

The AMM received a letter recently from the President of Save Our Seine River Environment Inc. (SOS). Here are excerpts from that letter.

I am writing this letter regarding an article that appeared in the Spring 2003 issue of *The Municipal Leader*. The story was entitled, *Developments in Park and Boulevard Design*. The section of the story I'd like to comment on is the following:

"Another example of preservation has been the development of Winnipeg's Royalwood neighbourhood – 80 acres of woodland including a herd of deer. Through cooperation between the city, the developer and the community group Save Our Seine, 97% of the forest has been preserved."

Let me assure you that this 79-acre parcel of forest along the Seine River is not at all saved. In fact, a portion of this forest, known as Bois-des-esprits, is in imminent danger of being destroyed. This pristine forest is located within a 305-acre site to be developed as a 760-home subdivision by the owner, Grandin Park Development Ltd., a joint venture between Ladco Company Ltd. (62%) and the Province of Manitoba (38%).

Unless sufficient funds are raised to purchase and protect Grade 'A' habitat (defined as the best quality and most sensitive to disturbance) **before December 31, 2003, most of it will be cleared and destroyed for development.**

In 2002, the City of Winnipeg responded to the outcry from local citizens who wanted to preserve this special forest and habitat,

by generously committing \$1 million to the purchase, along with \$600,000 in matching funds.

SOS launched a campaign, at the City's challenge, to raise the funds needed to protect the forest. To date, SOS has raised over \$110,000. However, an additional \$700,000 is needed to save the entire forest from destruction.

Now that we are into the Fall Legislative schedule, SOS is hopeful that past discussions with several MLAs will prove fruitful.

Yours truly,
Beverly Sawchuk
President
Save Our Seine River Environment Inc.



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