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Cover photo: Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba Summer Children’s and Teens’ Program 2016
Welcome to Brandon

On behalf of the City of Brandon, I am honored to welcome this year’s Communities in Bloom judges, Larry Hall and Marylaine de Chantal.

Not only is it the City of Brandon’s 135th anniversary, but also Canada’s 150th birthday. Our community happily celebrates these momentous occasions. The City of Brandon is a diverse community, which flourishes even more with the growing number of new Canadians. We eagerly and actively come together and connect to learn more about the history of our beloved city and nation. With many volunteer efforts, there is a variety of heritage and cultural events happening citywide throughout the summer. Our greenspaces and community gardens stand out with the beautiful red and white colour scheme overflowing with pride.

Throughout the years, we have overcome difficult challenges, most recently with the Assiniboine River flooding. The devastation hit us unexpectedly in 2011, and since then, every member of the community has lent a helping hand. We continue to fight this battle every spring, and each year it becomes a little easier. With the support of our community and city, Brandon unites as one to handle any situation. We are constantly creating and innovating programs to better our community, environment, culture, and heritage.

I would like to thank the National Communities in Bloom for their perspectives on the importance and value of what a well-rounded community can achieve. The ideals of environmental action, heritage conservation, urban forestry, landscape, floral displays, community involvement, and tidiness are what we take pride in as we welcome every newcomer.

I wish you an enjoyable and peaceful visit while touring the Wheat City!

Yours sincerely,

**Rick Chrest**

**Mayor**
The urban forest plays an important role in our community. Brandon is known for our gorgeous American elms with their lush canopies and vast groundcover arrangements. Our urban forest encompasses parks, natural areas, boulevards and residential properties. Greenspaces throughout the city are a substantial part of the community providing beautiful, peaceful places for residents to enjoy. Community engagement not only takes on an aesthetic approach, but the importance of preservation and conservation have become a necessity. With increasing threats from climate change, plant pathogens and the encroachment of natural areas, the City of Brandon has implemented new practices and management plans to enhance, preserve, and create diversity within our urban forest.
City Forestry Commitment

City of Brandon Parks Department

The City of Brandon Parks Department provides many important functions to citizens in Brandon. The Parks Department is split into three separate sections; concrete and parks maintenance, greenspace maintenance and development, and the Wheat City Golf Course. Staff includes four ISA certified arborists, 10 staff with various levels of pesticide licenses and three certified playground inspectors. The City of Brandon Parks Department is equipped with 26 permanent staff, and 130 temporary staff for seasonal employment, all dedicated to keeping Brandon beautiful.

The concrete and parks maintenance section of the Parks Department maintains the network of sidewalks in the City of Brandon. This department also maintains the playgrounds in both large and small parks to ensure the safety and playability at a high level.

The greenspace maintenance department’s primary function is the maintenance of all City of Brandon owned greenspaces, including grass cutting, pruning trees, planting and watering flowers.

The Wheat City golf course is one of the most prestigious courses in the Westman area. The City of Brandon provides the course maintenance and capital improvements.
Holding Nurseries

In 2016 the Parks Department created two holding nurseries. One of the nurseries is specifically for transplanting trees from areas that are flagged for redevelopment. The other is a temporary holding nursery comprised of white spruce seedlings. In September of 2016, 350 seedlings were planted in partnership with TD Bank and Tree Canada, to be used in our green spaces. In the works for 2017 is the launch of the Urban Forestry Plan and a Tree Protection policy.

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

The City continues to work with the Province to manage Dutch Elm Disease and take preventative measures on other invasive species that risk our urban forest such as Emerald Ash Borer. The Parks Department continues to work with the Province of Manitoba to manage DED. This is a cost share agreement that provides funds for the removal of diseased trees both publicly and privately owned. The City staff and members of the Brandon Environment Committee continue to educate the public on EAB through social media, websites, youth programing, Eco Day in May, and signage throughout the community.

- monitoring for presence of EAB putting up 20 prism traps on ash trees throughout the City
- public education and signage
- educating City Council members by presenting at regular council meetings
- internal training for staff
- branch sampling
Succession Planting

The City is responsible for tree planting in parks and open spaces, as well as the replacement of trees, individually and as part of tree renewal program. In new subdivisions, developers are responsible for tree planting, to the minimum city standard.

