

Heritage Winnipeg's **ANNUAL REPORT**

2024-2025

INCORPORATED 1978

Land Acknowledgment

Heritage Winnipeg acknowledges that the land on which we gather is Treaty 1 territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Inninewak, Anishinewak, Dakota Oyate, and Denesuline Peoples; and the homeland of the Red River Métis.

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello friends of Heritage Winnipeg. Another year has come and is almost gone. We have been busy as usual. In May we had our annual Doors Open Winnipeg event. Again it was a success because of Winnipegggers' and visitors' participation. We had nearly 19,000 people attend and take part in the 68 buildings, tours, and events that were offered. The Trolley Bus Tour was back and was booked solid in six and a half minutes! Thank you Winnipeg. Don't forget to mark your calendar for Doors Open Winnipeg 2026 - May 30th and 31st.

Again the movie industry has used Winnipeg as a location. Many have been hard at it all through summer. We are unique. Our Exchange District is the only one of its kind in all of North America. We have buildings from 1880 all in a very small area and that saves the movie makers money. Travel and re-location is easier when you only have to move a mile, rather than miles and miles.

We have to be adamant and responsible people with the Exchange District. We need to make sure that we keep it safe from being redeveloped in the wrong way. No new structure of glass and steel will replace the income we get from the movie industry. Let's keep that in mind at all times. Heritage Winnipeg has the mandate to secure the safety of the Exchange District and make sure that development is in the best interest of the area, and conforms to the historical integrity of it.

We all are members of Heritage Winnipeg because of our love for Winnipeg and its rich heritage. We must continue and grow that love to be proud of where we live, where we came from, and the future of our city. I thank you for your support and hope that you will continue with us as the years go by.

Regards,



Greg Agnew

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Greg Agnew

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cindy Tugwell

YOUNG CANADA WORKS AT BUILDING CAREERS IN HERITAGE INTERNSHIP

Lovissa Wiens

HERITAGE OFFICER

Cheryl Mann

YOUNG CANADA WORKS IN HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS STUDENT

Brooke Park

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024-2025, the Province of Manitoba contributed \$22,300 to Heritage Winnipeg, and our operational grant from the City of Winnipeg was \$40,000. Thank you for your support!

Heritage Winnipeg would also like to thank The Winnipeg Foundation for their much needed financial support. 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 along with our generous donors, including those who participated in June's Great Canadian Giving Challenge.

Complimentary partner organizations also provided invaluable assistance throughout the year, as do all our selfless volunteers. It is with your generosity that Heritage Winnipeg's important work can continue!

Charity Registration # 11895 6572 RR0001

Community Engagement

We strive to share our passion for built heritage conservation through presentations, tours, blogs, projects, social media, partnerships, mentoring, our resource centre and more. It is important for us to build trust, nurture future heritage advocates and ensure our goals are aligned with the community's needs.

Shared Success

We collaborate with community stakeholders; providing our facilities, knowledge and support to help their heritage causes.

