

## ***October 2009 Annual General Meeting Minutes***

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**MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF COTTAGE OWNERS INC.  
P.O. Box 281, Station Main, Winnipeg, MB, R3G 2G9**

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**Date:** Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Location:** Place Louis Riel, 190 Smith Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
**Present:** List Attached

### **Morning Session**

Dave Crabb, President welcomed everyone and thanked the Place Louis Riel and the Directors for their help.

Guest Speakers:

Tracy Maconachie, Manitoba Policy Analyst for Ducks Unlimited (DU) and Cottage Owner in Dunnottar

Preservation of wetlands is good for lakes, cottages and cities. DU was started in 1938 to start preserving wetlands. They started first in Big Grass Marsh to aid in production of ducks. The Boreal forest is full of wetlands and produces waterfowl at a different rate. There are coastal type wetlands around Winnipeg.

DU does restoration and maintenance. Wetlands are beneficial to farmers. Winter wheat planted in the fall starts growing and provides cover for birds and animals as well as has the benefit being harvested early.

Research in the last 2 years has been ground breaking and is being picked up in Europe. Wetlands act like sponges and retain water through drought.

Wetlands are not appreciated by society or government.  
Wetland policy and legislation is undervalued.  
Wetland incentive programs are inadequate.

Research in Broughton Creek watershed between 1968-2005 was done through comparison of digital photographs. It showed that wetlands have been degraded or totally lost due to drainage activity. Wetlands collect and store water from the surrounding landscape during rain or snow melting. Wetlands filter sediment and nutrients before slowly returning water to the water cycle. When wetlands are drained, or partly drained, local drainage is connected to downstream flows causing water carrying nutrients and sediments to move rapidly and directly to downstream ditches, streams, rivers, lakes and drinking water supplies. When many wetlands are drained, the cumulative impact is significant.

Loss of wetland loss in Manitoba means an increase in total phosphorus loading to Lake Winnipeg equivalent to 6% of the total annual phosphorus load into Lake Winnipeg each year from all human-related sources is the same as dumping

554,000 7-pound bags of law fertilizer directly into Lake Winnipeg; the release of 5.0 m tones of carbon stored in wetland sediments and plan material being the equivalent to the emissions of 169,000 cars in 20 years.

DU would like Manitobans to support government to:

- Develop and implement programs and policies that provide financial incentives for landowners to retain and restore wetlands in an economical and sustainable fashion
- Develop and en force regulations that are effective
- Encourage wetland protection and restoration.

Please go to [www.du.ca](http://www.du.ca) for further information and information regarding upcoming public consultations.

Dr. Gordon Goldsborough, Chairman of the Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board.

Water samples are seldom taken off shore but a sample was taken 5 km out. Also a sample was taken in winter by using a Bomadier.

Between 1991-2007 phosphorus was up 33%. Conductivity (salty) was down between 1991 and 2007. Lake cannot be used for irrigation. It is lowest in early summer likely from the fresh water from ice and snow melting. It is up in summer and the highest in the winter. Lake Winnipegosis saltier.

There was water sampling done at 18 sites on Lake Manitoba as well as rivers around lake and in the diversion 2005 & 2006

North basin has lower suspend solids than the South basin and there is a higher level of nitrogen in the South basin. However, the phosphorus levels are higher in the North basin. Chlorophyll levels are higher in South basin.

Blooms caused not only not good but are also not good for health. Some diseases may be triggered by intake of chemicals from algae. Current levels not of great concern at this time. Microcystins.

Lake Manitoba level 0.12

Altered hydrology

Probably more regulated than Lake Winnipeg at the Fairford Dam. There are 55,555 hectares of coastal wetlands.

Hybrid cattail – European and native first appeared in about 1949.

Lake Manitoba has the third largest commercial fishing

Carp introduction reflected reduction in catch of perch. It is a bottom feeder and was introduced intentionally as food for the poor in 1881. It was first seen in Delta marsh in the 1950's. One produces 2 million eggs per year. Most of the fish is not edible but has great caviar that also could be a solution.

Cure for carp problem -

Possibly due to lake of sustained temps 18-28 watch for it next year.

Will likely be back due to possible ability to survive

Manitoba carp is not as good as European. It is better in winter though.

Marketing to Europe will help reduce carp and provide income.

#### Assiniboine River Diversion

Suspended solids and phosphorus reduces after a few days of the diversion being open. Perhaps the input of this water being fresh water makes the lake fresher.

1.2 pre existing Lake Manitoba v Assiniboine R 0.31 Also brings in suspended solids, phosphorus, nitrogen that causes algae blooms.

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board deals with water levels ranging from 810-813 and say that micromanagement will not take place. Implications for area down from Fairford.

