



AGM 2016

Annual General Meeting
The Forks North Portage Partnership





Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors

Rick Bell

We are pleased to provide the 2016 Annual Report, a summary of our activities over this last year and a snapshot of the year to come.

It's been a busy year for the organization, as this report will illustrate. With the mission of developing a mixed use neighbourhood in North Portage essentially complete, the Board of Directors is focused on the future of both The Forks and the exciting role to be played along the city's waterfronts.

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.

We would like to thank our shareholders for all their support on behalf of the citizens of Canada, Manitoba, and Winnipeg. We are fortunate to have the three levels of government at the table as we carry out our mission.

Finally, the Board would like to thank Paul Jordan for a very productive and innovative year as Chief Executive Officer. Thank you to Paul and all the staff for their efforts, diligence, and commitment. It is because of your hard work that we all look forward to the future.

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Paul Jordan

Our organization's mission is guided by a Ten Year Concept and Financial Plan, the most current being the 2010-2020 Building Connections document. Within that document we recognize that our mission to create a mixed use neighbourhood at North Portage is essentially complete and we have shifted our development focus to The Forks and waterfront development.

At the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, The Forks has been a meeting place for over 6,000 years. During the past 27 years, we've continued to build on that tradition and develop a meeting place for Winnipeggers and guests from around the world to experience and enjoy. In the heart of Winnipeg, many residents can't remember a time it didn't exist. But, it was once an abandoned rail yard with no access to the waterfront. Today, it welcomes over 4 million visitors a year and is a jewel in the city. It has also been proven that the investment initially provided by the three levels of government has more than been paid back. Since 1988, The Forks has paid over \$30 million in taxes, the site tenants pay over \$21 million in wages per year, and our overall annual economic impact equals \$126 million.

The Forks hosts over 280 events every single year. While a small

handful of them are our own Signature events, the majority are third party events. We believe that we provide the foundation for amazing events to come to us. What results is amazing ideas can come to fruition. Things like the Warming Huts, Bee Project Apiaries, The Winter Wind Derby, Interstellar Rodeo, PRIDE, RAW:Almond, and a public orchard were all created by others or brought as ideas to us.

Over the past year we've continued to uphold the vision of our Target Zero initiatives. This past year we have successfully reduced our net waste costs, converted our site equipment to utilize waste vegetable oil, saved substantially on water usage, and significantly reduced our Green House Gas Emissions.

The coming year is shaping up to be a very busy one.

From an exceptional New Year's Eve and Canada Day celebrations in partnership with Canada 150 to a 17 day festival to celebrate the Canada Summer Games, programming will be bigger than ever on the site. Projects planned for 2017 include an office move to Via Station, phase three of the cycle track, and an additional \$2 million of investment to complete The Forks Market Food Hall. Within the Railside at The Forks vision, after extensive



consultations, an RFP will be issued to the development community to begin phasing in the 12 acre development over the next 20 years. A "public archaeological dig" will also be planned for summer 2018.

Finally, as we build on the success of The Forks as a waterfront development corporation, we will support the Go to the Waterfront vision and work on projects like the Tache loop, The South Point Reconciliation Walk, the Point Douglas trail connection to The Forks and carry out public consultations on the future of the Alexander Docks location.

As we look toward the future of The Forks North Portage, we want to ensure we remain a financially viable community development corporation with an annual operating surplus that allows us to reinvest in our assets as well as making contributions to community projects where appropriate.

Over the past year as CEO, I've seen the importance of collaboration not only through the efforts of our dedicated staff at The Forks North Portage, but also within our city, province and the country. As we move forward into the next era of The Forks, we are excited for the future, but know it will only succeed with your continued support.



THE FORKS NORTH PORTAGE

MISSION The Forks North Portage Partnership 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. As a community development corporation, The Forks North Portage (FNP) acts as a landlord, property manager, developer, facilitator and community development advocate.

We are in our seventh year of our Building Connections focus which spans from 2010-2020. This plan was developed after public consultation and continues to guide and direct The Forks North Portage. During this 10 year plan, our our development focus has shifted from North Portage to the further development of The Forks and the city's waterfront.

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 (FNP) has acted as a landlord, property manager, developer, facilitator and community development advocate in the downtown. The revenues earned through those activities have helped both the immediate neighbourhood and also to sustain The Forks. As our 10 Year Concept Plan directed, we have largely completed our development mission in North Portage.

FNP continue to work closely with, and support the work of, 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.

offers the community a space to buy locally produced goods and spills into an outdoor market during the summer.

