

# **Our Schools**

February 2013

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ducators explored the Conference. ✓ ways art and creativity ing and learning during the Russell Vocational High annual

∠ can transform teach- held in November at R.B. Inner City Art School, featured speakers

from artistic many The conference, which was disciplines: writing, photography, painting, spoken word and more.

See story and more photos on page 5

## Sharing the magic of reading





housands of Winnipeg School Division students received new books to take home and keep in their personal libraries as part of a recent philanthropic literacy campaign.

These Weston School students were all smiles after filling their bags with new books.

See story on page 6

## Learning labyrinth

Thurchill High School students at the entrance to their class's labyrinth.

See story on page 3

# **Stories for peace**

Tyndall Park Community School recently hosted numerous Aboriginal storytellers, artists, Elders and Division Aboriginal consultants/resource teachers as part of a year-long peace project.

In January, students gathered in their multi-age family groupings to meet with their guests.

"Our family groupings meet once a month. It's a chance for the entire school to work on a common goal," said teacher Amanda Borton. "This year's goal is world peace."

Among the many guests at the event were Elizabeth Denny, Colin Mousseau, Rudy Okema, Toni Desmarais, Robert Hotomani, Janice Millar, Clarence Nepinak, Barb Nepinak, Candace Shaw and Crystal Millar-Courchene.



Writer Elizabeth Denny reads her chil-

Millar-Courchene. Students have been using James Proimos's book Paulie Pastrami dren's book Jenneli's Dance to Tyndall Park students.

Achieves World Peace as a touchstone for their yearlong project.

Grade 6 students Jackson McElmoyle and Erika De Leon said the lead character creates peace by simple acts of kindness; students at Tyndall Park have taken a similar approach to daily school life.

"It can be anything nice, like picking up something that someone has dropped," Jackson said.

"We're trying to be positive rather than just talking about things people shouldn't be doing," Erika added.

Students will continue to learn about other cultures as well.

"If we only know about ourselves and our families and what happens to us, we're missing a lot," Ms. Borton said. "We're not going to be very accepting of other people...we (should) learn about other people, listen to them and get to know what they think and what their ideas are."

## Around the Division

## Isaac Brock School is celebrating its 100th Anniversary with several events

#### Alumni Fundraiser with Sisters of the Holy Rock

Date: Saturday, March 16, 2013
Time: 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Place: Isaac Brock School, 1265 Barratt Ave.
Costs: \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door; contact Don at 204-801-4484 if you have any questions.

#### 100th Anniversary concert

Date:Thursday, May 23, 2013Time:EveningPlace:Isaac Brock School

#### Wine and Cheese

**Date:** Saturday, May 25, 2013 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. **Costs:** \$20 before March 17; \$25 after March 17

#### **Dinner and Dance**

## Our Senior High Schools in Your Community

#### **Aboriginal Education**

#### **Children of the Earth High School**

- The school follows provincial curriculum, including traditional Aboriginal teachings, ceremonies and cultural experiences in daily instruction.
- The school includes Ojibwe and Cree basic language instruction: oral, written and syllabics.
- The Medical Careers Exploration Program Entrepreneurship Program

#### **Advanced Placement (AP)**

Collège Churchill, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute, Gordon Bell High School, Grant Park High School, St. John's High School, Sisler High School, Technical Vocational High School • AP is a program of college-level courses and exams that gives high school students the opportunity to receive advanced placemnent and/or credit in college.

#### All Girls/All Boys Program

**Children of the Earth High School -** Grade 9; **Sisler High School -** Grade 9, Grade 10 English Language Arts

#### Alternative Education Argyle Alternative High School

- Intimate and accepting setting which promotes inclusiveness, relationship building, independent learning, communication and conflict resolution
- Flexible and personal learning environment that provides full provincial curriculum
- Award-winning video production program

#### French Immersion

#### Collège Churchill<sup>+</sup>, École secondaire Kelvin High School, Sisler High School

+ Grade 7 entry French Immersion and continuing French Immersion

#### International Baccalaureate

École secondaire Kelvin High School

This program offers a challenging, comprehensive and highly academic curriculum. Students must meet requirements for the program.

