

Access Manitoba

Forget the Jones' - Try Keeping Up with These Seniors!

A group of incredibly active seniors kicked off their recent open house at the St. James/Assiniboia Senior Centre with a Tae Kwon Do demonstration lead by 84-year-old Jane Seal. The open house followed a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the recent renovation and expansion of the centre. The standing room only crowd of over 300 evidenced community support for the project.

Representing the Honourable Ron J. Duhamel, John Harvard MP said, "It is community resources such as this that are leading the momentum that is gaining ground and taking Canadians to a more wellness oriented society. Canadians want to be able to remain independent and maintain control over their affairs. This is the type of facility that will help all of us with those goals."

In the ten years since its inception the Senior Centre has gone from a dream to a reality. The Senior Centre leases space in the west wing of Deer Lodge Centre; this expansion has seen it double in size. The project received contributions from the Canada/Manitoba Economic Development Partnership Agreement (EDPA), the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Foundation, and the Thomas Sill Foundation in addition to the centre's own fundraising efforts.

"We are extremely proud of this accomplishment," said Centre President Mervyn Jones. "The Centre has become a meeting place for people over 55, and it helps them to enjoy full and healthy lifestyles. We have received a terrific response from the community, and we appreciate the assistance of all of our contributors."

The Centre is open Monday to Friday and offers health support services, recreational and educational programs, physical fitness equipment and volunteer opportunities to enhance the quality of life for anyone 55 years of age or older. It is one of the largest seniors centres in the province and the only one in Canada to provide health care services.



Left to right: Mervyn Jones, President of St. James Senior's Centre is joined by Dianne McGifford, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism and minister responsible for seniors, Helen Quinn from the Thomas Sill Foundation, Jon Harvard, MP and Jae Eadie a city councillor for St. James at the Assiniboia expansions celebration.

The Aboriginal Community: Working to Protect the Environment



National Chief Phil Fontaine presents Minister Axworthy with a traditional star.

A historic landmark in Winnipeg's Exchange District has received more than just a facelift thanks to the Aboriginal community, the Government of Canada and other generous sponsors. We're talking *major surgery*.

Phil Fontaine, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, officially opened the new offices of The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) in the Kay Building at 245 McDermot. The Western Economic Diversification Program contributed \$200,000 toward the project. Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy represented Ron J. Duhamel, Secretary of State for Western Economic Diversification at the event.

Designated a heritage building by the Province of Manitoba in 1999, the Kay Building has a long and illustrious past. Originally constructed for the Stovel Printing and Lithographing Co. in 1893, the (then) two-story building was known as the Stovel Block. It was designed in the Romanesque Revival style that is common to Winnipeg's historic Exchange District. Due to the booming economy, two additional floors were added at the turn of the century.

The Stovel Company eventually moved in 1916 and the building was used as a warehouse for T. Eaton Co. It was later leased to various suppliers associated with the needle trades. The block was sold in 1940 to Kay's Ltd., a dry goods enterprise. Today there is a boxing club located in the building, as well as an antique store, and an interior design firm. CIER occupies the top two floors.

The building now stands as a premier example of the large scale incorporation of sustainable development technology in a historic building. The award winning design of the CIER offices features a number of innovations - from the use of Isobord, a premium-engineered strawboard produced in Manitoba, to being the first historic property in Canada retrofitted with composting toilets.



The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources is a national non-profit organization. CIER provides educational, research, and consulting resources needed by First Nations people in order to assist them in dealing with environmental issues and initiatives. Students who graduate from CIER's post-secondary education program receive a certificate in Environmental Assessment Protection and Education.

The CIER courses are recognized as accredited courses toward degree programs at the University of Manitoba.

CIER and the Kay Building are excellent examples of how the Aboriginal community is both contributing to and benefiting from Winnipeg's growing economy and future development.

Many partnerships are being established under the Urban Aboriginal Strategy. The Government of Canada is proud to work with an Aboriginal organization to develop its full potential while it contributes to both the city and the entire country. CIER is a leader in the field of environmental science.



