

Brandon Sun - PRINT EDITION

Federal grant helps Pelican Lake

By: Uncredited

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Brandon-Souris Conservative MP Larry Maguire announces federal funding for the aeration project at Pelican Lake with Trevor Maguire from the Healthy Lake Committee.

NINETTE — Pelican Lake has landed a nice chunk of federal cash to install another aerator to improve water quality and improve fish habitat.

"Countless anglers from across Westman all have a story about their luck at Pelican Lake," Brandon-Souris Conservative MP Larry Maguire said in announcing a \$46,500 grant through the government's Recreational Fisheries Partnership Program.

"Pelican Lake is not only well used by local anglers, but it's great for the region's economy as it brings tourists and fishing enthusiasts from across the province."

Pelican Lake is 17.5 kilometres long and two kilometres wide — but it's shallow, with an average depth of three metres. It suffers from heavy eutrophication (enriched with nutrients causing algae blooms) and can have as much as one metre of suspended organic material on the bottom.

The lake is also subject to fish winterkill, which occurs every five to 10 years.

In 2013, the Healthy Lake Committee raised funds to install a small, 90-cfm lake bottom micro-bubbler aeration system at the north end

of the lake to test whether aeration could help clean up the lake and prevent future winterkill.

So far so good as the committee has seen significant de-stratification of the water column and a significant reduction in the suspended organic layer on the lake bottom.

"Receiving this grant is a huge step forward to improving the health of Pelican Lake," said Trevor Maguire, the project lead from the Healthy Lake Committee.

"A healthy lake benefits the recreational fishery, the people that use the lake and the businesses that support the lake and surrounding area — everyone wins.

"Larry and his staff have been enthusiastic supporters of our committee's cause, and have shown this not only by working with us to get this grant, but also by taking part in events such as our ice fishing derby."

» Brandon Sun

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