

The Northern Lights Twin Lakes Beach Association Inc.

Issue # 1 of 2

Spring/Summer 2011

President's Report- Jack King

The flood event dominates the action of the Association. I will attempt to provide an overview of activities taken on your behalf and those that are part of future planning. It is the position of the Association that the flood is man-made and consequently the government must compensate property owners according to appraised value based on pre-flood market conditions. We dismiss the distinction made by the program between permanent and seasonal. We have suffered losses as taxpaying property owners and deserve compensation that is fair and equitable.

It is critical that you register for Flood Assistance before the deadline of September 2, 2011. You may do so over the telephone by calling 1-855-220-1822 - have your social insurance number handy. Registering protects your eligibility for flood compensation. Keep in mind that if you have more than one residence on your property, each will have to be registered.

In preparation for dealing with the government on compensation, we strongly recommend members have an appraised value for their property. **Val Jonsson**, CRA from The Appraisal Network (204-995-4350) is recommended by the Flood Action Committee mainly because her appraisals were accepted in a class action suit brought by flood victims.

The Twin Lakes Beach Association website www.twinlakesbeach.ca has been launched and provides a wide range of information including RM bulletins, weather reports, links to other sites, meeting minutes and reports. I would like to thank Teri Seifert and Dennis Turek who are the site managers. Jeff Douglas has been providing us with information and bulletins on Facebook.

At a meeting of the Twin Lakes Beach Association on June 12 the Flood Action Committee was formed to address issues related to the flood event resulting in the evacuation on May 31. To date the group has launched the Twin Lakes Beach Association website, initiated a writing campaign to government ministers and representatives, met with two law firms to analyze the government compensation package from a legal perspective and has represented our interests with the Flood Assistance Program manager for changes to the program.

Lawrence Heise is a co-chair of a coalition called the Association of Lake Manitoba Stakeholders (ALMS). This group presents a strong united voice to government on our behalf. The meetings provide an opportunity for the various associations to share information and planning strategies.

Rilla and Lorne Britton are active members of the Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners who organized a rally at the legislative grounds on June 14 and are another strong voice for our members.

The executive will continue to provide and encourage others to communicate developments in this flood fight. We are entering discussions with the RMs of St. Laurent and Woodlands to encourage community projects for flood mitigation and erosion. We thank those from the village, who gave so generously of their time and energy in filling sandbags, constructing dikes and generally volunteering on our behalf. Out of the hopeless feelings many had, there are signs of optimism – plans to lower the lake, increased compensation and a willingness on the part of government to listen to concerns voiced on our members behalf.

Important Links & Numbers

Twin Lakes Beach Association Official Website:	www.twinlakesbeach.ca	
RM of St. Laurent	www.rmofstlaurent.ca	204-646-2259
RM of Woodlands	www.rmwoodlands.info	204-383-5679
Association of Lake Manitoba Stakeholders:	http://lakemanitobaassociation.wordpress.com	
Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners	www.macomn.com	
Manitoba Red Cross	www.redcross.ca	1-888-662-3211
Lake Manitoba Financial Assistance Program	www.masc.mb.ca	1-855-220-1822
Individual Flood Protection Initiative	www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/flood_proofing_programs/index.html	
Flood or road concerns call	1-204-795-4780	

Twin Lakes Beach Association Inc.

We Want Your E-mail Address!

TLBA has its own e-mail address and we want **YOURS!!!** Keep us informed of any changes to your mailing address, phone number or email address. Email your changes to:

twinlakesbeach@gmail.com

We hope to improve communication with our property owners and lower costs of our communication. Communication via e-mail will consist of at least 2 newsletter type e-mails per year, reminders of upcoming meetings and elections. We respect your privacy and will not publish or give out your email.

School tax Rally

Thursday September 15, 2011
7:00 pm
Manitoba Legislative grounds



Promote: the removal of School taxes on all Properties

Sponsored by:
Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners
www.macoman.com

Membership!

If you have not submitted your \$5 for a Twin Lakes Beach Association membership, please mail a cheque payable to Twin Lakes Beach Association Inc. c/o:

Rilla Britton
202-5995 Roblin Blvd,
Winnipeg, MB R3R 3T6

Your membership is **important!!** We must stay united and have a strong voice to fight for our property rights!

Manitoba Water Stewardship
Individual Flood Protection Initiative
(NOTE: This program is separate from the MAFRI/MASC program)

Program funding is to support future flood mitigation. For an application and guidelines visit:
www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/flood_proofing_programs/index.html
or call 204-945-7428 or 1-800-214-6497.

