

## Winnipeg Metro Region continues to seek input on Draft Plan20-50: Have your say

### Metro Region News Desk

**G**rowing our economy, protecting our environment, and building vibrant communities doesn't just happen—it requires strong leadership, a shared vision, some give and take, and good old-fashioned teamwork.

“Successful regions across North America share two things in common: a long-term vision, and they plan for the future,” said Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR) Executive Director Colleen Sklar. “The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region is one of the last jurisdictions in Canada to coordinate a regional plan that will allow us to look beyond election terms and across boundaries to meet the challenges and opportunities of our future head on.”

Plan20-50 is a long-term land use and servicing plan—the first regional plan for Manitoba—that will guide development and servicing in the capital region for the next 30 years, and it has been a long time coming.

One of the first leaders to challenge the status quo and champion a regional vision was former City of Winnipeg Mayor Susan Thompson in 1998. Mayor Thompson ushered leaders from neighbouring communities to the table, formalizing a commitment to work across jurisdic-

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tions for the betterment of the region. This early regional collaboration was the precursor to today's Winnipeg Metropolitan Region.

“Susan Thompson knew that the plans she inherited for governing and growing Winnipeg were constructed by leaders at least a decade before she came into office,” said Sklar. “As a result, she planted the seed for a 25-year plan and began gathering like-minded leaders from neighboring communities. Today, 20 years later, her vision will come to life with Plan20-50.”

Since 1998, the leaders from the 18 municipalities that make up the WMR Board have continued to collaborate. Recognized for their expertise and wisdom in municipal governance and land use planning, they were tasked by the Province of Manitoba in 2019 to coordinate the first draft Plan20-50. To assist them, the leaders engaged a team of experts from across Canada and gave them a

clear mandate to ensure Plan20-50 will:

- Account for long-term supply of serviced residential, commercial, and industrial land;
- Direct, prioritize, and facilitate investment in infrastructure;
- Provide confidence for investment;
- Ensure the protection of agricultural land, natural land, and freshwater resources;
- Build resilience to flooding and drought and the effects of a changing climate;
- Ensure service delivery to residents and businesses is effective and efficient into the future.

The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR) held a series of information sessions on Draft Plan20-50 with over 800 individuals and organizations—creating over 1,000 touchpoints—from government, business, industry, organizations, NGOs, and environmental interests who helped inform what our region and province will look like in 2050.

Plan20-50 is a call to leadership—a legacy piece—and will give our children the opportunity to be successful here for generations to come.

*Learn more, have your say and sign up to receive a notice when the draft of Plan20-50 is released at: [20to50.ca](https://20to50.ca)*

Growing our economy, protecting our environment and building strong communities doesn't just happen. It requires:

- Courageous leadership,
- Responsible government,
- Accurate and up-to-date information,
- Some give and take, and
- Good old-fashioned teamwork.

For almost two years, elected leaders across the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region have been collaborating on a 30-year plan, Plan20-50 – looking beyond election terms and across boundaries to meet the challenges and opportunities of our future head-on.

We have met with hundreds of experts and leaders in developing Plan20-50. We are in the final stages of development and the draft will be shared publicly before spring 2021.

Successful regions across North America share two things in common – long term vision and plans for the future. Their leaders don't leave the prosperity of their communities to chance.

To secure the future for our children, we are coordinating our efforts to deliver more for all, while ensuring each community remains unique and vibrant.

Leaders from the 18 municipalities of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region have been collaborating across boundaries on regional issues since 1998. From this strong foundation, they are taking the next step.

## Our future is calling for Plan20-50.

Learn more, and sign up to receive a notice when the draft of Plan20-50 is released at: [20to50.ca](https://20to50.ca)

# Their future calls for great leadership today.





Flat Out Brilliant.

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Message from Executive Director

Colleen Sklar, Executive Director, Winnipeg Metro Region

On behalf of the mayors and reeves of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, we would like to thank you for the incredible support received this past year. Amidst trying times, local leaders demonstrated great fortitude by continuing to work collaboratively on a long-term vision for the region with Plan20-50, while keeping residents safe and connected.

As we began last year, we could have never imagined what lay before us. Much like many global and extreme issues, they know no boundaries and we do not always see them coming. COVID-19 has been no exception.

Leaders from across government, business, NGOs, and civil society were called to respond to a crisis like no other and have realized that only by leveraging our collective strengths and working together, can we meet the challenges of today while planning for a strong, sustainable, and prosperous future.

As we enter a new year with 2021, we look forward to continuing to work hard with clear vision and take further collaborative action. I hope you enjoy this issue of the Regional Times, Manitoba's only regional newspaper, as we stay informed and connected during these ever-changing times.



Colleen Sklar.

CONTENTS

Winnipeg Metro Region continues to seek input on Draft Plan20-50: Have your say ..... 1

Message from the Executive Director ..... 2

Water knows no boundaries: Why a regional approach can create resiliency ..... 3

Building Strong Communities: A Circular Approach ..... 3

Reconciliation in action amidst trying times ..... 3, 5

Financial reporting – getting it right from the start ..... 4

MMSM keeping communities free of contamination ..... 4

Jackson Springs—upping the hydration game in Manitoba..... 4

Qaumajuq (pronounced HOW-ma-yourq)..... 5

Recycle Everywhere bins added to Winnipeg parks ..... 6

Two years-worth of digital transformation in ten months ..... 6

Industrial development at Centreport Canada ..... 7

More Manitobans opting for living larger outside city limits..... 7

Puzzle answers..... 7

Manitoba trucks move goods to market ..... 8

Tackling commercial waste, together..... 8

Winnipeg Richardson International Airport taking steps to protect our community..... 9

Kindness as currency—businesses helping the community..... 10

STARS fighting for the lives of Manitobans ..... 11

New community to offer forever homes at affordable prices ..... 11

North Forge fueling innovation in Winnipeg Metro Region..... 12

Trails key to keeping Manitobans connected..... 12

Respect by acknowledgement: Why we honour the land ..... 13

WSP Canada is shaping the future of the Metro Region..... 13

Looking for love online—dating throughout a pandemic ..... 14

Highland Pointe continuing a 100 year-old tradition ..... 14

Maintaining mental wellness while staying apart..... 15

How libraries across the region adapted to pandemic..... 15

Puzzles..... 15

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# Water knows no boundaries: Why a regional approach can create resiliency

Metro Region News Desk

As Manitobans, we have a special connection to water. From our lakes and rivers to our streams and wetlands, water defines our landscapes, economic development, and who we are.

Since 2009, eight leaders from the south basin of Lake Winnipeg's shoreline have been meeting to improve and protect the Lake Winnipeg watershed through the Lake Friendly Initiative—an action-based initiative that encourages collaboration across all levels of governments, businesses, farms, schools, and the public to preserve and protect our freshwater.

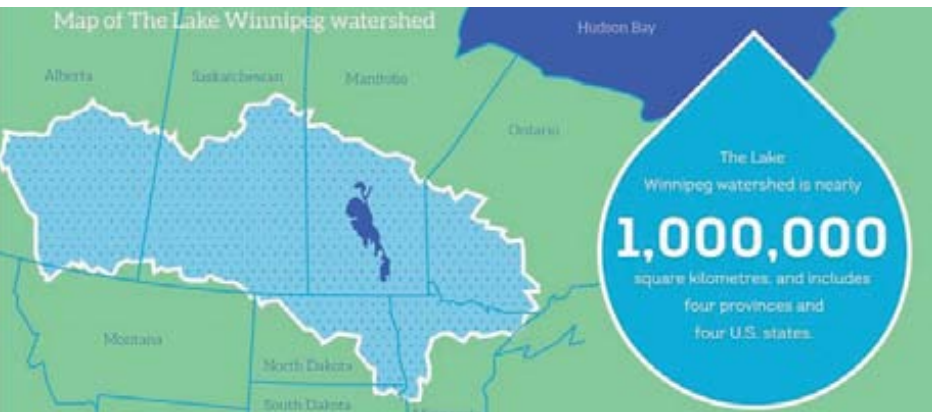
Water-related economic development in Manitoba contributes around four billion dollars every year to our economy. Agriculture, hydroelectricity, tourism, and fishing industries could not thrive without our lakes, rivers, and streams. As water quality declines, we risk environmental, social, and economic threats to Manitoba and worldwide. Enhancing regional resiliency is critical for Manitoba communities to ensure we have access to clean water and can plan for extreme weather like flooding and droughts.

Only by working together can we commit to the long-term protection of shared resources like water, air, and soil.

Manitoba's first ever regional land use and servicing plan—Plan20-50—created by the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region will provide a regional approach to effective and consistent strategies to preserve and enhance our ecosystems, watersheds, and environmentally sensitive areas across the region. At the same time, Plan20-50 recognizes the social and economic importance of traditional lifestyles, recreation, and tourism for future generations and a regional approach to resource management protects high-value areas, like prime agricultural lands and wetlands.

