

Heritage Winnipeg's

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



Our Mission

To promote and encourage the conservation of historic and heritage structures and sites and attend to those matters which enhance and complement this purpose.

Emphasis will be on restoration, revitalization, preservation, education and advocacy, in order to augment the cultural inheritance of the community, with consideration for pertinent logistics and feasibility.



*Heritage Winnipeg's office
in the Hammond Building*



*1874 - 2024
Celebrating Winnipeg's 150th anniversary!*

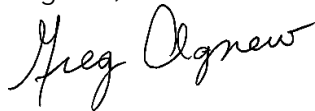
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2024 is well on its way. The weather has been up and down like a zipper. I still had my winter gear ready in June! Couldn't tell from one day to the next. But... Mother Nature was kind of good for our Doors Open Winnipeg event in May. She blew, rained and burnt us but we still set records at many buildings. We had over 18,000 people participate in the 70 buildings, events and tours we offered. I was the Trolley Bus Tour guide on Sunday and we had a blast! If you missed it this year, make sure you mark your calendar for it next year. Keep your ear and eye tuned to the Heritage Winnipeg website for the 2025 dates, and visit the website for more info, learn about us, participate and learn about our city and buildings through our blog.

We have had many movies being filmed here in Winnipeg this year. The movie industry all around the world knows about our Exchange District, and how it can save them money in building expensive sets, by utilizing what we have here. We need to be on the cusp of making sure that our elected leaders DO NOT ruin the area with infills or new builds that do not keep the Exchange District look and "feel" that the movie industry loves. They WILL leave if we are not adamant and careful of the District. That is why we are trying so hard to get the area to a Heritage Conservation District status, so it has the protection it needs to continue to be viable and keep the movie industry and others coming for many more years. That would be a legacy for the city and for our grandchildren to have in the future.

Thank you all for supporting Heritage Winnipeg, and remember, if you are not a member, it is time to show your support. Go to the website for the information you need to become a member and show that you care about what we stand for and do for this city. Take care to you all.

Regards,



Greg Agnew

2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Greg Agnew

Past President

Lisa Gardewine

Fundraising Committee Chair

Nancy Klos

Directors

Tom Dixon Nick Hasiuk Jim Smith

*Manitoba Governor
of the National Trust for Canada*

Barbra Myers

*Appointed by the City of Winnipeg
November 2022*

Councillor Shawn Dobson

In Memoriam

Tony Eshmade

HERITAGE WINNIPEG TEAM

Executive Director

Cindy Tugwell

Heritage Officer

Cheryl Mann

*Young Canada Works
at Building Careers in Heritage Intern*

Ericka Santos

*Young Canada Works
in Heritage Organizations Student*

Ifra Shami

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The **Province of Manitoba** contributed \$22,300 in 2023-2024 and the **City of Winnipeg** operational grant was \$31,275 – thank you! Heritage Winnipeg would also like to thank The Winnipeg Foundation for their much needed financial support which helped ensure our sustainability through COVID-19 when all our in person fundraising events were put on hold. To view our complete audited financial statements, please contact the Heritage Winnipeg office.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talents and funds to Heritage Winnipeg! Our dedicated membership plays a vital role in sustaining our organization with their ongoing support in addition to everyone who donated through during the **December Donation Drive**. Complimentary partner organizations also provided invaluable assistance throughout the year, along with all our volunteers. It is with your generosity that Heritage Winnipeg's important work, including advocacy, programming, resources and educational projects, can continue.



Charity Registration # 11895 6572 RR0001

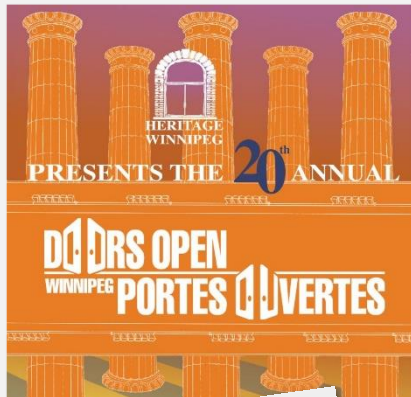
Community Engagement

Through presentations, blogs, projects, social media, partnerships, mentoring and our resource centre, we continue to provide public information in addition to supporting, educating and collaborating with community stakeholders.