Mandate – L Mb, L Pineimuta L St. Martin, Fairford R, Dauphin R Portage Diversion. Establish & maintain an ongoing dialogue with local interests, municipality & province. Communicate to Minister. Advocate long term monitoring & research. Investigate and recommend remedial projects. Review fishery management plans using criteria of biological sustainability, eco viability & social fairness & community benefits. Check website for reports. Lake Manitoba is shallow and will likely have problems develop quicker - we must do something now.

Cattails are over growing and are looking at methods of controlling cattails.

Lake Manitoba Stewardship website [www.lakemanitoba.org](http://www.lakemanitoba.org)

## Afternoon Session

Date: Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Time: PM  
Location: Place Louis Riel, 190 Smith Street, Winnipeg

1. Call to Order  
President Dave Crabb called the meeting to order at pm.
2. Adoption of Agenda  
Rilla Britton moved adoption of the agenda. Second Sid Bloomfield. Carried.
3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting of October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Pat Dunlop moved adoption of minutes as presented. Seconded by Gus Wruck. Carried.
4. Financial Report  
Gary Dunlop moved adoption of the financial report. Seconded by Sid Bloomfield. Carried.
5. Membership Report  
Marian Jones advised that to date there are 43 member associations, up from 37 and 5 individual members, paid to date totaling approximately 3000 members. Marian Jones moved adoption of her report. Seconded by Lorne Britton. Carried.
6. Correspondence  
The meeting was advised that the correspondence book was available for perusal.
7. Tax Rally Report – Very enthusiastic group of people this year although numbers weren't high. The tax issue is for all – not just cottagers.
8. Manitoba v Alberta School Tax –  
Information displayed on screen
9. Website Report  
Gus Wruck reviewed the website online.
10. President's Report  
Dave Crabb provided his report.
  - Spoke about membership
  - Website development
  - Website/media and others contacting through website
  - Level of Lake Winnipeg
  - Expropriation of Breezy Point cottage area and lack of support from province resulting from disasters
  - Partnership with Whiteshell Cottage Owners Association
  - Follow-up on Hollowater Blockade by First Nations

- Receive concerns about conflict within associations. – Importance of having constitutions etc.
  - Sewage spills re Winnipeg and Whiteshell area. Not have plan in place when legislation/regulations passed. City of Winnipeg stopped/slowed due to need to eliminate nitrogen by the Clean Environment Commission with no basis for the decision
  - New assessments on property. 40% - 140% increase in some areas. Will mill rates be adjusted? School tax adjustment? Must end apathy.
  - Disappointed in turn out at the tax rally. Larry Baker worked hard and did 90% of the work. Keep the petitions coming.
  - Encourage attendance at a regular MACO meeting.
- Gus Wruck moved adoption of report. Seconded by Lorne Britton. Carried.

#### 11. Old Business

- Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium – continued support. Working on their constitution. Due to financial issues of the time still requires funding. Works with Stewardship board and DU. Valuable asset to Manitoba.
- Canadian Taxpayer Federation – Continue to support them and Colin Craig spoke at tax rally. Was also on air with Dave at CJOB and continues to support MACO.
- Let's Pay Fair – Manitoba Education Finance Coalition. Still
- Tembec – Sustainable Forest Management Advisory Committee of which MACO is represented. Tembec is still in lockdown. Have submitted environmental report to conservation. Undergoing financial distress.

#### 12. New Business

- Constitution amendments proposed by Pat Dunlop that  
  
the duties of Secretary at this time require that the Secretary “shall mail a copy of the Annual meeting minutes to all member organizations by December 15<sup>th</sup> (notice of approval assessment of levies to be included)” be amended to read “shall publish a copy of the Annual meeting minutes by December 15<sup>th</sup> (notice of approval assessment of levies to be included).  
Second by Marian Jones. Carried.
- Reduce Lake Winnipeg Levels for all water. Previously discussed.
- Cottagers have rights too – flood assistance denied. Letters had been written to Premier etc. at the time of flooding and response that if there was no federal funding the province wouldn't be helping.
- Whiteshell Cottage Association– working together.

10. Elections. Lorne Britton presided over elections.  
Vice-President – 2-year term  
Nominating Committee nominated Rilla Britton.  
Members were asked three times for nominations. No nominations from the floor. Nominations closed. Rilla Britton was declared elected.  
Treasurer – 2-year term

Nominating committee nominated Gus Wruck

Members were asked three times for nominations. No nominations from the floor. Nominations closed. Gus Wruck declared elected.

Three Directors - 2-years terms

Nominating committee nominated. Larry Baker, Donna Jean Crabb and Jim Neufeld. Members were asked three times for nominations. No nominations from the floor. Nominations closed. Larry Baker, Donna Jean Crabb and Jim Neufeld were declared elected.

Opening for a director for a 1-year period. Marian Jones nominated Mo Tipples. Mo Tipples agreed. Nominations closed. Mo Tipples elected.

11. Silent Auction - Cox Morris donated a silent auction prize. Prizes were won by Sid Bloomfield (2), Rilla Britton, Jim Neufeld, and Pat Dunlop
  
12. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.