

METRO Region ramps up as economic powerhouse

De Luca's south landing latest hot spot near Oak Bluff



De Luca family from left, Fabio, Paolo, Frank, Peter, Tony and Marco in the new De Luca Brothers Foods International building in South Landing Business Park. Republished with permission from the Winnipeg Free Press.

METRO Region News Desk

The Winnipeg METRO Region and its fast growing municipalities that circle the perimeter continue to work toward becoming a magnet for regional economic development.

A full 85% of net new growth is generated by metro regions surrounding Canada's largest cities. Manitoba is right on track in keeping up with and exploiting this trend.

We asked the De Luca family why they decided to build their massive 40,000 square-foot retail, warehouse, production and distribution centre just off McGillivray Boulevard near Oak Bluff in the RM of Macdonald.

"Location, location, location," answered Marco De Luca, taking a rare break in the new location's sleek coffee bar where you can catch a glimpse of chefs preparing fresh pasta. "We needed plentiful land, close proximity to retail clientele and high speed access to highway shipping and delivery routes for our suppliers and wholesale customers. We found it all near Oak Bluff," he

"We needed plentiful land, close proximity to retail clientele and high speed access to highway shipping and delivery routes for our suppliers and wholesale customers. We found it all near Oak Bluff."

— Marco De Luca, De Luca's South Landing

said. The location allowed them to consolidate their wholesale division operation. They have constructed a state of the art roasting facility that lets them to roast and package their signature espresso and fair trade beans all under the same roof.

According to Robin Lee of Pre-Con Builders, the De Luca

"Working with small municipal governments... can lead to less red tape thanks to relationships that can be helpful and more responsive to the needs of business and developers."

— Robin Lee, Pro-Con Builders

family is far from alone in looking to grow their business in the METRO Region,

"Locations in the METRO region offer easy access to customers in Winnipeg, plus the benefits of working with small municipal governments that are clearly open for business," Lee said. "This can lead to less red tape, thanks to relationships that can be helpful and more responsive to the needs of business and developers."

"As momentum continues to grow, I believe that demand for locations in the METRO region will definitely continue to increase," said Lee. "That's why we're always on the look-out for new opportunities."

Speaking of opportunities, Macdonald Reeve Brad Erb was quick to note that "with growth in business also comes an explosion in residential development around the METRO region, as employees seek more affordable housing that is within a stone's throw from work. It's a win-win situation for all."

He also pointed to significant

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Historic MOU signing by Mayors, Reeves & Chiefs



Grand Chief Jerry Daniels of the SCO and Reeve Brad Erb of the WMR sign the MOU.

METRO Region News Desk

Municipal leaders of the Winnipeg METRO Region (WMR) and the Chiefs of the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) made history on Friday March 1, 2019, at Lower Fort Garry National Historic site in St. Andrews, Man. — the location of the historic signing 148 years ago of Treaty 1 in 1871. The 25 elected leaders working together in the Collaborative Leadership Initiative (CLI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding recognizing the considerable political value of First Nation and municipal governments formally agreeing to work together on common goals and interests.

"This is the first ever Indigenous-municipal government MOU signed with this many partners anywhere that we know of," said Brad Erb, co-chair of the WMR, "In the spirit of reconciliation and re-building trust between our governments, this demonstrates our commitment to working together."

This was the fourth gathering of the CLI, facilitated by the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) which began in October 2017, when a number of the Chiefs of SCO and mayors and reeves of the WMR met for breakfast and agreed that the status quo was not good enough.

The assembled CLI leadership agreed that they needed a better way forward — a collaborative and strategic approach towards reconciliation based on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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A message from the METRO Region Executive Director

With the Winnipeg METRO Region set to reach 1 million people by 2040, municipal leaders recognize the need to work together to service, steward and plan for our growing region.

Since 1998, leaders from 18 municipalities that include and surround the City of Winnipeg, have been working on projects that cross boundaries to support good growth, good stewardship and good governance. This past winter, together we:

- explored ways to increase our recycling rates across the METRO Region,
- worked to build our capacity through workshops in best practice for purchasing,
- were named a strategic partner for economic development in the Province of Manitoba's Economic Growth Action Plan
- signed a historic MOU with 12 Chiefs from Southern and Central Manitoba to work together
- initiated partnerships to ensure our communities have the necessary high-speed Internet infrastructure to remain competitive
- and much more!

The work the METRO Region leaders are doing today is about finding a balance between meeting the servicing challenges of their communities today, while keeping an eye on investments that must be made for our future. METRO Region leaders are working together to achieve this balance.

I look forward to continuing to work with this wonderful group of leaders to build a globally competitive and connected Winnipeg METRO Region - places people want to live and not leave.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Regional Times* - a publication for the people of the METRO Region to stay informed about the important work of government, business, industry



Colleen Sklar.

and organizations that is taking place all around us - the very work that makes our METRO Region an incredible place to live, work and play!

Sincerely,
Colleen Sklar
Executive Director, Winnipeg Metropolitan Region

➤ METRO Region ramps up as economic powerhouse

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growth in regional recreational facilities, given the population booms in some communities. "When you have more families, you need more ice rinks, dance studios, trampoline parks and arenas. It begins with economic development but quickly has a positive spill-over effect on entire regional communities."

Adding fuel to the economic development fire is the fact that the METRO region has just been named a strategic partner in the Province's Economic Growth Action Plan as it pushes to help the METRO Region business zone earn the title of most improved in Manitoba.

It's a partnership that will provide a platform for the 18 municipalities that include and surround the City of Winnipeg to work on projects that cross boundaries to support good growth.

"You can't overlook the fact that 64% of Manitoba's total population lives in

the METRO Region," said Executive Director, Colleen Sklar. "The economic strength of the Region is critical to the entire province."

She said municipalities across the Winnipeg METRO Region know they need to do things differently. "By exploring the model presented to a standing-room-only crowd at a recent seminar featuring Edmonton Global CEO, Malcolm Bruce, we are helping define how we can add value by attracting investment and jobs."

But the partnerships don't stop there, said Sklar. "Through JohnQ Public, our own development corporation, we have brought a whole new set of tools to the table." She added, "We think it will show us just what is possible when government, business and industry join forces."

JohnQ and the METRO Region are receiving some well-deserved attention from potential partners and investors.

Since JohnQ was launched in June of 2018, it has fielded endless calls from prospects covering a wide cross section of the economy. People are looking to share ideas and see what the METRO region has to offer.

"People think agricultural and industrial firms are the only ones looking to re-locate outside the perimeter," said Brad Erb, Chair of JohnQ Public, "but that is only just the beginning."

In the past five years, Erb said, growth has been steady all around the perimeter with dozens of different companies now calling rural communities and municipalities home. "From agri-business and manufacturing to light industry and trucking, we've seen it all," said Erb. "Companies making the move to the METRO region are reaping benefits for themselves while contributing mightily to Manitoba's economic growth."

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Regional economic development – in action

METRO Region News Desk

With 85% of net new economic growth generated by metro regions across Canada, working regionally has never been more important. As Canada works to increase its competitiveness as a nation, provinces and municipalities are looking for ways to collaborate to compete on the global stage for trade and investment.

The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region was recently named a strategic partner in the Province of Manitoba's Economic Growth Action Plan. Along with its partners at Economic Development Winnipeg, the WMR hosted Malcolm Bruce, CEO of Edmonton Global, the newly formed Edmonton Metro Region Economic Development agency, who came to share his views on what is possible when government, business and industry collaborate to compete.

Bruce presented Edmonton Global's economic strategy with over 100 leaders from government, business and industry. He told how municipalities in the Edmonton Metro Region joined forces to chart a path toward regional economic development. Strengthening partnerships and defining how the region can add value to the national economic narrative allows them to compete together on the global stage. This increases their value proposition and ability to attract new investment and good jobs to the region. Municipal leaders in the Edmonton Metro Region agree that, together with a strategic plan and coordinated approach, they have more to offer together and will see



Malcolm Bruce, CEO of Edmonton Global speaks to the conference on collaboration for economic development.

much more success than going it alone.

With the Winnipeg METRO Region responsible for 70% of the provincial GDP and comprised of many of the fastest growing communities in the province, there is an opportunity to explore successful examples of regional partnerships that are operating across North America.

Although the Winnipeg METRO Region differs from the Edmonton Region, the strategic regional economic

development model that Edmonton Global has established offers a roadmap for us. By working together as a region and aligning the efforts of agencies and partners, we can avoid duplication and create the conditions for the entire region to benefit.

