

SEINE RIVER Meanderings

September 2014

Making a Difference

Save Our Seine was recently nominated for a 2014 Manitoba Tourism Award in the category of Sustainable Tourism. For over two decades, SOS has worked to create a continuous corridor connecting the natural parks and historic features along the length of the urban Seine River—knowing that it would be invaluable for education and recreation. A nomination for tourism was an unexpected surprise.

Save Our Seine will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2015. This is a remarkable achievement for a grassroots, volunteer-based, organization. SOS's longevity and success is due to the vision and dedication of its past and present board members, volunteers, and community supporters.

SOS is managed by a board of 5 to 15 members who come from a wide array of backgrounds. They are plumbers, teachers, engineers, university students, professors, technicians, and business people – to name just a few. Some board members are retired. Others are still active in their careers or studies. Board members bring their knowledge, commitment, and positive attitude to SOS's mission of

preserving the Seine River Greenway for future generations. Many board members started by attending board meetings as guests to learn more about the organization and how they might get involved. They learned about SOS projects, challenges, and successes. Before long they became active volunteers.

There are many ways to contribute to the success of Save Our Seine. There are annual tree-planting events, river clean-ups, and fundraising activities. Volunteers write about their experiences. They share their photographs and knowledge of Seine River plants, birds, and other wildlife through the newsletter, Web site, and Facebook page. They join committees for specific projects.

Committees and projects include:

- ◆ Adopt-a-River delivery
- ◆ Bois-des-esprits management
- ◆ Annual General Meeting planning
- ◆ Conservation advocacy
- ◆ Rain Garden project
- ◆ International Trails Day planning
- ◆ Water quality monitoring
- ◆ 25th Anniversary planning



The Seine River Greenway forms a foundation for urban recreation, education—and tourism.

Attending SOS's monthly meeting is still one of the best ways to get involved. Meetings are open to the public. They start at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. Meetings are currently held at 1095 St. Anne's Road (Centre scolaire Léo Rémillard). We invite you to attend these meetings and consider volunteering for SOS. We need your active participation to ensure the protection of the Seine River Greenway for recreation, conservation, and tourism for the next 25 years.

We look forward to seeing you at a future meeting. Contact us at saveourseine@gmail.com.

Denis Gautron, President SOS

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LRSD Waterways Program

“On June 23 I took two of my boys in the canoe down the Seine from the Perimeter to Happyland Park. I had never been on the Seine before. The water was high - the paddling easy. We only had to pull the boat out twice around obstacles. I was so happy to travel through the urban wilderness without having to wade through garbage. Thank you for your good work on the river.” (C. Froese)

The Louis Riel School Division has initiated a new partnership with Save our Seine. *Waterways* is a three-tiered program that will enhance the grade 6 (Diversity of Living Things), 7 (Interactions with Ecosystems), and 8 (Water Systems) science curriculum with hands-on activities and authentic experiences.

In Tier 1, students will use a basic kit to test water collected on their school site. Tier 2 includes

outdoor excursions such as a walk along a river trail to observe wildlife. Water samples from the Seine River will also be brought to the classroom for testing and analysis. Tier 3 involves at least one excursion to conduct an “in-stream” study of the Seine River—making full use of the comprehensive Adopt-a-River study kit.

While some teachers will be comfortable starting at Tier 3, *Waterways*

allows teachers to start small and build on past experience and success as their comfort level grows.

Save Our Seine and the LRSD Instructional Support Team will provide expertise and support at all three tiers of the *Waterways* program.

The LRSD is hosting a half-day workshop for teachers on September 30th, 2014. For more information about the *Waterways* program, contact SOS or Harry Bell at the LRSD (204-257-7827).

Wanted—Greenway Clean-up Supervisor

Chris Pearce is hanging up his hip waders. For the past five years, Chris has supervised the annual clean-ups along the Seine River Greenway—overseeing the removal of tons of debris from the river. Please join us at the Annual General Meeting in October to thank Chris for his dedication in this capacity. Meanwhile, the search for a new Clean-up Supervisor has begun.

This is an exciting seasonal job opportunity for the right person. As the Greenway Clean-up Supervisor, you will work from May to August of 2015. You will spend most of your working day in a natural outdoor setting making visible improvements to the Seine River Greenway. You will guide, direct, assist, and ensure safe practices of a team of

four youth who will remove garbage, debris, and fallen trees from the river, clean up trails, remove invasive species, plant trees, and help with Save Our Seine events. Your skills include operating a chain saw safely and repairing small engines. The pay is \$20 per hour. The intangible rewards are many. To learn more about this job opportunity, contact Dave Venema at (204) 256-0341.

