



The Centennial Neighbourhood Project and the New CNDC

By Gord Dong & Marion Willis



Sometime shortly after the turn of the millennium, it was decided at the Winnipeg Foundation to undertake an in-depth, 5 year initiative to build a collaborative network aimed at helping one of Winnipeg's forgotten and neglected neighbourhoods. Centennial Neighbourhood was chosen.

From the beginning of the project, residents were very receptive as it presented renewal for the area as well giving hope for change. Programs created were geared towards improving social and economic concerns. Housing, safety and justice issues were also addressed. This is not to say that everything that all the problems were solved, but we've come a long way. The project has created a pathway to the future.

Along the way, new contacts have been made with different businesses, institutions, agencies and all levels of government. New friendships have been created. Neighbours get to know each other better. People of the Centennial Neighbourhood stepped up when they were called upon whether it was for a community forum, clean up, barbeque or other events. This is why I prefer to use the term "citizens" as opposed to just "residents".

Come the fall of 2008, the five-year initiative will come to an end. Where does this leave the Centennial Neighbourhood and its residents, you may ask? I think we're all familiar with the old cliché, "when one door closes another opens." Centennial's "new doorway to continuing development" is through the Central Neighborhoods Development Corporation, also known as the CNDC.

Similar to the North-end Renewal Corporation (NERC), the CNDC has been established to umbrella three neighborhoods, Central Park, West Alexander and Centennial. Safety and Justice, Housing and Land-use, Education, Training, Economic Development, Health, Wellness and Recreation form both the mandate and best describe the CNDC Plan for continuing community development.

The newly formed CNDC will ensure continuity for Centennial while at the same time, take a "lessons learned approach" to working with the two new development neighborhoods, West Alexander and

Central Park. So at the end of it all, Centennial has graduated from "Project" to member of a "Development Corporation" and will assist Central Park and West Alexander Neighbourhoods with any questions that they may have.

As the Centennial Project winds down the CNDC will become the "vehicle" through which most programs flow. For example, since Centennial has been designated a Housing Improvement Zone, infill programs, renovation and fencing grant programs will continue. Florence Chartrand and Alison Dong will continue as the Centennial Housing Coordinators and will work out of the Centennial Project offices at Dufferin School. The only change will be that Florence and Alison will become employees of the CNDC and will have a director at the CNDC.

The CNDC will soon recruit for some "new positions." In October, a Housing Program Coordinator will be hired to work with all three neighborhoods. Florence and Alison will be able to rely on this new position to supply some "clout" when needed and to ensure Centennial continues to benefit from the type of housing programs currently enjoyed.

Sandra Guiboche will currently remain on in the role as Community Coordinator until the next funding year at which time the position will be absorbed by the CNDC. She will still be located at her office at Pacific Avenue and Isabel Street or at Dufferin School.

A Safety Coordinator will be hired in July. The CNDC Safety Coordinator will work with all three neighborhoods to advocate for and to implement each neighborhood's strategic safety plans. The CNDC is new and will spend its first year demonstrating to government that there is indeed a need for community-based support.

There have been some recent changes at Family Resource Centre at Dufferin School. Now under the CNDC, the Family Resource Centre has expanded its programs to include, individual and family Counseling Services, a Job Match Program beginning in July, a Workshop Series also beginning in July, a Seniors Program and Arts & Crafts. The CNDC plans to make the Family Resource Centre programs accessible to all residents of the Centennial Neighborhood so, come on out, share your ideas and help us make the Resource Centre the kind of place everyone can enjoy.

Finally, I hope you'll take the time to drop into the CNDC Office. Currently located in Dufferin School the CNDC will soon move into its own offices downtown. Watch for the first edition of the CNDC Newsletter. You'll find an invitation to the CNDC Open House, which is being planned for September. The Open House will provide you opportunity to meet the CNDC Board of Directors and if you haven't already, our Executive Director Marion Willis.

This is an exciting time in our neighbourhood history. The winding down of the Centennial Project is not the end; it's just the beginning!



Helpful Tips for Parents for the New School Year

If your child is going to school for the first time this fall, you might be a little concerned about how he or she will cope. The truth of the matter is that the first day of school is often more traumatic for parents than for students. It is understandable that you might worry about this big step out into the world. There are many things that you can do to help make the transition easier for the whole family. Here are a few suggestions to encourage your child to develop more independence in preparation for school.

- Have your child spend time away from regular caregivers - an activity at your local library is a good start - check for Story hours or crafting.
- Save some time every day to talk over your child's day - if you make this a habit now, it will come more naturally when he or she comes home from school.
- Make sure your child has a set bedtime - your child should be getting between 10 and 12 hours of sleep.
- Start planning and arranging a homework area in your house - it will show your child the importance of schoolwork.
- Give your child specific tasks for helping at home - tidying up will be part of the classroom routine.
- Encourage your child to be responsible for personal care such as dressing and personal hygiene
- Attend the school open house
- Plan the route to and from school
- Visit the school playground during the summer months to make it familiar
- Read together every day.