Colleen Sklar, Executive Director of the Winnipeg METRO Region who is working with the strategic partners identified in the Province of Manitoba's Economic Growth Action Plan, applauded the provincial government's new strategic approach.

"It's one thing to say you are open for business but entirely another to be on the radar of top site selectors who have, time and again, told us that a coordinated strategic approach is what is necessary if we are to boost economic growth, drive investment and good jobs and increase the regions' overall global competitiveness," said Sklar, "The strategy released by the government will do just that."

The first thing our region will do under the plan is to work together to develop a strategic roadmap. This is designed to align our capital city and the surrounding municipalities for coordinated, strategic economic growth.

This approach will clear the road for local companies, industries and entrepreneurs. We want to help them grow and create jobs, to attract talent and investment, and increase the economic competitiveness and prosperity of municipalities in the METRO Region. Experts agree that by working together we can increase our collective economic clout and more can be accomplished if everyone is pulling in the same directions.

► Historic MOU signing by Mayors, Reeves & Chiefs

Continued from page 1

In addition to shared interests and overlapping territories between First Nations and municipalities, the leaders recognized a critical need for building positive relationships, identifying common interests and barriers, dispelling myths and providing critical fact-based information for decision-making and coordination.

The leadership involved committed to these four collaboration sessions that were designed to transform relationships and establish trust.

"Through the CLI, we have created a strong platform to further build our relationship by sharing the priorities and needs of our communities with each other," said Grand Chief Jerry Daniels of SCO, "By signing the MOU on Friday, we are formalizing our relationship, as two levels of government. This enables us to progressively lead our communities toward shared prosperity, sustainable economic development and healthy lands and waters, working with other levels of government and the business sector".



Mayors, Reeves and Chiefs hold up a replica of the Treaty No. 1 medal symbolizing their commitment to continue working together.

Fibre to the farm – protecting Manitoba's key sector

Colleen Sklar, Winnipeg Metro Region

The economy of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region is driven by the agriculture, transportation, and manufacturing sectors. If we are to grow and compete in these key sectors, we must make significant investments in high-speed communications infrastructure. Lower densities and distances inherent in rural areas have resulted in a lack of service and prevented the expansion of high-speed Internet networks across the region, particularly for our farming communities within the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region and across Manitoba.

Technology in agriculture is no longer an emerging field, but a rapidly advancing and profitable business opportunity. Farmers across North America are ready to take on new opportunities presented by the agri-tech industry.

Technological advancements like sensors, devices, machines, and information technology are helping farmers make the transition to precision agriculture. This technology promotes better decisions on how to apply water, fertilizers, and pesticides. Better drainage plans that support agricultural production while also working to reduce negative environmental impacts can be created. More than ever before, the sector is being driven by data that allows farmers to analyze and correlate real time information, providing them with valuable science and probability-based information on how they can improve efficiency, enhance yields, manage risk and increase profits.

In a December 2018 article in the Manitoba Cooperator, Gord Gilmour highlighted the frustrations farmers trying to access new technologies feel: "...There are many tantalizing high-tech prospects right on the horizon. But until they have access to an information infrastructure that can support them, their fate will be to watch farmers in better-served regions adopt them first, and to better effect, due to the well-known first-mover advantage."



Unless we make a commitment to provide better Internet access to farmers, we will fall behind the world leaders.

Currently across Manitoba there is very limited access to the high-speed Internet infrastructure that is necessary to support existing and emerging technologies for our growing agriculture sector. This limits the ability for our region to increase and grow our competitiveness and fully realize opportunities that are available in other jurisdictions across Canada and North America.

Leaders from the region recognize that the future of farming may be very different from what we see today. Investments must be made if the agriculture sector is to continue to grow and prosper.

To ensure no one is left behind, 13 mayors and reeves through JohnQ have joined forces and initiated Connecting to Opportunity, a project aimed at ensuring equitable and affordable access to Internet infrastructure for residents and businesses, which includes fibre to the farm.

Ensuing investments are made in our communities to support our economy, our environment, and our way of life have always been the domain of leaders at all levels of government. Connecting to Opportunity and providing access to high-speed communications infrastructure should be no different. It requires an all hands on deck approach.

Traffic grew at YWG in 2018

Michael Badejo, Winnipeg Airports Authority

It was another stellar year at Winnipeg Richardson International Airport in 2018. Passenger volumes grew to new heights, with four and a half million travellers coming through our doors. Even more impressive? This is the fifth straight year that traffic has grown at the airport, the front door to our region.

Our team's effort delivered new destinations, while optimizing our current routes and enhancing your travel experience. The result is more options to travel from Winnipeg, and more opportunity for the rest of Canada and the world to explore everything that our city, province and region have to offer.

Working with airline partners, more U.S. and international sun destinations were added. Low-cost carrier Flair Airlines added new service to Phoenix-Mesa, Orlando and Las Vegas, supplementing the US destinations currently served by Delta and United. Domestic traffic remained strong, led by Air Canada and WestJet. We also welcomed Swoop, as they began service from Winnipeg in 2018.

Air cargo also up

Air cargo was another success story in 2018. The weight of the average cargo-carrying plane at the airport was up 5%, a key metric used to measure performance. U.S. transborder and international cargo was up 17.5% on the year, with domestic weight also increasing slightly. We continue to build on our reputation as a key Canadian cargo hub, with daily service to all major Canadian cities from Montreal to B.C. to Iqaluit, and major US cargo hubs. Altogether, we move more than 4,000 cargo flights every year, or the equivalent of 13,200 semi-trucks of cargo.

The airport campus is continuing to grow as well. Work is underway on a \$27 million ground services equipment



Aerial view of the Winnipeg Richardson International Airport - the front door to the METRO Region.

building that will open this fall. This brand new investment will not only make us a more efficient airport, but it opens the door for more development by relocating current facilities. This is a critical part of unlocking our airport's significant potential to provide jobs, drive the economy and serve our community.

Whether you are travelling for business or pleasure, trying to send your product to market, or just waiting for your overnight online purchase to arrive, Winnipeg Richardson International Airport is proud to play a role. We look forward to work with all of our partners to make 2019 another incredible year.

Technology a threat to mobility but a lever for improved transportation planning



Autonomous vehicles are not as far away as we once thought.



Mark Hearson, Stantec

The list of major transportation-related challenges facing engineers, planners, and asset managers in Canada seems to relentlessly expand every year. These challenges may be linked to a select few phenomena. The proportion of Canadians living in urban centres continues to increase, driving urban sprawl. The demographics of these urban centres change as the Canadian population ages. The infrastructure deficit grows in the face of severely constrained agency budgets. Climate change poses a threat to critical infrastructure, bringing it's resiliency into question.

The impact of technology on these challenges is two-sided and this impact is undeniably difficult to quantify. On one hand, technology presents new wide-ranging challenges. Ride-hailing and improved eCommerce platforms are attractive from a convenience perspective, however research suggests that both significantly contribute to congestion.

Mobile apps can impact safety

While the timeline of automated vehicle deployment is questionable, there is a real and growing risk of increased congestion. Smartphone adoption and use, compounded by the integration of mobile

apps with vehicle infotainment platforms, result in increased safety risks stemming from distracted driving. The intensification of device connectivity increases cybersecurity and weaponization risks.

On the other hand, technology offers opportunities to address both new and age-old problems. Advances in technology present the promise of safer, more accessible, and more connected communities. Vehicle design continues to improve in its protection of passengers and other road users. Widespread Internet connectivity of personal and public devices, often referred to as the Internet of Things or IoT, generate vast sources of data that may be leveraged for improved mobility through data-driven transportation, land use planning and traffic optimization.

Automation reduces human error

Increased vehicle automation presents opportunities to improve road safety, particularly vulnerable road users. While the road to widescale automated vehicle deployment may be bumpy, one where any fatal collision involving a driverless vehicle attracts international attention, the fact that over 90% of fatal collisions come as a result of human error suggest significant potential in fatality and injury reduction. Increased vehicle automation also presents opportunities to improve accessibility for

systemically isolated persons.

The technology sector is driving a fundamental shift in surface transportation by blurring the lines of transportation service provision between the public and private sectors.

