

the watershed observer



La Barrière Park; Photo: Paul Mutch

2 | message from our chair

Kathryn Dompierre on how LWF's membership community creates change

4 | sewage success

A new phosphorus reduction solution is now online at Winnipeg's north end plant

5 | tracking federal progress

LWF report card provides guidance for the new Canada Water Agency

6 | thank you to our donors

Your support makes a healthy Lake Winnipeg possible

9 | wînipêk

Niigaan Sinclair's new book is our reading club pick this fall

10 | supporter spotlight

The Toews family's monthly donations offer sustained support

message from our chair

Hello water lovers!

It is an honour for me to take on the position of board chair of the Lake Winnipeg Foundation. For the last 10+ years, I have closely followed the work of LWF and the amazing accomplishments of this small but mighty organization. These accomplishments are in large part thanks to the support of LWF's dedicated members. It is inspiring to see our membership promoting our advocacy campaigns, participating in our community events, and donating hard-earned money to support LWF's work.

I have seen this first-hand at Victoria Beach, where I spend time in the summer months. Take last year's postcard-writing campaign, supporting the renewal of federal funding for Lake Winnipeg. This idea started in Victoria Beach and was so popular that it spread to many communities around the lake – a perfect example of ideas taking spark and catching on.

Victoria Beach also hosts the Walk for Water and Bike to the Beach events, which bring together people that care about the lake and demonstrate what the phenomenal support of our members can achieve. We are so grateful for all the ways our members show their support. Your actions, big or small, add up and make a significant difference for Lake Winnipeg!

It is this reason that one of our strategic goals is to increase our membership significantly over the next year. Ultimately, this supports our objective of building a diverse, passionate, informed, and empowered community working together to address issues faced by Lake Winnipeg, specifically eutrophication. The more voices we have speaking up on behalf of Lake Winnipeg, the greater the potential for positive change.

But what is required to be a member of LWF and what benefits does this provide for you? You are considered an active member when you give an annual donation of \$50 or more. Your financial support enables us to generate effective, evidence-based ideas to protect Lake Winnipeg – whether that be a new solution for municipal sewage treatment or a growing water dataset that identifies phosphorus hotspots in agricultural landscapes. As a member you also help us turn these ideas into action through advocacy campaigns and events.

LWF provides our members with regular updates on our work via this Watershed Observer newsletter, at our annual general meeting, and at events around the lake throughout the summer. If you'd like to learn more or have any questions about your LWF membership, please reach out to info@lakewinnipegfoundation.org.

Thank you for your continued support,

– Kathryn Dompierre, Chair, LWF Board of Directors

board of directors

Bryan Allison
Cheryl Bailey
Becky Cook
Kathryn Dompierre
Claire Herbert

David Horne
Frank Indome
Amanda Karst
Cameron Mackay

Bruce Maclean
Greg McCullough
Jonathan Paterson
Helen Yestrau

news

■ Canada's first environmental justice law receives royal assent

On June 20, 2024, Bill C-226, the National Strategy on Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act, passed into law. This act requires the Government of Canada to develop a national strategy to advance environmental justice and prevent environmental racism. Importantly, the act requires the government to examine how race and socio-economic status impact exposure to environmental risk, and to collect data on hazards and their impacts. The national environmental justice strategy must be tabled in the House of Commons within two years, and subsequently, the Minister of the Environment must report on progress every five years.

To participate in the development of the first national environmental justice strategy, visit enviroequity.ca.

■ Nine seasons of citizen science

On Oct. 31, 2024, the Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network (LWCBMN) wrapped up its ninth field season. Over this past season, 55 citizen volunteers, 12 watershed districts and LWF staff have collected over 3,000 water samples from 117 sampling sites across Manitoba. Of these sites, 101 are located at hydrometric stations monitored by the Water Survey of Canada, providing corresponding flow data. By analyzing phosphorus concentration and flow data, LWF staff can calculate phosphorus loads and generate hotspot maps.

LWCBMN program coordinator Fallon Moreau is grateful to be part of such an impactful monitoring network. "The commitment of our volunteers is truly inspiring," says Fallon. "We experienced such a uniquely wet sampling season that really put us all to the test. I'm proud of the responsiveness and dedication of all our volunteers and partners. They are collecting valuable, high-quality data."

