

# POINT *to* POINT

ARMSTRONG'S POINT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Armstrong's Point Heritage House Tour – 2018

*Red River carts once plodded on the dirt road of Portage Avenue, yet now Sunday Cruise Night boasts restored muscle cars on its modern eight-lane highway. But if you wish to walk back in time again, then stroll south at Langside Street off Portage and the old trees will whisper to you of Winnipeg's history, from the beautiful bend in the river known as Armstrong's Point!*

The APA Heritage Committee is pleased to announce the next Bi-annual Heritage House Tour – 2018! With the generous participation of residents who will be opening their homes, our neighbourhood proudly extends to visitors an opportunity to view these grand old houses. While it's wonderful to watch our city grow with progressive changes, it is also important to remember and maintain our history, to know our beginnings.

New neighbours at 64 Middle Gate have joined our community in a very meaningful way. They will be participating in House Tour 2018 by sharing their beautifully renovated home with us and the residents of Winnipeg.

Anyone similarly interested in opening their home and joining us all, in this our celebration year of recognition, please call:  
April McDonald-Kassum  
204-510-4803.



*The Katherine McKittrick residence, 1913  
William Fingland, architect  
(Randy Rostecki Armstrong's Point: A History)*

In light of imminent Heritage designation, the Point will be on full display this year, and it's a great time to show our colours and mark the special events. Look for APA's beautification projects around the neighborhood, and our joint project with the city at the entrance to Middle Gate. The Heritage Committee thanks Councillor Jenny Gerbasi, James Houldsworth and Darren Pell of Parks, and Urban Designer Ian Legge, who created the plan for the entrance.



*The Heritage Report:*

HERITAGE STATUS UPDATE

**“Armstrong's Point to become the city's first official, nationally-recognized heritage neighbourhood”**

The City of Winnipeg has given us a recent update on the status of Heritage designation. Jennifer Hansell, Superintendent of Planning and Portfolio Management reports, “It is a fairly involved process crafting a by-law that addresses all the aspects of Heritage Districts into the future...but we do feel the by-law is nearing completion.”

It's an honour for Armstrong's Point to become the city's first official, nationally-recognized heritage neighbourhood, and we can appreciate the complex and arduous work involved on behalf of Armstrong's Point and all of Winnipeg, as we await the finalization of this process.

*April McDonald - Kassum  
Chair - Heritage Committee*

# Finding Our History

by Darlene Irwin

If you look beyond the weeds and the illegal dumping at the bottom of Middle Gate, you will discover one of Armstrong's Point's hidden treasures. Meera Margaret Singh did.

Meera Singh is a visual artist based in Toronto and Assistant Professor at the Ontario College of Art. *Populus deltoides* is the botanical name of the Plains Cottonwood tree. What's the connection? The answer lies at the bottom of Middle Gate...

Meera was born in Winnipeg with her childhood home on West Gate. After Kelvin, she earned a B.A. in Archaeology and a Master's degree in Fine Arts (Photography). With this background, it's a safe bet that one of Meera's gifts is a certain attention to detail.

On a day in 1995, as a student on an archaeological dig at the riverbank end of Middle Gate, she picked up a small fragment which most would have bypassed as "junk". This would later prove to be an artifact of Mid Woodland pottery, not that rare or valuable, but significant in its having survived at all, a trace of the ancient peoples who had once been on that very spot. Today, in archaeological circles, the bottom area of Middle Gate is still known as the Singh Site.

There's more to be discovered, down on this nondescript end of the street. Here stands a massive cottonwood tree, largely unnoticed by the public but well-known to arborists. Christine Common-Singh recalls that until fairly recently it was part of a small grove of companion trees. Now it stands alone, a sole survivor.

The Middle Gate Cottonwood is a vestige of what once were millions of native Plains Cottonwoods. Immense stands of them lined the banks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.



*Meera Margaret Singh*

*Populus deltoides* survived seasonal flooding, so it thrived in river bottom zones such as the banks of present-day Armstrong's Point.

What happened to all the cottonwoods? "The Plains Cottonwood met a nasty fate", Christine says. Riverbanks were ravaged and cleared of the trees, to provide fuel for steamboats which travelled up and down the Red and the Assiniboine. Sadly, along with them, our last tracts of ancient riverbank forest were lost.

To learn more about our own cottonwood, we talk with Diana Robson, botanist at the Manitoba Museum. She points out that it's listed on the Manitoba Register of Trees as part of the Heritage Tree Program, and has a high score on the North American Champion Tree scale, an index of super-sized trees. It's very impressive in girth and height.

We aren't certain of the Middle Gate Cottonwood's age, though Winnipeg arborist and heritage tree advocate Gerry Engel "guesstimates" it's between 120 and 150 years. In the end, statistics and scores don't interest Gerry all that much. "Does it matter? It's enough that it predates the City of Winnipeg.

Think of all the history that has passed beneath its branches and the stories it has to tell".

...which brings us back to the bottom of Middle Gate where we began, to the young student and the remnant of pottery, under the historic tree, and finally we see that this wonderful tree's importance really lies in its rarity as a survivor of the many assaults on the Cottonwood, and in all the human events it has witnessed in the place where it stood. So very few of these giants from the Riel era of Manitoba history are left to us. We are fortunate to have one of them.

