

A decorative border composed of a grid of colorful squares in shades of orange, teal, yellow, light blue, green, and purple, framing the central text.

FORKS NORTH PORTAGE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from Chair

We are pleased to provide our Annual Report for 2014, a summary of our activities over this last year.

This year was one of beginnings: The Canadian Museum for Human Rights opened, the Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park was unveiled and public consultations were held on the lands known as Rail Side and Parcel Four. The Forks North Portage continues to deliver on its mandate to act as a catalyst for our downtown.

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.

I would like, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to express our sincere thanks to the countless individuals and organizations whose efforts have helped us move forward with our plans, both in the past and today.

Of special note, a thank you to our shareholders, the Honourable Shelly Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, the Honourable Kevin Chief, Minister responsible for relations with the City of Winnipeg and Minister for Children and Youth Opportunities and His Worship Mayor Sam Katz.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Board, I would like to congratulate Jim August on the 14 years he led The Forks North Portage. It has been our pleasure to work with him over this time and we know that he has left a lasting legacy for the city and the province in the work he has accomplished here.

I would like to welcome Paul Jordan, who has been with the organization for over two decades in to the role of CEO. The Board looks forward to working with Paul, the senior management team and all the staff. It is through their efforts, diligence and commitment that we all look forward to the future.

Rick Bel
Chair





Message from CEO

The Forks is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. It is a great success story for Winnipeg and all of us who work here feel privileged to have the responsibility to ensure its success for the long term. From those early days, we knew that this was an important addition to Winnipeg but I don't think any of us envisioned how Winnipeggers would embrace The Forks as their meeting place. With four million visits annually we know that we're definitely doing something right. And we will continue our commitment to the programming and activities that cover a broad cross section of the community.

There have been some interesting and important additions this year that have responded to community requests.

The first is a boulder that was installed at The Forks Peace Meeting site to honour Indian residential school survivors. The second is a dedication monument, designed to remember aboriginal women and girls who have been murdered or gone missing, that offers a space for the affected families to grieve. These are important for all of us to remember.

We are also building a new home for Travel Manitoba that will house approximately 30 staff and provide state of the art displays that tell the Manitoba story. We expect completion of this project by spring 2015.

Alloway Arch is under construction and pays homage to Canada's community foundation movement. William Alloway founded The Winnipeg Foundation, Canada's first community foundation, with \$100,000 in 1921. Three years later an anonymous donation of three gold coins was given to the foundation in an envelope that read – "The Widow's Mite". This will be an attractive addition along The Broadway Promenade and will consist of the shards for the façade of the original entrance to the Alloway and Champion Bank and a circular fountain with three jets representing the "Widow's Mite". It will be a great symbol of Winnipeg's community spirit.





We have been working hard with the City of Winnipeg , architects and planners to create a comprehensive and integrated plan for over 12 acres of land that include the Rail-side lot owned by The Forks and Parcel 4 owned by the City of Winnipeg. This plan sets the stage for development on the site for the next 7 to 10 years. You can visit The Forks website at www.theforks.com/railside for more information.

The Forks North Portage remains a financially viable community development corporation with an annual operating surplus that allows us to reinvest in our assets as well as to make contributions to community projects where appropriate.

After 14 years as Chief Executive I am stepping down. I want to thank my board of directors and numerous individuals and groups who play an important role in building our community. I also want to congratulate Paul Jordan in his new CEO role. He brings energy and creativity to the position role and will be working with an outstanding group of people. I wish Paul, and his team, the very best.



MISSION

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 (FNP) acts as a landlord, property manager, developer, facilitator and community development advocate.

Parking and land leases are FNP's main source of revenue and make it possible to do what we do. Eight years ago FNP took parking management in-house, directly overseeing nearly 3000 stalls, 1500 of which are in the North Portage neighbourhood. We continue to invest in parking technology to service our parking customers.

FNP continues to improve the area behind Portage Place by carrying out street improvements, including new lighting along the Promenade roadways.

In its community development role, FNP has been a continuing partner in the Central Park restoration, led by CentreVenture. The rejuvenated park has once again become a popular gathering place for neighbourhood residents, including a significant number of new Canadians. FNP is actively involved on the Central Park management committee coordinating security and programs for area residents.

FNP, along with CentreVenture, The Winnipeg Foundation and other partners, contributed to the development of the Knox Centre community kitchen. This community economic initiative provides a commercial kitchen space for budding entrepreneurs aspiring to enter the food catering business.

We continue to work closely with the University of Winnipeg Community Renewal Corporation (UWCRC), the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, CentreVenture, Exchange District BIZ, Tourism Winnipeg, Travel Manitoba, the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown BIZ and Economic Development Winnipeg.

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.



