



Save Our Seine
river environment inc.

Welcome to the Save Our Seine E-News! Nov 17, 2019

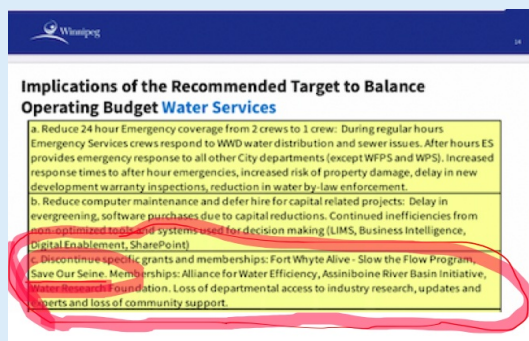
Lots of News!

- **\$30,000 Grant to SOS to be Discontinued in the City of Winnipeg Budget**
- **Check out reports on SOS activities**
- **Opportunities for Citizen Engagement**

There is lots going on. I am so proud to be part of this organization! Check it out! We need your support to stop the cuts to our City of Winnipeg Grant.

Laurie Ringaert
President and E-News Editor

You Can Help to Keep Support for SOS



\$30,000 Grant to SOS to be Discontinued in 2020

City of Winnipeg's Water Services is proposing to eliminate a \$30,000 grant to Save Our Seine in 2020. In 2013, Councillor Mayes did something that was unprecedented by giving SOS money from his ward budget to hire an Executive Director. He then made a strong case to

include a grant to SOS in the city's annual operating budget.

While \$30,000 is only a tiny drop in a very large departmental bucket (\$132 million), it has been a godsend to Save Our Seine and to the Seine River Environment. It has given the organization enough financial stability and continuity to fulfill its core mandate – taking care of the Seine River. We have been able to work in partnership with the City of Winnipeg to carry out a number of activities along the Seine River.

The grant from the City is a **cost effective return on investment** is making a real difference to the City of Winnipeg and is a small amount out of over a \$100 million dollar budget. Through our partnership with the City, we are able to carry out a great deal of the needed clean up and restoration work along this important greenway through our summer program and many volunteers.

[READ THE STORY OF THE PLANNED CUTS HERE](#)

What will the loss of this grant mean to SOS AND TO THE SEINE RIVER ENVIRONMENT?

- SOS will be unable to retain its part-time Executive Director.
- SOS will rely solely on volunteers to sustain the organization.
- Volunteers will have to focus almost entirely on applying for grants and fundraising to replace the missing revenue and complete current projects – rather than furthering SOS goals.
- SOS will have to cancel its summer program to keep the Seine River clean and navigable as it does not have enough volunteers to manage the grants and implement the program.
- SOS will lose six seasonal jobs

(including the Seine River Clean-up Coordinator) and \$22,000 of annual provincial and federal funding.

- SOS is currently working with the city on a \$300,000 Seine River Greenspaces Enhancement Project to restore habitat, enhance trails, and connect people to nature. This will have to be completed entirely by volunteers in 2020.
- New projects (with potential provincial funding) will be dropped - including the Seine River Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Project.
- SOS will not have the organizational capacity to envision or take on exciting new projects that will benefit the city.
- SOS will be unable to attend many of the stakeholder meetings and public hearings for projects that impact the health of the river (past examples: Precinct K development plan, aqueduct bank stabilization, Fermor Bridge project, Highway 100 re-design, countless parcel developments along the river)
- SOS's 30th Anniversary in 2020 may mark the end of the organization unless the grant from the city is re-instated.

What will it mean for the Seine River Greenway?

- Fallen trees and broken branches from the October storm will create debris dams in the Seine River. These dams will block the flow of water and catch garbage. The river will return to being an unsightly mess rather than a paddler's paradise.
- Habitat restoration along the Greenway – including the Niakwa Trail Rain Garden – will suffer unless more volunteers can be recruited to eradicate weeds and plant native

- species.
- The installation of an accessible dock at John Bruce Park in will be in jeopardy unless fundraising targets can be met by volunteers alone. If targets are not met, the money raised to date will have to be returned to the funders (approximately \$60,000)
 - There will be one less environmental group in Winnipeg with sufficient capacity to help fulfill the city's commitment to plant a million trees.
 - The city will lose access to thousands of dollars that can be raised by SOS.
 - The only dedicated and strong voice for the Seine River will be significantly weakened.
 - Residents, business and organizations along the Seine River will face an uncared for river and greenway.

FOR EVERY \$1 THAT THE CITY GIVES SOS, WE HAVE RAISED AN EXTRA \$2.3 FROM NON-CITY SOURCES.

