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THE FORKS NORTH PORTAGE PARTNERSHIP 2010 Annual Report



















Message from Chair

As we move forward to 2011, we are pleased to provide our Annual Report, a summary of our activities over this last year.

As you read this report you will note that while this year was a busy one, including the introduction of our plans for the coming decade and one of the biggest programming years ever at The Forks.

The Forks North Portage and its Board are excited to play an integral role in so many of the projects that will continue to shape our downtown as a whole, both at The Forks and in our North Portage mandate area. As part of our mission, we will continue to encourage activities for people in downtown through public and private partnerships.

I would like, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to express our sincere thanks to the countless individuals and organizations whose efforts helped us move forward with our plans, both in the past and today. Of special note, a thank you to our shareholders; the Honourable Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety, the Honourable Ron Lemieux, Minister of Local Government, and His Worship Mayor Sam Katz. Another thank you to our sister organizations, CentreVenture and Downtown Biz.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Board, I would like to thank our senior management team led by Jim August and all the support staff for their efforts, diligence and commitment. It is because of your efforts that we all look forward to the future.

Rick Bel Chair





Message from CEO

It's been a good year for The Forks North Portage. In the spring we completed our 10 year concept and financial plan "BUILDING CONECTIONS 2010 – 2020" and carried out a series of public consultations and open houses. The presentations were well received and the personal discussions with the 300 plus visitors confirmed to our team that we are on the right track with our plans. We were fortunate to be joined by many of our partners at The Forks including the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR), Friends of Upper Fort Garry (FUFG), Manitoba Children's Museum, Parks Canada and Variety the Children's Charity. The level of energy and commitment by these groups is invigorating. Their projects help to complete the original vision of The Forks as a meeting place, and contribute to its reputation as somewhat of an icon on the prairies.

The CMHR is making great progress on construction, beginning to tower above our downtown. It is slated to open in 2012. FUFG are completing their plan and we will see the heritage park and interpretive centre become reality during the summer of 2011. Manitoba Children's Museum just closed its doors for a full overhaul of all of its galleries and the Parks Canada-Variety Club Heritage Park is nearing completion. Both are expected to be open to delight families next summer.

Our programming year was one like we have never seen. We welcomed HRH Queen Elizabeth, danced under the canopy, put the WSO on a barge, hosted the monumental Truth and Reconciliation Commission and watched the Olympic Torch run on to our site. Our winter programming has become one our most exciting success stories along with the progress we are making on reduction of our carbon footprint throughout The Forks site.

Portage Avenue is experiencing signs of progress. A Portage Avenue plan has evolved under the leadership of CentreVenture with participation and input from downtown groups including The Forks North Portage, Downtown BIZ, University of Winnipeg, Economic Development Winnipeg, City of Winnipeg and Government of Manitoba. It is a plan that builds on existing strengths and identifies key development opportunities for entertainment, office and retail. The downtown plan gives potential investors the confidence that comes with being part of a larger vision.

With the opening of Central Park this summer we have seen children and families come together to celebrate their neighbourhood. It highlights our belief that parks and public spaces that help build strong communities and is a great example of local citizens and government collaborating to build something very special.

It was obvious when we held our public consultations that Winnipeggers are feeling good about their community. And there is more to come to add to that feeling. We look forward to working will all of our partners over the next ten years.

CEO Jim August





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Mission-

The Forks - Shall be developed as a 'Meeting Place,' a special and distinct, all season gathering and recreational place at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, through a mixed use approach including recreational, historical and cultural, residential, and institutional and supportive commercial uses.

The Forks welcomes nearly 4 million visitors each year, earning it the distinction of being the province's most visited tourist attraction. It has been recognized as one of Canada's top 25 by Forbes Traveler.

The original idea of The Forks as the city's meeting place has certainly come to fruition and that theme runs through every aspect of operations, programming and future visions for the site.

Last year marked the 20th anniversary of The Forks and this year The Forks Market turns 20. Originally two stables, The Market was the lead project to open at The Forks and has been a popular meeting place ever since. This year, The Market returned to its roots, rebranding itself as a downtown neighbourhood grocery store to its area residents. A large celebration is planned for October 2009, with family programming and a gala honouring the seventeen original charter tenants.

While some come to The Forks to shop or dine, others come to play. Programming at The Forks is one of our hallmarks, with nearly 200 third party events hosted on the site each year.

The Signature Programming at The Forks is both innovative and exceptional. As with all programming undertaken by our organization, it is free to the public and provides an urban experience like no other in this city.

Winter programming has experienced the largest jump in attendance numbers. This year, the door counts used to track attendance were similar to those seen in July and August.

The Forks, working with Festival du Voyageur, broke our own Guinness World Record for the longest naturally frozen skating trail at 9.0 kilometres. The full length of the Trail was on the Assiniboine River due to frazil ice on the Red, allowing us to reach Assiniboine Park for the first time. The ensuing media earned The Forks a place on the national stage. The push for the extra length was made possible through Assiniboine Credit Union Rivertrail's sponsors as well as significant financial contributions from the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg.