2011 EXECUTIVE LIST TWIN LAKES BEACH ASSOCIATION INC.

President:	Jack King	471-5671	Lot 67 TBN
Vice-Pres.	Jeff Simes	999-4300	Lot 304
Treasurer	Bob Cox	253-4325	Lot 370
Secretary	Lori Fenn	253-0758	Lot 157
Past Presidents:			
	Lawrence Heise	837-8487	Lot 140
	Rilla Britton	896-5166	Lot 138
	Dennis Turek	694-8642	Lot 301

TWIN LAKES BEACH FLOOD ACTION COMMITTEE

Dennis Turek (chair)

The Flood Action Committee has been at work for just over two months. Our main objective is to get the lake lowered and have a new operating range established where the lake will be controlled and allowed to fluctuate at 810 ft. above sea level. Two key objectives are the removal of the designations: **Permanent and Non Permanent residents** from the compensation package and have these terms replaced by the term **Property Owners**. As well, we are lobbying for the construction, by the Government, of a **Shoreline Defense System**, instead of each person doing their own thing as they are presently offering in their Compensation Package and linking it to rebuilding or restoring your building. More detailed information about our work thus far, can be viewed on our website

www.twinlakesbeach.ca

Please check the site regularly as it is continually updated. The Committee wishes to thank everyone for their ongoing support and encouragement.

FAMILY FUN DAY !!

Sunday, September 4, 2011

10 a.m. at Manipogo Golf & Country Club
9 holes and steak dinner \$35.00

Dinner only \$14.95

Cart rental separate.

To register contact Teri Seifert at 204-941-0030.



1st Annual St. Laurent Open Golf Tournament

Manipogo Golf & Country Club

Hosted by Milt Stegall

Saturday, September 3, 2011

Registration 9:00 a.m. ~ Start 10:00 a.m.

\$100.00 per person includes golf, cart and dinner

To Register call 204-646-2100

For more info www.manipogogolf.mb.ca

Town Hall Meeting –St. Laurent, Manitoba, Jack King

On August 2, the St. Laurent Recreation Centre was the scene of a second townhall meeting since the flood event began in May. Over two hundred people came out to hear presentations from the Province and the RMs of St. Laurent and Woodlands.

Ron Weatherburn, representing Infrastructure and Transportation, reviewed the consultant report released the previous week. A series of visuals depicted key parts to the report ending with the recommendations: to construct a channel from Lake St. Martin toward Lake Winnipeg and to allow maximum flow out of the Fairford River Water Control Structure (FRWCS) through the winter. Government projections are that this would reduce the level of Lake Manitoba to 813.1 by mid-April, 2012. Once accomplished two additional actions are recommended: to construct a by-pass channel around the north side of the FRWCS and to expand the emergency channel out of Lake St. Martin thus reducing Lake Manitoba water level another six inches. In response to a question from the floor, he indicated the work on the emergency channel had begun and the by-pass channel would begin over the winter.

Gerald Huebner, assistant Deputy Minister representing MAFRE presented the various flood assistance programs. He stressed the importance of registering at **1- 855-220-1822 before September 2, 2011**. He noted the recognition of seasonal property owners was unprecedented. Many speakers challenged the fairness of funding discrepancies in the program between year-round and seasonal owners noting the flood event was a man-made disaster caused by the water diverted to the lake through Portage Diversion. Suggestions were made to stream-line the application process by having a single-form developed and shared among the government funding agencies. The compensation figure used for property will be based on pre-flood appraised value.

Water stewardship was represented by Eugene Kozera, whose main focus was on mitigation programs. Many questions arose over the exclusion of shore line erosion from the program. People wanted to know the figure the government was using in approving permanent dikes. We were told the number would vary depending on the location of properties along the lake. His best advice was that the inspectors who were there to help develop plans that met criteria would have a better sense of the approved height on a per property basis. He reminded us there was a two thousand dollar amount available to hire engineers to design these structures.

We have been told a mailing will be undertaken to property owners registered with MASC that will attempt to summarize some of the specific program components. Information will be forwarded to MAFRE so that residents without access to computers will be placed on the mailing list.

The chairperson summarized the position of the Twin Lakes Beach Association that the preferred lake height be 810 above sea level and that we only recognize property owners – without distinguishing between seasonal and permanent residents. He underscored the importance of registering for compensation before September 2, 2011. The presenters were thanked for their input into an emotionally charged gathering and for agreeing to take some of our concerns and ideas back to their respective ministers.

Because of the time given to questions and answers with the Provincial reps, the RM of St. Laurent gave a brief report on the status of roads and access to properties and notification of property tax statements to be mailed out shortly. In response to a question about security lapses Reeve Zotter acknowledged the problem and indicated there are on-going talks with the security company. He welcomes constructive suggestions for improving the system. A resident from Sugar Point said they noted improvements when local people were hired to accompany security patrols. The RM of Woodlands gave a report and update on the construction of the road at the south end of Twin Beach Road. He encouraged Woodlands residents to obtain an access permit from the RM office that would simply their access through checkpoints. In response to a question about the availability of sandbags now that access is improved, he indicated that he was unaware of supplies but would look into the matter. The presentation by the councilors ended on a positive note with thanks from one audience member for the road improvements.