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Helpful Tips for Parents for the New School Year

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Children do not need to have specific knowledge or skills to begin school. But it is helpful if they are able to

- Share and know how to take turns,
- Co-operate and play well with others,
- Listen and pay attention for short periods of time,
- Speak and ask for what they need,
- Recognize their own names in writing,
- Help out and put away classroom materials and toys after activity time,
- Dress and undress themselves,
- Use the toilet independently and clean themselves, and
- Play by themselves with toys for a period of time without needing adult attention.
- Be away from their caregivers and parents and understand that parents will come back.

Welcome to Centennial Press!

Brought to you by the Centennial Community Improvement Association (CCIA). Views and ideas expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect or represent CCIA policies.

Submissions:

May be dropped off at the CCIA Office in Dufferin School, 545 Alexander Avenue. Any form of submission is accepted, hand-written, computer disk, etc. but we prefer e-mail submissions. We do provide honorariums for those interested in writing for the paper. Please send e-mail submissions to: sandra@cedawpg.org. or contact Sandra Guiboche for further information @ 947-9111. Submissions may be edited for length, content and style by the Centennial Press Editorial Committee.

Advertising:

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A GREAT BIG
Thank You
**TO ALL OF OUR
FUNDERS!**

Annual Centennial Community Clean Up!

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Well neighbors summer is upon us again which means it is for our annual Centennial Community clean-up project and boy what a collaboration it was. So on behalf of the Centennial Community I would like to take some time to say thanks to all the folks it made it just a success this year. To begin with I need to thank the City of Winnipeg for the use of all of the rakes, shovels, brooms and gloves and to Take Pride Winnipeg for the garbage bags. A big thanks also goes out to Riediger's Supermarket, for the use of their parking lot and supplies for the day. We also need to thank Paragon Industries and B.F.I. for the roll off bins they donated to our cause. Having 2 bins meant we could do twice the cleaning. And we cannot forget to thank Gary Thompson at B.U.I.L.D. for the use of their truck.



As well thanks to Lisa Hart at Budget Moving and Storage for their truck and for energetic helpers they sent along with it. These trucks were invaluable to say the least.



We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the help of the Rossbrook House and the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club for cleaning their part of our community.



The Spence Family

And of course no clean up would be complete without the dedicated community members who volunteered their time and energy to help make the day a resounding success. In conclusion we would send a special thanks to Carol Cote for taking a lead in planning the day for our community.

Tim Horton's Community Cruiser brought some fresh coffee and cookies for all the volunteers.

Submitted by Robert De Coste
C.C.I.A. Board Member

Annual Centennial Community Improvement Association Community BBQ

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Once again, it was time for the Annual Centennial Community Improvement Association Community BBQ. Each year, Dufferin School, The CCIA and the Dufferin Family Resource work in collaboration to host a bbq for the residents of Centennial. This is a time to celebrate all the hard work that the CCIA, Dufferin School and all of residents have done during the school year. Centennial is a very unique community with dozens of volunteers who are skilled in many, many areas of expertise. Each and every one of these volunteers donate their time when called upon. A great big thank you to them all!

We would like to thank Natural Bakery, Riediger's, Councilor Mike Pagtakhan, The Winnipeg Foundation, Dufferin School, The CCIA and Dufferin Family Resource Room for all their time and contributions in making the bbq a huge success. Without your help, we would not have been able to have such a great day!! We look forward to seeing you all next year!



Adults sack racing



Mr. Wyke – a good sport



Centennial Residents enjoying the day



Tug of War... psst.. The women hold the record 2 Years in a row...

School Resource Officer



Hello children, parents and staff, my name is Constable Tara. I am your new SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.

I have been designated to four schools in the area including Hugh John

MacDonald (main office), Victoria Albert School, Pinkham and Dufferin School.

My goal is to build relationships with the children, their parents as well as the staff that work at each of these schools, and the community at large.

Through this relationship building process, it is my hope that I will gain the trust and respect of all those that I deal with. That I am able to in some small way help those around me realize their goals for the future and then assist in making a plan to turn those goals into realities.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, and making this a wonderful and safe neighborhood to live and raise your children.

Kind Regards

Constable Tara White

Journey Around the World

@ Dufferin School

Monday, June 9, 2008

Submitted by Carol Cote

It was an awesome display at the Celebration of Unity Day at Dufferin School. The students from various classes who had chosen a culture to research on and each classroom performed wonderfully. Each classroom made India, Africa, Mexico and the Philippines come alive. Egypt was my favorite exhibit. I found it really amazing how the Egyptians lived without modern technology. The children collected a lot of very informative and useful information. Prior to the Celebration of unity Day at Dufferin School, I assisted various classrooms in preparing different cultural food this was really fun! A great big thank you to the classrooms that invited me to help them prepare for this concert! Kudos' to all the children at Dufferin School for doing such a great job!!



