

POINT *to* POINT

ARMSTRONG'S POINT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Find Your Red Chair Moment

Parks Canada has a Red Chair Program, and so, it appears, does Armstrong's Point.

We think we can add to the official list of "must-see" natural and historic spaces across the country, some spots even closer to home. For that red chair moment, we can take a seat and take in some heritage and beautiful natural surroundings - all without leaving Armstrong's Point!



Armstrong's Point
THE HERITAGE REPORT

Middle Gate Gardens

The Middle Gate gardens braced the deep cold and have survived the winter, with the replacement Discovery Elm alive and well! See our article inside for the community's restoration work on an area that was struggling.

We're hoping the gardens will sport a bit of jewelry this summer with a plaque installed.

We've also had an inspection by the City of damages to the West Gate and Middle Gate pillars and are on the work list for repairs and beauty treatment for those very important monuments.

Happy Canada Day!

*April Kassum, Chair
APA Heritage / Beautification Committee*



A Tale of Two Homes

Much has been written about the history of Armstrong's Point ...

... but recently social media connected us to a fellow history enthusiast who had ties to Armstrong's Point and some new information that would help us solve a puzzle and set the historical record to rights.

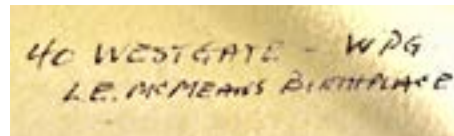
We were contacted by Gail Mesplay in Colorado, who had an old photo to share of an Armstrong's Point house which she believed to be 40 West Gate. It was difficult to see in this photo the house we all know at that address today!

Gail sent the photo to Sandy Butterfield through our Facebook page, with the message that her great grandfather was William Fisher Luxton (see side bar opposite page), founder and editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, and that he had raised his family, including Gail's grandmother, in that house.

Pat Thomson is our neighbourhood's archivist. She determined the confusion about this home's address was due to an error in the Manitoba Historical Society's "A Walking Tour of Armstrong's Point", where the publication incorrectly stated, "40 West Gate was occupied at one time by W.F Luxton, founder of the Free Press."

Consulting Randy Rostecki's book, "Armstrong's Point – A History", Pat identified the home in Gail's photo to be, in fact, a house built at what is now 180 West Gate, which Rostecki records as the home of William Fisher Luxton. Unfortunately, this beautiful house was demolished in 1928.

Adding to the clues, Pat recalled an interesting story about 40 West Gate. A few years ago, Terry McMeans, a guest at Christine Common's B&B, brought with him an old photo which he too claimed to be 40 West Gate, once belonging to his grandfather, Senator Lendrum McMeans.



On the back of his photo was the notation: "40 West Gate - Wpg., L.E. McMeans birthplace."

That helped, but we couldn't see the present house at 40 West Gate in this photo either! Once again, Randy Rostecki came to the rescue with an explanation for the differences between then and now.



40 West Gate, "The Oaks", in 1893, photo brought by Christine's visitor



40 West Gate, today.

He describes 40 West Gate as "a towered, Queen Anne style house built for lawyer (later Senator) McMeans" and details extensive changes made to 40 West Gate over the years, including "removing the two-sided verandah and putting stucco over the aging wood siding."

And so we have it: the original Luxton family home, no longer standing, was built at what is now 180 West Gate. Christine's visitor brought a photo confirming that 40 West Gate had indeed belonged to Lendrum McMeans.

The conclusion? Ensuring an accurate historical record is important, but just as meaningful to us is the notion that so many of those who leave the Point retain a deep attachment and often "come back" in some fashion, so that we in 2021 were able to reconnect with our past, and compose our tale of two homes.



Antique photo of her great-grandfather's house, c. 1893, sent by Gail Mesplay.

Armstrong's Point Pride

Residents Tackle Garbage and Restore a Garden

On May 8, close to 20 families gave up part of their sunny Saturday to help clean up in and around Armstrong's Point, including two families who haven't even moved in to the neighbourhood yet!



The Stutzmans



The Antonations



Susie and Bob



Shelly and Carla



Anne and Declan



Dan and Alex



The Raichuras



Ira and Jai

Take Pride Winnipeg supplied the garbage pickers, pointers and bags. There was a lot of work to be done on the boulevards, around the school, under the bridge and along the riverbanks. We were happy to team up with our West Broadway neighbours who were tackling their own area the same weekend. Participants enjoyed a gift card from Thom Bargaen, Decadence Chocolates or Hudson Bagels. All in all, it was a good reminder to 'take pride' in our neighbourhood, all year long. A special shout out to Jennifer Pilgrim of East Gate who has already collected multiple bags of garbage throughout the spring, on her daily walks. To Jennifer, "every day is Earth Day." Thanks everyone!