Since 2013, the City has provided SOS with \$208,000.

- **This has allowed Save Our Seine to raise close to \$500,000 in project money that has been instrumental in making Winnipeg a better place to live.**
- **It has been used to**
 - clean the river,
 - protect the Greenway from encroachment by developments,
 - maintain and enhance city trails and parks along the Greenway,
 - protect and enhance wildlife habitat
 - improve recreational infrastructure,
 - create a demonstration rain garden,

- plant trees,
- remove invasive species,
- protect trees from beavers,
- restore natural habitats,
- monitor river quality and quantity,
- educate school children, youth, university students and the public,
- celebrate heritage and art,
- create a wonderful natural greenspace as a legacy to our children and grandchildren.

IF YOU VALUE THIS WORK AND WANT IT TO CONTINUE, YOU MUST SPEAK UP!

HERE ARE SIX THINGS YOU CAN DO!

1.PLAN TO APPEAR IN PERSON

It is critical that we have a large delegation of people at the Meeting!

Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment Special Meeting Councillors Gilroy, Chambers, Klein, and Shreyer (Mayor Bowman, ex officio)

Water and Waste Department
Budget Presentation
City Hall, West Committee Room
November 25th at 4:30 p.m.

Register as a delegate as part of our large delegation.

Copy and paste the wording below to **REGISTER HERE**

I would like to appear at the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste & River Bank Management regarding the proposed cut in the 2020 Budget for the Save Our Seine River Environment Inc. grant. The meeting is on Nov 25 at 4:30pm. Please confirm.

Your name will be listed as one of the delegates so the committee will see

how many people care about this decision. You will have an opportunity to say a few words about why the work done by SOS is important to you and why the grant to SOS must be continued when your name is called (or you can you can decline to speak).

2.PREPARE A SUBMISSION IN WRITING

If you cannot make it to the meeting, you can send a written submission to the City Clerk at this link: **CHECK IT OUT HERE**

3.CONTACT YOUR CITY COUNCILLORS

- Make a phone call, send an email, send letters
- **Councillor Contact Info Here**

4.CHECK OUT THE BUDGET PAGE

Top left corner of the City of Winnipeg

Website: <https://www.winnipeg.ca/inte/rhom/>

5.SPREAD THE WORD

- Encourage family, friends, neighbours, and colleagues to register and attend the meeting as well.
- **Forward this newsletter** to others including former SOS volunteers, board members, residents and businesses along the Seine and supporters to let them know.
- If you live in a **condo or apartment** along the Seine River, make copies and post this information or pass this along in your email networks.
- Please **tweet, retweet, and share on your social media.**
Check out SOS social media to share.

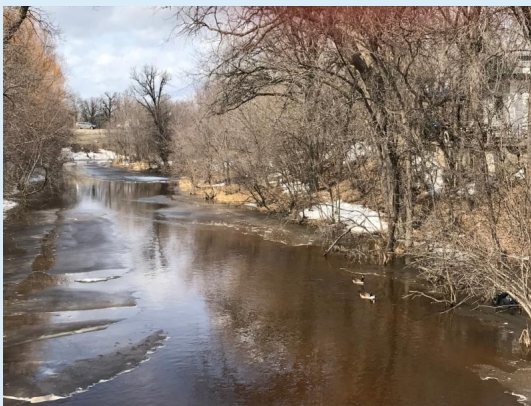
6.CHECK OUT ALL THE GREAT

ACTIVITIES WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH. KEEP READING BELOW.

Let's get a very large group out for Nov 25th and show that SOS is important to the City of Winnipeg! With strength in numbers and lots of messaging we believe we can save our grant!

SAVE OUR SEINE IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE:
SEE BELOW FOR OUR LATEST ACTIVITIES

News from our Signature Project



Save Our Seine River Greenspace Enhancement Project

SOS has embarked on the Save Our Seine River Enhancement Project thanks to grants received from the [Manitoba Provincial Government](#) [Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation : Conservation Trust Grant](#) and the Winnipeg Foundation.

Please see our MHC awards here:

- [MHC Conservation Trust Habitat and Wildlife Award](#)
- [MHC Conservation Trust Connecting People to Nature Award](#)

This project is focusing on the following key activities:

- Development of a kayak/canoe dock
- **Development of the first accessible kayak/canoe dock in the City of Winnipeg**
- Development of an interpretive node area
- Restoration of some lower

"monkey trail" areas

- Planting of natural grasses in key areas

We are very pleased to have engaged the services of [Scatliff-Miller-Murray](#) : [Visionary Urban Design and Landscapes](#) as our landscape architect firm on this project.