It is the responsibility of every Manitoban to do what they can to protect our precious waters for ourselves and future generations. Every small action you take can significantly impact our freshwater lakes, rivers, and streams. Lake Friendly resources provide straightforward steps to promote actions that preserve our freshwater, our prosperity and our way of life in Manitoba.

*Learn what you and your industry can do to protect Manitoba's waters by visiting our website: lakefriendly.ca*



The Lake Winnipeg watershed area.

Today, the work that started over a decade ago continues with the eight municipal leaders—the South Basin Mayors and Reeves. The communities are:

- RM of Alexander, Mayor Jack Brisco
- RM of Gimli, Mayor Lynn Greenberg
- RM of St. Clements, Mayor Debbie Fiebelkorn
- RM of St. Andrews, Mayor Joy Sul
- RM of Victoria Beach, Mayor Penny

McMorris

- Village of Dunnottar, Mayor Rick Gamble
- Town of Winnipeg Beach, Mayor Tony Pimentel
- City of Selkirk, Mayor Larry Johannson

Lake Friendly's work is possible through support and partnerships with the Manitoba Government and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

# Building Strong Communities: A Circular Approach



Metro Region News Desk

Today's leaders in government, business, and civil society are being called to respond at an accelerated pace to pressing challenges that were once thought far on the horizon. From the COVID-19 pandemic, to extreme weather events, to the need to manage our water, waste, and infrastructure in economical and environmentally sound ways, it has become clear that biding our time and taking a "wait and see" approach is leaving us ill prepared for what lies ahead.

We see leaders in this conversation emerging at the local, national, and international level and perhaps it is time to use this pause in business as usual to learn, understand, and find a new path forward.

As you may know, Plan20-50 is the foundational document in building strong and resilient communities in Manitoba and to support this, through the Collaborative Leadership Initiative, the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, the Southern Chiefs' Organization, and the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, a circular economy model looks beyond the current take-make-waste extractive industrial model, a circular economy aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources, and designing waste out of the system. Underpinned by a transition to renewable energy sources, the circular model builds economic, natural, and social capital. It is based on three principles:

- Design out waste and pollution
- Keep products and materials in use
- Regenerate natural systems

along with Reclay StewardEdge hosted Building Strong Communities: A Circular Approach on February 4, 2021 online to explore circular economy opportunities in Manitoba.

The project team engaged Metabolic—an expert international team from the Netherlands whose mission is to help cities, communities, and regions transition to address the challenges of competing in the global economy.

This international forum was open to leaders from all levels of government, business, civil society, and knowledge institutions interested in exploring the concept of circular-

ity. This conversation fostered collaborative action and represented the first partnership between the Dutch government and Manitoba municipalities. The Deputy Consul-General of the Netherlands, Jorn Leeksa, was present for the event and expressed excitement and gratitude to the local leaders for hosting such an important conversation.

To lend a national perspective on sustainability, John Coyne from Unilever Canada also joined in to share the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan. To learn more about the conference and view the video of the entire event, visit the Plan20-50 website at 20to50.ca.

# Reconciliation in action amidst trying times

Metro Region News Desk

Chiefs, mayors, and reeves of the Collaborative Leadership Initiative (CLI) gathered virtually on October 15, 2020 to receive updates from the CLI Project Team on regional work underway, and to explore next steps on moving

forward with shared priorities of creating economic opportunity while protecting our natural lands, waters, and resources.

The Collaborative Leadership Initiative began in 2018 when elected leaders in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region and First Nation Chiefs met for an informal break-

➤ *Reconciliation in action amidst trying times* page 5



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# Financial reporting – getting it right from the start

Adam R. Kilfoyle, Managing Partner, Heartland CPAs

Several times a year, I get the privilege of meeting with prospective clients who are starting new business ventures. Some of these entrepreneurs are eager for my advice in setting up a financial reporting system. I am always impressed with the priority they place on this area, which often gets left to the end.

Throughout my career as an accountant in public practice, I have seen financial reporting done really well, really poorly, and everything in between—but always, a methodical approach was required to get these clients’ financial reporting systems back on track.

**Step 1 – Identify your stakeholders**  
For a small or medium-sized private company, stakeholders would include the owner-manager, the management team, the bank, and (unfortunately) the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). As private com-



panies become larger and more complex, stakeholders may grow to include a board of directors and private equity firms. Stakeholders of a not-for-profit organization would include the funding agencies, donors, the executive director and their management team, the board, and the membership. Local governments have an even wider set of stakeholders including their citizens and ratepayers, other levels

of government, the business community, and special interest groups.

**Step 2 – Identify your stakeholders’ financial reporting needs**

What information does your management team need to run the business? How do your funders need you to report on your activities at year end? What level of detail does your board want to see on the monthly financials? What ratios are most important to your venture capital partners? What data do the political representatives need to decide whether to approve that large capital project? These are a few examples of questions to ask at this stage.

**Step 3 – Evaluate the technology needed**  
The size and complexity of the organization should drive the selection of the right accounting software. Start-ups might consider a free cloud-based accounting system. An off-the-shelf software package like QuickBooks or Sage 50 will be appropriate for many small or medium-sized entities. As the complexity of the organization in-

creases, a move to Sage 300, Adagio or even ERP-level systems like SAP or Microsoft Dynamics GP becomes necessary.

**Step 4 – Implement the system**  
After the software is chosen, it must be set up and configured to the specific needs of the organization. This is where the work done in Step 2 is distilled down to the design of the chart of accounts and the reporting package. Even off-the-shelf software can be set up badly. Getting the right advice and choosing a qualified technology partner is critical. Staff must be trained, and processes must be developed and documented.

**Step 5 – Re-evaluate the system**  
Is the accounting system producing the information the stakeholders require on a timely and reliable basis? If not, go back and correct the setup, retrain the staff, tweak the processes – whatever is required.

Having the right financial reporting system takes effort, but it is necessary to meet your stakeholders’ needs. It might even save your business.

# MMSM keeping communities free of contamination

Sarah Wallace, MMSM

2020 was a year like no other, and while we faced many challenges, we did it together. Contamination continues to be an issue in our programs. Since late winter 2020, when Manitobans began spending more time at home (and generating more waste there) processors have had to react to different trends effecting the residential stream. Material Recovery Facilities are also encountering increased contamination rates and new challenges. Now more than ever, it’s important to learn about recycling best practices and what materials are accepted materials. A great resource we are proud to share is the Municipal Communications Toolkit—now available to download at Stewardship-Manitoba.org. January is a great time to start

as the toolkit runs on a calendar year. Our ongoing commitment to improve recycling education for residents can be seen with the addition of the “Recyclepedia” in 2020. Available as a web tool at SimplyRecycle.ca or as a mobile app, the Recyclepedia helps residents understand which items are accepted and not accepted in their recycling bins. MMSM has long supported municipalities to educate all residents on right recycling and participation in MMSM’s program is voluntary. MMSM will pay up to 80 per cent of eligible costs incurred by municipalities and other collection and processing agents who enter into a services agreement with us. The services agreement sets out the roles and responsibilities of each party, including the recycling services to be provided by municipalities and other partners, and the payments to be made by MMSM. With the new year, we



Education is key to improving recovery rates and reducing contamination in our residential recycling program. would like to remind you that it’s important to review your agreement annually, so you understand the requirements for funding. As part of the services agreement, it is important to note that several steps must be taken before making any changes to any

municipal recycling program. The MMSM services agreement requires advance written notification of proposed changes to program design and delivery. We have technical experts on staff that can work with communities to ensure the proper steps are being taken when announcing an RFP, selecting contractors/processors, or even adding accepted materials to your program. We recognize that this has been a challenging year for many, and we would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to residential recycling in your community. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of our team. For more information, please contact: Email: [municipalservices@stewardshipmanitoba.org](mailto:municipalservices@stewardshipmanitoba.org); Phone: 1-877-952-2010 (toll-free); Web: [stewardshipmanitoba.org](http://stewardshipmanitoba.org) & [simplyrecycle.ca](http://simplyrecycle.ca)

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# Jackson Springs—upping the hydration game in Manitoba

