

POINT *to* POINT

Fall Edition 2020

ARMSTRONG'S POINT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

2020 vision for Armstrong's Point: A look back and a glimpse into the future

In the usual order of things, this September should mean a Heritage House Tour. In 2010 APA's Heritage Committee took a chance on an ambitious idea. Could we do it? Pulling together as a community, we did. We worked hard, had fun, and went on to repeat the event every second year after.

This year, it's different. Considering current COVID-19 guidelines and the welfare of our many guests and volunteers, we won't be inviting large groups into the neighbourhood.

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Classic and Antique Auto Club



Heritage House Tour 2014



Armstrong's Point
THE HERITAGE REPORT

Meet the new elm on the block

We've all been saddened by the loss, one by one, of our beloved American Elm trees and last year the Middle Gate entrance was no exception. Enter *Ulmus davidiana* var. *Japonica* "Discovery", common name: Discovery Elm. Developed for a resistance to Dutch Elm Disease by Rick Durand of Portage la Prairie, the new tree in our entrance garden is a cross between American and Japanese Elms.

We aim to preserve both the symmetry of the original design and the tradition of two elms flanking our gates. Though it's a modern ornamental variety, the Discovery with its golden fall foliage will be there to remind us of the graceful beauty of AP's elms of yore.

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2020 vision for Armstrong's Point: A look back and a glimpse into the future

2020 must be the year not of our next Tour, but a retrospective on all that previous ones have accomplished for the community. There are many wonderful memories.

We've raised awareness that in AP, Winnipeg has a valuable historic resource, instrumental in our movement to become Winnipeg's first officially designated historic neighbourhood in April 2019.

Our five Heritage House Tours have been powerful fundraisers for APA, helping us to beautify the neighbourhood for all residents of Winnipeg. We've contributed to a welcoming entrance at Middle Gate with gardens and a new Discovery Elm.

Our success has allowed APA to spend \$12,000 on replanting trees throughout the neighbourhood.

It's been our pleasure to deliver Christmas hampers to Siloam Mission and, working with Mulvey School, to local neighbours. On projects large and small, we're proud of our part in making AP a strong, attractive and sustainable community. - April McDonald - Kassum, Chair, APA Heritage Committee



Top: Period costume displays
Right: Volunteer Olivia Warrington
Below: FuFu ChiChi (WFP photo)



Far left: Barbershop Quartet
Left: Tweed Ride Cyclists
Below: Cotton Candy Stand



A tenacious group of AP residents never lost sight of its goal

“Since 1915, the residents of Armstrong’s Point have been caretakers of the Cornish Library.

Our library has faced closure at least three times. The third time I made a phone call and a handful of women met at the University Women’s Club. The rest is history, but it was residents of Armstrong’s Point, including the children, who were on the front line of the campaign to keep their library each time.

After the centennial celebrations, we began fundraising for a painting to honour both the library and the women’s rights activists who met there to hear Nellie McClung 100 years ago. Winnipeg artist Naomi Gerard accepted the commission, but after yet another disappointing closure, the project was put on hold.

Finally our day has come. Naomi has spent long hours researching, planning and sketching, and her painting, celebrating the achievement of the



Centennial Cornish painting by Naomi Gerard

vote for Manitoba women, a Canadian first, has come to life on the canvas. A new world opens, a renewed library, the Carnegie Cornish, waits. These are exciting times!” - Linda F. Sigurdson Collette, Friends of the Cornish Library

See the Centennial Cornish painting when you visit the Library.

To view more of Naomi Gerard’s art, visit naomi-gerrard.pixels.com.

Cornish Library Then and Now

The Library has been designated a Grade 2 Heritage Building. Today, preserved and updated, it turns toward the future.

“Now it can be said that our library belongs to all of us, regardless of age or ability.”

