

Echoes of our past — stories of the Seine River



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You are invited to explore the lower reaches of the Seine River on Sat., May 2. Jean-Pierre Brunet, author of *The Seine River Trail — Echoes of Our Past*, will lead a guided walk through Old St. Boniface. The walk begins at noon at Lagimodière-Gaboury Park (at Thibault Street and Notre Dame Street). It will follow part of the picturesque Gabrielle Roy Trail. Along the walk, J.P. will share stories of how the Seine River shaped Winnipeg's history from pre-settlement to present day.

You will hear the story of Jean-Baptiste Lagimodière and his wife Marie-Anne Gaboury. He was a renowned voyageur, trapper, and messenger. She was the first European woman to settle in the west. You will learn about the legendary trek Lagimodière undertook 200 years ago and discover how he was rewarded.

You will learn about Lagimodière's famous son-in-law (the Miller of the Seine) and grandson (Louis Riel) and how the Métis shaped Manitoba's history. You will hear about the Dawson Trail and the arrival of western Canada's first locomotive — the Countess of Dufferin. You will discover how Des Meurons Street got its name.

Your walk through time will end at 375 Rue Deschambault. Gabrielle Roy House Historic



Supplied photo

Participants in a May 2 guided walk of the lower Seine River will meet at the entrance to the historic site of the Lagimodière-Gaboury homestead.

Site is the family home of world-renowned francophone author Gabrielle Roy (1909-1983). The museum will be open until 4 p.m. (admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors).

Save Our Seine board members will assist with the tour. They will share stories about SOS and the role it has played in cleaning, conserving, and restoring the river. You will see the largest remediation project ever conducted on the river. In 2009, the river was diverted so that contaminated material could be removed from the riverbed. This project was a major success story. But the history of this grassroots organization rests in the stories of hundreds of people who

have participated in river clean-ups, tree plantings, and other projects since 1990. SOS wants to hear your personal stories of the Seine River — whether you live, work, or play along the river. Send your stories (or pictures with stories) to saveourseine@gmail.com.

If you want to join the Seine River story, SOS is seeking four physically fit youth (ages 16 - 29) for its 2015 Green Team. Send your resume to the summer cleanup co-ordinator at earthandgrass@hotmail.com

Michele Kading is a community correspondent for St. Vital and the executive director of Save Our Seine. Go to www.saveourseine.com for details of this and other 25th anniversary events.

Trip to Chicago a lesson in graciousness



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Have you ever been to Chicago? I have many times but this was the first time they ever let me out of the airport and I was pretty excited.

I'd heard that it was beautiful city and, though this trip was for business, part of my business is to have fun so that's what I

He drove hours out of his way to come and get me, drove me around town more hours enthusiastically explaining the history, sites and highlights of Chicago — taking me to spectacular places with incredible views. We topped it all off with the most delectable Chicago-style pizza. Long after dark he dropped me off at my hotel only to turn around for a long solo drive back home.

What was most special about this visit was not seeing the bustling city, the awe-inspiring Ba'hai Temple or eating the buttery crusted pizza. It was not even catching up with this long-lost cousin — though that

or obligation. He conveyed with words, and perhaps more importantly with actions, how much of a pleasure it was for him to show me around, how appreciative he was that I had contacted him. He made me feel like I had done him a favour!

It made me wonder if I extend graciousness of this level to others.

My sweet cousin John did not intend to teach me anything more than some Illinois history that day but what I left with was far more valuable.

Thank you John, I will pay your kindness forward.