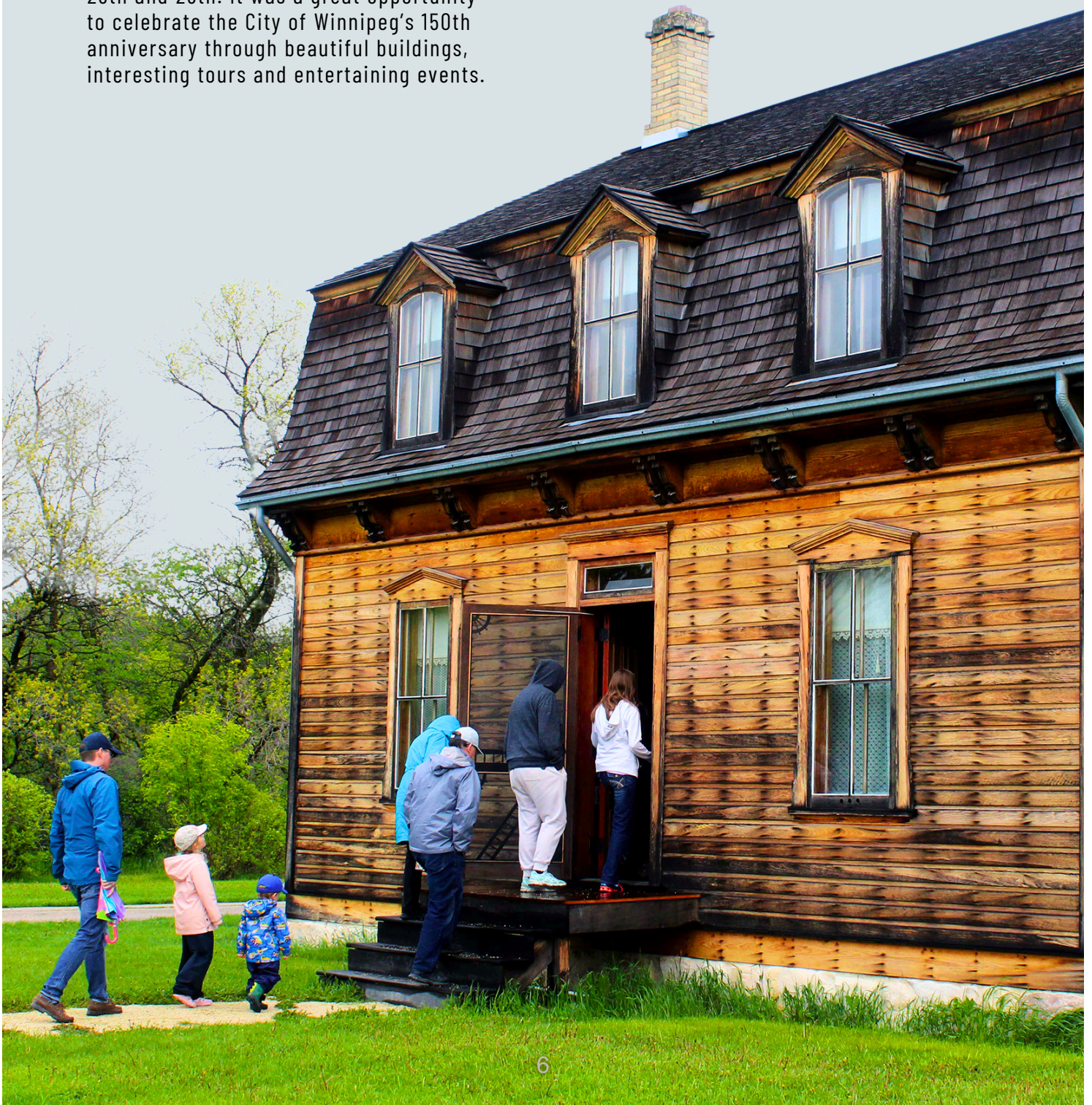


Doors Open Winnipeg 2024

A little rain could not stop the crowds from coming out and enjoying Heritage Winnipeg's Doors Open Winnipeg on May 25th and 26th. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the City of Winnipeg's 150th anniversary through beautiful buildings, interesting tours and entertaining events.

Free Community Event

Enthusiastic volunteers once again outdid themselves welcoming the public, helping make this free event possible!



DOORS OPEN WINNIPEG 2024

It was another year of post-pandemic growth for Doors Open Winnipeg 2024, with attendance numbers continuing to rise. There were over 60 events participating that covered a century and a half of history, from the heart of the city all the way out to tranquil Birds Hill Park! There were returning favourites, award winners and ten exciting new entries with something for everyone to enjoy. Hard-working hosts were ready to share the story of Winnipeg's residents and buildings, bringing history to life in new and engaging ways.

The scavenger hunt was back for the fourth year, with kids spotting the Golden Boy all across the city, and fun selfies were posted to enter the social media contest. Guests also voted in the 14th annual People's Choice Awards, with the Vaughan Street Jail, Holy Trinity Anglican Church and Gregg Building Lofts chosen as the winners.

This year you could also purchase a copy of Heritage Winnipeg's best selling new book, *Winnipeg 150: Stories Our Buildings Tell*, at several event locations. Filled with charming original illustrations by local artist Robert Sweeney, this commemorative publication was a wonderful souvenir for Winnipeg's 150th anniversary!

It was an amazing family-friendly weekend event discovering Winnipeg's past through open buildings, fun events and exclusive tours with architectural, historical, cultural, and social significance. Doors Open Winnipeg is truly one of the premiere, cannot miss events in Winnipeg during the spring, with all the positive feedback we received in agreement.