SOS Awards

2004 Canadian Environmental Award for Restoration and Rehabilitation

2004 Mayor's Volunteer Award for Environmental Stewardship

2003 Prairie Crocus Award, Nature Manitoba

2000 Certificate of Environmental Citizenship, Environment Canada

1996 Award of Excellence, Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

New Life for Marlene Street Park

Marlene Street Park lies nestled in a quiet bend of the Seine River at the corner of Beliveau Road East and Marlene Street. As a former city dump site, the 7-acre park has been largely vacant for 60 years. Despite its past, the park is an important amenity in this mature community. This fall, it will have new life breathed into it with the help of the

Manitoba/Winnipeg Building Communities Initiative. The project will include the installation of a granular path, new benches, a planting bed, and signs. Save Our Seine applauds any community-building project that enhances the parks and trails along the SR Greenway. Anticipated completion: fall of 2014.



Denis Gautron & Michele Kading (SOS), Nancy Allen (St. Vital MLA), Brian Mayes (St. Vital City Councillor)

Trails Day Event—Saturday, June 7

Royalwood Park on Shorehill Drive was abuzz with activity as visitors were attracted by the young and energetic fiddlers from *Union Nationale Métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba*. Following a brief welcome, visitors were invited to the unveiling of new trailhead signs that were installed by the *City of Winnipeg*. Several dignitaries including Brian Mayes, Erin Selby, and Gabriel Dufault dropped in for the unveiling and to enjoy the festivities. After the unveiling, visitors were invited to participate in guided walks led by Denis DePape (Bois-des-esprits Trail) and Wilma Sotas (South Trail).

New for 2014, were three exploration stations along the banks of the river. Visitors were encouraged to collect and identify aquatic invertebrates, test the quality of the Seine River, and take the Trashy Timeline challenge (to guess how long various items of trash would take to decompose). Throughout the event, visitors enjoyed a variety of special displays. Visitors learned about live raptors (*Wildlife Haven*), fishing and angling (*Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship*), the unique carvings along the BDE trail (*artist Murray Watson*), and the Seine River Greenway (*SOS volunteers*). Thanks to Sobey's for providing fruit refreshments and to the Louis Riel School Division for loaning SOS an Adopt-a-River kit, dip net, and hip waders for the activity stations.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers who dedicated over 200 hours to organizing and delivering the 2014 Trails Day event. You made it a great success!



Exploration Stations along the river



Live Bird Display— Wildlife Haven



*Trail Sign Unveiling
Paul Desrosiers, Brian Mayes and son, Erin Selby, Denis Gautron*

**Save Our Seine
AGM
Tuesday,
October 28
Morrow Gospel
Church
Everyone Welcome!**



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Save Our Seine Board

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Denis Gautron (President) | Sisters of Our Lady of the Mission (Secretary) |
| Denis DePape (VP) | Sandra Stewart, Denise Kuyp, & Veronica Dunne |
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| Lia Abolit/Chris Penner | Chris Pearce |
| Kevin Boreskie | Cameron Regier |
| Alain Cenerini | Wilma Sotas |
| David J. Danyluk | Marc St. Laurent |
| Tari Muvingi | |

Interested in Volunteering?

- ◊ Action: "Eyes on the River" (observers), riverbank and trail work, tree plantings, European buckthorn/weed removal, water quality testing
- ◊ Creative communication: Web site (design and updating), newsletter (writers), photo library
- ◊ Organizing: Bookkeeping, membership lists, volunteer management, events
- ◊ Planning: Board member, research, networking, community meetings, fundraising
- ◊ Special Projects: Rain garden committee, GIS maps, new ideas

Circle your interests, clip and mail this slip to the address on the back page or send us an e-mail

SAVE OUR SEINE

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**We're on the Web and
Facebook!**
Saveourseine.com

MISSION

Our vision is for a sustainable and protected Seine River Greenway that provides a healthy habitat for vegetation and wildlife and contributes to the quality of life of all citizens.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION

SOS depends on community volunteers and community contributions to help protect, preserve and enhance the Seine River Environment through education, awareness and hands-on participation. Your contribution assists SOS in enabling all citizens to reconnect with their local environment.



*Volunteer-in-Action:
Kevin Boreski*

*Board Member
Event photographer
Fish "surveys"*

GOALS

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).

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