



Vermette Creek

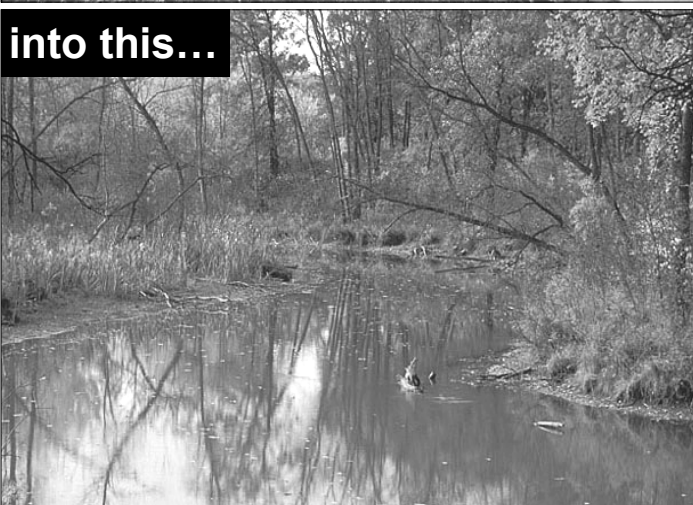
**Saturday
July 26th, 2008
TREE PLANTING
10AM to 3PM**

(rain date is July 27th - same times)

Help to turn this...



into this...



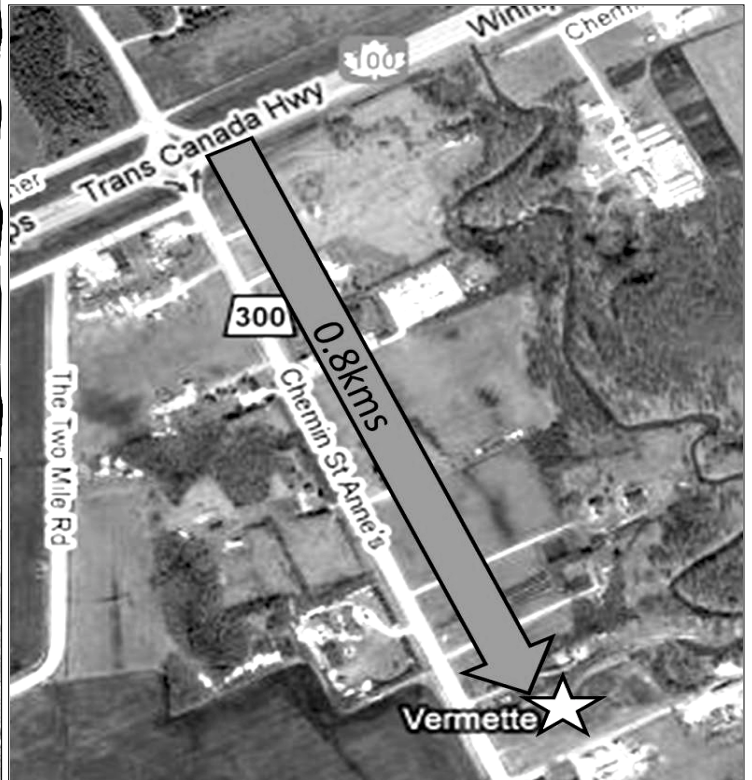
REMEMBER:

- sunscreen and a hat
- gloves and a shovel (if you have one handy!)
- water bottle to fill up - water will be available
- **EVERYONE IS INVITED!!!**

Planning on coming? Let us know and we can provide directions and make arrangements!

470-9247 or saveourseine@gmail.com

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU
THERE!**



Head south on St. Anne's Road, 0.8kms past the Perimeter hwy. Next to Rolly's Transfer. Look out for the sign at the road head. Free parking on site.

Schedule for the day:

- 10am – 3pm: Help plant native trees!
- 12:30pm - 1:30pm: **FREE BBQ lunch**
- 1:30pm - 3pm: - Métis heritage celebration!
 - games for all ages
 - musical entertainment
 - learn more about the Seine River and SOS
 - Celebrate your river!!!

