

Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners



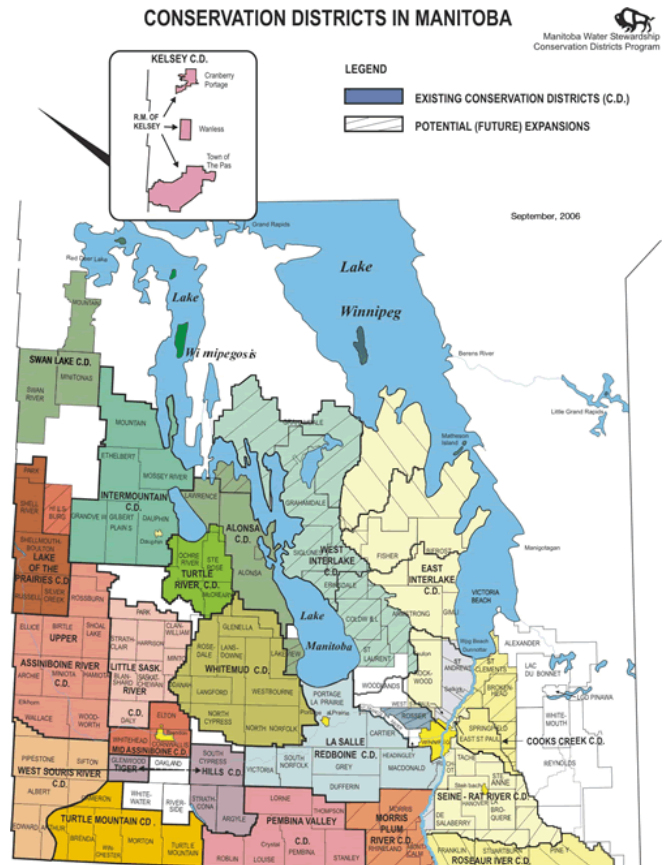
Environment & Conservation Advisory

Prepared: June 28, 2010

Issue: **Conservation Districts**

Background to the Issue:

- Conservation districts had their origins in the USA during the 1930's when great swaths of land were being eroded by wind storms and drought west and mid-west section of the country. In order to save the soil and improve agricultural product it was recognised that on-farm conservation measures needed to be implemented.
- The conservation district movement has since spread through much of the USA and Canada including Manitoba.
- While the focus was initially on agricultural land it can also apply to all privately held land including city lands.
- Cottagers should have an awareness of the importance of conservation of our land and water resources and even become active in the activities of their local Conservation District if there is one in their area.
- At right is a map of Manitoba Conservation Districts



Cautionary Notes:

- People should become aware of what conservation districts are and how they can benefit the environment.

Budget Implications:

- There are costs involved both for the municipality and any projects the property owner implements on his property

Policy or Program Implications: What is current Policy or Program for this issue?

- Cottage Owners can find more detailed information on Conservation Districts at the following location.
- [Conservation Districts](#)

Action Taken by MACO:

- No action has been taken to date nor planned.

MACO's Recommendations for the Future:

- MACO recommends that local cottage associations participate in existing Conservation Districts and encourage their municipality to establish a conservation district if there is not one present on their cottage area.
- MACO recommends that Conservation District become a more active feature of cottage country
- People are the key to conservation district success, whether serving as officials on district boards of directors or volunteering in a river cleanup. Local people offer extensive expertise and personal interest regarding the best ways to take care of their own natural resources. This effective management of natural resources at the local level reduces the need for outside intervention and regulation.
- Among the things you can do:
 - Become a member of your Conservation District. Your dollars will help conserve Canada's natural resources.
 - Your membership can improve the water quality of the rivers or lakes that provide your family drinking water and a place to swim and fish.
 - Volunteer. Districts need help with everything from planting seedlings in wetland restoration projects to filing in the office. Contact your district if you have one to let them know you are willing to help.
 - Practice good stewardship at home. You can improve your corner of the world by composting food scraps and lawn clippings in your backyard, conserving green areas in your urban neighbourhood or implementing best management practices on your farm or property. Ask your district for assistance.

Position of MACO

- Soil and Water Conservation is important for our development and future well being.