

In 2003, SOS took on many challenges including the restructuring of our volunteer Board of Directors. I stepped into the big shoes of my predecessor, Jules Legal, SOS's President for the past 3 years. Jules still serves as a Director, and his experience and wisdom continue to guide SOS.

Three new Board members were recruited in 2003: Alain Cenerini, Denis DePape and David Venema. Each of these individuals has different perspectives and backgrounds, and each has contributed greatly to SOS's mission to protect, preserve and enhance the 26K Seine River Corridor.

Serge LaRoche assumed the role of Treasurer from Jim Gyselinck. They worked closely for a smooth transition, and Serge has successfully established an updated reporting system to monitor SOS's project funding. Project grants from government agencies usually have stringent reporting requirements, and it is essential to ensure that their guidelines are monitored so that our "lifeline" keeps flowing. Grants typically fund rehabilitation and restoration projects, but do not cover operating expenses such as insurance, cell phone, postage, printing, signage, etc.

This underlines the importance of support from the community, both in terms of funding and volunteerism.

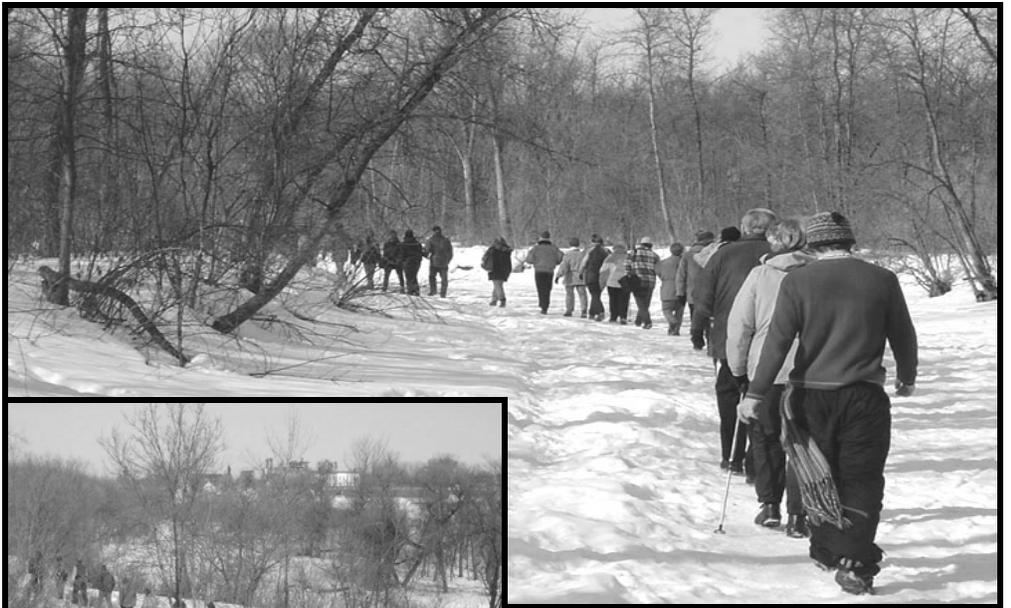
SOS continuously seeks partnerships with residents as well as groups such as *Scouts Canada, Katimavik, Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization, Prairie Pathfinders* and *Mountain Equipment Co-op*. Each time that SOS forms such a partnership, we expand our reach in increasing awareness of the Seine, an integral component of educating the community about the importance of our greenspaces and just how fragile they are.

Today more than ever, it is essential to find a balance between progress and preservation. To quote Robert Bateman, "*There is nothing more complex, more varied and more beautiful than planet earth...or anything more worth saving.*"

To the nearly 1,000 members of SOS, thank you for your continued support - we couldn't do it without you.

See you all at the Canadian Rivers Day Celebration!

Bev Sawchuk, President SOS



Discover the Seine River...in Winter!

The SOS and Prairie Pathfinders' river-walk was held on February 28, 2004. One hundred walkers turned out for the 11.5 km. walk from Fermor to the Forks Market!

SOS HONoured WITH 3 AWARDS IN 2004!



