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CELEBRATING LIFE

WINNIPEG'S NEWEST EVENT CENTRE ON NAIRN

1006 NAIRN AVENUE • 204-275-5555
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Keep your eyes on the river

Michele
Kading
COMMUNITY
CORRESPONDENT

ST. VITAL

Several years ago, Save Our Seine initiated a program called *Eyes on the River*.

It encourages people who use the river and its trails to report their observations. People share wildlife sightings and photographs on the Save Our Seine Facebook page. They also report a variety of concerns privately through email.

Today, I would like to celebrate the contributions made by the participants in this program by highlighting a few of their important observations.

• **Brush fire** — In April 2015, one observer spotted a brush fire that threatened to quickly destroy riverbank trees. After calling 911, she reported the fire to SOS. This emergency

underlined the need for a marker system that would make it easier to report incidents along the river and trails.

• **Pollution** — Water pollution events are reported each year. Observers report sudsy, foul-smelling, and oily water entering the Seine River from specific outfall pipes.

• **Tree removal** — It is clear that Winnipeggers value the urban forest. They express concern whenever trees on city-owned land are removed — whether this is by people or beavers. SOS works with the city to resolve these issues on a case-by-case basis.

• **Snow dumping** — Some condos and businesses that abut the river routinely pile dirty snow on city-owned land beside the river. This activity could be lessened by clearly marking the boundaries between private properties and the adjacent riverbanks.

• **Fallen wires and fencing** — Already this spring, river users have reported fallen wires in the Seine River at Whittier Park and snow fencing obstructing the river near John Bruce Drive.

While the program has had many suc-

cesses, some notable events were missed by our eagle-eyed observers:

• **Rain garden theft** —

Between Aug. 15 and 17, 2016, witnesses observed people removing a rock weir from the Niakwa Trail rain garden beside the St. Anne's Road Superstore. They did not realize a theft was in progress. No photographs were taken. This was a big blow to SOS and Manitoba Eco-Network. Neither charity can afford to replace the stones that cost \$2,500 to install. Dirt and litter from the parking lot can now flow unchecked through the rain garden into the Seine River.

• **Annual garbage dumping** — SOS removes a vast amount of garbage from the river every year — including shopping carts, furniture, tractor tires, and appliances. It is a mystery why illegal dumping is rarely, if ever, reported.

Thanks to everyone for keeping your *Eyes on the River!*

Michele Kading is a community correspondent for St. Vital and the executive director of Save Our Seine — www.saveourseine.com

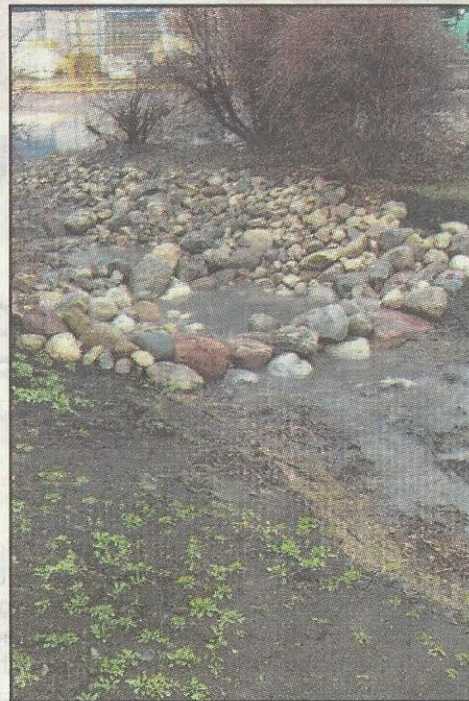


Photo by Michele Kading

Witnesses did not realize people were stealing a rock weir that protected the Seine River by trapping soil and litter.

FEATURED APARTMENTS