Trees are planted in accordance with established nursery principles, including a planting saucer and wood chip mulch for water conservation and weed control. Trees are only staked in exposed areas, and are staked for only one year. Trees planted by the Parks Department are watered for two years until they are established. Parks staff are responsible for the ongoing maintenance and monitoring of trees. The goal for 2017 is to plant 320 trees.

Tree Removal Policy

The City of Brandon continues to follow the requirements under the Tree Policy. For every tree removed, another tree must be planted. Prior to the removal of a public tree in our community an inspection must be completed and every effort is explored to save the tree prior to the decision of removal.

Tree Maintenance

The Parks Department staff conducts an extensive pruning program throughout the winter months. The summer months are focused on responding to safety and tree planting. Other maintenance includes pruning and education for the public. Trees are planted by creating a natural water swale and mulch. Trees removed are chipped on site.
2017 CN EcoConnexions “From the Ground Up” Grant

This $25,000 grant was used to plant maple trees around our community to help Canada celebrate its upcoming sesquicentennial. Due to the City’s major flooding issue, our tree canopy is rapidly diminishing. As part of the flood mitigation measures, the City has created a storm water dry retention pond. The tree-planting site is near our Riverbank Discovery Centre & Tourism Centre, walking path, school and shopping centre. 50 trees were planted to create a natural oasis around the retention pond. This project provides numerous benefits such as wildlife habitats, increase canopy cover, and will be a showcase piece for educational purposes. Students from New Era School planted another 50 trees along Kirkcaldy Drive, decorated the newly planted trees with red mulch, and learned about urban forestry in Brandon.

Restoration of 1st Street

The restoration of 1st Street allowed for the removal and re-planting of 60 native spruce trees that are central to one of Brandon’s primary entranceways. Enhancing this green space in a sustainable and visually appealing manner enriches the community for both residents and visitors. The floods of 2011 and 2014, in conjunction with other biotic and abiotic stressors led to the loss of numerous trees along 1st Street. This project will allowed all the damaged trees to be replaced with a variety of native and drought tolerant coniferous species creating a visually appealing green space. The City of Brandon partnered with Assiniboine Community College to hold an educational volunteer event on September 12, 2014. Celebrations included interpretive nature walks, composting workshops, greenhouse tours, and a ceremonial planting to acknowledge all the projects’ partners.
Riverbank Discovery Centre

Brandon Riverbank Inc.

Brandon Riverbank Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization that was established in 1995. The organization is responsible for the protection and development of the Assiniboine River Corridor so that it may be “a gathering place connecting people with nature”. The Riverbank has become Brandon’s “Central Park”, providing a serene and beautiful place for families to play and pursue a healthy lifestyle. The area has become home to many events that contribute to an active and prosperous community, including a multitude of charity walks and runs, the City of Brandon’s Canada Day Celebrations, meetings, family gatherings, and much more.

Since being established, Brandon Riverbank Inc. worked to invest more than 5 million dollars in the River Corridor, building a network of paved, lit pathways, interpretive ponds, native prairie grass zones, display gardens, performance plazas and event spaces.
One of those development projects was the Riverbank Discovery Centre which is a year-round facility, offering many services to Brandon’s visitors and residents. Last year the Discovery Centre welcomed over 25,000 individuals whether they were coming to the centre for business, pleasure, visiting family and friends or using the facility’s meeting space. As the visitor information centre for Brandon and southwestern Manitoba, the Discovery Centre provides tourism information, souvenirs, convention services and a variety of other traveller amenities. In addition, the Discovery Centre serves as an interpretive centre for the Assiniboine River Corridor, providing informational displays and programming and is home to the Ducks Unlimited Provincial Field Offices.

Assiniboine River Corridor Master Plan

In 2015, the Riverbank Discovery Centre recognized that the fluctuating hydrological extremes from the annual flooding created a “new normal” for the Corridor. The City and Brandon Riverbank set out to develop a new plan for getting “Back to the River”. The Brandon Assiniboine River Corridor encompasses 700 acres of greenspace along 17 kilometers of the Assiniboine River, including Community parks, a variety of wildlife habitats, and cultural destinations that are a significant part to Brandon’s quality of life. Brandon’s Assiniboine River Corridor is owned and operated by the City of Brandon, with the
support of Brandon Riverbank Inc., a separate, non-profit charitable organization charged with delivering programming, cultivating partnerships and bringing the riverbank to life in all seasons. The Master Plan included a 10-month consultation process, engaging with the public about developing a realistic roadmap to a new relationship with the Assiniboine River Corridor for the next two decades. More than 500 individuals participated in this important process.

