

# AGM 2011





# Annual General Meeting 2011

## Message from Chair

As we move forward to 2012, we are pleased to provide our Annual Report, a summary of our activities over this last year.

As you read this report you will see that this has once again been a year of change for our downtown, culminating with the return of the Winnipeg Jets. That announcement really seemed to create an electricity about our city both inside and outside of Winnipeg.

I want to recognize that it's the continuing work of organizations like The Forks North Portage, as well as many others in our community, that continue to create a downtown ready to welcome back an NHL team, a Canadian Museum for Human Rights and a revitalized place to live, work and play. And, the work will continue on projects both big and small in the coming years.

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.

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

Rick Bel  
Chair



# Annual General Meeting 2011

## Message from CEO

The previous year has seen some very positive changes in our Forks and North Portage neighbourhoods – both large and small.

We have a terrific new fresh food tenant in The Forks Market, The Children's Museum is completed and very impressive, The Canadian Museum For Human Rights continues to evolve from the ground to the stars, The Forks was party central for the Jets return, we hosted architects from around the world for our 2nd annual warming huts competition, The University of Winnipeg campus is growing with some creative and much needed new research and classroom space as well as student housing, The Variety Heritage Adventure Park is nearing completion, CentreVenture and downtown council have created an impressive Portage Avenue plan, and a new development is eagerly awaited at the corner of Donald and Portage Avenue. And, of course, the MTS Centre is now home to the NHL's Winnipeg Jets. The mood is positive and the energy contagious.

We have faced some challenges as well. Thanks to the floodway, Winnipeg escaped from the serious flooding that plagued much of rural Manitoba. But, The Forks Port and the Riverwalk were under water for the entire summer with some serious damage occurring along the river's edge.

The diversity of The Forks North Portage operation continued to keep us on our toes this year. We are many things to many people: a community development corporation active in project planning and development, property managers, we produce events, maintain parks, create winter and summer programming, operate a public market, manage an IMAX, and offer security and public safety. Parts of our business are profitable and some parts are not. It is the parking, land leases and sponsorships that allow us to do what we do and remain a financially viable company. Balancing all of our businesses, while remaining true to our vision, is guided by our ten year plan. In the coming years a variety of new and exciting projects will come on stream including a vision for the city's waterfront.

It is an exciting time to be in Winnipeg and our team feels privileged to be an integral part of the action.

CEO  
Jim August



# North Portage

*The mission of The Forks North Portage (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.*

**Two years ago, we presented our plans and vision for the next ten years of FNP through a series of open houses and online. The Ten Year Concept Plan, “Building Connections: 2020-2020”, will serve as the roadmap for our organization over the coming decade.**

**Our downtown continues to change and the number of major developments that have taken shape over the last few years is impressive: the Millennium Library, the MTS Centre, the Manitoba Hydro building, Central Park, development on Waterfront Drive, the University of Winnipeg’s Buhler Centre and new science buildings, Red River College’s expansion, United Way, Sport Manitoba, and the impressive new icon The Canadian Museum for Human Rights.**

**There is more to come: housing on Portage Avenue is becoming a reality, the University of Winnipeg and Red River College continue to expand their presence in the downtown boundaries, plans are in the works for a sports, hospitality and entertainment (SHED) district, and many other projects, not yet known, will add to the rich fabric of our downtown.**



# North Portage

## **North Portage Mission –**

**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.**

**As a community development corporation, The Forks North Portage acts as a landlord, property manager, developer, facilitator and community development advocate.**

**We purchased 315 Portage Avenue, the Mitchell Copp Building, several years ago as a redevelopment site. We have been collaborating with CentreVenture this year to support their goal to develop a sports, hospitality and entertainment district (SHED). The Mitchell Copp building, along with the A&B Sound Building are now part of a larger project led by the private sector to develop a boutique hotel, office and retail complex across from the MTS Centre.**

**We took over the management of our parking operation in-house six years ago, creating FNP Parking. We control 3500 parking spaces with 1500 on the North Portage site and our gross revenues were up 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.**

**This year, to accommodate the large number of Jets fans in need of downtown parking, we created the Breakaway Season Pass and the Power Play 10 pack that offered parking in our lot at a reduced rate.**

**TFNP also formed its own in-house security team three years ago. This has allowed us 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.**

**FNP is both owner and operator of IMAX Theatre in Portage Place. While we continue to run Hollywood digitally remastered product we are returning to our core business of educational films.**



# North Portage

**Our efforts in the coming year will be in rebuilding the education business to improve the financial performance of the theatre.**

**Three years ago, as part of a strategy to address security concerns we acquired and leased the former Downtowner Hotel property to Hostelling International-Manitoba to develop a hostel. Today, we continue to work with Hostelling International to assist them in their efforts to complete improvements to this facility.**

**Central Park has been fully restored to its rightful position as a jewel of the downtown. We are thrilled that the soccer pitches are full, the fountain is once again flowing and the splash park is full of children. We continue to provide a presence within the park, provide marketing support to programs and participate in the neighbourhood users group.**

**Over the past year we continued to work closely with the University of Winnipeg Community Renewal Corporation (UWCRC), chaired by Dr. Lloyd Axworthy.**

**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.**

**FNP 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.**



# Forks

## **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.**

**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 our operations and programming of the site.**

**Early in the year, The Fork was recognized for its contributions to the city by the Canadian Institute of Planners. Named by voters as the Top Public Space in Canada, the award was recognition of our place not only in Winnipeg but also nationally.**

