

Friends of Upper Fort Garry, Inc.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Friends of Upper Fort Garry, Inc.
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message from the chair

While the journey has been a long one—and it is far from over—we are excited about 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of the major advantages of the technology is that it allows us, in a very cost effective way, to update and add to the historical content on a regular basis. Work began on a major technological innovation in 2017 that will be unveiled in the spring of 2018.

Over the years of my tenure as Chair, I have had the pleasure of working with our major partners—governments, corporations, donors and sponsors. The Friends of Upper Fort Garry (FUGG) value these relationships and we thank you for joining us in recognizing the historical importance of the site, in saving the site for now and for future generations and in making this unique combination of interpretation, art and technology a reality that is open to all.

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!”

Being a period with no new physical construction and with the Visitor Centre in the planning stages, 2017 has been a year that allowed FUGG to begin to focus on operating the Park and developing its internal management systems. Penny McMillan, a founding Board member has been an invaluable resource in this period as she continues to serve, on a volunteer basis as Managing Director.

My term as Chair expires in December, 2017 and I will be leaving the board. Working with the board over the past 12 years has been an absolute joy. I want to thank all the volunteer directors for their tireless efforts over the years. We are proud of what our board has accomplished, sometimes against seemingly impossible odds. The challenges were many and often monumental, yet the board never wavered in its commitment to the project. I am pleased to note that Mr. Brock Alexander has agreed to assume the Chair in 2018. Brock has been on the board for several years and I know he will continue to provide the leadership necessary to take the project through the next stage, the construction of the Visitor Centre.

In closing, I would again like to recognize the contribution of Garry Hilderman, whose passion for this project provided years of leadership and design inspiration. Garry and I worked closely as a team over the years and it is sad that he did not live to see the final result. He is sorely missed.

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



Jerry Gray (left), Gerry Hilderman (right)

“Garry Hilderman provided years of leadership and design inspiration for this project. Garry and I worked closely as a team over the years and it is sad that he did not live to see the final result. He is sorely missed.”
-Dr. Jerry L. Gray

about

friends of upper fort garry (FUFG)



DESCRIPTION

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

FUFG operates with volunteer directors. The By-Laws allow for a maximum of 25 directors. Board meetings are held monthly.

Board Members (2017)

Dr. Jerry L. Gray, Chair
Brock Alexander
Lawrie Barkwell
Harvey Bostrom
R. W. (Bob) Cunningham

Elaine Goldie
Michel D. Lagacé
Hon. Otto Lang, P.C., O.C., Q.C.
Charles Loewen
Penny McMillan (Managing Director)
Cindy Tugwell

Thank you to two directors who retired from the Board during 2017: Dr. Gerald Friesen and Sandra Jones.

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The board developed a strategic plan in 2008 and updates the plan every two years. The current strategic priorities are:

- Board Renewal
- Increasing public awareness and use of the Park
- Fund-raising for construction, programming and operations
- Development of new and enhanced programming for the Park

PROVINCIAL PARK STATUS

The Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park Act was proclaimed on July 15, 2014. This is important for the site as it protects Upper Fort Garry into the future. Although it is designated a Provincial Park, the Friends of Upper Fort Garry through an agreement with the Province are responsible for all aspects of operation, development, fundraising and management of the Park and site.



UPDATE 2017

**You will want
to watch for
announcements.**

**Planning continues for the Visitor
Centre. A construction date has not
been set at this point.**

This is the first year that the Park has been fully operational. As evidenced by the increased number of visitors, the Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Heritage Wall has been a major attraction for tourists as well as school visits. The interpretive design of the Wall in addition to the LED light and sound show has proven to be a major attraction for visitors. And, there is more, much more to come. As we entered into the last months of the year, new grants and donations allowed us to expand the sound and light programming so that additional life was added to the Park. The first steps in making the programs interactive with our visitors are now in place.

In addition to the creative design of the Park itself, visitors are fascinated by the technology on the site that allows them to learn more about the buildings, events and people that were part of the history of Upper Fort Garry. One of the major advantages of this methodology is that it allows us, in a very cost effective way, to update and add to the historical content on a regular basis. Work began on a major technological innovation in 2017 that will be unveiled in late spring of 2018. It will make the Park and its history more accessible to a wider audience. Great for Upper Fort Garry, for others in the tourism industry who may also wish to introduce it and for the local company who developed the application and who can adapt the technology to a wide range of situations.



highlights 2017

Once again FUG participated in Doors Open, Manitoba Heritage Fair for young students, Manitoba Day at the Manitoba Museum and reached out to teachers at the Manitoba Science Teachers Association Personal Development Day.