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.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of The Forks. It's hard to fathom a Winnipeg without a Forks but it has been only 25 years since the first building, The Forks Market, opened on the site. Since then, The Forks has grown to include award winning public spaces, architecturally significant buildings, new green spaces, and access to the riverfront. Today, The Forks welcomes nearly 4 million visitors each year, earning it the distinction of being the province's most visited tourist attraction.

Engaging the design community in what we do is a major contributor to the success of The Forks as a great meeting place. As a result of the great talent of the architectural design community, The Forks has received a number of international awards for planning and design excellence.

Maintaining a balance between beautiful public space and recreational and commercial activity is at the core of what we strive to accomplish. As stewards of the site we work 365 days a year to maintain the site as one of Canada's great public spaces, as voted by the Canadian Institute of Planners.

The public programs offered on the site reinforce The Forks' reputation as the city's year round meeting place.

Winter continues to see the most growth, attendance wise. Winter activities have become just as popular as summer evidenced by 28 activities in 28 days last February.

The Forks welcomed Red River Mutual as title sponsor of the beloved river trail. Red River Mutual Trail benefited from the hands-on approach of the new sponsor and activations included a new mobile app called Trailblazer that allows users to track their activity on the trail. Last year it's estimated that 250,000 visitors skated the Red River Mutual Trail.



Warming Huts, the international design competition of art and architecture on ice, garnered local, national, and global attention once again. Five unique huts were constructed with winning teams that were for the first time all Canadian, two from Toronto and one from Vancouver. Our invited architect was very local, Etienne Gaboury.

Last year, creative additions to the trail continued. The RAW/Almond pop up restaurant was back with additional seating, guest chefs and sold out evenings; Little Sister coffee was served from the huts; Manitoba Music programmed an afternoon of music in the huts; and Festival du Voyageur hosted a Fashion Show on Ice.

The business model for the trail relies on a partnership that includes corporate sponsors, government, non-profit organizations and community groups.

In 2013/14, The Forks events team helped facilitate 275 third party events on the site. We also undertake some spectacular signature programming of our own including The Summer Concert Series. The popular series includes Pride Day celebration, APTN's Aboriginal Day and the Folklorama Kick Off. The series is rounded out with our own extremely popular Canada Day celebrations presented by Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries. This year we welcomed the Prairie Barge Festival back through a partnership with Manitoba Music and Creative Saskatchewan.

Our signature winter events included Arctic Glacier Winter Park and The Forks Family New Year's Eve.

Free quality programming is made possible through the support of our sponsors who cover the majority of our program costs.

Another summer of high water meant the river walk was once again closed for much of the summer. Splash Dash Water Bus was unable to operate. They did continue to run their popular 30 minute tours from the historic port.

On the site, Travel Manitoba is creating a new home for all of its 35 employees, consolidating everyone at The Forks. The Forks Renewal Corporation has invested \$2.9 million in to the project and has entered in to a 20 year lease agreement. The new space will be a fully interactive tourism information centre that shares the Manitoba tourism story. Estimated completion is slated for spring 2015.



AGM2014
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE FORKS

The Forks Market, along with the entire Forks site, is about to celebrate its 25th anniversary. The Market has stayed true to its original vision of mom and pop shops and restaurants. Many of the original shops, nearly 20 of them, still remain. Initial market refreshment concept plans are underway for the coming years.

The Forks launched its first full outdoor Farmer's Market in May, running every Sunday until October. The successful Market featured a strong reliance on local produce and products and featured a very committed group of over 30 vendors. Plans are underway for next year.

Two significant installations were added to the site this year. Working with a group of elders, a boulder was installed at The Forks Peace Meeting site to honour Indian Residential School survivors. A monument was also erected to remember missing and murdered aboriginal women. The monument offers a space where those affected can come to grieve and a space to call for action.

A new archway was added to the Broadway Promenade this year. The Alloway Arch pays homage to Canada's community foundation movement. The Arch is being constructed from shards of the original Alloway and Champion Bank. It symbolizes banker William Alloway's original \$100,000 gift and an anonymous donation of three gold coins donated and dubbed "The Widow's Mite" which created The Winnipeg Foundation.



The Forks continues to work towards its Target Zero initiatives: zero garbage, zero water consumption and zero carbon emissions. This year, the organization realized both environmental and monetary benefits associated with the program:

- Energy costs – We have eliminated entirely the need for natural gas for heating, saving over \$200,00 annually;
- Waste reduction – We have reduced our waste costs by \$47,000 and increased our revenue from waste collection is \$14,500;
- Waste oil conversion – We have avoided using 28,000 litres of diesel by replacing it with vegetable oil. Using average current gas prices this has saved \$34,000 in fuel costs;
- Water - Since The Forks began its water conservation/matching use program, 10.5 million litres of water have been conserved in The Forks Market; and
- Green House Gas (GHG) – We have realized a 60% reduction since 2005 in GHGs and continue to assist others in reducing theirs by processing their organic waste in our Biovator.