#### **Technical-Vocational**

**Technical Vocational High School** • Radio and Television Broadcasting • Technical Dentistry • Photography • Machining and Aerospace • Information Technology Studies • 14 Other Programs

R.B. Russell Vocational High School • Child Care/Health Care

- Construction Welding Music Production Horticulture Hairstyling
- Culinary Arts Advertising Art Graphics

For more information about our schools and programs, please visit <u>www.wsd1.org</u> or contact the schools directly.

I		
	Argyle Alternative High School	10-12
	30 Argyle St.	204-942-4326
	Children of the Earth High School	9-12
	100 Salter St.	204-589-6383
	Churchill High School	7-12
	510 Hay St.	204-474-1301
	Collège Churchill	7-12
	510 Hay St.	204-474-1305
	Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute	9-12
	720 Alverstone St.	204-783-7131
	Elmwood High School	7-12
	505 Chalmers Ave.	204-667-8823
	École secondaire Kelvin High School	9-12

Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013
Time: 6:00 p.m.- cocktails, 7:00 p.m. - dinner
Place: Canad Inns, Polo Park
Costs: \$65 before March 17; \$70 after March 17
Tickets for all three events are available at the school office.

## 43rd Annual Winnipeg Schools' Science Fair

When: April 17, 2013Where: Brodie Centre, U of M Bannatyne Campus 727 McDermot Ave.

Deadline for project submissions is March 19, 2013.

155 Kingsway 204-474-1492 **Gordon Bell High School** 7-12 204-774-5401 3 Borrowman Place **Grant Park High School** 7-12 450 Nathaniel St. 204-452-3112 **R.B. Russell Vocational High School** 9-12 364 Dufferin Ave. 204-589-5301 St. John's High School 7-12 401 Church Ave. 204-589-4374 Sisler High School 9-12 204-589-8321 1360 Redwood Ave. **Technical Vocational High School** 9-12 1555 Wall St. 204-786-1401 Winnipeg Adult Education Centre 9-12 310 Vaughan St. 204-947-1674



### February 2013

## Our Schools

# Learning in the labyrinth

School's Grades 7/8 Flexible Learning Class decided to think big for a recent classroom project that combined many curricular areas.

Students created a massive labyrinth to present what they've learned about many of the world's great civilizations of the past. Created from cardboard, glue, papier-mâché and a vast array of recycled materials, the students' labyrinth fills an entire classroom and features a variety of recreations of monuments, visual learning displays and more.

"Each group had a different civilization to study and they each had a section of the labyrinth to build," said student Laura Spado. "We were able to build anything we wanted from the civilization we studied."

A trip through the labyrinth is akin to losing oneself in a museum.

"You can choose any path you want, whether you want to see the Aztecs, Japan, Mesopotamia, Egypt and other civilizations. We've also put up all kinds of information and artifacts we created, like teapots, swords, helmets and shields," said student Tyler McKay of the exhibit.

"This is quite a bit bigger than anything we've ever done," said teacher David Law, who co-teaches the flexible learning program with Tanis Westdal. "On the surface, it appears to be this huge project, but that doesn't mean there isn't a lot of fine detail. The students all had to do their research and plan their presentations."

Ms. Westdal said that while students were able to be creative on a massive scale, they still met their expected curricular learning outcomes.

"At the beginning of the year, we look at all the curricular outcomes for the four main subjects, and then we turn it over to the students—'this is what you have to know by the end of the year, how do you want to learn this in a meaningful way?' The students were so engaged in this—they stayed after school and gave as much time as necessary to see this through."

An exhibit on Ancient Greece.



# We all have a gift to share



St. John's High School alumnus Michael Champagne shared his gift—namely his strong public speaking skills and positive attitude—with the students.

Students at John M. King School are learning more about their personal gifts—and how to share them

with others—as part of a major positive action program.

In January, the school invited youth worker and motivational speaker Michael Champagne to discuss his journey to discovering his own gifts.

Michael, a Cree from Shamattawa, was raised in the North End and is a St. John's High School alumnus.

"When I was born, my family wasn't able to take care of me. This happens sometimes when our families are dealing with struggles and challenges," he said, adding that he and his siblings eventually went to Child and Family Services.

When Michael was four-years-old, he was adopted by the Champagne family.

"From that point on, I was really happy. I had brothers and sisters, and a Mom and a Dad...and they took really good care of me," he said.