Jennifer, Mathew & Rebecca

A Good Deed

The Annual Centennial Community Clean Up! Took place on Saturday, June 14, 2008. Members of the Centennial Community Improvement Association and of the Centennial Community gathered to clean up Centennial.

The Spence Family took the area of Pacific Ave from Isabel to Princes. During the clean up, Jennifer came across some identification. A person's entire identity was thrown behind a garbage can near Riediger's Supermarket. Jennifer brought the Identification to the Community Coordinator Sandra. Sandra assured Jennifer that she would find the owner. Upon some investigation, the owner was found.

Let me tell you a little about Rebecca. Rebecca was at church one evening and a friend came to see her at the church. Her friend told her that a man had called her mother. Rebecca found this odd and left the church. Upon leaving she discovered that her car had been broken into. Her duffle bag containing her identification, cell phone etc was gone.

In the meantime, Rebecca's parents got a phone call from an unknown male demanding ransom money for Rebecca's safe return.

A little history, Rebecca and her family lived in Cuba for a period of time. In Cuba, a person being held for ransom is normal part of the culture. The caller asked her parents when they saw Rebecca last and did they know what she was wearing? Her parents were frightened and called the police.

Rebecca just happens to have a relative who works for Telus who cancelled the cell phone. Rebecca came to Sandra's office to retrieve her identification. Rebecca's identification traveled from Broadway Street to Isabel and Elgin Avenue. We had invited Rebecca to the Annual CCIA Community BBQ so that Jennifer and Rebecca could meet.

It was a very touching moment and one that will not be forgotten for a long time. Remember, a good deed never goes unnoticed.

Resident Spotlight

Neighbor, counselor, social worker, and mother are just a few things that describe Cheyenne Chartrand. The Centennial newspaper is profiling Cheyenne because she has been a positive and active person within the community for many years now.

Cheyenne has called Central Winnipeg home for the majority of her life and continues to reside in the community while raising her two daughters.

Cheyenne is a successful counselor at Red River College for the department of Aboriginal Student Support and Community Relations. However her path to attaining her career was not easy. She began by saying that she originally wanted to become a lawyer. She claims that Judge Murray Sinclair, who specializes in aboriginal legal issues, was her inspiration. While Cheyenne pursued her bachelor in Arts, she also began working at the Elizabeth Fry Society.

Cheyenne says soon after, she no longer wanted to be a lawyer, as she did not want to have legal relationships with her clients. Also, while working at the law courts, she began noticing that aboriginal people were treated differently. From this experience, Cheyenne says it was then that she wanted to

make a difference and enrolled in the Social Work Masters program at the University of Winnipeg and Manitoba for her practicum.

Through the University of Manitoba, Cheyenne chose to do a clinical practicum, which taught her valuable skills such as how to listen and how to see progress in people. These skills proved to be an important asset as she began working for the centennial community as a Safety Coordinator. As Safety Coordinator, Cheyenne organized community barbeques, clean-ups, and building positive relationships with police officers.

Now, she is at Red River College's Princess campus and seems to lead a busy life assisting students. At Red River, Cheyenne says that her job is to aid in supporting students in post-secondary institutions, and because it is a strictly aboriginal department, she is more able to follow students and help them for lengthy periods. One message that Cheyenne wanted to get across is that students who think that they don't have support for post-secondary education should not give up. There are other forms of support out there and many people like herself who are willing to listen Cheyenne has given back to her community in many ways and continues to.



Centennial Community Improvement Association



545 Alexander Avenue • Winnipeg, MB R3A 0P1

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

AGM is at 5:00pm

Light Snacks will follow AGM

Location: Freighthouse Door 5 • 200 Isabel Street

We currently have 3 upcoming vacancies on the CCIA Board of Directors,
If you are interested in running for the board or if you will be needing
childcare during the AGM please contact Sandra @ 947-9111

Door Prizes! Childcare Available Hope to see you there!!

AGM flyer will be delivered to your home with the proposed bylaw changes at the AGM



C.N.D.C.

Central Neighbourhoods Development Corporation

The neighbourhood development corporation is
resident based, but inclusive of all stakeholders,
and is dedicated to the social, economic,
and environmental vitality of Winnipeg's
Centennial, Central Park and West Alexander
neighbourhoods.

You are invited

Where: 210 – 388 Donald St.

Date: September 24, 2008

Time: 1 – 4 pm

For more information Call 954-3860

for Kristyn, Kate or Florence

Central Neighbourhoods Development Corporation or CNDC

We would like to welcome the new CNDC staff to
our ever-growing communities!

The CNDC is here to work with the Neighborhoods
of Centennial, West Alexander and Central Park.

The CNDC main office is located at

210 – 388 Donald St. • Winnipeg Manitoba
Phone: 954-3860

Introduction of the Staff:



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*Residents are encouraged
to stop by and say hello!!*