

Exciting News for Oak Lake!

The Souris River Watershed District is thrilled to announce that the Manitoba government is providing a \$95,000 grant to help improve water quality at Oak Lake! This funding will support the development of a new aeration system, which will:

- Enhance water quality for the community.
- Support healthy fish populations.
- Help reduce algae blooms during the summer months.

This important investment was announced today by Premier Wab Kinew and Municipal and Northern Relations Minister Glen Simard. Special thanks to Councillor Scott Phillips and the Rural Municipality of Sifton for their ongoing partnership, and to Dean Brooker, our General Manager here at Souris River Watershed District, for leading this initiative.



The aeration system will boost dissolved oxygen levels in the lake, supporting the entire aquatic food chain—especially during the winter months when oxygen is limited. This project is a vital step toward protecting Oak Lake for future generations.



Meet the SRWD Team: Dennis Naumann, Watershed Assistant!

Meet Dennis Naumann, our Watershed Assistant! Dennis is a recent graduate of Hartney Collegiate Institute and is spending his first summer with SRWD before studying Geology at the University of Manitoba. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and off-roading, and helps with his family's business. Dennis brings enthusiasm and a passion for conservation to our team and appreciates the teamwork and hands-on experience at SRWD.

Animal of the Week:

Burrowing Owl

Meet the Burrowing Owl—a rare, endangered species living right here in the Souris River Watershed District. These unique owls nest underground and help control pests naturally. Thanks to partners like MBORP, we are working to protect their prairie habitat. Watch for these daytime-active owls on your next outdoor adventure!



Place of the Month: Gerald W. Malaher Natural Trail

Named after Gerald William Malaher (1903-1984), this trail is located on the intersection of Provincial Road 445 with Road 158 W, approximately one and a half miles west of Melita.

This location has become a prime site for outdoor enthusiasts. Complete with maintained walking trails, visitors are able to enjoy a wide variety of wildlife, birds as well as foliage that call the area home. The location is also used for cross-county skiing in the winter.



SRWD Bus Tour 2025

On July 29th, the Souris River Watershed District (SRWD) held its annual Bus Tour, offering a unique opportunity for collaboration and learning throughout the watershed.


Attendees included board members, staff from neighboring watersheds, representatives from the University of Manitoba, Manitoba Fisheries, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and local community members. Participants toured several featured sites, including dam projects, shelterbelt plantings, and recreational areas managed by the district.


Staff also highlighted ongoing initiatives such as the GROW program, showcasing efforts to promote conservation, habitat enhancement, and watershed stewardship. The tour fostered connections and shared knowledge among partners committed to the sustainable future of the region.

Did you know?


Shelterbelts are some of our watershed's greatest allies during Manitoba's harsh winters. These strategic rows of trees and shrubs do much more than enhance summer vistas—they serve as vital windbreaks, dramatically slowing blustery winter winds. This not only reduces snowdrifts across roads, fields, and properties—making travel safer and lowering snow removal costs—but also ensures snow is deposited exactly where it's most beneficial for spring moisture. The snowbanks that build up in shelterbelt-protected areas act as natural insulation for crops, safeguarding them from freezing temperatures and storing water for the next growing season.

Beyond their agricultural benefits, shelterbelts decrease heating costs by blocking cold winds around homes and farmyards, creating warmer environments for both people and livestock. Even in the depths of winter, these living barriers provide shelter and safe pathways for birds, mammals, and other wildlife to survive the cold.

 srwd.com

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