Thanks to

• Manitoba Hydro Forest Enhancement Program



• Wal-Mart Evergreen Common Grounds Program



• Department of Fisheries and Oceans Stewardship In Action



Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Pêches et Océans Canada

• City of Winnipeg Naturalist Services

• Youth in Philanthropy

• Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba

• All the wonderful, hard-working **volunteers!!!**



President's Message

I would like to start out by thanking the Board of SOS for all of their hard work. Without enough funding for a Coordinator, the Board has been extremely busy trying to keep up with the volume of work that has fallen on their shoulders, I could not be happier with this amazing group of volunteers.

Thankfully, we have received enough funding for a summer Coordinator position, and have hired Robyn Palmer to do a year's worth of work in three months. Robyn brings with her a wealth of knowledge from her years of hands-on work along the Seine as a member of our Green Team, and then as the Green Team Supervisor. Welcome aboard Robyn, we are lucky to have you!

We are starting a new campaign this year; we are looking for some Friends of Save Our Seine. Check out our donation page to find out how to become a "friend". This organization has survived because of the generosity of those who care deeply about the Seine River, and to make it easier for our donors, we have signed up with Canada Helps. With this service, you can go on-line through our website to make a one-time donation or sign up for monthly contributions. Of course we still gladly accept donations by mail.

With the price of gas rising we are in need of partners to help us with the expenses related to our SOS Green Team vehicle. The SOS Green Team is reliant on having a vehicle to transport everything from wheelbarrows, to canoes to trees throughout the summer. If you or someone you know would like to be our repairperson or gas supplier, please let us know.

Also, this summer there is a new addition to SOS's equipment list. Thanks to a generous donation from **Northern Soul Wilderness adventures** the Green Team now has a trailer to aid in lugging all of their gear. This makes transporting the crew's four members, two canoes, chainsaw, paddles, life jackets, etc. a more manageable feat!



Green Team with the SOS car and the new trailer. Thanks Northern Soul!

Thankfully Will Barmeier has rejoined the Board and has taken up the task of working with the City and our Green Team to improve the North St. Boniface Trail. Please keep in mind that as the improvements are made, temporary disruptions to the trail may be necessary.

We were very disappointed that we had to cancel our Canadian Rivers Day event this year, if the bank account and weather cooperate next year, the Seine River will once again be the place to be on Rivers Day. Without a full time Coordinator it is very difficult to pull off an event like this. If you would love to help organize this event (or would like to fund a Coordinator), please drop us an email at saveourseine@gmail.com.

A very exciting summer is in store for us with the park plans for the former Vermette Community Club site. The water draining into the Seine will be healthier as a result of the plantings, and volunteers are needed to make this successful. If you love to get your hands dirty, and wish to plant one tree or ten, then come out and join us **Saturday July 26th!** - Tammy Rutherford, SOS president

Vermette Park Update

This summer, the focus of Save Our Seine's activities are largely aimed at the Vermette Park Grounds. Thanks to generous funding from Manitoba Hydro, Wal-Mart Evergreen and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Stewardship In Action Save Our Seine was able to develop a plan for the site which will involve the planting of several hundred large calliper trees mixed in with native shrubs.

The planting season has started on the Vermette site for the 2008 season but the Park is far from completion. Saturday June 21st, 18 volunteers came out to lend a hand and planted, watered and mulched 127 trees! The SOS Green Team also planted an additional 90 trees the following week but the work has only begun.

Before...



After...



The long term vision for the site will be for SOS to work along-side l'Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba to transform this abandoned river lot into a naturalized area which will help stabilize the banks of the drainage channel and filter the drainage water before it

In addition to these environmental qualities the Vermette Park plan is intended to create a space that would reflect the rich and diverse Métis history of the area. The open spaces will be used for annual picnics, cultural celebrations, historical tours, and much, much more!



SOS hopes that Vermette Park will allow for the preservation and restoration of the historical Métis Pilon house.

Jane's Day walk through Bois des Esprits

The first Jane's Walk in Bois Des Esprits was greeted by two unique and unexpected visitors. First a Cooper's hawk had settled in a tree just above the area where the walkers had assembled. He stuck around until we embarked, patiently posing for pictures. The second, and less invited guest, was snow. No need to check your calendar, this was indeed May 4th, but remember folks this is Winnipeg. Snow is fair game until July it seems, and even then there's an off chance of the white stuff. We were also joined by Kathleen Leathers of the Prairie Pathfinders, a regular at SOS walks, and Minister of Water Stewardship, Christine Melnick. In addition Andy Park from the University of Winnipeg and Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research joined us to continue his search and data logging of unique geographical centers in Bois Des Esprits.