Three new projects were incorporated in to Target Zero this year: a public orchard, pedicabs, an urban garden and a pop up bike shop. In collaboration with Winnipeg CORE, The Forks created a public orchard with 61 fruit trees including apple, apricot, cherry, pear and plum, and as many as 75 fruit bearing shrubs. In collaboration with Citigrow, the Urban Garden contains vegetables and herbs to be harvested by the Inn at The Forks and integrated into their menu. It is hoped additional clients will add more to the garden over the years.

A new bike powered shuttle service was introduced to the site in the form of two electric assisted pedicabs. Operators of the pedicabs, provided through a partnership with Entreprises Riel, drove a loop from St. Boniface around The Forks assisting visitors to their parked car, or with their groceries. Finally, White Pine Fixies joined the site as a pop up shop featuring single speed bikes. The project came to The Forks as a student led initiative and was very successful.

TARGETZERO AT THE FORKS



Across Main Street, Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park has made steady and substantial progress in Phase One of the project. The site was declared a provincial park in July of 2014. The park portion of the site is being unveiled this fall and by next spring the massive Heritage Interpretive Wall will be unveiled. A capital campaign is ongoing.

The iconic Canadian Museum for Human Rights opened its doors in September 2014. The only national museum outside the capital region is also the only one in the world devoted to human rights awareness and education. This addition to the site is playing a role for stimulating controversy, debate and dialogue regarding human rights issues.

Over the past 18 months, The Forks has been working with the City of Winnipeg on the two parcels of land directly across from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The City of Winnipeg engaged The Forks North Portage in April of 2013 to lead an integrated planning initiative for the lands, which together total 12 acres. The first phase of consultations was carried out from March to September of 2013 and included open citizen public workshops, online participation and extensive stakeholder interviews.

From those initial consultations, a majority of people believed that doing nothing was not an option. With exceptional public spaces as the starting point, the majority of those consulted favoured a mixed use development that included public, community and commercial spaces as the suggested best use of the lands. Quality of place, access to parking, natural elements, culture and community, multi-unit housing and connections to other parts of downtown all rated highly.

The preliminary concept report that came out of the feedback presented initial planning and urban design concepts for the Rail Side and Parcel 4 lands. Public amenities accounted for 60% of the proposed plan, including new parks, plazas, promenades and visitor parking.

That plan was presented to the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management, to the Executive Policy Committee and received full City Council approval in principal in July 2014. The full preliminary concept plan was presented in a series of public open houses in July and September. The plans feature a stronger link to Portage and Main, a central public park on the Rail Side, a wide pedestrian tree-lined promenade along Israel Asper Way as well as housing parking, shops, cafes and public spaces.



In the coming months, the concepts will be further examined by the community to determine how to create a neighbourhood from these developments, including potential uses. These, along with more detailed design and development guidelines, will be refined and finalized for approval by both The Forks Renewal Corporation and the City of Winnipeg in the coming year.

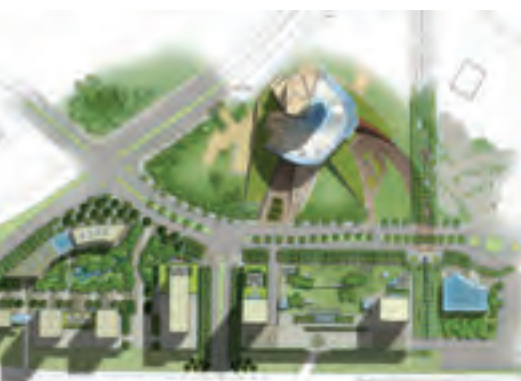
The Rail Side and Parcel Four Planning Initiative was undertaken with financial support from the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba.

The Forks and City of Winnipeg, with the financial support of the Province of Manitoba, completed its 20 year vision document, Go to the Waterfront. It was endorsed by full City Council earlier this year.

At its heart, the vision is meant to transform areas along our waterfront and make the rivers more a part of our everyday lives. A number of themes flow throughout the document: celebrating – our friendships; awakening – our neighbourhoods; inspiring – waterfront living; engaging – the elements; exploring – in everything we do; and finally, transforming – our city.

The primary geographic scope of the vision includes six precincts: Point Douglas, Waterfront Drive/North St. Boniface, The Forks/French Quarter, Norwood/Riverview, South Broadway/Osborne Village, and Armstrong Point/Wellington Crescent.

With the operating environment in the downtown changing, we see a role for The Forks to play beyond its borders along the riverfront as part of the downtown's revitalization. In the coming year, FNP will work to seek out connections, most notably to Point Douglas and St. Boniface and continue to work with the City and all neighbourhoods identified. In the future, FNP sees that it will have a continuing role, possibly as a waterfront development corporation.





Partners and Sponsors

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