

LAKE WINNIPEG REGULATION

Bruce Morrison
Victoria Beach

February 2, 2015

I want to thank you for letting me speak in regards to the regulation of Lake Winnipeg.

As a long time cottager and now permanent resident of Victoria Beach, and a past counsellor, I found the rules for regulating the lake have left a lot to be desired, and on going forward would hope there will be changes made. On talks with the premier in the past, on wanting changes in regulations, his comment was "don't go there".

Well, I found there were two major problems:

- (1) The present rules allow Hydro to regulate the lake between 711 and 715 feet above sea level. Although this made sense at the time, the medium would be 713 feet which sounds like the perfect height to keep the lake. The shorelines would then be safer from major damage when the lake rises. Hydro rarely keeps the lake any lower than 715 unless in dry times when it drops naturally. Holding the lake at 715 does not allow for any leeway between high water and damage being done to the shorelines, especially when winds raise the lake even higher, with prevailing winds mostly being from the northwest.
- (2) The second problem I find is Hydro, when using Lake Winnipeg as their reservoir, is not responsible for the shoreline and the damage that is caused by controlling the lake. They take over the lake as a reservoir and you would think would have a moral obligation to try to keep the land owners living around the lake safe. I know claims are made that without regulation the fluctuations between highs and lows would be worse, but the many years of low water gave the shore a better chance naturally to survive the highs, which now it cannot do.

Victoria Beach, which is mostly sand, has areas that have eroded to the point where some cottages are sitting precariously 25 feet above the lake level.

Engineering studies have been done on saving the shoreline in that area but without financial help, that work will probably never be done and the tax base is going to slip into the lake as the costs to do the work are too prohibitive.

Thank you

Ron Greenwood

- 1. Grand Beach and area.**
- 2. Manitoba Hydro vs. clean electricity.**
- 3. 715 ft. ASL is meaningless.**
- 4. Lowering to maximum regulated level.**
- 5. Unsafe lake water due to toxins.**
- 6. Eutrophication.**
- 7. 1974.**
- 8. Government and Manitoba Hydro.**
- 9. Clean Environment Commission.**