Save Our Seine
EPC Special Meeting Presentation

Established in 1990, Save Our Seine (SOS) is a community-based stewardship group representing approximately 500 active supporters. Our mandate is to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural environment and heritage resources of the urban Seine River (SR) through education, awareness, and hands-on participation. Since its inception, SOS has led extensive annual clean-ups of the SR to ensure that it remains one of the city's greatest natural, historical, cultural, and recreational assets.

- A grant for $30,000 to SOS is included in Appendix 2 of the 2015 draft budget. While the amount is not large compared to other budget items, it significantly expands SOS' capacity to support and enhance the Seine River and its greenway. The urban Seine River meanders for 26 km through St. Vital and St. Boniface and is bordered by a population of approximately 111,000 residents (2006).
- The City funding for 2015 will enable SOS to retain its part-time Executive Director (ED), our only year-round staff position. This grant provides base funding for the ED's salary and expenses. The position would not be possible without the City funding and SOS would be forced to operate on a strictly volunteer basis. While volunteer involvement is central to the functioning of SOS, having an ED greatly strengthens our capacity to undertake projects, deliver programs, and influence planning.
- The City's grant to SOS was first received in 2014 due in large part to the efforts of Councilor Brian Mayes and his campaign commitments to SOS and the citizens of St. Vital. Consistent with conversations between SOS and Councilor Mayes, the City's grant was used to retain an ED. We were most fortunate to secure the services of Michele Kading (here today) who has over 30 years of experience in conservation and environmental education. Our intention is to use the 2015 grant to extend the ED's position for another year and ensure organizational continuity.
- Being able to retain an ED has been invaluable to SOS. Since the position was established, our organization has been given new momentum. Having an ED has allowed SOS to:
  - Coordinate and adapt the Adopt-a-River program for the teachers and students;
  - Organize educational tours and events along the Seine, including a recent walk featuring the historic mill operated by Louis Riel Senior;
  - Undertake extensive GIS analysis and develop presentations to support SOS's participation in the Precinct K planning process;
  - Undertake a new rain garden project with the Province, the City, and Manitoba Eco-Network (site selection, developing partnerships, fundraising);
  - Produce articles in the Lance and our regular newsletters – one of which focused on the funding we received from the City of Winnipeg last year (copy provided);
  - Update the SOS website, which had become neglected, and fix up mailing lists;
  - Apply to participate in NEB hearings related to the Energy East pipeline;
  - Strengthen relationships with City of Winnipeg staff, and much more.
- In 2015, our need for an Executive Director is even greater. 2015 marks the 25th Anniversary of Save Our Seine, and we are planning to celebrate with a number of notable events throughout the year including tree plantings, special walking and biking tours, a fishing event, a photography contest, and guest speakers to name a few. The ED will play a significant role in supporting the volunteer committees spearheading these events. Those of you who have been involved as volunteers in such events will readily appreciate the importance of having a staff person available for assistance.
- SOS is TRULY grateful for the grant of $30,000 that is being provided by the City of Winnipeg.

On behalf of Save Our Seine, our membership, and Board of Directors, we would like to extend our sincerest thanks for renewing your commitment to support SOS in the 2015 budget. We would be pleased to provide the Mayor and members of council with a tour of Bois-des-Esprits – described by Councilor Lukes and her triplets as a "magical forest." The purchase and conservation of this forest in 2006 was a remarkable achievement for SOS and the City of Winnipeg. We also invite you to join our mailing list so that you will receive personal notifications about this year's anniversary events as well as future SOS newsletters.

17 March 2015

SEINE RIVER Meanderings

January 2014, Special Edition

Core Funding Announced for Save Our Seine!

On December 17th of 2013, Winnipeg City Council voted on its 2014 Preliminary Operating and Capital Budget. For the first time ever, the document contains a line item reflecting a grant to Save Our Seine. While $30,000 may seem like a tiny drop in an ocean of grants given to community groups (almost $42 million in total), it means the world to SOS. On a practical level, the grant will make it possible for SOS to engage an Executive Director on an on-going basis rather than off-and-on as fundraising allows. This financial stability will greatly enhance the capacity of the organization to do its work. More importantly, the grant represents a commitment by the City of Winnipeg to support the work of SOS and recognition that its work is important to Winnipeg's quality of life.

Thanks to the persistence of St. Vital Councillor Brian Mayes, and the support of St. Boniface Councillor, Dan Vandal, Save Our Seine joins a small handful of environmental organizations that will receive grants from the City of Winnipeg (sidebar). Councillor Mayes has been a staunch supporter of SOS since prior to his election – promising to obtain financial support for SOS as part of his platform. In February of 2013, he made the unprecedented move to contribute money from his ward office budget to SOS – allowing it to recruit an Executive Director in September. Meanwhile, Councillor Mayes continued to elicit support from his colleagues for on-going financial support. The recent decision marks the fulfillment of his election promise. Save Our Seine is grateful for Brian's persistence, support, and advocacy on its behalf.



Mayes family planting trees with SOS at Vermette Park

2014 City of Winnipeg Grants (Environmental Groups)

- Manitoba Eco-Network
- River East Trails Committee
- Coalition to Save the Elms
- Red River Basin Commission
- ***Save Our Seine***
- Fort Whyte Alive
- Miscellaneous Water Grants

Save Our Seine
river environment inc.

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GOALS

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

SOS Board Members

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VP: Denis DePape
Treasurer: David Venema
Secretary: Sisters of Our Lady of the Mission
Sandra Stewart, Denise Kuyp, & Veronica Dunne

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A RIVER LIES WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED.

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SOS WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Michele Kading,
Executive Director

The SOS Board is pleased to welcome its new Executive Director. Michele Kading has a Master of Science in biogeography and over 30 years of experience in heritage interpretation, environmental education, and advocacy. A graduate of Dakota High School and University of Winnipeg, she lived in St. Vital for 7 years and has strong ties to the area. Her passion is re-connecting people with nature. "My life's work has taught me that it is crucial to have natural landscapes (forests, prairies, wetlands, and rivers) close to where people of all ages and backgrounds live, work, and play—especially in cities so people can experience nature on a daily basis." In 1998, Michele put her passion into action when she fought to save several small wetlands in the historic Frog Plain area of Winnipeg. One of these wetlands has since been designated as a city park. Since then, many wetlands have been integrated into new residential developments like Royalwood for stormwater retention and are now considered community assets. They raise property values, clean the water, and can be used for environmental awareness and education. "I am thrilled to be able to use my knowledge, skills, and experience to benefit the Seine River, its watershed, and the Greenway."

Save Our Seine
river environment inc.

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- Complete this form, clip, and mail
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- Donate on-line using credit card, Interact, or PayPal. Go to the SOS Web site, select donate, and click **"Canada Helps"**

Tax receipts will be issued for donations over $10 (name/mailing address required)