



The Red River Basin Commission North Chapter

Presents an Evening of Discussion

Treading Water Looking Back on the 1997 Red River Flood

Thursday, June 29, 2017

Manitoba Theatre for Young People

The Forks (#2 Forks Market Road), Winnipeg

Networking and Refreshments 6:00 pm

Presentations Begin at 7:00 pm

The event is FREE of charge!

Due to limited capacity, advance registration is required:

Register by email: info@redriverbasincommission.org

The Topic

The 1997 Red River flood will forever be part of Manitoba's history. Known as "The Flood of the Century", the province saw devastating losses as entire communities were under water, creating unprecedented property losses. Citizens lost homes, farmland, and livelihoods as the Red River swelled beyond its bank. The threat was felt from city centres such as Fargo, Grand Forks, and Winnipeg, as well as all the small communities in between.

The City of Winnipeg was faced with tough decisions, uncertain predictions, and concerned citizens. Emergency planners from communities throughout the Red River Valley were on high alert, sometimes resorting to innovative thinking that helped save homes. The Canadian Armed Forces assisted the rescues of homeowners and the defence of their properties.

However, from that devastating time, we saw communities band together for their neighbors. Strangers helping strangers. Extensive flood protection infrastructure was built to protect communities and properties across the Red River Basin in the following years. In the 20 years since the 1997 flood, the Province of Manitoba has created safer communities and safer waterways, reducing flood risks for the future.

But is this all enough? Are we prepared enough for the next flood? With changing climates ahead, and renewed risk of severe weather, are we ready?

Join us on June 29th as we look back on the 1997 Red River Flood with presentations and a facilitated discussion with some of the officials and experts that were on the ground, dealing with the impacts and implications dealing with a disaster of this magnitude.



Invitees include the Manitoba Premier, key Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Manitoba Members of Parliament, Governors and Commissioners from North Dakota and Minnesota, the U.S. Consul, community leaders, scientists, environmental non-government organizations, media, and citizens.

The Event

Presenters Include

- **Her Worship, Susan Thompson** - Mayor, City of Winnipeg, 1992-1998
- **Doug McNeil**, CAO of the City of Winnipeg
- **Gene Whitney** - past Councillor, RM of Ritchot
- **Steve Topping** - Director, Manitoba Infrastructure
- **Panel discussion** - Are we prepared for the next flood? Doug McNeil, Steve Topping, Hank Venema, and Lance Yohe

The event will be held on **Thursday, June 29, 2017 at the Manitoba Theatre for Young People at the Forks in Winnipeg, Networking will begin at 6:00 pm with presentations commencing at 7:00 pm.** Wine and appetizers will be served. **This event is free of charge; however, advanced registration is required as seating is limited. Register by emailing info@redriverbasincommission.org**

The Host

The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) was created over 30 years ago as a grass-roots organization formed to address water management and to bring conservation stewardship to citizens throughout the Red River Basin on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. The RRBC is a non-profit, international organization that facilitates collaboration and cooperation of organizations, residents, and governments on both sides of the border on a basin-wide scale to provide comprehensive watershed protection and management.

The RRBC in Manitoba facilitates the RRBC North Chapter which is an independent group made up of representatives from all the Manitoba municipalities north of the TransCanada Highway up to Gimli. The mission of the chapter is to provide their citizens and the public with education on water issues in the Red River Basin through presentations, workshops, and educational events. Each year, the RRBC North Chapter holds four meetings, a fundraising event, and sponsors an informational evenings.





The Agenda

6:00 pm: Doors open, registration, networking reception
(hors d'oeuvres and beverages)

7:00 pm: Program starts

1. Welcome Remarks
 2. Words from Event Hosts: RRBC North Chapter executive committee
 3. Her Worship, Susan Thompson, Mayor of the City of Winnipeg 1992-1998
 4. Doug McNeil, CAO, City of Winnipeg
 5. Eugene Whitney, former councillor, RM of Ritchot
 6. Steve Topping, Director, Manitoba Infrastructure
 7. Panel Discussion and Question Period (including speakers Hank Venema, Director of Planning, Prairie Climate Centre and Lance Yohe, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission)
 8. Closing Remarks and Wrap Up
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The Presenters

Her Worship, Susan A. Thompson Mayor of the City of Winnipeg, 1992-1998

Susan Thompson is a well-known and highly regarded leader. She is a proud Winnipegger, a proud Manitoban and a proud Canadian.

With a wealth of experience and a highly engaging personality, Susan is a mentor for all those who know her. She believes in reaching for her dreams and is a strong proponent of achieving the impossible.

Susan was a business leader and entrepreneur over a 15-year period as business owner of Birt Saddlery, located in downtown Winnipeg.



Susan led the City of Winnipeg through two terms as the Mayor.

In 1994, she became the proud lifetime sponsor of HMCS WINNIPEG.

She has served as a diplomat as the Consul General for Canada, Minneapolis.