## **A word of advice from Gerry:**

When observing our tree, it's best to keep a distance. to discourage heavy foot traffic near the tree and prevent root damage



## **THE CORNISH LIBRARY**

As of May 12 the Cornish Library is closed for a year to 14 months for renovations. Any holds that are still here will be sent to the West End Library at 999 Sargent Ave. Millennium and River Heights branches are also nearby - you may choose your branch online. At this point it is not expected the street will be closed, but access to the back of the library will be restricted and traffic measures for West Gate will be in place to ensure safety, as needed.

# Curbside Recycling in Winnipeg

by Ash Raichura

**APA Board notice:** There are currently two open Board seats available. Nominations can come from any APA member. Meetings are held the third Thursday evening of every month. Contact [dkassum@shaw.ca](mailto:dkassum@shaw.ca)



**“It’s a neighbourly day in the beautyhood, a neighbourly day for a neighbour, would you be mine?...”**

With the June issue, we introduce a feature, and would like to extend a warm welcome to new residents Jen Plester and family at 94 Middle Gate, and Heather and Jim Perchaluk and family at 64 Middle Gate.

**Got Math challenges? Help is close at hand!** Home schooling support / Online courses for credit / Individual or group classes. Contact: Marty Green, Math Consultant cell: (204) 794-1566 email: [marty@onforeignsoil.com](mailto:marty@onforeignsoil.com) [www.mathwithmarty.blogspot.ca](http://www.mathwithmarty.blogspot.ca)



**THANK-YOU WINNIPEG JETS!**  
See you next season!

When it’s time to throw something away, do you know where to put it? What’s accepted for recycling varies from city to city, depending on the local market and the processing facility.

Recycling wrong can increase sorting costs and can ruin otherwise good recyclables, meaning they may end up in the landfill instead of being turned into something new.

This is why it’s important to familiarize yourself with what is accepted in Winnipeg’s program.

The only items that are accepted in Winnipeg’s curbside recycling program are:

- empty plastic containers and rigid plastic packaging
- empty metal food and beverage containers
- empty glass food and beverage containers
- empty juice boxes and milk carton type containers
- paper and cardboard

Common items that are not accepted in Winnipeg’s curbside recycling program include:

- plastic bags and plastic wrap
- aluminum foil, foil pie plates and foil food containers
- foam cups, foam food containers and foam packing materials
- coffee cups
- clothes and shoes
- toys

In addition to knowing *what* you can recycle, it’s important to know *how* to recycle. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- empty all your containers and give them a quick rinse to remove food residue
- put your recyclables loosely in your cart, don’t stack them inside each other
- don’t put your recyclables in plastic bags

**“We have all done it: a too-greasy pizza box, a disposable coffee cup, the odd plastic bag. Sometimes, we want things to be recyclable, so we put them in the bin out of sheer hope.”**  
**In fact, incorrect or “aspirational” recycling may do more harm than good.**

- *New York Times*, May 29, 2018

Many items that aren’t accepted in your curbside recycling can be dropped off elsewhere for recycling or reuse, including the 4R Winnipeg Depots at Brady Road, Pacific Avenue and Panet Road.

Remember: when in doubt, find out! To learn more about what you can recycle in Winnipeg

- visit [winnipeg.ca/recycling](http://winnipeg.ca/recycling)
- download the Recycle Coach app
- contact 311

**What’s in YOUR recycling?**  
**Only these items should go in:**

- empty containers made of plastic, metal or glass
- paper and cardboard

For more information visit [winnipeg.ca/recycling](http://winnipeg.ca/recycling) or contact 311



## Susan Greer Remembered

by Martha Epstein

Susan and Larry Greer moved to Armstrong's Point in the mid 1960s and raised their family of three children here.

“Having lived beside Larry and Sue for 30 years, I have some memories to share. They had been living in Armstrong’s Point for quite a few years by the time we arrived in 1973. The day Don and I moved in with our two-year-old daughter, Kira, and all our furniture from Denmark, Larry and Sue were kind enough to invite us over for some lemonade on their deck. This was our first taste of Winnipeg friendliness.

The first time we dared to go out and leave our daughter with a babysitter was with their daughter Nancy, then 13 years old.

I remember how thrilled Sue was when she got a grandson, and he would come to their place for a visit and play with our neighbours’ son.

Larry and Sue often used to sit out on their deck in the summer and that’s where I would get a chance for a short chat, in the back yard, even after we built our new East Gate house. We always had a mutual interest in how well the ferns were doing.

As one of the longest-residing members of Armstrong’s Point, Sue will be missed”.

## The Gallery ...

*Creative talent runs in the family of this young resident...*



“A Sprig of Daisies and a Lily”  
by Deborah J. Stacey, 2008



“Mother Nature”  
by Meghan Hatcher

## APA Board Members:

Diamond Kassum - *President*  
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## APA Committees:

### Heritage Committee:

April Kassum

### Maintenance and Repairs:

Mark Carlson

### Neighborhood Watch, Safety and Security:

Mark Carlson

### Block Captains:

**Middle Gate:** Kelly Van Camp

**West Gate:** Sandy Thacker

### Newsletter:

**Editor:** Darlene Irwin

**Design:** Randy Butterfield

### Social Committee:

Peter Firlotte

### Tree Committee:

Melva Widdicombe

*Are you an event planner, an antiquarian, a tree hugger?*

*Do you enjoy lifting heavy things and moving them around?*

*Help make our next event the best ever! Sign up today!*

Contact April Kassum:  
akassum@shaw.ca

### Point to Point:

Armstrong’s Point

Community Newsletter

Send contributions,  
suggestions to:

d.irwin@mymts.net