However, money was scarce and his family had to move many times. Always "the new kid" at school, he was a frequent target of bullies.

Michael credits the Champagne family and a perceptive Grade 4 teacher with convincing him that he had a special gift inside. Michael eventually discovered he had a gift for talking with others.

"With these gifts, you can't just keep them inside...we have to share with the people around us. When we do that, we are setting a good example," he said. "Everyone has a gift...and it's our job, as helpers, teachers and parents, to help you find your gift and get really good at it."

Even bullies have gifts, he noted.

"Bullies take their gift and share it in a way that isn't nice. Think about the kind of gifts they have—some are strong, some are smart, some are funny...what if they used their gifts to help the people around them? Imagine what a better place all of our schools and classrooms and recesses would be."

Teacher Stephanie Midford said the school has been giving special wristbands to students to identify their gifts, such as "I am a leader", "I am a friend" or "I am a mathematician." The bands are handed out at monthly assemblies; students can set goals to receive more than one wristband.

"This is a reminder of our own gifts," Ms. Midford said. "Everyone in the school wears one, even the teachers and staff."

"As educators, we need to continue to build those relationships with our students and to always encourage them to use their gifts and share with each other."

Student Lily Henderson Bamford said her gift was excelling in reading.

"I enjoy reading in my free time...I'm good at it," she said. "I also read to my brother and sister too. If you don't think you have a gift, it just means you haven't found it yet."

# Vocal

# range

The weather may have been cold and snowy outside, but students in the Winnipeg School Division's Honour Choir (pictured) and band warmed Jubilee Place with song during their annual winter concert, held Jan. 12.

Photo by Jeff Miller



### Our Schools



# DMCI artist earns international honour



Are They Gone? by Christian Amiel Miranda (acrylic on canvas).

Grade 12 student from Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute has joined the ranks of some the world's finest emerging artists with a major international award.

Christian Amiel Miranda received a Gold Key after submitting an eightpiece portfolio to the American-based Scholastic Art Awards. He was one of only six international portfolio winners at the awards, which also includes a category for American artists. Past Gold Key recipients include Andy Warhol.

As a Gold Key honoree, Christian's portfolio has been selected for a further round of appraisals in March; medalists from this round will have their work exhibited at Carnegie Hall in Toti Cerda as major influences, while also crediting his father for early inspiration.

"I started drawing when I was seven...I was inspired by my dad, who is an architect," Christian said. "I would always ask him to draw things for me, and then I started copying from different postcards and anime and tried to improve my techniques."

Christian spends much of his time at home perfecting his techniques, whether it is with pastels and paintings or working in the digital medium.

"I'm focusing on human anatomy right now, trying to paint hands and body structures so I can be prepared for university," he said. "After that, I'm going to work on establishing my own recognizable art style." Ms. Rypp—who has been teaching Christian since he arrived in Canada from the Philippines last school year-credits her student's successes to a combination of talent and a tremendous work ethic. "Right off the hop, you could tell that this was his passion, and he definitely has a gift," she said. "But along with that gift, he has a work ethic. You can have a gift and be talented, but if you don't do the work, it's not the same."



River Heights Apiary Club members with just some of the honey from their most recent harvest.

# The Sweet Science

Students learn about nature's fine balance, artistry in River Heights's Apiary Club

Students at École River Heights School have been learning about science, architecture and more from an unlikely teacher—the European Honey Bee.

Twenty-two students strong, River Height's Apiary Club spends the winter months learning about the complex insects—from pollination and hive structure to organic compounds—before working with their own hive at Fort Whyte Centre.

Teacher Lars Sigurdson—who first introduced beekeeping as a pilot project for students four years ago—is an experienced apiarist who has been beekeeping since 1999.

"There's so much you can do with bees, it's very cross-curricular. There's science, literature, architecture, math, geometry, art and there's great hands-on learning," Mr. Sigurdson said. "There's also a huge sustainable development component. It works so well as an inquiry for students—every question you have leads to ten more."

Last spring, students built their own frames and boxes and installed a "nuke"—which is beekeeper parlance for a four-frame hive nucleus that includes a queen.

Students have learned about some of the problems affecting bees in today's environments.

"We talked about some of the pests and diseases and took out the microscopes to look at mites, which are a real problem right now," Mr. Sigurdson said. "They move from one bee to the next...they go for the blood like ticks and can spread disease from one carrier to another. So they become a vector."