We are partnering with the City of Winnipeg on this project.

First Accessible Kayak/Canoe Dock in Winnipeg

- We are currently seeking grants for the complete funding needed to create this dock.
- We are pleased to announce that we have recently received funding from [Mountain Equipment Co-Op Community Grants](#) and the [Blennerhasset Family Foundation](#) . Our deepest appreciation for this funding that will go toward our goal of the accessible dock.
- We are still seeking more funding for this uniquely designed dock area that will be a showcase of accessible design for the City of Winnipeg. **If you are interested in contributing, or know of funding sources, please contact us.**

Thank You To our Team on this Project!

Project Team:

- **Marc St. Laurent, Project Manager,**
- **Michel Kading, Project Grant Writer Content Expertise,**
- **Bob Somers, Landscape Architect, Scatliff-Miller-Murray**

Project Advisory Team:

- **Laurie Ringaert (Chair),**
- **Denis Gautron,**

- Sunny Saini
- Anita Moyse, &
- Robyn Palmer.

News from the Education Committee



EDUCATING YOUNG CHILDREN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Our Education Committee Chair and Past-President, Denis Gautron, recently visited a grade 3-4 class at Highbury School and led a discussion with the class of students mainly about beaver activity along the Seine River.

He said that the students were well informed and have done a lot of research on this topic already. The students wanted to learn about SOS and about the beaver activity along the Seine River.

Thanks to Highbury School for taking the initiative to contact SOS.

In the past few months, Denis has also lead adult groups along the Seine River providing education.

Thank you Denis Gautron for your Leadership

More News from the Education Committee



InSeine Art Project: Engaging Youth with the Environment

InSeine Art, a joint project of **Save Our Seine** and **Dakota Collegiate**, is being run again this year.



During October, the art students at Dakota Collegiate came to the Seine River near John Bruce Park and learned to create non-invasive in-situ art installations (on the banks of the Seine River), as well as painting with natural pigments, dying with natural dyes, and pyrography, the latter being done in the classroom.

Dakota Collegiate is planning to show the art work sometime in 2020.

Thank you to Ray Temmerman who had the vision for the In Seine Art Project and who is heading up this committee as part of the Education Committee.

If you are interested in making a contribution or helping on this committee, contact Ray at ray.temmerman@gmail.com, or by phone at 204-881-8274.

News from the Land Care Committee



Thank You To Our Land Care Committee and the Many Volunteers!

Highlights:

Commitment of local Volunteers:

- The Land Care Groups met regularly in the spring and summer Regular weekly Tues am (Fenella) & Thurs eve (Isabelle) events for 10 weeks and 3 events at Rain Garden (Wilma and Anita).

Our Thanks to Wilma Sotas, Fenella Temmerman, Isabelle Bertazzo and Anita Moyse for their



**Leadership on SOS Land Care.
Wilma, Isabelle and Anita are SOS
Board Members and Fenella is a
Key Volunteer.**

- Our appreciation to Nature Manitoba and SOS Manitoba Green Teams plus local residents who **planted 34 flowering shrubs** between Legend and river on May 27. This was spearheaded by Kristin Tuchsherer, City of Winnipeg.
- **15 local volunteers** came more than 3 times each.
- In addition, **3 lead volunteers** committed themselves to take responsibility to work locally. Brian and the Legend crew watering flowering bushes; Sydney, Cheryl watering wildflowers, often 3 times weekly. **Thank you to these star volunteers!**
- Many volunteers are expressing deep satisfaction with Wild Gardening, working together on what initially seems an impossible task and finding change is possible.

Partnerships with:

- **The City of Winnipeg:** our appreciation to Kristin Tuchsherer of Natural Resources for the City of Winnipeg for her help and advice throughout the season.
- **The Legend:** ongoing maintenance of 34 flowering shrubs. Protective cages completed.
- **1139 St Anne's Road Townhouses.** 2 local events on Leo Remillard meadow with 10 volunteers from their local landscape group and Board.
- **SOS Green Team.** 2 joint events at Meadow. Enjoyed working together

Our Vision and Outcomes:

- **Along the Seine: We are creating a pollinator pathway for butterflies, bees, humming birds and other pollinators. We will be part of a national movement for pollinator ways.**
- **Demonstration Rain Garden: We are creating a demonstration where children, youth, adults, organizations and businesses can learn about the benefits of rain gardens in the City.**
- **We are creating a community network of people who are gaining interest in the environment and in nature through their care of the land.**

SOS LAND CARE is an important partnership with the Land in the quiet evenings and the bright mornings, learning from the seasons and the land itself as invasive species give way to local plants and habitat.