■ LWF adopts a reduced workweek

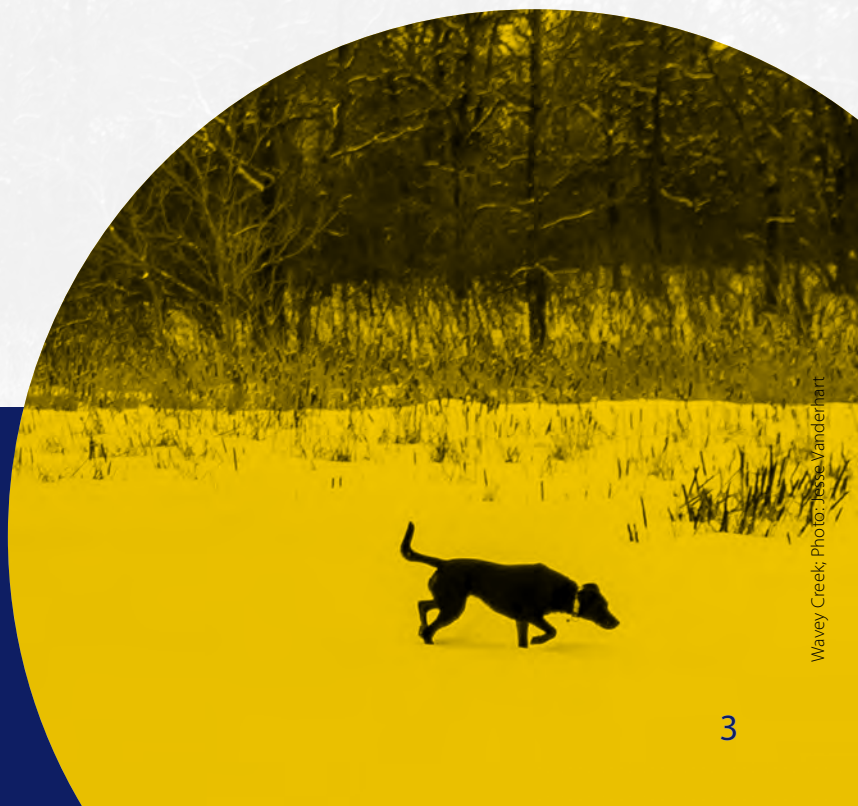
In July, 2024, LWF and the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective (LWIC) officially transitioned to a permanent 32-hour workweek following a six-month trial. The reduced workweek is increasingly recognized globally and has been adopted by many charities and non-profits across Canada – yet this may be the first time a standard 32-hour workweek has been implemented by a Manitoba charity. (If we're wrong, we hope other Manitoba non-profits with reduced workweeks get in touch with us to share ideas and best practices!)

At LWF, this initiative aims to boost employee engagement by enhancing work-life balance and sharpening our focus on our strategic goals. In the evaluation we undertook before permanently adopting the reduced workweek, all employees reported that they were able to maintain or even increase their productivity, compared to the 40-hour workweek.

The trial period also revealed improvements in staff morale and mental health. "I thrive in the 32-hour workweek," reports one LWF staffer. "I've been busy, but having a greater balance between work and life has meant I haven't been feeling any burnout despite how hard I work in my 32 hours and how much I've accomplished! I don't think I've ever been more productive or balanced in my life!"

contact us

107 - 62 Hargrave St, Wpg, MB, R3C 1N1
Treaty 1 Territory & Home of the Red River Métis
info@lakewinnipegfoundation.org | 204-956-0436
lakewinnipegfoundation.org





sewage success

A new phosphorus reduction solution is up and running

On June 24, 2024, the interim phosphorus reduction system came online at Winnipeg's North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC).

This solution to reduce phosphorus loading from the non-compliant sewage treatment plant was first proposed by LWF and our partners at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in 2019. After five years of tenacious advocacy by the LWF community, our perseverance and dedication are paying off – a real, tangible infrastructure project to protect Lake Winnipeg has been built!

The approach is based on successful phosphorus compliance systems that have been used in jurisdictions around the Great Lakes since the 1980s. The chemical ferric chloride is added to sewage, binding to phosphorus and pulling it out of the liquid waste stream and into the solid waste – ultimately preventing phosphorus from being released downstream.

Ferric chloride – a type of iron salt – has always been used at NEWPCC to prevent pipes from clogging and to reduce odour. It arrives at the treatment plant in train cars as a rust-coloured, acidic liquid. Now, new infrastructure added as part of the interim phosphorus reduction project will enable increased doses of ferric chloride at multiple points within the treatment system. This includes the construction of a new rail spur and expanded chemical storage building to house two new 150,000 litre tanks. Multiple newly installed pumps and a network of pipes then deliver the ferric chloride from these storage tanks to 13 dosing points (nine of which are new) throughout the treatment plant. Currently, a low dose of ferric chloride – 11 per cent of the consultant's recommended rate – is being applied at just three of the new dosing points. Clearly, there is incredible potential to improve the performance of the interim phosphorus reduction project in the coming months and years. As treatment plant operators learn how the new system works, dosage will be increased and new dosing points added to optimize phosphorus reduction.