Students used an organic means—formic acid, which is derived from ants—to control the mites.

New York City in June.

"These awards are very illustrious—other award winners have gone on to major careers," said art teacher Robyn Rypp, who encouraged Christian to enter the competition after first hearing about the awards last year. "Just having the Gold Key will open doors for him."

"It's really been an overwhelming experience," said Christian, who worked on his portfolio paintings in his own time through last semester. "I want my paintings to be exposed to the world...and I'm working and living for my dream."

The student cites artists such as the Philippines-based Mico Suayan and

Christian said he ultimately hopes for a career as an animator with a major film studio, such as Disney. By the end of the summer, students were able to harvest over 100 pounds of honey. Students said there were no stings sustained in the line of duty.

"We were fine, we wore beekeeping suits and helmets and we also used a smoker," said student Anna Stacey.

"I wasn't ever afraid of the bees or anything like that," added student Dylan Thompson. "I want to become a zoologist when I'm older, so this has been neat. We've learned a lot."

With the bees pollinating from a variety of sources—including trees—the end product was particularly delicious.

"You have a mix of farmland and the city, and with plants distributing their nectar at different temperatures, it's good to have a mix," Mr. Sigurdson said. "If you just have one source of nectar, you're more likely to have a failure. Bees need a variety."

With a nod to the social pillar of sustainable development, the club sold their wares at school to raise money on behalf of the West Broadway Youth Outreach program. For next year's batch of honey, students plan to develop their own branding and stickers to market their product.





# **Inspiring creativity**

 $E^{\rm ducators}$  explored the ways art and creativity can transform teaching and learning during the annual Inner City Art Conference.

The conference, which was held in November at R.B. Russell Vocational High School, featured speakers from many artistic disciplines: writing, photography, painting, spoken word and more.

MLA Kevin Chief, University of Manitoba Asst. Professor of Architecture Lancelot Coar and educator, artist and author Rhian Brynjolson served as keynote speakers; other guests included photographer Alexandra Morrison, Winnipeg Free Press humourist Doug Speirs, storytellers Leigh-Anne Kehler, Muuxi Adam and many more.

One of the highlights of the event was the dazzling assembly of student artwork that greeted delegates in the R.B. Russell main hall. Every Inner City school contributed a major sculpture—each with its own unique identity, yet forming a powerful whole with the other works.



Argyle Alternative High School

## **Copper to water**



Meadows West Grade 7 & 8 Global Initiative Society.

the fall, a group of Grade 7/8 posters and morning announcements. students from Meadows West School held a successful penny drive in support of a Free the Children water campaign. The charity hopes to provide clean, safe water to 100,000 people for life. It is estimated that one billion people around the world live without proper access to water. "The students wanted to develop an awareness of the global water crisis with the students of Meadows West," said Vice-Principal Nancy MacTavish.

nspired after attending WE Day in erate support for the drive, along with "At WE Day we realized that



John M. King School



To spread the word, the studentswho call themselves the Grade 7 & 8 Global Initiative Society-made presentations to other classrooms to genthere are a lot of people around the world who don't have clean water, or they have to travel long distances to get it," said student Brittany Perkins.

Fellow club member Kirsten Watkinson said that Canadian children often don't know about the scarcity of water in other parts of the world: "we're so used to having water that we just take it for granted."

Students were able to amass approximately \$1,000-enough to provide a lifetime of clean water for 40 people. The money was turned in to RBC, a partner in the charitable campaign.

Niji Mahkwa School

## Our Schools



# **Mentors in horticulture**

Forticulture students at R.B. Russell Vocational High School have been sharing their knowledge and skills with younger students as part of an ongoing partnership with Winkler School.

In December, a busload of Winkler students came to the R.B. Russell greenhouses to learn how to make festive candle centerpieces.

"We're teaching them the steps of making a centerpiece, but we're telling them to have fun and be creative," said senior horticulture student Brittany Murdock.

First-year student Shyanne Richard said students would be working with evergreens like cedar, Douglas Fir, Silver Fir and spruce.

"We don't use pine as much because it dries out too quickly," she said.

It can be a daunting task to go to the front of the classroom to teach other students, but Joseph King, another first year student, said he wasn't intimidated.