News from the Summer Urban River Keepers Program



2019 SOS Summer Urban River Keepers Program a Success!

Each summer, Save Our Seine employs a team of people to further its goals and initiatives. Historically, the main role of the SOS team was to make sure that the Seine River is clean and navigable, clearing debris dams and garbage from the river. This is work that would not be done by either the City or

the Province.

The SOS summer team provides a valuable service to the **City or Winnipeg Parks** Operations by assisting with the removal of garbage and litter from the river, public trails, and city park lands along the length of the urban Seine River (26-km) and assisting with trail maintenance and repair.

Members of the 2019 Team

- **Clean-up Coordinator: Emily Thoroski**
- **Habitat Technician: Jeffery Lanthier**
- **River Keepers: Taeva Pathammavong (Lead Hand), Caleb Fenez, Jessica Blatta, and Walker Giesbrecht**

Dates employed: May 15th, 2019 – August 9th, 2019 (Emily)
May 27th, 2019 – August 2nd -9th, 2019 (Rest of team members)

Note: The team consisted of all new members the summer of 2019, therefore **Chris Pearce (volunteer)** wonderfully helped the team out this year with a 2-week orientation, helping the team get to know the river and the duties for the summer. Which was very much appreciated.

Michele Kading, SOS Executive Director served as Project Manager.

Key Accomplishments

- **Removal of invasive plant species**
- The identification of the areas that contain buckthorn is essential for future management of the species, therefore the **creation of a map locating these areas** along the river was a key accomplishment.
- **Roughly 40 log jams were cleared** within the river

throughout the summer, which created a channel for wildlife and canoeists, and also provides a healthier flow of the river water and gets rid of areas that easily collect garbage.

- River and on shore clean-ups where garbage was extracted for the habitat, an estimate of **90 garbage bags** were filled throughout the summer, which provides a healthier environment for both humans and wildlife.
- Over **70 species of flora and fauna** were identified along the river and were posted on iNaturalist, which documents the location and the species found.
- **Communication** with the public was also a key factor to a successful summer along the Seine, the team let citizens know what we were doing and why.
- **Social media** also played a major role in helping get information on the Seine and the work that is being done along the Seine out to the public.

NEWS FROM OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



2020 IS SOS'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

Hard to believe but 2020 will be Save Our Seine's 30th Anniversary. We have a great committee that is planning many great events for the entire year.

Please stay tuned for a schedule of events.

If you are interested in volunteering, have memories to share or are interested in sponsoring any events please contact

Many thanks to the 30th

Anniversary Team!

Josée-Anne Le Dorze (Chair),
Wilma Sotas, Anita Moyse, Tari
Muvingi, Paula Kreitz, Isabelle
Bertazzo.

Laurie Ringaert (President)
laurie@changeweavers.com.

New Publication About the Demonstration Rain Garden



The 2020 Prairie Garden will Feature the Niakwa Trail Demonstration Rain Garden

The 2020 Prairie Garden,

The the next edition of *The Prairie Garden* will be coming out in early November. One of the articles is *The Niakwa Trail Demonstration Rain Garden is for the Birds*" by Michele Kading.

The official launch will be on Sunday, November 24, 2 pm, at McNally Robinson Booksellers (Grant Park Mall, Winnipeg).

[Find Out More here](#)

SOS SEEKING HELP WITH OUR WEBSITE



SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO HELP US UPDATE OUR WEBSITE

SOS is seeking a talented person to help us update our website for our 30th Anniversary.

If you are interested in sharing your skills and gaining skills with a non-profit organization, please contact Laurie Ringaert President.
Laurie@changeweavers.com.



Heather Hinam @SecondNatureMB · Nov 9

Found this gorgeous new piece by Murray Watson in Bois des Esprits this morning. A lovely tribute to some people who love the forest and its wildlife as much as I do. #Winnipeg #art



NEW WOOD CARVING BY MURRAY WATSON

Heather Hinam (@SecondNatureMB) tweeted at 11:36 AM on Sat, Nov 09, 2019:

Found this gorgeous new piece by Murray Watson in Bois des Esprits this morning. A lovely tribute to some people who love the forest and its wildlife as much as I do. #Winnipeg #art [CHECK IT OUT HERE](#)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SEASON! YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT



SAVE OUR CANOPY CAMPAIGN

The City of Winnipeg's iconic tree canopy is in crisis. Join us in asking Mayor and Council to increase funding for our city's trees this budget season.

OURS-Winnipeg is launching the Save Our Canopy email campaign calling on Mayor and Council to increase the forestry budget by \$7.61 million, the shortfall identified by the Parks and Open Space Division in 2019.