**Winnipeg is known as a river city and the history of not only The Forks, but the entire city is linked to the Red and the Assiniboine.**

**Drawing upon the lessons learned in developing The Forks and other waterfronts, The Forks Renewal Corporation and the City of Winnipeg are undertaking a joint planning exercise to develop an expanded vision for Winnipeg's waterfront.**

**The 20 year vision is intended to celebrate Winnipeg as a river city, provide connectivity along the riverfront, inspire new riverfront development, and guide new development by type and quality.**

**The primary geographic scope of the visioning exercise includes 6 precincts: Point Douglas; Waterfront Drive/North St. Boniface; The Forks/French Quarter; Norwood/Riverview; South Broadway/Osborne Village and Armstrong Point/Wellington Crescent.**

**The visioning exercise is scheduled for completion in spring 2012. We will be holding an open houses in spring 2012, after community workshops have been completed.**

**High water levels and fast flowing water had an impact on The Forks for long periods of time this year. They affected both pedestrian traffic and the operation of the water bus commuter service.**

**Flooding in the port has become an ongoing concern and we are looking at different design options for our Port that include a floating dock system.**



# Forks

**Fortunately, flooding didn't dampen the number of events held at The Forks.**

**This year was historic in many ways. The Forks was the site of an emotional return of the NHL, it played host to the NHL Faceoff Celebration and the Jets Inaugural game day party.**

**Signature Forks programming, supported by our major sponsors, continued: Investors Group Skateboard camps; Arctic Glacier Winter Park; Great West Life ice sculptures; Canada Day at The Forks presented by Rogers; Scotiabank Family New Year's Eve and Summer on Scotiabank Stage; and The Forks' longstanding partnership with Festival du Voyageur to create and program Assiniboine Credit Union River Trail.**

**With increased attendance at all winter events, The Forks was honoured with a Project Honor Award from the Washington-based Waterfront Center for the river trail.**

**The majority of last year's trail was built on the Red River due to high water levels on the Assiniboine. The trail itself was graced by new warming huts gained from the internationally acclaimed design competition. Last year's huts were designed by architects from Tel Aviv, New York and Philadelphia.**

**The summer's standout was the Manitoba Lotteries Barge Festival, held on dry land due to high water levels. Featuring local talent and the full Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the weekend long event continued the legacy created by Cultural Capitals of Canada the previous year.**

**Third party events held last year continued to increase in size, scope and attendance: Rock on the River, Billy Graham, the Pride Festival, APTN's Aboriginal Day, and many other smaller events.**

**Projects occurring at and around The Forks play a large role in our vision for the next decade:**

- **The Friends of Upper Fort Garry continue to work on the creation of the Upper Fort Garry Heritage Park and Interpretive Centre in the fall of this year. The Grain Exchange Curling Club has just come down clearing the way to begin above ground construction of the park component next spring. Construction plans and drawings are complete and fundraising continues on this key downtown development. TFNP has played a direct role in providing management services to assist the volunteer Board of The Friends of Upper Fort Garry throughout the development process.**

- **The Manitoba Children's Museum opened its doors once again this year. The new facility**





# Forks

welcomes young and old with a newly designed arts and exhibition centre, welcome centre and 12 brand new galleries.

- Parks Canada and Variety the Children's Charity and is nearing completion of its Variety Heritage Adventure Park, a gigantic playground that will be accessible to all. Paying homage to the history of The Forks, the park is expected to be complete by next spring.
- The largest project to ever take place at The Forks, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) has begun to dominate the skyline as its "roots" are firmly planted. Scheduled to open. We are collaborating with the Museum on landscaping and parking plans to integrate this significant development within The Forks.
- The Forks North Portage is continuing to pursue plans for a site near the CMHR. Our ten year plans include development of a "green" mixed use project on the railside surface parking lot across the street from the Museum. The concept includes a parking structure, upper floor residential uses, and commercial and enhanced public spaces at ground level. We will be conducting further planning for this concept over the next few years.

South Point, directly across the river from the Port, is currently being replanted and revegetated after 168 loops for our geothermal system were installed there last year. We also continue to explore an interesting concept for a treaty interpretive program at this site.

Other site tenants, while not undergoing large renovations reported that their business continues to rise.

- The Inn at The Forks has built a solid clientele of conference, business and leisure travelers over its five year history. Their reputation has attracted local, national and international clients to their one-of-kind boutique hotel.
- The Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP) continues to report strong attendance at this unique family venue. Their new season has just launched and it looks like one of their best ever.
- The Forks Market continues on its path refresh its fresh food offering and this year welcomed new tenant Casa Bella Deli and Market.
- The Johnston Terminal continues to offer unique, locally made goods in their former cold storage building.



# Forks

**Our own green initiative, Target Zero continues to grow. We have 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, a biovator, the successful conversion of waste fryer oil to bio-diesel to power site equipment, and an electric assist bicycle that collects garbage throughout the site.**

**We are working with the Landless Farmers Collective, a group of farmers working to make a livelihood and produce food on land they don't own.**

**We are exploring the idea of a herb and vegetable garden near Esplanade Riel. Their farming would fully embody our Target Zero practices and their products would be available to restaurants and tenants at The Forks.**

**All initiatives undertaken in our Ten Year Concept and Financial plan will meet Target Zero standards and will incorporate green building and practices.**



Thank You

## PARTNERS

Burns Family Foundation  
Canada Heritage  
Canadian Council for the Arts  
Canadian Museum for Human Rights  
CentreVenture City of Winnipeg  
CityTV  
Downtown Winnipeg BIZ  
Economic Development Winnipeg  
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