

POINT *to* POINT

ARMSTRONG'S POINT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Winter

"I think that to one in sympathy with nature, each season, in turn, seems the loveliest." - Mark Twain

What's in a name?" - William Shakespeare



East Gate Transitions into Winter

"I'm often seeing the world through a photo-composed / restricted frame. I remember noticing how pretty it looked that day, and then considering that I could re-shoot it in another season."

- Ash Raichura.

We feel drawn to step right through our photographer's frame and into the photo. How about a walk around the Point, where each street has its story? Whether you've lived in Armstrong's Point for years or

just recently made the move, we'll bet there's something in your neighbourhood you haven't noticed or thought about before. What's in a name? Central Avenue, Ingleuek, Cornish. Let's find out...



Armstrong's Point
THE HERITAGE REPORT

Season's Greetings

Another calendar season is coming to a close but that doesn't mean your Heritage Committee is booking off. Snow may blanket much of the Point for a while, but activities continue. Our Heritage Conservation Bylaw has been in place since April 2019. We've been pleased to meet and begin working with our newly-installed Heritage Officers at the City, learning together as we navigate the areas of the bylaw which may need fine tuning. This is all part of the process. We are delighted to have join us some of our newest residents who are lending their ideas, experience and enthusiasm from heritage districts of their own right across the country. We've also met Jocelyne Nicolas, new Director of West Broadway Biz, and discussed mutual interests and ways to expand our cooperation. In short, though snow may cover our efforts for the next few months, Heritage is not hibernating. We're on it!

Have a safe and joyous holiday season.

April Kassum
Chair, Heritage / Beautification Committee

What's in a name? Central Avenue, Ingleneuk, Cornish

Have you ever considered the inscriptions in concrete along Middle Gate?

A reader asks, "Was wondering when the "Central Avenue" sidewalks were poured. It was before 1910, according to records. And we're still walking on its pebbled and only somewhat cracked surface more than 100 years later."



Middle Gate

Pat Thomson recalls for us, "The early maps show Central Avenue and a u-shaped street called Assiniboine Avenue where East Gate and West Gate are now. Middle Gate resident Sandra Thusberg saved the Central Avenue concrete slabs the last time the sidewalks were done, which is probably about 25 years ago."

This jogs our memory of another inscription in concrete we've noticed in our travels.



97 West Gate

Once again, our reader was intrigued. "Look who I found living in "Ingelneuk". And married in 1904, by the looks of it."

CORBETT, Samuel, Physician. Born Port Hope, Ont. 1846. Came to Manitoba 1882. Married Gertrude E. Sangster 1904, has three daughters, Kathleen, Dorothy and Beverly. President, College of Physicians and Surgeons. Club: St. Charles Country. Societies: Freemasons, Oddfellows. Recreation: Golf. Liberal, Presbyterian. Address: Ingleneuk, Armstrong's Point, Winnipeg. (Manitoba Historical Society)



"Ingleneuk", 97 West Gate

As it happens, Dr. Corbett of Ingleneuk lived in times not unlike our own, with huge public health challenges at the forefront. Smallpox was a worldwide problem and the "sanitary idea", a new and science-based school of thought, was changing the treatment of infectious diseases.

Britain's vaccination policy had brought on misinformation, conspiracy theories and violent protests. but amid all this controversy, by the time an epidemic struck Ontario in 1884 it was indeed the modern practises of hygiene, restriction of social contacts and vaccination that succeeded in stopping the spread.

- Canadian Public Health Association

It's notable that our Dr. Corbett had another professional title on his resumé. He was President of Winnipeg's own International Sanitary Association, and one of the pioneers of this new scientific approach.



Public Library, Cornish Branch

Onward now to the library, where on July 29, its official re-opening day, we passed by and happened to catch some weighty dedication remarks.

"In a press conference outside, Coun. Sherri Rollins accused the building's namesake, Francis E. Cornish, of racism. 'The library behind me, it's so many things,' she said. 'It's named after the first mayor of the City of Winnipeg, one that has a difficult history, really problematic when it comes to the Métis people. That, I think, needs to be acknowledged. Definitely renaming is a topic with the library board.'"

