

Conservation Districts  
of Manitoba

Districts de conservation  
du Manitoba

**Annual Report**  
2004-2005

**Rapport annuel**  
2004-2005



**MINISTER OF WATER STEWARDSHIP**

Legislative Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA  
R3C 0V8

August 27, 2005

His Honour The Honourable John Harvard, P.C., O.M.  
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba  
Room 235  
Legislative Building  
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Your Honour:

It is my pleasure to present to you this document: The Annual Report of the Conservation Districts of Manitoba for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005, along with the audited financial statements of the Districts for the same period.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Ashton".

Steve Ashton  
Minister of Water Stewardship





# CONSERVATION DISTRICTS COMMISSION

Room 314, Legislative Building, 450 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg, MB. R3C 0V8

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August 27, 2005

The Honourable Steve Ashton  
Minister of Water Stewardship  
Room 314, Legislative Building  
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Conservation Districts for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005.

With a continual focus to the concept of sustainability in Manitoba, this document effectively outlines the programs which have been embraced by the Province's Conservation Districts in support of protecting, preserving, and promoting our environmental and economic resources.

Yours Sincerely,

Gerry Berezuk  
Chairman



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# Conservation Districts Program

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## Conservation Districts Program

### Foreword

The Conservation Districts Program operates under the authority of *The Conservation Districts Act*. The objectives of the Act are to provide for the conservation, control and prudent use of resources through the establishment of Conservation Districts and to protect the correlative rights of owners.

The Act provides for the creation of Conservation Districts (CDs) and requires the establishment of a Commission to oversee the activities of the Conservation Districts' Boards. The Commission, in turn, reports to the Minister of Water Stewardship. The legislation also requires the preparation of an Annual Report, which will include: updates on the progress being made by each District in the implementation of their management plans; general remarks in respect to activities related to the establishment of new Districts; and the Auditor's Report for each District.

The Province provides annual funding to assist local Conservation Districts' Boards. The provincial grants cover up to 75% of the cost of District programs. In addition, the Districts receive funding through municipal grants and levies and from local landowners. Other sources of funds come from agencies such as Ducks Unlimited Canada and Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), as well as grants from many other governmental and non governmental agencies. Provincial funding (grants) for the CDs is provided by the Manitoba Water Stewardship. Other Provincial Departments, such as Conservation, Agriculture and Food, Heritage and Tourism also provide grants for specific projects.

Each Conservation District is required to prepare an integrated resource management plan. Through this process, each District is able to establish a long-term vision, set goals and produce a 5-year program and operating budget.

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## Programme des districts de conservation

### Avant-propos

Le Programme des districts de conservation est régi par la *Loi sur les districts de conservation*. La *Loi* a pour objet de prévoir la conservation, le contrôle et l'emploi judicieux des ressources par l'établissement de districts de conservation et de protéger les droits des propriétaires en ces matières.

La *Loi* prévoit la création de districts de conservation et exige la mise sur pied d'une Commission chargée de superviser les activités des conseils des districts de conservation. Cette Commission doit à son tour rendre compte au ministre de la Gestion des ressources hydriques. La *Loi* prévoit également la préparation d'un rapport annuel comprenant les éléments suivants : mises à jour concernant la mise en œuvre des plans de gestion dans chaque district; remarques générales sur les activités liées à la mise sur pied de nouveaux districts; rapport d'un vérificateur pour chaque district.

Pour aider les conseils des districts de conservation, le gouvernement provincial accorde chaque année des subventions pouvant atteindre 75 % du coût des programmes des districts. Les districts sont également financés par des subventions municipales et des redevances payées par les propriétaires fonciers de leur région. Les autres sources de financement comprennent les contributions d'organismes tels que Canards illimités Canada et l'Administration du rétablissement agricole des prairies (ARAP), ainsi que des subventions accordées par de nombreux autres organismes publics et privés. Le financement provincial (les subventions) accordé aux districts de conservation est versé par Gestion des ressources hydriques Manitoba. D'autres ministères provinciaux, comme les ministères de la Conservation, de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Initiatives rurales, et de la Culture, du Patrimoine et du Tourisme peuvent aussi verser des subventions pour des projets spéciaux.

Chaque district de conservation est tenu de préparer un plan de gestion des ressources. Cela lui permet d'établir une vision à long terme, de se fixer des objectifs et d'élaborer un programme et un budget de fonctionnement sur cinq ans.

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## Program Expansions

The program consists of 16 CDs, which includes over 120 municipalities.

During 2004-05, the following CDs expanded their membership:

- Little Saskatchewan River into the Rural Municipalities of Park South, Strathclair, and Rosedale and into the Town of Erickson
- Seine Rat River into the Rural Municipality of Hanover and the City of Steinbach
- Lake of the Prairies CD into the Rural Municipalities of Shell River and Park North and into the Town of Shell River.

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## Expansion du Programme

Le programme compte 16 districts de conservation qui couvrent plus de 120 municipalités.

Pendant l'exercice 2004-2005, les districts suivants se sont élargis :

- le district de la rivière Little Saskatchewan englobe à présent les municipalités rurales de Park South, Strathclair et Rosedale et la ville d'Erickson.
- le district des rivières Seine et aux Rats englobe à présent la municipalité rurale d'Hanover et la ville de Steinbach.
- le district du lac des Prairies englobe à présent les municipalités rurales de Shell River et Park North et la ville de Shell River.

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## Areas of Interest

During the year, ten councils formally expressed interest in joining a CD including:

- Rural Municipalities of Springfield, De Salaberry, Reynolds, Richot, Tache, Franklin, Stuartburn (Seine Rat River CD);
- City of Brandon (Mid Assiniboine River CD);
- Town of Ste. Anne (Seine Rat River CD); and
- Village of St. Pierre Jolys (Seine Rat River CD).

Five draft proposals were completed in 2004-05 to establish new CD's including:

- East Interlake (RMs of Bifrost, Armstrong, Fisher, Rockwood, Rosser, and West St. Paul, Towns of Gimli, Stonewall, Teulon, Winnipeg Beach, and Arborg, and Villages of Riverton and Dunnottar)
- West Interlake (RMs of Grahamdale, Eriksdale, Siglunes, Coldwell, St. Laurent, Armstrong, Rockwood, and Fisher)
- Lower Assiniboine River (Sturgeon Creek) (RMs of Rosser, St. Francois Xavier, and Headingly)
- Roseau River (RMs of Franklin, Stuartburn, Piney, Roseau Reserve, Montcalm, and Morris)
- Southwest Red River (RMs of Morris, Rhineland, Montcalm, and Roland, and Towns of Altona, Emerson, Gretna, Morris, and Plum Coulee)

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## Centres d'intérêt

Au cours de l'année, dix conseils ont officiellement fait savoir qu'ils aimeraient se joindre à un district de conservation. Il s'agissait :

- des municipalités rurales de Springfield, De Salaberry, Reynolds, Richot, Taché, Franklin et Stuartburn (pour le district des rivières Seine et aux Rats);
- de la ville de Brandon (pour le district de la partie médiane de la rivière Assiniboine);
- de la ville de Sainte-Anne (pour le district des rivières Seine et aux Rats);
- du village de Saint-Pierre-Jolys (pour le district des rivières Seine et aux Rats).

Pendant l'exercice 2004-2005, cinq ébauches de projets d'établissement de nouveaux districts de conservation ont été réalisées, notamment pour :

- l'est de la région d'Entre-les-Lacs (municipalités rurales de Bifrost, Armstrong, Fisher, Rockwood, Rosser et West St. Paul, les villes de Gimli, Stonewall, Teulon, Winnipeg Beach et Arborg et les villages de Riverton et Dunnottar);
- l'ouest de la région d'Entre-les-Lacs (municipalités rurales de Grahamdale, Eriksdale, Siglunes, Coldwell, Saint-Laurent, Armstrong, Rockwood et Fisher);
- la partie inférieure de la rivière Assiniboine (Sturgeon Creek) (municipalités rurales de Rosser, Saint-François-Xavier et Headingly);
- la rivière Roseau (municipalités rurales de Franklin, Stuartburn, Piney, Montcalm et Morris et la réserve Roseau);
- la partie sud-ouest de la rivière Rouge (municipalités rurales de Morris, Rhineland, Montcalm et Roland et villes d'Altona, Emerson, Gretna, Morris et Plum Coulee).

## Program Activities

In 2004-05, the CD Program expended \$7.0M toward land and water stewardship programming. The program involves over 500 District and Sub-District members, employing approximately 100 full time and part-time employees.

With three levels of funding (provincial, local, and external), the following is a summary of activities and/or accomplishments for the fiscal year 2004-05:

<u>Program</u>	<u>2004-05</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>Units</u>
• Conservation Tillage	-	311.62	6,564	ha
• Crossings Repaired/Replaced	230	123	189	crossings
• Custom Seeding	21	-	28	km
• Drain Licenses	101	55	-	reviews
• Drains Maintained	1,557	2,086	1,865	km
• Education Programs	206	93	105	schools
• Equipment Rental	1,880	215.65	-	
• Fisheries Projects	22	28	20	projects
• Forage Seeded	10,518	10,673	19,381	ha
• Forage/Soil Testing	19	17	56	projects
• Geographic Information Services	410	407	6	projects
• Grassed Waterways	47	41	15	projects
• Gullies Repaired	12	16	8	projects
• Livestock Crossings/Stream Access	12	19	30	projects
• Manure Management	6	9	8	projects
• Erosion Control	12	1	-	projects
• Pasture Management Systems	35	17	-	projects
• Pasture Pipelines	47,546	111	29	km
• Planned Grazing	36	49	36	projects
• Recreation/Tourism	13	14	7	projects
• Resource Management Plans	9	7	-	projects
• Ring Dykes	2	3	-	projects
• Riparian/Exclusion Fencing	44	61	8	km
• Shelterbelts	121.01	146	-	km
• Streambank/Creek Stabilization	25	18	22	projects
• Sub-Division Applications	68	20	-	reviews
• Tours/Demonstrations/Extensions	129	108	93	projects
• Trees Planted	68,180	101,300	28,525	trees
• Water Pump Rental	24	15	-	projects
• Water Retention	58	44	85	projects
• Water Testing	575	102	-	projects
• Watering Systems	55	82	86	projects
• Watershed Plans	15	16	11	projects
• Wells Sealed	297	289	221	wells
• Wells New/Maintained	40	25	-	wells
• Wildlife/Habitat Projects	23	32	74	projects
• Winter Cereals	444.87	596.93	1,230	ha
• Woodlot Program	0	-	-	projects
• Swath Grazing	6	-	-	projects
• Rotational Winter Feeding	2	-	-	projects
• Salinity Seed/Barrier	60	-	-	projects

## Activités du programme

En 2004-2005, le Programme des districts de conservation a consacré 7 millions de dollars aux programmes de gestion des eaux et d'aménagement des terres. Le Programme rassemble plus de 500 membres des districts et des sous-districts et emploie une centaine de personnes à temps plein et à temps partiel.

Voici un résumé des activités et réalisations accomplies au cours de l'exercice 2004-2005 grâce aux trois niveaux de financement (provincial, local et externe) :

<u>Programme</u>	<u>2004-2005</u>	<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>	<u>Unités</u>
• Travail de conservation du sol	-	311,62	6 564	ha
• Réparation et remplacement des traverses	230	123	189	traverses
• Semis à forfait	21	-	28	km
• Permis de drainage	101	55	-	évaluations
• Entretien des canaux de drainage	1 557	2 086	1 865	km
• Programmes éducatifs	206	93	105	écoles
• Location d'équipement	1 880	215,65	-	
• Projets piscicoles	22	28	20	projets
• Plantation de fourrages	10 518	10 673	19 381	ha
• Forages et études de sols	19	17	56	projets
• Services d'information géographique	410	407	6	projets
• Voies d'eau gazonnées	47	41	15	projets
• Restauration des ravines	12	16	8	projets
• Accès aux cours d'eau et voies de passage pour le bétail	12	19	30	projets
• Gestion du fumier	6	9	8	projets
• Lutte contre l'érosion	12	1	-	projets
• Systèmes de gestion des pâturages	35	17	-	projets
• Canalisations d'eau dans les pâturages	47,546	111	29	km
• Planification des pacages	36	49	36	projets
• Loisirs et tourisme	13	14	7	projets
• Plans de gestion des ressources	9	7	-	projets
• Digue circulaires	2	3	-	projets
• Clôture des rives et des zones d'exclusion	44	61	8	km
• Brise-vents	121,01	146	-	km
• Réhabilitation et stabilisation des rives et des ruisseaux	25	18	22	projets
• Demandes en vue d'effectuer des subdivisions	68	20	-	évaluations
• Visites guidées, présentations et activités de vulgarisation	129	108	93	projets
• Plantation d'arbres	68 180	101 300	28 525	arbres
• Location de pompes à eau	24	15	-	projets
• Rétention des eaux	58	44	85	projets
• Analyses de l'eau	575	102	-	projets
• Systèmes d'arrosage	55	82	86	projets
• Plans d'aménagement de bassins versants	15	16	11	projets
• Fermeture des puits	297	289	221	puits
• Construction et entretien de puits	40	25	-	puits
• Projets relatifs à la faune et aux habitats naturels	23	32	74	projets
• Céréales d'hiver	444,87	596,93	1 230	ha
• Programme des terrains boisés	0	-	-	projets
• Pâturage sur andains	6	-	-	projets
• Alimentation des animaux en rotation pendant l'hiver	2	-	-	projets
• Lutte contre la salinité - Graines tolérant la salinité	60	-	-	projets

## Conservation District Grants

Up to 75% of the costs of Conservation Districts Programs are funded by Provincial grants. The grants are provided in support of local District Programs such as drainage maintenance and rehabilitation, soil conservation, water storage, wildlife habitat, public education, administration and a variety of other resource conservation programs.

### CONSERVATION DISTRICT GRANTS 2004-2005

## Subventions aux districts de conservation

Les subventions provinciales couvrent jusqu'à 75 % du coût des programmes des districts de conservation. Ces subventions sont versées pour aider les districts locaux à mettre en œuvre leurs programmes, notamment le drainage, l'entretien et la réhabilitation, la préservation du sol, l'emmagasinement des eaux, la protection de l'habitat faunique, l'éducation du public et l'administration, ainsi que toute une série de programmes de conservation des ressources.

### SUBVENTIONS AUX DISTRICTS DE CONSERVATION EN 2004-2005

DISTRICTS	PROVINCIAL GRANTS	SUBVENTIONS PROVINCIALES
Alonsa	\$240,000.00	240 000 \$
Cooks Creek / Ruisseau Cooks	\$270,000.00	270 000 \$
Intermountain	\$210,000.00	210 000 \$
Kelsey	\$140,000.00	140 000 \$
La Salle Redboine	\$135,000.00	135 000 \$
Lake of the Prairies / Lac des Prairies	\$200,000.00	200 000 \$
Little Saskatchewan River / Rivière Little Saskatchewan	\$170,000.00	170 000 \$
Mid Assiniboine River / Partie médiane de la rivière Assiniboine	\$110,000.00	110 000 \$
Pembina Valley / Vallée de la Pembina	\$370,000.00	370 000 \$
Seine-Rat River / Rivières Seine et aux Rats	\$150,000.00	150 000 \$
Tiger Hills	\$110,000.00	110 000 \$
Turtle Mountain	\$300,000.00	300 000 \$
Turtle River / Rivière Turtle	\$400,000.00	400 000 \$
Upper Assiniboine River / Partie supérieure de la rivière Assiniboine	\$250,000.00	250 000 \$
West Souris River / Ouest de la rivière Souris	\$200,000.00	200 000 \$
Whitemud	\$700,000.00	700 000 \$
District Expansion/unallocated / Expansion des districts et sommes non allouées	\$20,000.00	20 000 \$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,975,000.00</b>	<b>3 975 000 \$</b>

NOTE: - Please refer to the Audited Financial Statements in the appendices for details on local/external funding and total expenditures.