What a great way to celebrate the stories our buildings tell!

THANK YOU!

Heritage Winnipeg would like to give a sincere thank you to all the generous volunteers, hosts, and sponsors of Doors Open Winnipeg 2024. Their contributions made this FREE event possible, helping grow the public's appreciation for our priceless built heritage.

We would also like to say a special thank you to Heritage Winnipeg's President, Greg Agnew, for his endless dedication to volunteering for this event!

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Sponsors



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Sponsors

**ALPHA
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PIZZA HOTLINE

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

38TH ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS

Heritage Winnipeg's 38th Annual Preservation Awards were held on April 17th, 2024 at the Millennium Centre. The event celebrated those who went above and beyond in the conservation and restoration of Winnipeg's built heritage. Nine awards were handed out to exceptional heritage projects, people and organizations. Thank you to all the nominees, award winners and judging committee!

MANITOBA DAY

Heritage Winnipeg celebrated Manitoba Day on May 12th, 2024 with our FREE digital kids activity booklet, including colouring sheets by talented local artist Robert Sweeney!

RED RIVER HERITAGE FAIR

Heritage Winnipeg attended the Red River Heritage Fair on May 2nd, 2024 at the University of Winnipeg's Duckworth Centre. It was a celebration of cultural diversity, new perspectives, and exciting connections between the past and present. Our President, Greg Agnew, volunteered as a judge and handed three awards sponsored by Heritage Winnipeg. Congratulations to our winners!

HISTORIC PLACES DAYS

The National Trust for Canada's Historic Places Days took place from July 10th to 17th, 2024, providing a platform for individuals and organisations to showcase Canada's complex and contentious history and heritage. Heritage Winnipeg partnered with the Exchange District BIZ to offer an exclusive tour of the Millennium Centre as part of the event, introducing a new audience to the beautiful heritage building.

SHOWCASE OUR HERITAGE

Heritage Winnipeg received 19 submissions to our summer 2024 art contest, "Showcase Our Heritage". Artwork had to be inspired by Winnipeg's built heritage with winners receiving prize packs donated by Exchange District businesses. Congratulations to the winners and thank you all the entrants and prize donors!

LOCAL ARTIST SHOWCASE

Thank you to everyone who participated in Heritage Winnipeg's "Local Artist Showcase" on November 1st, 2024 at the Millennium Centre. A part of *First Fridays*, the event included art displays and two experienced artists as guest speakers, all while celebrating the intersection of arts and heritage. The event was a great success!

BOOK SALE

Heritage Winnipeg hosted our first-ever book sale on February 7th, 2025, at our office in the Hammond Building as part of *First Fridays*. New and used books were for sale, along with Heritage Winnipeg merchandise. Thanks to everyone who contributed books to the sale, made a purchase, or just stopped by to learn about Heritage Winnipeg!