On to the gardens at our Middle Gate entrance. They've been a community initiative from the beginning and part of our arrangement with the City is a commitment to care for the gardens from now on, entirely on our own. The east side bed really needed some TLC this spring. We asked for your help and you stepped up. Thanks to Lesley Mowat, Larry Isacoff, Don Oliver, Athina Panopoulos, Noor Ahmed and Sheri Blake for donating their plants and installing and watering them in for a good start.



Don Oliver



Lesley Mowat



Noor Ahmed

We're often told how much these gardens are appreciated by passers-by, with one Armstrong's Point resident remarking that they show we take pride in our neighbourhood. There's that word "pride" again! High fives, Armstrong's Point!



William Fisher Luxton

Gail Mesplay describes her family, the Luxtons, some of the founders of Armstrong's Point and our city:

"I am a retired high school history teacher who loves genealogy. My cousin, Susan Luxton Freeborn, of Calgary, is also an avid history lover so we enjoy jointly exploring our Luxton past. My grandmother, Olive Luxton, and Susan's grandfather Louis Luxton were children on West Gate, so we have heard about the home all our lives. You may have heard that their brother Norman became famous by crossing the Pacific in a restored dugout and later became famous for the development of Banff. One other brother, Malloch, died in the trenches in WWI. He left St. Paul, to join the Canadian Expeditionary Army. Another brother, George, became a well known photo journalist in Minneapolis and also the garden writer for the newspaper. I assume you know about their father, William Fisher Luxton, and the Winnipeg Free Press. The Luxtons have a rich past."

BULLETIN BOARD

We welcome new residents

Say hello to new neighbours Eric Stutzman, Lyris Short-Goetzke and family: Calum and Myelle, at 93 Middle Gate.

In Remembrance

We honour those we have recently lost: friends, neighbours, community members, whose presence will be greatly missed.

Peter Firlotte bought 65 West Gate in 1985. Along with working in the airline industry and raising twins with his wife Nancy, he found time to volunteer as a board member for the APA. You could always count on Pete to show up at City Hall whenever necessary, using his humour to make a point. He also helped out at all the social events and will be remembered for his wit and wisdom. Pete passed away on February 9.

Sandra Thusberg lived at 93 Middle Gate for many years. She too was very involved in our community, working tirelessly to save the Cornish Library, organizing social gatherings and going door to door collecting APA memberships. Sandra passed away on April 5.

Anita Rowan with her husband Frank moved to the Gates in the early 60s and stayed until 2015 - over half a century of raising a family, community participation, and love for Armstrong's Point. Anita passed away on April 17. She was a lovely neighbour and a friend to many.

Ram Agrawal, longtime resident of 150 West Gate, passed away May 18. He studied law in India, practised in England, then emigrated to Canada in the late 60s. He and his wife Indira raised their two daughters Usha and Veena in the Gates. He was known for his kindness, generosity and humour. As we think of Ram and his family, let's all heed his advice and "make somebody smile today."



May 26 was landscaping day at the Cornish! The shrubs going in are dwarf willow "Blue Canyon". Can opening day be far behind??

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TBA - *Vice President*
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April Kassum - *Secretary*
Kym Antonation
Scott Antonation
Sandra Butterfield
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Ash Raichura
Bill Ryzniczuk
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Ivan Sabesky
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April Kassum

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TBA

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Sandy Butterfield

Newsletter:
Editor: Darlene Irwin
Design: Randy Butterfield

Social Committee:
Sandy Butterfield

Tree Committee:
Ivan Sabesky

The Gallery

A bouquet of summer blooms for you

We wish Barbara and Marvin Tiller all the best as they leave their Middle Gate home of 48 years for ocean breezes and family in Vancouver. Tiller family, wherever you go, you will always be a part of Armstrong's Point.

Paintings by Barb Tiller



Poppies in Vase - acrylic on canvas, 24" x 20"



Purple & Blue Floral - acrylic on paper, 25" x 35"



Bees in front yard Photo: Sean Ceaser

Point to Point: Armstrong's Point Community Newsletter Send contributions, suggestions to: d.irwin@mymts.net