NOTE : Veuillez consulter les états financiers vérifiés en annexe pour des détails sur le financement local et externe et sur les dépenses totales.

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# Alonsa Conservation District

## Introduction

The Alonsa Conservation District, which lies along the western shores of Lake Manitoba, encompasses approximately 445,000 ha. The District has been involved in soil and water management programs since its inception in 1978.

The landscape is a series of gentle undulations of ridges and sloughs and includes the major watershed of Garrioch Creek, Sucker Creek, Hamlin Drain, and Reedy Creek in addition to several others which drain into Lake Manitoba, Ebb and Flow Lake, and Lonely Lake.

District programs include water and soil management as well as fisheries, wildlife, forestry, historical, educational, and recreational projects.

### **ALONSA CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-2005**

<b><u>SUB-DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
#107 – Crane River/Hamlin Drain	Fred Taylor	Rorketon
#110 – Garrioch Creek	Danny North	Alonsa
#113 – Lonely Lake/Ebb & Flow	Eldon Campbell	Kinosota
#157 – Weiden Drain	Steve Sliworsky	Rorketon
#160 – Kinosota Ridge	Clifford Elke	Amaranth
Provincial Appointee and Chairperson	Edward Zdan	Alonsa

## Summary

The District's programs include channel maintenance, crossing repair and replacement, pickerel spawning, forage seed forestry and wildlife, tree planting, educational extension, maintenance of existing trails, Aboriginal historic sites, park projects, as well as educational activities. These programs reflect the Board's commitment to carry out its mandate of conserving, sustaining, and preserving the diverse resources, which make this area unique, while keeping the local economy strong.

Funding support for the ACD is supplied by its main partner, Manitoba Water Stewardship. Additional support is obtained from member municipalities, a host of provincial and external partners and local producers, all with a common interest in sustaining the local environment.

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**TOTAL EXPENDITURE – 2004-2005**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>
Watershed Planning	\$11,701
Crossing Repair	\$24,809
Well Capping Program	\$6,161
Soil Conservation	\$100,425
Water Management	\$88,981
Forestry	\$1,346
Wildlife	\$5,850
Fisheries	\$58,611
Public Relations & Education	\$85,289
Administration	\$25,733
Depreciation	\$3,271
Robertson Museum	\$4,289
Infrastructure Reserve Fund	\$13,334
	<hr/>
TOTAL	<b><u><u>\$429,800</u></u></b>

For further detail see Auditor's Report, Appendix "A"

## **Water Management**

The Water Management Program focused on the upkeep and repair of existing drains, beaver damage control, and well capping.

Activities include:

- Geographical Information System (GIS) Drains information documentation
  - New information and updates
  - Mapping supplies
- Drain Maintenance
  - Cleanout - 19 km
  - South Leifur Drain Project – Berm Upgrade at Y
  - Flood Alleviation & Protection – 5 sites
  - Duggan Drain Project
  - Vegetation Control Projects - 20 km
  - Beaver Dam/Debris Removal – 16 sites
  - Equipment repair
- Tours and meetings re: Program, projects, planning and development
- Water Management Plan
- Sealing and capping of wells – 6 projects

## **Crossing Repair and Replacement**

The regular repair and replacement of a number of aging crossings accounted for the expenditures under this program. Eighteen pipe crossings were replaced at various locations throughout the District. Costs were incurred for the following:

- 
- Crossing Repair
    - Kjartanson Drain - 3 sites
    - Duggan Drain - 2 sites
    - T. Bodnar Crossing – 1 site
    - North Leifur Drain – 2 sites
    - 10 minor projects
  - Projects Development and Planning
  - GIS Inventory of Crossings completion
  - Infrastructure Reserve Fund \$13,333

## **Soils/Forestry**

The District continues to support and promote sustainable agricultural practices and forestry efforts by carrying out improvements to two projects previously sponsored by Manitoba Hydro; planting trees, and maintaining the established planting sites. Activities included:

- Preston Park near Rorketon;
- Tree Planting Project at Rorketon Golf Course;
- Maintenance of established tree planting sites;
- PFRA Leafy Spurge Project;
- Forage Incentive Project (80 producers ) (3,670 acres of land);
- Riparian Projects – 10 km;
- Seeding Berms & Water Management Projects;
- Woodlot Association and Manitoba Algologist Association Memberships; and
- Land Management Planning Project GIS Projects - 31 Producers

## **Wildlife/Fisheries**

The District continued its role in the Fish Hatchery and Spawning Project, the second largest such project in the Province. Spin-off projects are now being carried out, some of which will continue over several years.

- Pickerel Spawning Project - 12 million fry distributed in Lake Manitoba - partially funded by grants provided by the Manitoba Métis Federation (\$7,776) and the Lake Manitoba Fishermen's Association (\$2,000.)
- Bird Feeders Incentive Program
- Initial stages of Fisheries Habitat Inventories Project
- Upgrading Pickerel Spawning Hatchery Equipment with Fisheries Enhancement funding.
- Co-operative employment project with Manitoba Métis Federation (\$7,760) for Fish Spawn Project

## **Public Education**

Considerable effort is expended to promote the District's conservation attractions through various channels. Tours of Portia Marsh Interpretive Center are conducted regularly and many casual visitors come to this site. Other well-visited sites include Bacon Ridge Complex, Bluff Creek Nature Trail, Lady Slipper Viewing Site, Jackpine Ridge Wayside Park, Preston Park, Spirit Bay Park. Of special interest to aboriginal groups is the Thunderbird Nest Site, Tobacco Rock Site, and the site of the Aboriginal petroform called the Medicine Wheel, which lies within the Alonsa PFRA Pasture. Signage at all these sites makes them self-guiding and educational. Activities included:

- Green Team Student Employment Program
- Signage

- 
- Subscriptions & Memberships
  - Trails Maintenance & Equipment Repair
  - On-Site Employment Program
  - Tri-District Golf Tournament
  - Farm Family Award Sponsorship, Youth Speaker Sponsorship, Graduation Awards
  - Ducks Unlimited “Eco-van” Sponsorship

## Heritage

The District continued to support the efforts of the Alex Robertson Museum. A total of \$4288.54 was expended this year for upgrades to the Museum. This expenditure was covered by funds raised locally or through external grants.

## Administration

The District administration costs, consisting of staff salaries and expenses, and Board remuneration have remained fairly constant for the past several years. Vehicle expenses and office expenditures reflect the increased cost of the expanded District.

## Recreation

While no monies are directly expended in this category, the maintenance of existing trails, and projects such as Bluff Creek Nature Trail and Bluff Creek Church, Jackpine Ridge Wayside Park, Portia Interpretive Centre, Bacon Ridge Complex, Amaranth Marsh Project, Preston Wayside Park, Spirit Bay Park, McKay Park, the Lady Slipper Viewing Site, Ceremonial Site, and the Thunderbird Nest are all multi-disciplinary and support recreation.

## External Funding

External funding partners make it possible for the Alonsa Conservation District to carry out a variety of innovative programs and projects. We are appreciative of their generosity, and look forward to partnering with them again, and also to forming new partnerships.

A summary is as follows:

• Lake Manitoba Fishermen’s Association	\$2,000
• Manitoba Métis Federation	\$7, 776
• Alex Robertson Museum	\$4,289
• Manitoba Green Team Program	\$8,346
• Fisheries Enhancement Initiative	\$11,000
• Cattle Producers	\$41,912
• Fisheries Enhancement Fund	\$12,231
• Career Placement Program	\$932
• Westlake Wildlife Association	\$250
• Environment Canada	\$13,300
• University of Regina	\$1,046
• Birdwatchers Fund	\$2,326
• PFRA	\$350

Total	<u>\$105,757.36</u>
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# Cooks Creek Conservation District Annual Report

## Introduction

The Cooks Creek Conservation District was established in 1979 and is located a short distance east of Winnipeg. The District includes most of the Cooks Creek watershed, which discharges into the Red River, and parts of the Carrs Creek and Lower Seine River basins both of which flow into the Red River Floodway. Topography, soils, and vegetation of the watershed are distinguished by an eastern upland area and a central lowland area.

The District's proximity to Winnipeg has led to an influx of commuter residents in the rural areas as well as in the communities of Anola, Cooks Creek, Dugald, Oakbank, Ste. Genevieve, and Richer. The 86,200 hectare Conservation District includes most of the Rural Municipality of Springfield and portions of the Municipalities of Taché, Ste. Anne, Brokenhead, and Reynolds.

### **COOKS CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-2005**

<b><u>SUB-DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
#9 – Lower Seine River	Ron Dubinsky	Dugald
#11N – Lower Cooks Creek	Glenn Keilback	Beausejour
#11S – Upper Cooks Creek	Harry Harder	Richer
# 12 – Carrs Creek	Bob Bodnaruk	RR#5 Winnipeg
Board Chairperson	George Sokal	RR#5 Winnipeg

## Summary

The spring and summer of 2004 was wet and fall was extremely wet with our producers having a difficult time harvesting their crops. This reinforced the importance of the maintenance and upgrading of the District's drainage waterways. As a result, the District program includes: drain reconstruction; earth cleanouts; culvert crossings; drain mowing, spraying and brushing.

The District is also involved in well sealing; drainage licensing; water retention; sub-division applications, public education and school programs.

The District undertook participation in the proposed floodway expansion and received some funding under the participant funding program for the Clean Environment Commission hearing.

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## TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2003-04

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Water Management	\$361,644
Soil Management	\$4,475
Well Sealing/Oth	\$9,993
Crossings	\$67,069
Public Education	\$49,742
Wildlife & Fisheries Management	\$30,186
Forestry Management	\$1,599
Drainage Licensing	\$4,378
Administration	\$63,951
Assets	\$16,607
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TOTAL	<u>\$619,641</u>

For further details, please refer to the Auditor's Report in Appendix "B".

## **Water Management**

Frequent and excessive summer and fall rains caused wet conditions that made construction difficult and contributed to the significant losses of agricultural crops. This reinforced the importance of on-going maintenance and upgrading of the District's drainage waterways.

District activities included:

- The reconstruction of 1.6 km of drain.
- Earth cleanouts were done along 10 km of drain.
- Spraying and mowing for cattails and brush was done on 195 km, track mowing and brushing was done along 25 km, for a total of 220 km.
- The program also included beaver population control and removal of beaver dams.
- Miscellaneous earthworks.
- The District held meetings with the Rural Municipalities of Ste. Anne, Reynolds, Brokenhead Taché, LaBroquerie and the Seine Rat River Conservation District regarding the Salmon Lake Marsh East of Richer.
- One summer student was hired under the Career Start Program.
- The Oakbank CPR Drain land purchases have been completed including some expropriation, construction will start June 2005.

## **Soil Management**

- The District redesigned and constructed a Grassed Runway .

## **Water Quality**

- Abandoned wells were sealed with funding from PFRA and landowners; in excess of 195 wells have been sealed since 1994 to help protect groundwater quality.

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## Crossings

- The replacement and maintenance of crossings is a significant part of the management of the drainage waterway infrastructure.
- The crossing program consisted of the repair and or replacement of culvert infrastructure.
- New crossings consisting of culverts being installed at 2 locations.
- The District repaired or replaced numerous crossing culverts, floodgates and culvert ends at through road or dyke installations.

## Public Education

- The District's Water Management Plan is ready for printing.
- The District sponsored the Springfield 4H public speaking contest.
- The District sponsored the Ducks Unlimited Eco Van at two schools.
- The District constructed and sold bat boxes.
- The Conservation Farm Family award went to Rick Vaags and family, who owns and manages a large mixed grain, seed and hog operation near Dugald.
- The District also contributed to the Manitoba Conservation District magazine.
- The District Board, Sub-District members, and Staff attended numerous meetings, tours and workshops including the annual MCDA Conference in Brandon, MB.

## Wildlife & Fisheries Management

- The District has taken possession of 46 acres of land near Birdshill Park, which was donated as an EcoGift.
- It is maintained as a wildlife area and District Office complex.
- Moving has taken place regarding relocating the District Office to the Wildlife Site.

## Forestry Management

- The District distributed Spruce seedlings at two local community events.
- The District handed out packages of native grass and wild flower seeds.

## Drainage Licensing

- The District continues to inspect and arrange stakeholders meetings for drainage license applications.

- Involved in discussions regarding the recommendations set out by the Manitoba Department of Water Stewardship for the Department to issue the license.

## External Funding

The District searched for and received funding for a number of projects. External Funding included:

### TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING 2004-05

<u>Partner/Program</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Federal Government Gas Tax Rebate	\$77
PFRA Well Sealing	\$2,050
Summer Career Placement	\$3,920
Federal/Prov Infrastructure	\$15,809
CEC Participant Funding	\$35,000
R. M. of Springfield Floodway Expansion	\$30,000
Landowner Crossings	\$12,703
Landowner Well Sealing	\$400
Local Oakbank CPR Funding	\$137,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$1,463
Interest and Investment	\$4,528
Insurance precedes	\$6,904
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TOTAL	<u>\$249,854</u>

## Administration

- Administration costs include office cleaning, office supplies, utilities, and some salaries.
- Discussions with Agassiz are ongoing regarding the options of the local Rural Municipalities forming a Conservation District in the Agassiz region or joining the Cooks Creek Conservation District.

## Assets

- The District purchased:
  - New Photocopier
  - Boardroom Furniture
  - Office Furniture
  - Projector
  - Laptop and Software

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# Intermountain Conservation District

## Introduction

On July 15, 1997 the Intermountain Conservation District (IMCD) was officially established as Manitoba's ninth Conservation District. Nestled between the Riding Mountain National Park, the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest, and Lakes Dauphin and Winnipegosis, the landscape of the District varies from steep forested escarpment to gentle sloping lakeshore land. Encompassing approximately 7200 km<sup>2</sup>, IMCD is the Province's largest Conservation District.

Municipalities participating in the IMCD include the Rural Municipalities of Dauphin, Ethelbert, Gilbert Plains, Grandview, Mossey River and Mountain South; the Villages of Ethelbert and Winnipegosis; the Towns of Gilbert Plains and Grandview; and the City of Dauphin.

### INTERMOUNTAIN CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-05

<u>SUB-DISTRICT</u>	<u>CHAIRPERSON</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
#47 - Vermillion River	Dwain Davies	Dauphin
#48 - Wilson River	Ernie Bayduza	Dauphin
#93 - Upper Valley River	Gordon Bennett	Grandview
#95 - Lower Valley River/Mink Creek	Wayne Banting	Grandview
#102 - Fishing/Fork/Mossey	Clarence Buhler	Fork River
#103 - Garland/Point	Gordon Parsons	Pine River
#105 - Pine/Sclater/Duck	Marvin Kovachik	Cowan
Provincial Appointee	Syd Puchailo	Gilbert Plains
Board Chairperson	Ron Kostyshyn	Ethelbert

## Summary

Many of the programs being implemented by the IMCD address local water and soil issues. New watershed management plans have and will continue to outline the priorities for watersheds within the IMCD. New initiatives and ongoing promotional campaigns provided increased public awareness of the variety of programs available through the Conservation District program. The diversity of the district's landscape, resources and scenic features provide a variety of challenges and opportunities.

