake and to operate an inspection station there. Boaters would be approached by a provincially trained AIS Inspector asking individuals wanting to launch their watercraft into Sandy Lake questions and getting their permission to inspect their boat in order to determine if they will be allowed to launch. These inspectors will be acting as a citizen, without the authority of an Inspector as defined in the Manitoba Water Protection Act (W65). These inspectors would have a key to a barrier preventing a boat from being launched. If an individual does not comply with the Sandy Lake AIS Inspector's requests, and the inspector believes the individual is in violation of W65 or is about to commit an offence as defined by W65, the inspector would call the RCMP or a conservation officer to enforce the law.

There are currently 12 sites where trailered watercraft could be launched (Figure 2). This includes 7 on private property which the municipality cannot control. We would rely on the cooperation of the property owner to control their launch sites. The other 5 launch sites would be protected using large field stone and in some cases, a lockable gate. The gate would be constructed using steel pipe and have a steel post set in concrete at either end. These gates could be swung open or closed and locked in either position with a padlock. In the winter all municipally controlled gates would be opened to allow access for ice fishing on Sandy Lake. In the summer boating season, all of these gates would be closed and locked. A Sandy Lake AIS Inspectors would control access to the gate at the main dock. The inspectors would be hired to work June thru August. They would be on duty 7 days a week, typically between the hours of 7:00am to 11:00pm depending on demand.

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Since this is an ongoing activity that benefits only Sandy Lake, a Special Service Levy to fund the ongoing costs to operate the proposed measures is requested. The annual costs to be covered by the levy are expected to be \$25,000 and will include:

- salaries & benefits of Sandy Lake AIS Inspectors,  
This would include:
  - 1 – unionized municipal worker for 3 months      \$ 11,000
  - 2 – summer students for 3 months                      \$ 8,000
- cell phones for each inspector                                      \$ 1,000
- High speed wireless internet at the main dock                      \$ 500
- Contingency    \$ 4,500

The Special Service Levy is expected to add \$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 Friends of Sandy Lake will raise \$20,000 to cover the startup costs as follows:

- Material and labour for the necessary barriers and gates,
- Training of inspectors including volunteer inspectors by the Province of Manitoba,
- New and/or additional signage at closed launch points and the main dock,
- A small booth to house the AIS Inspector on duty at the main dock,
- A cell phone repeater at the main dock and
- Literature to be used to educate boaters, cottage owners, business owners (including campground owners) & the general public of the changes being implemented.

This measure is intended to cover watercraft that are on trailers (the highest threat). Boats such as canoes, kayaks and other watercraft that can be carried to the lake and launched cannot be prevented from launching. This will require education and cooperation.

A second presentation regarding a decontamination station located in the town of Sandy Lake will be prepared for the next Council meeting. This station would benefit all lakes in the Municipality of Harrison Park.

List of individuals that may speak to council:

- Daryl Kines
- Victor Kowall
- Mark Wahoski
- Jim Irwin
- Jeff Long (to be available to answer questions)

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**Suggested Motions:**

1. Council approves restricting access to municipally controlled areas where trailered watercraft can be launched into Sandy Lake.
2. Council approves proceeding with the process of implementing a Special Service Levy to fund the operating costs of controlling access of trailered watercraft being launched into Sandy Lake.
3. Council approves hiring Sandy Lake AIS Inspectors once operating funding is secured.

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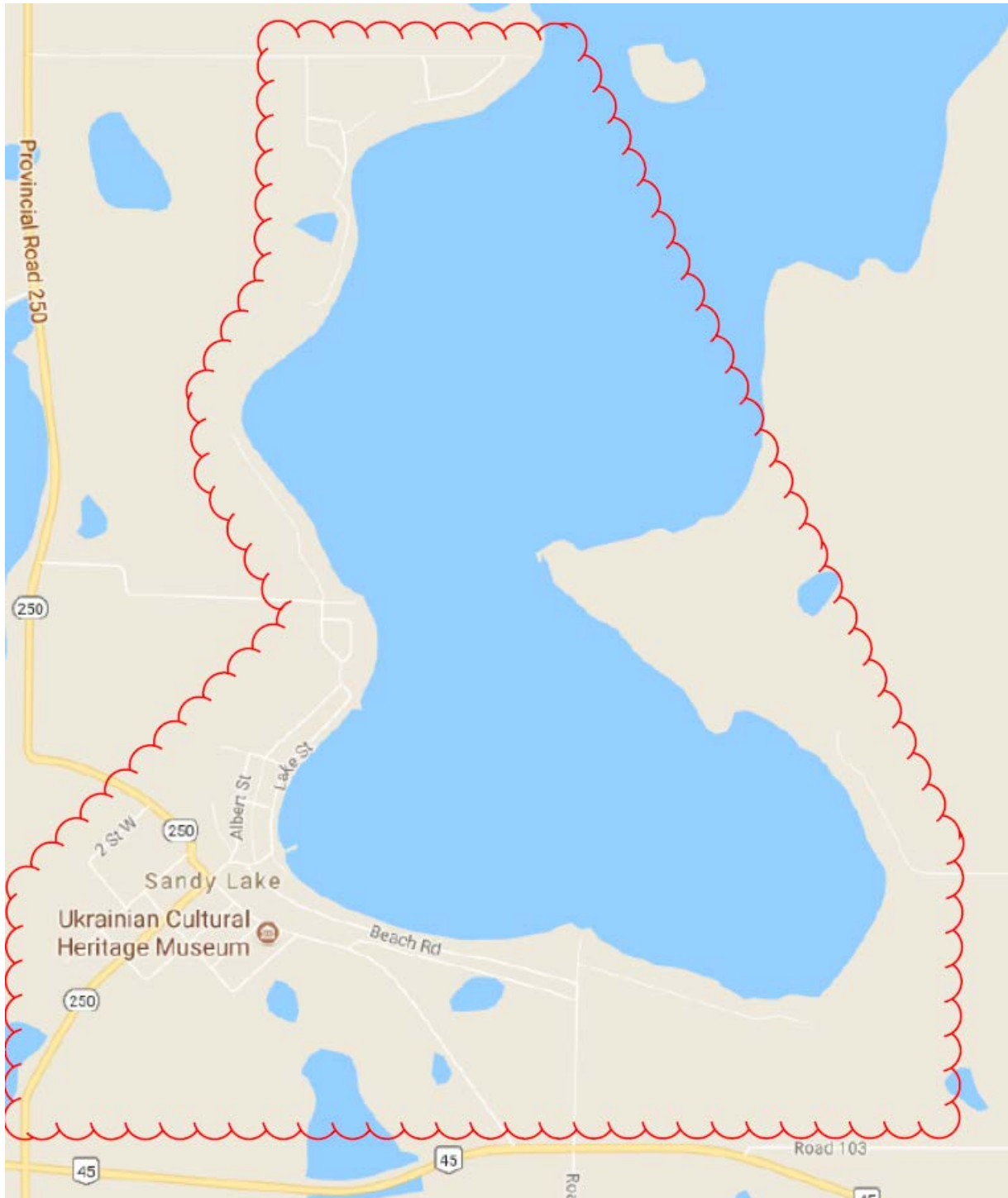