Metro Region News Desk

The best tasting water in the world comes from Manitoba, but it doesn’t come from your kitchen tap. It comes from a recycled jug that’s delivered to your doorstep upon request. That jug comes from a truck that makes deliveries around your community every day. Those trucks come from a facility in Winnipeg, where the world’s best tasting water is distributed to faithful drinkers across Manitoba, Canada, and now, the world. This isn’t lip service—the medals speak for themselves. Jackson Springs Water has achieved the prestigious Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting gold medal for Best Tasting Water in the World, and owner Chris Garrick takes that title seriously. When it comes to the Jackson Springs product, Garrick and his staff are implementing the best practices to ensure the highest quality taste, health benefits, safety standards, and environmental considerations possible. “Most waters available today are processed and have had chemicals and additives removed,” Garrick said. “What people love about Jackson Springs water is that they never have to worry whether or not we got that bad stuff out, because it was never in there to begin with.” Jackson Springs Water comes from the company’s own protected aquifer located about two hours outside of Winnipeg in the Sandilands Provincial Forest. The water is naturally filtered through the rocky Canadian terrain, a process that provides a rich mineral profile, alkaline pH, and the fresh taste that the company has become known for. “If you were to drive to our source, you’d notice that you’re going up, up, up—which is unusual for Manitoba but great from a water source standpoint because it’s not subject to things like agricultural runoff,” Garrick said. Thousands of consumers are making the switch to Jackson Springs water not only because of what’s NOT in it, but because of what IS in it. This water has over 240 parts per million of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), which represents the total concentration of dissolved substances in water including inorganic salts like calcium,



Jackson Springs is keeping the Winnipeg Metro Region hydrated with contactless delivery. magnesium, potassium, and sodium. A recent study from the World Health Organization states that drinking water should contain these essential minerals and that drinking de-mineralized water over long periods of time may have adverse health effects. Jackson Springs products can be found across the province in local retailers and restaurants, like the Fort Garry Hotel, and in the hands of pro athletes like the Winnipeg Jets players. It’s also used in some Made-in-Manitoba products including beers, wines, natural cleaning products, and energy bars. If that weren’t enough to make a name for the company, Jackson Springs also goes the extra mile to ensure its carbon footprint stays as low as possible. Instead of building a plant on natural land at the water source, Jackson Springs transports the water to Winnipeg using its own stainless steel tanker, which carries more than twice the amount than could be carried if the water were already packaged in jugs. Once in Winnipeg, the water is dispensed into various jug sizes—all of which are 100 per cent recyclable, from lid to label. Customer jugs get returned to Jackson Springs to be sterilized and reused. “It’s about sustainability and responsibility,” said Garrick. “With us owning the source where the water comes from, the tanker, the bottling facility, and the brand, we control every step from the ground to your kitchen table—and we take full responsibility for that.” For more information, or to sign up for your first water delivery today, visit [www.jacksonspringswater.com](http://www.jacksonspringswater.com).







# Recycle Everywhere bins added to Winnipeg parks

Recycle Everywhere with files from Jennifer McFee

While you're enjoying our great city, you'll now have more opportunities to recycle your empty beverage containers in Winnipeg parks.

The Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association (CBCRA), working with the City of Winnipeg, installed additional recycling bins through the Recycle Everywhere program, which offers free recycling bins to communities, organizations, events, and institutions.

"This year, while Winnipeggers are staying active and exploring closer to home, we are pleased to announce the addition of recycling at six City of Winnipeg parks along with updated bins for St. Vital Park," said Christa Rust, senior program director for CBCRA.

"We've added additional illustrations to the bin to help users understand which stream — waste or recycling — the item should go in."

A total of 63 bins have been installed throughout Vimy Ridge Memorial Park, King's Park, Laverendrye Park, Joseph Royal Park, Provencher Park, and Whittier Park. In addition, new bins were installed in St. Vital Park last year.

CBCRA worked with the City of Winnipeg to establish

the locations for these new waste and recycling bins along existing city collection routes.

"We were thrilled when the mayor, during his election campaign, made recycling in parks one of his promises," Rust said. "Recycling in city parks is one more step in the direction to provide a cost-effective and convenient way to recycle empty beverage containers in Manitoba."

Accepted materials for Recycle Everywhere bins include PET plastic bottles, glass bottles, beverage cartons, juice boxes, and aluminum cans.

However, Recycle Everywhere bins are not the right place to toss takeout cups, including those used for coffee or fountain drinks. Leftover liquids, food waste, Styrofoam, and No. 6 plastics are also considered contaminants that are not accepted in recycling bins.

"While we encourage the recycling of beverage containers, other accepted materials can be placed in public space



recycling bins," Rust said. "Manitobans are encouraged to check with their municipality to understand what materials are indeed accepted."

In 2019, 77 per cent of all PET plastic beverage containers were recycled in Manitoba, on par with the national average of 78 per cent. In fact, beverage containers recovered in Manitoba would fill 1,057 rail cars or 72 Olympic-sized swimming pools, saving 27,714 tonnes of carbon dioxide — which is equal to removing 6,159 passenger cars from the road each year.

CBCRA remains focused on reaching the government-mandated target of a 75 per cent recovery rate for all beverage containers sold in Manitoba — and the community's efforts are making an impact.

For more information about the Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association, visit [www.cbcr-aacrb.org](http://www.cbcr-aacrb.org). For more information the Recycle Everywhere program, visit [www.recycleeverywhere.ca](http://www.recycleeverywhere.ca).

# Two years-worth of digital transformation in ten months

Ryan Bialek, Modern Workplace team, Clear Concepts

For the last number of years, I have had the privilege of speaking to businesses, non-profits, and government organizations about Digital Transformation. A common thread that I have found in Winnipeg and the Metro Region has been a careful hesitation to fully embrace the newest Cloud technologies. After countless conversations with small family-run businesses up to large enterprises, many still prefer to wait until a technology is "tried-and-true" before investing.

Faced with fewer traditional tech options in the Cloud era, many of us in the tech sector have witnessed a slow-but-steady uptake of small and medium-sized organizations adopting productivity suites like Microsoft 365, or specific tools like Teams, Slack, and Zoom. With priority given to workloads like



communication (email) and document creation, the full 'transformative' impact of these tools is left largely on 'someday-maybe' lists. Maybe due in-part to our Winnipeg tendencies, or maybe because businesses felt no immediate need to 'digitally' transform.

Enter the global COVID-19 pandemic...

**The Rush to Transform**

Overnight, organizations faced the demands to pivot to work-from-home, online

meetings, virtual customer service, plus delivering system access in a way that kept employees working. Very different from only having email and file storage in the cloud, the pandemic ignited the rocket-like trajectory of Cloud software adoption.

While there are so many different paths an organization may take to enable and adopt Cloud software tools like Microsoft 365, the pandemic certainly decreased the length of that first step. To turn a phrase commonly heard from tech executives, "we faced two years of digital transformation in ten months." What worries me, however, is losing this momentum as we head into post-pandemic realities.

**Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet**

There is an even greater opportunity to recover with Cloud technology in 2021. What the global pandemic has taught us is that technology is now more critical to business

resilience than ever. Business continuity (and the bottom line) will depend on users extracting the most value from that technology.

Business leaders should now be considering their Modern Workplace journey; the on-going process of inspiring a work culture that thrives on digital-first processes. There is a far greater return on investment in the Cloud era when our teams not only understand how to use their new tools, but what exactly their new tools are capable of. It is time to get our workplace familiar with automation, artificial intelligence, and purpose-built apps. Are you ready?

Ryan Bialek is part of the Modern Workplace team at Clear Concepts, with a specific focus on inspiring, enabling, training, and supporting digital transformation. Contact Clear Concepts or visit [www.MoWo.ca](http://www.MoWo.ca) to learn how your team can thrive in the Modern Workplace. Contact Ryan [hello@clearconcepts.ca](mailto:hello@clearconcepts.ca)

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Are employees using unapproved, consumer-grade apps making security a bigger problem than ever? Are you looking to adopt Cloud software?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then it is likely time to review your digital tools and culture.

**Talk to a Modern Workplace Consultant today!**



# Industrial development at Centreport Canada

Diane Gray, President & CEO, CentrePort Canada

Over the past year, while companies were adjusting to the reality of operating in a COVID-19 world, CentrePort Canada has continued its growth and is a busy hub for industrial activity and investment.

At 20,000 acres, CentrePort Canada is North America’s largest trimodal inland port, providing companies with excellent access to a variety of transportation options, fully-serviced industrial land, and existing infrastructure that supports future growth.

Despite the pandemic, CentrePort Canada land located within the R.M. of Rosser has seen significant sales and construction activity throughout the last 12 months. Over \$75 million of development permits have been issued this year, and land sales continue to outperform expectations.

In 2020, the inland port saw two new industrial parks brought to market: BrookPort Business Park Phase II, an 80-acre fully-serviced industrial development with lots for sale; and Steele Business Park, a 17-acre industrial development which will have 3 multi-tenant buildings with space

for lease. It is anticipated that additional land available for development will be brought to market in early 2021.

A great example of recent construction activity can be seen in the Brookside Industrial Park West Phase III. Situated in the R.M. of Rosser at CentrePort Canada, this 100-acre industrial park was brought to market by Crystal Developers’ Ltd. in 2018, and is now home to 12 new companies that have recently opened their doors or are finalizing the build out of their facilities.