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**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-05**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>
Administration	\$37,801
Public Relations & Education	\$59,672
Soil Management	\$88,366
Water Management	\$174,346
Assets – Field and Office Equipment	\$24,877
Miscellaneous Expenses – Watershed/System Depreciation	\$24,409
Board expenses	\$4,136
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TOTAL	<u>\$413,608</u>

For further details see Auditor's Report, Appendix "C".

## **Water Management**

The Valley River Watershed Study was completed and presented to the community. The goal of the project was to identify the priorities within the watershed and assist in the assembly of a prioritized list of shore land or riparian rehabilitation projects.

The project organization stage of the Vermillion River Watershed Study & Management Plan was completed and data gathering has started.

The Integrated Watershed Management Initiative (IWMI) entered its second year. The IWMI is a 5 year program that involves the collection of GPS-referenced culvert and bridge data for several watersheds in the IMCD.

Other projects included two streambank stabilizations, sealing 30 abandoned wells and several off-site watering systems.

## **Soil Conservation**

The grassed waterway program continues to grow with a total of 15 grassed waterways developed in 2004-05. The District's forage seed reimbursement program was also widely accepted and utilized during the year.

IMCD in partnership with Aerway pasture aerators were able to bring new agricultural technology to our producers within the district. Two field days were held to introduce a machine that restores pasture lands through aeration.

## **Fish and Wildlife**

The protection of riparian areas and improvements to surface water quality provided through IMCD programs continue to contribute to the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat. The IMCD makes every effort to integrate wildlife habitat initiatives into its existing programs.

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IMCD in partnership with the Department of Water Stewardship (Fisheries) has submitted a proposal for external funding to develop an outdoor education center at an old borrow pit in the Rural Municipality of Grandview. The pit will be stocked with trout and aerated and will serve as an excellent site for outdoor education on fish biology and water quality.

IMCD has been in communication with the Lake Winnipegosis Advisory Board regarding potential improvements and the overall status of the tributaries that are part of the Lake Winnipegosis watershed.

## **Forestry**

IMCD has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Louisiana Pacific Canada - Swan Valley Forest Division (LP) regarding watershed management and sustainability of water resources.

The district provided a booth at the Swan Valley Forestry Expo held at the Forestry Education Center in the Duck Mountains.

IMCD continues to maintain and utilize its two plantations. Tree planting projects were largely limited to community-based projects with IMCD providing the trees and technical knowledge to complete the projects.

## **Public Education**

Promoting conservation to local youth, area landowners and communities continues to be a priority for the district. The major event of the year was the Manitoba Conservation District Association's – Youth Poster Contest & Display Competition. IMCD sponsored two students from Ethelbert School to compete at the Provincial competition. Their "watersheds" display received first in the provincial competition.

IMCD has established a mobile educational trailer that can be placed at various community events throughout the district. The trailer was donated to IMCD by the Dauphin Lake Advisory Board.

Beaver trapping workshops for youth and municipal partners and landowners were sponsored by IMCD and the Department of Conservation in conjunction with the Manitoba Trappers Association.

The District provided a booth at the "Challenges of Production" Forage & Beef and Crop Seminars in Dauphin. The seminars included trade fair displays for agricultural & resource companies and organizations.

## **Administration**

Program management expenditures consist of all administrative costs associated with the operation of the office, including salaries and expenses of administrative staff, office supplies, office rental and utilities, legal, accounting and/or service fees.

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# Kelsey Conservation District

## Introduction

Kelsey Conservation District (KCD) has been operation since January 1999. The District lies completely within the RM of Kelsey including the Pasquia and Carrot River settlements, Rall's Island, Wanless and Cranberry Portage. The District shares a provincial border with Saskatchewan and is located in the largest freshwater delta in the world. KCD is the only District north of the 53<sup>rd</sup> parallel; Wanless and Cranberry Portage are both north of the 54<sup>th</sup> parallel. There are no established sub-districts.

The District office is located in the Town of The Pas and is staffed by a manager and a part time administrator. The Board of Directors represents approximately 2,750 residents from within the Municipality and meets monthly to discuss the watershed issues of the District.

Priorities for the Kelsey Conservation District's Board include developing programs that educate the public about prudent resource management, soil and water conservation practices and local decision making as a means to maintain a healthy rural landscape. The involvement of youth and the formation of sound partnerships are also important aspects of the District's presence in the community.

### **KELSEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004 – 05**

<b><u>DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
Chairperson	Kathy Joyal	Rall's Island
Cranberry Portage	Dave Cupples	Cranberry Portage
Pasquia/Carrot River	Larry King	Pasquia
Wanless	Dan Davie	Wanless
Provincial Appointee	Darwin Marshall	The Pas

## Summary

The Board of KCD continues to focus on developing and delivering programs around sustainable agriculture and riparian stabilization. Most of the programs offered through the District can be directly linked to improving water quality and ensuring that it will continue to be improved into the future. The Board continues to develop a management plan that will help to guide programs and decision making into the future. Programming in Wanless and Cranberry is directed at tourism and recreation. Working with and developing partnerships with outside agencies continues to be an priority for the Board.

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## TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-05

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Water Management	\$23,579
Soil Management	\$36,523
Public Education	\$106,300
Wildlife & Fisheries Management	\$6,497
Recreation	\$3,858
Administration	\$15,277
Assets	\$13,967
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TOTAL	<u>\$206,001</u>

For further details, please refer to the Auditor's Report in Appendix "D".

### **Administration**

- Expenditures for administration consisted of office rent, utilities, office supplies and other operating costs associated with delivering programs.

### **Water Quality**

- This past year four alternate watering and exclusion fencing projects were undertaken. The pasture plow that was purchased in 2002 with the partnership of Ducks Unlimited Canada and PFRA saw limited use this year, as several livestock producers were reluctant to undertake new initiatives and costs due to BSE. Water quality testing is ongoing on The Pas and Carrot River in partnership with University College of the North where it enters the District and where it leaves the District.
- The five manure management sites that the District is working on progressed less than expected this year. The summer was cool and wet resulting in a delayed forage harvest and wintering areas that did not dry out enough to allow access for heavy equipment necessary to carry out the project.
- The abandoned well program continued this year with 17 wells being sealed. Interest in the abandoned well program will continue into the next year as a rural water pipeline has been completed.

### **Soil Conservation**

- The Board's forage assistance program was offered throughout the District. The program offers to producers a financial incentive to seed forages in erosion prone areas and areas with high salinity. This program had a reduced uptake from past years. The Pasquia/Carrot River area saw 400 ha of erosion and salinity risk areas seeded to forage.
- The District assisted in planting 5 kilometers of shelterbelts.
- The District continued with a soil-testing program that helps producers determine what inputs are required to achieve their desired crop yields. This program was initiated to ensure that over application of fertilizer is not taking place. Nine producers took advantage of this program.
- In partnership with Manitoba Agriculture and Food, 12 producers took advantage of the forage-testing program. This program reduces the amount of manure produced by livestock during winter-feeding by ensuring that proper feed rations are provided.

- A swath grazing program was launched with six producers using the program. Swath grazing reduces the amount of livestock in concentrated areas resulting in better manure management. Swath grazing also ensures that risk of soil erosion is minimized.
- The District assisted three producers with establishing rotational grazing.

## Public Education

- Education and extension is a priority for the KCD Board. A regular advertising campaign was ongoing in local newspapers. Several days were spent in five local schools and in the field discussing the importance of watershed management. The Board believes that investing in both board and staff professional development will help to ensure that the District will have positive impacts within the watershed.
- The District’s Management Plan was moved to near completion this year. Printing and distribution is all that remains to be done to complete this document. This process was carried out with the assistance of a consultant.
- A first annual summer tour and dinner was hosted by the District this year with an excellent turnout.
- KCD is involved in a education committee with the MCDA. The goal of this committee is to have Conservation District values of watershed management be part of Manitoba’s public education curriculum.

## Wildlife and Habitat Enhancement

The District’s duck and tree swallow nest and bat box program continued strongly this year. Private landowners with both small and large acreages having suitable habitat to warrant the installation of boxes qualify for the program. Agreements were signed with the landowners committing the landowner to maintaining the boxes and the habitat where the boxes were placed. University College of the North continues to be involved by analyzing the nest remains provided by participants of the program.

## Recreation

- Using external dollars the District completed works on a public dock on Rocky Lake in Wanless.
- The District is working to establish two ecological trails that will be located on Grace Lake and in Cranberry Portage.

### TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING 2004-05

<u>Partner/Program</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Landowner	\$3,489
Parkland Crop Diversification Foundation	\$1,622
Special Conservation Fund	\$2,260
Rocky Lake Cabins	\$159
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	TOTAL
	<u>\$7,529</u>

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# Lake of the Prairies Conservation District

## Introduction

The Lake of the Prairies Conservation District (LPCD) was established as Manitoba's 12<sup>th</sup> Conservation District on January 1, 2001 by uniting the municipalities of Russell, Shellmouth-Boulton and Silver Creek, the Town of Russell and the Village of Binscarth. In April 2004, the Rural Municipalities of Park North and Shell River, as well as the Town of Roblin joined the District to complete the watershed, with the exception of the western part of the R.M. of Hillsburg. The District now includes approximately 486,000 ha of rolling topography between the Duck Mountains and Riding Mountains and borders the Province of Saskatchewan. Its principal landscape feature is the Assiniboine River, running along the western border of the district.

The District, primarily by the Province of Manitoba through the Department of Water Stewardship, is divided into 6 Sub-Districts based on the Assiniboine, Shell and Valley Rivers, Thunder Creek and Silver Creek. Thirty-two Sub-District members act in an advisory capacity to the main Board. The LPCD Board meets on a monthly basis at the District office in Inglis.

### **LAKE OF THE PRAIRIES CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004 – 2005**

<b><u>SUB-DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
#79 - Silver Creek *	Clifford Tetzlaff, resigned March 2005	Binscarth
#91 – Shell River	Gerald Brook	Roblin
#92A – Assiniboine River North	Brad Robin	Inglis
#92B – Assiniboine River South	Doug Bily	Russell
#92C – Thunder Creek	Frank Woroneski	Russell
#94 – Valley River	Dave Minshull	Shortdale
Provincial Appointee	Gene Nerbas	Shellmouth
Board Chairperson	Ron Turetsky	Shortdale

\* Resigned March 2005, Vice-Chair of sub-district #79 also resigned March 2005; no replacement to date.

## Summary

In its fourth year of operation, the District has maintained public education as a priority to provide effective change in soil and water management practices within the area. In addition to our school education programs the LPCD developed and hosted a one-day summer youth Eco-Camp. Through a variety of programs, projects and services, sustainable soil and water conservation efforts are visible on the landscape. New initiatives are continually being evaluated by the Board for credibility to expand and evolve the District's programming repertoire.

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**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-05**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>
Water Management	\$31,369
Soil Management	\$24,578
Public Education	\$70,808
Wildlife Management	\$4,702
Forestry Management	\$7,632
Fisheries Management	\$7,418
Tourism/Recreation	\$6,497
Geographical Information System	\$1,947
Administration	\$29,724
Assets	\$14,658
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TOTAL	<u>\$199,333</u>

For further details, please refer to Appendix “E”.

## **Water Management**

- Five abandoned wells were sealed.
- The District provided 4 producers with assistance to create alternate watering systems for livestock and exclusion fence water bodies.
- The LPCD approved three riparian repair projects.
- Three producers trialed a portable, solar powered long range livestock watering system, providing them with the option to test the benefits of such a system without incurring commitment or cost. As well, an additional system was purchased by the District from Kelln Solar.
- One producer utilized the pasture pipeline trencher this year, with approximately .25 km of pipe being trenched.
- Funding from DFO was used to establish the “Stewardship on the Shell” project. Under this initiative, one landowner meeting was hosted in the Shell River sub-district. Guest speakers addressed the issues of crises in the cattle industry and riparian management.
- Through demonstration projects, funding initiatives and research projects, members will evaluate different grazing opportunities, weigh alternate watering options and assess riparian health of water systems on their property. As well, a Riparian Technical Workshop was conducted for technical personnel and producers, and covered the function of the riparian area, riparian area and fish habitat, pasturing, pre-assessment and field health assessments.

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## Soil Conservation

- 237 ha of cultivated land was sown to forage this year under assistance from this program. Total financial assistance was \$5,850.00.
- With the aim of reducing saline seep, 16 ha of land was stabilized with salinity forage seed this year.
- Targeting first-time growers, the Winter Cereals program provided producers with an incentive to trial producing a winter wheat crop. 169.6 ha were subsidized under the program this year.
- 160 ha of conventionally tilled land was converted to clover cover this year, using 79 bags of seed.
- Modification to last year's riparian repair project was completed.
- One grassed waterway was funded this year.

## Fisheries

- Continued meetings with the stakeholders of this project resulted in a plan to remove the Inglis Beach Weir that is agreeable to all involved.
- LPCD funded a riparian repair project in conjunction with the Silver Beach Cottage Owner's Association.

## Wildlife

- One beaver leveler was installed by the CD. As well, LPCD contributed \$1,500.00 towards the construction and installation of three beaver levelers in the R.M. of Park North.
- LPCD hosted the first Delta Waterfowl Youth Hunt to be offered within our District.

## Forestry

- Ninety grade three students within the District were provided with white spruce seedlings under the Adopt A Tree for Soil Conservation Program.
- The prairie xeriscape project surrounding the District office focuses on water and soil conservation, reduced pesticide use, appropriate plant selection, efficient irrigation, and mulching with recycled organic material. The project also provides shelter, fruit trees, an educational component and aesthetics to the area. This year walking paths were constructed throughout the xeriscape, as well as the addition of bird feeders and a bird bath.

## Tourism & Recreation

- Continued work on the Daneliuk Spring project site included construction of pathways from the road to the spring, and two bridges across the spring for easier access to the water.

## Public Education

- Events hosted by the District included a Riparian/Grazing Club meeting, Eco-Camp, Technical Well Capping day, Producer Well Capping Demonstration day, Riparian Technical day, Pasture workshop day, Shock

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Chlorination demo day, youth hunt, a fall grazing day (in conjunction with UARCD), a winter watering day (in conjunction with UARCD) an open house in Roblin, an orientation meeting for all sub-district members and our first annual Banquet. The banquet was very successful with 136 in attendance.

- The District promoted its programs, projects, services and mandate through a variety of sources including seasonal newsletters, newspaper articles and advertisements and presence at local events. The CD also constructed a float which participated in a local Canada Day parade.
- Conservation Roadshow: The Roadshow is a menu of conservation activities by grade level, paralleling the Manitoba School education curriculum. One school presentation was made this year. Binscarth School grade four students also experienced hands-on ecological activities in the natural setting of the *Wetlands Classroom* at the Inglis Beach.
- Other Educational Programming: The District promoted DU 'On the Go' Program, National Wildlife Week, Earth Day and assisted with interpretive tours at the Skinner Arboretum.

## **Administration**

- Administrative expenditures include office rent, utilities, staff salaries and expenses related to the administrative functions of the District.