"I've taught before, through Ventures, working with people with disabilities. And we're also teaching through the Diabetes project here at school, about how people can manage their Diabetes and lifestyle. It can be tough to teach because you're not always sure how they feel about it. You have to really communicate with them."

For their own centerpiece projects, the R.B. Russell students made one arrangement for marks and another to give away to charity.

"We like to give back to the community," Brittany said. "This class is like a family."

## A helping hand for Osborne House

Sisler High School student Brittany McMillan stands with a collection bin created for Osborne House, a local women and children's shelter. A student-driven campaign saw the collection of clothing, hygiene products, diapers, DVDs, books and financial donations for the shelter. For further information on the shelter, visit www.osbornehouse.org.

Photo by Jeff Miller

Life Long Learning

Spring 2013 course information

Looking to learn in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere? Searching for something new? Register for one of our upcoming sessions.

## Plan for spring:

The spring brochure will be delivered in the newspaper in March and will be available for pick up at many stores and libraries.



This R.B. Russell horticulture student works on a centerpiece with Winkler School students.

# Into the Woods



Students during a musical number.

Skills Performing Arts students explored the work of Stephen Sondheim with their production of *Into the Woods*. this year. The musical coincided with the Manitoba Theatre Centre's SondheimFest 2013.

"With the festival going on in Winnipeg, we decided to bring a

Browse the website, check out the classes being offered and register on-line now!

http://lifelonglearning.wsd1.org/

Learn, seek and discover with MOREducation -Educational Consultants, the facilitators of Winnipeg School Division's Life Long Learning, Continuing Education Program.

Call 789-0435 for more information.

Think *more!* Learn *more!* Do *more!* 

The credit program has Life Skills students studying with teacher Janna Larsen throughout the school year.

Students are joined on stage by educational assistants and general program performing arts students.

"This is an adapted performing arts program, with two different levels of students that have a variety of needs," Ms. Larsen said. "The adapted students are auditioning and playing the lead roles, while our general program students are playing animals and trees."

The Jan. 31 production—which took place in front of a full house in the Grant Park cafeteria—was the first of two productions scheduled for part of what's happening in the community into our school," Ms. Larsen said.

Special Education Department Head Joyce Billinkoff said the program is a tremendous source of pride for the Life Skills students.

"The students are always so happy and proud to be up there," she said. "Ms. Larsen is phenomenal, she really works hard at understanding the students and how they learn, and they are very successful.

"Music is truly the international language of the world. The students respond so well to music—for many of them, it's a definite way of learning. They love it."





# How do you know if school buses are cancelled?

When the wind chill reaches -45 C at about 6:15 a.m. according to Environment Canada, school buses will be cancelled. (Buses are also cancelled in the case of dangerous road conditions.)



If the forecast calls for wind chills in the -40 C range, parents should either check the Winnipeg School Division website: www.wsd1.org or look to media outlets in the morning for possible school bus cancellation reports.

When bus transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will not resume later in the day even if weather conditions improve.

The following media outlets are requested to carry the messages: 89.3 CBC FM; 990 CBC AM; CKSB 89.9 FM (French); CJOB-680 AM; Power 97-FM; 1290 CFRW; 99.9 BOB-FM; FAB 94.3; 92 CITI FM; 102.3 CLEAR FM; Virgin Radio 103; QX 104 FM; Envol 91 FM, CTV News; CityTV, Global News; Winnipeg Free Press website.

# Sharing the magic of reading



books to take home and keep in their personal libraries as part of a recent philanthropic literacy campaign.

Share the Magic, an initiative undertaken by MLA Christine Melnick, provides books to students to promote reading beyond the classroom. The books are acquired through private donations and a partnership with First Book Canada.

The program ultimately gave away 30,000 books to Division students just prior to Christmas, including students at Weston School. Each student walked away with five new books.

"I'm happy because I get to read them at home," said nursery student Peyton McPhee, after choosing a bagful of books such as *The Smelly Book* and *I See Me*. "I read with my mom."

Principal Gayle Alex shared that students and schools were appreciative of the book donation.

"A good book can draw you in



Files and photo courtesy of Inkster

# **Inkster supports Children's Hospital**

nkster School students and staff gave a major show of support for the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba recently with a generous donation.

