



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT FRIENDS OF UPPER FORT GARRY, INC.

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 2016 Annual Report of the Friends of Upper Fort Garry. This has been an exciting year for us as we unveiled the Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Heritage Wall. The interpretive design of the Wall in addition to the LED light and sound show has proven to be a major attraction for visitors. In addition to the creative design of the Park itself, visitors are fascinated by the technology on the site that lets them learn more about the buildings, events and people that were part of the history of Upper Fort Garry.

While the journey has been a long one – and it is far from over, we are pleased with what has been accomplished. One of the pleasures, as you walk through the site, is using the technology available to learn more about the design and the history of Upper Fort Garry. One of the major advantages of the technology is that it allows us, in a very cost effective way, to update and add to the historical content on a regular basis.

We have several major partners who have worked with us from the start: The Government of Canada, The Province of Manitoba, The City of Winnipeg, The Forks North Portage Corporation, and the Manitoba Metis Federation. It is a pleasure in 2016 to welcome Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries as our first major Sponsor. We value these partnerships and those of all our donors and we look forward to continuing the relationships.

Without the amazing financial support from our community, the project would never have been possible. We still marvel at meeting the challenge of raising \$10M in 107 days in 2008 to secure the site. Our success was a community effort and a tribute to the citizens of Manitoba and their concern for preserving our history. Or, as I am fond of saying, "Only in Winnipeg!" could something like this happen. So to our donors and other supporters, a big "Thank you!"

Finally, I want to thank our volunteer board for their tireless efforts over the past eleven years. We are proud of what twelve originally and now fourteen individuals have accomplished. The challenges were many and often monumental, yet the board never wavered in its commitment to the project. We have been fortunate to recruit four new board members this year as part of our board renewal strategy.

Our next challenge is raising funds for the Visitor Centre. Our goal is to have this legacy project in place in time for two special anniversaries in 2020. The first - Manitoba's 150th Anniversary – on the very site, HBC Upper Fort Garry where Manitoba was born, and secondly it is Hudson's Bay Company's 350th anniversary.

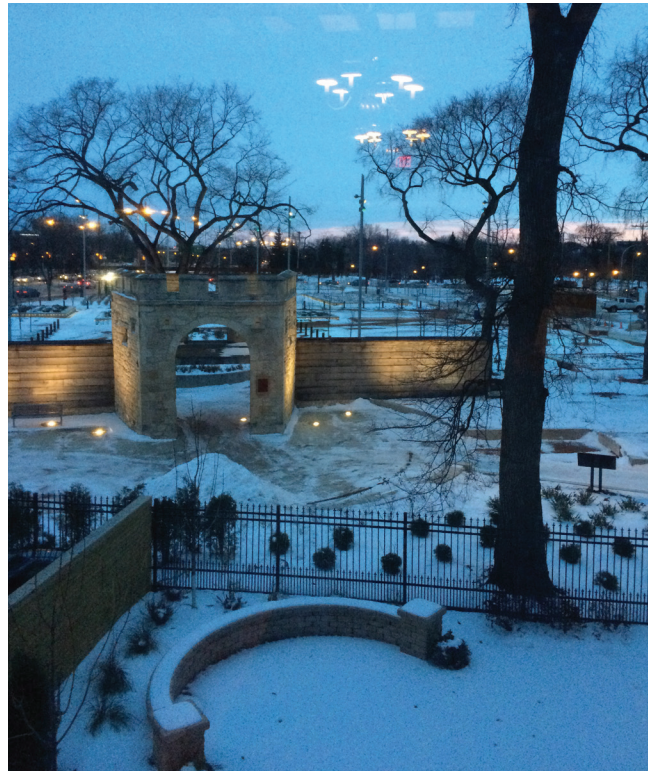
Dr. Jerry L. Gray,  
Chair, Friends of Upper Fort Garry

# THE FRIENDS OF UPPER FORT GARRY (FUFG)

FUFG is a registered charity and was incorporated in 2008. The mission statement as approved by the Board of Directors in 2008 is as follows:

The purpose of The Friends of Upper Fort Garry (FUFG) is to acquire and develop the heritage property at the Upper Fort Garry site and adjacent land into a world-class heritage site for educational and visitor purposes.

FUFG pursues the mission by building public awareness and support for the project, raising capital and operating funds for development of the site, and providing continuous leadership to achieve the vision.



## SUMMARY OF 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Heritage Wall was unveiled to the public in 2016. This massive structure – 440' long and 16' high – tells the 300 year history of the area through 7,000 LED's and 18 channel sound. The first "sound and light show" on the wall depicts the annual Metis buffalo hunt. We proudly refer to it as the largest piece of public art in Canada.
- Fund-raising activities continued to be successful and \$405,000 in new pledges were received in 2016.
- The total investment in design and construction is approximately \$12.2 million to date.
- Total cash and pledges raised to date is \$13.2million.



## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The board developed a strategic plan in 2008 and updates the plan every two years.

