

## Celebrating Water: Musicians, comedians, poets, and artists coming together to support the health of Lake Winnipeg

By Brook Jones

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On March 20, musicians, comedians, poets, artists, and supporters of National Canada Water Week will be flowing into the West End Cultural Centre located at 586 Ellice Avenue in Winnipeg to show their support for the protection of freshwater rivers and lakes.

"We're bringing people together in one venue and anyone who is concerned with water is going to come out," said Lake Friendly executive director Colleen Sklar. "It's so important to celebrate water. We all need to work together to protect this valuable resource."

The Healthy Rivers, Living Lakes Concert that gets flowing at 2:00 p.m. is just one more initiative Lake Friendly, the Lake Winnipeg Foundation, and Arts for Water Project are putting together to bring public awareness to the surface of people's minds in hope they

will reflect and make an effort to protect freshwater rivers and lakes.

"It's important to engage the storytellers at the concert with this initiative to get the message out," explained Sklar. "The artists have been working very hard to put together this huge display. It's all about water."

The concert features comedian Al Rae, well known singer-songwriter Heather Bishop, and musicians Sam Beardman and Susan Israel.

"I'm really excited about the entertainment line up," exclaimed Sklar.

The joint venture between Lake Friendly, the Lake Winnipeg Foundation and Arts for Water Project and The Healthy Rivers, Living Lakes Concert demonstrates that there is a need to do more to protect freshwater, especially Lake Winnipeg – the tenth largest freshwater lake in the world.

The area of land that drains into Lake Winnipeg is almost one million square kilometres and includes over six million residents.

"If 6.5 million people took an active role – we could make a significant difference," said Sklar. "Lake Winnipeg is the tenth

largest lake in the world - We all need to work together to protect it."

The Lake Winnipeg Foundation was established ten years ago as a result of concerned citizens coming together for a common cause – the health of Lake Winnipeg.

"It's important for us to use less water and to be conscious of what we are doing with the water," said Sklar. Meanwhile, Sklar says that the Lake Winnipeg Foundation focuses on the science aspect of Lake Winnipeg, whereas, Lake Friendly focuses on the 'everyday', such as the use of EcoLogo certified products.

"It's all related – it's what we can do in our lives everyday – it's the simple things," said Sklar. "What we do matters – people don't think that what they do will make a 'hoot' of difference," said Sklar.

Tickets can be purchase for \$ 12 in advance at [www.ticketworkshop.com](http://www.ticketworkshop.com) or at the door for \$ 15. For additional information contact: Colleen Sklar at (204) 781-7346