Opportunities

I argue that this presents an opportunity to improve transportation connectivity and services within metropolitan areas since technology can effectively cross municipal boundaries. This potential is demonstrated in the following examples:

A number of technology companies within the automated vehicle space are targeting 'first-mile' and 'last-mile' challenges, many of which seek to provide microtransit services with custom multi-passenger vehicles. Synergies are achieved in that municipalities improve transit service while the technology companies gain opportunities for testing. Such partnerships could improve interconnectivity between municipalities and their divided transit services.

Ride hailing for city buses

Other technology companies seek to optimize traffic, transit, and ride-sharing through machine learning and AI applications. A partnership between Toronto company Pantonium and the City of Belleville shifts regularly scheduling transit service

to an on-demand flexible ride-hailing service using city buses at night. These applications could be similarly deployed across municipal boundaries in order to reduce resource intensity and improve connectivity.

Transportation data produced through the IoT, smartphone use, and automated vehicle deployment promotes the standardization of traffic and asset data. A number of transportation agencies already leverage data outputs from companies providing navigation, mapping, and localization services.

While privacy, cybersecurity, and intellectual property challenges exist in this space, the opportunity for increasing coordination of asset management and planning efforts through data interoperability is significant.

Advantages of standardized output

Companies producing vehicle automation technologies will amass value-rich data sources that provide up-to-date information on the condition of a transportation network. Coordinated efforts to develop standardized outputs from this data could improve agency asset management across municipal boundaries.

Written for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region Regional Times publication by Mark Hearson, Stantec.

New partnerships closer to offering high-speed Internet to growing Winnipeg METRO Region



Mayors and reeves of JohnQ celebrate partnership with RFNOW Inc. and WireIE.

METRO Region News Desk

Mayors and Reeves from METRO municipalities surrounding Winnipeg moved another step closer to offering high-speed and fibre optic Internet service in December 2018, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with two industry-leading strategic partners.

“Most municipalities surrounding Winnipeg don’t have access to reliable, future-ready Internet and communications services,” said Colleen Sklar, Executive Director of the Winnipeg METRO Region (WMR), an organization recently tasked by the Province of Manitoba to deliver economic development funding and programming throughout the Region. “There are many opportunities to connect communities to the digital economy and, once complete, this project will help the WMR make an even larger economic impact.”

The MOU was signed by JohnQ Public Inc., the WMR’s economic development corporation, and two well established local and national Internet service providers (ISPs), WireIE and RFNOW Inc. The regional fibre optic project – Connecting to Opportunity – is a prime example of how JohnQ works and what the WMR can accomplish

through this new collaborative business model.

“Business owners, industry and residents all rank high-speed services as their top priority,” said Reeve Brad Erb of Macdonald, chair of the JohnQ Board. “Bringing the right partners to the table is the critical next step to building a cost-effective, sustainable and competitive broadband network that will allow the METRO Region to attract good companies and good jobs while also servicing the needs of residents.”

Next steps in the process between the strategic partners include:

- finalizing the business model;
- completing the design of the network;
- negotiating with other stakeholders;
- developing and recommending the final broadband service offerings for end users; and,
- developing and recommending an open access model for third party ISPs to promote competition.

“WireIE is excited to help design and implement a carrier-grade broadband network,” said Rob Barlow, President and CEO. “WireIE overcomes constraints around geography, time and budget, to break through barriers that traditional legacy networks can’t address. We will meet and exceed latency, bandwidth and service assurance

requirements with our partners.”

Based in Virden, Manitoba, RFNOW Inc. has a depth of knowledge and experience working with under-served communities like those in the WMR.

“Given our large infrastructure, network and training program, we are confident in our ability to help the Winnipeg METRO Region hit the ground running,” said Chris Kennedy, COO of RFNOW.

Through JohnQ, the development of high-speed Internet infrastructure is being explored for 43 under-served communities in the 13 member municipalities in the METRO region surrounding Winnipeg. Many are shovel ready which means construction could commence as early as mid-May 2019.

Ray Bouchard, President & CEO of Enns Brothers Ltd. and Chair of Enterprise Machine Intelligence & Learning Initiative (EMILI) offers his congratulations to the Winnipeg METRO Region.

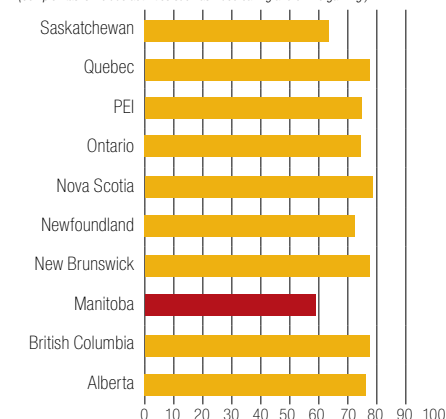
“This is an important step in advancing more productive and sustainable agriculture in the region,” he said. “Farm operations, businesses and residents need consistent access to high-speed Internet to implement the kinds of intelligent technologies that will inform and accelerate the agriculture sector and the Manitoba economy.”

Internet speeds by province

(Mobile and household combined.)

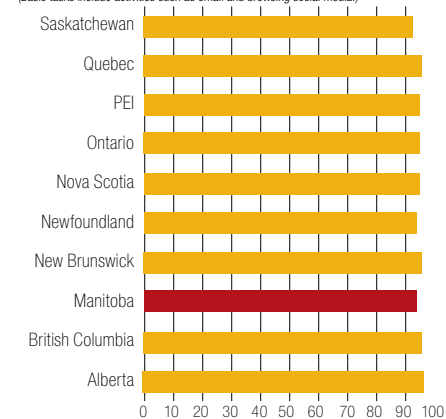
Complex-task score

(Complex tasks include activities such as video calling and online gaming.)

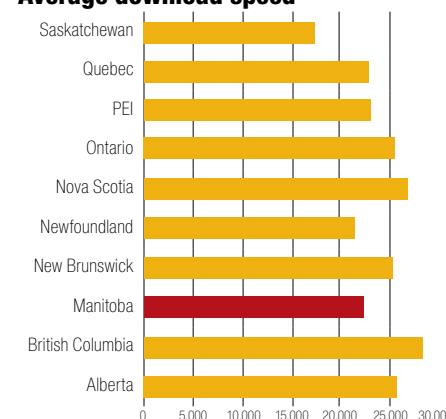


Basic task score

(Basic tasks include activities such as email and browsing social media.)



Average download speed



Source: Data provided by Tutela, gathered 90 days leading up to March 20, 2019.

Ubisoft doing something special in Winnipeg

By Darryl Long, Ubisoft Winnipeg

When we talk about cities rife with swiftly growing video game developers and big tech advancements, for some people, Winnipeg has not always been top of mind. We at Ubisoft Winnipeg believe that’s changing and we are proud to be a part of the growing tech community that is capturing the attention our city and its surrounding region so deserve.

Although overlooked by some, Ubisoft knew Winnipeg was a gem of techno-creative talent. We saw the future in Manitoba; it’s why we chose to build the newest AAA Ubisoft game development studio here. The collaborative and growing techno-creative culture here is deep and vast. Our innovation community is collaborative and, as such, it is thriving. We announced our arrival to the prairies only last April and it wasn’t long after that we recognized our city of choice was not just a great fit, but the community here provides something far greater than that.

We support our other Canadian studios to build incredible video games for our major brands such as Far Cry, Assassins Creed and Watch Dogs. However, what we are doing at Ubisoft Winnipeg is something different, something special.

We have a unique mandate to research and develop the innovative technology and tools to empower our creators to make



Darryl Long of Ubisoft.

even better video games. With a focus on open world games, our creative team have the freedom to develop and build what we dream up. To do so, we must grow a team with a breadth of expertise in engineering, computer science, creative arts and techno-creative development; we must build a collaborative team with new perspectives and ideas; we must build a team that is skilled and diverse. Thanks to the

extraordinary techno-creative talent pool that exists here, we have had great success building such a team in Winnipeg.

We tapped into the local skilled talent, hiring people from our local post secondary programs and broad techno-creative industry. Our unique mandate has attracted senior-level game developers back to Winnipeg, a city they once left for career opportunities that we are creating now at

Ubisoft Winnipeg. We are working with local agencies like Economic Development Winnipeg and Yes! Winnipeg to establish international recruiting pipelines to attract top-tier innovation talent from around the world.

