



January 17, 2003

Public Consultation Update Manigotagan River Provincial Park Reserve

On September, 26, 2002, Manitoba announced the extension of the Manigotagan River Park Reserve designation. The government decision to extend the Park Reserve for an additional five years was the result of community requests for additional opportunities for public review and comment. The consultation process began in October, 2001 with initial drop-in sessions in Winnipeg and Lac du Bonnet, and has continued with further meetings in Manigotagan and Hollow Water. The goal of the consultation process for this Park Reserve is the development of a boundary, park purpose statements, a Park Classification, and Land Use Categories for this important provincial area.

The attached brochure provides a summary of the results of the first public consultation meetings. Importantly, it also shows how the responses received so far have been used in the drafting of preliminary park classification and park purpose statements. As well, the proposed corridor boundary has been changed in response to the public and community comment received to date. The corridor is now proposed to avoid an area of community interest at its western end, and there was interest in widening the corridor to protect habitat, water quality and visitor experience. The proposed width of the corridor (750 metres back from each bank) now matches that of the Bloodvein River.

The intent of this phase of the consultation process is to enable the public and regional communities to examine the nature and range of the comment received to date, and review the preliminary park purpose statements, draft park classification and the proposed boundary changes with the benefit of this background. Drop-in sessions to enable this newsletter information to be reviewed directly with Parks staff will be held February 3rd, 2003 in Winnipeg and February 4th, 2003 in Lac du Bonnet. Drop-in sessions in the communities adjacent to the river will be arranged with community leaders as appropriate around this time.

With the help of the feedback from these meetings and this mailout, Parks and Natural Areas staff will develop recommendations to Cabinet on the park purpose statements, classification, Land Use Categories and boundaries this spring.

Your review and comment on the attached proposals for this Park Reserve would be most appreciated. Please do not hesitate to forward additional information on this area as well as your point of view respecting its future. If you wish any further information on the process, or would like to speak to someone respecting any aspect of this consultation, please call Rick Wilson at (204) 945-4365.

Thank you for your continuing interest in Manitoba's provincial parks.