As the founding President and CEO of The University of Winnipeg Foundation, she provided a high level of commitment to her community.

She continued her commitment to her community as Executive Consultant for the Winnipeg Art Gallery to help raise \$65 million for the WAG's exciting new Inuit Art Centre.

Susan has served on boards and committees locally, provincially, and nationally throughout her career.

As Mayor, Susan managed a city budget of 1.2 billion, over 10,000 employees and 9 unions. She led the City of Winnipeg through the largest crisis the city had faced in 100 years, known as the 1997 Flood of the Century.

In her role as The Canadian Consul General in Minneapolis, she served an eight-state territory consisting of 15 million people and \$32 billion in Canada-US trade.

As President and CEO of The University of Winnipeg Foundation, Susan managed a \$38 million Endowment Fund, stewarded over 7,600 donors and on September 16, 2011, successfully completed a \$80 million Capital Campaign, raising a total of \$135 million for the University of Winnipeg.

Susan is a trailblazer and inspiration to women everywhere. She was the first woman to own her family business, the first woman Rotarian in Manitoba, the first woman Mayor of Winnipeg (it only took 118 years), and the first woman Consul General at the Canadian Consulate in Minneapolis. She was the first President of the Urban Idea Centre in Winnipeg and Founding President and CEO of the University of Winnipeg Foundation.

Bio courtesy of <http://susananthompson.ca/bio/>

Photo courtesy of Bill McFarlane

Doug McNeil, P.Eng.

Chief Administrative Officer, The City of Winnipeg

Chief Administrative Officer Doug McNeil holds engineering degrees from the University of Manitoba, and received the 2012 Leadership Award from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba. He spent just over two decades with the City early in his career, chiefly with the Water and Waste Department, where he helped lead flood-fighting efforts during 1997's "Flood of the Century". He also worked for several months in a secondary role at the then Office of Business Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs on the Winnipeg Development Agreement.

After his initial tenure with the City, Doug served as Vice-President of Hydraulics and Vice-President of Engineering and Construction for the Manitoba Floodway Authority, which completed the Floodway expansion on time and \$25 million under budget. Prior to his appointment as Winnipeg's CAO in April 2015, he served as Manitoba's Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation – as well as serving on numerous boards, including the Transportation Association of Canada, and the North American Strategy for Competitiveness (NASCO).



Gene Whitney

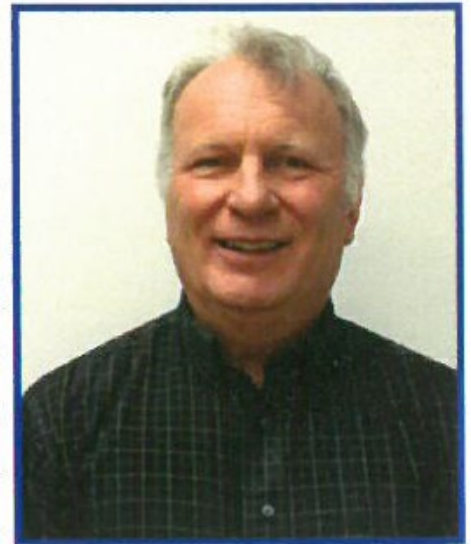
Past Councillor, RM of Ritchot, 1995-2002

Gene is a retired federal government employee having retired in June of 1997. At the time of his retirement, he was employed as a Wildlife Investigator. He has lived in Ste. Agathe since 1986 and served as a councillor for the RM of Ritchot from 1995 to 2002. He is married, has two sons and 3 grandsons. For the past 15 years he has been extremely busy doing nothing.

Steve Topping

Executive Director, Manitoba Infrastructure

Steve Topping has been employed with the Province of Manitoba since 1996 and is presently Executive Director of the Hydrologic Forecasting and Water Management within the Water Management and Structures Division for the department of Manitoba Infrastructure. In his employment history with the Province he has been responsible for Provincial Flood Forecasting and Flood Coordination, flood mitigation programs, implementation of the capital and maintenance of the Provincial water control infrastructure, Office of Drinking Water, Drainage and Water Use Licensing, Water Power Regulation, Engineering support to Conservation Districts, watershed and aquifer planning, and groundwater and surface water management. He is also responsible for the provincial transboundary water boards, being Manitoba's representative on the Prairie Province Water Board, Red River Basin Commission, Lake of the Woods Control Board. Partners for the Saskatchewan River Board and two International Joint Commission Boards. Prior to moving to Manitoba, Steve was employed in the irrigation industry in southern Alberta for 16 years. Steve is a graduate of the University of Guelph with an Engineering degree specializing in Water Resources



The Panel

- **Doug McNeil**, CAO, City of Winnipeg
- **Steve Topping**, Executive Director, Manitoba Infrastructure
- **Hank Venema**, Director of Planning, Prairie Climate Centre
- **Lance Yohe**, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission





North Chapter

“Working together to achieve common goals for water protection and management within the Red River Basin”