DOORS OPEN WINNIPEG 2025

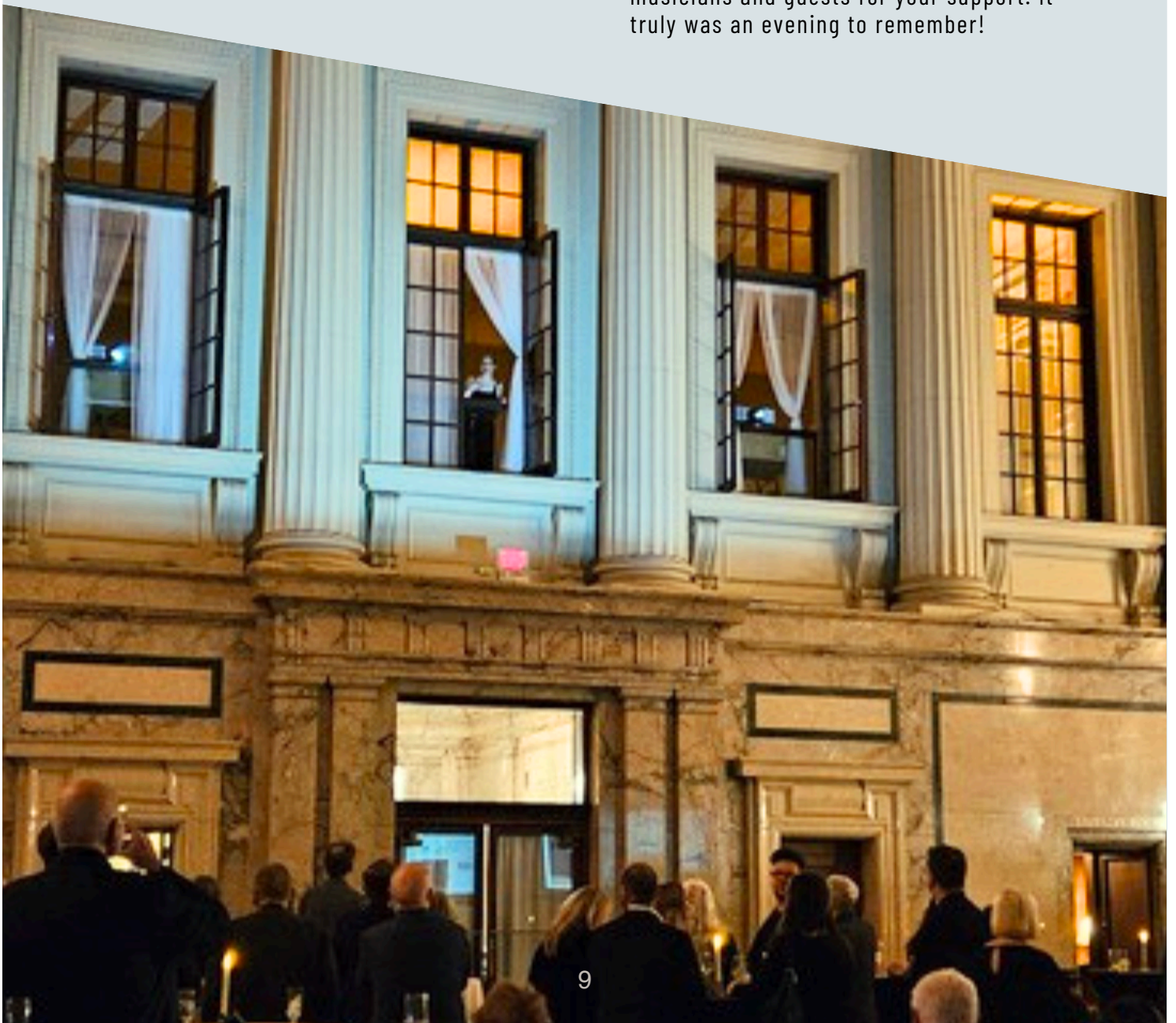
A great time was had by all at this year's Doors Open Winnipeg on May 24th and 25th. In our 22nd year of celebrating the stories our building tell, the weather was fabulous, events were exciting, attendance numbers were up and the feedback was positive. We would like to give a sincere thank you to all the visitors, volunteers, hosts, and sponsors that helped make this FREE event possible. See you next year on May 30th and 31st, 2026!

Event Highlights

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

2024 Fall Fundraiser

On November 8th, 2024, Heritage Winnipeg hosted our first in person fundraiser post-pandemic. Celebrating Winnipeg 150, "Under The Dome" was a wonderful evening with live entertainment, special drinks and delicious food all under the dome of the magnificent Millennium Centre. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the sponsors, fundraising committee, volunteers, musicians and guests for your support. It truly was an evening to remember!