We have a mandate to hire 100 people over five years, and this spring, one year since announcing our arrival, we will exceed first year projections as a team of 38 people. This month we announced the expansion of our current 3,500 sq. ft. studio by an additional 16,000 sq. ft. to accommodate the long-term growth of our studio in the Exchange District. Of course, being a member of the Ubisoft family, a well-established video game publisher, contributes to our studio success, but it’s also contingent upon the benefits with a strategic location. It’s the exceptional local techno-creative community; it is the outstanding top-tier post-secondary programs; it’s the supportive local government; it’s the collaboration of the entire industry; it’s the people.

More and more, Winnipeg is receiving recognition for its accomplishments in technology, creativity and innovation, because our city is a leader in all three. As word gets out further about the immense benefits of planting tech industry roots right here, we should all prepare, because it is only going to get bigger from here.

Darryl Long is the Managing Director for Ubisoft Winnipeg.

Procuring regional growth

Sudhir Sandhu, Manitoba Building Trades

Historically, public sector procurement was a balancing act between financial considerations and the interests of constituents. Public expenditures aimed at maximizing benefit to the local economy through purchasing and employment. The two were viewed as legitimate complementary objectives, not as competing ones.

Today, we live in a cost-conscious world. For the public sector, fiscal constraints have forced cost-cutting measures to reduce overhead costs. Obligations under various internal trade agreements have further eroded consideration towards local procurement, resulting in a singular focus on price.

The shift to cost first and cost only may be viewed as a safer choice for the public sector, but it is far from the best option. Should governments in the Winnipeg METRO Region (WMR) look for ways to rebalance this choice by revisiting regional partnerships and public procurement? There is undoubtedly an appetite for it. Sixty per cent of respondents to a Manitoba Chambers of Commerce survey favoured local preference in public procurement.

While a straight local procurement provision will likely offend trade obligations, there are legitimate ways to include local benefits criteria without offending inter-provincial agreements. But even before getting to the procurement stage, WMR organizations can cooperate to achieve economies of scale to improve their collective purchasing power.

WMR organizations can start by compiling a complete inventory of planned purchasing and procurement activities. In particular, there should be a regional infrastructure project plan with associated budgets and schedules. Once done, these organizations can align their projects, creating larger bundles of work that may yield better bids than each tendered individually. The resulting economies of scale would be mutually beneficial for each partnering organization.

WMR organizations can partner to implement community benefits agreements (CBAs). The entire WMR region is home to a growing Indigenous population that is young and getting ready to enter the workforce. Including common community benefits standards in



Red River Floodway.

larger projects would create a more mobile workforce that each community can access as developments and projects proceed.

By distributing the costs of CBAs over multiple projects and partners, the WMR can realize long term economic benefits by increasing employment and career opportunities for their respective citizens. CBAs favour local employers who are more willing to invest in their local communities and their local workforce compared to extra-jurisdictional companies that are transactional oriented and repatriate profits out of the community.

A 2013 study out of the University of British Columbia

found that more significant impacts of local procurement occur “because wholly local companies hire more local labour, give more money to local charities, distribute more of the profits from their operation locally, and buy more goods and services from local suppliers.”

The WMR can bring together individual, municipal and Indigenous leaders to build a partnership that looks beyond the transaction and recognizes the long-term strategic value of adopting procurement practices that drive the region’s economy.

Sudhir Sandhu, MBA, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Manitoba Building Trades.

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Transformative technology in the construction industry

Winnipeg Construction Agency

The vitality of Canada's construction industry is tied to its ability (and willingness) to embrace innovation. Fortunately, there are more than a few game-changing technologies and trends in the field that are giving Canadian firms an edge...

1. Building Information Modelling

Building Information Modelling (BIM) was conceptualized in the early 1990s, but advances in digital imaging, cloud computing and mobile technologies have made it a more viable option on today's jobsites.

"BIM is revolutionizing the way the industry is designing, building and operating facilities," says David Thompson, Virtual Design and Construction Manager with PCL Constructors Canada Inc., co-founder of the Winnipeg BIM Community, and lead affiliate for Winnipeg for BuildingSMART Canada. "We are moving away from traditional siloed workflows with disconnected information to a more efficient way of developing accurate coordinated project information. This is allowing the project teams to collaborate in a way which was never possible in the past."

2. Drones

One of the most promising innovations to take flight in construction are unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), more commonly known as "drones." Equipped with high-performance cameras, automated guidance systems and live data-sharing capabilities, drones enable crews to capture a full "picture" of the construction field, monitor activities, collect and analyze data and upload information via cloud computing.

And according to Curtis Parks, Gen-

eral Manager with RME Geomatics, the technology is only getting better: "Drone technology is first about digitizing the construction field, which forms the basis for opportunities of analytics, optimization and automation. That said, it evolves to further automate the systems, as well as making them more reliable. And the easier they are to deploy and operate, the lower barrier to entry."

3. Virtual Reality (VR) / Augmented Reality (AR)

VR isn't just for entertainment. The immersive technology is being used by construction firms to share ideas, test designs and communicate plans to their partners in a hands-on and interactive way.

"Using VR, we've been able to visualize the project like never before; allowing the client to view their own facility at the beginning of a project and giving them the opportunity to make decisions early on helps set the project up for success from the early stages," explains Thompson, adding, "Using VR for communicating with the workforce allows them to get a better understanding of what they're actually building, rather than trying to picture it in their heads."

Augmented Reality is also gaining traction in the field. With the ability to overlay virtual elements onto a real environment, Thompson said "Using the headsets on site gives them access to model information there and then. As we become more confident in building from the models, these tools will become ever more valuable."

This article was originally published in the Winnipeg Construction Association's Build Manitoba magazine. For more great content, visit them at winnipegconstruction.ca.



Adopting new technologies has helped transform Canada's construction industry.



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FEATURES

The Construction Safety Association of Manitoba – 30 years and counting



The Building Construction Industry in the METRO Region continues to grow.

Construction Safety Association of Manitoba

In 1989, While the world watched and waited for the fall of the Berlin wall and the world wide web prepared to launch, the building construction contractors of Manitoba initiated a program that would forever change how we look at safety in construction. The Construction Safety Association of Manitoba (CSAM) is proud to celebrate 30 years of providing the Building Construction Industry with proactive education, training, and consulting that supports safe work practices, incident reduction, and COR™/SECOR™ Safety Certification across the province.

Run by and for the building construction contractors in Manitoba, CSAM has spent the last 30 years providing “*Practical Solutions for a Safer Workplace*”. From providing information regarding incident prevention methods, to helping contractors meet their legislated responsibilities, and providing guidance in the development of tailored health and safety programs, CSAM is truly a pre-paid consultant to the building construction industry.

Since its inception, CSAM has enjoyed being a key part of Manitoba’s advancing safety culture. CSAM prides itself on providing the same high level of service regardless of trade, location or size. Phil Feleccia, National Safety Program Development Manager with Qualico Group of Companies noted that since Qualico became involved with CSAM in 2002, they have appreciated how CSAM brings safety awareness and training to the Residential Construction Industry.

“CSAM has provided us and our industry with solid professional support from the start. They continue to collaborate with us and assist in anything we require,” Feleccia said.

“I feel that this association has delivered safety to the Manitoba construction industry and at a high level of professionalism, while keeping it practical so that our work force understands what they are learning and how to use the training,” Feleccia continued. “My position at Qualico requires my involvement in Western Canada at our other regional offices, and I can safely say the CSAM COR™ program is the most comprehensive and practical in the country.”

According to the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba, since the establishment of CSAM in 1989, safety performance in the Building Construction Industry has improved greatly. Over the past 30 years, the Building Construction Industry has seen a 68 per cent reduction in time loss claims and a 66 per cent reduction in the overall injury rate. During this time, the Building Construction Industry in Manitoba has continued to grow, with 25 per cent more companies working in the industry today than there were in 1989, proving the significance behind these numbers.

Derek Pott, Operations Manager of CSAM, is thankful for all the hard work that went into building the foundation for CSAM all those years ago. “Working with an association with such a strong foundation really affords us the ability to innovate and progress by adding to the compliment of services we already offer,” says Jones. “CSAM has grown and evolved and will continue to evolve but we will forever stay true to the objectives and mandate established in 1989.”

CSAM would like to thank all staff past and present, as well as all the Manitoba employers and workers that have worked so hard to make the past 30 years such a success. The Construction Safety Association of Manitoba looks forward to serving the Building Construction Industry for another 30 years and beyond.