On Portage Avenue the CentrePoint project is nearing completion. Our former property, the Mitchell Copp building, creates a beautiful façade for the CentrePoint project that will encourage additional development in the area.



AGM 2016

THE 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 continues to build off its core mandate – to be an all seasons gathering and recreation place. It has been said that our city would not be the same without The Forks. What was once an abandoned rail yard is now, 27 years later, the number one tourist destination, boasting four million visitors each year, over 280 events, museums, local shopping and cuisine, and a historic national park.

Aside from impressive visitations and events, the creation of The Forks has a direct economic benefit in our community. Since 1988, The Forks itself has paid almost \$30 million in taxes. This year, The Forks commissioned a study by Intergroup to better understand the economic impact of The Forks and all of its tenants. The study found that in 2015/16, The Forks and its tenants collectively contribute

significantly to the economy: nearly \$21 million is paid annually in wages, representing an estimated 764 full time equivalent jobs. The Forks’ total annual direct and indirect economic benefit is over \$126 million a year

The Forks continues to not only work to be financially self-sufficient but also relies on its own internal systems and operations to maintain the pristine nature of the site. Snow clearing, garbage removal and grounds maintenance are all undertaken internally with very few external services required.

In the summer of 2015, The Forks conducted a survey of people on site. It was found that people continue to come to The Forks to enjoy the natural beauty, active living and a community space to meet. When it

came to events and activities, the most popular ones for Winnipeggers were Canada Day, summer concerts, and the Red River Mutual Trail. It is interesting to note that over the last few years, Red River Mutual Trail has topped the list consistently.

Events at The Forks

Of the 280 events that happen here, only a few key events are actually managed by The Forks. Events like Canada Day at The Forks Presented by Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries, The Forks Farmers Market, and programmed skateboarding in the Skate Plaza allow us to partner with organizations to put on fantastic community programming.

Over the past year, the Skate Plaza celebrated its 10th anniversary. It has exceeded all expectations in terms of design, continually increased usage and the different demographics it welcomes the site. The Forks Farmers Market, now in its third year, has become a Sunday staple in the downtown and has nearly doubled its vendor count during the important summer growing season.

For the second summer The Forks offered The Oral History Walking Tour at The Forks, led by two Aboriginal elders. This year’s tours were extremely popular and showcased the public’s growing interest in oral history.

It is through these signature events that other organizations see The Forks as a great space to host their events. The Forks provides the venue, the infrastructure, the support and help them bring their creative expression into reality. Groups like Culture Days, Storefront’s Cool Gardens, PRIDE and APTN Aboriginal Day Live! were able to utilize The Forks as the gathering place for their events and draw on our expertise. The legacy of these events, for example in Cool Gardens, is permanent public art or other such amenities left for everyone to enjoy.

Interstellar Rodeo hosted the second successful year of its urban music festival featuring world-renowned acts kd Lang, Whitehorse and Wilco. The event is the only one of its kind in the country, boasting wine pairings matched to artists. This year’s attendance was up 54% from the previous year. The resulting partnership has the potential to expand to create a multi-week summer festival and brand that includes

music, art, dance, culture and more. This year we welcomed Wawanesa Insurance as title sponsor to our Family New Year’s Eve. Unseasonably warm winter weather created a magical evening for all in attendance, capped off by fireworks by the world renowned Archangel Fireworks.

That same warmer weather created an unprecedented anticipation for Red River Mutual Trail (RRMT). How and where RRMT would go became the focus of many media inquiries, all building the brand of the trail itself and driving record numbers of visitors to the site over the winter months. The weather also meant that RAW:Almond, the exclusive dining experience held over 21 days, relocated to the Forks Historic Rail Bridge above the Assiniboine River. While not exactly the same, the event was completely sold out for the full duration with three seatings each night.

Once the trail was firmly established in January, Warming Huts v. 2016 were scattered along the trail featuring innovative designs from around the world and for the first time a musical artist and Polaris Prize winner Tanya Tagaq designed a hut as the invited guest. Arctic Glacier Winter Park, the winter playground on the Forks upper trails and site, continued to draw its share of visitors as well.

New additions to the winter experience included a Winter Wind Derby on RRMT, a canoe race on the ice and many other events that created additional traffic, particularly in the evenings. What each of the new initiatives again highlights is that innovative ideas





TARGET ZERO: AT THE FORKS

The Forks continues to work towards its Target Zero initiatives: zero garbage, zero water consumption, and zero carbon emissions.