This new system is well-designed and highly customizable, with a proven track record at other treatment plants – and it's something that wasn't on any government's agenda until LWF members first spoke out in 2019, horrified by the algal blooms that choked Lake Winnipeg that summer. Since then, the LWF community has been tirelessly calling for improved sewage treatment to protect Lake Winnipeg, alongside other concerned organizations like IISD and the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective.

Over the past five years, our collective efforts to accelerate phosphorus compliance at NEWPCC have been challenging – we've faced daunting setbacks and frustrating indifference. But we've never given up, and our commitment has made an important difference for Lake Winnipeg. Our collective, evidence-based advocacy is the reason this phosphorus reduction solution has become reality!



THANK YOU, LWF MEMBERS!

Change happens because of you.
Together, we spoke up, showed up,
and never gave up!

tracking federal progress

LWF report card provides guidance for the new Canada Water Agency

On Oct. 16, 2024, the federal government officially launched the new Canada Water Agency (CWA) at The Forks in Winnipeg. Akin to other federal agencies like Parks Canada and the Impact Assessment Agency, the CWA president will report directly to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. It is hoped this direct line of communication will elevate the focus on water within the minister's portfolio.

The CWA now assumes responsibility for all federal freshwater funding programs across the country, including the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program and others like the Lake of the Woods Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative and the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative.

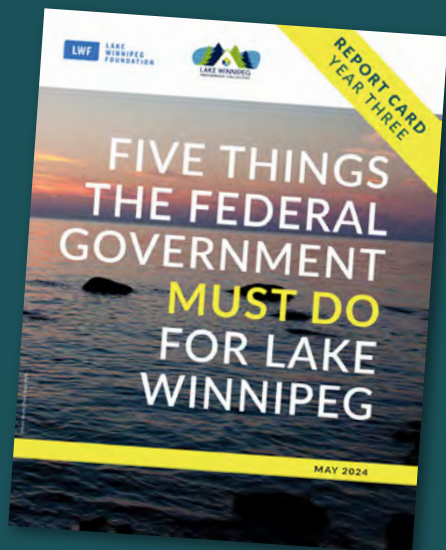
Following the CWA launch, LWF Programs Director Chelsea Lobson attended a roundtable discussion with Minister Steven Guilbeault alongside other stakeholders and rightsholders from across the country. Speaking to the CWA's promise of greater collaboration among governments, academia, and non-governmental organizations, Chelsea emphasized the important role of the federal Freshwater Ecosystem Initiatives. These on-the-ground programs have been continuously and collaboratively refined in partnership with local stakeholders and have proven to be effective at linking community concerns with federal policy priorities.

Chelsea highlighted the value of phosphorus data collected by the Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network (LWCBMN), which can be used to strengthen the CWA's Lake Winnipeg Basin Program by identifying phosphorus hotspots where phosphorus-reduction projects must be targeted.

These and other recommendations for Minister Guilbeault and the CWA are presented in a May 2024 report, released jointly by LWF and the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective. **The Year Three Report Card** tracks progress made on actions identified in our 2020 paper **Five Things the Federal Government Must Do for Lake Winnipeg**. Notable next steps for the federal government include using empirical evidence to guide funding decisions, and ensuring that funded projects are effectively monitored to measure actual phosphorus reductions achieved.

LWF looks forward to working together with CWA staff to implement an impactful, evidence-based approach to phosphorus reduction in the Lake Winnipeg watershed.

Read the report online at lakewinnipegfoundation.org/federal-investment-phosphorus-hotspots.



The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and LWF's Chelsea Lobson.

thank you to our donors

The following donors gave generously between Oct. 1, 2023 and Sept. 30, 2024.

