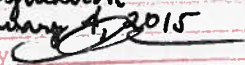


Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 CEC Hearing on Lake Winnipeg Regulation  
Andy Weremy

---

PERMIT NUMBER: Sd-002  
Lake Winnipeg  
Regulation  
Date: February 4, 2015  
Received by:   
(Commission Secretary)

### Introduction

Good evening, my name is Andy Weremy and my wife is Lisa Weremy who prior to marriage was Lisa Davidson. Lisa's mother and father are Margaret and Eric Davidson. I am here presenting to the Commission on the family's behalf to share some of their experiences and observations over 85 years of having property on the shore of Lake Winnipeg.

### History

The Davidson's purchased their property, 441 Chalet Beach Road in 1930. The land was used as a summer home to enjoy the lake, the countryside and good family time. Lisa's grandparents raised their two sons at the cottage and Eric and Margaret raised their three children at the cottage and faithfully are at the cottage from May long weekend till September. Today the cottage continues to be a summer vacation home to Eric and Margaret and three families.

### Why are we here at the meeting?

This meeting is obviously to hear public input as the CEC gathers information from various interest groups to assess the social and economic impacts of a permanent regulation for Lake Winnipeg.

This presentation is intended to provide our observations on the Lake and describe some of the impacts the Davidson family has endured in 85 years of life on the lake.

The CEC has a very difficult task in gathering information and trying to make a recommendation that balances the interests of the environment, the many industries that depend on the lake, people who live directly adjacent to the lake and the many Manitobans and tourists that enjoy the lake every year.

### Impacts of Lake Winnipeg:

I have been a part of the Davidson family for approximately 25 years. When I first visited the lake at their cottage Eric had the first of two shoreline protection efforts completed. This involved the protection of the shore by placing large granite boulders to dissipate the destructive energy of the waves during storms. Eric had to add another layer of reinforcing to his shoreline defense some years later. Many of the Chalet beach owners did the same. There were variations in their methods, some used large limestone boulders, and some tried concrete walls. The effort was similar as well as the goal, protect the shoreline during storm events and the subsequent erosion that would occur.

The Davidsons often talk about the lake before regulation. They talk of the time when they had two hydro poles end to end in the sand from the water's edge to the tree line. They also said back before regulation a person could pull a boat onto shore and leave it overnight, confident that even if the wind switched directions the boat was safe. As you all know neither of these conditions exist today. The cottages do not

have sand shores other than the odd corner or rock outcrop that allows the sand to collect without being swept away.

**Impacts and Costs: Our Perspective:**

There is an obvious lifestyle impact to the changes. Today we have to be extremely vigilant with a boat in the water. I have on several occasions had to remove a boat from the water in less than 30 minutes as the wind switched to the north and if you didn't retrieve the boat, damage would occur. The sand beach days are literally less than 1 per year. If the lake levels are down and a south wind is strongly blowing we might have 5 -10 feet of beach. Again, if the south wind stops or changes the beach quickly disappears.

Eric has undertaken two major shoreline protection efforts. These have resulted in approximately \$40,000 in costs with no compensation for the work. Davidson's have been lucky to have been able to pay for this work or the cottage would have been lost. Every fall we ensure the shore is fortified to protect the land from the October/November storms.

There is also the question of property value? If Eric and Margaret chose to sell, how has the destructive force and impacts of the lake affected its value? Additionally there is also a lot of uncertainty if anyone would even be interested in the property knowing the type of expense that can exist if the high water levels and storm conditions present themselves?

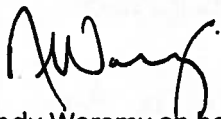
**Our Request:**

We understand that the recommendations of this Commission will not institute pre-regulation conditions, the days of 100 feet of beach are simply gone and just a story. Our request is as follows:

There are a lot of users and uses of Lake Winnipeg, both economically and recreationally driven. What we ask is for the Commission to consider all uses of Lake Winnipeg and try to balance these interests. We also believe that monitoring of the lake, its conditions and the impacts of its regulations should continue to be monitored and discussed going forward.

Just as needs and expectations change with time, so should the constraints that we all must live and work within. Nothing should be set in concrete without review and improvement.

Thank you.



Andy Weremy on behalf of Eric & Margaret Davidson