## **Assets**

- Assets include a truck, trailer, Pasture Pipeline Trencher, three off-site watering systems, a variety of computer equipment and a Ricoh photocopier.

## **Other**

- Five requests for landowners aerial photos were received this year, as well as two requests for acreage counts utilizing the global positioning system (GPS).
- With funding received through Brandon University's Outreach Program, a summer student was hired to complete the development of the Access database and GIS mapping of programs, projects and services within the LPCD.
- A summer technician was hired with funding from the Green Team program.

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# La Salle Redboine Conservation District

## Introduction

The La Salle Redboine Conservation District (LSRBCD) was established in January of 2001. The District encompasses 7,000km<sup>2</sup> of Central Manitoba, extending from Spruce Woods Provincial Park in the West to the Fort Whyte Center in the East. North to South, the boundaries extend from Delta Marsh on Lake Manitoba to a few kilometers South of Carman.

The District features a diverse landscape characterized by rolling sand hills, glacial till deposits and the Manitoba Escarpment in the west to Red River flood plain clay deposits in the east. This unique landscape has encouraged the LSRBCD to promote a variety of conservation programs for all of the Districts 37,000 residents.

LSRBCD includes the Rural Municipalities of Victoria, South Norfolk, Dufferin, Grey, Cartier, MacDonald, portions of Portage la Prairie and Ritchot, the towns of Treherne, Carman, St. Claude and the City of Portage la Prairie. The boundaries are further divided into 8 Sub-Districts with local representation governing each Sub-District board. In total LSRBCD has 49 board members, who give direction to the main board of directors, listed below.

### **LA SALLE REDBOINE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2002 2003**

<b><u>SUB-DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
#18 – Boyne – Norquay	Roy Wood	Carman
#21 – Central La Salle	Leonard Arnal	Fannystelle
#22 – Lower La Salle	Rodney Burns	Starbuck
#24 – Upper La Salle	Claude Menard	Elie
#71 – Cypress River	Raymond Huggart	Treherne
#100 – Long Lake	Terry Martin	Portage la Prairie
#100A – Assiniboine	Marshall Piper	Elie
#101 – Delta	Toby Trimble	Portage la Prairie
Chairperson	Doug Dobrowolski	Domain

## Summary

2004-2005 marked the second year of LSRBCD programming which built upon the success of previous years programming and provided new programs where required on the landscape. In total, LSRBCD completed 54 soil and water management projects and offered 16 soil management, water management and public education programs.

This year the LSRBCD began the first water control project in the headwaters of the Boyne River watershed. This project and similar future projects are designed to provide temporary water storage for downstream flood relief, while providing wildlife habitat, reducing downstream erosion, and drought proofing water deficit areas.

### **TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-05**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>
Water Management	\$84,420
Soil Management	\$3,279
Public Education	\$5,287
Amortization	\$27,624

Project Management	\$173,717
Assets purchased capitalized	\$84,944
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TOTAL	<u>\$379,271</u>

For further details, please refer to Appendix “F”.

## Integrated Watershed Management

In 2004-2005 fiscal year, the LSRBCD Board of Directors organized several planning meetings to create an action plan and long term mandate for the La Salle Redboine Conservation District. Members have been actively pursuing support and gathering baseline data for all LSRBCD watersheds to facilitate integrated watershed management planning. LSRBCD members were highly involved with the Stakeholders Round Table for the recently completed Stephenfield Watershed Management Plan.

The Board of Directors laid the groundwork for completing a riparian inventory of the La Salle River Watershed to aid in future planning. LSRBCD is also investigating involvement in a drainage licensing pilot program in partnership with Manitoba Water Stewardship.

The LSRBCD completed 20 GIS service products for watershed assessments and designed highly detailed Sub District maps for each of our 49 Board Members.

## Water Management

Prevention of downstream flooding through temporary water retention, and maintenance of high quality ground and surface water, are the highest priorities of the LSRBCD. Water management activities include:

- Water retention construction projects: 1 small dam completed, investigation of several wetland restoration and backflood irrigation projects for 2005-2006
- 100 participants in well water testing day
- 23 wells sealed in partnership with PFRA
- 3 riparian livestock fencing projects completed
- 285km of Provincial Drainage channels mowed for improved conveyance in La Salle River and Boyne River Watersheds
- 25 dugouts monitored for water quality in partnership with Delta Marsh Field Station (U of M) and Manitoba Agriculture and Food – Portage Office
- 1 constructed wetland monitored for nutrient removal performance

## Soil Management

The La Salle Redboine Conservation District is characterized by diverse soil varieties. Each soil type requires different management and degrees of protection. In order to provide a solution for all soil resources District wide the LSRBCD offered the following soil programs; Bufferstrip Plantings, Rotational Grazing Systems, Streambank Rehabilitation, Shelterbelt Program, Grassed Runways, Sensitive Soils Program, and Gully Erosion Repairs.

Activities in 2004-2005 included:

- Establishment of 5 saline soils forage rehabilitation sites, 3 in partnership with Ducks Unlimited
- 5 municipal erosion control projects in partnership with RM of South Norfolk, RM of Grey, RM of Dufferin and PVCD. These projects prevent sedimentation and down cutting of roadside drains and protect LSRBCD rivers from sedimentation.
- GIS delineation of soils “At Risk” to erosion throughout the Conservation District for project targeting
- 4 rotational grazing systems on “At Risk” soils throughout the LSRBCD
- Installation of 4km of pasture watering pipelines

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## **Public Education and Urban Watershed Management**

In the 2004-2005 fiscal year, LSRBCD supported several public education and extension initiatives. Projects LSRBCD was involved with include, supporting producer workshops and seminars, assisting community groups with tree plantings and interpretive trails, sponsoring Oak Hammock Marshes “Watershed Ecovan” program, and organizing a well water testing day. LSRBCD also completed a webpage about the Conservation Districts program and published several newspaper articles regarding District activities and best management practices. The Conservation District sponsored a coloring contest which attracted 150 entries from CD elementary schools and purchased a water quality testing kit for Crescentview Elementary’s ecology program. The Conservation District recognized the McCullough Family of Carman as LSRBCD’s Conservation Family of the Year. LSRBCD also sponsored Fairholm Colony’s Envirothon team and provided in school lectures regarding Envirothon topics. Fairholm Colony School’s Envirothon Team was the 2005 winner of the Manitoba Envirothon.

## **Assets**

In 2004-2005, LSRBCD completed construction of an equipment shed in the Town of Holland. The shed will house field gear and weather sensitive project materials.

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# Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District

## Introduction

In 1999, the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District (LSRCD) was developed as Manitoba's 12<sup>th</sup> conservation district. It is located southwest of Riding Mountain National Park and extends south to the Assiniboine River, west to the community of Oak River, and east to the community of Minnedosa. The District is 312,700 ha and has a population of 8,602 residents. It includes all or parts of seven rural municipalities and three towns.

Viewed as one of the more scenic and important waterfowl development areas, the LSRCD has its share of challenges; from the distinctive pothole marshes, undulating lands, significant elevation changes, to the difficulties associated with farming the steep valleys of the Oak and Little Saskatchewan Rivers.

The LSRCD is comprised of three distinctive watersheds. Six sub-district committees represent these sub-watersheds and serve in an advisory capacity to the main LSRCD Board

### **LITTLE SASKATCHEWAN RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-2005**

<b><u>SUB-DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>BOARD MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
#72A – Upper Oak River	Ken Wozney – Chair	Strathclair
#72B – Lower Oak River	Rod Vietch – Chair	Rivers
#81A – Upper Central Little Saskatchewan	John Whitaker – Chair	Erickson
#81B – Lower Central Little Saskatchewan	Ron Carr – Chair	Minnedosa
#82A – Upper Lower Little Saskatchewan	Ray Frey – Chair	Onanole
#82B – Lower Little Saskatchewan	Ed McKay – Chair	Rivers
Board Chairperson	Roy Greer	Rivers

## Summary

This year, the LSRCD continued to expand into regions within its watershed boundary. The RM's of Strathclair and Park, Town of Erickson, and part of the RM of Rosedale joined the District.

During 2004-2005, the LSRCD maintained support for its program uptake and participation. In addition to its regular programming, the LSRCD worked on new initiatives. The Alternative Land Use Strategy (ALUS) project proceeded with the help of its partners; the Keystone Agriculture Landowners, the Delta Waterfowl Federation, and the RM of Blanshard. Together, the first pilot project proposal was developed to test the ecological services concept. The proposal was submitted to potential stakeholders for review and to provide them with the opportunity to assist the proposal in becoming a reality in the spring of 2005.

The LSRCD also continued with integrated watershed planning initiatives that were started in Broughton's Creek Watershed and the Sandy Lake Watersheds. Each of the plans was in its final stage and was scheduled to be released in spring-summer of 2005.

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**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-2005**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>
Water Management	\$111,438
Soil Management	\$73,280
Wildlife Habitat Programs	\$21,280
Education	\$74,788
Forestry	\$11,645
Program Management	\$20,561
Assets	\$4,907
	<hr/>
TOTAL:	<u>\$405,150</u>

For further details, please refer to Appendix "G"

## **Water Management**

The primary focus for the LSRCD is to provide sustainable working programs that address the regional needs and issues of the watersheds. The Board and Sub-District members provide direction for planning and development by focusing on the long-term sustainability of the resources.

### **Board Initiatives:**

- Completed the Sub-District boundaries revisions concurrent with the District's expansion. The number of Sub-Districts changed from three to six. This was done in consultation with various departments and agencies, as well as locally.
- Continued the LSRCD Coordinated Well Testing Day Program. This was conducted to help residents of the District understand the importance of source protection for water quality. Over 150 people participated by providing their water quality samples for analysis.
- Reviewed program cost sharing – (landowner share to programs/projects), as well as review programs to examine where the LSRCD could best utilize its program dollar to meet the LSRCD and provincial priorities.
- Continued to upgrade training for GPS and GIS services to make better resource management decisions.

### **Sub-District Initiatives:**

#### **Sub-District # 72A Upper Oak River Watershed**

- Completed sealing (4) abandoned wells
- Assessed (4) abandoned wells
- Currently involved in (1) Riparian Pasture Project along Salt Lake

#### **Sub-District # 72B Lower Oak River Watershed**

- Constructed a Headwater Storage Project within the headwaters of the Sibbald Creek Watershed
- Completed (1) pasture pipeline project
- Completed (2) Winter Water Demonstration Projects
- Assessed ( 5) abandoned wells
- Sealed (8) abandoned wells

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### **Sub-District # 81A Central Little Saskatchewan River Watershed**

- Surveyed (2) headwater storage structures, completed (1) structure in the RM of Park
- Completed (3) pasture pipeline projects
- Assessed (16) abandoned wells
- Sealed (5) abandoned wells

### **Sub-District # 81B Lower Central Little Saskatchewan River Watershed**

- Completed (3) pasture pipeline projects
- Assessed (13) abandoned wells
- Sealed (5) abandoned wells
- Continued to develop a proposal for a constructed wetland within the Minnedosa Golf Course.
- Signed (2) Landowner Agreements for developing two riparian projects along Minnedosa Lake.
- Continued to examine possible opportunities to help alleviate flooding in the Minnedosa Flood Protection Plan
- Planning to develop (2) headwater storage projects in the RM of Minto

### **Sub-District #82A Upper Little Saskatchewan River Watershed**

- Completed (2) pasture pipeline projects
- Assessed (5) abandoned wells
- Sealed (3) abandoned wells
- Surveyed (4) water management projects, including a Manure Management Plan
- Planning a public review of the Sandy Lake Watershed Plan in early spring

### **Sub-District #82B Lower Little Saskatchewan River Watershed**

- Developed (1) headwater project in the RM of Saskatchewan
- Planned the final draft of the Options and Alternatives phase of the Broughton's Creek Integrated Watershed Plan
- Received funding for (1) Riparian Fencing project along Lake Wahtopanah
- Developed (2) water-monitoring stations in Broughton's Creek Watershed to test water quality and quantity flows
- Began Culvert Inventory and Stream Assessment for Broughton's Creek
- Completed (4) pasture pipeline projects
- Assessed (13) abandoned wells
- Sealed (7) abandoned wells.
- Provided geotechnical information to (2) producers

## **Soil Management**

The Soil Management Program was established to address a number of issues including erosion, soil vulnerability, and marginal lands. Activities included:

- LSRCD continued its partnership with Ducks Unlimited to deliver a joint Forage Seed Assistance Program throughout the District. 45 producers enrolled and 984 ha were seeded.
- Continued to deliver the Seed Drill Program. 102 hectares were secured to a permanent cover.
- In partnership with Ducks Unlimited, salinity seed was provided to landowners (49 ha).
- Assisted with 4 kilometers of shelterbelt plantings and 9 kilometers of plastic mulch application
- 5 landowners participated in the Pasture Improvement Program.
- Completed GIS inventory of Forage Seed Applicants for the past three years.
- Assisted one landowner with completing his Environmental Farm Plan.

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## Wildlife Habitat Programs

The LSRCD incorporates wildlife habitat development and recognition with all the programs that the District delivers. Most of the activity is directly associated with programs that provide wildlife benefits. The past year's activities included:

- In conjunction with Delta Waterfowl Federation and Keystone Agricultural Producers, the LSRCD developed a proposal for a three-year pilot project within the Rural Municipality of Blanshard for the delivery of Alternative Land Use Strategy (ALUS). The pilot is to examine the concept of recognizing landowners for the ecological benefits that they are already providing.
- Distributing two Beaver Leveler Pipes to producers

## Education

The LSRCD continued to make education a top priority. Activities included:

- Continued Classrooms and Creeks Program in two schools: Erickson and Rivers Collegiate. Students analyzed water chemistry from the Rolling River Watershed (Erickson) and Broughton's Creek Watershed (Rivers) including 16 sample sites along the Little Saskatchewan River on a bi-annual basis.
- Conducted presentation and workshop with "Ag in the Classroom" to 25 urban teachers regarding the soil and water issues on the agricultural landscape.
- Maintained liaison between the LSRCD and member councils regarding the District activities and expansion process.
- Assisted with the collection of water quality data for "Covering New Ground" on specific land field applications.
- News articles, radio and television interviews completed.
- Bi-annually produce the LSRCD newsletter "Resource Reporter".
- Conducted radio interviews for upcoming events within the District.
- Conducted 8 presentations to promote the overall program.
- Selected the Dan Lepp Farm of Rivers, Manitoba as the LSRCD 2004-5 Conservation Farm Family.
- Develop GIS maps for each of the member municipalities of the LSRCD and GIS maps for landowners for their on-farm plans.
- Worked in Partnership with the Assiniboine River Community College GIS Course to assist with a field day of surveying and design of a specific resource project.

## Forestry

The LSRCD understands the importance to a healthy landscape and the sustainable management of forested areas is no exception. Activities included:

- Initiating a pilot program called "Healthy Woodlots for Watersheds" where landowners receive incentives to incorporate harvesting of their woodlot plans in a low impact fashion. Three producers were targeted for evaluation of a full program to be introduced in spring of 2005.
- Developing news articles and promotional literature for landowners to understand the benefits of the new program.

## Program Management

These costs include the rental of a building and the utilities within it in addition to the costs of office operation such as fax, phone, photocopier and supplies. Salaries associated with administrative duties are included as well as salary deductions.

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## **Assets**

Additions to office and support equipment included new computer equipment.