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**Source: National Bank of Canada Q4

Safety training for Manitoba's municipalities

Cities and towns turn to MHCA's WORKSAFELY™ for certification

Don Hurst, MHCA - WORKSAFELY

Public employees who maintain municipal streets, sidewalks and other vital infrastructure deserve the same level of workplace protection as their private-sector peers. And many are getting it through the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, as cities and towns across the province partner with MHCA's education and training program, WORKSAFELY™ to earn Certificate of Recognition, or COR™.

The Certification of Recognition is awarded to workplaces that have demonstrated, through external audits, their safety and health management system meets the national standard set by the Canadian Federation of Construction Safety Associations.

The City of Winnipeg's Public Works and Water & Waste departments are in the process of becoming COR-certified through WORKSAFELY. Several municipalities are already seeing the benefits of certification, which is recognized as equivalent to SAFE Work Manitoba's new SAFE Work Certified program.

"For us, it has been incredibly worthwhile," says Town of Morris Public Works sub-foreman Brian Wiebe, whose department received COR certification in December 2015.

"You have to be willing to change and we've adapted very well to that with our Public Works staff, and everybody has bought into the program. You have to create the culture of safety at work and once guys are in, then it's a breeze."

City of Winnipeg Water & Waste director Moira Geer says safety is the department's top priority.

"We couldn't be happier with the results of this (WORKSAFELY) partnership. Though our partnership is relatively new, we are already seeing its impact on our field staff," Geer said. "They are excited about implementing what they have learned from MHCA as part of COR certification."

The MHCA is the industry-based service provider that works with industries that most closely resemble the work the Public Works Department performs. As part of the city's tendering policy, contractors and subcontractors are required to be COR-certified, and administrators felt it would be beneficial to be certified through the same program.

Staff often work alongside private contractors or supervise projects that are contracted out to private construction companies. And many are involved in activities related to heavy construction, such as asphalt paving and concrete



Public employees working safely while maintaining METRO Region streets.

repair, on a large number of job sites, versus large single projects.

With more than 1,000 full-time equivalent positions — a number that rises to about 1,500 during construction season, including seasonal employees — Winnipeg's Public Works Department is a large-scale operation.

In Morris, six full-time Public Works employees cover everything from water, sewer and road infrastructure to greenspace maintenance and snow clearing.

Wiebe says there have been significant changes in how his department operates. For example, each day starts with a job-hazard assessment and staff discuss upcoming projects and potential hazards at weekly safety meetings to ensure they're prepared for any eventuality.

"You're constantly making the conscious effort to think safely," Wiebe says. "Now that we are COR-certified we take

a much more intense look at the safety aspects of jobs and assess it beforehand to avoid incidents."

While the City of Winnipeg is self-insured, Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions provides liability insurance and other products for municipalities.

The company's Director of Risk Management, Rudy Penner, says there are several benefits to COR certification.

"The primary one to me is that it forces companies and municipalities to create and maintain a safety culture to ensure work is completed in a safe manner," Penner says.

If your municipality is interested in stepping up its safety and health program, or for COR certification or other needs, such as heavy equipment operator training, contact WORKSAFELY's Kristen Ranson, at 204-947-1379 or at kristen@mhca.mb.ca. WORKSAFELY will assign an advisor who can tailor programs to your workplace needs.

RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING RATES ARE ON THE RISE IN MANITOBA

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FEATURES

Qualico Communities: True to our nature



Oak Bluff West's natural landscape helps to clean local waterways.

Qualico Communities

Qualico Communities has come to understand that for many homeowners, *where you build* can be as important as *what you build*. This is why Qualico Communities develops neighbourhoods to the highest standards of beauty, design and sustainability. These are communities within and outside of city limits that feel like home from the start, and that is achieved by working with what's already there. By enhancing the natural landscapes, each area can retain its own distinct features, whether that's tranquil, lush surroundings or pedestrian-friendly services and conveniences.

A Complete Community

Sage Creek inspires one to expect more from the design of a community. Striving to achieve a harmonious diversity in housing type and style, to offer something for everyone. Whether you are starting fresh, need more space or are entering the next stage, Sage Creek builds on the idea of what makes a community livable. With walkable limestone trails, easy access to convenient shops and services and plenty of parks and playgrounds, Sage Creek truly is a complete community.

Doing What Comes Naturally

Qualico Communities enhances and adds to what is already there when devel-

oping a new community. In advance of breaking ground in RidgeWood West in Charleswood, Qualico Communities collaborated with a broad array of community groups for years, to ensure this iconic trail would not only be preserved but embraced and integrated right into the design and values of the community.

In Taylor Farm in Headingley, Qualico Communities worked to ensure that the rare riverbank basswood grove would continue on as a pivotal natural element within the rural community and this winter took the chance to show off this beautiful park, during their Sleighs and Skates winter event.

For Oak Bluff West's wide-open prairie views, Qualico Communities consulted with Native Plant Solutions to create a natural landscape of native grasses and shoreline vegetation. These species of plants help to clean local waterways by collecting and filtering run-off, a signature approach Qualico now uses in all of its Manitoba communities.

Building Things Right

Qualico Communities takes the time to do things right. Designing communities for modern life that offer individuals and families a home and community that works for them while at the same time integrating natural elements like wetlands, is an important and necessary balance to achieve.

Speed limits can now be set by local authorities

WSP

On March 1, 2019, the Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act (TTMA) came into effect. This gives municipalities, First Nation communities and local traffic authorities in Manitoba authority to set speed limits on municipal and community roads.

Under the TTMA, the Minister of Infrastructure is now the authority for speed limits on provincial highways. Previously, the former Highway Traffic Board held this authority. Under that authority, an application to the Board was required to make a change to an existing speed limit. All communities have to do now is pass a speed limit by-law.

Important Considerations for Setting Safe Speed Limits

Determining an appropriate speed limit for a road requires a review of existing conditions including types of road users, road classification and function, operating speeds, traffic volumes and collision history. Another consideration includes whether the section of roadway is a transition zone between a rural higher-speed roadway and a lower-speed local community roadway.

Speed limits should reflect the maximum reasonable and safe speed for normal conditions.

Establishing safe and realistic uniform speed limits is an important part of creating a safe road network in communities. Speed limits for similar types of roads should be consistent to promote driver expectation and compliance. Compliance of speed limits is generally highest when the speed limit matches drivers' expectations based on the road environment.

Studies have shown that simply changing the posted speed limit signs often does not result in any significant changes to operating speeds. Lower speed limits can be achieved



Speed limits should reflect the maximum reasonable and safe speed for normal conditions.

using speed management strategies or physical traffic calming measures such as roadway narrowing or adding curb extensions or speed humps.

Speed limits set lower than dictated by the roadway environment may be perceived by the public as "speed traps".

Speed Limit By-laws

Manitoba municipalities, First Nation communities and local traffic authorities are required to develop speed limit by-laws for the municipal and community roads falling under their jurisdiction by Sept. 1, 2019. The existing speed limits do not need to be changed but they must be authorized by passing a speed limit by-law.

How WSP Can Help

WSP is a local engineering consulting firm that can provide services to assist municipalities, First Nations and local traffic authorities in assessing the needs for any changes to existing speed limits. The firm's traffic engineers have over 100-person years of experience at the municipal and provincial level. They can also develop speed management and traffic calming options and help local traffic authorities develop speed limit by-laws to meet the provincial requirement.

If you would like further information, please contact Diana Emerson, P. Eng., MCIP, Senior Project Manager, at diana.emerson@wsp.com.

Elected leaders talk trash to find balance between increased recycling rates & costs

METRO Region News Desk

With 86% of all garbage in the METRO Region going to the landfill and an ever-increasing cost to manage it, efforts are underway across the Winnipeg METRO Region to create better waste management solutions that include the potential to improve the rate of recycling.

"We know from other jurisdictions that when other options are offered such as curb-side pick-up, recycling rates can double," said Colleen Sklar, Executive Director of the METRO Region. "We are happy to launch Quadrant Working Groups, comprised of municipalities and Indigenous communities around Winnipeg, to strategically tackle the issue and explore the best collective ways to contain costs and lessen the burden on landfills."

The day-long session held on January 17, 2019 at the Viscount Fort Hotel in Winnipeg, hosted by the METRO Region in partnership with the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, the Southern Chiefs' Organization and Indigenous Ser-



Sustainable Development Minister, Rochelle Squires, commends the METRO Region and Indigenous communities for their collaboration.

vices Canada, was the first opportunity for the Quadrants to discuss how they can immediately address plastic waste, achieve no burn of woody waste, and improve public outreach to maximize both local and regional goals.