Doors Open Winnipeg 2023

Everyone was excited to get out and celebrate the 20th anniversary of Heritage Winnipeg's Doors Open Winnipeg on May 27th and 28th. The weather was beautiful and there were so many interesting buildings, engaging tours and fun events run by enthusiastic volunteers, all welcoming the public for free!



DOORS OPEN WINNIPEG 2023

Doors Open Winnipeg has come a long way in **20 years!** Starting with just 30 buildings in the downtown and St. Boniface areas in 2004, it was the only in person Doors Open in Canada to operate during 2020 and now has expanded beyond the city's boundaries to share even more heritage! The 2023 event saw exciting new hosts opening their doors while more oldies – but goodies – continue to return. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of the event like it was 1920 with hot jazz performed live by the River City Syncopators, an 11-member orchestra, on the lawn of the Vaughan Street Jail. The scavenger hunt was going strong for the third year, with kids spotting the Golden Boy all across the city and fun selfies were posted to enter the social media contest.

Even our Exchange MET School students, Gabe and Nahum, got involved, presenting their major project at the Millennium Centre as part of the event. The hard-working hosts did an exceptional job entertaining and educating thousands of Winnipeggers about their city, and three outstanding hosts were presented with People's Choice Awards for their efforts. It was a wonderful weekend of celebrating the stories our buildings tell!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Doors Open Winnipeg 2023 such a resounding success: the hosts, volunteers, sponsors, and the public that joined us! A special thank you to our President, Greg Agnew, for his continued dedication to volunteering for this event!



2023-2024 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Red River Heritage Fair

Back for the first time since 2019, Heritage Winnipeg was thrilled to be returning to the event on May 4th, 2023 at the University of Winnipeg's Duckworth Centre. In its 30th year, the fair featured students in grades four to eleven from 15 schools presenting projects on history and social studies. Heritage Winnipeg's President, Greg Agnew, was in attendance to judge and present the "Heritage Winnipeg Award" to three outstanding students. Kezia Jenkins and Cebastian Silva from Grant Park High School won for their project "History of the Streetcar," while Nieve Sala from Assiniboine School won for their "Mysteries of the Legislative Building" project. Congratulations!

Manitoba Day

On May 12th, 1870, Manitoba officially became a province. Heritage Winnipeg celebrated 153 years of our diverse and vibrant home with a free activity booklet for kids. Available as a digital download, it was filled with interesting facts, fun activities, and three original colouring sheets by local artist Robert Sweeney. What an entertaining and informative way to say "Happy Birthday Manitoba!"

National Indigenous Peoples Day

Celebrated on June 21st, the summer solstice, this is a day to acknowledge and celebrate the rich culture of the Indigenous People of Canada. This year it was also the day selected to award the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee medals. These medals are given to individuals that have made a contribution to the province, with a strong focus on community mindedness, service and reconciliation. Heritage Winnipeg's Executive Director, Cindy Tugwell, was honoured by the Southern Chiefs' Organization and the Province of Manitoba with said medal. What a gratifying acknowledgment of a career dedicated to serving the community!