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# Mid Assiniboine River Conservation District

## Introduction

On March 1, 2002, Mid Assiniboine River Conservation District (MARCD) was proclaimed by Order in Council as Manitoba's 15<sup>th</sup> Conservation District. It encompasses 1,546 km<sup>2</sup> of land in western Manitoba and has a population of over 6,600. The Member Municipalities are Cornwallis, Elton and Whitehead, who partner to offer area residents a wide variety of Soil and Water Management Programs. The Assiniboine River is the dominant water body flowing through the District. The district also contains two small watersheds those being the Little Souris River to the south and the Willow Creek to the north of the Assiniboine River.

Manitoba Water Stewardship is our major supporting partner. In addition to core funding in 2004-05, MARCD was able to successfully partner with Agriculture and Agri Food Canada (PFRA), Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC), Manitoba Agriculture (CNG), Fisheries Enhancement Initiative (FEI), Manitoba Conservation (SDIF), Toronto Dominion Friends of the Environment (TD FEF), the Manitoba Forage Council (MFC) and Manitoba Hydro.

### **MID ASSINIBOINE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-05**

<b><u>SUB-DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
#98A - Little Souris A	Emil Egert	Brandon
#98B - Little Souris B	Gord Hansen	Brandon
#99A - Willow Creek	Harvey Paterson	Forrest
Board Chairperson	Wes Williamson	Alexander

## Summary

During its third full year of operations, the MARCD offered a variety of programs to landowners focusing on soil and water management issues. The District continued development of a watershed management plan on Sub-District 98B in the Little Souris River Watershed with the completion of a state of the watershed report and assisted municipalities, landowners and others with over 100 projects.

### **TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2003-04**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>
Water Management	\$68,077
Soil Conservation	\$20,724
Wildlife/Fisheries	\$3,285
Forestry	\$5,674
Public Education	\$26,252
Assets	\$29,444
Other Project Support	\$15,510
Administration	\$20,211
	<hr/>
	TOTAL
	<u>\$189,177</u>

For further details see Auditor's Report, Appendix "H".

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## Water Management

- Capped 26 abandoned wells in partnership with PFRA.
- Installed one off-site watering system with the pasture pipeline plow.
- Installed 8 new local water supplies.
- Continued developing an Integrated Watershed Management Plan by completing a State of the Watershed Report for the Little Souris River.
- Held a summer water system tour for the Grand Valley Grazing Club.
- Reviewed 5 drainage licenses.
- Completed two aquatic surveys as FEI projects.
- Assisted with 10 water sample tests.

## Soil Conservation

- DUC provided salinity seed to 10 producers for 40 ha of saline tolerant forages on cropland edges.
- Established 142 ha of winter wheat for soil erosion prevention for 7 producers.
- Planted 2.6 km of shelterbelts.
- Held a winter corn grazing tour for the Grand Valley Grazing Club.
- Rented the Zero Till drill to establish 1647 acres of new forages for 31 producers.
- Completed four community tree planting projects 3 in partnership with Manitoba Hydro Enhancement.

## Public Education

- Oak Hammock Marsh “On the Go” visited Alexander, Forrest, Douglas and Shilo elementary schools.
- Visited several schools for Conservation Farming presentations.
- Attended Bovine and Shoreline Workshop sponsored by MHHC.
- Held a winter grazing management meeting for the Grand Valley Grazing Club.
- Conservation Farm Family nominee was Gord Beddome and Patti Greene and family of Douglas, Manitoba.
- Poster contest for Manitoba Conservation Districts Association had 35 entries with three winners chosen.
- Completed 25 geomatics projects.
- Partnered with Brandon and Area Planning, Intergovernmental Affairs, Elton RM and Cornwallis RM to geo reference assessment parcels in the RM’s of Elton and Cornwallis.
- Partnered with RM of Whitehead and Brandon University to complete a geo referenced inventory of culverts within the RM.
- Development of a web page for the MARCD in partnership with CNG.
- Purchase of a tabletop display with the assistance of TD FEF.

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## Program Management

Office operations, staff wages and expenses, Board remuneration and expenses and other operating expenses are included in this program.

### TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING 2004-05

<u>Partner/Program</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Fisheries Enhancement Grant	\$37,353
TD Friends of the Environment	\$1,000
Healthy Water (MWSB)	\$5,000
Sustainable Development Innovation Fund	\$7,849
Covering New Ground	\$4,000
Miscellaneous	\$14,003
	<hr/>
	TOTAL
	<u>\$69,205</u>

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# Pembina Valley Conservation District

## Introduction

The Pembina Valley Conservation District (PVCD), incorporated in October 1989, encapsulates 5,164 square kilometers of southern Manitoba. The District shares a boundary with North Dakota and its principal landscape features include the Pembina Valley, Pembina Escarpment, Tiger Hills, Cypress River Valley, and part of the Red River Valley.

The PVCD is a partnership between the 16,650 residents of the 6 rural municipalities, the towns of Pilot Mound and Manitou and the villages of Cartwright and Crystal City. There are 8 sub-districts, representing mini-watersheds within the district. This strength of this partnership lies in the grassroots approach and strong support from Manitoba Water Stewardship Department and other departments and external agencies. Partnerships are critical to delivering the PVCD program.

### **PEMBINA VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-05**

#### **SUB-DISTRICT**

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

#### **ADDRESS**

Boundary Area	Rob Harms	Snowflake
Lizard Lake	Murray Seymour	Darlingford
Swan Lake	Larry Van Cauwenberghe	Swan Lake
Tiger Hills	Gerry DeSmet	Cypress River
Pembina Escarpment	George Jackson	Miami
Crystal/Cypress	Brian Charles	Cartwright
Badger Creek	Randy Dyck	Holmfield
Dead Horse	Ken McElroy	Darlingford
Board Chairman	Don Alexander	Miami

## Summary

The PVCD program continues to focus on fundamental soil and water management issues, working with landowners to encourage conservation practices. Water quality issues are a growing concern for area residents and in response, additional resources are being allocated to address this. Concerning wells, the District has been involved with water testing, shock chlorinating, well assessment and abandoned well filling. As all aspects of the environment are interconnected, the Board feels that improved water quality is an end product of a lot of the work that we are involved in. To this end the Board has embarked on a number of integrated watershed planning efforts. Multipurpose water retention projects continue to be delivered on the landscape, as are gully stabilization and grass waterways.

Partnerships with Government and non-government agencies enhance the programming that can be offered to local landowners and Municipalities. The Board appreciates the funding support from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and PFRA for winter watering, well filling, grazing plots and alternative stock watering demos. Ducks Unlimited Habitat Conservation Program helped fund a salinity barrier program. Manitoba Hydro Forest Enhancement Program paid for hundreds of trees to be planted all around the district in public places. Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation assisted with tree planting for bank stabilization works and co-funded a riparian fencing program. A number of potential fish habitat enhancement projects are being investigated as a result of the study that was completed on improving the fisheries potential of the Pembina River. As in the past, federal (Summer Career Placement) and provincial (Manitoba Conservation - Hometown Green Team) sources subsidized the cost of hiring summer staff, providing them with valuable experience and completing many important jobs for the district.

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## TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-05

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Water Management	\$406,887
Soil Management	\$26,761
Public Education	\$76,689
Wildlife/Fisheries - Trees	\$26,999
Program Management	\$49,468
Assets	\$26,296
	<hr/>
TOTAL	<u>\$613,100</u>

For further details, please refer to Appendix "I".

### **Water Management**

The District is involved with watersheds that drain into the Pembina, Assiniboine and Morris Rivers. Growing water management concerns include flooding, erosion, sedimentation, water quality and the need for basin wide planning and direction. Over the past year the District completed the following programs:

- Constructed 31 back flood, stabilization and water retention projects
- Sealing 45 abandoned wells
- Shocked 5 wells and completed a well assessment per well
- Worked on the development of five Integrated Watershed Management plans including:
  - Coleman Watershed
  - Goudney Reservoir
  - Pembina River Basin
  - Assiniboine Delta Aquifer
  - Stephenfield Reservoir
- Demonstrated off site watering systems for 3 area farms

### **Soil Management**

The Board views soil conservation as an important factor in the economic, social and environmental health of the rural landscape. Our role in soil conservation is changing as agriculture is changing with increased size of farms and machinery. The CD soils program included the following works:

- Forage seed assistance program with 1,124 acres sown down to permanent cover
- Annual forage seed 1,712 acres sown down for grazing
- Gully stabilization – 2 projects
- Grass waterway establishment and maintenance – 3 projects
- Streambank stabilization – 1 project
- 1 Checkstrips forage plot demonstrating different varieties of native grasses

### **Public Education and Extension**

The Board puts Public Education and Extension as a high priority. The following projects were delivered this year:

- PVCD information is passed on to the community through the local newspapers and newsletters that highlights the District's activities.
- The Board sponsored the Ducks Unlimited "On the Go" program in 8 of our local schools. Several environmental educational sessions with local schools were delivered in and out of the classroom.

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- The PVCD Envirothon Club, which is made up of local high school youth, is supported by the Board and provides a fun environmental education opportunity.
  - The Binney Corner Nature Preserve is a 13-hectare natural site within the District that is used for education, recreation and nature appreciation. Several school groups used the Binney site for an outdoor classroom.
  - Through Stewardship in Action, Department of Fisheries & Oceans funding was received for a Goudney Watershed Management Planning Project. This funding provided the Grade 11 & 12 students from the Pilot Mound High School with equipment for water testing, books and test kits to assist with their Watershed Study Course, this course was offered as part of their Science curriculum called “Current Issues.” Speakers were brought in to cover watershed topics such as GIS, soils, fish habitat and water quality.
  - The Greencover Canada program has allowed PVCD on behalf of the MCDA to contribute to the promotion of creating a series of videos that will showcase sustainable ways to manage livestock through the wintering period. The second video in the Winter Livestock Site Management series focuses on winter feeding strategies, infrastructure development and natural area protection.
  - Dean Hildebrand of Morden was chosen as the Conservation Farm Family. Dean was recognized by the District and the MCDA for his stewardship of the land.

## **Wildlife**

Although all the work the Board is involved with benefits wildlife and fish habitat, specific related projects include the following:

- Manitoba Hydro through the Forest Enhancement Program sponsored the purchase of shade, shelter, and native fruit trees for planting in local community parks and public areas.
- The District promote the Green Banks (Riparian Stewardship) program, which promotes healthier riparian zones for our rivers, lakes and streams and partners with MHHC and Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives to deliver this program.
- Ducks Unlimited and the District worked together to encourage landowners to sow a salinity seed as an alternative to increased drainage. 16 landowners participated in this program and sowed down 230 acres to permanent cover.
- The District sponsored 16 landowners for our Forage Seed program sowing down 894 acres.
- The District sponsored 22 landowners for our Annual Forage Grazing program sowing down 1,712 acres.

## **Program Management**

The District has a dedicated Board and Staff that are continually looking for new ways of dealing with the challenges presented by local soil and water problems. Office operations and operating expenses are included in this program.

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# Seine-Rat River Conservation District

## Introduction

The Seine–Rat River Conservation District (SRRCD), established in January 2002, presently includes approximately 1,815 km<sup>2</sup> of land located within all or part of the municipalities of La Broquerie, Ste. Anne, Hanover, and the City of Steinbach. There are approximately 27,000 residents living within these four areas.

The District is divided into five unique sub-watersheds (sub-districts) and is characterized by a diversified and intensive agricultural community. The agricultural activities include livestock (beef, dairy, poultry and hogs), forage production, annual crop production, and specialty operations. The soil types within the southeast vary from coarse sands in the East to fine river bottom clays closer to the Red River. The diversity of agricultural operations and soil types create many challenges throughout the District.

The major contributing partner to the SRRCD is Manitoba Water Stewardship. The cooperation of various levels of government, non-government organizations and District landowners, results in allowing local people the opportunity to plan solutions for, and work together towards the effective management of resources within southeast Manitoba.

### **SEINE-RAT RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-2005**

<b><u>SUB-DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
#4 – Joubert Creek	Roland Gauthier	La Broquerie
#6 – Tourand Creek	Jean Gagnon	La Broquerie
#7 – Manning Canal	Chris Goertzen	Steinbach
#8 – Upper Seine River	Denis Vielfaure	La Broquerie
#9 – Lower Seine River	Arthur Bergmann	Ste. Anne
Board Chairperson	Cornie Goertzen	La Broquerie

## Summary

The SRRCD has experienced growth over the past two years and will hopefully continue to expand and involve more municipalities, towns and villages over the next few years.

The District offers a good mix of programs to residents and has worked on continually updating and improving the programs available, based on priorities within each sub-district. Water management continues to be the main priority for the District. The majority of the projects completed in 2004-05 reflect that focus. In the past two years, the District has initiated two watershed-based management plans which will prove beneficial in providing solid direction and project priorities in the very near future.

### **TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-2005**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>
Water Management	\$ 113,454
Soil Conservation	\$ 21,888
Public Education	\$ 49,304
Wildlife/Fisheries	\$ 32,251
Administration	\$ 28,421
Other	\$ 1,514

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TOTAL

\$ 246,832

For further details see Appendix “J”

## Water Management

The Board realizes the importance of managing water within the watershed areas and sees the maintenance of overgrown drains, reducing flooding, controlling erosion, and protecting water quality as top priorities. The Board continues to promote the importance of identifying sites where feasible water retention sites could be created. With the valuable historical background information that members have within some of the sub-watersheds, the District was able to investigate many potential project sites and begin a future plan. The Board also offers an abandoned well sealing program with the intent of reducing hazards to people and livestock and ensuring the protection of the valuable groundwater which all residents and businesses of the area depend on daily.

- Partnered with municipalities towards the maintenance of 4 km of drains.
- Involved over 120 District residents with having their well water tested through the Well Water Testing program.
- Construction of 2 water retention structures.
- Partnered with municipality on improvements to major existing water control structure.
- Completed road improvement and maintenance work at Forest Road #13.
- Improved pasture areas through planned drainage projects.
- Completed Final Report on the SRRCD Surface Water Quality Testing program in partnership with MB Conservation.
- Assisted with 3 riparian fencing projects and 1 off-site watering system set-up.
- Held “Managing the Waters Edge” Riparian management workshop in partnership with MHHC.
- Completed 2 stone livestock crossings.
- Sealed 2 abandoned wells.

## Soil Conservation

The SRRCD offers three programs aimed at the conservation and enhancement of soil resources within the area. Activities included:

- Established 2 grassed waterways.
- Contributed to 3 rotational grazing projects.
- Assisted 4 landowners with shelterbelt projects.
- Investigated and considered many soil erosion areas for future project sites.
- Partnered with PFRA in a three year Hog Manure/Forage Fertility Trial research study.
- Partnered with the University of Manitoba - Faculty of Ag and Food Sciences on a pasture improvement and beneficial management practices research study.

## Public Education

- Supported the DUC “Watershed Ecovan” to perform environmental education presentations at La Broquerie, Ste. Anne and Steinbach schools.
- Improvements to the SRRCD website, used as a promotion and information transfer tool.
- The Wolfe Family from La Broquerie received recognition as the 2004 Conservation Family.
- Utilized Geographic Information System (GIS) software to create custom maps and assist with project planning and education amongst CD members.
- Worked on developing new partnerships with local non-government organizations.

- 
- Contribution to the annual Manitoba Conservation Districts Association (MCDA) magazine.
  - Performed presentations on the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) in watershed management.
  - Received recognition of projects, events, and general promotion from local radio station and newspapers.