The inaugural project, Festival Park, is a 1.8 million dollar project which will feature built-in terraced amphitheater seating for 3,000 and an elevated stage with a permanent cover which will be able to host everything from community theatre to cultural celebrations and major summer concerts. This performance venue will be a signature element of the River Corridor, providing a beautiful space for the community to gather and celebrate. Construction is set to begin in July of 2017 with an anticipated completion date of Canada Day 2018.

**Education**

Brandon Riverbank Inc. offers interpretive programs to children of all ages focusing on local wildlife and the importance of wetlands. There are several topics for classes and groups to choose from ranging from “Plant Ecology” to “Beaver Tales”. Additionally, the Centre hosts Swamp Camp each year, where day campers participate in a variety of activities and hands-on learning opportunities. Each year, more than 1,150 students and children participate in this programming, hopefully instilling lifelong values with regards to environmental stewardship.

**Fundraising**

The Riverbank Duck Race is the organization’s signature fundraiser. Every year during the months of April, May and June, tickets are sold for $5 each. Businesses as well as other non-profit organizations sell duck tickets and a variety of barbeques and special promotions are held to promote the event. Finally, on Canada Day the ducks take to the Assiniboine River, with the first 10 ducks to cross the finish line winning a prize for their owner. A variety of other fundraising options exist, including Friends of the Riverbank Membership Program, the Metre Donor Program (which supports the Endowment Fund for the perpetual care of the Riverbank), donations, corporate sponsorships, and grant revenues.
Arbour Trail

The Arbour Trail project began in 2006, as a way to commemorate and celebrate Brandon’s 125th Anniversary in 2007. Native and common introduced species of trees and shrubs were planted as a showcase along Conservation Drive which is the entryway into the Riverbank Discovery Centre. Over 75 trees and shrub groupings have been planted, listing the plant’s common and Latin names, as well as the individuals or businesses who have “purchased” them in honour or in memory of someone. The Arbour Trails provides a beautiful feature along a busy walkway, promoting plant knowledge, identification and appreciation.

Bench Program

On behalf of the City of Brandon, Brandon Riverbank Inc. manages the Bench Program which enables benches to be purchased and placed throughout the City in honour or in memory of a loved one. Since inception, more than 70 benches have been placed along walkways, in parks or in special places in memory of a person who frequented the area. This program provides an important sense of community as well as providing much needed park and greenspace amenities throughout Brandon.
Heritage Trees

There are many heritage trees located throughout Brandon. These trees beautify neighbourhoods, provide peaceful places to relax and hold sentimental value for citizens of Brandon.

The Keystone Centre has many large cottonwoods located on the south east corner of their green space. These trees are some of the oldest in Brandon, and are part of its history. They were planted by Patmore Nursery, which was one of the first nurseries in Brandon. The Keystone grounds are used for many outdoor activities and events during the summer season. Some trees were impacted in a severe summer storm in July 2014.

Mosquito Abatement Program

City crews are committed to operating an aggressive program to keep mosquito counts down: monitoring, draining standing water, larviciding, mapping, and working with landowners and businesses in Brandon and surrounding areas to reduce mosquitoes to a tolerable level. Our climatic conditions, soil base and tenacity of the mosquito don’t make it an easy job. The mosquito population in any year can vary. For example, high moisture levels tend to increase mosquito populations, while hot, dry weather usually reduces mosquito populations. These conditions change from year to year and month to month. The City maintains, reduces or increases its Mosquito Abatement program in response to changing conditions.

Bylaws and Administrative Reports

Urban Forestry Management Plan
Landscapes and design Standards
Zoning bylaw No. 6642
Keeping our city tidy is an ongoing commitment. The City of Brandon boasts cooperation from numerous departments that factor into the cleanliness and tidiness of our city. Programs such as the Green Cart and Team Up to Clean Up allow residents to become involved in recycling, waste reduction, and overall sanitation.
**Graffiti Removal**

The City of Brandon has a number of large murals that businesses have commissioned for their buildings. An example of success is the mural that has been incorporated into the Kristopher Campbell Memorial Skate Plaza. There has been very little vandalism to the plaza wall which enhances the overall appearance. The City of Brandon takes graffiti very seriously and performs immediate removals from their property as soon as it is discovered. The Brandon Police Services have created a database of all tags. If anyone is apprehended on a single tag incident the police will match their tag with those in the database and charge them with previous matching tags.