Here’s a look at some of the new companies now located in Brookside Industrial Park West Phase III:

- Major Drilling: 29,000 SF office, warehouse and shop
- Groupe Touchette: 70,000 SF tire distribution facility
- RW Consumer Products: 30,000 SF distribution centre
- NJ Industries: 14,000 SF manufacturing facility
- Rosenau Transport: 71,000 SF transportation and warehouse facility
- National Research Council: \$60 million advanced manufacturing program building
- Ipex Inc.: 28,000 distribution centre and office
- 49 North Lubricants: 10,000 SF office and shop

- Insituform: 7,000 SF office and shop
- Cosentino Surfaces: 20,000 SF showroom and distribution centre
- Medline Industries: 17,000 SF distribution centre
- Freightliner Manitoba: 78,000 SF warehouse, repair shop & office

Looking ahead to 2021, the inland port continues to draw interest from external markets. Awareness of Manitoba as a location for investment and development has increased over the last 12 months as companies look to stabilize their supply chains, minimize disruptions to their business and source both customers and suppliers from within their local market.

Strategically located at the hub of multiple trading corridors, CentrePort Canada is ideally situated to support these companies as they re-evaluate their supply chain and manufacturing activities. With existing transportation infrastructure in place, industrial land available for development and a special planning area in place to expedite approvals, CentrePort Canada is an ideal location for companies looking for North American locations.

# More Manitobans opting for living larger outside city limits

Arin Comack, VP of Sales and Marketing, Ventura Custom Homes

About 30 years ago, Ventura Custom Homes began building homes in communities on the outskirts of Winnipeg.

Although the concept was quite new, they had identified several key advantages that came with building a home just outside the city in communities such as La Salle, Dugald, Oak Bluff, Oak Bank, Lorette, and Stonewall.

Chief among those advantages were the ability to get a larger lot and a more spacious home at a lower price, more space to spread out inside and out, lower taxes, and much more.

Today, an increasing number of families—as they see those communities taking shape—are recognizing those advantages, says Ventura’s Vice-President of Sales and Marketing, Arin Comack.

“Building a home in a community like La Salle, Dugald, or Stonewall leaves more money on the table to build a bigger home on a huge lot for far less than it would cost in the city,” he says. “Not only do you have more space inside, but you also have more outside to design a backyard with amenities like a massive deck, a pool and that quintessential Canadian icon—the backyard rink.”

It also makes a lot of sense to build outside the city in pandemic-dominated times, he adds.

“By building in a less-populated area, you’re better able to build a home that’s your own private refuge. Because it’s larger, you can customize it to your exact needs with things like a dedicated home office, multiple entertainment areas, and other features that make it easier for everyone to spend time at home to work, study and hang out as a family.”



Finally, there’s the sense of community and peace of mind that’s gained from building just outside the city.

“You’re more likely to know your neighbours in a smaller community,”

notes Comack. “You see each other at the store, and your kids go to school together. And it’s safer for them to freely roam the neighbourhood like you used to as a kid.”

That strong sense of community—not to mention the location just outside the city—also provides other benefits.

“All the parents keep an eye out for each other’s kids, too. That makes for a safer, more close-knit community,” he says. “You can also wind down on the easy drive home, and then enjoy the solitude and access to all kinds of activities and amenities that are right on your doorstep.”

Best of all, Mother Nature is right at your fingertips every day.

Being out in the country, you can ATV, snowmobile, and dirt bike right out your front door.

Arin Comack is the VP of Sales and Marketing for Ventura.

## Puzzle answers

G	Y	M	S	T	H	E	F	T	S	L	A	B
H	A	E	C	H	A	Y	E	K	P	O	U	R
E	N	G	A	G	E	M	E	N	T	H	I	K
E	G	O	T	R	I	P						
			A	R	T	P	A	P	E	R		
C	L	O	T	H		O	P	P	O	S	E	D
L	A	N	K	A		N	O	T	S		E	E
E	N	T	O	M	B		E	L	V	I	R	A
F	D	A		R	U	S	E		E	M	O	R
T	O	P	F	L	I	G	H	T		H	I	N
			L	I	N	G	U	I	N	I		
C	H	R	I	S			E	I	G	H	T	P
R	E	A	M		U	P	I	N	T	H	E	A
O	A	K	S		S	H	U	N	T		L	U
P	R	E	V		D	O	E	V		P	R	E

1	6	9	5	2	7	8	4	3
2	4	8	1	6	3	9	7	5
5	3	7	9	4	8	1	2	6
7	8	4	3	9	2	6	5	1
3	5	1	4	7	6	2	9	8
6	9	2	8	5	1	7	3	4
8	7	6	2	3	5	4	1	9
4	1	3	7	8	9	5	6	2
9	2	5	6	1	4	3	8	7

### Stonewall’s Best Community Yet!

Stonewall is one of the largest towns within the Winnipeg Metro Region. It has long been the *town of choice* for families to raise their children and live a better lifestyle. Being one of the safest, tight knit communities, as well, Stonewall offers family’s so much more than the City, but with all the same amenities you’d expect!

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Visit Prairie View Lakes and choose from the entry-level homes in Prairie Place, empty nester bungalow duplexes in Country Vista Estates, or build a home for your growing family on a standard building lot. Is it time to upgrade your lifestyle? Then, build your dream home on an expansive walkout basement lake lot! The options are limitless!



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# Manitoba trucks move goods to market

**Terry Shaw, Executive Director, Manitoba Trucking Association**

At the Manitoba Trucking Association, we often describe the trucking industry as an invisible industry. By that, we mean most people don't really notice the groceries on the shelves, the books and desks in the schools, even the play structures on the playgrounds or traffic lights in the intersections. These things are just there, and there's no need to question how they arrived. However, among the many lessons learned in the past several months, we hope the general public has come to understand we are also an invaluable industry. It is the trucking industry across North America, Canada, and right here in



Terry Shaw.

Manitoba, that worked so that others could stay home, stay safe, and stay healthy. This wasn't easy. Early in the pandemic, when our understanding about COVID-19 was so much less than it is now, our drivers faced many uncertainties for very basic issues. Where can I go to the washroom? Where can I get some food? Where can I wash my hands or buy hand sanitizer? What do I need to do to keep my truck sanitized? Even today, after we have learned so much about COVID-19 and have rebuilt our PPE supplies, our drivers are still faced with questions. Can I get an appointment to see my doctor, dentist, optometrist? What are the public health orders in each jurisdiction through which I travel? How does this shipper/receiver want to deal with paperwork? Yet through it all, our drivers persevered.

We hear stories of them not making it home for weeks on end out of an abundance of caution for their families. Professional drivers stayed at work, moving the goods the rest of us needed, rather than possibly risk taking a new virus home to their family members. To suggest that there isn't a price to pay for these sacrifices would be inaccurate. Mental health among drivers is a concern, as it is among all frontline workers. Because the trucking industry worked as much as we could through the pandemic, everyone had to be prepared for change, quickly. Office staff were moved to remote locations. Shop layouts were re-configured and staff were cohorted so the maintenance schedules were maintained. Everyone in the industry changed their standard operating procedure. "Pivot" is one of those words we are all tired of hearing, but it so accurately explains the trucking industry over the course of 2020.

With the roll-out of a vaccine program, there is light at the end of this tunnel, but it remains distant. The changes we have made over the past several months will continue to be our way of life for the next while. However, we have made it through the most challenging times of this pandemic and we did it by working together. For the MTA, we have built many new relationships with other stakeholders, and strengthened relationships with others. We look forward to building on those relationships in a post-pandemic business environment. In the meantime, remember that all of those goods that helped get you through this pandemic—PPE, online orders, food in grocery stores and restaurants for pick-up or delivery, and soon vaccines—remember that all of those goods were moved by truck. Yes, we are invisible, but we are also invaluable. Terry Shaw is the Executive Director, Manitoba Trucking Association.