Figure 1 (Proposed area for the AIS Special Service Levy)

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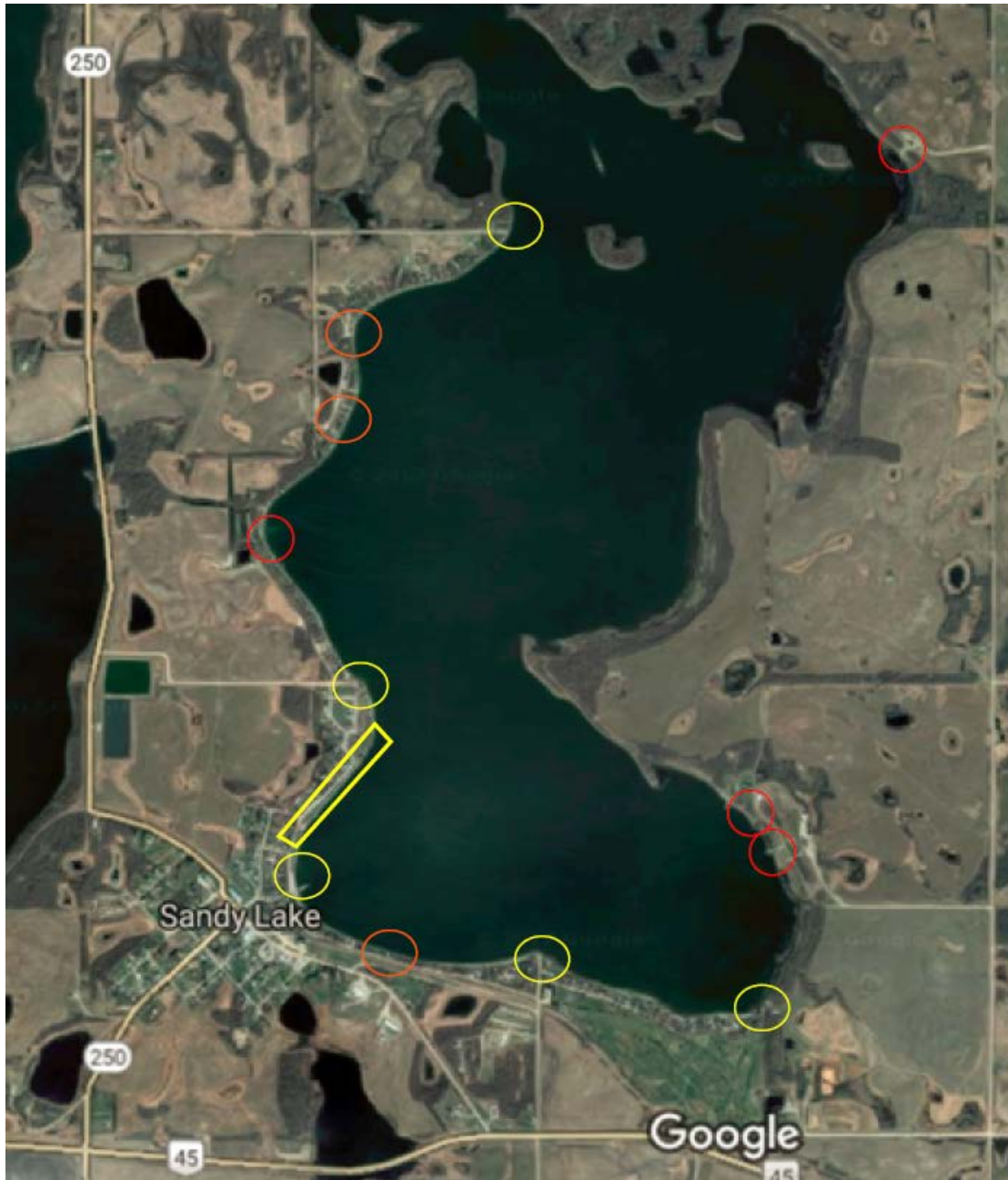


Figure 2 - Current trailered watercraft launch sites (Yellow are Municipally controlled; Red are privately owned.)