## **Wildlife/Fisheries Programming**

The SRRCD recognizes wildlife habitat and fisheries enhancement as important aspects of an overall resource management plan, and strives to become involved with local groups towards creating worthy conservation projects.

- Finished the Seine River Survey and Restoration Planning Project with support from FEI. Site specific project work will begin in summer 2005.
- Began the Rat River Fish Habitat and Riparian Assessment Survey with support from FEI and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- Planted over 200 PFRA trees at Marchand Park.
- Began work at the March and Nature Trail with support from the Environmental Youth Corps program.

## **Expansion Activities**

The District continued their expansion efforts by initiating and becoming involved in meetings and discussions with other potential new municipal, town, and village partners within southeast Manitoba.

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# Tiger Hills Conservation District

## Introduction

Becoming Manitoba's 13th Conservation District in 2001, the Tiger Hills Conservation District (THCD) was formed with the 3,947 citizens of the Rural Municipalities of Argyle, Glenwood, Strathcona and South Cypress, and the Village of Glenboro, partnering with the Province of Manitoba. Encompassing 7,953 km<sup>2</sup> of drainage area, 3 major river systems, and soil types ranging from Stockton sands to Assiniboine Clays, THCD is divided into five sub districts, each responsible for a distinctive watershed and each committed to wise resource management and sustainable development.

### **TIGER HILLS CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-05**

<b><u>SUB-DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
#56 - Pelican/Rock Lake	Rob Stephenson	Killarney
#68 - Elgin Creek	Doug Denning	Souris
#70A - Upper Oak Creek	John Chambers	Belmont
#70B - Lower Oak Creek	Rodney Durham	Belmont
#99 - Central Assiniboine	Cam Hamilton	Glenboro
Board Chair	Hugh Stephenson	Baldur

## Summary

The District continues to refine programs and policies focussing on local issues and concerns. A major direction for the District has been to increase awareness and participation in conservation programs.

Each Sub District has developed programs and promoted projects directed at specific issues within their boundaries.

In its third year of operations, THCD has defined programs and policies that focus on local concerns including integration and management of all natural resources. Programs have been developed that increase awareness and address soil and water conservation issues, manage problem wildlife and habitat degradation, and promote and reward wise natural resource stewardship. In 2004 the District assisted landowners, municipalities, and other residents with 115 conservation projects.

### **TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-05**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>
Public Education and Extension	\$ 33,618
Soil Conservation	\$ 48,214
Water Management	\$ 47,475
Wildlife/Fisheries Management	\$ 12,873
Special Projects	\$ 19,691
Administration	\$ 15,923
	<hr/>
	TOTAL
	<u>\$177,794</u>

For further details, please refer to Appendix "K".

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## Public Education and Extension

- The District hosted the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Manitoba Conservation Districts Association Tour. The tour highlighted some of the challenges the District faces, such as local flooding and riparian degradation, as well as some of our successes, including water source protection through offsite livestock waterers, pasture-pipeline installation, and well capping.
- The Rock Lake Annual Ice Fishing Days saw 7 schools send classes to learn about ice and winter safety, fish and fish habitat, and how conservation practices can protect the fragile balance of the lake ecosystem. None of the kids actually brought any fish onto the ice but everyone had fun.
- Oak Hammock Marsh's "On the Go" visited Baldur, Glenboro, and Souris public schools as well as visiting Nature Valley, Newdale, Sandy Bank, Shamrock, and Whistling Wind Hutterite Brethren Schools.

## Soil Conservation

- Salinity Solutions has 7 farmers in the Elgin Creek SD #68 cooperating on a demonstration project where their fields were extensively mapped and analysed using the latest soil testing technologies and a plan of attack using BMPs established.
- To address Aspen Encroachment, Leafy Spurge invasion, and other prairie concerns, SD #99 has partnered with the Prairie Stewards and are using different techniques, such as multiple species grazing, to control leafy spurge, and controlled burning, brush crushing, and intensive grazing, to limit aspen encroachment.
- 4 days of Pasture Management
- 15 ½ days of Molehill Levelling
- 328 ha of Forage Seed Assisted
- 40 ha of Fall Sown Crops Initiated
- 5 bags of Saline Tolerant forages distributed (Thank you Ducks Unlimited Canada)
- A Community Forest established in the village of Belmont

## Water Management

- Slowing the flow of the extensively modified Lower Oak Creek is a priority to SD #70A. In-Stream Structures has seen the installation of a series of three low tech rock riffle structures designed to act as silt traps, and in some cases as armoured crossings for farm machinery.
- Source point protection of water resources continues to be SD # 70B's priority. A system using solar energy was installed on a sand-point well that provides water to cattle and keeps them from entering Oak Creek. A simple modification uses geothermal heat and allows year round use of the system.
- 10 Abandoned Wells Capped
- 8 wells Shock Chlorinated
- 2288 m of Pasture Pipeline installed

## Wildlife & Fisheries Management

- The 3 CD's bordering the Pembina River system, the District (through SD #56), PVCD, and TMCD, initiated a riparian and fish habitat assessment through the Tri Lakes Development Group.

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## **Special Projects**

- The District partnered with the Whitemud Watershed Conservation District in a program exchange. WWCD tree planting crew assisted in establishing Upper Oak Creek SD # 70B's community forest and the District sealed 2 abandoned wells in WWCD.
- The District joined PVCD and PFRA in creating a series of how to videos that highlight winter livestock BMP's
- The District, TMCD, MARCD, and WSRCDC have collaborated on programs designed to increase the visibility of the SW Regional CDs through a joint newsletter, water festival, and volunteer stream monitoring programs for 2006.

## **Administration**

- Office operations, Board remuneration, communications, and other operating expenses are included in this category.

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# Turtle Mountain Conservation District

## Introduction

The Turtle Mountain Conservation District (TMCD) covering an area of 4,518 km<sup>2</sup> is located in the southwest corner of Manitoba along the international boundary. The District is bounded on the south by the Turtle Mountain uplands, on the east by the headwaters of the Pembina River system and Pelican Lake and on the west by the historic Souris River. The District is a unique mix of glacial uplands surrounded by a flat intensively farmed till plain. Several intermittent streams, small lakes and potholes characterize the landscape. The upland areas include native mixed grass prairie and deciduous woodlots, while annual cropping predominantly influences the plains. Located in the center of the District is Whitewater Lake, a huge wetland area renowned throughout North America for its natural biodiversity and importance for migratory birds. This mix of topography and natural resources gives rise to many of the activities and programs of the TMCD.

Members of the TMCD include the Rural Municipalities of Arthur, Brenda, Cameron, Morton, Turtle Mountain and Winchester and the Towns of Boissevain, Deloraine, Killarney, and the Village of Waskada. The area represented by these Municipalities is further divided into six watershed Sub-Districts.

The Province of Manitoba, through Manitoba Water Stewardship, is the major supporting partner for the Program, together with a host of cooperating agencies and various departments of government at all levels. The interaction, cooperation and support of local landowners and producers is, however, the cornerstone of the Program, resulting in a sound, well supported Program of sustainable resource management for a very unique region of Manitoba.

### **TURTLE MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-05**

<b><u>SUB-DISTRICTS</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
#58 – Wakopa Creek	Myna Cryderman	Boissevain
#59 – Upper Pembina	Brian Hammond	Boissevain
#65 – Waskada Creek	Keith Hannah	Waskada
#66 – Medora Creek	Gord Weidenhamer	Deloraine
#67 – Chain Lakes	Murray Dillabough	Deloraine
#68 – Elgin Creek / Whitewater Lake	Greg More	Elgin
Provincial Appointee	Murray Combs	Deloraine
Board Chairperson	Richard Sexton	Deloraine

## Summary

The District is proud to have completed its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of operation in the 2004-05 fiscal year. The District implements many soil and water conservation programs in addition to wildlife habitat, education, fisheries, historic and heritage projects on the landscape in southwestern Manitoba. Priority programs continue to be soil and water conservation.

The District would like to acknowledge the support of all external partners that have provided either financial or technical assistance and look forward to continued support in the future.

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## TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-05

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Water Management	\$160,770
Soil Conservation	\$120,274
Wildlife	\$49,945
Public Education and Extension	\$91,669
Administration	\$33,626
Equipment/Land	\$18,324
Amortization	\$26,231
Inventory	\$1,880
TOTAL	<u>\$502,718</u>

For further details see Appendix "L".

## Water Management

Over the past year, six watershed Sub-Districts delivered a diverse list of Program activities.

- **Abandoned Well Sealing Program** – A total of 21 abandoned wells were sealed in the District.
- **Remote Watering System Program** –The District assisted 6 producers with the establishment of remote watering systems.
- **Small Water Storage Program** –One new dam was constructed and repairs were completed at 24 existing dams.
- **Grassed Waterway Program** –Two grassed waterway projects were re-established in the District.
- **Stone Crossing Program** – Three crossings were established or repaired on intermittent creeks to allow for improved landowner and/or livestock access.
- **Creek Maintenance Program** – 40 km of natural waterways were mowed to facilitate the orderly flow of water and reduce flooding damage.
- **Creek / Lakeshore Stabilization Program** – Two projects were completed on shoreline banks that were susceptible to erosion.
- The Chain Lakes Sub-District continues to implement a planned grazing demonstration at the Adair Dam property. The Sub-District also has a solar-powered remote watering demonstration system that was used by 2 landowners. A total of 3 producers ploughed shallow burial pipe for livestock watering and the water pump was used by 14 producers.
- Preliminary investigations were completed to determine the feasibility of increasing the storage capacity of Chain Lakes. The District also contracted the services of an engineering company to identify potential water storage sites in the Medora Creek and Waskada Creek Sub-Districts.
- The District has continued to work towards completing a watershed management plan for four sub-watersheds (East Souris River Integrated Watershed Management Plan) which will help direct activities in the future. The re-alignment of the western boundary of the TMCD was finalized and implemented by the District, the West Souris River Conservation District and the R.M.'s of Arthur and Cameron in the 2004-05 fiscal year.
- The TMCD has been involved with the Pembina River Basin Advisory Board, South West Manitoba Water Development Team and the Tri-Lakes Development Group which are local stakeholder groups working to address the goals of the local members.
- A portion of expenses and remuneration of Board and Sub-District members was covered through the Water Program.

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## Soil Conservation

- **Forage Seed Assistance Program** – This Program allowed landowners the option to purchase forage seed of their choice through a local seed retailer and the District provided financial assistance on a portion of the cost. Through the Program the District provided assistance to 83 producers which assisted with the establishment of 1,504 ha of forage. The assistance provided to producers in many cases was only a portion of the total cost of seeding the land to forage.
- **Shelterbelt Program** – This consists of the establishment of shelterbelts and tree plantings. A total of 23 km of trees were planted throughout the region. Plastic mulch was applied to the shelterbelts established to assist with weed control in the belts. The district also implemented a maintenance component on 16 km of new shelterbelts which consisted of grass seeding, mowing and basic weed control.
- The District is also actively involved in assisting with the maintenance of the Boissevain Tree Nursery and planted replacement trees at the Boissevain Health Centre. Tree planting projects were conducted along the Deloraine Reservoir and Killarney Lake to enhance the riparian area.
- **Rotational Grazing Program** – This Program provides assistance to producers who construct interior fencing to improve livestock distribution. One producer in the District received assistance to improve their grazing management systems.
- With the support of Ducks Unlimited Canada, the District distributed 118 ha of forage seed for salinity barriers to 30 landowners. The District also developed a new salinity seed program and bulk ordered seed for producers. Specialized seeding equipment included the Tye grass drill which was used by 13 producers (93 ha), and various broadcast seeders. One project was initiated through funding from the Manitoba Forage Council to demonstrate how portable windbreaks could be used to winter livestock on the range.
- A portion of expenses and remuneration of Board and Sub-District members was covered through the Soils Program.
- The District provides a variety of Soil Conservation Programs for landowners to encourage the sustainable use of land, and the conservation of soil resources throughout the District. As the variability in precipitation continues across the prairies and throughout the District, it will be critical that landowners implement land-use practices that protect soil resources from the elements.

## Wildlife

- Habitat Development and Protection Programs during this fiscal year included one habitat lease paid for by Ducks Unlimited Canada. The District also signed a partnership with the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation to cooperate on the establishment of conservation agreements to permanently secure wetlands and uplands in the Turtle Mountains.
- Through funding provided by the Manitoba Conservation – Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, two summer students were hired to reassess all undeveloped road allowances in the R.M. of Morton that were protected through the Conservation Corridor Program.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada provided funding for fisheries and riparian interpretive signs along Killarney Lake. A display with similar information was also prepared that is designed to raise awareness about fish and fish habitat resources in the District. The District cooperated with the Pembina Valley and Tiger Hills Conservation Districts to secure the services of a fisheries consultant who conducted a fish habitat assessment on the Pembina River system through funding from the Healthy Waters Program.
- The on-going aeration project in the Derksen – Heide Reservoir near Boissevain has been the responsibility of the District. The District has been involved with other local partners in promoting Whitewater Lake as an Important Bird Area and co-hosting the Whitewater Lake Bird Festival.

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- The District administered funds from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives – Covering New Ground Program for plant identification training for technical personnel focusing on riparian program delivery in Manitoba.
  - A portion of expenses and remuneration of Board and Sub-District members was covered through the Wildlife Program.

## **Public Education**

The TMCD is active in delivering a diverse Public Education Program.

- The “Conservation in the Classroom” Program involves all schools in the District and assists with field trips, operational supplies for greenhouses and the Melita School Environmental Club. The TMCD also supports the purchase of conservation publications, books, and other materials related to conservation and sponsoring the Green Kids educational play. Funding for the “On the Go” Educational Interpretive Program was also provided to all schools in the District.
- Public interpretive areas remain a priority of the District at the Metigoshe Natural Area, Newcomb’s Hollow and other properties owned by the TMCD. Newcomb’s Hollow has become an attraction for tourists wishing to view the historic Boundary Commission Trail. The District also continues to support the Whitewater Lake Wildlife Viewing Center that is a destination for birders from around the world.
- TMCD staff provides extension services to many residents of the District. Many inquiries are made by local residents on a daily basis through calls made into the office, calls out, visitors to the office and field visits. Riparian and Salinity workshops were held to help improve the level of awareness and potential management options to help address these issues.
- TMCD held an annual banquet to inform the public and partners of annual activities and a property dedication coincided with this event at the Bill Poole property.
- The Gerald and Margaret Whetter family from Hartney were the TMCD Conservation Farm Family who represented the District at the annual Manitoba Conservation Districts Association convention.
- The District is involved in the promotion of Programs through merchandise, project signs, the Southwest Currents newsletter (co-operative effort of four southwest Manitoba CD’s), TMCD website, advertisements in weekly newspapers and in the annual agricultural supplement as well as numerous articles that inform the District residents of Program activities.
- In an effort to secure an increased amount of external funding the District purchased a membership to a fundraising database. The TMCD Board and staff completed a strategic plan to help direct District activities in future. The efforts on the strategic plan complement the work completed on the East Souris River Integrated Watershed Management Plan.
- A portion of expenses and remuneration of Board and Sub-District members was covered through the Education Program.

## **Administration**

The Administrative Program provides for a portion of salaries and expenses for staff, rent and miscellaneous operating costs.

