

Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium Inc.

The **Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium Inc.** (LWRC) was founded to address the need for scientific studies on Lake Winnipeg following evidence of water quality deterioration related to the 1997 Red River flood. Since this time, the LWRC has also introduced a formal Education Program. Both the Science and Education Programs are briefly described below.

SCIENCE PROGRAM

The first LWRC whole lake, multi-season **research surveys** were conducted in 2002. With few exceptions, research surveys continue to take place each year during the open-water season in the spring, summer and fall using the **Motor Vessel Namao** as a sampling platform. In addition to coordinating these scientific surveys, the LWRC's Science Program holds an annual **Science Workshop** where results derived from the on-lake research and monitoring are presented by the respective agencies to gain an improved understanding of the status of Lake Winnipeg. In recent years, the structure, format and venue of the Science Workshop have changed in an effort to promote dialogue and the synthesis of knowledge gained in the last 12 years. The **Annual Reports** include the details of the Science Workshops and are available on the LWRC's website.



Motor Vessel *Namao*
Vessel owned and operated by the LWRC for research and education on Lake Winnipeg.

In 2013, the LWRC acquired a new vessel the "**Fylgja**", a 42' touring boat, which was received as a charitable donation from Barbara and Jens Nielsen. This vessel was built in the same year as the Motor Vessel *Namao* (1973/74) in Riverton. Once outfitted for research purposes, this vessel will be particularly well suited for near-shore work and will serve as a valuable complement to the Motor Vessel *Namao's* offshore capabilities. A timely acquisition since it coincides with the arrival of zebra mussels, an aquatic invasive species that will have the greatest impact in the near-shore area, if it is able to thrive in the lake.



The "*Fylgja*"
A new acquisition of the LWRC. This vessel is ideally suited for research and monitoring of the near-shore area.

The LWRC also created an annual **Scholarship** for honours and graduate students working on Lake Winnipeg and its watershed. In addition to supporting student research, the scholarship aims to attract more members of the academic community.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

This Program is aimed primarily at Grades 8 to 12, but includes Grade 2 up to fourth year University. Most noteworthy is the **Lake Ecology Field Program**, which takes place in the spring and fall on-board M.V. *Namao*. This field-based, hands-on learning opportunity includes the use of a variety of sampling and analytical equipment, as well as microscopes and taxonomic keys.



For teachers who wish to introduce Lake Winnipeg into the classroom environment without leaving the classroom, the LWRC Education Program is developing a series of “out of the box” **Web-based Resources**, as time and funding permit.

Ongoing development of the Education Program will include teacher training via a 2-day on-board **Teachers’ Workshop** to further facilitate the introduction of Lake Winnipeg and water stewardship into classrooms with accurate and current science-based information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Website – continues to serve as the primary repository for information related to both the Science and Education Programs of the LWRC. www.lakewinnipegresearch.org.

Image Library and Satellite Image Blog – a resource intended to explore the beauty and ever-changing nature of the Lake Winnipeg ecosystem through imagery, including satellite images, aerial photographs, microscopy, student art, and data. www.lakewinnipegresearch.org/blog

Managing Director – Dr. Al Kristofferson
Email: coordinator@lakewinnipegresearch.org

Science & Education Programs – Dr. Karen Scott
Email: kjs@lakewinnipegresearch.org