**City of Brandon Streets & Roads**

The Streets & Roads Section is a portion of the Public Works Department within the Operational Services Division. This section is responsible for the maintenance and repair of paved and gravel streets, roads, and backlanes within the City of Brandon. Services provided by the City of Brandon include street maintenance, pothole repairs, crack filling, spring clean-up, street sweeping, gravel road maintenance, dust control, backlane maintenance, snow and ice control, street sanding, backlane snow plowing, sidewalk and walking path snow plowing, street painting, and parking lot maintenance. Snow fall amount, density of snow, humidity, rising or falling temperatures, wind velocity and direction and time of year all play a part in how we respond to any particular snow event.

**Driveway Entrances and Snow Ridges**

During the initial snow plowing that follows any snow event, City crews clear the snow ridges from the front of driveway entrances to residential homes left by the snowplow. Unfortunately as the amount of snow increases, the time that this happens also increases. Emphasis has been put on getting the streets cleared and safe to travel as quickly as possible. There are over 8,900 private and business approaches in the City that receive this service.

The City crews also clear bus stops, fire hydrants, intersections, lane access to the streets, loading zones and City sidewalk ends where they meet intersections. There are over 2,500 of these locations on the priority one (P1) routes.
**Rut Cutting**

On priority two (P2) routes, snow events of less than 125 mm (5 inches) are left to pack with normal daily traffic. Naturally, some streets will become rutted and choppy through the course of the winter. A rut cutting operation will be started if, during the course of the winter, the streets become overly difficult to navigate.

**Sidewalk and Designated Walking and Bike Paths**

Designated walking/bike paths have a priority to be cleared as soon as possible in conjunction with the P1 streets followed by designated City sidewalks. This contributes to the walkability of our community and lets people of all activity levels enjoy the city year round. Through local bylaws, private businesses are obligated to clear the sidewalk adjacent to their business. Throughout the balance of Brandon, residents assist by clearing the sidewalk in front of their property.

**Sanding Operations**

Sand trucks are deployed regularly to place road salt or sand grit on intersections, hills and busy streets. Road salt is typically only used when the temperature is -10° Celsius and rising as well as in limited locations, such as busy streets and intersections where for safety it is better to have bare dry pavement. Sand is used at most other locations for traction such as hills, intersections and bends. It is against local By-laws to push or blow snow from a private driveway out into the street.

**Street Sweeping**

Each spring, streets and boulevards are swept to remove winter sand buildup and litter. The program runs approximately 6 to 8 weeks from mid-April to the end of May and removes up to 1,000 sweeper loads of dirt and debris from city streets using over 500,000 gallons of water. Throughout the remainder of the summer and fall, street sweeping is carried out when required.

**Asphalt Recycler**

In the spring of 2013 the Public Works Department purchased an asphalt recycler. This machine can take old asphalt roof shingles and turn them into asphalt for our roadways.

**Team Up to Clean Up**

In May, the Brandon committee encouraged community organizations, businesses, councillors, and individuals to tidy different areas of the City. An estimated total of 100 people volunteered their time to help make the City clean and green.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program**

*In the City’s capital plan for 2018, $250,000 is budgeted for a new Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) building at the landfill site.* Currently, sorting and packing of collected HHW products takes place in two trailers located at the landfill site. A new building dedicated to HHW collection will facilitate sorting and packing these products in a larger space in all weather conditions.
Adopt-a-Highway
The Adopt a Highway Program is a volunteer program run through Manitoba Transportation and Government Services. The program has been in existence in the Brandon area for about 19 years. There are currently 14 service clubs/organizations involved in the program. Each group is responsible for cleaning up the trash along 8 kilometers of highway. Signs are displayed along the highway to recognize the group responsible for the area. The roadways near Brandon that currently have areas that are “adopted” are highway #10, Veterans Way (low road to Shilo), and Grand Valley Road.

