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# The Lake Diefenbaker guidebook

Elbow is a joint with a surprising resort feel



Sailing is one of the most popular pastimes on Lake Diefenbaker. — Michael Clancy photo

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## Lake Diefenbaker: Yours to Discover

While researching a book on Saskatchewan's provincial parks, Michael Clancy and his co-author and wife Anna discovered there was more to Lake Diefenbaker than first meets the eye. The book's publisher, Canadian Plains Research Centre produced the volume in a new format for its Discover Saskatchewan series.

"Our previous books have had much more white space," said Clancy. "This book is much smaller and more amenable to fitting in your glove box, purse or backpack so you can take it with you."

With maps, photographs and detailed descriptions of the lake's 30 communities, seven regional parks and four provincial parks, it's a comprehensive guide that details the attractions and services available at one of Saskatchewan's most surprising tourist destinations.

The book is available in Saskatoon at McNally

Published December 2011

For Michael Clancy and his wife Anna, there's a whole lot more to Lake Diefenbaker than just the water's edge. The couple, who travels extensively around Saskatchewan penning destination guides, has recently written *Lake Diefenbaker: Yours to Explore*, a guide that looks not only at the lake itself but also at the people and events that make up the lake's culture.

"There's an awful lot more stuff there than we thought there would be," said Michael Clancy. "And one of the real takeaways for us, no matter where we travelled around the lake, was the quality of people we would bump into in so many of the little towns and villages."

One such little place is the village of Elbow. Located at the easternmost portion of the lake, halfway between Regina and Saskatoon off Highway 19, Elbow is a fast-rising star on the new Lake Diefenbaker resort scene, with a number of little-known sites and attractions that add to its appeal.

### The queen of the lake

While the Elbow Marina is indeed an impressive site on the prairie, with more than 150 large sailing yachts and motorcraft nestled in a cut-out of the coulee, nothing is more impressive to Clancy than the Wendeebe II.

"It's a Chris-Craft motorcraft manufactured in 1951," said Clancy. "And with its mahogany and brass hull, the thing is absolutely a work of art. I can phrase it no other way."

Available for private functions, the Wendeebe II is also available for tours of the lake once a year on Canada Day for only \$20. Tickets are available from the village office and should be purchased well in advance.

"You've got to see this thing, if for no other reason than to let your jaw hit the ground," said Clancy. "It's very much old-world, and to see her serenely sailing out on the lake is a sight indeed. But despite her age, she's not out of place out there at all, and everyone who sees her acknowledges her as the queen of the lake."

Robinson and Indigo bookstores, at Chapters in Regina and at the tourism offices in both Moose Jaw and Swift Current. To purchase a copy online visit [www.cprc.com](http://www.cprc.com).

## Village life

Elbow has a population of only 300, so one might not expect much in the way of amenities to be available in the village. But just as surprising as the size of the lake is the number of great little shops and restaurants available.

“One of the most glorious candy and toy stores you’re ever going to see is The Jelly Bean,” said Clancy. “Just walking in there is like having a flashback, with all the candy you remember as a child. They’ve also got educational toys and crafts in there for those wet summer days.”

Next door to The Jelly Bean is The Pelican, a place Clancy described as being as eclectic as the village itself.

“It’s part interior decor store, part antiques, part Saskatchewan artists and artisans, and they have these artisan teas I haven’t been able to find anywhere else,” said Clancy. “It’s a really neat, eye-catching kind of place, one of those places that is really easy to get in to but kind of hard to leave.”

An art collective down the street from The Jelly Bean and The Pelican offers a place for local artists to showcase their works, while a small gym allows visitors to stick with a workout regimen. Add in the sweet treats available at the Back Home Bakery and Deli and the fabulous meals available at both the Chinook Winds Boathouse Restaurant and the Harbour Golf Club and Resort dining room, and you’ll see why you need to work out.

## Be fore-warned

Golfers can try their luck at the mini golf located right in the village or at the Harbour Golf Club.

“I’m not much of a golfer,” said Clancy. “So all golf courses are difficult from my perspective. But this one is particularly unforgiving.”