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Arctic Glacier Winter Park continues to gain in popularity year after year. It's through partners like Arctic Glacier, Great West Life, Investors Group, Scotiabank, Omni Facilities and many others that we can offer quality programming and great winter attractions.

We continue to work closely with Festival du Voyageur in creating a winter long festival that will include Assiniboine Credit Union River Trail, Arctic Glacier Winter Park and Festival du Voyageur.

The format of Scotiabank Family New Year's Eve catered to families once again with one mid evening fireworks show featuring the world champion fireworks of Archangel. Visitor numbers remained steady at 22,000 and families came throughout the day to enjoy programming inside and out.

Our Summer Concert Series Live on the Scotiabank Stage once again allowed us to partner with others to bring large scale programming to the site. The series is anchored by a Signature event, Canada Day at The Forks presented by Rogers, and includes long standing concerts like Kidstock and the Folklorama kickoff. This year's series was rounded out with an all local Manitoba event put on by Manitoba Music. The addition of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra to the Canada Day presented by Rogers was spectacular, with fireworks beginning with the 1812 Overture.

Casinos of Winnipeg Dancing Under the Canopy and Casinos of Winnipeg Salsa Sundays continued to attract loyal fans, new dancers and spectators throughout the summer. These Signature Series have a loyal following with their format of live music paired with professional dance instruction and fun.

The Plaza, the site's popular skate plaza, plays an important role at The Forks. It was recognized this year by the Wall Street Journal as one of the world's top ten skateparks for its innovative design.

While no large scale competitions took place this year, there were many events within the park put on by third parties. Three weeks of Skate Camps at The Forks were once again generously supported by Investors Group.

The Inn at The Forks has built a solid clientele of conference, business and leisure travelers over its four year history. Their reputation has attracted local, national and international clients to their one-of-kind boutique hotel. This year they were awarded the 5 Key Eco Rating, one of only seven hotels in Canada to receive the green distinction.





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The Manitoba Children's Museum (MCM) and Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP) both continue to report strong attendance at their venues. This summer for the first time MTYP opened its doors to show Strike! The Musical by local playwright Danny Schur.

The flooding that began last winter, continued through this spring. The rapid rise of the river made clean up difficult and we were unsure if the Splash Dash Water Bus would be able to operate. All boats were in the water by early August.

As part of our commitment to find ways to reduce The Forks' carbon footprint to zero, we developed our own green initiative: Target Zero. This year, we have nearly completed the process of converting The Forks Market to a geothermal heating and cooling system.

Additional Target Zero initiatives included the installation of a bio-composting system, the successful conversion of waste fryer oil to bio-diesel to power site equipment and a full recycling program for The Forks Market. We continue to explore the possibility of a site-wide district geothermal system as well as solar loading ideas.

The Forks Foundation's mission is "to raise funds to support and enhance historical, cultural and public amenities at The Forks". Over the past year, The Foundation has received funds in support of public programs and donations from individuals purchasing a Forks bench to commemorate someone or recognize their business.

This past spring The Forks Foundation fundraiser Dine-About honoured Architectural Excellence. The Forks would not be what it is without the architectural and design expertise it has been privileged to utilize over the last twenty years. Fourteen members of the architectural community were recognized at the dinner in late May.

This year we were excited to begin work on new projects that will enhance our reputation as the city's meeting place by bringing new energy to The Forks.

The Forks is a site of historic significance. A group of dedicated volunteers known as The Forks Heritage Advisory Committee play a major role in facilitating projects and programs that interpret the heritage of the site. As new projects are introduced to the site, opportunities to integrate heritage themes within these developments will be considered

Parks Canada announced the Variety Heritage Interpretive Playground to be built on Parks land. The \$1 million dollar project is expected to be completed by October 2010. It was also announced





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this year that Parks Canada was the recipient of \$1 million in federal Infrastructure money to be used to revitalize lighting, wayfinding, site furniture, irrigation, the amphitheatre, and river walkway surface. All projects are to be completed by March 2011.

The Friends of Upper Fort Garry (FUFG) achieved their fundraising goal to acquire the site for redevelopment as a heritage park. The Forks North Portage Partnership is acting as Management Group for the Friends of Upper Fort Garry to oversee the development of the site. Demolition is set to begin on 100 Main Street in the coming weeks and open houses are slated early in 2010.

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the largest project ever undertaken at The Forks began construction this year. The only federal museum to be located outside of the national capital area is slated to open in April 2012.

The Forks is currently exploring the feasibility of an energy efficient "green" mixed use development across the street from the Museum on a surface parking lot that would include parking, residential and commercial and enhanced pubic spaces. Public consultation work and completion of master planning work is scheduled for completion in Spring 2010.





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The mission of The Forks North Portage Partnership (TFNP) is to act as a catalyst, encouraging activities for people in downtown through public and private partnerships and revitalization strategies; and to work to ensure financial self sufficiency.