Donors \$2,500+

Ed & Brenda Anderson Charitable Account | Canada Life | Lauren Gillette | The Gordon Foundation | Doug Harvey & Jan Shute | Elizabeth & Brian Hastings | Rob Langdon & Josephine Phelan | Anne & Paul Mahon | Sandra Mulder | Stephen Paterson | and other anonymous donors

Donors \$1,000+

The Black Family | Zita & Mark Bernstein Family Foundation | The Buller Foundation | Butterfield & Robinson | Michael Couture | Rick Duha Jr. | David Easton | Paul & Nancy Edmond | Brad & Monica Fedorchuk | Cliff & Linda Fox | Barb Gamey | Susan & Matthew Hall | Gregg & Mary Hanson | Brenda & Kelly Hearson | Jamie Horne & Sharon Kreutzer | Dianne & David Horne | David Huebert Investments | Gerald Jewers | LS Properties Asset Management Ltd. | Bruce Maclean | Murray & Stephanie McCaig | Michael & Stephanie McDonald | Novek Family Endowment | Murray Palay & Ivy Kopstein | Jonathan Paterson & Angeline Rivard | Kristie Pearson & Doug Pollard | Beth & John Pollard | Joan & Jeff Stanford | Tetro Design | Kevin Van | Winnipeg Building & Decorating Ltd | and other anonymous donors

Donors \$500+

Albert Beach Property Owners Association | Kevin & Sandra Ateah | Jason Barnabe* | Base Camp 59 | Vicki Burns* | Louise Cannon | Jonas Chernick & Family | The Cibinel Family | Circular Partners | Cynthia Cohlmeier | Frank Coy | Creekside Dental | Directors Guild of Canada | John Doherty | Hilary Druyman Design | Carl Duerksen Medical Corp | Village Of Dunnottar | David Dyck & Tammy Sutherland | David & Kalyn Falk | Dave & Cathy Finnbogason | Fort Distributors | Roger Friesen | Sharon Geraghty | Erla Glesby | Matthew Glowacki | Meg Gray | RS Harris Transport | Kevin Humphreys & Alanna Vielhaber | David Janeson* | Jardins St-Leon Gardens | Diane & Dave Johnston | Philip & Judy Klassen | Klym & Süss Medical Corporation | Myron & Marion Klysh | Stefan Kristjanson | L&B Systems Group | Debra Lane & Terry Zdan | J. Lawrence | Dennis Logan | Ted MacIntosh | Mark Mahon | Maggie Martin | Susan McArthur | Susan McCawley & Dennis Hewitt | Trevor & Diana Nakka | Joshua O'Keefe* | Gordon Pollard | Gerry & Barb Price | Jean & Rick Riess | Sheila & Karl Ruban | Richard Rusk | Janice Siemens & Donald Duerksen | William & Yvonne Skubovius | Raman Srivastava | Noah & Ronit Stern | Robert Sudermann | Tetra Tech Canada | Vaughn Thibault | Eleanor & Dudley Thompson | Peter Tielmann | Douglas Tkach | Clint & Judy Toews | Melanie Tooley | Morwenna Trevenen | Ubisoft Winnipeg | Mark Vendramelli | Herb & Brenda Vielhaber | Thuraya Weedon | Andrea & Graham Wiebe* | and other anonymous donors

