

Lake Diefenbaker

Saskatchewan's "Great" Lake



Lake Diefenbaker was created by the construction of the Gardiner Dam and its smaller counterpart the Qu'Appelle River Dam. The South Saskatchewan River Project, which officially opened in 1967, took eight years to complete. The project cost \$120 million. Today it would cost more than \$1 billion.

Gardiner Dam is named after James Gardiner. He was the Premier of Saskatchewan from 1926 to 1929 and from 1934 to 1935. He was also the federal Minister of Agriculture from 1935 to 1957.

The reservoir, Lake Diefenbaker, is named after Canada's 13th Prime Minister, John G. Diefenbaker. John Diefenbaker was the only Prime Minister from Saskatchewan

Did You Know?

The excavation required during construction would make a hole in the ground the size of a city block and approximately 2.4 kilometres deep.

The steel used in the project would make a 0.95 centimetre rod long enough to stretch around the world.

The cement used in the project would fill 3,000 freight cars.

The concrete used in the project would be enough to build a two-lane highway from Regina to Prince Albert; approximately 362 kilometres.

Ninety-four per cent of the water released from Lake Diefenbaker flows through the Coteau Creek Power Station which produces electricity.

The diversion tunnels direct water into the electricity generating turbines in the power station. They also help regulate the flow of the South Saskatchewan River. The diversion tunnels are large enough for a train to pass through.

Gardiner Dam is 64 metres high, 5,000 metres long and 1,600 metres wide at its base. The spillway is more than one kilometre long and can release as much as 7,500 cubic metres of water every second.

Lake Diefenbaker is 225 kilometres long, 54 metres deep at the dam and has more than 800 kilometres of shoreline.

The level of the lake can fluctuate as much as 11 metres annually.

Prior to the South Saskatchewan River Project, water users along the river used less than one per cent of the river's annual, average flow. Today, 45 per cent of the province's population gets its drinking water from the South Saskatchewan River system.

The lake provides irrigation for about 42,900 hectares of farmland. Producers grow crops such as alfalfa, canola, flax, beans, potatoes, barley and wheat. The lake is also the source of water for several potash mines, a canola-processing mill, an alfalfa processing plant, an ammonium nitrate producer, a commercial fish farm, numerous hog and livestock operations and a variety of other industries.

Lake Diefenbaker loses a lot of water to evaporation. An average of 345,000 cubic decametres of water evaporates every year. This is comparable to losing the water from 90,000 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Lake Diefenbaker is a major recreation and tourism destination. Douglas Provincial Park, Danielson Provincial Park and Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park are situated on the lake. There are also golf courses, cottage subdivisions, resort villages and three full-service marinas. The kilometres of unspoiled beaches and huge body of water have something to offer everyone who enjoys water-based recreation.

The lake is home to 27 species of fish. Anglers will find walleye, northern pike, rainbow trout, sauger, yellow perch, whitefish, lake trout, goldeye and burbot. The steady wind at Lake Diefenbaker makes it a very popular choice for sailing enthusiasts.

Be sure and visit the Gardiner Dam Visitor Centre, situated on the top of Gardiner Dam. It is open from the May long-weekend to Labour Day. Take the time to view the informative displays and videos in our theatre. Staff at the Visitor Centre will be pleased to answer your questions about the lake and the surrounding areas. Guided tours through the Coteau Creek Power Station at the base of the dam are also available. If you get hungry, dine at the Visitor Centre restaurant, or pack a picnic lunch to enjoy on the beach.

For More Information

For more information on Lake Diefenbaker and the provincial parks on the lake please contact:

Douglas/Danielson Provincial Parks

**Administration Office 306-854-6266
year-round**

**Douglas Office 306-854-6266
year-round**

**Danielson Visitor Centre... 306-857-5500
May through September**

**Danielson Provincial Park...306-857-5510
summer**

**Danielson Provincial Park ..306-854-6266
winter**

Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park

**Administration Office
Campground Office.....306-375-5527
May-September**

Email: DouglasPark@gov.sk.ca

Email: DanielsonPark@gov.sk.ca

Email: Sask.Landing@gov.sk.ca

www.saskparks.net

www.lakediefenbakertourism.com

www.elbowsask.com

This park is for you and future generations to enjoy. Please help to maintain and preserve it. Take care not to harm the environment. Leave plants, rocks and trees where they are. Do not harm or harass the animals in the park.

**www.saskparks.com
1-800-205-7070**

**Book campsites at:
www.saskparks.com**

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