38th Annual Preservation Awards

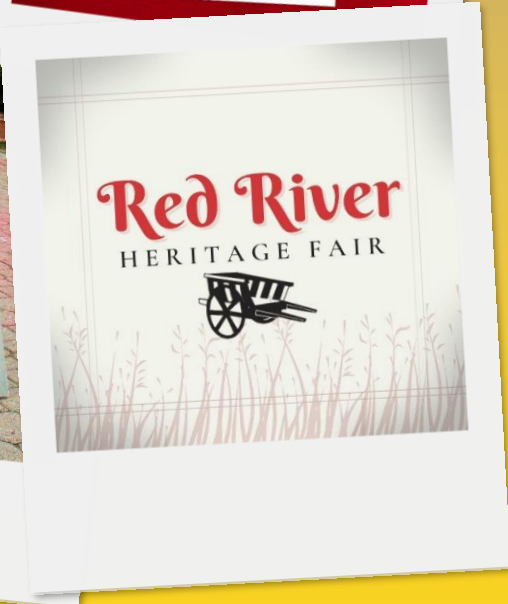
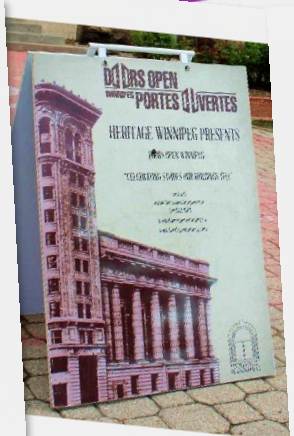
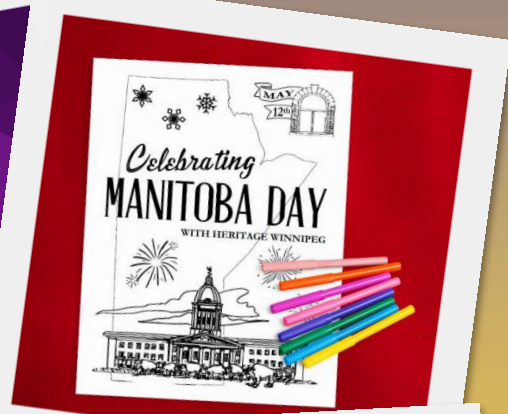
Heritage Winnipeg's 38th Annual Preservation Awards took place on April 17th, 2024 at the Millennium Centre, honouring the people and projects that went above and beyond in the conservation and advancement of Winnipeg's built heritage. Nine awards were handed out to exceptional heritage projects and individuals. It was a wonderful evening showcasing the hard work and dedication that makes Winnipeg a vibrant and sustainable city, filled with history and character. Thank you to all the nominees for your dedication to the protection, restoration and conservation of Winnipeg's built heritage and to the members of our 2024 Judging Committee for your invaluable insights. Congratulations to all the deserving winners!

Doors Open Winnipeg 2024

It was another year of post-pandemic growth with 70 buildings, events and tours participating in Doors Open Winnipeg 2024 on May 25th and 26th! There were ten new options to choose from, opening new doors to history and culture. At the same time, crowds flocked to see their returning favourites with attendance numbers continuing to rise. It was an amazing weekend enjoying Winnipeg's building heritage treasures, cultural institutions and historic streetscapes. Thank you to all the generous sponsors, hosts and volunteers that made this FREE event possible, helping grow the public's appreciation for our priceless built heritage.

Event Highlights

Heritage Winnipeg's goal is to showcase Winnipeg's spectacular built heritage in innovative ways that captivate the public while partnering with like minded organizations that work to promote vibrant communities. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our events this past year!

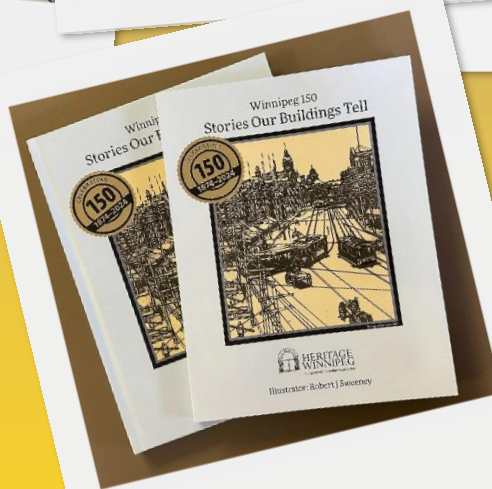


Project Updates

Heritage Winnipeg continues to pursue our long term projects, remaining committed to ensuring all types of heritage are conserved and celebrated.



Thank you!



Thank you!

PROJECT UPDATES

The Millennium Centre

Heritage Winnipeg continues full time management of the grand former Bank of Commerce building at 389 Main Street; learning, adapting, conserving and allowing it to contribute to the community. Weddings, films, fundraisers and events of all kinds, public and private, have used the building's elegant spaces throughout the year.

