

# Save Our Seine AGM draws full house



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## ST. VITAL

Several weeks ago, Ed Labossiere quietly went about one of his annual volunteer jobs for Save Our Seine.

He placed signs along the trails to notify local residents about SOS's annual general meeting.

This has been a special year for SOS — its 25th anniversary — and we hoped to have a decent turnout at the AGM, as attendance can be an indicator of whether an organization is on track and doing work that is valued by the community.

On Oct. 27, we had our answer when a record crowd packed the meeting room in the basement of Morrow Gospel Church. Almost 100 people gathered to learn about SOS — its early history and accomplishments, its 25th anniversary activities, and its plans for the future.

Even the Premier of Manitoba dropped by to share some big news with SOS. After recalling a few personal stories about his own efforts to protect the river, Greg Selinger delivered a proclamation declaring Oct. 27, 2015 as Save Our

Seine Appreciation Day.

The proclamation recognizes that rivers are important to our health and well-being and that protecting them is a priority for Manitobans. It acknowledges the rich historical significance, natural beauty, and recreational value of the Seine River. It recognizes SOS's role in protecting the river through direct action and raising awareness. After reading the proclamation, Premier Selinger announced a \$25,000 grant to SOS for future projects — \$1,000 for each of its 25 years.

Nancy Allan, MLA for St. Vital, was also at the AGM to present a Member's Statement to Save Our Seine. The beautifully-written statement had been delivered at the legislative assembly earlier in the day.

SOS past-presidents Bob Tinker and J.P. Brunet received a standing ovation from the assembly on behalf of SOS. A framed copy of the statement was presented to current president Denis Gautron.

Although it was an evening to reflect on past success, it was also a time to think about the future.

Enter St. Vital city councillor Brian Mayes. He spoke of his desire to acquire additional forest land south of the Perimeter Highway to add to the river's greenway. This was music to our ears. It is this type of vision, combined with the dedication of local volunteers like Ed and hundreds of others over the years, plus political will at all three levels of government that will ensure the future of our little river.



Photo by Michele Kading

**Nancy Allan, MLA for St. Vital, presents Save Our Seine president Denis Gautron with a Member's Statement honouring the 25th anniversary of Save Our Seine.**

*Michele Kading is a community correspondent for St. Vital and the executive director of Save Our Seine. Go to [www.saveourseine.com](http://www.saveourseine.com) to read more and to join the SOS team.*

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