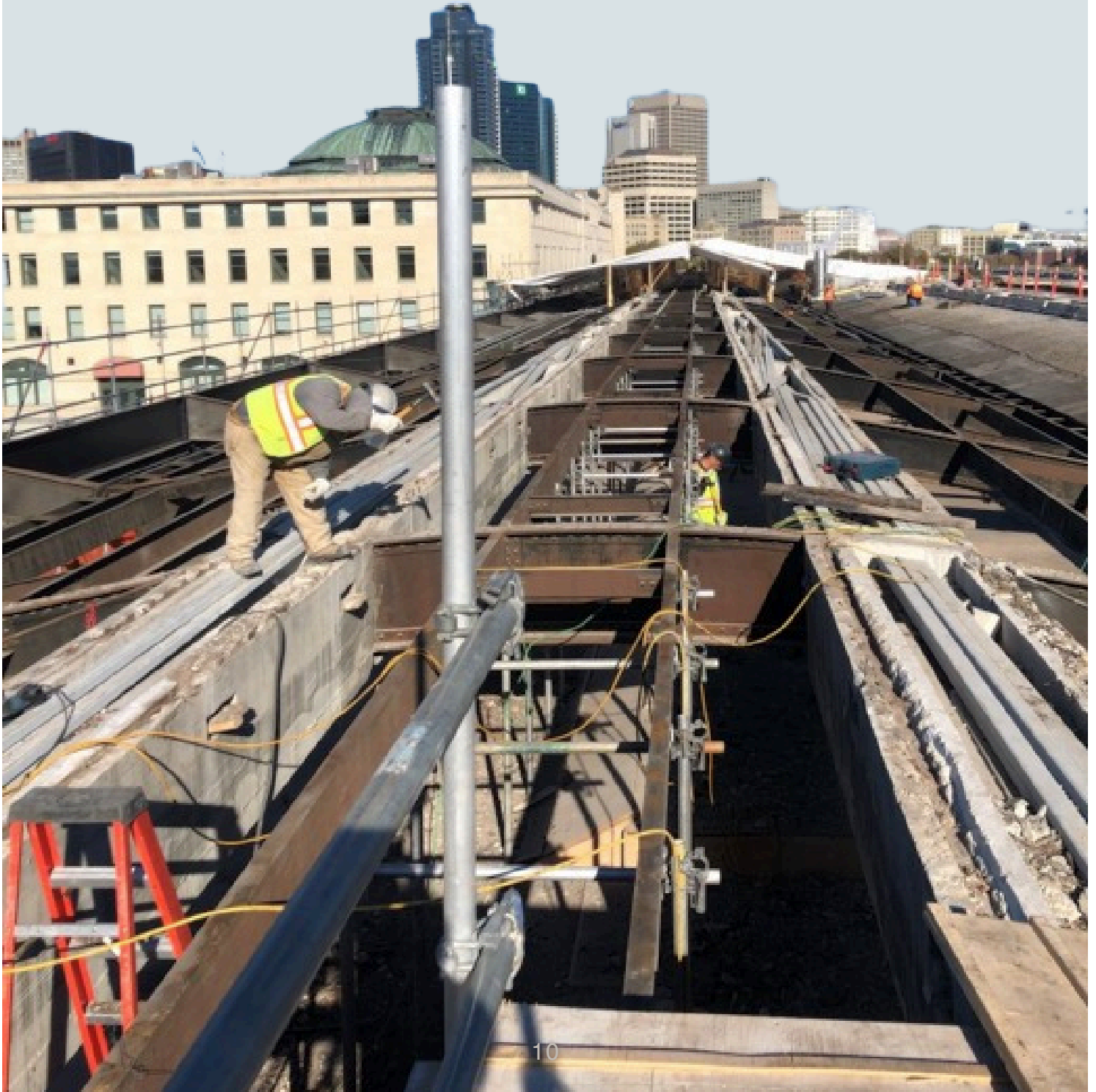


Project Updates

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

Winnipeg Railway Museum

The Winnipeg Railway Museum in the historic Union Station at 123 Main Street has been closed since December 2021 while the building undergoes upgrades.



PROJECT UPDATES

THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE

Heritage Winnipeg continues with full time management of the former Bank of Commerce building at 389 Main Street, working hard to conserve it and allow it to keep serving its community. Weddings, films, fundraisers, and all kinds of public and private events have used the building's elegant spaces throughout the year. We take our role as stewards of this building very seriously, working tirelessly to ensure its past, present, and future are all well cared for.

As we persist in our goal to redevelop the building in its entirety, progress has been made. Historic door hardware matching that of the building was discovered at The Old House Revival Company by our president, Greg Agnew. The antique store kindly donated the hardware to the Millennium Centre which had a missing door handle and an old key that fit the lock!

In spring 2025 it was confirmed that the original hardwood floors of the mezzanine level of the Millennium Centre would be refinished. Thank you to the Thomas Sill Foundation, the City of Winnipeg's Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund, and the Province of Manitoba Heritage Grants Program for helping make this project possible.

Winnipeg 150: Stories Our Buildings Tell

Heritage Winnipeg's beautiful book commemorating Winnipeg's 150th anniversary continues to sell well at bookstores around the city. Officially released on February 6th, 2024, *Winnipeg 150: Stories Our Buildings Tell* is packed with 150 original illustrations of the city's handsome heritage buildings and is accompanied by the fascinating stories they tell. Heritage Winnipeg's President and book contributor, Greg Agnew, along with the book's illustrator, local artist Robert Sweeney, continue to holding book signings at various events. Its popularity goes to show how much Winnipeggers are interested in their history!