- James Snell postmedia July 29/21

Possibly renaming the library?...

something to ponder as we continue east down to the riverbank, where "the Cornish Path skirts the river between the Osborne Bridge and East Gate, winding through some of the most breathtakingly beautiful cottonwood trees in the city."

- Winnipeg Trails Association

Kolya: Living on the spot where his great-grandfather used to run

We've read that indigenous peoples consider the cottonwood a medicine tree and it's here we meet Kolya, living on this spot for the past two summers where his great-grandfather used to run, he says. Over the days ahead, amazing stories unfold.



Bottom of Cornish Avenue

Benjamin Joseph Keeper, Kolya's ancestor from Norway House Cree Nation, started distance running while attending the Brandon Residential School. By 1911 he had set the Canadian 10 mile record and by 1912 he won the Canadian Olympic trials 10,000 m. event and competed at the Stockholm Games.



Benjamin Joseph Keeper

Keeper later joined the Canadian army, and for his actions as a message runner behind enemy lines he earned the Military Medal for Bravery in 1917. He has been inducted into the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame and the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame.

(Benjamin Keeper - Team Canada Canadian Encyclopedia)

Kolya Keeper himself is Cree and Ojibway from Peguis First Nation. In his own right, he's an acknowledged visual artist and traditional dancer whose paintings have been shown in galleries worldwide and who has danced at the Pan Am Games and on MTV, and opened for the Tragically Hip. These days, the bottom of Cornish Avenue has been given a fresh new look.



White Wolf mural - Kolya Keeper, 2021

The history of Armstrong's Point is a two-way street, some of it yet to be written as new and future residents take our places. What it will become, we can only imagine, but this is certain: there will be transitions, chroniclers of its unfolding history and plenty of fascinating stories for the telling.



Métis Sash

Photo by Hazel Priestley-Hobbs

A drive-thru of Armstrong's Point history Part 2

"I was reading the recent AP newsletter and the section on autos. Thought you might be interested..."

Last summer (2020) when we moved into 51 East Gate we were digging in our backyard and the shovel hit something hard...and yellow. We uncovered a pile of old license plates from the early 1900s. Our house wasn't around at that time so they must have been buried by one of the other home owners from the time.



Early 1900's License plates

This summer we dug up an old soda bottle from "Blackwood Beverages" (the original soda pop company in Winnipeg).



"Blackwood Beverages" soda bottle

Who knows what other treasures are buried in our yards :)"

- Kristina Shamlou Swain

We're Ready for Our Close-Up, One More Time

Sept. 29 - A drone in the sky over the library and a film crew on the grounds brought us over to ask about the locally-made documentary, *PLACES + SPACES: WINNIPEG*, directed by Winnipeg filmmaker Noam Gonick.

“The series will feature iconic civic buildings - skyscrapers, libraries, performance spaces and parks – that make up our beautiful city.

The Exchange, downtown and neighbourhoods like River Heights, Tuxedo, Windsor Park and Wildwood Park will be on full display.



The Cornish will be part of an episode on libraries,” says Leslie Stafford of Communications. The series will air on Bell MTS, aiming to launch next April.

The Gallery ...



Bronwyn Butterfield honouring ancestors and heritage: “This is my duty, to bring it back.”

A self-taught artist who’s drawn and painted from a young age, Bronwyn has recently delved into beadwork, a tradition that’s been in her family for at least four generations. These days, her subjects are natural and geometric motifs rendered in glass beads.

Her Cree-Métis-Scottish and Ukrainian ancestry, and especially the Cree great-grandmother she never met, motivate her “to give life to traditional family patterns” in her own designs, and “to find a personal style that speaks to her mixed identity.” Fun Fact: Like Kolya (page 3), Bronwyn is also related to the Keeper family of Norway House.

Check out Bronwyn’s work at the Lucky-girl Holiday Pop Up Event, December 9th, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Centennial Concert Hall.

Left - Part of a public art display, you can see Bronwyn’s design in the entryway of the Artspace building in the Exchange.



(Sources: CBC, Winnipeg Free Press, Toronto Fashion Magazine)

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