Boulevard Maintenance
The municipality, citizens and businesses work hand in hand to maintain publicly owned boulevards. The City, in its effort to meet the challenges of providing quality green space, asked that all property owners assume the responsibility of mowing the grass on their adjacent boulevard. The response was wonderful and to date over 90% of them cut and maintain the boulevards.

Off Leash Dog Parks
Brandon’s first off leash dog park—East End Paw Park—opened in the spring of 2004. Since that time, two others have opened, Pooch Park & The Doggie Diamond. The purpose of the dog parks are to provide a place for dogs to run off-leash, interact and socialize with other dogs, while presenting a park-like setting for dog owners to enjoy. There are continued enhancements to these parks including the addition of solar lights.

Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation
The Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (BNRC) as a non-profit organization, strives through advocacy, capacity building, provision of knowledge and sustainable funding from various sources to challenge and empower all citizens of the neighbourhood. Through partnerships with a number of government agencies, community groups and organizations, the BNRC delivers meaningful programs that strengthen housing choices, improve recreational and leisure amenities, build economic opportunities, strengthen community potential, and create safe, attractive and inviting neighbourhoods. Since its inception in 2000, the BNRC has successfully invested millions of dollars into Brandon’s core residential neighbourhood.

The Province of Manitoba through Neighbourhoods Alive (NA!) is one of the BNRCs primary funders. NA! requires the development of BNRC’s 5-Year Community Plan. Through extensive community consultation, this plan produces several community priority areas that BNRC targets. These priority areas are used to inform funding and nearly all of BNRC’s outreach work, from coordinating a Graffiti Removal project to the building of STEPP (Solutions to End Poverty Permanently) homes. The 2016-2021 plan includes priorities such as enhancing recreation development, using events to enhance the image of downtown, promoting the perception of safety, celebrating neighbourhood identities and fostering a sense of community. These priorities are addressed through community
grants and a variety of partnerships that ebb and flow with the needs and opportunities within the community.

**Fresh Start Specialty Cleaning**

On the surface, many social enterprises look, feel, and even operate like traditional businesses. Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation’s Fresh Start Specialty Cleaning is a social enterprise venture with a mission. It provides job and training opportunities for people facing barriers to employment, and fosters tidiness and environmental action by getting out into the community and tackling the tough jobs that can often mean the difference between a client remaining housed or being evicted. Fresh Start Specialty Cleaning performs a number of services for the community, including: Junk Removal, Hazardous Waste Pick-up, Communicable Disease Clean-up, Hoarding Clean-up, Bed Bug Treatment Preparation and Safe Passage, Estate Cleaning, and Preparation for Home Sale.

**Front & Paint Program**

Front & Paint is one of BNRC’s most popular programs. It provides grants to low income homeowners and landlords renting at affordable rates within the BNRC district. Repairs must be visible from the street and improve the appearance of the property. Eligible renovations include replacement of shingles, windows and doors, repair/replacement of exterior steps and handrails, siding replacement, cleaning of exterior brick or stone, installing sod or shrubs, tree removal, and more.
**Bear Clan**

The purpose of the Bear Clan is to help people and prevent the need for police and authority interventions. The Bear Clan offers help, information, supplies and respects to all community members. The Bear Clan is a community based solution to crime prevention, providing a sense of safety, solidary and belonging to both its members and to the community they serve. The Bear Clan achieves its purpose through a non-violent, non-threatening and supportive manner primarily through relationship building and reconciliation. The Bear Clan Patrol brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members who can effect change by recognizing the value of Indigenous practices and using them for positive collaboration.

**Snow Angels Program**

This program matches up volunteers with those in need to help shovel their side walk. *The program started in 2016 and had 36 volunteers.* Residents of Brandon could request a volunteer to help maintain and remove snow along their sidewalks.

**Westaway Bay**

A simple fence repair and clean up has grown into a full blown community movement. Westaway Bay, a neighbourhood comprised mainly of social development housings has seen its challenges over the years. A donation of paint and materials, 10 to 15 children, parents and a number of social agencies repaired a fence that was in poor condition and covered with offensive graffiti.
Since then, Manitoba Housing has invested in the neighbourhood through interior and exterior renovations. A number of social agencies have collaborated on the development of a Family Resource Centre offering after school programming, family programming and parenting classes and adult upgrading. The support to this small neighbourhood has shown resounding positive benefits. Calls to service from Protective Services has dropped drastically, neighbours are developing relationships, and the neighbourhood is proud of their little park. In the three years since that simple painting project the fence has remained free of vandalism and the community continues to grow.

