



Photo Credit to Emily Halldorson

# THE COALITION TO SAVE LAKE WINNIPEG

COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR POSITIVE PRACTICES TO  
RESTORE AND SUSTAIN THE HEALTH OF LAKE WINNIPEG

July 9, 2020

Volume 2 Issue 1

VISION  
A HEALTHY AND  
SUSTAINABLE LAKE  
WINNIPEG THAT  
CONTRIBUTES TO THE  
SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND ECONOMIC WELL-  
BEING OF ALL.

To act as an advocate  
informing stakeholders  
and coordinating efforts  
to save, protect and  
maintain positive  
sustainable practices for  
Lake Winnipeg.

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The Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg Steering Committee was able to meet for the first time since early March, 2020. Thank you to the Selkirk Public Library for providing a comfortable space for us to meet and maintain physical distance.

As we all moved through the Spring of 2020 with new ways to engage, the CSLW Steering Committee members individually collected information and used electronic means to share and work together to continue to advocate for the health of Lake Winnipeg. With respect for the very new challenges our governments were experiencing and the uncertainty Manitobans were facing, the CSLW Steering Committee looked forward to this time when we could share more widely important advocacy information for Lake Winnipeg's community.

In person education and information opportunities facilitated by the CSLW will continue to be on hold. The CSLW will provide information sharing through electronic means supporting individual citizen action that includes advocacy by:

- Providing updated information regarding best practices for the health of Lake Winnipeg from individual citizens, local, municipal and provincial governments.
- Providing resources for reporting observations and actions that impact the health of Lake Winnipeg.

The Lake Winnipeg Basin has experienced significant moisture this past season. Historically this will in turn result in increased run off which directly impacts the algal growth in the Lake. We also had an unusually high number of dead carp litter the shorelines of Lake Winnipeg. Early Beach Advisory notices on the west and east side of Lake Winnipeg have been posted.

***Our individual voices can be the  
beginning of a positive ripple effect.  
Together the resulting waves  
can create new directions for the health of Lake Winnipeg.***

## BEACH QUALITY TESTING AND ALGAL BLOOM REPORTING

The Water Quality Management section of Sustainable Development measures water quality for **E. Coli** count at 19 beaches in the Lake Winnipeg South Basin. Scheduled weekly testing began the first week of June. Manitoba's water quality objective for E. Coli is 200/100ml per sample taken. All E. Coli results are posted throughout the summer at the following link. [Beach Quality](#)



This sign will be posted at beaches where the E. Coli count exceeds 200/100 ml. per sample taken. This sign will remain posted for the remainder of the season. Accurate readings of changing E. Coli count weekly can be found at the above link for Beach Quality. For additional information regarding Manitoba beach advisory, closures and algae advisories please follow this link. [Manitoba Advisories](#)

### **ALGAL BLOOM TESTING ONLY OCCURS WHEN REPORTED OR WHEN BLOOM IS VISIBLE AT THE SCHEDULED TESTING TIME.**

*IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT IF YOU SEE AN ALGAL BLOOM YOU REPORT THE BLOOM.*

*CONCERN EXPRESSED BY EACH INDIVIDUAL REPORTING DEMONSTRATES THAT THE HEALTH OF LAKE WINNIPEG IS A PRIORITY FOR CITIZENS.*

[ONLINE REPORT AN ALGAE BLOOM](#)

OR

Water Quality Management Section  
Manitoba Sustainable Development  
Water Science and Management Branch  
Box 14, 200 Saulteaux Crescent  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3J 3W3  
Telephone: 1-204-945-0002  
Fax: 1-204-948-2357  
Toll Free: 1-800-282-8069 (ext. 0002)  
Email: [waterquality@gov.mb.ca](mailto:waterquality@gov.mb.ca)

## Swimmers Itch Reports

Lake Winnipeg East Side Beaches have had reports of swimmers' itch. Although less common in Lake Winnipeg there is reference to swimmers' itch occurring in the past on both sides of the South Basin.

