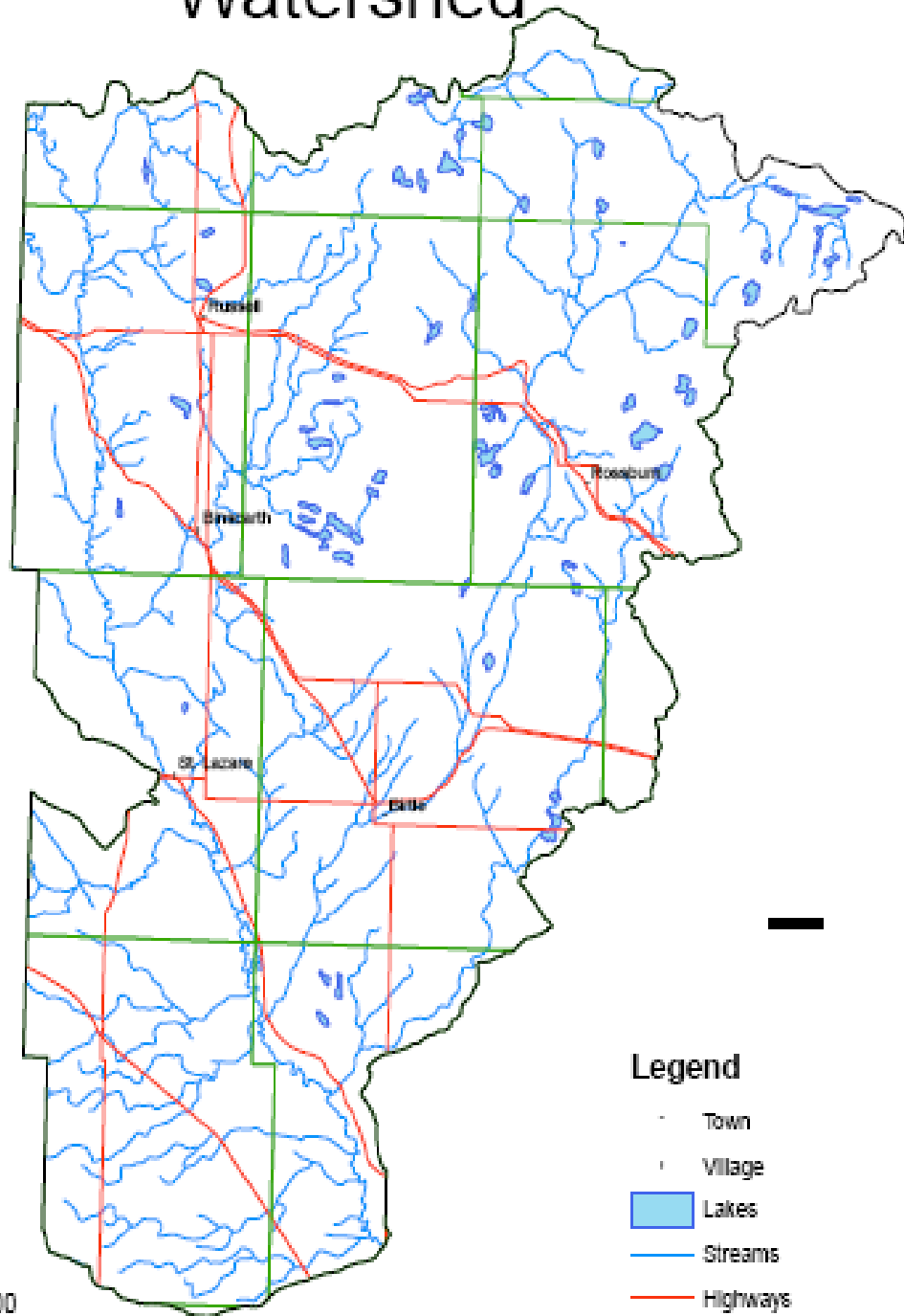


Birdtail-Assiniboine River Watershed



Scale: 1:500,000

0 5 10 20 30 40 Kilometers

Birdtail – Assiniboine River Watershed

This watershed encompasses an area roughly from the Saskatchewan border east to the Little Saskatchewan River and from the Trans Canada Highway north to the Riding Mountain National Park.

This major concern in this watershed is the lack of adequate riparian protection around water sources. The lack of adequate riparian protection in this rolling area south of the Riding Mountain National Park results in the creation of deep gorges and valleys that transports agricultural nutrients and sediments to the larger waterbodies.

Another concern is the ever increasing amount of drainage activities in this watershed in an attempt to acquire “more agricultural land” and to be able to “get on the land quicker”. Consequently this has put tremendous pressure on the natural watercourses to handle this additional water.

In this watershed, 5 lake aeration systems have been installed to create year round recreational and economic opportunities. Hooper, Arrow, Rossman, Spear and Silver Beach Lakes have all benefited from these aeration systems.

Many waterbodies in this watershed are stocked on an annual basis with indigenous or salmonoid fish species.

This area also has the distinction of being world renowned for its stocked trout waters and attracts clients from all over.

Five COSEWIC listed fish species are known to be present in this watershed and they are Lake Sturgeon, Maple Leaf Mussel, Silver Chub, Chestnut Lamprey and Big Mouth Buffalo.

Overall Watershed Health Assessment of the Birdtail – Assiniboine River Watershed would be “healthy with concerns”.