

POINT *to* POINT

ARMSTRONG'S POINT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

“Armstrong’s Point residents hold on to history” - neighbourhood is Winnipeg’s first ever heritage district

- *Winnipeg Free Press*

The Armstrong’s Point Association was formed in 1955 to ensure the survival of a vibrant “residential community in the heart of Winnipeg”. On April 25, 2019, APA’s years of effort were rewarded, when City Council cast a unanimous vote of approval for Armstrong’s Point to become Winnipeg’s first official Heritage Conservation District.

Now, with our goal of heritage designation realized, we can look back over those efforts and understand that without the people of Armstrong’s Point themselves, their sense of community, common purpose and spirit of volunteerism, our old-growth forest setting or historic structures alone would not have carried the day.



Armstrong’s Point
THE HERITAGE REPORT

You are invited to celebrate Heritage District Designation with neighbours and friends.

Champagne and appetizers at 5 East Gate

Drop in May 30th

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

All residents welcome!



Theodore Alexander Hunt residence, 1909

City of Winnipeg photo

*April McDonald - Kassum
Chair - Heritage Committee*

In Our Own Words

“Around sunset Easter Sunday evening, an unusual “Pow!” accompanied by a large dust cloud suddenly interrupted the tranquility of West Gate. Soon after, it became obvious that the crown of an older tree had fallen off and hit the ground. Luckily, there were no pedestrians walking beneath it at the time. What happened next was quite amazing. Two neighbours who were out for a walk began clearing the limbs off the road, so that cars could pass. Within moments, several other neighbours came out to help, too, and were able, with the use of a saw, shovels, brush brooms and a truck with a chain, to move the heavy limbs onto the boulevards and out of the way of traffic. The example of Gates’ neighbourliness was most impressive!”

- Vicky Armanios, West Gate



“We love Armstrong’s Point because it’s an incredible central location, beautiful historic homes, awesome yards and river view and really great people and diverse community. And we love the library!”

- the Zifarelli family, residents since 2004

“The Armstrong’s Point Association works hard to preserve the area, for all to enjoy.” - from Jane’s Walk

As a community, we frequently gather to mark important occasions, but sometimes it’s just about enjoying good company, at fall suppers, pot lucks, summer barbecues



holiday parties...



or fun events that require a huge team effort, like Heritage House Tours



...or planting trees in the neighbourhood.



Let’s not forget the gatherings of the glorious Goddesses of AP, or those annual Stampede breakfasts



When a community works as a team, things get done!



...and in the end, more than any historical feature we could name, wasn’t it the people of Armstrong’s Point who were its most valuable resource, and who made all the difference in this great achievement?

Before and After: The Powell-Daudet Residence

Quite a popular item as it turns out, “Before and After” has another home project for you this issue. We promise you more of these articles in future!

Today’s housing developments feature streetscapes dominated by uninviting garage doors, though studies show the traditional veranda helps people interact, build a sense of community, and improve the home’s liveability and street appeal.

“It’s time that the front veranda made its comeback.”

Lisa Powell and Paul Daudet and family moved to 28 Middle Gate in 2004. Fortunately, their 1909 house had been lovingly cared for by previous owners, but somewhere

along the way its original veranda had been lost.

“We ‘put’ the veranda back on in 2012 with the help of a black and white photo that Pat, (our neighbourhood’s archivist) gave us! We literally handed that photo to Norm Remple and asked him to build it just like the picture” ...et voilà, true to the original, the veranda is restored and nestled into its new landscaping, making a beautiful complement to the streetscape.



28 Middle Gate c. 1914 Photo courtesy Kathy Squair



28 Middle Gate “Before” - 2004



28 Middle Gate “After” - 2018

Residents of Armstrong’s Point Honoured

Recently, CBC News devoted major space to detail the long and distinguished career of **Dr. Dick Smith** of West Gate, lately retired in his 52nd year of practice. The article, “A True Hero”, is filled with accolades for the life’s work of this much-loved physician.