BENEFITS

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 \$200,000 annually;

Waste reduction – Compared to 2005, we have reduced our waste costs by \$35,800 and increased our revenue from waste collection by \$29,750;

Waste oil conversion – We saved \$12,088 in diesel fuel costs by replacing it with waste vegetable oil. Using average current gas prices this has saved \$46,528 in fuel costs since 2011;

Water – Since The Forks began its water conservation/matching use program, 10.5 million litres of water has been conserved in The Forks

Market; and

Green House Gas (GHG) – An 80 per cent reduction since 2005 in GHGs and FNP assists others in reducing theirs by processing their organic waste.

PROJECTS

Projects that continued under our Target Zero initiative this year included the Forks Urban Garden, the Public Orchard program and the expansion of our pedicab program. As a further extension to the health of the orchard, a partner came forward to bring bees to the site. Bee Project Apiaries increased the bee population on the site, created Forks honey, educated the public on the importance of bees and will help create better harvests for the orchard.

and activations continue to come from outside The Forks organization. The Forks provides the venue and support and great events continue to utilize the site and rivers to bring the ideas to fruition, increasing visitor satisfaction and diversity of offerings.

Media attention, through concerted internal public relations efforts, external media familiarization tours and the “exotic” nature of the Winnipeg’s winters continues to grow, and 2016 demonstrated this with high profile pieces in publications such as the New York Times.

Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park

Upper Fort Garry was officially open to the public last summer and this year the Heritage Interpretive Wall and its spectacular light show were completed. The Forks has continued its partnership with the Friends of Upper Fort Garry and will play an active role in maintaining and connecting the park to the rest of The Forks site.

The Forks Market

After 26 years, The Forks Market also undertook a significant refresh with a \$2.5 million renovation of the centre court area to create a destination Food Hall experience.

Four new destination tenants were selected via a Food Hall Committee: Fusian Sushi, Simon’s Cuisine

at The Forks, NuBurger and our newest temporary pop up, Kyu Grill. The refresh features an 80 person harvest table, a renovated atrium with new seating, and local ironwork, art, wood work and lighting. At the heart of the space, a brand new craft beer and wine kiosk opened in June.

Run by The Forks, The Common as it’s named, features a sommelier- curated list of 20 beers and wines, with a focus on the local brewing industry. Sales from the kiosk will be help fund future renovations of the building, with Phase Two of the project slated for spring 2017.





TARGET ZERO:

AT THE FORKS

As a way to increase active living and bike access to The Forks completed the second phase of a cycle track. Added to the South Main Dedicated Bike Lane, from Main Street to The Forks Market, was a multi-use lane that welcomes cars, pedestrians and bikes. This phase highlighted the ability to create pathways that are interesting and unexpected and showed that there is more than one way to approach bike traffic. Phase Three will build on this idea.

As accessibility for bikes has increased, so have the amenities to accompany them. The Forks partnered with WRENCH during the summer months to provide both free bike repair



education and the sale of rehabilitated bikes. This complemented the Bike Service Station, allowing visitors the ability to do basic bike repairs for free.

Biking initiatives this year have contributed to increased bike traffic specifically 62% over the same period in 2015.



AGM 2016

FUTURE

Programming

2017 will be a big year for exceptional programming at The Forks.

In conjunction with the celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation, the year will begin with a fuller celebration of Wawanesa Insurance Family New Year's Eve that includes expanded activities and entertainment and two full fireworks shows.

Warming Huts v. 2017 will grace the Red River Mutual Trail in late January. The invited architect this year is world renowned architect and artist, Anish Kapoor, responsible for such notable projects at Cloudgate in Millennium Park in Chicago. Winners of the competition component are from Holland, Canada and the United States.

Also in concert with Canada 150, Canada Day at The Forks presented by Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries will expand to include five separate activity areas

complete with special programming, music, art and culture.

The Canada Summer Games, celebrating their 50th year, are hosting their daily free festival for participants and the public over the course of 17 days. The free venue will honour the talents of the participating regions.

The International Downtown Association will host its annual conference in Winnipeg in September 2017. The organization draws downtowns from across North America to learn best practices and The Forks will play a prominent role in the conference.

Projects

Several new projects will take shape over the course of the coming year:

Our offices, both The Forks and North Portage, are relocating to the VIA Station. Aside from operational



efficiencies, this move is meant to help “turn on” the building and help solidify it as a primary pedestrian gateway to The Forks.

Phase Three of the cycle track will add another leg to the active transportation link through The Forks site to St. Boniface. This year’s addition will begin to play with traditional notions of cycle paths and feature artwork and other interesting features.

Phase Two of The Forks Market Food Hall renovation will complete the food hall portion of the refurbishment with an additional \$2 million investment and new food tenants.

