

# SEINE RIVER Meanderings

January 2014, Special Edition

## Core Funding Announced for Save Our Seine!

On December 17<sup>th</sup> of 2013, Winnipeg City Council voted on its 2014 Preliminary Operating and Capital Budget. For the first time ever, the document contains a line item reflecting a grant to Save Our Seine. While \$30,000 may seem like a tiny drop in an ocean of grants given to community groups (almost \$42 million in total), it means the world to SOS. On a practical level, the grant will make it possible for SOS to engage an Executive Director on an on-going basis rather than off-and-on as fundraising allows. This financial stability will greatly enhance the capacity of the organization to do its work. More importantly, the grant represents a commitment by the City of Winnipeg to support the work of SOS and recognition that its work is important to Winnipeg's quality of life.

Thanks to the persistence of St. Vital Councillor Brian Mayes, and the support of St. Boniface Councillor, Dan Vandal, Save Our Seine joins a small handful of environmental organizations that will receive grants from the City of Winnipeg (sidebar). Councillor Mayes has been a staunch supporter of SOS since prior to his election – promising to obtain financial support for SOS as part of his platform. In February of 2013, he made the unprecedented move to contribute money from his ward office budget to SOS – allowing it to recruit an Executive Director in September. Meanwhile, Councillor Mayes continued to elicit support from his colleagues for on-going financial support. The recent decision marks the fulfillment of his election promise. Save Our Seine is grateful for Brian's persistence, support, and advocacy on its behalf.



Mayes family planting trees with SOS at Vermette Park

### 2014 City of Winnipeg Grants (Environmental Groups)

- ◆ Manitoba Eco-Network
- ◆ River East Trails Committee
- ◆ Coalition to Save the Elms
- ◆ Red River Basin Commission
- ◆ **Save Our Seine**
- ◆ Fort Whyte Alive
- ◆ Miscellaneous Water Grants

**Save Our Seine**  
river environment inc.



## GOALS

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1. Preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment & heritage resources of the Seine River.
2. Restore & repair features of the environment that have been degraded.
3. Improve water level, flow & quality of the Seine River.
4. Raise the public's awareness of all aspects of the Seine River.
5. Improve the environmental behavior of private industry, governments and the public.
6. Improve appropriate public access along the Seine River (by low-impact nature trail & by canoe).

### SOS Board Members

	<b>President: Denis Gautron</b>	<b>Secretary: Sisters of Our Lady of the Mission</b>
	<b>VP: Denis DePape</b>	<b>Sandra Stewart, Denise Kuyp, &amp; Veronica Dunne</b>
	<b>Treasurer: David Venema</b>	
Kevin Boreskie	Kristine Koster	Cameron Regier
Alain Cenerini	Chris Pearce	Wilma Sotas
David J. Danyluk	Chris Penner/Lia Abolit	Marc St. Laurent



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## SAVE OUR SEINE

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## SOS WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The SOS Board is pleased to welcome its new Executive Director. Michele Kading has a Master of Science in biogeography and over 30 years of experience in heritage interpretation, environmental education, and advocacy. A graduate of Dakota High School and University of Winnipeg, she lived in St. Vital for 7 years and has strong ties to the area. Her passion is re-connecting people with nature. "My life's work has taught me that it is crucial to have natural



Michele Kading,  
Executive Director

landscapes (forests, prairies, wetlands, and rivers) close to where people of all ages and backgrounds live, work, and play—especially in cities so people can experience nature on a daily basis." In 1998, Michele put her passion into action when she fought to save several small wetlands in the historic Frog Plain area of Winnipeg. One of these wetlands has since been designated as a city park. Since then, many wetlands have been integrated into new residential developments like Royalwood for stormwater retention and are now considered community assets. They raise property values, clean the water, and can be used for environmental awareness and education. "I am thrilled to be able to use my knowledge, skills, and experience to benefit the Seine River, its watershed, and the Greenway."



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### Many Ways to Donate

- Complete this form, clip, and mail
- Ask your payroll administrator to direct a portion of your United Way donation to SOS
- Donate on-line using credit card, Interact, or PayPal. Go to the SOS Web site, select donate, and click "**Canada Helps**"

**Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$10 (name/mailling address required)**