Cooper's Hawk



These hikers' spirits weren't dampened by spring flurries!

With the wet fluffy flakes starting to blanket the trails, we departed on our journey through Bois Des Esprits. The annoyance of slippery walkways and drenched clothing aside, the snow did make for majestic scenery and contrast with the soon to be budding greenery. Denis DePape, board member of SOS, led us on an informative journey through Winnipeg's newest protected forest. Passing through the forest, we had a chance to experience each of the unique ecosystems in the forest; upland forest, river bottom forest, grasslands, and wetlands, and discover how each plays a pivotal role in the health of the forest and the environment as a whole.

As our journey passed the Royalwood Bridge, we learned of the battle fought with developers to protect this unique forest. Bois Des Esprits represented a dying element in Winnipeg; 117 hectares of untouched river habitat which was home to hundreds of species of plants, animals and insects. Taking a walk through the forest, it is easy to understand why this area was so important to the SOS members, and why they fought so hard to preserve it. Along the way we were regaled by the aforementioned Cooper's hawk, a family of nesting geese, returning wood ducks and mallards, as well as several deer. This was in addition to the many smaller characters chirping and fluttering in the trees above us, no doubt preparing their own spring nests.

Our walk also gave me time to reflect on the true purpose of this day, partaking in a "Jane's Walk". Jane Jacobs vision was to engage citizens and neighborhoods in civic planning, instill a sense of belonging in the citizens, and encourage a pedestrian friendly urban or suburban environment. It is easy to see how our walk through Bois Des Esprits fit Jane's vision; a gathering of local citizens, walking through a forest recently protected by citizen action to be enjoyed by all residents of Winnipeg. The forest demonstrates how involvement in civic planning and development by interest groups and ordinary citizens alike can dramatically change the landscape of a city.

As with every good walk through Bois Des Esprits, ours was capped with a visit to the impressive 12 foot tall tree spirit carving, Woody. Woody's home was a perfect place for the final photo opportunity before our emergence from the bush and back into the developed neighborhood. If you are interested in learning more about Bois Des Esprit or taking a walk through this 117 hectare forest in South St Vital, contact **Denis DePape** at dadepape@mts.net or 257-3408.

—Cameron Regier, devoted SOS volunteer

Etiquette Guide to the Bois des Esprits

The Bois des Esprits Protected Forest attracts hundreds of visitors every year. Young and old, individuals and groups alike come to the Forest to enjoy the tranquil serenity of a true urban oasis right within the city of Winnipeg. Who can blame them for wanting to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and stroll through this truly exceptional 117 hectare 'ecological jewel', lush with deer, beavers, wood ducks, painted turtles and over 140 species of bird. Save Our Seine feels that the public should be aware of some etiquette tips for visitors to this unique urban forest in order to protect and preserve it for others to enjoy:

- ♦ Access to all public parks is not permitted between the hours of 11pm and 7am.
- ♦ If a disturbance is observed (vandalism, excessive noise, fires, etc.) you should notify the authorities immediately by calling 986-6222.
- ♦ It is unlawful to plant any vegetation within a public park without permission from the City. Introducing non-native species such as spruce or pine trees can have devastating effects on the riparian ecosystem.
- ♦ All pets must be on a leash and owners must clean up after their pets.
- ♦ Please stay on the paths and leave only your footprints behind.
- ♦ Most importantly, enjoy your visit!

