Photo Credit to Emily Halldorson

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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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Please share this newsletter

Links available at
Manitoba Cottage Owners Association

During the months of June and July, 2020, some of the beaches in the South Basin of Lake Winnipeg were recording E. Coli counts that were exceeding the recommended objective for water quality. 19 beaches are tested weekly for E. Coli in the South Basin of Lake Winnipeg. For more information visit Beach Quality This year 9 beaches have had Beach Quality Advisory's posted and one algae bloom has been reported but the testing did not require a warning. E. Coli counts have lowered in many areas, however, the warning will remain and regular checking on the above link is important to keep yourself and family safe.

Intermittent variation in E. Coli counts in Lake Winnipeg have not been attributed to a "single source" contributor nor a "combined source". PRINCIPAL FACTORS AFFECTING ESCHERICHIA COLI AT LAKE WINNIPEG BEACHES Province of Manitoba 2004
The variables that contribute to the E. Coli counts exceeding the recommended objective were determined to include:

- Shoreline bird waste (gulls and terns) in the surficial water on the shore of Lake Winnipeg.
- Wind action and changing water levels due to wind.
- Regrowth of E. Coli colonies in the wet sand and the subsequent swash movement from wave action to the bathing water.

The research completed in 2004 (cited above) indicates that the majority of E. Coli in Lake Winnipeg is from non human sources.

"The province's goal or "recreation water quality objective" is fewer than 200 E. coli organisms per 100 millilitres of lake water, or about seven tablespoons. Anything more is considered risky enough to warrant a publicly posted warning at the beach urging swimmers to avoid drinking lake water, to wash their hands before eating and to avoid swimming altogether if they are sick or if they have an open wound or cut.

The presence of E. coli in the water can mean other pathogens and bacteria are potentially floating around too — like Staphylococcus aureus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa which can cause ear, nose, eye and throat infections and Salmonella which can cause a bad stomach flu." CBC Laura Glowacki Aug 8 2017

"Bathers are advised to avoid swallowing lake water, wash hands before handling food, and avoid swimming with an open cut or wound, or while experiencing illness. On Lake Winnipeg, bathers should minimize water contact if lake levels are high and strong winds are blowing from the north. Research shows E. coli counts tend to be elevated during these conditions as they are washed out of the wet beach sand and into the bathing area." Beach Quality Update

E. Coli counts from poor wastewater management has been determined to be a less than 10% contributing factor to the fluctuating counts in Lake Winnipeg. **However, implementing, monitoring and working together for best practice for waste water management can reduce the combined source contribution of E. Coli and Phosphorus to Lake Winnipeg**.

Homeowners or cottage owners with malfunctioning on site waste water management systems, can be combined sources of harmful substances that compromise the health of Lake Winnipeg.

"Malfunctioning systems not only create a considerable inconvenience and expense for homeowners, but can lead to illegal discharge of wastewater into the environment. Wastewater contains many elements that may be harmful and may pose a threat to public health and the environment when not properly managed." Wastewater Management Systems

ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM refers to all or part of a treatment system, holding system or management system for sewage, wastewater, greywater, wastewater effluent or septage, including, but not limited to:

- an aerobic treatment unit
- a composting toilet system
- a disposal field
- a greywater pit
- a holding tank
- a septic tank
- a sewage ejector

Please visit Wastewater Management Systems to review best practice and your practice for on site wastewater management. Contact your RM for updated information regarding recommendations for on site wastewater management.

Please visit Cottage Handbook Manitoba p. 27-36 for information regarding best practice for on site wastewater management and regulations.

What about Grandfather clauses?

"Grandfathering" many developments in older cottage subdivisions do not conform to today's guidelines. In many cases these developments pre-dated the existence of published guidelines. At the discretion of Manitoba Conservation, non-conforming developments that pre-date 1996 may be allowed to remain. This is reviewed on a case-by-case basis where the development creates significant problems for neighbours. Cottage Handbook Manitoba

Citizen action for the Health of Lake Winnipeg includes personal best practice.

Boating practices

It is illegal to discharge untreated sewage from your pleasure craft into any Canadian waters. Boat Education Regular boat maintenance and following environmentally best practice can support mitigating the impact of pollutants that compromise Lake Winnipeg's health. Please visit and share with others the following link. The Land Between Tips and Tricks for Boating

Sharing information with fellow boaters can help to support greater understanding of healthy waterways for the future

Violations resulting in water pollution can be reported to:

Katie Martin, Environment Officer
Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
Manitoba Department of Conservation and Climate
Selkirk Office
Phone: 204 482-6797
24 Hour Environmental Emergency Response Line:
1 204 944-4888
Toll Free: 1 855-944-4888

Save the Date

Thank you to Glen, a CSLW friend, who shared this information

Dear Stakeholder,

On behalf of the Expert Advisory Council (EAC) and Youth Advisory Council on the Climate and Green Plan, we invite you to save-the-date for an upcoming engagement session on a future Water Management Strategy for Manitoba.

The session will take place on **Thursday, August 13, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** (further details TBA).

The conversation will be based on an engagement paper with opportunity to provide feedback during the session and afterwards in an online survey hosted on EngageMB, the Government of Manitoba's engagement platform. The paper and additional information will be circulated shortly.

In the meantime, please save the date for this important session which will shape the advice and recommendations that the EAC will be presenting to the Minister of Conservation and Climate this fall.

Any questions can be directed to Sara Thrift (sara.thrift@gov.mb.ca) or (204) 250-4170.
Kind Regards, Climate and Green Plan Implementation Office

Brief Updates and News

The Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg has contacted The Honorable Sarah Guillemard, Minister of Conservation and Climate acknowledging the steps that the Provincial Government has taken to move forward to support the City of Winnipeg through guidance, coaching and financial assistance for the NEWPCC to comply with phosphorus removal guidelines. The CSLW inquired in regards to compliance testing, audits, infrastructure improvements and corrective actions of facilities outside of the NEWPCC that directly impact Lake Winnipeg. ***We are waiting for a response.***

Winnipeg Free Press, July 30, 2020, Joyanne Pursaga, reported that the **City can't pay 2.3B for sewer upgrades: official.** Excerpts from the article:
"More than 12 billion litres of diluted sewage flowed directly into local rivers last year because of combined sewer overflows.

The overflows occur in older sewers that collect both precipitation and wastewater in a single pipe. Heavy rain or snow events can cause the overflow into rivers.

That diluted sewage contains algae-promoting phosphorus and nitrogen, which winds up in Lake Winnipeg."
"The city spends about $30 million a year on its plan to reduce overflows and faces a provincial deadline of Dec. 31, 2045 to capture 85 per cent of all overflows in an average weather year.

It could take several decades to get that work done. Reducing combined sewer overflows is expected to cost up to $2.3 billion. The city can't realistically afford to meet the deadline, said Patton, (Manager of Engineering Services City of Winnipeg), unless provincial and federal governments help pay for it."
"But Coun. Brian Mayes, the city's water and waste chairman, said Winnipeg should strive to ensure the 2045 deadline is met….The councillor said he'd like to secure funding from other levels of government for the project but believes the city should also consider raising water and sewer rates to help pay for the work, if that's needed."

The CSLW will continue to gather information to share as we advocate together for the health of Lake Winnipeg

Visit Lake Friendly for important information for best practice for all citizens. Visit RM Vic Beach, Alexander and St Clements to see and hear elected officials speak out for Lake Winnipeg.