Bylaws and Administrative Reports

Parks & Recreation bylaw 5268
Animal Control bylaw 5900/57/91
Traffic bylaw 5463
The HUB Secondary Plan bylaw 6873
Animal Control bylaw 5900/57/91
Nuisance bylaw 5806
Derelict Vehicle bylaw 7009
Greenspace Master Plan & Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Cultural Development & Diversity Strategy
The City of Brandon makes every effort towards establishing environmental initiatives and conservation. Brandon has become a front-runner in environmental action. Programs, such as the Green Cart, have created pride and active involvement throughout the community. Brandon is constantly meeting challenges and expectations, excelling in waste management practices such as composting, recycling and energy conservation.
City Environmental Action Commitment

Best Practices – Environmental Strategic Plan

The Environmental Strategic Plan (ESP) was compiled for the community with the public’s input and approved by City Council in November of 2007 and updated in June of 2013. The ESP is a living document and has a series of actions over the short and long-term which will reduce the City’s negative impact on the environment.

The Brandon Environment Committee (BEC)

The Brandon Environment Committee is an arm’s length committee for City Council that provides information related to environmental issues in the community. The committee is made up of citizens at large, business representatives, students, and a City staff member. The committee meets on a monthly basis and deals with many issues. The Brandon Environment Committee (BEC) is a vital component of environmental initiatives and concerns in the community.
Landfill

Landfill Gas Recovery Project

The destruction of landfill gas via a flare system is continuing at the Eastview Landfill Site. Methane gas is a greenhouse gas and is 21 times more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide. The Province of Manitoba requires all major landfills in the province to capture and destroy landfill gas as identified in legislation. Currently the gas is being flared off until a viable and sustainable long-term end user is found. This project will continue in the future with a life expectancy of 20-25 years.

Solid Waste Management Program

The City of Brandon in conjunction with the Province of Manitoba and a number of community groups and organizations has and continues to make significant shifts in the operation of refuse collection, recycling efforts and landfill management with a goal of becoming more environmentally conscious. The commissioning of the Materials Recovery Facility, Recycling Depot Collections, Household Hazardous Waste Days, the composting program and lined cell management are just a few examples of the changes that have been introduced in the last decade. The City of Brandon acknowledges the importance of acting as a leader in environmental stewardship by setting the example for responsible and effective waste management programs for the community and industry. A framework has been developed to reinforce the following goals over the next ten years:
• To meet or exceed the diversion rates of the best communities in the country;
• To develop a system that is affordable and efficient;
• To extend the use of the existing landfill beyond 75 years;
• To contain all ground and water contamination to the landfill site.

Household Collections System

The City of Brandon has set a goal to meet or exceed recycling rates of the best communities in the country. To help us get there, we have implemented a residential refuse and recycling program. Each household receives one refuse and one recycling container. The bins are differentiated by the colour of their lid. All recyclables can be placed in one container—a person does not have to sort or separate them. One bin or both bins can be placed out at any one time—simply when they are full.
Bike Works

Over 300 bicycles enter the landfill each year. In late fall 2016, youth through our Youth Centre started to refurbish bicycles rescued from the Eastview Landfill. Participating youth take part in workshops where they are taught how to fix and maintain bicycles. Each participating youth will fix three bikes with one for themselves, one for a youth in need, one to be sold to cover the costs of the program.
Waste Reduction

Green Cart Program
In 2016 the program had 6,366 households participate on a voluntary basis. Throughout the year the public has been able to access the finished compost. The benefits of this program will extend the life of the landfill and has helped the City reach its goal of diverting more than 50% from the waste stream, create a natural fertilizer to use within our City, and reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. 1,900 tonnes of organic waste was diverted from the landfill in 2016.

Composting Program
The composting efforts that have been ongoing at the municipal landfill site are being utilized by the Parks Department in their landscaping program this year. Compost has been mixed with mineral soil and this product is used as an amendment to all floral beds and for turf restoration. This program will be expanded to not only meet our landscape needs, but also it will be a valuable tool in our Integrated Pest Management program.