## Tackling commercial waste, together

*Why Manitoba needs to make commercial waste recycling mandatory*

**ReClay StewardEdge**

Manitoba has strong and accessible recycling programs and, generally, residents understand what is accepted in their blue bins. In fact, residential waste volumes decreased over the last decade, and the recovery rate of recyclables has increased. "The challenge comes with commercial waste recycling, which lags behind residential recycling," said Adrian Vannahme, Vice President of Business Development for Reclay StewardEdge. Statistics Canada cites that since 2014, commercial waste has increased by 11 per cent, while residential waste has decreased by 27 per cent. "That's because household

waste is mandated to be sorted and recycled under Manitoba law, commercial waste is not," said Adrian. As a result, many Manitoba institutions and businesses have few recycling options. A growing number of businesses pay for the ever-increasing cost of commercial recycling collection, but many do not, leaving much of Manitoba's one million tonnes of commercial waste going to landfill. Reclay StewardEdge, an international consulting firm with offices in Winnipeg and Toronto, has extensive experience and expertise in developing sustainability and resource management best practices. "There are several examples from European countries, as well as Ontario's plans to tackle commercial waste," said Adrian. "We want to continue to

work with the Manitoba government to consider adding recycling of commercial waste as part of a mandatory framework." Including mandatory commercial waste recycling in the existing provincial recycling framework will reduce landfill, reduce costs for municipalities, and more importantly, reduce the impact on the environment. It would also help to distribute waste management costs transparently and efficiently across the entire value chain. "Commercial waste need not pollute our environment, it can be recycled," said Adrian. "If Manitoba is to move towards a more circular economy, we must continue to discuss ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle commercial waste, too." Reclay StewardEdge presented in Febru-



ary at the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region's conference—Building Strong Communities: A Circular Approach. They shared some of the knowledge they've gained through working on the European Union's Circular Economy Directive and recycling legislation reform in a number of European countries.





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# Winnipeg Richardson International Airport taking steps to protect our community

Michel Rosset, Winnipeg Airports Authority

They can be found on nearly everything at Winnipeg Richardson International Airport. Handrails, elevator buttons, check-in kiosks—you name it, you will likely find an Enhanced Cleaning icon on it. These tiny stickers are helping to deliver a powerful promise: your health and safety are always top of mind.

It's a commitment that embodies the YWG Clean Program, a multi-layered approach to create a safe environment. Long before the first positive case of COVID-19 was announced in Manitoba, actions were being implemented across the airport to ensure an enhanced level of cleanliness.

"The health and safety of everyone who enters the airport has always been our highest priority," said Barry Rempel, President and CEO of Winnipeg Airports Authority. "We created this program to meet the challenges of the pandemic and ensure the facility is as clean as possible. Travellers, visitors and airport employees can have full confidence we've taken extensive steps to protect them."

On the frontlines of the YWG Clean Program is a tenacious team of cleaners. Armed with bottles of solution, bins of micro-fibre cloths and a state-of-the-art electrostatic disinfectant sprayer, the crew constantly rotates through the 550,000-square foot airport terminal to thoroughly sanitize all high-touch surfaces and amenities.

To further support the cleaning team, Winnipeg Airports Authority continues to implement innovative technology to lend a hand. The air filtration inside the modern terminal has been set to match that of a hospital setting. Devices have been installed on the escalator in the Arrivals Hall



to sterilize the handrails with UV-C light. For those arriving in Winnipeg on an international flight, facial recognition eGates as part of the NEXUS program have been placed in the Customs Hall. Touch-free options are also available in the airport's parking lots with increased tap limits on payment machines and barcode readers for those who pre-book online.

The way the airport is cleaned has changed significantly since the start of the pandemic—and so has the travel experience. To ensure everyone can move through the terminal safely and with confidence, YWG along with its partners have

put in place new procedures and protocols.

The facility was one of the first in the province to enforce the mandatory use of masks in all public areas. Every other check-in kiosk has been turned off to allow for proper physical distancing between travellers. As an extra reminder to stay six feet apart, signs and decals have been placed in high-traffic areas of the terminal. Additional hand sanitizer stations have also been set up in convenient, easy-to-find locations. In fact, nothing has been overlooked. Winnipeg Richardson International Airport has been recognized by Airports Council International's Airport

Health Accreditation program for prioritizing public health and safety.

"This is truly a team effort," said Rempel. "As one group cleans the terminal, other employees are sourcing critical supplies so we always have them in stock, reviewing our measures with public health officials or finding innovative ways to ensure a healthy environment. I can't thank our team members enough for their tireless work and dedication to keep our community safe."

To see the YWG Clean Program in action or for more information on the New YWG Travel Experience, visit [waa.ca](http://waa.ca).



## Working to deliver you a safe travel experience.

- ➔ 32 L How much cleaning solution is used each week to disinfect surfaces.
- ➔ UV-C Light to keep both handrails on our arrivals escalator constantly sanitized.
- ➔ 38°C Temperature you must register below to enter a security checkpoint.
- ➔ 103 Physical distancing floor stickers throughout the terminal.
- ➔ 335 ml Size of hand sanitizer bottle travellers can pack in their carry-on luggage.





# Kindness as currency—businesses helping the community



**Carly Edmundson, Director of Marketing & Communications, Cushman & Wakefield | Stevenson**

Many businesses struggled with how to keep their connection with their clients and partners strong during the pandemic. At Cushman & Wakefield Stevenson, our approach to staying at the forefront of our clients’ minds was to capitalize on supply and demand. We lead with something that seemed to be in short supply last year: Kindness.

We recognized that the community needed us. Dollars that used to be spent on advertising campaigns were used to buy lunch from local restaurants for deserving organizations like the North End Women’s Centre, the Knowles Centre, and Downtown Winnipeg Biz. Instead of hosting events, we sent our clients kits of personalized local goodies and encouraged them to reach out to us to schedule a drink/bite to eat

with us virtually. Instead of hosting staff events, we hosted virtual town halls and had donuts delivered to every one of our employees’ home offices.

These often logistically-challenging initiatives were well worth the investment to remind everyone that we are in this together. After all, many of us spent the majority of 2020 in our homes. Those who had to go out into the world every day became heroes to us. Here at Cushman & Wakefield Stevenson, our maintenance team for our property management clients became those heroes.

We knew they could be heroes to the rest of our community as well, so we decided to ask them to put on their figurative capes! We started a grassroots kindness initiative called #ActsOfMainteNICE where our maintenance team would help those in need whenever they could during the course of their days. Anything that the community needed, our heroes were there! They delivered hampers to hungry

families on behalf of incredible organizations like the Tunngasugit Inuit Resource Centre and the Hastings Family Centre. They donated and dropped off sanitization supplies to Winnipeg Pet Rescue Shelter and Main Street Project. They delivered 200 cups of ice cream from a local shop to the front line staff at the Knowles Centre. And there were many more.

The response was overwhelming. Even after the pandemic is in the rearview, we plan to continue our focus on building a strong community. We’ve seen firsthand that people want to do business with companies who care, even when times get tough.

Plus, we owe it to our MainteNICE heroes to carry their mission onward! They haven’t put their capes away just yet.

*Cushman & Wakefield | Stevenson (CW Stevenson) is Manitoba’s largest full service commercial real estate firm, offering brokerage, property management and advisory services.*



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Spring 2021



# STARS fighting for the lives of Manitobans

Colleen Mayer, Director of Donor Relations & Development, STARS

When a life is on the line, everyone has a role to play. Whether dispatched to a remote worksite, farm, small town, provincial park, or to a busy highway intersection, STARS air ambulance wants to be there for critically ill or injured patients, providing the best in critical care and rapid transport to hospital.

The charitable organization is committed to the health and safety of communities throughout the province—now and into the future. In STARS’ most recent fiscal year, the Winnipeg base alone carried out 760 missions to 192 different communities.

As the number of COVID-19 cases across Western Canada has risen, STARS has seen a surge of infected patients requiring urgent critical care and transport.

In addition to caring for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients, Dr. Doug Martin,

STARS medical director, Winnipeg, said the organization’s transport physicians have helped in the overall pandemic response by providing “expert advice to air medical crew and sending hospitals on this patient group, which can be quite difficult to manage in terms of oxygenation and ventilation.”

Some of the contributions STARS transport physicians have made to treat COVID-19 patients, aside from front-line care, include: developing procedures for in-hospital resuscitation and bedside ultrasound; creating protocols for airway management by ground paramedics; conducting airway management simulation training for hospital-based doctors; providing resources and advice to fixed wing air ambulance operators and offering pandemic contingency planning resources and guidance to First Nations partners.

“To me, the pandemic shows the degree to which the STARS transport physicians are part of, and contribute to, the fabric of the larger health care system,” said Dr. Martin.



STARS is raising funds to replace its aging aircraft in Manitoba with a new Airbus H145 helicopter like this one.

**Fleet for the future**

In addition to the pandemic, STARS is focused on the future of its services in Manitoba.

The organization’s BK117 helicopter has been a safe and reliable workhorse since STARS began operations in 2011, but as the aircraft is no longer in production, it has become too costly to maintain. Therefore, the organization is fundraising to bring a

new Airbus H145 helicopter to the province.

“The pandemic has presented us with an unexpected challenge, but our team is focused on the goal of raising \$3.7 million to get the H145 here as soon as possible,” said Colleen Mayer, director of donor relations and development, STARS Foundation, Manitoba.

“To reach our objective, we will need the support of allies old and new to help make a transformative investment in the future of helicopter emergency medicine in this province,” said Mayer.

STARS was built by the community for the community. With the support of government, business, service clubs and individuals, STARS can continue to serve communities large and small, urban and rural, delivering life-saving care to those who need it most, for decades to come.

