## community forum Contest will focus on the Seine River



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Like many naturalists, I have dabbled in nature and wildlife photography for many years. I enjoy the challenge of trying to capture the beauty of nature in photos.

Before digital cameras, pursuing this hobby was an exercise in patience and frustration. It was also expensive. In addition to the camera, I had to pay to develop each photo - including my mistakes. I have a shoebox of failed experiments featuring many mysterious bushes. Hidden within each bush is a tiny bird - the intended subject of the photo.

I purchased my first digital camera in 2002. The freedom it allowed was exhilarating. For the first time, I was able to "fill the frame" with the subjects of my wildlife photos. I could take as many photos as I wanted without worrying about wasting film or money. I could be creative and see the results immediately. If the photo did not work, I would simply hit "delete" and try again. Digital cameras have made nature photography accessible to people of all ages and skill levels.

As a part of its 25th anniversary, Save Our



The beauty of the Seine River inspires professional and amateur photographers.

Seine is planning an amateur photography contest to showcase the beauty, biodiversity. and value of the Seine River to local residents and visitors. This is your opportunity to showcase the photographic beauty of the river, its secret places, and its wildlife.

Entries will be posted on the SOS Facebook page and the public will select winners by "liking" their favourite photos in each category. Unlike other contests, you may enter photos taken in 2015 as well as your best shots taken in past years.

Categories, deadlines, and details of the contest will be posted on the SOS website and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ SaveOurSeineWinnipeg).

So, look through your photo collection for your best shots and be sure to visit your favourite places along the river this year

to take some new ones. The results of the contest will be highlighted at the 2015 SOS annual general meeting.

To get your creative juices flowing, you are invited to attend a special photography presentation, entitled Earth Day - Focus on the Seine River, by Mike Grandmaison on Wed., April 22 at 7 p.m.

Mike's latest book (Mike Grandmaison's Prairie and Beyond) will be available to purchase (cash or cheque) at this free event at the St. Boniface Library. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

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