The District also takes advantage of external human resource support wherever possible through Programs such as the Hometown Green Team.

A portion of expenses and remuneration of Board and Sub-District members was covered through the Administration Program.

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## Assets

Additions to the equipment list included various tools for the works crew; layflat hose for the water pump, office chairs, a desk and laptop computer. The inventory list consists of plastic mulch and grass seed. All landscaping has been completed to the District storage area.

### EXTERNAL FUNDING

<u>Program/Partner</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Stewardship in Action	\$7,500
Ducks Unlimited Canada	\$5,779
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Rural Water Development Program	\$3,453
Manitoba Forage Council	\$1,300
Manitoba Conservation – Sustainable Development Innovations Program	\$15,620
Canadian Nature Federation – Important Bird Areas	\$2,000
Municipal Grants – Important Bird Areas	\$1,880
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives – Agricultural Sustainability Initiative	\$2,067
Manitoba Hometown Greenteam	\$6,852
Manitoba Hydro – Forest Enhancement Program	\$300
Municipal Grants / Landowner – Canada Creek	\$6,969
Landowner	\$21,838
Interest and Investment	\$5,588
Total	<u>\$81,146</u>

Additional in-kind contributions were provided by: Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Energy Mines, Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation, Environment Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Manitoba Agro Woodlot Program, Manitoba Water Services Board, Manitoba Water Stewardship – Conservation Districts Program.

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# Turtle River Watershed Conservation District

## Introduction

The Turtle River Watershed Conservation District #2 (TRWCD) incorporated in 1975, includes approximately 235,000 ha of land located between the Riding Mountain Escarpment and Lake Dauphin. The District boundaries are based on the entire sub watersheds of the Hansen Creek, Turtle and Ochre Rivers. The district consists of all or parts of the Rural Municipalities of Dauphin, Ochre River, Ste. Rose, Lawrence, Alonsa, McCreary, and Rosedale, as well the Town of Ste. Rose and the Village of McCreary.

### **TURTLE RIVER WATERSHED CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-05**

<b><u>SUB-DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
#44 - Upper Turtle River	Dave Smith	McCreary
#45 - Lower Turtle River	Paul Brunel	Ste. Rose
#46 - Ochre River	Joe Felix	Ochre River
Board Chairperson	Paul Brunel	Ste. Rose
Provincial Appointee	Denis Maguet	Ste. Rose

## Summary

The District continued to place emphasis on the maintenance of agricultural drainage channels and crossings.

In Water Management, the District proceeded with numerous legal surveys and land acquisition right of way payments. The District successfully maintained approximately 105 km of agricultural drains through brushing, spraying, clean-outs and reconstruction. Six erosion control structures were repaired along various drains and creeks as well as two other sites identified needing structures, 2 heavily eroded stretches of stream bank were stabilized. Numerous crossings underwent extensive repairs and 10 new crossings were replaced and/or reconstructed. Five (5) abandoned wells were filled and sealed.

In the Soils Program, two sites were addressed under the plastic mulch/shelterbelt program. In partnership with the Ste. Rose Ag Group, the TRWCD installed 5000 feet of pasture pipeline utilizing a pipeline plow to bury the pipe 18 inches underground. Approximately 182 ha of erosion prone agricultural land was seeded into forages, and over 1000 trees were planted to stabilize erosion prone streambanks.

The TRWCD also through the public education and extension program honored the 2004 TRWCD Farm Family Award recipient Trickle Creek Cattle Company – Gordon & LesLee Muir of McCreary.

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## TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-05

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Program Management	\$66,639
Public Education	\$58,312
Wildlife/Fisheries	\$15,242
Soil Management	\$8,063
Water Management	\$295,207
Crossings	\$89,942
Other (Inventory Purchases, Office Supplies, Vehicles, Miscellaneous)	<u>\$90,177</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$623,582</u>

For further details see Appendix "M":

### **Water Management**

- The District continues to finalize outstanding right of way issues that included payments for land acquisition, processing fees, legal fees, landowner tax repayments, and interest which has been compounding annually for several years.
- In addition to regular vegetative maintenance by mechanical brushing and spraying on various agricultural drainage channels, work under this component included minor repairs, seeding and leveling of 2003 works on the West Hansen, Moriaux, Tityk, and Crawford Creek. General/minor drain works were completed on a number of areas with major upgrading works being undertaken on the Delaurier, Rank, Mostoway, PTH #50, and West Bennet Drains. A total of approximately 105 km of drains were maintained in the 2004 works season.
- Extensive beaver management expenditures occurred through remedial actions associated with beaver activity in agricultural drains and TRWCD right of way approximately \$20,000.00 annually.
- Annual spring icing problems were also addressed and included culvert reinstallation, de-icing, and erosion repair and debris removal. In partnership with Manitoba Habitat Heritage, a riparian area along Lake Dauphin was fenced off from cattle access.
- In addition to the extensive crossing maintenance repair program, 30 sites were repaired/upgraded and maintained throughout the works season. The District completed updating an overall inventory of all the crossings and drains within the District to be included in the Management Plan for the District.

### **Soil Conservation**

- The District continued its buffering initiative to encourage producers to seed down forages along District drainage channels. The TRWCD provides 50/50 cost sharing to producers, in the future if there is reoccurring problems along specific drains the TRWCD will only consider works if the landowner agrees and maintains a buffer strip along the drain.
- Two (2) producers showed interest in the grassed waterway program to seed down the natural waterway preventing further soil erosion caused by water runoff.
- Annually District Rural Municipalities contract the TRWCD to seed road allowances along newly constructed roads preventing erosion.
- Two (2) shelterbelt mulch application sites were addressed this past fiscal year.

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## Multiple Resource Projects/Recreation

- The district in partnership with Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is finalizing the purchase of 130 ha of land in the area north of the current Alluvial Fan. The TRWCD feels that over time the fan may expand northward thus this land would be saved. The TRWCD also conserves and maintains its other 971 ha of multi resource land. In partnership with Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation the district has helped to preserve the area at the mouth of the Turtle River as a Riparian project, as well as some lake shore along Dauphin Lake.

## Wildlife/Fisheries Projects

- A one-time payment of \$300 is offered to local landowners under the Wildlife Incentive Program in return for leaving private land untouched for wildlife and other conservation benefits. To date, a total of approximately 540 ha of wildlife habitat have been co-operatively set aside.
- The district once again continued a trout-stocking program in two local ponds in the RM's of Ste. Rose and McCreary.

## Public Education and Extension

- The TRWCD Conservation Farm Family in 2004 was Gordon and LesLee Muir of The Trickle Creek Cattle Company in the McCreary area.
- The TRWCD also actively participated in the National Soil Conservation, Forestry, Wildlife and Environment Week in such activities as:
  - Trees were distributed in partnership with PFRA,
  - Various posters and presentations were completed, and
  - Farm Safety Camp Sponsorship
- The TRWCD also supports many community efforts by supplying various promotional items. The District maintains a comprehensive, up-to-date inventory of slides and pictures of all District initiatives for educational purposes and is actively involved in community fairs, various summer events and hosts an Annual Banquet to inform the public on the many projects and partnerships.

## Administration and Program Support

Administrative costs include staff salaries and expenses; Board and Sub-District Member remuneration (19 members); rent; and office operation costs. The District office staff is maintained at 2 full-time, 1 part/full time, 1 part-time project consultant and 1 part time surveyor. The TRWCD also employs 3 full-time seasonal works crew and with the assistance of the Summer Career Placement Program and the Hometown Green Team Program, 2 summer students are hired to assist with many district initiatives.

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# Upper Assiniboine River Conservation District

## Introduction

The Upper Assiniboine River Conservation District (UARCD) was established in 1996. The watershed is roughly rectangular and is bordered by Riding Mountain National Park in the north, Virden in the south and from the provincial border with Saskatchewan in the west and the Town of Shoal Lake in the east. The watershed covers an area of approximately 2,449 square kilometers.

UARCD includes the Rural Municipalities of Rossburn, Ellice, Birtle, Shoal Lake, Archie, Miniota, Hamiota, Wallace, and Woodworth as well as the Towns of Rossburn, Birtle, Shoal Lake, and Hamiota. The district is divided into 11 watersheds or Sub-Districts with a total of 64 Sub-District members representing the watersheds.

### **UPPER ASSINIBOINE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-2005**

<b><u>SUB-DISTRICT</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>
#72 Upper Oak River	Johnny Michasiw	Shoal Lake
#73 Lower Oak River	Bruce Cochran	Hamiota
#73A Lower Assiniboine River	Robert Alexander	Lenore
#75 Boshill Creek	Bill McQuaker	Virden
#74 Minnewasta Creek	Rusty Still	Isabella
#74A Arrow River	Theresa Michalchuk	Shoal Lake
#77 Birdtail River	Ron Kostaskey	Rossburn
#78 Snake Creek	Bill Stewart	Foxwarren
#78A Wythes Niso	Ron Bryant	Miniota
#78B Qu'Appelle River	Guy Huberdeau	St. Lazare
#78C Brennand/Scissor Creek	Robbie Craig	McAuley

## Summary

The UARCD experienced a progressive year. The district assisted landowners with 289 separate conservation projects, making 2004-2005 the most active year in the history of the CD. Staff were also able to focus on education programming, promotional activities, strengthening both awareness and relationships around the watershed. UARCD worked hard to coordinate with other provincial agencies to increase the local knowledge of strategies, initiatives, programs and opportunities available to landowners.

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**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-2005**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>
Water Management	\$129,900
Soil Management	\$41,484
Public Education/Extension	\$73,647
Program Management	\$34,575
Wildlife	\$6,162
Assets	\$83,809
Board Truck Expense	\$4,555
	<hr/>
TOTAL:	<u>\$ 374,132</u>

For further details, please refer to Appendix "N".

## **Water Management**

The primary goal of the UARCD water management program is to improve water quality in both ground water and surface water resources. During the course of the year these programs included:

- Sealing 48 abandoned wells;
- Assisting with 13 alternative livestock watering projects;
- Constructing three new small dams;
- Repairing two dams;
- Assisting six landowners in installing pipeline designed to provide remote water from a variety of applications;
- Purchasing an aerial photo data base for the watershed

## **Soil Conservation**

The conservation district offered the following programs to sustain the soil resource:

- Riparian management funding;
- Rotational grazing funding and plans (six landowners);
- The saline seed program (funded by Ducks Unlimited) (21 landowners provided with seed) (113.12 ha of problem saline areas sown to permanent cover);
- Forage seed program (11 landowners transformed marginal land to more sustainable permanent cover);
- Winter cereals (three landowners enrolled over 100 ha of cropland); and
- Shelterbelts (25 landowners) (over 32,000 meters of new shelterbelts and 4,000 replants).
- Soil conservation projects were implemented with the assistance of 79 co-operating landowners in the conservation district.

## **Wildlife and Habitat Programs**

As outlined in our recently completed Management Plan and Five-Year Plan, the board recognizes wildlife management as one important aspect of watershed management. However, the board will not take the lead role in wildlife or habitat programs, but will instead assist agencies whose primary mandate are wildlife and habitat programs.

Following this directive, the board continued our conservation partnerships with Ducks Unlimited and Delta Waterfowl.

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## Public Education and Extension Services

The board has committed to a public education and extension strategy for residents of the watershed. In fact, during the workshops for the Five-Year Plan, educational programs were identified as the most important component of district programming. Area schools and the education of landowners have been identified as a key component of this strategy.

Education projects included:

- Conservation in the Classroom which is a tree planting education seminar for area students that reached every school in the district. This was sponsored by Manitoba Hydro.
- The board participated in several educational days throughout the district, including four Managing the Waters Edge seminars.
- Partial funding was received by Covering New Ground in order to purchase one new remote watering system for demonstration purposes as well as two portable electric fence systems to demonstrate current technology used to improve grazing utilization.
- Two newsletters describing district activities were published and bulk mailed to all mail boxes within the watershed.
- Two demonstration days highlighting winter watering systems were showcased.
- The district held its annual youth speaking competition. Jolene Hodgins won our district award and went on to win the provincial competition held at the MCDA annual convention.
- The UARCD awarded Mike Huybrecht and family the annual Conservation Family Farm designation. Articles appeared in the Virden Empire Advance, Crossroads, and Russell Banner.
- A forage plot with several different varieties of trees was maintained in the Minnewasta Sub-District.
- Project Wet educational activities were held at five schools throughout the district.

## External Funding

Several conservation agencies partnered with the district on projects during 2004-2005. They were:

<u>Program/Partner</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Ducks Unlimited Canada	\$5,594
PFRA (Rural Water Development Program)	\$2,603
PFRA (Water Supply Expansion Program)	\$2,048
Agriculture Sustainability Initiative	\$4,500
Fisheries Enhancement Initiative	\$6,635
Chevron Texaco	\$4,000
Green Team	\$4,340
Manitoba Hydro - Forestry Enhancement Fund	\$4,585
Critical Wildlife Habitat	\$33
Manitoba Habitat Heritage	\$819
Hometown Green Team	\$4038
Registered Charity Gas Rebate	\$163
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	TOTAL: <u>\$39,355</u>

## Administration

This program includes staff salaries and expenses, remuneration for board and sub-district members, rent and other operating costs. Staffing remained unchanged during 2004-2005.

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# West Souris River Conservation District

## Introduction

The West Souris River Conservation District (WSRCD) was officially incorporated as Manitoba's seventh Conservation District on January 1, 1995. Expansion of the district on April 1, 1999 added the Rural Municipality of Cameron to the original membership of Albert, Edward, Pipestone and Sifton municipalities. A second expansion in April, 2002 brought part of the Rural Municipality of Wallace into the district. A total of seven sub districts were formed on the basis of the watersheds of several creeks within the district. Boundary alignment with the Turtle Mountain Conservation District (TMCD) in 2004 saw the Souris River utilized as the boundary between the two districts. Six sub districts now make up WSRCD. The West Souris River Conservation District (WSRCD) now covers approximately 4208 square kilometres (1625 sq. miles) of south western Manitoba.

Communities in WSRCD face numerous challenges in sustaining long-term productive use of their natural resource base. District programs have been designed to locally manage soil and water resources in the area.

### WEST SOURIS RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2004-2005

<u>SUB-DISTRICT</u>	<u>CHAIRPERSON</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
#98 - North Pipestone/Sifton	Richard Thiry	Oak Lake
#62 - Pipestone/Plum Creek	Alex Grieve	Virden
#63 - Stony Creek	Lloyd Atchison	Pipestone
#64 - Jackson/Graham Creek	Perry Hendry	Tilston
#65 - Gainsborough/South Antler	Tim McMechan	Lyleton
#67 - Central Souris River	Gordon White	Hartney
Board Chairperson	Gregg Fotheringham	Reston
Provincial Appointee	Vacant	

## Summary

Partnerships for program delivery were formed with many agencies including Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC), Fisheries Enhancement Initiative (FEI), Rural Water Development Program (RWDP), Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), Manitoba Water Services Board and Natural Resources Canada.

WSRCD initiated a watershed planning process involving stakeholders from within the district's six sub districts as well as agency staff from outside the district. The process resulted in a draft plan which will be reviewed by the public before finalization.

WSRCD continued to deliver a strong water management program through a wide array of projects aimed at water quality and quantity. Water quality testing of ground and surface water sources, as well as the sealing of old wells continued. Water quantity and quality issues for livestock again brought about strong interest in the pasture pipeline plough and the use of alternative water systems for livestock.

