

Reflection and planning for the future



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In November, Save Our Seine was overwhelmed by support from the community when we learned that the City planned to eliminate funding for SOS in 2020. Thanks to the local residents, businesses, community groups, volunteers, and elected officials who spoke on behalf of SOS and the need to care for Winnipeg's rivers and riverbanks.

The City's budget review committee will debate the recommended cuts in January. Although funding for SOS will be in limbo until the full budget is tabled in February, SOS volunteers expressed faith that officials heard the outcry and will maintain financial support in 2020 and beyond.

Thanks to Richard Lennon for sharing his personal story: "I grew up in St. Boniface. As kids, we used to cross the river without getting our feet wet by walking over shopping carts and other garbage that was in the Seine River. If they are on the chopping block, we have forgotten the value of an organization like Save Our Seine."

Cleaning debris and garbage from 26-kilometres of river requires a team of sum-



Supplied photo by Dave

Dozens of people attended a public hearing at City Hall on Nov. 25 to speak in favour of funding for Save Our Seine.

mer staff and volunteers (April to October). SOS will apply for government funding and search for a corporate sponsor for river clean-ups as its resources allow.

Thanks to Dave Danyluk, the "canoe guy," for raising public awareness. SOS is very grateful to the city's paddlers for their support.

SOS is planning a canoe event and improvements to launch sites in 2020. New volunteers are welcome to join the 30th anniversary planning team to organize activities to connect people with the river. SOS is determined to secure the remaining funds for an accessible dock at John Bruce Park. We hope that the city will show a commitment to this project by keeping the Riverbank Greenways Program.

Thanks to Veronica Dunne for sharing the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions support Save Our Seine: "Care of our community home is a religious and spiritual issue - well as a moral one."

As you reflect on your year this holiday season, take a few minutes to show your favourite charities that you care.

Canada Helps (www.canadahelps.org) is a one-stop-shop for making donations to Canadian charities that make a difference locally, nationally, and internationally.

Happy holidays to one and all from one at Save Our Seine!

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