

# **TWIN LAKES BEACH FLOOD ACTION COMMITTEE**

## **COMMUNIQUE #6**

**April 25, 2012**

- In March and early April the Flood Action Committee along with Liberal Leader Jon Gerrard worked on an in-depth evaluation of the Government's Response to the Flood of 2011. We developed a Report Card Style document along with supporting documents. These were released to the Media at the Legislature, during a Press Conference called by Jon Gerrard. These documents can be found on our website. We received Free Press Coverage by Bruce Owens as well.
- The Flood Action Committee has received the "Statement of Claim" launched by First Nations in the \$950 million dollar suit against the province. Although the actual Law Firm representing the First Nations at Lake St. Martin and other bands is situated in Ontario they have retained a law firm in Winnipeg to "recruit" or explore other Parties who may be interested in participating in a similar action. We are exploring the implications of that and will inform the membership as soon as more information is available. We are also exploring the area of Litigation with another Law Firm and should have more information by the end of April. The committee wants to emphasize here, that we will act in an "initial facilitation capacity" only. We will do all we can to give our members as much information about the legalities, the implications and costs associated with entering into a statement of claim against the Government. Neither the Flood Action Committee nor the Twin Lake Beach Assoc. will be listed as a plaintiff in any lawsuit. The action to sue will be on a case by case, individual by individual situation only. Expenses accrued and payment for legal action will be determined by counsel and the plaintiffs.

- On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Jack King, Jeff Simes and I attended an ALMS meeting in Winnipeg. At this meeting your reps. made a vigorous appeal to the rest of the delegates representing other developments around the lake, that the Chair of ALMS, who is our voice on the new Regulation Review Committee deliver the motion that ALMS supports the operation of Lake Manitoba to a level no higher than 811.5ft. asl. and that the Lake be drawn down to 810 and maintained there for the next 2 years to allow for shoreline rejuvenation and clean-up. This motion generated much discussion and controversy amongst members. The north basin insists that 810ft. asl would be detrimental to their properties, creating hazardous boating and marsh like conditions in front of their properties. However, the motion passed and that will be the Position of ALMS when asked about Lake Levels.
- On Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jack King and I met with Liberal Leader Jon Gerrard to assist in the preparation of questions for Jon Gerrard to use during question period later that day.
- These questions can be seen on :  
<http://manitobaliberals.blogspot.ca/2012/04/fairness-and-equity-are-hard-to-get.html>

as well as other interesting documents. In particular, the letter from Steve Topping to the CAO of the Lakeview Constituency regarding the establishment of new Flood Levels for construction along the Lake Mb. Basin. I will publish this letter on our web site as well. After question period Jack King and I met with Conservative Party members, Ralph Eichler, Ian Wishart and Stu Briesse to discuss the slowness in the delivery of compensation to our members. As a result of these discussions the Conservatives would like to have a list of contacts that they could use as specific examples of People experiencing delays and inadequate or unfair treatment for assistance or compensation. They would make these names public in the House when participating in Question Period to

counter the NDP's rebuff that they are only speaking in generalities and the problems are being exaggerated. A specific example was used on Friday and actions to correct the problems were initiated almost immediately. If you are willing to be on such a contact list please email me with your contact info. (Name, lot #. Phone #)and we will pass this on to Ralph Eichler. He will contact you for specific information about your claim. Please **do not** contact them directly...

- Later that same afternoon, Jack and I were invited to meet with Mr. Steve Ashton, and his personal special advisor Cliff Evans. Jack and I used this opportunity to put our case forward regarding lower lake levels. Minister Ashton, assured us that the "technical advisory component" of the Committee struck in late January to explore the operating range of Lake Manitoba has been hard at work generating information and data about the new landscape around the lake and its ability to sustain development and rebuilding along the entire basin. He candidly, admitted that there have been areas already identified that will not be able to support redevelopment or future development. He was not in a position at this time to give me any specific areas identified. We had a long discussion about the various interests around the Basin and he felt that after this event some attitudes about higher-end lake levels that were expressed in the 2003 REPORT by some groups may now be tempered because of the impact the May 31<sup>st</sup> Storm and Flood had on everyone. (**Writer's Note: Based on the discussions at the May 16<sup>th</sup> ALMS mtg. there will still be those, especially in the Narrows Area, where huge sums of money are being invested, who will continue to ask for levels around 812-813**). Jack and I proposed that immediate dredging in front of the Fairford Structure take place to remove silt build up and increase the functionality and efficiency of the Fairford Control Structure in order to bring the lake down below 811.3. This is the level, once reached, that will stop Lake Manitoba from draining into the Fairford River because of the miles of sand and silt built up on the Lake Manitoba side. So realistically, it is physically impossible right now with the existing structures to drop the Lake to 810. We reminded Mr. Ashton that this was supposed to be done in 2006. He recalled that decision clearly and informed us that it was Oceans and Fisheries (Feds) that put a halt to that initiative at that time. He said that

this initiative was once again on the table, because it is the cheapest option to lowering the Lake, and as well, an auxiliary outlet out of Lake Manitoba is still an option and has not been scraped as reported by some sources. Mr. Evans also emphasized that the Emergency Channel will remain and has been designed to be put into action very quickly if levels start to increase again.

- Finally Jon Gerrard, has worked tirelessly to keep our plight alive. He contacts me almost daily and will continue to raise our concerns during Question Period. Both the Conservatives and the Liberals have been extremely supportive and promise to continue to raise our concerns in the Legislature. A thank you email to them would be a nice gesture to show their efforts are being noticed and appreciated.

Submitted by: Dennis Turek, Flood Action Chair