We won’t attempt to summarize it all here, and we are fortunate to be able to say that we don’t have to. We in Armstrong’s Point have had the benefit of knowing Dick Smith and Doug Arrell personally over many years, as gentlemen, scholars, gardeners, friends, neighbours and principled advocates for Armstrong’s Point, including long service for both on the Board of APA. We wish “Dick and Doug” well in retirement, spending time in the home where they have lived since 1989 and in their beautiful garden overlooking the river, popping in, we hope, to say hello at neighbourhood events.

Anna Siryj of West Gate celebrated her 100th birthday last July at the historic Ralph Connor House.

She and her husband Michael originally lived on Middle Gate in the late 1940s. At that time, Anna taught at Success Business College. Michael was a veteran of WWII who had served with the Royal Canadian Navy.



They moved north to Flin Flon where they contributed to the community through many organizations and both Anna and Michael became department heads at Hapnot Collegiate Institute.

After raising their two daughters and retiring, Anna and Michael moved back to Winnipeg and settled on West Gate in 1991. There, they enjoyed the character of the neighbourhood, its central location in the city and always “Sherwood Forest” - the lovely canopy of trees in The Gates.

- Vicky Armanios, Anna’s daughter

Up to Bat

by Kelly Van Camp

New condos are being constructed in each of the three parks In Armstrong's Point, and you can live in one rent-free, provided you can eat 6,000 insects each night, and don't mind batty neighbours. After finishing, the bat houses seen under construction below, are being installed in the green spaces at both ends of Blanchard Avenue, as well as the end of Middle Gate, and in a private yard along the river's edge.

In addition to being great at pest control, bats are also wonderful pollinators. If you would like to encourage bats to patrol your particular area, a wide variety of bat houses and plans is available online. These units were built using plans from Bat Conservation International. Bats begin seeking nesting locations in the spring, and will often use dead trees if more convivial accommodations are not found. Watch this space for updates.



BULLETIN BOARD

Doors Open Winnipeg

Once again, AP will participate May 25-26 in Doors Open Winnipeg, the annual "city-wide celebration of Winnipeg's distinct spaces, outstanding architecture and vibrant history" with over 300,000 tour visitors since 2004. AP has been well represented for several years with displays and information tables that showcase our neighbourhood.



Heritage Committee Chair April Kassum at Doors Open

Manitoba Marathon

The June 16 Manitoba Marathon route will take runners through AP, marking Mile 10 for the full marathon. Crossing Cornish into East Gate and exiting at Middle Gate, the course opens here at 7:35 a.m. and closes at 9:30. Peak flow is expected between 8:22 and 9:05.

Volunteers are always needed!
(204) 415-4517

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Point to Point: Armstrong's Point Community Newsletter

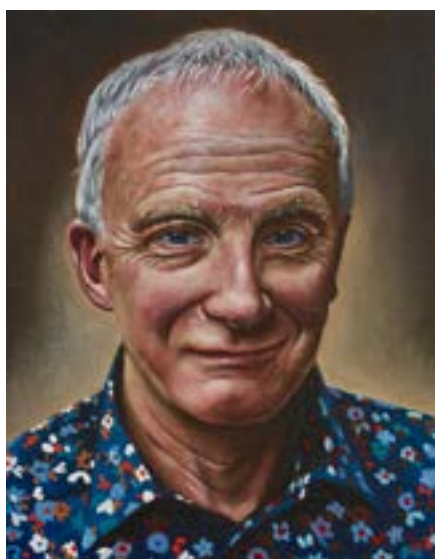
Send contributions, suggestions to:
d.irwin@mymts.net

If readers prefer to receive the newsletter in their inbox rather than their mailbox, please let us know who you are, and your next issues will arrive via email.

Thanks, APA Board members, for donating your time to public education and promotion of our neighbourhood!



The Gallery ...



"Bill" a portrait of Bill Richardson

"I'm basically a landscape painter but I started doing portraits a few years back." I enjoy the challenge of portraiture as I learn something new from every painting. Unlike landscapes, you have to be very accurate with portraits because you can easily lose the likeness of your subject. I've only painted portraits of friends and some family members. I choose them because of their interesting features. And when I give them their portrait I enjoy their reaction.

- Randy Butterfield

Randy is a 27 year resident of Armstrong's Point. He teaches drawing and illustration in the Graphic Design Department at Red River College. He enjoys walks with his dog and studio mate "Elliott" through the neighbourhood.