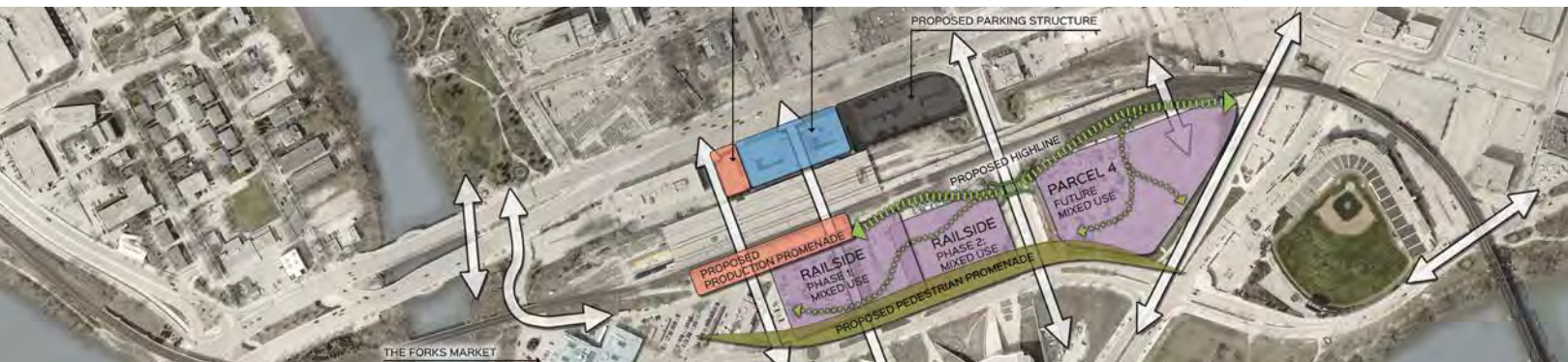
Railside at The Forks

Over the last several years, The Forks has undertaken extensive public consultations with respect to Railside. The results of those consultations culminated in the creation of our Top 10 ideas for the 12 acres that are currently surface parking lots: creation of a residential village at The Forks; public plazas designed in collaboration with Winnipeg artists;

creation of production spaces for artist and makers; a rapid Transit hub at VIA Union Station; an elevated pedestrian corridor; to transform Israel Asper Way into a beautifully landscaped, pedestrian-oriented promenade; to achieve our Target Zero goals and reduce The Forks’ overall environmental impact; to facilitate the integration of new community facilities into the development; to curate the best in local and independent retail; and to ensure that the future development of the rail side lands becomes an extension of The Forks in every way – being open and accessible to everyone and benefiting from world class site operations and programming.

After an RFQ earlier in the year, The Forks is in the dialogue stage with potential developers and an RFP is expected early in 2017.

A large portion of the site preparation for will include archaeological assessment. Initial evidence shows Railside North to hold the richest resources. A “public archaeology dig” is envisioned in this area for summer 2018.



Several years ago, 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. At its heart, the vision is meant to transform areas along our waterfront and make the rivers more a part of our everyday lives. Winnipeg at its core is a river city and to further its revitalization it needs to go back to its origin.

With the operating environment in the downtown changing, The Forks is poised to play a role beyond its traditional borders along the riverfront as part of the downtown’s revitalization. The Forks is a great example of how the riverfront can be used as a way to stimulate development. Through amenities like Splash Dash, we are already connecting neighbourhoods using our rivers. Using initiatives like the Red River Mutual Trail and the River Walk, Winnipeggers are able to explore and interact with their city in unique ways.

In the future, The Forks will have a continuing role as a waterfront development corporation and help facilitate the transformation of our city’s waterfront by connecting communities commercially, recreationally and historically.

Projects underway for 2017:

Working with provincial and city partners, the active transportation pathway that connects South Point Douglas to Waterfront Drive at Annabella is being refreshed to include better lighting and pathways. This important neighbourhood connector is expected to be completed by spring 2017.

The Tache Loop is envisioned as a 2.5 km circular path that includes the Forks, Esplanade Riel, Tache and Main Street. The Forks will work with partners in St. Boniface to help tell the stories of this corridor and connect pedestrians in a meaningful way. A major component of this loop is the creation of a pathway from Main Street to The Forks, through South Point. The South Point Reconciliation Walk, created in partnership with The Winnipeg Foundation, will tell the stories of the treaties and other themes related to reconciliation.

The City of Winnipeg has requested The Forks play a lead role in public consultations to gather ideas on what to do with the Alexander Docks location as the docks are to be removed next winter. The consultations will take place in early 2017.



AGM 2016

THANK YOU!

The
Forks.com