Donors \$200+

Charlie Allegro | Alpha Forestry Solutions | The Alsip Family | Tamie Archer | Jen & Scott Ash | Trevor & Mary Axworthy | Michael Bailey* | The Bailey Family | Daniel Barchyn | John Batzel & Family | Pamela & Gordon Beazley | Ruth Beck | Doug Belcher | Harold Bell | Ernest Bergbusch | Rachel Bergen* | David Blatt | Blennerhassett Family Foundation | Dr. R. Boily Medicine Professional Corporation | Eleanor Bond | Karin & Jamie Boyd | Stephen Boyd & Aynsley Welsh | Suzanne Boyd | Anne Brydon | Ian Burron & April Harrison | Erica & Matt Buss | Robert & Carol Carmichael | Cascades Containerboard Packaging | The Castelane Team | Marj & Mike Cavell | Valerie Cavers | Paul Chard | Arthur Chipman | Jeffrey Chipman | Mark Chipman | Douglas & Susan Copeland | Andrew Cyr | Richard & Joan Dawson | Catherine & Serge Delaquis | Kim Dermody | Dillon Consulting Limited | The Dompierre Family | Connie Drybrough | Marjolein Drybrough | David & Wendy Duncan | East Beaches Septic Service | Bill Elliott | Charlotte Enns-Braun | Adam Felesky | Bob & Sylvia Fenton | James Ferencz | Jason & Fleur Franz | Jean & Gerald Friesen | Adrian Frost | Richard Gamble & Carla McKnight | Gear Down Developments | Gary & Penny Gilmour | Brad & Leslie Goerzen | Larry Goerzen | Jim & Cindy Green | Lynne & Jonathan Greer | Sheila Grover & Greg Thomas | Dr. Craig Haberman Medical Corporation | Wayne Harden | Kelsey Hargreaves & Vojtech Balaban* | Judy Harrison | Laurel Harrison | Charles Henaire | Carol Hibbert | Cliff Hryciuk | Dan & Katie Hursh | Paul Infuso & Patricia Nesbitt | Meaghan Janssen | Dana Jessiman | Heather Jessiman | Grant & Wenda Johnson | Chris Johnston | Kristin & Will Johnston | Jonker Plumbing Services | Danielle & Greg Kaiser | Katie & Kevin Kaiser | Alexis & Daniel Kanu* | John Kaye | Ken & Betty Kilbrei | Diane King | Bettie Klassen | James Kless & Linda Boyce-Kless | Gina Knechtel | Ray & Deb Knispel | Nathan Koop | Bill Kops | Audrey Korman | Debbie Kroeker & Kevin Kilbrei | Pam & Ian Lawrence | Kerry LeBlanc | Anna Levin* | Lisa Lewis | Alison Loch | Lyle Lockhart | John Loewen | Neil Loughran | Evelyn Lucas | MacDon Industries | Jeff Macoun | Murray & Patty MacRae | The Masi Family* | Douglas Matheson | Duncan & Sandy McCaig | Kimberley McCallum | Megan McCarthy | Robin McCarthy | Deborah McCawley & Otto Lang | Robert McClement & Karen Tjaden | Greg McCullough & Catherine Macdonald | The McCurdy Family | Bill & Deanne McDonald | Scott & Laura McDonald | Andrew McDonald & Karen Peck | McEwan Farms | Diane McGifford & Ed Wojczynski | Patti McIntyre | Don McKay & Marilyn Neufeld | Bob & Ilse McLandress | Barbara McLaughlan | Leslie McLeod | Penny & Ivan McMorris | McNally Robinson Booksellers | Leigh-Anne Mercier | Eveline Milliken | Aurelie Mogan | Louise Mollot | Marilyn Morrice & John Crittall | Rowena Mulholland | Mary & Andrew Mullen | Roslyn & Ron Mundy | Phil & Lynda Murray | Linda & Rick Neilson | Virginia Nuytten | Jordan Oakley | Jan & Maria Oleszkiewicz | Dr. Graeme Daniel Omelan Medical Corp | The O'Neill / Hanson Families | DeWayne Osborn | Grace Palombo | Brad Park | The Paul Family | Patricia & Dave Peacock | Marym & Izzy Peltz Fund | William Percy | Laura Phibbs | Beth & John Pollard | Frances Pollard | Chris & Selena Randall* | Dale & Sandra Reid | Dale & Ian Reid | Antonio Rodrigues | Darlene Ronald & Stew Heaton | Monika Rosney | Alice Russell | Bożena Rzeszowska | David & Sheila Sachvie | The Alex Salki Family | Mike & Janet Sampson* | Leslie Sarchuk & Derek Fewer* | Spencer Schellenberg | Spencer Sealy | Kyle Sichewski | James Silver | Elva Simundsson | Ken & Susan Skinner | The Lysak Family* | Ron & Janet Smith | David Smith & Lark Gamey | Spruce Sands Property Owners Association | Andrew Stibbard | Ronald & Monica Storozuk | Kevin Strain | David Strong | Sunset Spray | Amanda & Kinsey Toews* | Treeworx Tree Care | Neville & Brenda Trevenen | Ted Tufescu | Gary Turnbull | Sara Udow | Siim Vanaselja | Barbara Wakefield & Randy Melnyk | Tim & Judy Walker | Jeremy Walker | Waterford Global | Wawanesa Insurance | Matthew Welchinski | Ryan Wientzek | Carole Wright | Klaus & Dorit Wrogemann | Pat & Tanis Yarnell | Greg & Jacqueline Yost | and other anonymous donors

* Monthly donors

Endowment Fund Donors

Roger & Cathy Coss | Marilyn Kenny | Deborah M. Lyon | J. O. Mackintosh | Donna B. Plant | Sandra L. Popham | Donald A. Robson | Barbara E. Scheuneman | Robin Wiens & Émilie Lagacé-Wiens | and other anonymous donors