Positive Practices for swimmers include:

- washing hands before eating
- toweling down after being in the water
- keeping beaches clean from litter
- shower as soon as possible after swimming

Please open the following links for important information:

[Safe Practices for Enjoying the Beach](#)

[Swimmers Itch](#)

[Beach Quality Updates Weekly](#)

**WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!**

### ***DEAD CARP on LAKE WINNIPEG SHORES***

In late May, 2020 East Shore Beaches were becoming increasingly littered with dead carp. Contact was immediately initiated with Fisheries Science and Fish Culture Section, Wildlife and Fisheries Branch, Agriculture and Resource Development, Sustainable Development. Tissue samples and live carp were collected to determine the cause for the excessive numbers of dead carp washing ashore.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, it had been determined that the 2 potential viruses that may affect carp **were not** the reason for the demise of the carp. Environmental reasons, that is, low dissolved oxygen levels, water temperature or ph., were determined **not** be the cause of the die off by mid-June, 2020.

At this time, there will be no further investigation into this unusually high number of dead carp by Fisheries Science and Fish Culture Section.

**However, if you observe additional “waves” of dead carp washing ashore please contact Sustainable Development at this link [Fisheries and Wildlife Sustainable Development](#) or call 204-945-6784 1-800-214-6497.**

Disposal of dead carp is recommended by Fisheries Science and Fish Culture Section as follows: Remove the dead fish from their shoreline and bury them above well above the high water mark at a depth of 1 ½ feet (roughly 50 cm) or compost them with a mixture of vegetation at a suitable location on their property.

## CITY OF WINNIPEG AND PROVINCE OF MANITOBA WORKING TOGETHER

In late April 2020, the CSLW sent a letter to the City of Winnipeg Councilors and the Provincial Government Representatives encouraging the continued success of “working together” that we were able to observe during the initial days of the pandemic crisis.

Included in the letter was reference to the importance of:

- the resumption of focus on the North End Water Pollution Control Center Advisory Committee for Phosphorus reduction,
- forward movement to reduce raw sewage overflow
- the need for transparency for allocation of revenue generated from water rates

### [Feb 1 2020 Process for Interim Phosphorus Reported](#)

An updated report of the Project Steering Committee City of Winnipeg-North End Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, Interim Phosphate Reduction Plan, will be provided to the Advisory Committee by September 30, 2020 regarding new deadlines. Lab access for testing was closed at the University of Manitoba because of the pandemic which resulted in the bench testing being put on hold. The June 10, 2020 report can be found here. [June 10 2020 Report Steering Committee Interim Phosphorus Removal](#) For additional information regarding the NEWPCC Upgrades you can visit the following link: [NEWPCC Upgrade City of Winnipeg](#)

In early May 2020, the Provincial Government included reference to the water and sewage projects of the Municipal Water Services Board as part of the additional \$500 million infrastructure allotment to the 3 billion-dollar 2-year commitment from the Government.

### [Manitoba \\$500 million for infrastructure development](#)

There is hope inferred in these government announcements and the process of working together as observed during the height of the COVID-19 crisis. The CSLW will continue to keep informed by following the City and Provinces actions. We welcome input from our Coalition Community and encourage you to keep in touch with your City Councilor if appropriate and Member of the Legislative Assembly to ensure focus on reducing phosphorus emissions from the NEWPCC is a priority.

### **WHAT'S NEXT?**

Following our meeting on July 7, 2020 we are working on gathering information regarding:

- Reporting pollution caused by human negligence on beaches and in water
- Rural municipal regulators for wastewater
- Wetlands regulations and funding access for agriculture
- Zebra Mussels: permits, zones, clean up
- Septic tank and septic field regulations
- Sand Silica mining and transport impact on Lake Winnipeg
- Impacts of changing legislative proposals on Lake Winnipeg
- Reporting dead wildlife found on the shores

**Expect more information as we catch up on the gap in time!!!**