On June 30, the Friends hosted the noon time Upper Fort Garry Hilderman Picnic in recognition of Garry and his contribution to the Park. With Garry's family, friends and colleagues in attendance and with music by the Ukulele Club of Winnipeg, it was a fine afternoon of remembrance.

As part of a program for teachers offered by The Manitoba Treaty Commission, Director Dr. Gerald Friesen spoke to the group and led a tour of Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park.

The Cool Garden project returned to the Park in 2017. Cool Gardens is a project of Storefront MB, a nonprofit dedicated to raising public awareness about design and the City. The installation, titled The Weave consisted of a

hammock, which people of all ages enjoyed and a low web and high canopies in bright blue that caught the attention of pedestrians and drivers. Well done to the designers, Rachele and Danielle!

Upper Fort Garry Hilderman memorial PICNIC
June 30 from noon to 2:00

School groups of various ages and interests including adult ESL students, international travel writers as part of a Tourism Winnipeg initiative and hundreds of locals and tourists are now discovering the Park and feedback is positive and encouraging.

The total investment in design and construction is approximately \$12.9 million to date. Fund raising continues to cover costs and meet operational and programming requirements.

awards

Capitol Steel of Winnipeg received a Regional Award in the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction design competition for the unique Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Heritage Wall. This award recognizes the work that went into the project in utilizing steel in both an aesthetic and practical way.

A 2017 City of Winnipeg's Access Advisory Committee Award, honouring local projects that exemplify excellence in accessible design was presented to HTFC, Cohlmeier Architecture Ltd. and FUG. This award honours projects that incorporate physical access, communication access and/or wayfinding into built spaces in our city

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Recruitment of volunteers is underway as the Friends need assistance with: gardening in the Park; tour guide and information services; and operational activities related to programming and fund raising at the Park. **Please email fufg@shaw.ca to indicate your name, contact and interest area.**



1st FALL DINNER

The Friends held the first annual fundraising fall dinner at Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park on Thursday, September 07, 2017. This outdoor event benefited from perfect weather, great food and wonderful company. All agreed, it was a great way to spend an early fall evening at the Park.

Thank you to all who bought tickets for the evening and to the fabulous sponsors who helped make it a great success for the Friends.

Mark your calender.
The Second Annual Fall Dinner is on
September 6, 2018.
You'll want to be there.

2018 what's happening

Since 2018 has started on a very positive note, we would like to share some of the good things with you and offer some dates that you might wish to note on your calendar.

Mr. Brock Alexander who joined the Board in 2016 and Chaired the 2017 Fall Dinner Committee is now Chair of the Friends of Upper Fort Garry. He got right into the position with his first Board meeting as Chair on January 03. Board renewal and fundraising to complete the park commitment are priorities for 2018.

The Friends were pleased to learn that they were successful in their

application for a grant from Municipal Relations, Province of Manitoba. This will help us move forward on a new addition to the visitor experience at Upper Fort Garry. Mark June 14 morning as a time to be on site at Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park. Please look for our notice of event that will be distributed closer to the date.

Brides are calling and the Park is becoming a "hot spot" for weddings and wedding photographs. Upper Fort Garry will once again participate in Doors Open on May 26 and 27, 2018.

Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and give tours of Upper Fort Garry. Please join us.

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) announced their 2018 Awards of Excellence and Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park was recognized with the Jury's Award of Excellence, given to one project per year which best demonstrates the CSLA's vision (advancing the art, science and practice of landscape architecture).

Our thanks and congratulations to the design team – HTFC Planning and Design and Cohlmeier Architecture Ltd.

Mark your calender.

On June 14, 2018, the Friends will start on a new addition to the visitor experience at Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park.



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 FUGG. FUGG consider The Forks Renewal Corporation to be a major partner in the development of Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park. We also give a special acknowledgment to the grounds keepers, parking division, event booking, accounting and phone/email/mail people who make the difference.

Please check out upperfortgarry.com for information on Upper Fort Garry and bring your friends and relatives to the Park.



SOURCE OF FUNDS

Donations, sponsorships and grants have been received from governments, corporations, foundations and individuals. 100% of funds raised go into the Park as the Friends is wholly volunteer driven. The Friends of Upper Fort Garry thank all who have joined in the quest to save and revitalize Upper Fort Garry.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2017 audited financial statements are available upon request.

a thought to 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 UFG with its distinctive approach of interpretive, artistic and technology based learning builds this generation's legacy of reconciliation, tolerance and inclusion for today and for all the tomorrows.



Together. We are making a difference.

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