To help you get over the challenge or the sorrow from losing a ball or 20, Clancy suggests heading back to the clubhouse to sit on its harbour-view deck, enjoy a cold drink and watch as one of Saskatchewan’s amazing sunsets streaks across the lake.

“Watching the sunset bleed right across Lake Diefenbaker is one of the most glorious moments you’ll ever experience,” said Clancy.

If you’re looking for an out-of-the-way destination that will offer you one surprise after another, Clancy assures you the village of Elbow won’t disappoint.

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## Key Elbow and Lake Diefenbaker contacts



NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN

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class fishing and golf are just two of many outdoor adventures waiting for you in the accessible wilderness of Northern Saskatchewan. In the morning, whether you open the door of your luxury resort, raise the blinds of your RV or lift up the flap on your tent, be prepared to be amazed. For information on Northern Saskatchewan, please call 306-989-2014.

Northern Saskatchewan Tourism

[www.northern.sask.info](http://www.northern.sask.info)

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SASKATCHEWAN



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We have more than 6,000 campsites located throughout the province, offering everything from full service sites, to backcountry adventures.

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Tourism Saskatchewan  
[www.sasktourism.com](http://www.sasktourism.com)



SASKATCHEWAN

## A touch of Europe on the Prairies

Culture, heritage, spirituality and architecture: these are the four pillars of Gravelbourg. This small, vibrant and multicultural community is located in south central Saskatchewan. Gravelbourg's unique quality of life offers modern recreational facilities, excellent educational services and all the amenities you might expect in a larger urban centre. There are more than 100 businesses and services available, artistic venues of all kinds and

an array of annual events to look forward to. It's no wonder this town is known as the cultural gem of Saskatchewan.

Town Of Gravelbourg

[www.gravelbourg.ca](http://www.gravelbourg.ca)



SASKATCHEWAN

### Offering 800 square kilometres of shoreline

You've got your RV and gear all ready to go and all you can think about is getting to the lake; but dealing with the crowds can be a major headache, not to mention boating traffic on the water feels a bit like rush hour in the city. Would you believe that there is a lake in southern Saskatchewan that stretches over 225 kilometres in length and features 800 square kilometres of shoreline that feels light years away from big crowds? It's called Lake Diefenbaker and it has all the room you need to stretch your legs and relax.

Lake Diefenbaker Tourism

[www.lakediefenbakertourism.com](http://www.lakediefenbakertourism.com)



WATROUS, SK

### Experience tranquillity, at Watrous and Manitou Beach

Discover two progressive communities in Central Saskatchewan. Experience the abundance of recreation, dining, and cultural opportunities close to home. Float in the healing waters of nearby Little Manitou Lake. Can't swim? No problem, in this lake you can't sink due to the high salt and mineral content found nowhere else! Find one of Saskatchewan's top regional parks with over 200 campsites and adjacent 9-hole golf course. Experience world famous Danceland and take a dip in the healing waters at Manitou Springs Hotel and Spa – one of Canada's premier health spas. No matter what you like, Watrous and Manitou Beach have it!

Watrous Manitou Marketing Group

[www.watrousmanitou.com](http://www.watrousmanitou.com)



SASKATCHEWAN

## Sharing success

Since being incorporated as a non-profit organization, SIGA has become a leader in the gaming and entertainment industry in Saskatchewan. By combining gaming with traditional First Nations hospitality, guests are treated to a truly unique entertainment experience. The success and accomplishments of SIGA over the years has been the result of a strong vision and the commitment of their 2,100-plus employees. In addition to the profits it generates for its

beneficiaries, SIGA also invests \$1.3 million annually into hundreds of community groups in Saskatchewan through its community relations sponsorship program. Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc.

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc.

[www.siga.sk.ca](http://www.siga.sk.ca)



MELVILLE, SK

## Melville: Endless opportunities

Melville is a pleasant Saskatchewan community with friendly residents, plenty to see and do and an array of attractions to visit. You can tour the

town and see heritage buildings that are beautifully restored, or stop by the Tourism Centre to pick up souvenirs, maps and brochures, self-guided tour information or the latest details on upcoming events. The centre is open year-round and tours of the Caboose and the Railway Museum are available on request.

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Tourism Melville  
[www.tourismmelville.com](http://www.tourismmelville.com)



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