Commemorative giving

In memory of Dick Archer Lila Goodspeed Everett, Bill & Deanne McDonald, Tracy Poitras | **In memory of Bill Barlow** Jim & Cindy Green, Jan Keryluk & Dave Cain | **In memory of Nick Beaton** Anonymous | **In honour of Simon Bohemier** Kristie Pearson & Doug Pollard | **In memory of Lois Borger** Nancy Clendenan | **In memory of Richard Buss** Erica & Matt Buss | **In honour of Marlo Campbell** Diane King | **In memory of Cordelia & Donald Capar** Debbie Capar | **In memory of Ella Carmichael** Anonymous, Peggy Ansons, Hilary Booth, Sheila Grover & Greg Thomas, Alexis & Daniel Kanu, Mary Miles, Marilyn Morrice & John Crittall, Mike & Janet Sampson | **In memory of Larry Cooley** Vera Cooley | **In honour of Eleanor & Harvey Cramp** Kathleen Grover, The Degen Family | **In honour of Culroy's 100th anniversary** Peggy Ansons | **In memory of Bill Dawson** Ken & Susan Skinner | **In honour of George Derenchuk** Vladimir Derenchuk | **In memory of Anne Doherty** John Doherty | **In memory of Luise Elizabeth** Joshua O'Keefe | **In memory of Merryl Etches** Lynn Baker | **In honour of John Evans** Paula Evans Nash | **In honour of Lila Goodspeed Everett** Bryon Batchelor | **In honour of Peter Feniak** Anonymous | **In memory of Sandra Fraser** The O'Neill / Hanson Families | **In memory of Fred** Anonymous | **In memory of Freda & Nicky** Catherine Kozak | **In memory of Jim & Eva Graceffo** Sally Shkut | **In honour of Allison & Doug Guest** Lila Knox | **In memory of Barry Hamilton** Brenda & Kelly Hearson | **In honour of the Hearson & Dompierre Families** Margaret Clarke | **In memory of Lucille Houghton** Glenn & Rowena Nash, Sargent Park School | **In honour of Dave & Diane Johnston** Joan McConnell | **In honour of Erin Keating** Wawanesa Insurance | **In memory of Mona Korda** Robert Korda | **In honour of The Kozak & Cooper Family** Catherine Kozak | **In honour of Dryden Lanoway** Dillon Consulting Limited | **In memory of Lazer** Joanne Marks | **In memory of Pat MacIntosh** Ted MacIntosh | **In memory of Gord MacLeod** Terrence MacLeod | **In honour of The MacRae Family & Avonne Trainor** Dave & Cathy Finnbogason | **In memory of Helga Malis** Karen Fletcher | **In memory of Lorne Martin** Maggie Martin | **In memory of Megan McCord** Larry Macleod | **In honour of Bob McLandress** Gregg & Mary Hanson | **In honour of Ilse & Bob McLandress** Anonymous | **In memory of Walter Mildren** Gail Mildren | **In memory of Katherine Morrisseau-Sinclair** The Phillips & Siegers Families | **In honour of Newnham Boys** Elizabeth Newnham | **In honour of Leigh Patterson & Bryan Peeler's 25th wedding anniversary** Anonymous, Jackie & Dave Howerter, Michelle Juba | **In honour of Leigh Patterson** Anonymous | **In memory of David Peebles** Roslyn & Ron Mundy | **In memory of Peter Perchal** Jan Perchal | **In memory of Terry Prowse** The Webb Family | **In memory of Christopher Riess** Sandra & Hans Hasenack | **In memory of Daniel Roddy** Ann Hofer-Jasper | **In memory of Sheldon Rosenstock** Mary Miles, Marilyn Morrice & John Crittall | **In honour of Gladys Sandells** Anonymous | **In memory of Mike Saunders** Kurt Saunders | **In honour of Karen Scott** Elva Simundsson | **In honour of Simone Smith** Anonymous | **In honour of Howard & Maria Thiesen** Anonymous | **In memory of John Tutt** Ron, Carol, Keith & Laurene Advice | **In memory of William Ward** The Ward Family | **In memory of Pat Watson** Graham Watson | **In memory of George Woods** Karin Woods

Independent event organizers

École Marie-Anne-Gaboury Grades 7 & 8 students | École Sir William Osler | Gimli Yacht Club & the Kiwanis Club of Gimli & District | Horned Owl Kayaks | Robin Jewers | Andrea Wiebe

Walk for Water 2024 sponsors

Johnston Group | Quintex Services

Bike to the Beach 2024 sponsors

Canada Life | Parrish & Heimbecker Limited | Montrose Winnipeg | Pollard Banknote | Qualico | Quadrant Private Wealth | Franklin Templeton | Payworks | Crosier Kilgour | Fort Group | EY | Woodcock Cycle Works | Manitoba Cycling Association

Funders



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



Sustaining contributors



Foundation



community-led



Victoria Beach & District Walk for Water 2024; Photo: Carla Buelow

Passion for Lake Winnipeg connects families and communities across generations

Janet Sampson, Brenda Hearson and Kae Edwards each have deep connections to Lake Winnipeg, Victoria Beach, and LWF's Walk for Water (W4W).