“STARS can offer peace of mind for your colleagues, friends or loved ones as they work, travel and play across our beautiful Manitoba,” said Mayer.

# New community to offer forever homes at affordable prices

Genstar launches the city’s newest community, Summerlea

Dave Boles, Vice-President, Winnipeg Communities, Genstar



Genstar Development Company has been creating communities known for their innovative amenities, lasting value, and community pride for over 70 years—not only in the Winnipeg Metro Region, but also across Canada and the United States. The company recently unveiled plans for its newest community, Summerlea, in the place where it all began for Genstar back in the year 1950: Transcona.

With lots now available, Summerlea is a master-planned community that is designed to be different, yet familiar. Inspired by the layout of Winnipeg’s historic neighbourhoods, Summerlea will be built with a traditional grid street system and central green space. The intent of the design is to foster connections and celebrate

diversity. Genstar’s vision for Summerlea is to create a community that emphasizes connecting with friendly neighbours, while providing an affordable and appealing environment for people of all ages and at all stages of life. This people-first focus can be seen in neighbourhood features like the extensive pedestrian network, which links to the central green space to make it easy for residents to meet, keep active, and connect to the natural environment.

The architectural character of the neighbourhood draws on the image of early prairie settlements, with homes that blend the traditional forms and features of the classic Farmhouse style with progressive materials and con-

temporary details. This serves to create a one-of-a-kind aesthetic that is perfectly suited to a modern, yet relaxed lifestyle. There are also a wide range of home sizes, styles and options available within this general framework. The diversity of home types is designed to appeal to a diverse group of homeowners—which makes Summerlea the perfect choice for first-time homebuyers, families, and people looking to settle into their forever home, all for an affordable price.

The overall goal for Summerlea is to do nothing less than redefine modern notions of community and liveability. Nearly 20 acres of land within the neighbourhood will be set aside for greenspaces, including naturalized ponds. In addition to the walkways that connect to the central greenspace, there will be other pathways for walking or biking that can take

residents to the many surrounding parks and trails. Summerlea residents also have direct access to a neighbourhood commercial site, and a short distance away is a larger commercial development at Transcona Square. And for the families of Summerlea, there are plenty of education and childcare options in the area.

A sense of belonging is fundamental to our sense of happiness and well-being – and the Summerlea neighbourhood is designed to help foster exactly that. Replace the vision of cars, unknown neighbours, and fences with "hellos" and a connected, diverse, and lively community of people. Within this new neighbourhood, Winnipeg home buyers have the opportunity to have the life they long for – a life where community comes first, and where the look and feel of each street is as diverse as the residents who live there.

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# North Forge fueling innovation in Winnipeg Metro Region

Metro Region News Desk

While the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted many industries across Canada, representatives of North Forge Technology Exchange say it has acted as a launchpad for technology. With many residents of the Winnipeg Metro Region working from home and the demand for digital services and skills skyrocketing, the innovation partner for the Province of Manitoba is rising to the occasion to keep communities thriving.

The tech powerhouse was created over 10 years ago, in partnership with the Government of Manitoba, and has since been helping entrepreneurs and businesses around the world turn ideas into reality. Since its inception, North Forge has worked with over

200 companies, raising over \$200 million and creating dozens of new programs to continually provide entrepreneurs and businesses with the resources they need to succeed. North Forge is the driving force that powers projects like Ramp Up, the Eureka Project, and, most recently, the Help Next Door MB web app—an online tool that is helping connect Manitobans to the resources they need to get through the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of North Forge’s most successful programs is one it launched in the early months of the pandemic. The North Forge Founders Program helps tech businesses from across Manitoba receive foundational business training, access to mentor services from field experts, and networking opportunities—helping entrepreneurs build their businesses by implementing tried and true

industry knowledge.

CEO Joelle Foster says the pandemic forced North Forge to reevaluate its mandate and quickly build online platforms that could touch every single innovator in Manitoba.

“We were always working toward this [online courses], but COVID-19 forced us to do it a lot faster than we were previously,” said Foster. “The pandemic really made us rebuild some of our programs and get back to our mandate of helping businesses grow better, faster, and cheaper.”

Foster describes the Founders Program as a safe place for entrepreneurs to test out their ideas and take the next steps before they invest their hard-earned money—something that she understands might seem too good to be true for free.

“We’ve been doing this for 10 years and we

know how to do it,” said Foster, “People from around the world are finding us because they like what we’re doing.”

North Forge is continuing to develop its Founders Program by establishing international connections—with interested parties from Israel, Portugal, Africa, and the United Emirates already planning to come to Manitoba for the program.

“We want to work with people from other countries who want to bring their unique resources to Manitoba. We’re not only provincial anymore; we’ve grown beyond that.”

North Forge continues to advance tried and true industry knowledge to support Manitobans in meeting the digital demands of today while preparing them for tomorrow.

*For more information on its many services, visit [www.northforge.ca](http://www.northforge.ca).*

# Trails key to keeping Manitobans connected

Adam Kroeker, Community Planner and Active Transportation Specialist, HTFC Planning & Design

Something unusual happened near my house on a late spring day in 2020. The normal rumble of traffic coming from Portage Avenue went quiet. Instead, I heard bird-song, a porch door closing, and voices from people walking the trails in a nearby park.

Last year, the festival grounds, outdoor plazas, stadiums and other public spaces where people used to meet were closed due to pandemic restrictions. Instead, people connected where they could: on trails, paths, sidewalks, and “Open Streets,” which restricted motor vehicle traffic.

Looking for things to do last summer that were safe and close to home, my family became trail tourists. Each weekend, we’d search out a different trail or scenic walk within the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region: Beaudry Provincial Park, Oak Hammock Marsh, Bunn’s Creek, Birds Hill, Bois Des Esprits, Assiniboine Forest, Little Mountain Park, Selkirk’s waterfront, or the walkway through the treetops along the new Belvédère Saint-Boniface. We were not the only ones; a recent study by the Conference Board of Canada observed a dramatic increase in trail usage around the world as a response to COVID-19 policies (Trekking Our Trails, p. 14).



Figure 1: The new Belvédère Saint-Boniface along the Taché Promenade was designed by HTFC Planning & Design. (photo: Stationpoint Photographic)

Perhaps the world’s embrace of trails as gathering places should come as no surprise. A trail is, after all, a connection: a route linking two points together. Moving at a slower pace, people on trails are much more likely to notice things in their community or connect with other people than they would in a

car. Trails, when properly designed, are equitable places. They can be used by people of all income levels, cultures, ages, and abilities. They are as valuable in small communities and rural areas as they are in larger urban centres. Investments in active transportation are relatively inexpensive compared to road projects and provide immediate benefits for local residents, visitors and the environment.

In 2020, the Federal Government’s COVID-19 Resilience Stream provided funds to build active transportation projects that were shovel-ready. This fall, Trails Manitoba, in partnership with the Province of Manitoba and The Winnipeg Foundation, announced \$6 million of trail funding for 2020 and 2021. The Conference Board of Canada says, “There is an opportunity that all levels of government in Canada could take advantage of by promoting trail usage for residents and domestic tourists.” Now is the time for Manitoba municipalities of all sizes to make a plan for future trails and other active transportation infrastructure including bridges, boardwalks and shared use paths so that they can capitalize on funding opportunities once they become available. Even after the pandemic passes, there will always be a need for people to connect.

*Adam Kroeker is a community planner and active transportation specialist at HTFC Planning & Design. For more about HTFC visit [www.htfc.ca](http://www.htfc.ca)*



Taché Promenade



Brokenhead Wetlands Interpretive Trail



Winnipeg’s East Exchange District: Photo by Lindsay Reid

HTFC Planning & Design offers a wide range of planning, landscape architecture and urban design services from offices in Winnipeg and Saskatoon, focusing on sustainability, resilience and social inclusion. We weave new projects into the local landscape and connect communities through custom tailored site developments that include public plazas, outdoor learning environments, intergenerational play and recreation spaces, green roofs, urban forests, naturalized stormwater management systems, edible landscapes, native landscape restorations and active transportation systems.

If you are interested in learning more about us, visit [www.htfc.ca](http://www.htfc.ca) or contact [info@htfc.ca](mailto:info@htfc.ca)





# Respect by acknowledgement: Why we honour the land

Metro Region News Desk

“The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region’s geography is on the traditional land of the First Nations and home of the Metis Nation on which we live, do business, work, and gather.”

While acknowledging the land is a tradition that has dated back centuries for Indigenous peoples and communities across the globe, for many non-Indigenous Canadians and settlers, officially recognizing the territory and lands we stand on is a fairly new concept.

A territorial or land acknowledgement is an act of reconciliation that involves making a statement by recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous peoples who called the land home before the arrival of settlers. It is also done to raise awareness about respecting Indigenous people’s presence in their territories and recognizing the ongoing effects of colonialism today.