The current strategic priorities are:

- Board Renewal
- Fund-raising for operations and future construction
- Developing programming for the Park
- Increasing public awareness and use of the Park





## IN MEMORY OF GARRY HILDERMAN

The Board mourns the passing of founding board member Garry Hilderman in 2016. As a notable landscape architect, Garry had a life-long passion for the site of Upper Fort Garry and led the design process. He was one of the major drivers behind the founding of the Friends of Upper Fort Garry. Garry is missed.

## 2016 BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Jerry L. Gray, Chair  
Brock Alexander  
Lawrie Barkwell  
Harvey Bostrom  
R. W. (Bob) Cunningham  
Dr. Gerald Friesen  
Elaine Goldie  
Cindy Tugwell  
Hon. Gary Filmon, P.C., O.C., O.M.  
Sandra Jones  
Michel D. Lagacé  
Hon. Otto Lang, P.C., O.C., Q.C.  
Charles Loewen  
Penny McMillan (Managing Director)

The organization operates in an all-volunteer capacity. The Managing Director is a board member who, on a volunteer basis, manages the organization.

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

The Friends of Upper Fort Garry would like to acknowledge with thanks all the volunteers who have contributed time and expertise to the project. Special acknowledgment in 2016 to the Master Gardeners – the Governor's Garden looked great.



## THANK YOU FOR DONOR AND SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT

Donations and sponsorships have been received from government, foundations, corporations, and individuals. We thank all who have joined together in the quest to save and re-energize Upper Fort Garry.

The Friends of Upper Fort Garry wish to express our sincere thanks for the ongoing support that we have received over the years. We acknowledge and thank all new donors and sponsors for joining the effort and look forward to continuing to work with all our supporter.





# OUR HISTORY

## MAKING UPPER FORT GARRY PROVINCIAL PARK A REALITY 2005 – 2016

### PHASE ONE

Our journey began in 2005 when a group of twelve dedicated volunteers, eager to protect a site of great historic significance from commercial development, were challenged by the City of Winnipeg to raise the funds necessary to secure the birthplace of Manitoba.

This "107 day challenge" quickly grew to a large-scale community effort with donors from many walks of life pledging from one dollar to one million dollars. In just 107 days, the Friends of Upper Fort Garry raised \$10 million and were able to secure the site and guarantee that it would remain in public ownership in perpetuity.

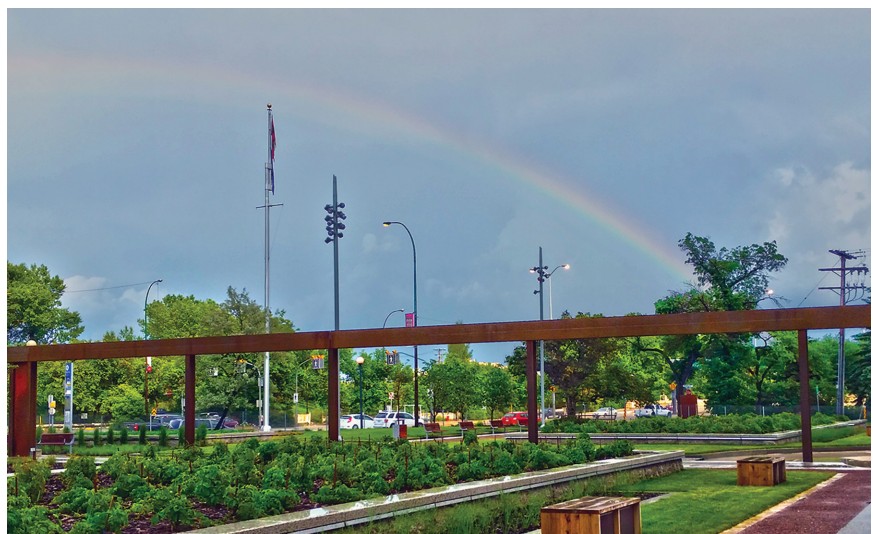
Since that inspiring time in 2008, we've been working to implement our vision. The Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park Act was proclaimed on July 15, 2014.

This is important for the site as legislation granting Provincial Park status guarantees the permanence of the site. The Friends of Upper Fort Garry through an agreement with the Province are responsible for all aspects of development, fundraising, operation and

management of the Park and site. Phase 1 of the project was the design and construction of the Heritage Park. Commercial buildings that were standing on the site were demolished, and construction of the Park is now complete. The Park is best described as an artistic interpretation of the original Upper Fort Garry.

This phase of the development – plantings, heritage gardens, walkways, lighting, a steel trellis

demarcating the original north wall of the Fort, Tyndall stone plinths marking the foundations of the original Hudson's Bay Company buildings – have all been completed, and the Park was opened to the public in August 2015. A smart device app has been developed, enabling visitors to walk about the Park and learn about the history of the Fort through written text and visual images delivered electronically.