2008 Urban Green Team

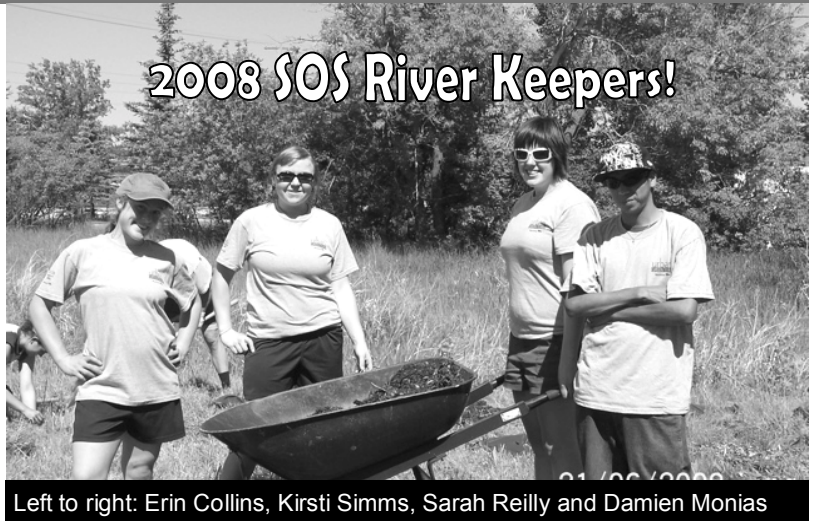
A big thank you to our partner **Casera Credit Union** whose great generosity has been crucial in helping Save Our Seine ensure the yearly hiring of Winnipeg's hardest working Urban Green Team:

The SOS River Keepers

This years' team consists of returning member and now lead-hand; Sarah Reilly along with three other young brave students who have dedicated themselves to the cleaning and greening of over 54kms of Seine River shoreline stretching from the Red River Floodway South of Winnipeg all the way to the Red River in Northern St. Boniface!

If you know of a problem or trouble spot that needs Green Team attention, call SOS at **470-9247**.

If you see these hard-working individuals on the river this summer don't hesitate to stop and visit with them for awhile as they always have extraordinary tales to tell.



These River Keepers spend their summer:

- Removing garbage from the shoreline and streambed
- Clearing fallen trees and log jams
- Planting and caring for hundreds of trees to help re-naturalize and stabilize Seine River banks
- Removing invasive species such as purple loosestrife in order to protect and enhance the fragile diversity along the Seine

THANKS CASERA!!!



Canadian Rivers' Day 2008: Blame it on the rain



As the saying goes: April showers bring May flowers. The importance of Spring rains doesn't end there.

As you have most likely noticed, the unusually dry weather this early Spring allowed most to get out and enjoy the sunshine but it also created unseasonably low flow levels in Winnipeg's rivers, and the Seine is no exception.

According to Environment Canada, historically the average precipitation for Winnipeg for the month of April is near 36mm while this April we received only 9mm which is far too little precipitation to quench the Seine's thirst.

Like all rivers the Seine relies on the annual spring flush to raise its water levels, flush its banks, deposit nutrient-rich silt, and provide adequate water levels throughout the summer months which are generally drier.

What a Canadian Rivers' Day this would be!



When paddling becomes a challenge!

Alf Warkentin, from the office of the Minister of Water Stewardship informed Save Our Seine that the decision had been made in early May to temporarily allow for increased water flows into the Seine at the St. Anne diversion. While the rain that we received in mid-May did increase these flows, it was thought to only be short-lived. Our crystal ball wasn't very accurate in foreseeing late spring rains.

So what does this all mean? Well, these low flows prompted some changes to the Annual Save Our Seine Canadian Rivers' Day celebration. The actual canoe paddle down the Seine was thought to not be possible and was therefore cancelled but Save Our Seine has planned the family-friendly planting event on July 26th at **Vermette Park** as a great alternative to Canadian Rivers' Day. Come out and:

- plant a tree
- enjoy a BBQ
- get involved
- support Save Our Seine
- meet new friends
- learn about Métis culture

Cross your fingers for 2009!



A Farewell to Dave J. Danyluk: SOS coordinator 2002-2007

The story begins in 2002 when I received a call from a University of Winnipeg student enquiring about Save Our Seine Environment Inc. He went on to explain that he was doing research on volunteer environmental groups and was particularly interested in learning everything he could about SOS. That student was **David Danyluk**. I'm sure at the time neither of us suspected what a profound influence he would have on SOS and in turn to the overall makeup of the Seine River Greenway.

In very short order, Dave became fully familiar with the internal workings of our group, first as a keen observer at SOS meetings and ultimately as a totally engaged board member. Around this time, Bev Sawchuk became president of SOS and was successful in securing funding for a full-time coordinator. David was available, was eminently qualified, but most importantly was willing to work for a few proverbial peanuts at a job that would subsume his being for the next six years.