The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region works closely with the Southern Chiefs’ Organization and the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources through the Collaborative Leadership Initiative to tackle shared social issues, create good jobs and a strong economy, and pursue the complex issues of protecting our land, water, and air.



## WSP Canada is shaping the future of the Metro Region

**Meagan Boles, Manager of Planning, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, WSP Canada**

WSP is one of the world's leading professional services consulting firms. We are dedicated to our local communities and propelled by international brainpower. We are technical experts and strategic advisors including engineers, planners, technicians, scientists, architects, surveyors, project managers, and environmental specialists, as well as other design, program, and construction management professionals. We design lasting solutions in the Transportation & Infrastructure, Property & Buildings, Environment, Power & Energy, Resources, and Industry sectors, as well as offering strategic advisory services. With over 8,000 talented

people across Canada, and 48,000 globally, we engineer projects that will help societies grow for lifetimes to come.

In Winnipeg, WSP Canada’s connection is deep and rich. Our first office opened here 52 years ago with six people when the population of Winnipeg was just 534,000. During the 1960s, the Red River Floodway was completed—priming the city for growth, and we are proud to have been a part of this journey. As Winnipeg grew, our team grew, taking on bigger and more complex projects. Our growth continues with the opening of a material testing lab in early 2021, and the planned acquisition of Golder, adding around 2,700 staff to the Canadian operations. We truly value the opportunity to contribute to growth and development of the Winnipeg Metro Region, including working with and within many of

the member municipalities. In particular, we are thrilled to be a part of the team working on Plan20-50, developing a plan for a stronger future for all of us, and also working on the City of Winnipeg’s new Transportation Master Plan, including the component examining regional transportation issues.

With two WSP offices in Winnipeg at Lombard Avenue and Buffalo Place, our teams specialize in infrastructure, land use and transportation planning, alternative delivery project management, rail and transit, water and wastewater, land development, public engagement, environmental management, buildings, architecture and much more. We partner with local municipalities, the province, utility companies and private sector clients to ensure collaboration and efficiency to solve complex challenges and serve the regions and commu-

nities where we live and work. Our work takes us to communities all across Manitoba. We are 240 WSP’ers proudly serving the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region and Manitoba as a whole.

Like everyone, our business was impacted by the global pandemic in 2020. In particular, project priorities shifted and refocused, stakeholder and public engagement and client meetings took on a completely new meaning, shifting to virtual live meetings and webinars as opposed to in person gatherings. And as we reflect on a year like no other, we learned a lot about how our work can shift, how we can adapt and continue to meet client needs.

Please reach out to us! We look forward to seeing you all in person soon!

*Meagan Boles, MCIP RPP is the Manager of Planning, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design.*

Question the ordinary  
Imagine the extraordinary  
Create the enduring

We must all hold ourselves accountable for tomorrow.  
For us, that means creating innovative solutions  
to the challenges the future will bring. Can we design  
a place where our communities can thrive?

What if we can?



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# Looking for love online—dating throughout a pandemic

Metro Region News Desk

Despite the need to physically distance from one another, our instinctual need for human connection has likely increased as a result of COVID-19. Many of us are spending most of our time at home and have lost touch with the feelings of enjoyment and excitement from going out and meeting new people. So, it’s no surprise that online dating platforms have seen a surge in memberships over the last 10 months.

Match Group, the online dating corporation that owns platforms like Tinder, Hinge, and Match among others, reported a 15 per cent increase in new subscribers over the recent 2020 quarter. Messaging on Hinge increased 30 per cent, Tinder saw its biggest day ever on March 29 with over 3 billion swipes, and virtual dates shot up 70 per cent on OKCupid, according to Business Insider.

With this new demand for the service, programmers have had to add some extra safety features as pandemic protocols tightened. In March 2020, Match Group platforms added a pop-up message reminding user to practice precautions like maintaining social distance, and later added video dating features.

While experts believe the number of new online dating users will level out as the world slowly returns to normalcy, it’s worth bringing some attention to tools that we can use today to fulfill the need for human connection. Listed below are some of the most popular dating apps, what to expect from each, and who should consider joining.



More people are looking for love online since COVID-19

**Bumble – the app that empowers women.**

This free app has made all the top lists when it comes to online dating because of its women-speak-first policy, its privacy and safety features, and, most recently, its video chat feature. What makes this app even more pandemic-perfect is its friend-finder and business-networking options, allowing users to find more than just potential romantic connections.

**Tinder – casual dating and more.**

Tinder has been the most popular dating app for several years now because of its ease of use and short-and-sweet ap-

proach to meeting people. Don’t worry about having to answer 100 questions or needing a Facebook account to get started. Once considered the go-to for “casual” dating, Tinder boasts hundreds of thousands of long-term relationship success stories.

**Match – for long-term lookers.**

To dive into the realm of pay-for-use dating apps would require an entire new list, but Match makes the cut for this quick read. First launched in 1995, Match has stood the tests of time due to its easy-to-use interface and detail-rich profiles. While most online daters are opting for the free apps today, platforms like Match filter out thousands of potential users to help you find matches that are as serious about finding a relationship as you are. As an added COVID-19 feature, users can now join virtual happy hours with up to 30 other users within their area and age group along with a moderator. This might just be the next best thing to hitting your favourite lounge on a Friday night.

**Facebook Dating – an enormous ecosystem.**

For those who don’t want to bother downloading a new app and setting up a new profile, Facebook Dating might be just what you need. Your profile is among the easiest to set up and the service is completely free. Users don’t need to worry about information being shared publicly on Facebook—this platform keeps everything confidential.

This list only touches on the vast world of digital dating platforms available today. Manitobans looking for safe ways to stay connected can dive into any of these sites to see who you might meet and who knows, perhaps a silver lining to the pandemic could mean actually finding love online.

# Highland Pointe continuing a 100 year-old tradition

Michael Carruthers, Manager of Land Development, Ladco Company

Winnipeg was a different city 100 years ago. Just over 100,000 residents dwelled in what is now the inner circle of the “Gateway to the West.” Since then, Winnipeg has continued to develop and change, but a familiar face has shaped the city you know today.

For 100 years, Ladco Company Limited has invested in our community and have been instrumental in developing neighbourhoods like Windsor Park, Fort Richmond, Royal Wood, and more recently,

South Pointe and Prairie Pointe. Today, the Northwest is where their newest community has broken ground—Highland Pointe.

Located just off McPhillips and about a kilometre south of the Perimeter Highway, Highland Pointe is the newest community to Northwest Winnipeg. When completed it will comprise approximately 406 acres of single family, multifamily and commercial, including approximately 58 acres of parks and lakes. The community’s park system will interconnect with several kilometres of walking path connected to abundant recreational space. When

complete, it will be a pleasant blend of neighbourhood and park space.

Phase One will offer a variety of single family, duplex and townhome lots for a wide range of incomes. Commercial and multifamily units are also planned in the not-too-distant future. In addition, Phase One will also feature one of several fully naturalized retention ponds, a unique feature pioneered by Ladco in the community of Royal Wood. Another green amenity will be a half acre pocket park, which will include a playground and open field. A third of a kilometre asphalt path will connect the park to standard street sidewalks.

Purchasers in Highland Pointe will have the freedom to build the home of their choosing. Flexible architectural guidelines, like in Prairie Pointe, will allow Ladco’s list of professional home builders to visualize their future homeowners’ imagination. This success helped to make Prairie Pointe popular among many buyers. Lots in Phase One will be available for purchase tentatively by late summer 2021.

*Ladco is proud to be back in Winnipeg’s North end and are eager to continue their 100-year history with Highland Pointe. Learn more at [www.ladco.mb.ca](http://www.ladco.mb.ca).*



# HIGHLAND POINTE

*Coming Summer*  
to North West Winnipeg **2021**

A Variety of Single Family, Duplex and Townhome Lots will be Available in Stage 1.

A New Community by: **LADCO** COMPANY LIMITED



[www.ladco.mb.ca](http://www.ladco.mb.ca)



# Maintaining mental wellness while staying apart

Metro Region News Desk

Winter was likely a feat for many Canadians. The chilly temperatures, shorter days, and more time spent indoors added an extra hurdle to an already-challenging year.

With the coldest temperatures behind us and the provincial restrictions slowly lifting, Manitobans everywhere may be tempted to throw caution to the wind and jump back in to social gathering. But we must remember to continue doing our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19, even as our day-to-day lives become less restricted.

We’ve compiled a short list of tips and resources you can use to make the most of this transitional time.

10 breaths of fresh air a day

With many Manitobans still working from home, it’s become surprisingly easy to wake up on a Friday and realize you haven’t stepped out your door all week.