"As part of our government's ongoing commitment to becoming Canada's cleanest, greenest and most climate resilient province, we commend the Winnipeg METRO Region and neighbouring Indigenous communities and municipalities

for collaborating to address issues of environmental and economic concern," said Sustainable Development Minister, Rochelle Squires, during her opening remarks. "In working together, I am certain you will provide leadership and innovative approaches to others as we strive toward the common goals of waste reduction and enhanced rates of recycling."

Speaking on behalf of the Southern Chiefs' Organization, Grand Chief Jerry Daniels said, "Building partnerships like this is really the best path forward. In fact, it is what I like to refer to as reconciliation in action through joint community projects that have the potential to benefit us all."

Merrell-Ann Phare of the Centre of Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) added that, "We need to start thinking differently about foundations of our common economy. If we all work together, regionally, we can build a circular, efficient and productive economy where we eliminate waste by treating it as an asset for our mutual economic development. It's exciting."

CBCRA is helping Manitobans reduce waste

Riley Martin, CBCRA

The Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association (CBCRA) has managed and operated the beverage container recycling program in Manitoba since 2010. The CBCRA was formed with the singular goal of reaching the government-mandated target of recovering 75% of beverage containers sold in Manitoba, and remains committed to this goal.

To reach the 75% recovery rate, the organization focuses on two main areas to help increase beverage container recovery rates. These focus areas are accessibility and Promotion and Education. CBCRA needs to ensure that it is convenient for Manitobans to recycle their empty beverage containers no matter where they are, and needs to guarantee that they know what to do with those empty containers, and what the benefits of recycling them are.

Through wide-spread accessibility to recycling infrastructure, and a province



Empty beverage containers belong in the blue bins.

wide Promotion & Education (P&E) campaign, CBCRA has been able to bring the beverage container recovery rate to new heights in Manitoba. Over a six-year

period between 2010 and 2016, the recovery rate increased from 42% to 70%, an increase of 28 percentage points, which means 67% more containers were recycled

in 2016 than in 2010.

In 2017, so many beverage containers were recycled in Manitoba that it would have taken 1,067 rail cars to hold all of them. This equals a decrease of 25,573 metric tonnes of CO₂eq emissions, which is the equivalent of taking 5,778 cars off the road.

CBCRA provides consumers a cost effective and convenient way to recycle empty beverage containers no matter if they are at home or out and about within Manitoba's communities. This level of recycling accessibility has become common place among Manitobans, and the Recycle Everywhere program achieves this by providing away from home beverage container recycling bins to public spaces across our geographically wide-spread province free of charge. This, combined with the Blue Box, has created a recycling system that is a cost effective and convenient way for Manitobans to recycle all types of beverage containers wherever they are consumed.

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Trellis strip
- 5. "Como ___?"
- 10. Decisive time
- 14. Slaving away
- 15. Four of ___
- 16. Faulkner's ___ Varner
- 17. Kerfuffles
- 19. Cat weapon
- 20. Gave way
- 21. A Powell
- 22. Backed
- 26. Minor betting game
- 30. Shoulder ornament
- 34. Pop singer John
- 35. Condensations
- 36. Grafton's "___ for Evidence"
- 37. Shiny photo
- 39. Publicity devices
- 42. "___ next time..."
- 43. Shankar of Indian theater
- 47. Old ___ hills
- 48. Witnesses
- 51. They can be kinda stuffy
- 52. Below
- 54. Check the total
- 57. Sweet gal of song
- 62. Advanced math subj.
- 63. Met
- 66. Converse alternative
- 67. Record company
- 68. Depressed
- 69. Soothsayer
- 70. Union commander at Gettysburg
- 71. Aardvark's dinner

DOWN

- 1. Like some lingerie
- 2. Yours, in Tours
- 3. Newsweek rival
- 4. Blogger's code
- 5. Moth-___: worn out
- 6. Fishtailed

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							19			
20										21				
				22			23	24	25					
26	27	28	29			30					31	32	33	
34						35						36		
37						38			39	40	41			
42						43	44	45	46		47			
48			49	50							51			
			52								53			
54	55	56						57			58	59	60	61
62						63	64	65						
66						67						68		
69						70							71	

- 7. Uncle, in Acapulco
- 8. Cape ___ (Massachusetts peninsula)
- 9. '60s "New Left" gp.
- 10. Solve a cipher
- 11. Not bright
- 12. Jai ___ (fast court game)
- 13. Act sleepy

- 18. Greek theaters of old
- 21. Cartoonist's frame
- 23. East Ender's aspiration
- 24. Like sashimi
- 25. Work (out), as a puzzle
- 26. "I ___ differ!"
- 27. Mystery story writer Stanley

Sudoku

	8		4	9				1
4			8					
					6			
					2			7
6	2		3		9	5		8
3		9	7	4			6	
		4		3				2
5		2		8		1		
	9		1		6			

- 28. Ring-shaped island
- 29. Denials
- 31. Revival structures
- 32. Parishioner's donation
- 33. Snaking curves
- 38. Loud laughs
- 40. Caught some rays
- 41. Mil. entertainers
- 44. ___ Plaines, Illinois
- 45. Singer Garfunkel
- 46. Like a dowsing stick
- 49. Clunker
- 50. Venerable ref. work
- 53. Edward Rochester's ward
- 54. Some HDTVs
- 55. Projecting edge on a roof
- 56. What George couldn't tell
- 58. "___ Rose"
- 59. Knowledgable about
- 60. Package info
- 61. Long periods, geologically
- 63. Adm. of U.S. public lands
- 64. Dubai is part of it (abbr.)
- 65. CEO's degree, often

A more solar METRO Region

Sycamore Energy

Sycamore Energy Inc. was founded in 2012 after merging with Global Wind Group Inc. (est. 2008) and is Manitoba's largest installer of ground and roof mounted solar arrays.

Sycamore Energy Inc. team of 40 employees has over 30 years of residential, commercial and agricultural experience in the areas of solar photovoltaics, electrical, structural, design, and sales. Sycamore's leadership is dedicated to finding creative solutions and has been focused on delivering exceptional value to the customer seeking to offset or eliminate their exposure to rising grid-tied energy prices. Sycamore is the parent company for several related operating entities including Sycamore Electric Inc. and Solar Manitoba.

Sycamore Energy Inc. believes in working towards a clean, sustainable and independent energy future by providing access to electricity generated from renewables. Sycamore Energy delivers quality renewable energy solutions so that their partners, customers, and investors may

achieve their sustainability, economic development, and financial goals.

Residential solar power

Enjoy a snug, energy efficient home while basking in the warmth of electricity generated by your own solar system: yes, it's possible. If you're interested in going solar, most homeowners will decide to mount the panels on their roof. Simply cover half a roof in photovoltaic panels, and you can generate 7,500 kWh annually. That is a substantial contribution to meet the average home's electricity needs.

Commercial and agricultural solar power

The financial viability of your farm or business is threatened by rising energy prices. Why continue to pay ever rising rates when you can invest in generating your own electricity? With grid-tied systems available, batteries are no longer required, and you can expect an excellent return on investment from a solar array. Every unit of solar installed is one less unit of grid energy needing to be purchased. Some customers install a full net-zero system, which completely eliminates their bills after the first year of operation.



Many homes and businesses in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region have wisely decided to invest their money in owning their generation.

**Question today
Imagine tomorrow
Create for the future**

WSP is proud to partner with our clients to deliver innovative and sustainable engineering solutions.

As a future-focused organization, we design and deliver projects that shape societies and connect communities, creating places where our friends, families and neighbours can thrive.



Manitoba businesses team up to protect water with #20BY2020

METRO Region News Desk

We can all agree that access to fresh, clean water is essential if we are to maintain and grow our economy. Water related economic development in Manitoba is estimated to contribute over \$4 billion dollars per year through fishing, tourism and agriculture, making it clear that many businesses in our province have a special connection to water.

We know that deteriorating water quality poses a significant environmental, social and economic threat here in Manitoba and across the globe. Although, there are many efforts underway by NGO's, all levels of government and the public, there is a significant opportunity for business and industry to team up and make meaningful impact to address this threat.