As we persist in our goal to redevelop the building in its entirety, there were setbacks and successes. It was very disappointing to receive news in August 2023 that the building did not receive any redevelopment funding in the last and final intake for the provincial Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund for large capital projects. Unfortunately, we also were unsuccessful in receiving any funding from The Winnipeg Foundation grant intake for capital grants over \$100,000, which would have been used for rehabilitation of the historic elevator, the first major step towards occupancy on the upper floors. We take our job as stewards of this landmark heritage building very seriously, and we are doing our best to ensure it is properly maintained and conserved so it can serve the community for decades to come.

Streetcar 356

The rehabilitation of Streetcar 356, Winnipeg last known wooden streetcar, had been on pause since the closure of the Winnipeg Railway Museum, its home, in December 2021 due to code issues. In August 2023, Via Rail Canada finished repairs the roof and windows of the Winnipeg Railway Museum, located on track 1 and 2 Union Station at 123 Main Street, and addressing fire code issues. This good news was followed by the September 2023 announcement of \$25 million being spent on upgrading the 1912 railway station and reaffirmation of the importance of the building by VIA Rail Canada. We are excited to see a hub of activity as work on Streetcar 356 restarts and the museum progresses towards reopening. Additionally, Heritage Winnipeg would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Barry Biglow, a long time and generous financial supporter of the Streetcar 356 Rehabilitation project!

Digital Museums Canada: DiscoverIT Architectural Website

Work continues on finishing this bilingual interactive website project, created in collaboration with Pattern Interactive. We are confident that it will be both engaging and educational, encouraging people to learn about Winnipeg's built heritage while giving them the tools to discover the built heritage in their own backyard. Thank you to Digital Museums Canada for funding this project!

Winnipeg 150: Stories Our Buildings Tell

On February 6th, 2024, it was a packed house at McNally Robinson's Grant Park location as Heritage Winnipeg officially launched our newest publication, *Winnipeg 150: Stories Our Buildings Tell*. This beautiful book **commemorating Winnipeg's 150th anniversary** is packed with 150 original illustrations of the city's handsome heritage buildings by local artist Robert Sweeney and is accompanied by the fascinating stories they tell. A collaboration between Heritage Winnipeg and Sweeney, with financial support from the Thomas Sill Foundation and the Mayor of Winnipeg, the book spent six weeks on **McNally Robinson's bestseller list!** It is a great souvenir of this sesquicentennial – and still available! All proceeds help support Heritage Winnipeg.

ADVOCACY UPDATES

Brookside Cemetery

In November 2023, the 1878 Brookside Cemetery at 3001 Notre Dame Avenue was designated a National Historic Site by the Government of Canada. Protected by a municipal heritage designation since 2022, this latest recognition acknowledges the site as illustrating a defining moment in Canada's history, telling our diverse and complex story. The cemetery is one of the oldest and largest garden cemeteries in Western Canada and hosts one of Canada's largest Fields of Honour. Well deserved!

CentrePlan 2050

On May 24th, 2023 Heritage Winnipeg's Executive Director attended the *CentrePlan 2050: Building Downtown* stakeholder's workshop hosted by the City of Winnipeg. *CentrePlan 2050* is intended to guide investment in the parks, streets, and buildings of downtown, transforming its appearance. Stakeholder input was sought to help the City of Winnipeg create guidelines for how to design these infill structures and outdoor spaces. Discussions and input will continue throughout 2023, and Heritage Winnipeg will continue to stay involved in this process, advocating for built heritage conservation.

Downtown Hudson's Bay Company Building

In September 2023 Heritage Winnipeg's Executive Director and President were pleased to receive a special invitation by the Southern Chiefs Organization to a behind the scenes tour of the downtown Hudson's Bay Company Building at 450 Portage Avenue. It was very rewarding to witness first hand what progress is being made on this massive redevelopment project. Currently the clean up is well underway, ahead of schedule and on budget. Those in the heritage community are very excited to see this landmark building's Indigenous led project well on its way to becoming an integral part of the downtown community and our city. Thank you to the Southern Chiefs' Organization and their staff for providing this in-depth tour, and for their commitment to partnerships, reconciliation and community revitalization!