STREETCAR 356

The rehabilitation of Streetcar 356, Winnipeg's 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. On June 18th, 2024, the museum, as the Midwestern Rail Association, announced the completion of a 25-year agreement with VIA Rail Canada. The agreement will see the museum remain in Union Station at 123 Main Street. With a new roof, windows and lighting already in place and more construction in the works, the museum hopes to reopen to the public in 2025.

With its home secure, work on Streetcar 356 is expected to resume. Volunteers are gathering to make plans and continue the rehabilitation project. A huge thank you to everyone who has persevered, keeping this project going by donating funds, material, time and knowledge!

Digital Museums Canada: DiscoverIT Architectural Website

DiscoverIT officially launched on December 5th, 2024! Created in partnership with Pattern Interactive and funded by Digital Museums Canada, this fully bilingual immersive website invites you to learn about historic architecture in your community while celebrating Winnipeg's and Manitoba's built heritage. It has been a labour of love for everyone involved, working hard for many years to make the website come to fruition. We appreciate all the wonderful feedback we have received from everyone who has visited the website, and we continue to make adjustments to improve the user experience. Phenomenal architecture awaits, come discover it at mydiscoverit.ca!

ADVOCACY UPDATES

BANK OF MONTREAL WAR MONUMENT

The statue of a World War I soldier in front of the Bank of Montreal building at 335 Main Street will soon have a new home. With impending construction and the opening of the intersection to pedestrians, the statue needed to be moved and so was donated to the City of Winnipeg by its owners, the Manitoba Métis Federation. After consultation with the Royal Canadian Legion, it was decided that the statue will move to the Brookside Cemetery, a National Historic Site, and the final resting place of more than 10,000 Veterans, Service Members and War Heroes. Heritage Winnipeg is pleased that everyone involved has taken a respectful approach to finding a worthy home for this very important piece of our community's heritage.

BLEAK HOUSE

The exterior of Bleak House at 1637 Main Street is in poor condition and continues to deteriorate after many years of neglect. We have discussed the urgency of the repairs needed with the owners of this historic property, the City of Winnipeg. We are hopeful that the city will take the necessary steps to rectify the situation as responsible stewards of our community's heritage. Heritage Winnipeg and our partner organizations will continue to monitor the situation and advocate for proper maintenance of this important built heritage.

CHAPMAN SCHOOL

On January 8th, 2025, demolition of the 1944 Chapman School at 3707 Roblin Boulevard began. Heritage Winnipeg had been working with the community for years to help preserve the Chapman School site and ensure it receives its due respect for its long and complex history. On March 19th, 2025, the City of Winnipeg approved the plans for the property to be redeveloped with five condominium buildings. We are disappointed the building was not adaptively reused and historically significant community green space is being lost.

GRANITE CURLING CLUB

On February 27th, 2025, city council passed a motion to rezone and subdivide the west parking lot of the city-owned Granite Curling Club at 22 Granite Way. This vote makes way for the planned construction of an 111-unit residential building. The Granite Curling Club is concerned that the loss of parking space will negatively impact the non-profit club's sustainability. Heritage Winnipeg hopes that further dialogue with the city and club will help find a mutually beneficial solution, allowing for the construction of much-needed affordable housing while ensuring the future viability of the historic building.

GREGG BUILDING

The Gregg Building Lofts at 52 Albert Street officially opened on October 11th, 2024. It was a wonderful evening celebrating all the hard work that went into adaptively reusing the historic Gregg Building as 31 unique apartments, and further contributing to a vibrant Exchange District neighbourhood. Heritage Winnipeg has worked hard with the building owner over the past few years to help see this project progress and is thrilled to see the completion of this wonderful residential conversion!