In 2009, local leaders launched the Lake Friendly Initiative which obtained official mark status, a status only available to public authorities with a significant degree of care and control. Based on science, they identified best practice across a variety of sectors.

Local leaders have been getting their municipal operations in order by examining solutions related to best practice. They are now throwing out a challenge to all business owners. Over the next couple of months, they will be launching #20BY2020. This is a friendly competition for 20 Manitoba businesses to join the action in protecting our freshwater resources by World Water Day 2020.

"This province-wide pilot project will guide 20 Manitoba businesses to evaluate how they use water in their operations," explained Rick Gamble, Mayor of Dunnottar and Chair of Lake Friendly. "We'll be looking at water consumption, wastewater and storm water retention with the goal of the businesses to be awarded Entry Blue Ready

status." He added, "Lake Friendly is a trusted official mark. Participation in this project shows Manitoba's businesses are doing what matters to protect water and our economy."

Entry Blue Ready Certification supports the Province of Manitoba's Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan. It includes action to:

- protect water from nutrients, contaminants and other threats;
- conserve and value water;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move to renewable energy; and
- build resiliency into our natural and built environments.

Elected leaders recognize that through partnerships with business and industry, they can mount a coordinated community approach.

President and CEO of the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce, Chuck Davidson agrees. "We are pleased to be working with Lake Friendly and support the #20BY2020 project," he said. "Business and industry have a long history of stepping up and showing leadership. We are confident they will do the same for freshwater protection. This is such an important project. We need to act today to help preserve the health of our province's water for future generations."

Darrell Brown, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce echoed Davidson's positive endorsement. "Extending this project to all businesses in Manitoba allows Indigenous business owners an opportunity to be a part of a team approach. We want to promote best practices in stewarding our land, water and resources."

Whether you are a business, school, local government or resident, there is room on this team for everyone. Go to lakefriendly.ca to find out how you can participate.

#20BY2020

20 Manitoba businesses becoming **ENTRY BLUE READY** ✓

Businesses taking the first step to protect Manitoba's **environment & economy** by World Water Day 2020

FIND OUT MORE AT LAKEFRIENDLY.CA

LAKE FRIENDLY



Volunteers help build strong communities

Bev Bragg might have found the fountain of youth and the good news is it's available to all of us, if we choose to grab hold of it.

Bragg has been volunteering in West St. Paul for more than 50 years. From community baseball to our nation's birthday to Remembrance Day, Bragg has had a hand in it all in her home community.

West St. Paul Baseball was formed in 1968 by Bragg and some of her neighbours and she has been the convener since that time. It might be what brings her the most joy to this day.

"You go and watch them play and the little ones go, 'I hit the ball, Bev! I hit the ball!' And they're so excited," Bragg said.

"There's your reward right there. It keeps you young."

Who's to argue? At 76 years of age, Bragg is still volunteering and loving every minute of it.

At 14, Bragg started teaching Sunday School at St. Paul's Church and did so for 17 years. She was part of the group that resurrected McNaughton Community Centre in 1967. Bragg and her husband Jim had two young boys at the time.

"I figured we should get the community centre going again, so that's what I did, I started talking to people and we got McNaughton going again in 1967."

Next, they started summer camp at McNaughton, despite the fact it wasn't much more than a baseball field.

"We had no building, we had a backstop and we had blankets," she laughed.

Soon summer camp was split between McNaughton and Rivercrest and eventually moved into the West St. Paul School. Now, it's a hugely successful program run out of the Sunova Centre and at peak times accommodates close to 100 kids during the day.

"Bev is an amazing role model in our community," said West St. Paul Mayor Cheryl Christian.

"She has dedicated countless hours volunteering and has encouraged generations of kids to participate in sport."

Bragg's volunteer efforts extend throughout the RM, from the aforementioned baseball, to the Canada Day Committee, Remembrance Day services (which Bragg reinstated in 2013) and both



West St. Paul Mayor Cheryl Christian presents Bev Bragg with an award for her volunteer work.

the 50th and 70th anniversaries of West St. Paul School.

She's volunteered at Middlechurch Home, pitched in during flood events and you can catch her in the canteen at Sunova Centre lending a hand whenever one is needed.

Bragg has been honoured numerous times for her efforts, including a plaque from the Governor General of Canada, in 1992, during Canada's 125 Celebrations; the Chic Balderstone Award from the RM of West St. Paul, Queen Elizabeth II Medal and having the play structure area at the Sunova Centre named in her honour. Last summer, the RM again recognized her efforts with a plaque commemorating her 50 years of volunteer service.

Bragg said the perks of volunteering include all the wonderful people you meet. One of her most special memories was meeting Princess Anne at a Folklorama event in Winnipeg. Then Premier Howard Pawley invited Bragg and other West St. Paul residents because of their volunteer work.

Bragg said she owes her dedication to community to her parents.

"Where it all started is our parents. My mother and my dad were among the founders of McNaughton Community Centre," she said.

"We learned from our parents that you can go out and do things, you know, and the reward is just great."

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HAMILTON	\$445,529 MEDIAN PRICE	\$81,807 YOUR INCOME
CALGARY	\$266,107 MEDIAN PRICE	\$48,851 YOUR INCOME
OTTAWA/GATINEAU	\$261,454 MEDIAN PRICE	\$47,997 YOUR INCOME
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*Monthly mortgage payment on median condo price (25-year amortization, 5-year term)
**Source: National Bank of Canada Q4

Puzzle answers

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Trapper's country – respecting people, animals and the environment

Courtlyn Suszko

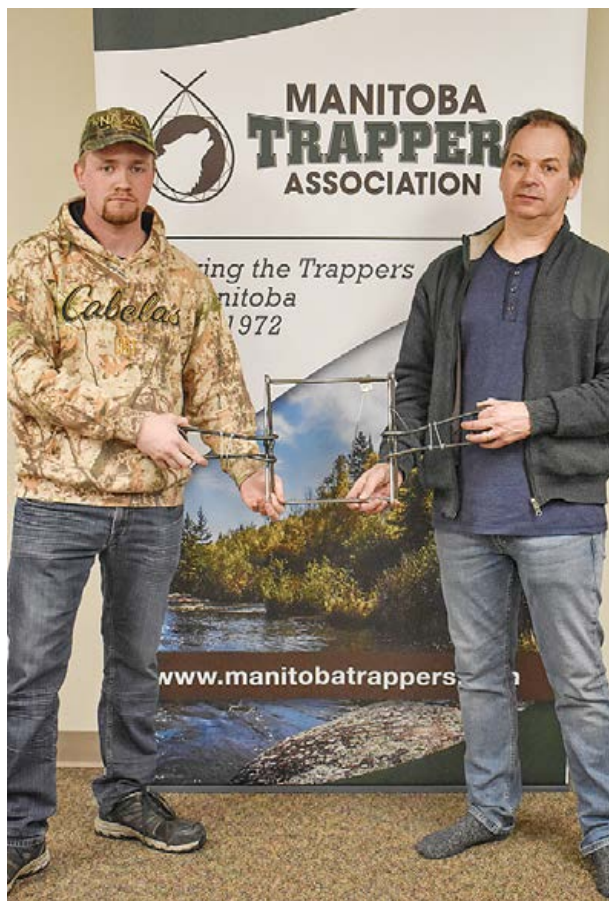
I was very fortunate to grow up on Netley creek, in Petersfield, Man. My dad has a passion for the outdoors like none other. He raised me to fish and hunt with purpose. He taught me to fish and hunt as a means of providing for your family. At a very young age, I learned how to fillet fish, clean birds, and cook wild game. In most occasions our fish or birds would go directly in to the deep fryer or smoker. On many occasions this food fed not only our family, but others as well.

I had always wondered about trapping. I assumed just like fishing/hunting, it was a means to provide food for your family. However I knew very little about it and was never exposed to it. Last winter Barry (my boyfriend's Dad) and I were visiting and I mentioned how I wanted to learn more about trapping. I was in luck! We walked into his garage and my first lesson into trapping began. He showed me numerous different traps that he had accumulated over the years and how they worked. It is a lot to take in at first and can be very intimidating.

In February 2019, I attended a course organized and instructed by the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA), a volunteer organization made up of members from the Manitoba trapping community. In Manitoba, potential trappers must attend a Basic Trappers Education course prior to acquiring a trapping license. During the course, students are taught about humane trapping equipment and techniques. Rob Andrushuk states "Humane trapping is not only the law, it is the right thing to do." The Manitoba Trappers Association was established in 1972 to educate, work with the government and to ensure sustainable and humane furbearer management. They teach: Respect for People, Respect for Animals, and Respect for Environment.