(L-R) Asher Webb (Osborne Village BIZ); Minister Axworthy; Harry Bergman (Westend BIZ); Sylvia Todoschuk (Selkirk Avenue BIZ); Fooke Hockstra (West Broadway BIZ)

Winnipeg Businesses Receive Ounce of Prevention

An innovative project to curb future arsons was recently launched in Winnipeg with the help of a \$120,000 contribution from Western Economic Diversification. Businesses and neighbourhoods in three Winnipeg Business Improvement Zones (BIZs) will soon benefit from increased safety, improved street lighting and neighbourhood beautification projects designed to curb arson in these areas.

Winnipeggers know all too well that the cost of arson is more than just burned-out buildings, vacant lots and property damages. There are not only the business losses and damage to the reputation of the neighborhoods, but the psychological damage to the well-being of individuals and families that live there.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, made the announcement on behalf of Ron J. Duhamel, Secretary of State for Western Economic Diversification, near the site of a community landmark and business centre destroyed by arson last February. "These preventative measures will instill confidence in those neighbourhoods and business districts affected by the arson problem. Through these projects, we are curbing arson on Winnipeg streets and supporting these neighbourhoods in their efforts to build a safer community," said Axworthy.

The funding will enable the installation of extra street lighting in the Selkirk Avenue BIZ and in the West Broadway/Sherbrook BIZ districts. According to the Winnipeg Arson Strike Force, street lighting is a proven arson deterrent. Street lighting also brings greater security in each BIZ district and encourages customers to shop with greater ease in the targeted areas.

The initiative will also allow for the beautification of building walls in the Osborne Village neighbourhood. The Managing Urban Resources Against Arson Loss (MURAAL) project will apply artwork to six high visibility walls in the BIZ to deter graffiti and bubble art. This innovative project includes anti-graffiti removal, as well as education and employment of at-risk youth during the length of the project. The application of artwork to building walls deters graffiti artists, as they will not apply their graffiti on existing artwork and murals.

"Graffiti can be a precursor to the area being perceived as run down," explained Asher Webb, president of the Osborne Village BIZ. "And then the buildings are viewed as candidates for arson. These projects will prevent arson losses and make our neighborhoods more attractive at the same time."

The BIZ hopes to unveil the murals during the upcoming Canada Day celebrations held in the Osborne Village.

Keep on Truckin'...



... and that's just what Manitoba's trucking industry is doing, thanks to the Industrial Career Development Institute Inc. (ICDI). ICDI's unique program provides pre-employment training for both drivers and warehouse personnel. The Association of Industrial Economic Development (AIED), established in 1998 as a labour/management partnership made up of the Teamsters, Local 979, and more than 150 employers, developed ICDI to alleviate the growing shortage of skilled labour in the trucking industry.

The project is not only helping the transportation industry to fill a need for qualified employees, but it is also providing gainful employment for many Manitobans. While ICDI officially just opened in April, there are already 23 students participating and the response from applicants has been overwhelming. When the program was opened to Employment Insurance and Social Assistant recipients, over 50 applications were received within the first two weeks. The project is also in keeping with the strategic objectives and principles of the Federal Urban

Aboriginal Strategy for Winnipeg in terms of equipping Aboriginal people with resources and opportunities.

The needs of applicants that don't currently qualify for the training are being addressed through partnerships with existing literacy and personal development programs. One such partnership has been established with the Manitoba Metis Federation, offering programs at the Winnipeg Metis Management Centre.

Western Economic Diversification Canada provided \$125,000 for start-up costs including classroom equipment and furniture as well as the one-year lease of a truck for training purposes.

Long known as the "gateway to the west", Winnipeg is a centrally located transportation hub. Initiatives such as the ICDI program, Winnport, and the Mid-Continent Trade Corridor are helping Winnipeg maintain its renowned position in the industry.

Ten-4, good buddy!

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