



Issue #7 Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium (LWRC)

Information current as of: August 2005

Summary and Current Status:

One of the primary goals of the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium (LWRC) is to “facilitate scientific research on Lake Winnipeg to gain a better understanding of the biological, chemical and physical processes that are critical to its well-being”.

Elements:

Founded in August 1998 and incorporated in 2001, membership in the LWRC now numbers over 25 agencies representing various universities, government departments, and corporate and stakeholder groups.

In addition to facilitating research to better understand the ecology of Lake Winnipeg, the LWRC also has a mandate to create educational opportunities and increase public awareness about Lake Winnipeg ecology and the environmental issues facing the Lake. It also acts as agency to promote information exchange and foster co-operation among all stakeholders with an interest in the health of Lake Winnipeg.

The Canadian Coast Guard vessel “CCGS *Namao*” is a key component of both the research program and public education activities of the LWRC. The *Namao* was refurbished and is now used by researchers, thanks to funding over time from the provincial and federal governments. As part of the public education program, the LWRC regularly invites

LWRC Membership

Alexander Sustainable Development Association
Center for Indigenous Environmental Resources
Diageo Canada Inc.
Environment Canada, Atmospheric Monitoring Division
Fish Futures
Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation
Geological Survey of Canada
-Ottawa
-Dartmouth
Gimli Yacht Club
Grindstone Cottage Owners Association
Lake Winnipeg Commercial Fishers
Loni Beach Residents' Association
Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners Inc.
Manitoba Conservation
Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines
Manitoba Hydro
Manitoba Pork Council
Manitoba Water Stewardship
New Iceland Heritage Museum, Gimli
Norway House Cree Nation
Red River Basin Commission
RM of Gimli
University of Manitoba
- Office of Vice President (Research)
-Geography (Centre for Earth Observation Science)
-Botany
-Zoology
-Natural Resource Institute
-Civil and Geological Engineering
University of Winnipeg
-Chemistry
-Biology

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the public to board the *Namao* while in port to learn more about the scientific research that is being done on Lake Winnipeg and to meet the scientists conducting this research.

Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium Studies

Current research is focused on priority areas – to complement the goals of the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board, for instance – as well as having a more general focus on increasing the body of research and knowledge that exists about the lake.

Nutrient cycling and impacts of excessive nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) on water quality and the food chain; the impacts of climate change (e.g. the ability of the Lake to consume and produce greenhouse gases); and measuring pollutant levels contained in the food web, lake water, air above the lake and sediment at the bottom of the lake, are three areas of research interest. Exploring lake productivity (using satellite imagery), the impacts of introduced or invading exotic species, and the examination of algal toxins and their potential effects are also some of the other issues being investigated.

Key Publication(s) & Links:

- Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium
<http://www.lakewinnipegresearch.org/>
- Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium – Publications
<http://www.lakewinnipegresearch.org/lwrc%20pages/publications.htm>

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