Winnipeg's trees face huge threats including disease, climate change and chronic under-funding. A flourishing tree canopy makes our city a vibrant, world-class and healthy place people want to live, work and visit. But the city's forestry budget has not allowed for adequate disease management, planting or pruning. As a result, we are losing our canopy and we need urgent action on the part of our politicians.

What you can do:

Go to www.saveourcanopy.com to email Mayor Bowman and your councillor.

- Share the email on social media, using the hashtags #saveourcanopy, #winnipegpoli and #winnipeg.

- Share this email directly with as many contacts as possible.

- Try to have your email sent by Tuesday, Nov 26 the day before the City Committee meeting for Parks and Open Spaces

The more people we have reaching out to our elected officials, the louder our voice for Winnipeg's trees will be.

Thank you for your help on this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

OURS-Winnipeg

The Save Our Canopy campaign is run by OURS-Winnipeg (Outdoor Urban Recreational Spaces – Winnipeg), a city-wide, community-based green space advocate organization with a focus on urban greenspaces, river and nature corridors and the urban forest. For more information, [visit ours-winnipeg.com](http://visit.ours-winnipeg.com)



PUBLIC INVITED TO VIEW SOUTH PERIMETER HIGHWAY DESIGN PLAN

Manitobans are invited to see the province's long-term vision for a safer South Perimeter Highway (PTH 100), Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler announced today. The province is hosting three public information sessions in December to hear feedback on its preferred design for the roadway.

"Our government's first priority is the safety of Manitobans on our roads," said Schuler. "Thousands of vehicles

drive the South Perimeter every day and many access this portion of road through uncontrolled intersections. We need to do substantive work to address safety and operational problems.”

In 2018, the province launched its South Perimeter Highway Design Study to guide a long-term vision to upgrade PTH 100 to a modern freeway standard with three lanes in each direction. A freeway standard eliminates at-grade or level crossings; intersecting roadways would use interchanges and overpasses, while PTH 100 would go overtop railways.

The province began its public engagement process in 2018 to inform the study and present design options. The third and final phase of information sessions is scheduled for December, in which the proposed functional design of PTH 100 alignment and associated structures will be presented to the public for feedback.

Open houses are scheduled on the following dates:

- Dec. 10 – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Dakota Community Centre, 1188 Dakota St., Winnipeg;
- Dec. 11 – 5 to 8 p.m., South Winnipeg Community Centre, 666 Silverstone Ave., Winnipeg; and
- Dec. 12 – 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Oak Bluff Recreation Club, 101-123 MacDonald Rd., Oak Bluff.

Information about the South Perimeter Highway Design Study is available at:

[**MORE HERE**](#)

**PROVINCIAL BUDGET
2020 CONSULTATIONS
ANNOUNCED**



Manitobans Encouraged to Share Ideas: Fielding

Manitobans are encouraged to share their ideas and participate in public discussions to help shape the 2020-21 provincial budget, Finance Minister Scott Fielding announced today.

Public budget consultations will take place from late November 2019 to February 2020. Fielding announced the first three locations INCLUDING WINNIPEG:

Wednesday, Dec. 11
from 7 to 9 p.m.
in the Golden Boy Dining Room,
Legislative Building, 450
Broadway, Winnipeg.

This session will be bilingual and fully accessible. Accessibility requests can be made to budget2020@gov.mb.ca.

It will reach thousands of Manitobans through telephone town halls and the minister also plans to consult with frontline government workers as part of budget consultations.

Manitobans are also invited to submit written feedback to:

Minister of Finance, c/o budget consultations
Room 103, Manitoba Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

The province will release its full public consultation schedule in the weeks ahead, along with an online survey at www.manitoba.ca.

Your Donation is Welcome!

**Consider Making a
Donation to Save Our
Seine!**

The work we are all doing
together today along the Seine



River Environment is making a difference!

We are making our city a better place to live, to help preserve our climate, to give our children and grandchildren a natural environment, to provide us with a wonderful greenspace in our urban environment and to help protect an abundance of flora and fauna.

A great deal of our good work happens due to the generous donations of individuals and businesses.

We want to thank all of our donors for your generous contributions!

If you are interested in making a donation:

- For your convenience, you can make a donation through **Canada Helps**.
- **Thinking of making a last donation in 2019? Giving Tuesday is December 3. SOS is registered. Please [Donate Here](#)**
- **Major donations or corporate donations:** Please contact Laurie Ringaert, President: Please Call: 204-797-2608.

We appreciate any and all donations. They really help us with all the good work for the Seine River Environment!

us out on Twitter & Facebook!