Janet, whose family cottage was built in 1924, joined the LWF board of directors in 2006. She attended LWF's Walk for Water in Dunnottar the following year, and came back to Victoria Beach with big plans for her friends and neighbours. "I just went home and I said, 'You, you, you, and you, let's do a walk.' And you know what? To this day, they're still involved."

Janet was the first chair of the Victoria Beach W4W organizing committee, and she emphasizes that it's ok to start small. Just as Janet built on what she learned from the Dunnottar Walk for Water, the Victoria Beach organizing committee is happy to share checklists, templates and schedules with other communities who want to host events in support of LWF.

Brenda, whose daughter Kathryn is LWF's board chair, started helping out with W4W in 2009. She joined the W4W committee in 2016 and took on the role of co-chair in 2022. For Brenda, W4W showcases the power of community – and how support can snowball once you get involved. "It amazes me that, in a small community, with one event that's only an hour long, we can raise close to \$30,000." And success isn't dependent on big donors either – the average donation this year was \$134.

As well as raising support for policy advocacy – something LWF's grant funding doesn't cover but which is crucial for Lake Winnipeg solutions – W4W has provided important opportunities to educate. Over the years, the organizing committee has hosted information evenings, tabled at local events, and submitted weekly articles to the community newsletter. "As a community, we are very much more informed than we were 15 years ago," says Janet.

Next year, Kae will take on the role of W4W committee chair. But she's certainly not new to LWF. Her dad served on LWF's board of directors from 2009 to 2012, and she's been 'walking for water' since the event started.

Intergenerational family connections are part of what makes LWF and W4W so special. "It's beautiful. It's just inherent. I don't even feel like I had a choice," laughs Kae. "Lake Winnipeg Foundation and Walk for Water have been part of my whole life – it's always been a conversation around our dinner table."

For Kae, being part of W4W pushes back against the feelings of helplessness that can otherwise be overwhelming in the face of Lake Winnipeg's challenges. "You come away from it with such a good feeling: 'I did something to make a difference.' I find that to be really inspirational. It's just been amazing to watch what's been built."

wînipêk

Niigaan Sinclair's new book is our most recent Decolonizing Reading Club selection

Wînipêk: Visions of Canada from an Indigenous Centre traces the lived experience – material and spiritual – of Indigenous Winnipeggers throughout the seasons. The cycle starts in summer, *niibin*, a busy time of work and ceremony in Indigenous communities. Front and centre is Lake Winnipeg, which Niigaan reminds us was here long before the city that bears its name.

"*Wînipêk* is not about the city – it's about the ecological system of Lake Winnipeg. *Wînipêk* teaches us that everything that falls in the watershed, everything that we do – all the good, the bad, the great, the ugly – flows into Lake Winnipeg," he explains. "So the challenge is: how do we talk about *Wînipêk* as an ethic, not a place – a verb, rather than a noun?"

There are even lessons to be learned from algae – *ataagib* in Anishinaabemowin – one of the oldest organisms living in *Wînipêk*.

"Think of it like a chain," says Niigaan. "*Ataagib* welcomed in the fish, which welcomed beings that fed on fish, and eventually you get to humans. And then Indigenous peoples welcomed the newcomers – Europeans, eventually Canadians. And so we've gained all of this knowledge of kinship."

It is this kinship that reminds us of the need to remain balanced – to ensure that we recognize and respect the reciprocal, mutually beneficial relationships in which we are all embedded here in *Wînipêk*.

The book cycles through fall, *dagwaagin*, a time of feasting, and winter, *biboon*, a time of storytelling. These sections of the book also ask us all to confront and accept responsibility for the darkest, ugliest impacts of Canada's colonial policies: suicide, homelessness, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, residential schools, and residential school denialism.

The book's final section, spring, *ziigwan*, is a time of hope and renewal. Fittingly, it is focused on Indigenous youth. Niigaan highlights a chapter about the Manitoba Indigenous Youth Awards. His daughter was an award recipient in 2022. "If you look at that group of people, they

are a perfect example of what happens when a very educated, very invested, and extremely bright and energetic group of young people decide they're going to change things."