He routinely made educational presentations to school groups. He shamelessly lobbied politicians and potential funding agencies. His duties included organizing greenings and cleanings and occasionally taking interested parties for a paddle down his favourite river.

As the first paid coordinator for SOS, David largely wrote his own job description, albeit with input from our president and the board. A typical day might include fielding complaints and enquires about ever-challenging activities along the Seine river corridor.

Bev Sawchuk as president along with Dave as expert coordinator/facilitator morphed into a dynamic team that would forever change the direction of SOS. They were instrumental in raising the profile of SOS to such an extent that SOS became the proud recipient of four prestigious environmental awards in one year. In between the more prosaic, Dave still found time to organize and promote our own SOS 'Rivers Day'. This has become a yearly event, attracting numerous paddlers, walkers, and friends of SOS. It is a day of fun and enlightened awareness, giving meaning to our adopted motto: "A river lies waiting to be discovered".

Among the many projects, that Dave can take great pride in having promoted and propelled the following stand out as particularly significant.

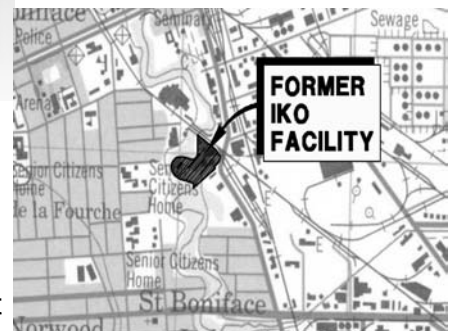
1) Fund raising and lobbying government to save over 80 acres of pristine forest; now known as 'Bois des Esprits'.



2) Creation of the Seine River Greenway Map. This beautiful document portrays the heritage, flora, fauna, hydrology, and geography of the urban Seine. It has appropriately been referenced as "a work of art".



3) A severely contaminated riverside property has been oozing tar-like chemicals into the Seine River for years. With persistent pressure from SOS the present owners; IKO and government are finally embarking on a multi-million dollar cleanup. This environment restoration is the largest ever undertaken along the length of the Seine.



Unfortunately, funding for our creative coordinator has run out and Dave is now devoting his boundless energy to a new set of challenges with the Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation. We wish you well in your new career Dave and we search for words that would convey our profound gratitude for all you have done to make our little piece of paradise ever more perfect.

- Jules Legal, former SOS president

Upcoming Events and Fall Newsletter

SOS has managed to obtain funding for a coordinator for the summer months but the position will end in August 2008. The loss of this valuable resource has prompted the SOS Board to inform you that it regrets that it will most likely not be issuing a Fall Newsletter this season. We will continue to update the website **www.saveourseine.com** with information about upcoming events and Seine River projects so you should check it often to watch for opportunities to get involved. You will also still be able to leave messages on the Save Our Seine email account at **saveourseine@gmail.com** as well as at **(204) 470-9247**. We will do our best to respond to your questions and queries in a timely fashion. We appreciate your understanding and patience in this matter. We thank you for your support and interest in our organization and we hope that you continue to explore and discover the hidden beauty of this quaint meandering urban river.

St. Boniface Trail Interim Progress Report

The North St. Boniface Interpretive Trail, sometimes also referred to as "The Secret Forest" or "Seine River Parkway", is again showing its natural beauty. Although signage indicates that the trail is temporarily closed for a major facelift by the City of Winnipeg, many neighbours are frequently enjoying this natural jewel that abounds with waterfowl, turtles, birds and plenty of green space. The river is full with thousands of small fish fry, feeding on mosquito larva in the shallow areas of the river.

Young and old, families with children, athletes and cyclists are enjoying this natural oasis well hidden in the heart of St. Boniface.

Our Green Team has worked hard to sweep the trail clean after the spring flood and picking up garbage that the tourists leave behind. They have also helped a long-term wayward soul on the trail to keep his home on the banks of the Seine clean and safe. Mr. Sam T., as he is affectionately called by the local homeowners, had the misfortune to be forced to make his home with a view on the banks of the Seine River. We spoke to him and he promised to keep his area clean and safe. He also said he will speak to his young friends who frequently come and visit him to do the same. Perhaps Sam will turn out to be our newest SOS volunteer on site??