One part of the international standard regulates the types of traps used to ensure a humane harvest. The equipment is laboratory tested to confirm it meets the requirements of the standard, meaning an animal does not suffer and is dispatched in the fastest way possible. Another part of the standard is a requirement to educate trappers on humane trapping equipment and techniques.

The course takes place during a Saturday and Sunday, is free to youth and is located at Oak Hammock Marsh. To my surprise, the course was full! People of all ages were signed up with everyone having different reasons to be there, from



Kyle McCosh and Rob Andrushuk from the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA).

predator control to learning a new hobby, and more. This was surprising to me as I had always thought trapping, as it is over 350 years old and was mainly used as means of trade, was a dying industry. This is not the case. Trapping still provides vital income to many rural and northern trappers. Also, many people still trap as a means of predator control and to control problem wildlife such as beavers.

Today, many trappers in southern Manitoba focus on problem wildlife species such as raccoon, beaver, and coyote. The


MTA administers the Problem Predator Program on behalf of the Province of Manitoba. The program assists livestock producers that have suffered loss of livestock due to predators such as coyote and wolves. It is important to note that coyotes are efficient predators and wild animals. They are not like your pet dogs. They are unpredictable, especially when sick or injured. They often prey on livestock, pets and on rare occurrences - people. A producer that suffers a loss and has an insurance claim with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) can contact the MTA and request assistance from a professional trapper. MASC pays out over a million dollars a year to farmers for livestock lost due to predators.

Professional trappers also assist municipalities, highway departments, railways, and private landowners to remove problem beavers. These industrious semi-aquatic rodents flood agricultural lands, wash out roadways and railways, and cause extensive property damage. Beavers contributed to a train derailment last year in Northern Manitoba that claimed the life of one individual and seriously injured another.

Trapper Education Instructor-in-Training Kyle McCosh has been contacted by his municipality to provide beaver control. "The beaver problem in rural Manitoba continues to be a growing issue for municipalities, farmers and land owners. Modern trapping methods are a humane and effective way to control beavers and other problem wildlife." Problem beavers have the potential to cause major flooding costing municipalities millions of dollars.

I often hear individuals judging trappers, hunters and anglers, when in fact most trappers, hunters and anglers play huge roles in conservation. Outdoor enthusiasts want to preserve the land and maintain wildlife so they can enjoy it themselves and pass it on to future generations. The trapping rules and regulations are essential to preserving wildlife populations. I think it is easy to forget, when living in urban cities, that there are still many communities that rely on trapping to supplement their livelihood and as a means of survival. Without trapping, towns could flood, highways would be washed out, train derailments could occur and more. Trapping makes up a significant part of the social and cultural fabric of many rural and northern communities.

The MTA offers the trapping course 6 to 8 times a year, generally during late winter and early spring. For more information or to sign up for a course please contact the MTA: mta@mymts.net.



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The Great Trail

Once known as the Trans Canada Trail, the Great Trail is now complete, spanning 24,000 km across the country. The sections of the Great Trail in Manitoba include the Red River North Trail. Start your journey in northeast Winnipeg and follow the Red River to the Bottomley Creek Trail in East St. Paul. Refuel at Jonesy's Restaurant and Lounge, known for great service and home style cooking.

Follow the trail as it makes its way through Birds Hill Provincial Park. While in the park, choose from several different trails, most of which are great for birding from the spring through fall and are also dog friendly. You can also explore the park by horseback on a ride with Birds Hill Park Ranch.



Clubs and Curds

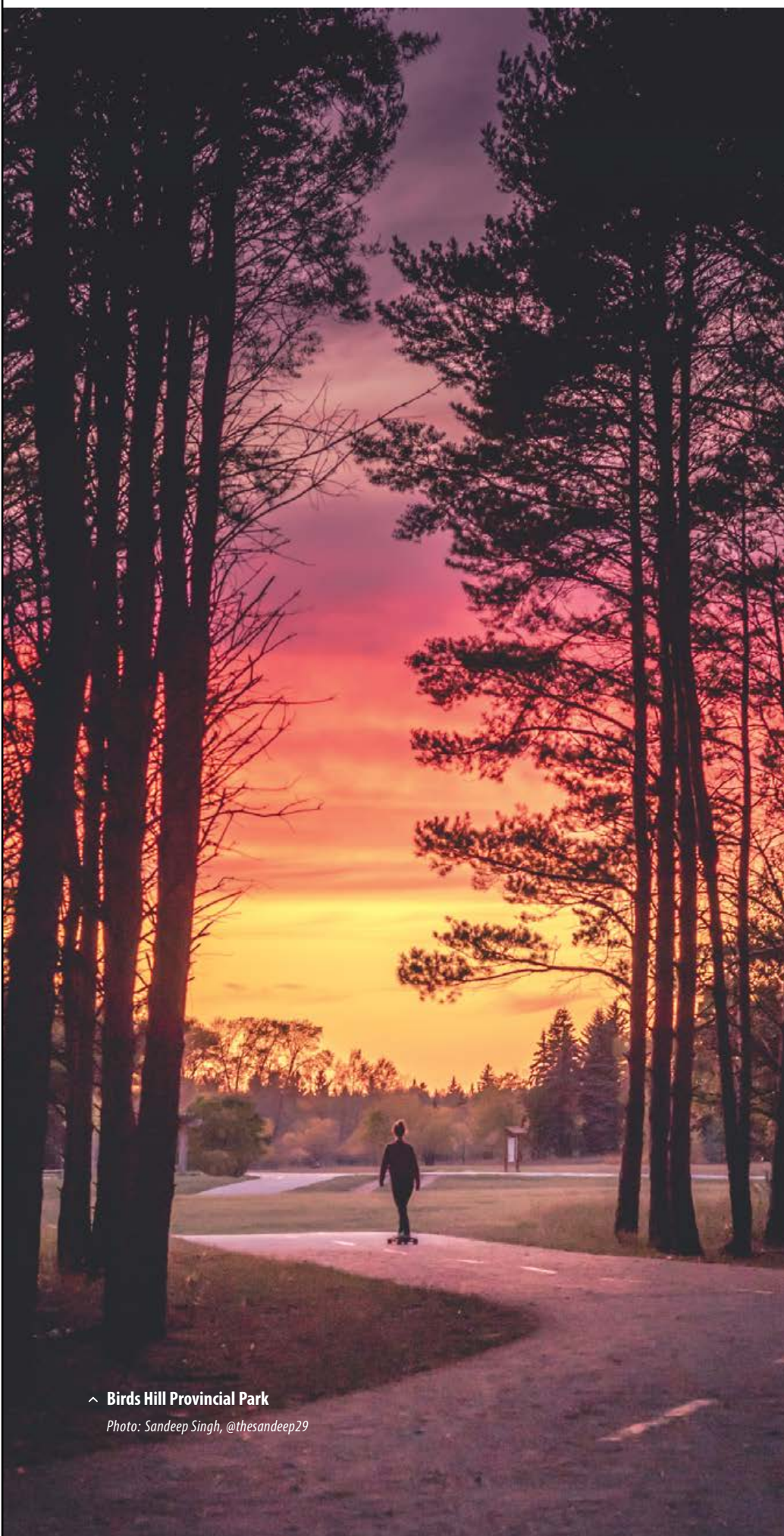
The RM of Macdonald to the southwest of Winnipeg is home to two of the province's top golf courses. Make a tee time at Bridges Golf Course, with its challenging championship design that melds a traditional links style with gorgeous tree-lined holes or at Kingswood Golf and Country Club. Laid out along the La Salle River, this course features challenging traps and bunkers, and the 17th that crosses the river is one of the province's signature holes.

Both courses offer an incredible menu selection from their clubhouses, but if you're looking to explore a bit further, why not venture onto the Poutine Trail? A selection of restaurants south of Winnipeg offer a signature poutine dish – try the Burger Poutine at Lucky Luc's Bar & Grill in Ste. Agathe or the Perogie Poutine at Chicken Chef in Lorette.

For more easy day trip ideas, visit travelmanitoba.com

Manitoba

CANADA'S HEART  BEATS



^ Birds Hill Provincial Park

Photo: Sandeep Singh, @thesandeep29