Over the holiday season, the school donated over \$900 worth of toys, games, books and crafts to enrich the lives of children at the hospital. Hospital mascot Dr. Goodbear (pictured) and foundation officials visited the school on Dec. 17 to accept the items on behalf of young patients.

The humanitarian project was part of a month-long study of the Aboriginal teaching of humility.

The school is teaching students about the Seven Teachings of love, humility, courage, respect, honesty, wisdom and truth as part of a Positive Behaviour Support Program. Students learn about a teaching every month through assemblies, announcements and classroom activities.

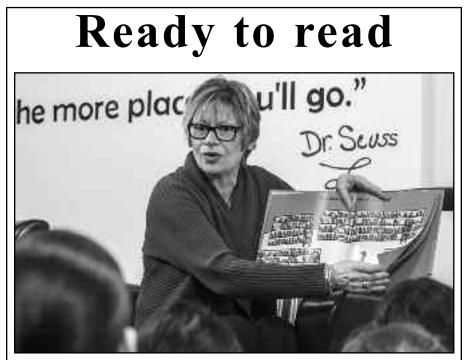


Photo by Jeff Miller A Hugh John Macdonald student looks for the right title in his school library.

Т

housands of Winnipeg School Division students received new

and make you feel like you are in another land. It can inspire hours of play and make you aware of people and stories you never imagined," she said.

Special Education Resource Teacher Lisa Hentig said starting a home library was important for young readers: "Having books at home is so important in becoming literate. This program allows children to choose books that they are interested in to keep for themselves...having books close at hand is the first step to becoming a voracious reader."

With files from Library Support Services

Photo by Jeff Miller

Education Minister Nancy Allan joined students at Greenway School Trecently to help launch the annual I Love to Read Month. Other guest readers included Winnipeg School Division Board Chair Rita Hildahl, Manitoba Teachers' Society President Paul Olson and seniors from Creative Retirement.

### Our Schools





Photos by Jeff Miller

## **Art Nation**

Young artists from Andrew Mynarski V.C. Junior High, Sisler High and Stanley Knowles school put their work in the public eye at a recent Winter Art Fair.

## **Board of Trustees**



# Celebrating Gehry



Gladstone students with just a few reproductions of classic Frank Gehry designs.

class of Grade 2/3 students at A Gladstone School explored the work of renowned architect Frank Gehry during a recent structures unit.

The project began when teacher Karen Friesen was contemplating different ways of teaching structures to the students. During her travels in the summer, she came across the Gehry-designed Cleveland Clinic/ Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Nevada. Inspiration struck immediately.

After learning more about the Canadian architect and getting some help from her son—who is studying architecture in university-Ms. Friesen decided to introduce her students to Gehry's designs.

"I thought it would be a great way for my kids to explore strucbuildings...like the Canadian Human Rights Museum at The tures, by creating their own interpretations of Gehry's buildings," Forks." Ms. Friesen said. "We infused that After exhibiting their work for their entire school in December, the with lessons on foundation, frame structures, solid structures and class has plans to send photographs how to balance and reinforce of their projects to Mr. Gehry.

them...it worked out well. This activity had 100 per cent engagement. The kids were totally immersed in building their structures."

Students researched different Gehry buildings, created blueprints from photos and then used problem solving to make standing models. The designs were crafted out of recycled materials.

"I used things like Popsicle sticks to make the structure more stable,' said student Nazareth Yayehyirad, who created a version of Gehry's Venice Beach House.

She added she preferred the unique work of Gehry and similarly adventurous architects rather than standard rectangular shaped buildings: "I like the wilder looking

#### Front row:

Anthony Ramos, Ward 2 Phone: 204-293-8040

Darlyne Bautista Ward 3 Phone: 204-789-0469

Rita Hildahl, Chair, Ward 1 Phone: 204-414-7706

Suzanne Hrynyk, Ward 3 Phone: 204-452-3847

**Back row:** Mike Babinsky, Ward 3 Phone: 204-582-9296

Jackie Sneesby, Ward 1 Phone: 204-489-3277

Mark Wasyliw, Vice-Chair, Ward 1 Phone: 204-475-3114

Cathy Collins, Ward 2 Phone: 204-789-0469

Kristine Barr, Ward 2 Phone: 204-775-0990



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1577 Wall Street East, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 2S5 Telephone: 204-775-0231

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