MARCH 2004

Save Our Seine was awarded the **2004 Prairie Crocus Award** from the Manitoba Naturalists Society. This was the first time an organization has received the honour in the award's 9 year history. This recognition from our peers is very flattering. JP Brunet (who joined SOS in 1990!) accepted the award on behalf of the SOS Board and Members. *"The Prairie Crocus Award is presented by the Society for outstanding service in preserving a part of Manitoba in its natural state. The Society is presenting the award to SOS for your efforts in rescuing and preserving the Seine River and its habitat over the past 14 years."*

APRIL 2004

St. Vital MLA, Nancy Allan, nominated SOS for the 2004 **Mayor's Volunteer Service Award for the Environment** "...To recognize the 1000 members and volunteers of SOS and their efforts to protect, preserve and enhance the Seine River Greenway."



SOS Coordinator, David Danyluk, Mayor Glen Murray and SOS President, Bev Sawchuk

The Mayor's Volunteer Award read: *"For giving of their time, talent and energy to improve the well-being of their fellow citizens in the area of environment."*

21st Annual Volunteer Awards April 21, 2004 Glen Murray, Mayor"

MAY 2004

SOS will receive Canadian Geographic's **2004 Canadian Environmental Award**. SOS will attend the C.E.A.'s Gala Dinner in Calgary



May 31st, to receive either the Silver or Gold Award in the category of *Restoration and Rehabilitation*.



SOS is thrilled to be the first group to represent Manitoba in this national contest. The CEA recognizes Canadians who, *"have made outstanding contributions to the protection, restoration and preservation of the Canadian environment."*

"SOS is a remarkable example of community spirit and volunteerism. They have involved all parts of the community and have excited others about an area of Winnipeg that is often unknown even to those who have lived their entire lives in our City," said Mayor Murray. *"I want to congratulate SOS's leadership and vision for preserving urban greenspace for all of us."* MAYOR'S PRESS RELEASE RE: C.E.A. ANNOUNCEMENT - APRIL 29, 2004

PAST HONOURS...

Federal Government's **2000 Certificate of Environmental Citizenship** (first in Manitoba!)
Manitoba Sustainable Development's **1996 Award of Excellence**

Katimavik and Save Our Seine-2004 Partnership

Save Our Seine and Katimavik have partnered for the 2004 spring and summer season. Katimavik is Canada's leading national youth volunteer-service program. Katimavik has served St. Boniface for many years and SOS is pleased to partner with this wonderful organization. St. Boniface and St. Vital will host 7-10 youth from *outside* Manitoba, volunteering in *our* community!



Justin Trudeau (Chair of the Board of Directors of Katimavik) visited the Katimavik participants and other high school students in Winnipeg, March 5, 2004.

Katimavik/SOS Projects will include:

- ◆ removing debris and trash from the environment,
- ◆ tree planting projects at numerous sites along the river banks (water past plantings),
- ◆ trail maintenance & tree pruning,
- ◆ removal of non-native, invasive species like Purple Loose strife, European Buckthorn (etc.),
- ◆ tree-wrapping with stucco-mesh (against beaver damage),
- ◆ removal of logjams by canoe and participate in various SOS events and activities.
- ◆ Canadian Recreation Canoeing Association's Flat Water Level One training and equipment will be provided by David Pancoe, *Northern Soul Wilderness Adventures*.

Katimavik



*CONTACT SOS IF YOU WISH TO BILLET A PARTICIPANT (July 9th-18th)

What else does SOS do?

SOS is best known for its annual clean-up and tree planting activities along the Seine River Greenway. Since the river is 26 kilometers long, (over 50 kilometers of riverbank!) there is always work to be done somewhere. SOS however is very active year round and is involved in numerous projects and partnerships. Below I would like to briefly inform you of some of our major initiatives that SOS has been working on over the years.

- **RIFFLE PROJECT:** The Seine River has sporadic water levels over the seasons and riffles (stone weirs or artificial rapids) as well as spawning beds have been suggested to enhance the Seine River's aquatic habitat. This structure can increase water levels, provide cooler water temperatures, increase dissolved oxygen (DO), reduce erosion and improve vegetation along the riverbank. Better conditions for a healthy riparian zone & shoreline habitat.

These structures would be on City property and therefore require numerous permits and approvals from various departments. Provincial and Federal Agencies (Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Navigable Waterways, Coast Guard etc) also provide both approvals and funding. This worthwhile project and the complicated bureaucratic process has taken several years and has absorbed a significant amount of SOS time and resources. SOS hopes to have riffles installed, improving habitat conditions over the next year.