Water Conservation Plan
The City's Water Conservation Committee continues to implement the City’s Water Conservation Plan adopted by Council in 2013. The plan’s focus is on conserving and protecting water use for present and future generations on both a community and corporate level. The Water Conservation Committee meets quarterly to ensure it is on track in meeting conservation targets. In 2016 the committee experimented with drought tolerant grass seed on city boulevards. The project continues with the possibility of trying more trial plots in the spring. The City’s metered water consumption has decreased while maintaining a growing population. The average resident uses 64,605L of water/year. The National average is 91,615L of water/year.

Water Treatment Facility Waste Residual Program
The City’s water treatment process uses a conventional lime soda ash process followed by filtration and disinfection. This process creates a by-product called lime sludge. The annual production of waste solids is approximately 16,000 tonnes/year. Instead of the lime sludge being buried in the landfill, the City takes part in a Waste Residual Program where the material is contracted to an agriculture company to spread on to farmers’ fields. The lime sludge is beneficial as it increases the ph of the soil, therefore increasing crop yields. At the end of each year the contracted company provides an annual report to both the City and the Province.

Municipal Water
The City of Brandon owns and operates a public water supply system to supply potable water to its residential, institutional, businesses, industrial and commercial customers. This facility is regulated by Manitoba Water Stewardship to produce potable water under the new Drinking Water Safety Act which was proclaimed into law on January 20, 2004.

Audits and reports are submitted annually to the regulatory body.

The source water for our facility is the Assiniboine River. Seasonal blending with well water is also used. Treatment consists of lime / soda ash softening, Upflow solid-contact clarification, CO$_2$ re-carbonation, rapid gravity filtration, UV light radiation, and chlorination with contact time provided in the baffled circular clear well for the purpose of disinfection. Fluoride is also added to the water through the Manitoba Health and Healthy Living fluoridation program.

### Municipal Water Treatment

The current system consists of primary treatment and secondary treatment as well as disinfection.

The Primary Treatment System consists of bar screens, a grit removal device and fine screens. The primary treatment facility uses mechanical means to reduce the organic compounds of the wastewater. The waste products that are removed from the waste stream are disposed of in the City’s landfill site.

Secondary treatment is provided by the use of sequencing batch reactors to further reduce the organic components of the waste stream. The sequencing batch reactors use biological means to reduce the strength of the wastewater. The treated wastewater is then disinfected by the use of ultraviolet light to reduce the number of pathogens.

The final treated effluent is then either discharged directly to the Assiniboine River, or if the effluent is not of sufficient quality, it sent to the lagoon system for final treatment and ultimate release to the Assiniboine River. The lagoons are also used for storage and stabilization of solids removed from the treatment process. The stabilized solids are applied to agricultural land on an annual basis.

The wastewater generated by the Maple Leaf Pork Hog Kill Facility is treated in a facility dedicated to Maple Leaf wastewater only. This facility is operated by City staff, and Maple Leaf Pork pays 100% of the operating costs.
Naturalization

The City of Brandon has a by-law regulating cosmetic pesticides used by commercial entities. The City also has a tree inventory to replace any aged or unhealthy trees and manages green space throughout the city through a Greenspace Master Plan. Currently the City is developing an Urban Forestry Management Plan.

Brandon Transit

Brandon Transit continues to increase ridership by offering Sunday bus service, reduced rates for post-secondary students, and by using Google transit to map out bus routes. After 15 years, Transit is redoing their routes to keep up with Brandon as it continues to grow. The new routes will be finalized on July 31, 2017. In the summer of 2016, the Downtown Transit Terminal was updated including a fence for safe access near the crosswalks, road construction to handle weight of buses, four sections and new overhead signage. In 2016, there were also a number of upgrades including four new buses. The new buses have installed security systems including cameras to make sure both passengers and drivers are safe. There is also software installed on the buses to monitor and track the efficiency of all buses.

Transit Community Involvement

Brandon Transit has a commitment to students. For all grade 7 and 8 students, free bus passes are given to them so they can attend home economics and industrial arts classes at a satellite institution. To help with the burden of transportation costs to post-secondary students, Brandon University and Assiniboine Community College students are able to use their student cards as a bus pass. Brandon Transit also gives back to the community with the Fill a Bus campaign. As the holiday season approaches, donation boxes are installed on all buses with proceeds going to Christmas Cheer and Samaritan House.