Soils programs consisted of forage demonstrations and shelterbelt planting.

Numerous partnerships enabled WSRCD to deliver a well rounded educational program. New to the district's educational program were the World Water Monitoring Day activities that involved 150 students.

WSRCD and TMCD rationalized their boundary using the Souris River as the boundary between the districts. The Municipalities of Cameron and Arthur were involved in the realignment with part of each now being in both districts.

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WSRCD continued to meet with their Saskatchewan neighbours through the watershed planning processes taking place in both provinces.

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-05**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>
Water Management	\$181,811
Soil Management	\$58,614
Public Education	\$72,564
Wildlife	\$ 7,911
Administration	\$29,995
Assets	\$20,301
	<hr/>
TOTAL	<u>\$371,196</u>

For further details, please refer to Appendix "O".

## **Water Management**

The protection, development and wise use of ground and surface water sources are the foundation of the WSRCD water management programming. The following programs and initiatives were implemented in order to meet the District's goal of ensuring water quality and quantity for district residents:

- Sealing of 15 old wells
- Assistance on the development of 16 new farm wells
- Provided bottles to residents for water chemistry testing on private wells
- Continued surface water quality testing on all creeks in district
- 15 referrals made to Manitoba Water Services Board for off site watering and other water development projects
- 12 km of water lines were installed with the pasture pipeline plough to alleviate water shortages for 7 livestock operations
- Manager and Board members continued to take active roles in management of the Oak Lake Aquifer through their representation on the Oak Lake Aquifer Management Advisory Board (OLAMAB)
- Actively participated in the Southwest Manitoba Water Development Team
- Submitted proposal to DFO for continuation of the removal of dead elms from along Pipestone Creek. Delay in DFO authorization left proposed work undone.
- One feedlot diversion project was completed.
- Six riparian projects aimed at creek bank and lake shore protection were completed with offsite watering and riparian fencing.
- Maintained contact with Saskatchewan regarding watershed planning and attended meetings and tours in Saskatchewan
- Initiated watershed planning. Five public meetings were held to facilitate the development of a community driven watershed plan.

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## Soil Management

WSRCD continued to deliver a scaled-down soils program in comparison to earlier years. Soils programs consisted of the following activities:

- Managed grazing systems were developed using recommended techniques for 1 farm
- 10.5 km of new shelterbelts were planted and maintenance continued on more than 20 km
- 225 ha of blended clover was planted by 20 producers through a partnership with DUC
- 80 ha of salinity forage was planted by 20 producers through a partnership with DUC.
- Leafy spurge detection using remote sensing and satellite imagery was researched by WSRCD technician

## Public Education and Awareness

WSRCD expanded education and awareness programs to residents through youth programs as well as through demonstrations and tours for producers. As in the past, many other agencies offered financial or technical support for our education programs that included:

- Environmental education projects and programs with six schools that included Classroom Conservation, shelterbelt education, aquatic studies, and the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre's "On the Go Program"
- The Clean Stream Team Program (CST) included students Oak Lake, Reston, Hartney and Pierson schools. Projects were implemented along the Gainsborough and Pipestone Creeks and the Souris River making improvements that included grazing management, riparian fencing and pasture pipeline.
- World Water Monitoring Day events were promoted in all schools and involved 150 students
- Staff were invited to judge science fair projects at Oak Lake and Pierson schools
- Forage plot showing over 30 grasses and legumes was maintained
- The Wilkinson and Ettonntti families of Five T Lands were selected as the Conservation Families
- Shelby Wray was selected as the district's Youth Speaker
- A number of news articles were written about, or, submitted by the district, for local papers
- Guided tours of the Canupawakpa Nature Trail with students from Reston Elementary School.
- Assisted with tree planting at Canupawakpa Nursery School
- A project to demonstrate the use of satellite imagery in the detection of Leafy Spurge was carried out in the RM of Cameron. Presentations relaying the findings were given to Brandon University and Manitoba Weed Supervisors by GIS Technician
- Co-presented with Saskatchewan Watershed Authority at Canadian Water Resources Association conference on topic of Trans Boundary Cooperation in Watershed Planning
- Manager volunteered at the Amazing Ag Adventures in Brandon
- Co-hosted Managing the Water's Edge workshop with TMCD

## Wildlife

- WSRCD cooperatively delivered a number of programs beneficial to fish and wildlife. These included:
- Participation in the Mixed Grass Prairie Grazing Demonstration. This project, initiated by wildlife agencies in the province to show the benefits of rotational grazing native grasslands for the good of wildlife and increased livestock productivity, was in its final year.
- Distribution of salinity forage and blended clover mixes to producers as part of the DUC Habitat Conservation agreement
- Board resolved to discontinue their participation in the aeration program at Oak Lake due to ineffective results. Priority will be given to watershed based programming upstream to protect and improve water quality.

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## Administration

Administrative costs included office staff salaries, reimbursed expenses and office / shop operation costs. Several administrative changes took place during 2004-2005. These included:

- Rationalization of eastern boundary with TMCD to Souris River
- Watershed planning process evaluated current programs and set out goals and actions for future programming
- The District Board continued to request that a Provincial appointee be named.
- Dean Brooker left the employ of WSRCD and was replaced by Chelsea Driedger

## Project Management

Project support costs consisted of equipment maintenance and leases, remunerations for the Board and Sub-District members and salaries for technical support staff and program coordination and planning.

## External funding

Many new and existing partnerships with government, non-government and private agencies provided additional funding or assistance to deliver valuable resource management projects in WSRCD.

### TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING 2004-05

<u>Partner/Program</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Manitoba Agricultural Sustainability Program	\$6,707
Ducks Unlimited	\$4,110
Fisheries Enhancement Initiative	\$15,010
Province of Manitoba – Manitoba Water Stewardship Branch	\$198,407
Province of Manitoba – Water Services Board	\$5,000
Rural Water Development Program	\$30,277
Sustainable Communities Initiatives Fund	\$11,315
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TOTAL	<u>\$270,826</u>

Additional contributions through technical assistance and in kind services were provided by: Manitoba Water Services Board, Manitoba Crown Lands, Manitoba Agriculture and Food, Rural Water Development Program, Manitoba Conservation, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Manitoba Conservation Districts Program and Manitoba Agro Woodlot Program.

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# Whitemud Watershed Conservation District

## Introduction

The Whitemud Watershed Conservation District (WWCD), incorporated in March 1972, includes approximately 711,495 ha extending from Carberry north to Kelwood, and from Portage Diversion west toward Minnedosa.

The area includes portions of 15 municipalities and 3 towns. There are 8 Sub-Districts, determined by the drainage basins of the major tributaries of the Whitemud River. There are 67 Sub-District Members who act in an advisory capacity to the main Board, with each committee chairperson sitting on the Board.

### WHITEMUD WATERSHED CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2003-04

<u>SUB-DISTRICT</u>	<u>CHAIRPERSON</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
#35 - Rat Creek	Tom Tunski	Rossendale
#36 - Westbourne Drain	Bill Wieler	MacGregor
#37 - Squirrel Creek	Minnie Parynuik	MacGregor
#38 - Pine Creek	Roy McConnell	Gladstone
#39 - Upper Whitemud	Wayne Csversko	Neepawa
#40 - Boggy Creek	Wes Pankratz	Minnedosa
#42 - Big Grass Marsh	Einar Sigurdson / Doug Popkes	Lakeland / Arden
#43 - Big Grass River	Danny Post	Waldersee
Provincial Appointee	Bud G. Johnson	Neepawa
Board Chairperson	Robert Rodgers	MacGregor

## Summary

The WWCD continued to pursue efficiencies and cost savings within its program in 2004-05. The District staff component was reduced as well as modifications to program delivery to allow more projects at a lessened cost. Savings were found in the administration of the soils and wildlife programs, and infrastructure management.

After 28 years on Sub-District #42 and 25 years on the Main Board, Einar Sigurdson retired. Mr. Sigurdson was instrumental in the establishment of the District.

The District continued to place a large emphasis on water management in 2004-05. The District surveyed and drew plans for the establishment of five backflood projects covering over 5½ sections.

In the Water Control Program, 1040 km of drainage channels were mowed, 18.4 km of drains were reconstructed, 17 grassed runways were completed, and 11 Creek Fencing Projects to improve riparian areas were constructed. Seventy-three bridge and culvert crossings were repaired and 34 crossings were replaced.

The District also replaced 5 crossings and repaired 2 under the terms and conditions of the MOU on PR/PTH crossings.

Soil Conservation initiatives saw 29 landowners seed down 1,017 ha of erosion risk soils to forages and 23 km of field shelterbelts planted. Rosling Farms (Harold and Bruce) won the Conservation Farm Family Award.

Shelterbelt Awards were presented to Rosling Farms, Schmidt Farms and MacDonald Farms.

The District sponsored a number of conservation education initiatives with area schools, highlighted by the "Johnny Appleseed" Program which provided 240 apple trees to Grade 5 students in 27 area schools.

The Whitemud Watershed Conservation District received over 3,000 calls and met on-site with over 500 residents of the District in 2004-05.

### TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2004-05

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Administration	
Program Support / Planning	\$34,065
Office Operation	\$45,717
Assets	
Infrastructure Reserve Account	\$101,975
Public Education	\$92,265
Soil Conservation	\$71,916
Wildlife & Fisheries	\$34,066
Water Management	
Maintenance	\$407,380
Water Retention	\$925
Drainage Management Project	\$17,716
Surveys	\$6,095
Crossing	
Repairs	\$101,808
Replacements	\$98,479
PR/PTH	<u>\$13,041</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$1,025,448</u>

For further details see Appendix "P".

## Water Management

The District's Water Management Program includes the responsibility for the maintenance and reconstruction of 1,760 km of man-made drains. It also includes the repair and replacement of bridges and culvert crossings (1,265 in total). Other water management activities include construction of grassed runways to prevent soil erosion, small dam construction to store water, shale trap installation to prevent channel sedimentation and gully stabilization projects. The District completed water quality sampling of tile drainage sites in partnership with Manitoba Conservation.

The District and Province continued to partner on drainage licencing within the Drainage Management Project with 66 files resolved. The District also advanced its Water Retention Concept in 2004 by surveying and designing 5 potential sites for backflood projects.

Each Sub-District implemented one or more specified Projects within its area. They are as follows:

#### **Sub-District #35:**

- Two crossings replaced.
- Maintenance on 4 crossings.
- Beaver dam program.
- Re-shaping done on Rat Creek, Adam and Wolfe drains.
- Maintenance on 3 shale traps.
- Mowing and spraying maintenance.
- Surveys obtained on 2 other district projects by Province of Manitoba.

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- A water retention study obtained for a Rossendale project.

**Sub-District #36:**

- Maintenance on 7 crossings.
- One crossing replaced.
- Survey on 4 other district projects.
- Re-shaping done on Image Creek.
- Mowing and spraying maintenance.
- Two runway projects worked on.

**Sub-District #37:**

- Maintenance done on 5 crossings.
- Control of leafy spurge and small shrubs.
- Three crossings replaced.
- Re-shaping maintenance on N 25,26-11-12W, Orangeville Drain, and Austin Drain.
- Mowing maintenance.
- Surveys on 2 other district projects.
- Constructed 2 gradient control structures.

**Sub-District #38:**

- Maintenance on 7 crossings.
- Beaver dam program.
- Control of leafy spurge and small shrubs.
- Mowing maintenance.
- Two crossings replaced.
- Maintenance on a small retention project.
- Re-shaping on Campbell Drain, 4<sup>th</sup> Base Drain. Partner with RM's bank stabilization.

**Sub-District #39:**

- Maintenance on 8 crossings.
- Control of leafy spurge and small shrubs.
- Six runways worked on.
- Beaver dam program.
- Mowing maintenance.
- Bank Stabilization on Eden Creek.
- Hand brushing on 2 district projects. Partnered with SD #42 on a major mechanical brushing project.
- Surveys obtained on 2 other projects.
- One PR/PTH crossing replaced.

**Sub-District #40:**

- Worked on 8 runways.
- Maintenance on 3 crossings.
- Mowing maintenance.
- Beaver dam maintenance.
- Brookdale Drain re-shaping completed.
- Survey obtained on 2 other drains.

**Sub-District #42:**

- Maintenance on 17 crossings.
- Control of leafy spurge.
- Twelve crossings replaced.
- Cleanout on PR567, Gopher, Collins and Paramor drains.
- Mowing maintenance.
- Beaver dam program.
- Surveys obtained on another 7 drains for proposed works.

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- Bank stabilization on Cross Ditch.
  - Working on alternate access, when existing structure is to be rationalized.
  - Purchase additional land for alternate access.
  - Stone picking in drains was undertaken.

**Sub-District #43:**

- Maintenance on 22 crossings.
- Mowing, small shrub spraying and hand brushing.
- Fourteen crossings replaced.
- Cleanout of Walker, Kelwood, Glencairn, Turko, Glenella, Big Grass, Gork and Jumping Deer drains.
- Beaver dams removed.
- Maintenance on 3 shale traps.
- Finish 2" x 4" top on bridge deck.
- Surveys obtained on another 6 proposed works.
- Four PR/PTH crossings replaced.
- Two PR/PTH crossings repaired.
- One runway worked on.

## **Soil Conservation**

- There were 532.39 ha seeded to forage under the Forage Assistance Program by 29 landowners.
- There were 23 km of new tree plantings including field shelterbelts, wildlife tree plantings and block tree plantings. There were 67 km of shelterbelt weed control completed. Shelterbelt Awards were presented to Rosling Farms, Schmidt Farms and MacDonald Farms. A new partnership with Tiger Hills Conservation District (THCD) was struck in which the WWCD plants trees for THCD who in turn seal abandoned wells on behalf of the WWCD.
- Seven "Healthy Streambanks" Projects were developed to promote livestock management and improve riparian areas within the Whitemud River Watershed.

## **Wildlife & Habitat Programs**

- One new Wildlands Project was established and 15 signs replaced, as well as 30 Conservation Corridor signs replaced. Four riparian projects were completed in the Upper Whitemud Basin Study area. This study identified over 50 potential Projects to improve habitat, wildlife and farming practices along Stoney Creek, Boggy Creek and Brookdale Drain.
- The District established a new conservation fund with local money to purchase conservation interest within Conservation Agreements in partnership with Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

## **Public Education & Extension Services**

- One hundred and ten Boy Scouts planted 4,000 trees south of Franklin.
- School plantings at Neepawa and Eden.
- Two hundred and forty Grade 5 students received a 5 foot apple tree.
- Whitemud Newsletter distributed to all households.
- District appeared in print media over 48 times.
- Utilized radio advertising for programs and promotion.
- Over 15 presentations/tours given.

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- Conservation magazine subscriptions purchased for 12 school libraries.
  - 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Whitemud Bonspiel held.
  - Met at least once with all 18 councils in district.
  - Distribution of district placemats (20,000).

## External Funding

The Board had an excellent year regarding cooperative partnership projects and external funding assistance. A summary is as follows:

<u>Program/Partner</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Hometown Green Team	\$2,384
Fisheries Enhancement Initiative	\$21,073
PR/PTH MOU with IGA	\$13,041
MHHC	\$9,600
MB Water Stewardship (survey)	\$4,571
Farming For Tomorrow	<u>\$665</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$51,335</u>

## Administration

This Program includes staff salaries and expenses, remuneration for Board and Sub-District Members, rent and operating costs.