- **Bois-des-esprits PROJECT:** SOS realized that it is more cost effective to protect existing natural areas along the river than to try to recover areas once highly disturbed. As such SOS has championed the effort to protect the pristine 80-acre forest in South St. Vital called the Bois-des-esprits. SOS coaxed the City of Winnipeg to create a unique Natural Park. Over 2002 and 2003 SOS raised \$115,000.00 and convinced the Province of Manitoba, as co-owner to rescue the last 15-acres from development.

- **RIEL MILL SITE PROJECT:** In the early 1850's Benjamin Lagimodiere and Louis Riel Sr. built a water powered grist mill on the Seine River just north of present day John Bruce Rd. Apart from some mill stones in front of the St. Boniface Museum, this amazing accomplishment has not been acknowledged. Recently the vacant Riel property was sold for a housing complex. Through a partnership with the *Manitoba Metis Federation*, the *Union nationale métisse St-Joseph du Manitoba*, and the City of Winnipeg the Riel Mill Site will be recognized as a heritage treasure and opportunities for an Interpretive Centre for both the heritage forest (Bois-des-esprits) and the Metis settlers' accomplishments and their culture.

- **PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT:** There is a need for a crossing of the Seine River for trail users between Marion and Provencher Blvd. SOS is going to participate in a City-led consultation process to determine what type of crossing, and where the crossing can be. SOS prefers that any crossing has minimum impact on the environment, be attractive and permit paddlers to pass beneath with safe clearance.

- **RED RIVER FLOODWAY EXPANSION PROJECT:** As most of you are already aware, the Red River Floodway is being expanded. SOS was given intervenor status as the floodway greatly affects the Seine River. The Seine crosses the diversion through a 48" pipe. River water above the pipe's 3.5 cubic meter per second volume (overflow) is spilled into the floodway. SOS is exploring how to improve the siphon and improve habitat with wetlands and increased flow volumes (to mimic natural seasonal fluctuations). Recreational opportunities will also be explored with trail connections etc.

- **WWW.SAVEOURSEINE.COM PROJECT:** SOS is proud to offer additional information through our website. You can learn more about the Seine River Environment and Save Our Seine. This site is a fabulous resource for teachers, students or citizens who wish to be more aware of issues affecting their local environment. See our photo gallery, past media coverage, coming events, projects (as mentioned above!), view past newsletters, donate to SOS, view Seine River Studies, explore our Links etc. We upload information often—so keep checking, *we love getting your feedback, comments and emails!!!*

Dave Danyluk—SOS Coordinator

Bois-des-esprits forest protected!

RIEL MLA CONSTITUENCY
REPORT, MARCH 2004

"On Monday., Dec. 29, 2003, I was pleased to be part of an announcement of an agreement that will provide for the protection of the forest known as Bois-des-esprits. As MLA for Riel and Minister of Family Services and Housing, I was happy to join with my colleague Theresa Oswald, MLA for Seine River, and Beverly Sawchuk, President of Save Our Seine River Environment Inc., as well as Councillor Vandal and Councillor Steeves in announcing this agreement.

The Bois-des-esprits forest is located on the east bank of the Seine River and is one of the largest pristine urban forests in Canada. It is home to a wide variety of plants and wildlife, including enormous oaks, aspens, beaver dams, blue herons and snapping turtles.

The vision is that it will become a recreational area for the benefit of all Manitobans. There is already a number of trails running along both sides of the Seine River.

I would like to thank the Board of Save Our Seine on the tremendous commitment of their volunteers and to

congratulate them on their fundraising efforts which contributed over \$110,000 toward the protection of the forest.

The agreement will see the preservation of 66-acres of forest. Our provincial government has expressed its commitment to protect the remaining 15-acres of forest and as Minister of Family Services and Housing, I will work with my department and Save Our Seine towards this goal."

Sincerely,

Christine Melnick, MLA Riel



December 29th 2003 — Announcement of Partnership between Save Our Seine, City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba. (left to right) Bev Sawchuk (President of SOS), Councillor Gord Steeves (St. Vital), Theresa Oswald (MLA Seine River), Councillor Dan Vandal (St-Boniface) and the Honourable Christine Melnick, (MLA Riel) Minister of Family Services and Housing.