It was young Indigenous people who toppled colonial monuments on the grounds of the Manitoba legislature on Canada Day 2021, creating something beautiful, Niigaan says. "Reconciliation is going to look different every generation," he reflects. "My dad's generation was the first in every room they went to – boardroom, classroom, courtroom. My generation was the first critical mass – the first group of Indigenous teachers, of Indigenous politicians, the first group of Indigenous columnists. But my daughter's generation, that's where I think things really start to happen. They are the first to create. They're not going to ask permission. They're certainly not going to be waiting for approval."

And this is a big part of what sets Winnipeg apart from the rest of the country. "I think that the hallmark of *Wînipêk* is that we are people of the resistance, of revolutions. We are the first place in which Canada's imprint of colonialism takes place, and therefore, we are also the first place to resist it."



Dr. Niigaan Sinclair; Photo: University of Manitoba

supporter spotlight

Monthly donations add up to long-term support

The Toews family loves exploring Manitoba's great outdoors. Parents Kinsey and Amanda are grateful for every opportunity to get outside with their kids, Ari and Lyle. But they are also keenly aware of the environmental challenges we face in this province, and how these challenges might affect their kids' futures. "I want this to be a place where they can enjoy the outdoors, spend time on the water, see the wildlife," Kinsey says.

Years ago, Kinsey's brother made a presentation at the family's church about the effects of phosphorus loading on Lake Winnipeg. "He took a bunch of our old Lego buildings and put them in a clear container, and then he poured dirty water into it. It drove me nuts, because I thought how are you going to get it clean?" recalls Kinsey. His brother explained that everything we put down the drain in Winnipeg ends up in the Red River, and ultimately Lake Winnipeg.



The lesson struck a chord for Kinsey and Amanda. Together, they decided to donate to LWF, an organization Kinsey's brother had mentioned as part of his demonstration. The couple set up an automatic monthly donation through **CanadaHelps.org**. They made their first gift to LWF in June 2015 and they've been donating every month, ever since.

Monthly donations are an easy, practical way to contribute to a cause that matters deeply to them, says Kinsey. These regular gifts are also a way to fulfill early lessons about social responsibility and care for others. "I grew up in church and we were taught to tithe," Kinsey explains. "You should use a portion of your income to try to make the world a better place."

The Toews family has since moved away from the church, but the idea of sharing what they have to support causes they care about isn't something they plan to give up. When asked if he'd ever considered cancelling his monthly donations, Kinsey laughs. "No, I was pretty sure the lake still needed the help."

Ultimately, for the Toews family, monthly donations provide the opportunity to offer sustained support to a trusted organization. A small amount each month has added up to something much larger, nine years later. For Kinsey, giving back in this way is an integral part of living responsibly in this big, beautiful province.



your impact

Powered by community

At LWF, we recognize the impact of our membership community every day. Your financial support makes our work possible – but membership is so much more than that.

Sometimes, when we meet with politicians, they ask how many members LWF has – using the size of our membership community to gauge how seriously to take our concerns.

Numbers don't fool anyone who's been paying attention over the past two decades: LWF has made an outsized impact for a small organization. But we want to leave no question in the minds of political decision-makers – Winnipeggers, Manitobans and Canadians expect their elected leaders to protect Lake Winnipeg.

That's why your membership is so important. As part of the LWF community, you strengthen our collective call for evidence-based solutions and effective enforcement of environmental regulations. Your membership ensures we can't be ignored as we tackle one of the greatest environmental challenges in Manitoba today.

Matlock Photo: Jesse Vanderhart



Donate online at:
lakewinnipegfoundation.org/donate

OR



Mail your cheque and this form to:
Lake Winnipeg Foundation
107-62 Hargrave St, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 1N1

Please find a cheque attached for:

* Your donation of \$50+ includes a one-year membership.

- \$1,000 \$500 \$200
 \$100 \$50* \$ _____ (specify amount)

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Lake Community: _____

This donation is in honour of: **OR** in memory of: _____

Please send recognition on my behalf to:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Too much paper? I would prefer to receive this newsletter via email

Want more info? Please send me monthly e-updates No, thank you



North End Water Pollution Control Centre. Photo: Boris Minkewich / Winnipeg Free Press

“The interim phosphorus reduction system at the north end plant is the single most important step the City of Winnipeg has taken to protect Lake Winnipeg – and it happened because of you.”

– Alexis Kanu, LWF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Read about our sewage success on page 4 of this newsletter.



Lake Winnipeg Foundation
107-62 Hargrave St
Winnipeg, MB, R3C 1N1