# THE MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES HERITAGE WALL PHASE TWO

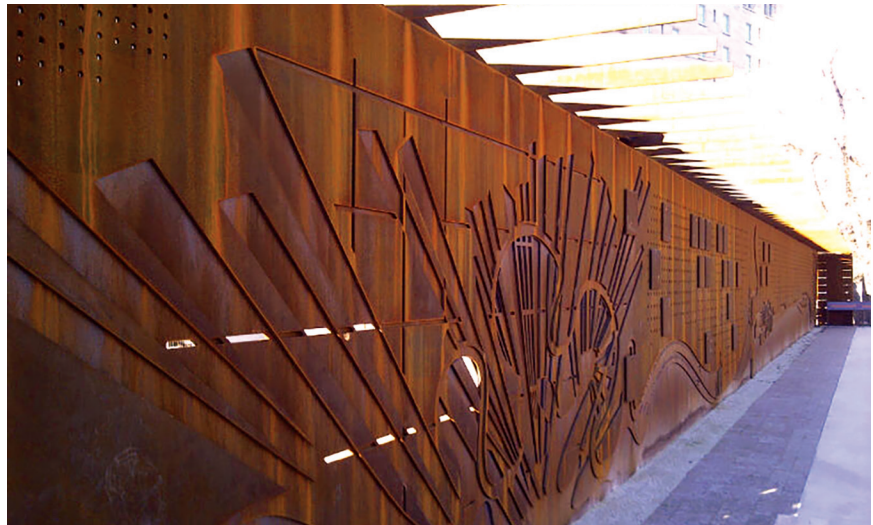
The second phase of our vision – the Heritage Wall sponsored by Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries – was unveiled to the public in 2016.

The Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Heritage Wall is a \$3.5 million weathered steel structure, 440' long, and up to 16' high, that symbolizes the original west wall of the Fort.

The Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Heritage Wall contains interpretive icons depicting the history of the area, and 7,000 LED lights and 18 channel sound that can be programmed for interpretation and teaching, as well as entertainment.

The artistically depicted flowing-timeline takes visitors on a journey: from a buffalo hunt with riders on horseback, to canoes, York boats, and steamboats, oxcarts, trains, and rail. It will present a story of movement, and of how the Hudson's Bay Company's and Upper Fort Garry's location were vital in building a nation. Visitors to the Park, using the Upper Fort Garry app learn through brief descriptive text what each of the icons in the timeline on the wall represent in our history.

The Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Heritage Wall will also serve as the exterior wall of the future Visitor Centre. A fitting tribute to Manitoba as a centre of arts and culture, the Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Heritage Wall will arguably be the largest example of public art of its kind in Canada!



# THE VISITOR CENTRE – THE FUTURE

## PHASE THREE

Phase 3, the Visitor Centre, will be a signature piece of architecture appropriate for one of Canada's most historic sites. When viewed from Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park, the Visitor Centre roof will appear as a rising prairie landscape. The roof of the building will slope up from the Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Heritage Wall toward the southwest, and be planted with native grasses, recalling the view of the prairies Upper Fort Garry residents must have had in the 19th Century. Only the grassed roof and the building entrance will be visible from the Park.



The conceptual design of the visitor centre allows it to be constructed in phases as funds permit.

Although programming will be ongoing in the Park, having an indoor facility is critical, particularly for school visits. The Visitor Centre will provide indoor space for displays, events, and educational

### GENERAL OPERATIONS

Financial record keeping and event bookings are handled by The Forks Renewal Corporation as part of their \$900,000 gift-in-kind commitment made in 2008. This generous gift has been very helpful, in many ways to the FUG. The knowledge and expertise that they contribute to the operation is most appreciated. FUG consider The Forks Renewal Corporation to be a major partner in the development of Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park.

## OPERATIONS

Operational expenses for 2016 consisted of the following items:

**Park Maintenance** – FUG has a maintenance agreement with The Forks to provide various services on the Park site, including lawn care, snow removal and security. This agreement has been re-negotiated for 2017 resulting in lower costs for FUG.

**Parking Lot Services** – FUG has an agreement with The Forks to provide all necessary services to

maintain the parking lot, including collection of revenue, monitoring occupancy, generating new customers, and all accounting services. This too, has been re-negotiated in 2017 resulting in lower cost for FUG.

**Insurance** – Coverage includes liability, property damage and Director and Officers liability.

**Garden planting and maintenance** – An agreement with a private contractor is in

place to provide special gardening and maintenance during the growing season. Initial work was performed in 2015 and continues.

**Accounting and on-site event booking services** – Are provided through an in-kind services grant from The Forks North Portage Corporation. Deductions from the original grant are made annually and reported in the financial statements.



## PROGRAMMING

There was limited opportunity for programming in 2016 due to the construction activity on the site for most of the year. The major focus was developing programming for the Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Heritage Wall and developing the interpretive materials available on the mobile app.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2016 audited financial statements are available upon request.

## REMEMBER,

Individually and collectively actions make a difference: One vote on this site in 1870 has proven a huge, forever difference is possible. Now it is our turn. A decision to support FUGG with its distinctive approach of interpretive, artistic and technology based learning will build this generation's legacy of reconciliation, tolerance and inclusion for today and for all the tomorrows. Together. We can make Manitoba proud.