Save Our Seine River Environment Inc.'s 2004 Annual General Meeting. May 18th!

**ATTENTION MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, CONCERNED
CITIZENS, PAST & PRESENT VOLUNTEERS
AND MEMBERS OF SOS...**



January 27th 2004. Walter Mirosch of Les Gens du Bois Carving Club, Mr. John Evans and Ms. Laverne Janzen, (winners of two carvings) and Bev Sawchuk. (Congratulations Norma La-Croix-Gagné, winner of autographed Robert Bateman Book - not pictured)

Please attend Save Our Seine's A.G.M. at the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain (CCFM) at 340 Provencher Blvd.

7:00–9:00 p.m. May, 18th 2004

- ◆ Have your questions answered on topics, issues and projects that affect the Seine River Greenway.
- ◆ Receive reports from the SOS Board of Directors.
- ◆ Guest Speaker - Walter Mirosch of *Les Gens du Bois Carving Club* will make a short presentation about his group's tree-carving project in the Bois-des-esprits.
- ◆ Guest Speaker - David Hatch (Environmentalist) will make a presentation on the negative impacts of the Southglen Bridge on the Bois-des-esprits habitat and Seine River Greenway.
- ◆ Refreshments Served

YOUR INPUT, COMMENTS AND DIRECTION WANTED!

Email us at Coordinator@saveourseine.com to request SOS newsletters electronically

Celebrate Canadian Rivers Day!

Join SOS in celebrating our City's river heritage and celebrate *Canadian Rivers Day –Weekend* along the Seine River!

Discover The Seine...on Canadian Rivers Day!

**Saturday, June 12, 2004 in John Bruce Park
1:00 to 4:00 P.M. (Tree Planting at 10:00.a.m.)**

(rain date is Sunday, June 13 same times)*

SOS invites you to *Discover the Seine on Canadian Rivers Day* on June 12 (Rain Day—June 13th) at John Bruce Park (located by the footbridge on John Bruce Road, off St. Anne's Road, in St. Vital—see map reverse page).

The discovery and exploration of Canada was made possible by our country's rivers. A new celebration - *Canadian Rivers Day* - will commemorate that history and promote the natural, cultural and recreational values of Canada's rivers. In 2002, the Minister of Canadian Heritage signed a Ministerial Proclamation to officially declare the formation of this day as an opportunity to bring Canada's river communities together on projects for conservation, interpretation and enjoyment.

Bring your friends and family and join SOS under Winnipeg's tallest tree - a 90' Cottonwood - and experience the pristine beauty of our 26 km. Seine River Greenway!

- * Walk the *Bois-des-esprits*, a pristine 80-acre urban wilderness soon to be Winnipeg's newest Natural Park.
- * Plant a tree on the riverbank (10:00 - 11:00 a.m.!)
- * Paddle a canoe on the tranquil, meandering urban River (Paddlers bring out your canoe and do some *urban paddling*!!!)
- * Enjoy a guided walk to the historic Louis Riel Mill Site
- * Meet Katimavik, youth ambassadors from across Canada
- * Learn about Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization and meet their live birds of prey, non-releasable educational ambassadors!
- * Support SOS by purchasing T-Shirts & Raffle Tickets (12 prizes!)
- * Enjoy a BBQ hotdog and refreshment
- * Park at the Canada Post parking lot (South of John Bruce Rd. on the East side of St. Anne's Rd.) or take a #55 St. Annes's Transit Bus or even better, *take a bike or walk!*

...or find your own spot along the Seine River (*Whittier Park, Gaboury-Lagimodiere Park, Happy Land Park, Morier Park, King George Park, John Bruce Park, Bois-des-esprits Park, etc.*) and throw a Frisbee, walk a trail, cast a fishing line, watch the wildlife, paddle or kayak a few kilometers, ride a bike, pick up some litter...

...and appreciate your river!!

Don't forget...

- ◆ * If the forecast calls for rain over the weekend of the 12/13th please call the SOS phone number 470-9247 to confirm if the event will be held on the Saturday (12th) or postponed to Sunday (13th). The times for the event will be the same either day.
- ◆ If you come for the tree planting (10:00 a.m.) be sure to bring a small spade and work gloves. Boots are handy too.
- ◆ If the weather is hot and sunny be sure to wear a hat and sun-screen and bring a water bottle.