Sam's place after a good cleaning by our Green Team



The Seine in early Spring

The Green Team members, Sarah Reilly and Kirsti Simms, have also cut and moved a few large wind-downed trees, trimmed back shrubs and vegetation to widen the trail to about 5 feet, making it comfortable for walking and hiking.

We also established a good rapport with various city departments. The staff of the departments of Parks and Open Spaces as well as Naturalist Services and Planning and Land Use have met with us on the trail and advised us on possible plantings along the trail and safety issues. The Public Works Department, under Lead Foreman, Jack Sinclair, has already had his staff mow the large green area behind the Seine River Café to make it safer and more appealing.

We would like to especially thank Ken McKim from the Planning, Property and Development Department, Jönina Ewart, Superintendent of Parks and Open Spaces and Cheryl Heming, City Naturalist and their staff for their expert advice.

A major facelift of the trail is planned for this construction season by the City's Planning and Development Department connecting our trail to the historic home of the Franco-Manitoban author Gabriele Roy on Deschambault Street. At this point the Seine River Trail will officially become a functional part of the TransCanada Trail system in St. Boniface.

- Will Barmeier, SOS Board member

Are You Encroaching on City Land?

What is Encroachment?: Encroachment is any type of vegetation, man-made object or item of personal property of a person which exists or extends wholly or partially upon public lands. This includes any aerial, surface, or subsurface encroachments either deliberately or inadvertently.

The Bylaw: It is an infraction of section 12 of City of Winnipeg bylaw 3219/82 which states that no person shall "disturb, remove, damage, or destroy any rock, gravel, sand or soil" or "disturb, damage, trim, or pick vegetation" on Parks Land. This includes mowing, storing personal belongings on, planting vegetation on, or landscaping any City-owned land without prior authorization.

Some examples of illegal encroachments:

- Play structures such as swings, slides, tree houses, etc.
- Stairs, decks, lighting, irrigation or sprinkler systems, gardens, etc.
- Paved or unpaved pathways.
- Unauthorized mowing, cutting, pruning, watering, or burning.
- Unauthorized application of pesticides or herbicides.
- Dumping of household waste.
- Dumping or storage of garden waste, or leaves as they are a fire hazard.
- Vehicles parked on City land for storage or retail sale.
- Sheds, trailers, campers, boats, or building materials.

**For more information please contact City of Winnipeg
Naturalist Services Branch at: (204) 986-7233**



Illegal storage of building materials



Terracing of the riverbank with a staircase



SOS's Vision Statement

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.

THE GOALS OF SOS

1. Preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment & heritage resource of the Seine River.
2. Restore & repair features of the environment that have been degraded.
3. Improve water level, flow & quality.
4. Raise the public's awareness of all aspects of the Seine River.
5. Improve the environmental behaviour of private industry, governments and the general public.
6. Improve appropriate public access along the Seine River (*by low-impact nature trail & by canoe*).



The sighting of a stoic red fox along the Seine River is a real treat!

Are you a friend of Save Our Seine yet?

Save Our Seine (SOS) depends on 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.

All it takes is a minimum monthly donation of \$10 !!! Just visit us at www.saveourseine.com and click on the 'Donate Now' button. It's that easy to support:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| ♦ Tree Planting & Clean-Ups | ♦ Summer Student Positions | ♦ School Partnerships |
| ♦ Discover the Seine in Winter | ♦ Canadian Rivers Day | ♦ www.saveourseine.com |
| ♦ Seine River Trails | ♦ SOS Newsletters | ♦ Seine Greenway Map |

*If you are a **United Way** donor, you can also designate monthly contributions to SOS*

You can also simply fill out this form and mail in your donation to the address below.

Name: _____
(DONOR'S NAME)

Address: _____ City: _____ Province: _____
(ADDRESS FOR TAX RECEIPT RETURN)

Postal Code: _____ Phone: (____) — ____ — ____

Email Address: _____

Contribution Amount \$ _____

Mail to:

Save Our Seine
Box 83, 208
Provencher Blvd.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2H 3B4

**For any donation
inquiries please
call 470-9247**

SOS is a registered charitable organization. All contributions of \$20.00+ will receive a tax receipt.
Charitable Tax Number:
89399 6975 RR0001