Our role is unique. We are a development company, a parking manager, a theatre operator and stewards of the most popular tourist destination in the province among many other things.

In the past year, we presented our plans and vision for the next ten years of The Forks North Portage through a series of open houses and online. The Ten Year Concept Plan, "Building Connections: 2010-2020", will serve as the roadmap for our organization over the coming decade. It was well received in open houses this year at The Forks Market and Portage Place.

The next ten years hold great promise for the heart of our city. The Canadian Museum for Human Rights continues to take shape, housing on Portage Avenue is becoming a reality, the University of Winnipeg is expanding its boundaries, plans are in the works for a sports, hospitality and entertainment (SHED) district, the beautiful new Central Park has become the centre of its neighbourhood and many other projects, not yet known, will add to the rich fabric of our downtown.

North Portage - Shall be a centre of commerce, culture and living, integrated to form a diverse downtown community through a mixture of public uses including: residential, commercial and institutional, recreational, educational, and entertainment facilities.

We took over the management of our parking operation in-house five years ago, creating FNP Parking. We control 2500 parking spaces with 1500 on the North Portage site and our gross revenues were up 4.7% over last year.

We very closely monitor parking at The Forks, as demand is certainly increasing. The results of a parking study being conducted this year will allow us to meet the demands of the site while addressing increased need when the Canadian Museum for Human Rights opens in 2013.

TFNP also formed its own in-house security team two years ago. This has allowed TFNP to manage costs and increase overall effectiveness of our programs. Creating our own security team has had a number of positive benefits: a bike patrol program in the North Portage neighbourhood has been implemented, a Central Park neighbourhood committee was formed, a skatepark users group at The Forks brings together users to create a more secure environment and partnerships with the Winnipeg Police Service have garnered improved relationships.





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TFNP is both owner and operator of IMAX Theatre in Portage Place. This year we had great success with the Hollywood digitally remastered product. Avatar in 3D drew the largest crowds seen at IMAX in recent history. Strong titles throughout the rest of the year have increased walk up attendance. This summer we were fortunate to hire a new Theatre Director, Bong Villarba, who came to IMAX with over 20 years experience in the business. With his valuable experience, we continue to evaluate our film choices against educational content and mass appeal and are looking at other measures to improve the financial performance of the theatre.

TFNP played a role in the downtown weather protected walkway system by providing financial management services to the project. The expansion has connected the existing walkway system through to the Winnipeg Convention Centre with an overhead passage from cityplace to 330 St. Mary, above Hargrave Street, and in front of the Delta Hotel connecting to the existing links at the Convention Centre and 155 Carlton. The walkway expansion was funded by the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement, cityplace, the Delta Hotel, LaSalle Investment Management, and the City of Winnipeg.

We purchased 315 Portage Avenue, the Mitchell Copp Building, several years ago as a redevelopment site. We have entered into a joint venture with CentreVenture on a plan for a sports, hospitality and entertainment district with CentreVenture taking the lead role.

A true highlight of the past year was the reopening of Central Park. We participated in the rejuvenation through programming, security and development and ongoing support of neighbourhood citizen committees. It has returned to its rightful place as a jewel of the downtown and a true meeting place for the community.

Over the past year we continued to work closely with the University of Winnipeg Community Renewal Corporation (UWCRC), chaired by Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, by participating on the Board of the UWCRC and providing feasibility analysis, financial management, and accounting services.

We continue work with partners the Province of Manitoba, CentreVenture, Exchange District BIZ, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown BIZ and Economic Development Winnipeg on the Downtown Council on the creation of the Downtown Plan.

TFNP is also actively involved in the Downtown BIZ, with members of our staff participating at both the board and committee levels. We support the BIZ's initiatives in marketing our downtown and keeping it clean and safe.



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Arctic Glacier Inc.

Audioworks

Burns Family Foundation

Canada Heritage

Canadian Museum for Human Rights

CentreVenture

City of Winnipeg

CJOB 68/Power 97

Downtown Winnipeg BIZ

Downtown Council

Economic Development Winnipeg Inc.

Exchange District BIZ

Festival du Voyageur

Fentons Wine Merchants

Government of Canada

Half Pints Brewing Company

HOT 103

Investors Group

Johnston Terminal

Lea Marc Inc.

Manitoba Association of Architects

Manitoba Homecoming 2010

Manitoba Lotteries Corporation

Maxim Truck and Trailer

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Nioex Systems Inc.

92 CITI FM / 102.3 Clear FM

Parks Canada

Province of Manitoba

CURVE 94.3/1290 CFRW/BOB FM

RE/MAX

Rogers

Scotiabank

TelPay

The Great-West Life Assurance Company

The Winnipeg Foundation

Tourism Winnipeg

Travel Manitoba

Wawanesa Insurance Winnipeg

Chamber of Commerce

Winnipeg Environmental Remediations

Winnipeg Free Press

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Winnipeg Sun