- Winnipeg Library Foundation

What’s new at the Cornish? “Key heritage components have been retained wherever possible. Approaching the library’s entrance we find the



Cornish Library, 1919 Heritage Winnipeg

unchanged front of the building, with an inviting glass reading room added to the rear, both overlooking the gardens and riverbank and providing an intriguing view from Sherbrook Street to the northwest.

Renovations ensure that everyone can access the library, addressed by re-grading the landscaping and raising the sidewalk to create a level entrance, and through the addition of an elevator/lift and a universal washroom on the main floor. Energy efficiency, fire safety, lighting, heat, and furniture have been upgraded.

We will all be able to enjoy improved access to technology, resources, and better meeting space, better access to culture, the arts, and social support. Rejuvenated meeting spaces will continue to be available for community use.”

Ask a Forester

In AP we have the happy combination of a community that likes to be well-informed and a pool of skilled residents willing to share their time and knowledge. That, and the fact that we mark our National Forest Week in September makes it a great time to meet West Gate neighbour Kayla Maxwell.

Kayla holds a degree in Forest Ecology from the University of Winnipeg, and has worked as a forestry technician with the City’s Urban Forestry Branch since 2014. She’s already been a resource for residents who had some far-ranging questions for her, from what to do about woodpecker damage to tree trunks, or stumps that continue to sprout branches, to how to foster oak tree seedlings that squirrels have planted for us.



Summer 2020: leafless trees and a corona of webbing. Photo: Larry Isacoff

As to preparing for next year’s worm season she says, “With elm spanworm, which is the worm that we had a heavy infestation of this year, there isn’t a way to know for sure what next year will be like. Trees should be monitored in the spring for egg masses on twigs. You can have the trees sprayed with insecticide. The City of Winnipeg also selects areas at high risk and will spray those areas.”

Our thanks to Kayla, who has generously offered to continue responding to your own particular tree care concerns whatever they may be. You’re welcome to send your questions to her at: kayrmaxwell@gmail.com.

We welcome new residents

Gordon and Athena Sinclair at 70 Middle Gate; **Jai Shankar and Naminta Sinha and family** at 20 East Gate; **Noor Ahmed and Pauline Conley** at 39 East Gate; **Amir and Kristina Shamlou Swain** at 51 East Gate; **Kevin Chipman and Brad Zander** at 69 Middle Gate.

In Remembrance

Just as we welcome new residents to Armstrong’s Point, we also acknowledge the passing of some cherished, longtime neighbours.

Victor Thusberg passed on March 7, 2020, age 90. He and his wife Sandy lived at 93 Middle Gate for 41 years. Victor enjoyed a long career as a denturist. He made many trips back to his homeland of Finland and loved his cat Joey.

Walter Ellie of 77 Middle Gate passed away on August 13, 2020, age 94. He and his wife Eugenia built their house here in 1965.

He worked for CNR for 43 years and in retirement he and Eugenia welcomed guests at Ellies Bed and Breakfast. Walter often sat on his chair under the leafy canopy by his front door. Dogs in the neighbourhood all enjoyed stopping to say hi to Walter and get a gentle pat on the head.

Colleen Horbay of 76 Middle Gate passed on September 1, 2020. Colleen was probably the youngest 86 year old ever to grace the sidewalks of Armstrong’s Point. She and her husband Vincent moved here in 1977. Colleen was very involved in her community, in the Gates and beyond. As written in her obituary, Colleen’s “zest for life was immeasurable and she lived every day with joy and light.” We couldn’t agree more.



Ash Raichura of East Gate is Armstrong’s Point’s new representative of the Neighbourhood Watch program.

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The Gallery ...



Photo: Bill Ryzniczuk

A sharp eye will discover two birds among their camouflage in this beautiful shot sent by a West Gate neighbour. Can any reader identify this bird for us?

June 29: “The little guy hatched out this weekend. Not sure what type of bird it is. The nest was built just above our planting table in the Japanese Lilac in our back yard.”

- Wayne Ryzniczuk



Point to Point: Armstrong’s Point Community Newsletter

Send contributions, suggestions to: d.irwin@mymts.net