Crescentwood

Heritage Winnipeg was thrilled when Crescentwood-Enderton Park became Winnipeg's second Heritage Conservation District on March 23, 2023 after years of advocating alongside the community. We continue to work with residents to ensure future development in the neighbourhood is respectful of the historic surroundings.



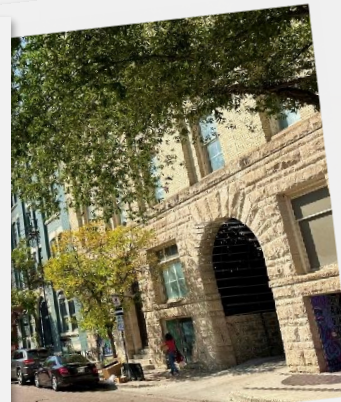
Advocacy Updates

Heritage Winnipeg speaks on behalf historic buildings in crisis, provides resources and support for building owners, government, media and the public, and collaborates with like minded organizations.



Advocacy Updates

Heritage Winnipeg believes that protecting our community's built heritage fosters healthy, unique, dynamic, environmentally friendly and fiscally viable neighbourhoods that we can all be proud to call home for generations to come!



ADVOCACY UPDATES

Exchange District National Historic Site

On November 15th, 2023, Heritage Winnipeg's Executive Director attended a presentation by the Exchange District BIZ on the Exchange District Community Investment Strategy. We applaud this long-term strategy for including the rehabilitation of built heritage and additional infill, but are still concerned about many ongoing issues – including safety, gentrification and unpredictable funding - not being attended to.

Heritage Winnipeg is pleased to see the Gregg Building Lofts at 52 Albert Street open its doors to tenants, adding vibrancy to the neighbourhood. The owner persevered through many obstacles to redevelop this 1903 building in an historically sensitive manner and has been wonderfully generous in welcoming the public to tour the project, even participating in Doors Open Winnipeg 2024. It is a real success story that we were happy to support.

Meanwhile, Heritage Winnipeg continues to support the nomination of this National Historic Site as a Heritage Conservation District. We want to make the Exchange District a more desirable and safer place to work, live and play!

Kennedy House

With no provincial built heritage organization, Heritage Winnipeg partnered with the Kennedy House Renewal Committee to advocate for the conservation of Kennedy House in St. Andrews. Phase II of the “Kennedy House Restoration Project” began in February 2024, taking several months to complete. It included upgrading the building to meet fire and safety codes, and was primarily focused on the main floor to ensure the public can visit the building in the future. We are delighted to see this project moving forward and are hopeful that phase III will begin later in 2024. This rare 1866 Gothic Revival house is an important part of Manitoba's history that deserves to be conserved and celebrated!

Vacant Buildings

After advocating for the City of Winnipeg to hold vacant building owners more accountable for the fire risk they pose to the community, Heritage Winnipeg was pleased when the vacant and derelict buildings bylaw was updated in 2023. The new legislation allows for expedited demolition permits, increased fees, more security requirements at problematic buildings and more bylaw enforcement officers.

While this is a step in the right direction, Heritage Winnipeg would also like to see the city working to encourage vacant heritage building owners to redevelop or sell. Buildings like the Rubin Block at 270 Morley Avenue have been sitting empty for many years, with its potential to serve the community as much needed affordable housing and retail space going to waste. We will continue to advocate for vacant buildings to be fully occupied once again, functioning as a vibrant part of their neighbourhoods.

Westminster United Church

Structural problems in the roof of Westminster United Church at 745 Westminster Avenue caused the 1912 building to be temporarily closed at the end of November 2022. Unfortunately, it did not receive any funding through the 2023 intake for the provincial Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund for Large Capital Projects. The funds would have been used to repair structural problems in the roof of the sanctuary, which caused its closure. Despite this set back, the rest of the building continues to be used by the community, although at a greatly reduced capacity. While continuing to seek a solution for the sanctuary, the congregation remains a dedicated steward of their 1912 building, with general repairs and maintenance continuing, and the closed sanctuary being heated and ventilated during the winter.

Heritage Winnipeg

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Heritage Winnipeg is funded in part by the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba.