KENNEDY HOUSE

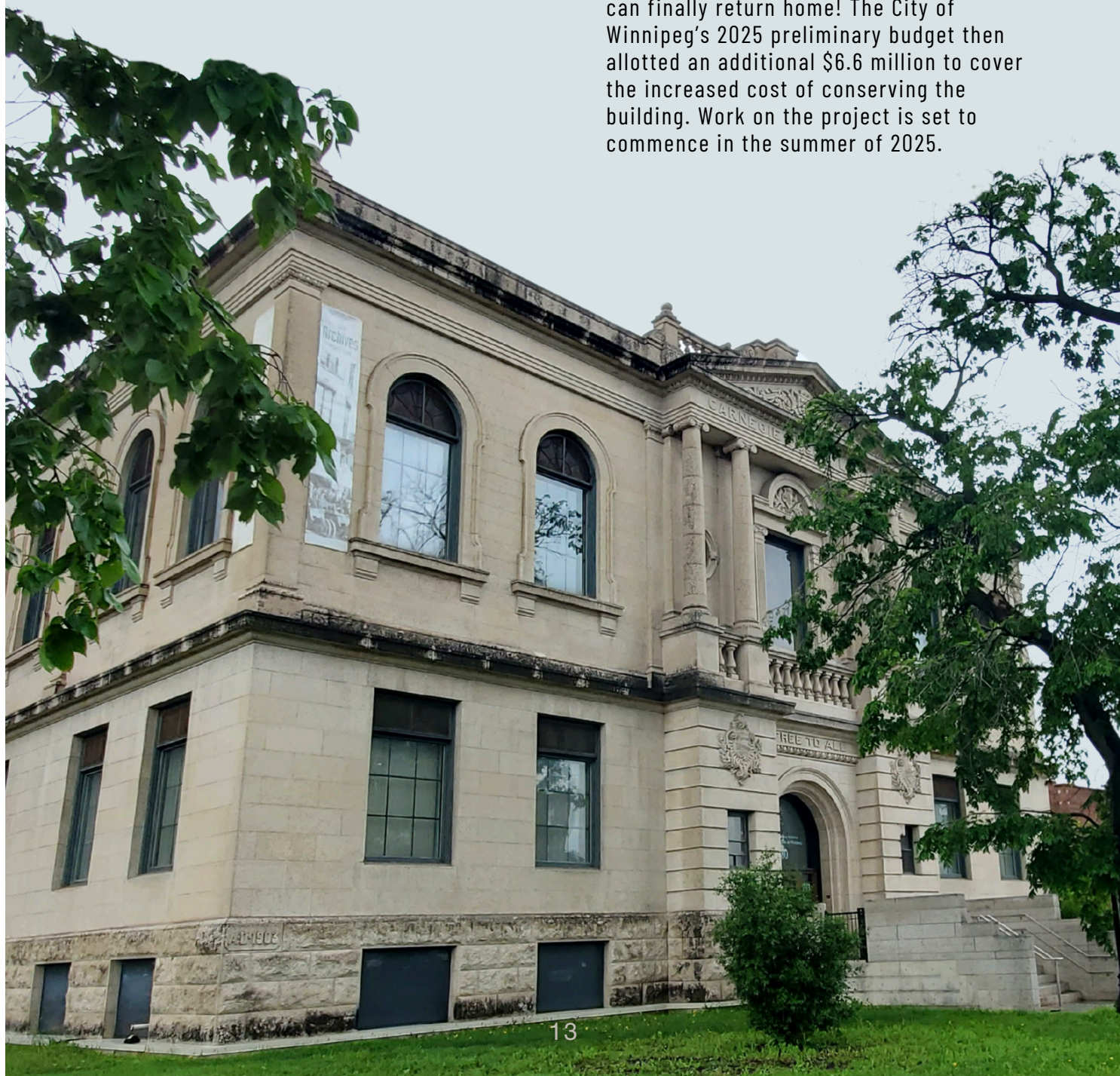
Restoration of Kennedy House in St. Andrews is set to be completed in spring 2025, although asbestos abatement may cause delays. The building has been undergoing critical structural and conservation work by the Province of Manitoba since December 2021. The Kennedy House Renewal Committee hopes that if a teahouse reopens in the home, the business can help subsidize Métis art, culture, and heritage programming in the remaining space. Fantastic progress!

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.

Carnegie Library

As part of Winnipeg's 150 celebrations, Mayor Scott Gillingham announced that the City of Winnipeg was officially committing over \$12 million to the rehabilitation of the Carnegie Library building at 380 William Avenue so the City of Winnipeg Archives can finally return home! The City of Winnipeg's 2025 preliminary budget then allotted an additional \$6.6 million to cover the increased cost of conserving the building. Work on the project is set to commence in the summer of 2025.