Now that those -30 days are behind us, this 10-breaths-a-day rule is something anyone can follow. Studies from across the globe have shown the mental and physical benefits of fresh air, and taking even two minutes per day to focus on your breath has been proven to reduce negative emotions and improve bodily functions.

Give it a try! At least once per day, preferably when you’re feeling groggy or approaching a work break, step outside for 10 breaths. Inhale that fresh air all the way down into your lungs and then empty them out. You’ll be surprised by how it hits your internal reset button.

Schedule things to look forward to

Social gatherings are limited, but that doesn’t mean a social life is off the table—that’s where innovative technology comes in!

Eventbrite currently has a list of unique and exciting virtual events scheduled throughout the entire season. Free group cooking classes, yoga sessions, networking events, photography workshops, trivia nights, cocktail concocting



lessons, music concerts—the list goes on and on.

It might be tempting to dismiss the idea of a virtual event, but “attending” events gives you the opportunity to step out of routine, learn something new, and maybe even make some new connections—all of which are good for your mental health. Which leads into the next tip...

**Make time for face time—seriously!**

Staying connected while staying safe is still doable, and it’s actually recommended now more than ever.

Resources from the Canadian Mental Health Association state that making time to connect with family, friends, and even for dating during the pandemic is not only recom-

mended, but critical. Talking face-to-face with others, even through a digital screen, is shown to lower stress levels and significantly improve feelings of loneliness. Meaningful connections must remain an essential part of everyday life.

World-renowned Yale University instructor Laurie Santos recently conducted a study which found that interacting with another person, even someone you’re not very close with, every day is shown to significantly improve mental well-being. Try dedicating specific timeslots of your week to “face time,” during which you log off from work and spend just 10 minutes talking with another person. You’re never too busy for your mental health.

**Feel good about your purchases**

Online shopping soared to new heights as a result of the pandemic, with heavyweight retailers like Amazon hitting record sales. While there’s no shame in ordering your supplies, groceries, and other essentials in whatever way best suits you, now is an especially valuable time to support our local businesses.

An article for Futurpreneur Canada states that for every \$100 spent at a locally-owned business, \$68 will stay in the community; whereas the same amount spent at a national chain puts just \$43 back in the community, and that amount decreases even more when spent at an international chain.

Choosing to spend your dollars at a local business not only means helping a fellow Manitoban maintain his or her livelihood, it also means putting dollars back into our local economy while and providing jobs for members of our communities.

Shopping local from a distance has never been more accessible. Websites like Good Local Inc. and the Local Frequency provide digital access to over 100 unique Manitoba businesses including apparel, food and drink, and home décor.

Residents across the province are itching to get back to pre-pandemic lifestyles, but if we all work together to protect ourselves and each other, we will remain a strong and resilient Manitoba.

# How libraries across the region adapted to pandemic

Metro Region News Desk

Have you been reading more throughout the pandemic?

The Gaynor Family Regional Library is adapting to changes not only in who has been using its services, but also how they’re using them. As with many other types of businesses, Manitoba libraries have had a “page-turner” of a year.

The GFRL opened its doors in Selkirk in 2014 and quickly became a hotspot for reading, meeting, and eating. The 18,000-sq-ft facility has been a welcoming community space for all residents of Selkirk, St. Andrews, and St. Clements—offering reading and research spaces, a café, boardrooms for rent, and over 60,000 books and eBooks. Since the pandemic first hit Manitoba in March 2020, the day-to-day for GFRL staff has changed dramatically.

Director of Library Services Ken Kuryliw says they saw a huge increase in high school students studying at the library once alternate day attendance was implemented. Foot traffic has dramatically decreased since then as a result of provincial restrictions, but Kuryliw says rentals have been doing well.



“Physical book rentals have gone down, but our eBook rentals have probably increased by about 25 per cent,” said Kuryliw.

Those who prefer physical book-reading can rest assured that the GFRL staff are taking every precaution to ensure there’s no chance of cross contamination between book borrowers. Staff quickly implemented a one-week quarantine policy for all returned books. Members can pick up book rentals using the library’s curbside program.

The library offers digital tools so that its 12,300 registered users can easily sign in online and access thousands of eB-

ooks and audio books for free. Members can also download the Libby app to their devices for even easier access to library resources. Tumble Books, an online collection of animated, talking picture books that help teach kids about reading, is also available to GFRL members.

“We have lots of electronic services being improved upon, so that people will continue supporting the library,” said Kuryliw.

With library services free to all members, the GFRL is looking for support for fundraising projects including the Legacy of Love art installation. The 350-sq-yard piece will be set in the library’s Urban Prairie Garden in honour of Canada’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Kuryliw says that the library’s usual sources of income have taken a hit as a result of the pandemic.

“We lost over \$15,000 worth of revenue in room bookings this year,” said Kuryliw. “We relied heavily on that for funding projects.”

*Manitobans who would like to support the library can either donate to the Legacy of Love project at [www.canadahelps.ca](http://www.canadahelps.ca) or help support library costs at [www.sdfc.ca](http://www.sdfc.ca).*

## Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1. Workout spots
  - 5. Crime
  - 10. Thick slice
  - 14. Feminine “this,” to Caesar
  - 15. Salma of “Dogma”
  - 16. Serve from a carafe
  - 17. Word for battle or betrothal
  - 19. Raise
  - 20. Bit of self-indulgence
  - 21. Hard to see through
  - 22. Material used for student craft projects
  - 26. Linen or denim
  - 30. Against
  - 34. Sri \_\_\_\_
  - 35. Have-\_\_\_\_ (lower economic group)
  - 36. Cry of fear
  - 37. Place in a vault
  - 39. Mistress of the Dark
  - 42. Fed. watchdog grp.
  - 43. Misleading trick
  - 47. Atlanta University
  - 48. Highest level
  - 51. Dancer Gregory
  - 52. Clam sauce partner
  - 54. “Everybody Hates \_\_\_\_”
  - 57. Start of T.V. prime time, often
  - 62. Paper unit
  - 63. Not yet determined
  - 66. They were once acorns
  - 67. Switch on a track
  - 68. 1987 Suzanne Vega hit
  - 69. Hunted one
  - 70. One of a popular seven
  - 71. Barack Obama, familiarly

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							19			
20									21					
				22			23	24	25					
26	27	28	29			30					31	32	33	
34						35					36			
37					38				39	40	41			
42					43	44	45	46		47				
48				49	50					51				
				52					53					
54	55	56						57		58	59	60	61	
62						63	64	65						
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

- 7. Watch
- 8. Peat source
- 9. Station purchase (abbr.)
- 10. Ball
- 11. Chop choice
- 12. Razor-billed birds
- 13. Jane Fonda’s role in “Klute”
- 18. Type of cracker
- 21. \_\_\_\_ Moines
- 23. Health org.
- 24. Suitable to the occasion
- 25. Ask, as questions
- 26. Chin dimple
- 27. \_\_\_\_ Calrissian of “The Empire Strikes Back”
- 28. Not in bottles

## Sudoku

		9				8		
	4		1	6	3	9		
				4		1		6
						6	5	
	5	1		7				
	9			5	1		3	4
8	7					4		9
		3	7					2
	2	5			4			

- 29. Round stopper
- 31. “Prime Time” Sanders
- 32. Pied-à-\_\_\_\_
- 33. Gives a go-ahead to
- 38. Sci-fi writer David
- 40. Rival of Lafayette
- 41. Mil. sch. in VA
- 44. Trendy boot brand
- 45. Moo \_\_\_\_ chicken
- 46. St.-\_\_\_\_ (city in S. France)
- 49. Cheaply made
- 50. Lille lily
- 53. \_\_\_\_gritty
- 54. Harvesting yield
- 55. Listen to
- 56. Philanderer
- 58. Provide assistance
- 59. Prefix meaning “bull”
- 60. Toll road
- 61. Singer Jason
- 63. Amer. currency unit
- 64. Saigon soup
- 65. “Am \_\_\_\_ to it?”





# MOVING MANITOBA FORWARD

*The potential for tourism  
to fuel economic growth*

As Manitoba weathers the impact of COVID19, our tourism industry will have an important role to play in rebuilding the province's economy. Tourism, when embraced by a community, is an economic development engine. Visitors bring new dollars into a community, to be spent at attractions, hotels, restaurants and shops.

Tourism businesses are local businesses. When part of broader economic development initiatives, tourism supports meaningful job opportunities, drives community innovation and increases export revenues.

When it is safe to do so, being a tourist in your own province and supporting tourism here at home will contribute to Manitoba's economic recovery. Tourism creates jobs and improves our quality of life. As Manitobans, we can all enjoy the accessible wilderness and high calibre cultural attractions that make Manitoba such an amazing place to live – and to visit.

**Manitoba**

CANADA'S HEART  BEATS

[travelmanitoba.com](http://travelmanitoba.com)