ADVOCACY UPDATES

LEMAY FOREST

On January 10th, 2025, the Manitoba Historical Society, Heritage Winnipeg and the Manitoba Archaeological Society published a media release calling for an immediate and complete moratorium on any incursion, damage, deforestation or alteration of the grounds of the Lemay Forest in St. Norbert for redevelopment. This sensitive historical, cultural and natural site, likely containing unidentified mass graves, must be protected with long-term conservation plans put in place.

ODD FELLOWS HOME

In spring 2024, the Odd Fellows Home at 4025 Roblin Boulevard was reopened. Now called "The Roblin", the building was leased by Siloam Mission and features 32 supportive housing units for seniors and people experiencing homelessness. It is a great example of adaptive reuse of a heritage building!

PANTAGES PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

On January 15th, 2025, City of Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham announced a proposal for the Pantages Playhouse Theatre at 180 Market Avenue to receive \$837,500 over four years through the Downtown Arts Capital Fund. Vacant since 2019, reopening the storied vaudeville theatre would support the arts community and also help revitalize Winnipeg's downtown, all through heritage preservation.

POLSON HOUSE

The demolition of Polson House at 94 Cathedral Avenue began on February 19th, 2025. It was with careful consideration and heavy hearts that Heritage Winnipeg and the Seven Oaks Historical Society conceded to the demolition of the vacant home, which had been irreparably damaged due to lack of maintenance. The timing of the demolition came as a surprise, with there having been no discussion on what could be salvaged. We are reaching out to the owner to try to create a plaque commemorating the property's historic significance.

RUBIN BLOCK

The Rubin Block at 270 Morley Avenue has been purchased by the Fisher River Cree First Nation to be rehabilitated as 13 residential units and a community resource space. Heritage Winnipeg has worked closely with members of the Fort Rouge community for many years advocating to protect this undesignated building, fearing that it would be demolished. We look forward to seeing the Rubin Block once again become vibrant community asset!

PORTAGE & MAIN REVITALIZATION STUDY

Heritage Winnipeg has participated in several stakeholder consultations as part of the City of Winnipeg's Portage & Main Revitalization Study. On March 21st, 2024, city council approved the recommended design for the intersection, which includes street-level pedestrian crossings. This is a very important issue pertaining to our downtown's renaissance, as the opening of the intersection will impact many historic properties and will help create better connections downtown, helping the Exchange District National Historic Site and The Forks National Historic Site to flourish.

HERITAGE DESIGNATIONS

On July 4th, 2024, there were six new additions to the City of Winnipeg's List of Historical Resources: the Customs Examining Warehouse (145 McDermot Avenue), the Fort Garry Library (1360 Pembina Highway), the St. Boniface Public Library - Coronation Park Branch (120 Eugenie Street), the St. Boniface Public Library - Provencher Park Branch (255 de la Cathedrale Avenue), the Kildonan Park - Peguis Pavilion (2015 Main Street) and the Boy with the Boot Statue (460 Assiniboine Park Drive). On February 19th, 2025, two more buildings were added to the list: the Centennial Fountain (311 Broadway) and the Midland Railway Building - Freight House (200 Isabel Street). This is great progress in the protection of municipally owned heritage, including modernist architecture.

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!

Holy Trinity Anglican Church

In spring 2024, it was announced that Holy Trinity Anglican Church at 256 Smith Street is in need of approximately \$7 million in repairs. Heritage Winnipeg was unaware of the problems and tried to reach out to the owners, but with no success. We will continue to reach out, offering to help find solutions for repairs and create a sustainable business plan.



Heritage Winnipeg

509-63 Albert Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1G4
P: 204-942-2663 F: 204-942-2094
E: info@heritagewinnipeg.com
WWW.HERITAGEWINNIPEG.COM
Home of the Heritage Winnipeg Blog!
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Heritage Winnipeg is funded in part by the
City of Winnipeg and the Province of
Manitoba.



Upcoming Events

Fall Fundraiser: Magician & The Muse

October 3rd, 2025

heritagewinnipeg.com/2025-fall-fundraiser

40th Annual Preservation Awards

Call for nominations!

heritagewinnipeg.com/apa-nominate

Doors Open Winnipeg

May 30th & 31st, 2026

doorsopenwinnipeg.ca