Active Transportation

The active transportation corridor is designed to promote bicycling as a safe, environmentally friendly, economical and viable means of alternative transportation for residents. The active transportation route goes along a residential street that runs East/West and connects to existing bike paths, and passes through a number of destinations (schools, parks, businesses).

Wood Chips

Our community continues to grind all tree limbs as part of creating an inventory and uses these wood chips as part of our tree-planting program. The wood chips are also made available to the general public at no charge.
Flower Baskets and Planters

The City of Brandon has all new planters and hanging baskets. These innovative containers are made from recycled materials and are environmentally friendly using less water, fertilizer and soil-less mix. The old hanging baskets required watering seven days a week, including weekends. The hanging baskets, totalling 285, hold four litres of water which require watering only two times per week, with no weekend maintenance. Over the past three seasons, the City of Brandon Parks Department has slowly integrated the new hanging baskets while conducting an overall cost reduction analysis. Brandon’s boulevards are now showcasing 184 new planters. The old wire planters required watering every other day, whereas the new planters are able to go without watering for up to two weeks. They not only require less water, but less preparation time. The old planters took a total of four weeks to put together, prepare and plant. The new planters are ready in two weeks and take only one week to place throughout the city. The new containers are also larger and contain more plant material. One rectangular planter holds the same amount of plant matter as two wire baskets put together. These new containers are extremely durable, efficient and cost effective. Brandon is known for its beautiful floral displays and the changes made this year will ensure we continue to provide this benefit to our residents and visitors in a much more efficient way.

Eco Day in May

The Brandon Environment Committee partnered with the Global Market to host “Eco Day in May”. The event was hosted at the Global Market and included other partnerships such as Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and CAA Manitoba. This eco-friendly day brought the community together with local entertainment, compost giveaways, and exhibits from local organizations and businesses showcasing their products and services while offering opportunities for the general public to participate.

Brandon Waste Reduction School Challenge

2016 marked the 6th year of the Waste Reduction School Challenge. This educational program is in partnership with the Brandon School Division and title sponsor Multi Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM). This program involves students in Grades 1-6 to measure their recyclables and organic waste volumes over a three-week period. Students take part in waste reduction activities to earn points (clean
school grounds, recycled art, educate other students etc.). This year 15 participating classrooms went on a tour of the Eastview Landfill. The classrooms who had the most points won the challenge. All 330 students received prizes made out of recycled plastic, pencils made out of newspaper and t-shirts. Winners of the challenge received a photo with the Mayor, bragging rights, and a bench made out of recycled plastic for their school. Each participating class had to pledge a waste reduction initiative they would carry out for the rest of the school year (organics program, litter-less lunches, and engage other students in recycling). CAA Manitoba-Brandon branch also volunteered their staff to help with the challenge this year.

**Planet Protector Academy**

Brandon continues to implement the Planet Protector Academy. It is geared to classrooms grades 3-6. The program is a 6-week web based digital led resource that trains students as “apprentice” Planet Protectors and sends them home on superhero missions to change their families’ habits! 120 students graduated from the Planet Protector Academy in 2016. Early last year Brandon was selected to be one of the seven cities to be a pilot city for their new program “Zero Heroes”, which focuses on organics and food waste in the home.

**Brandon Enviro Expo**

*This is a new event that is aimed at grades 1-6 students within the Brandon School Division.* The purpose of this event is to educate and empower students through interactive workshops put on by environmental stewards within the community and surrounding area. This event takes place during National Environment Week (first weekend in June). To date 400 students have taken part in this event.

**Energy Upgrades**

The City’s Building Maintenance section has upgraded all of the nostalgic lights downtown to LED and have been upgrading some of our buildings to LED through the Manitoba Hydro Rebate Program. These upgrades will save on energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Brownfields**

In the spring of 2015 the City became a participant with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Leaders in Brownfield Renewal Program (LiBRe). The LiBRe program provides municipalities with tailored peer learning activities, networking opportunities and knowledge resource to help municipal governments better understand and minimize barriers to brownfield redevelopment in Brandon. *The City of Brandon’s internal steering committee is currently drafting a strategy and exploring potential incentives to entice development.*

**Partners for Climate Protection**

The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is a program run by Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) that empowers municipalities to take action against climate change through a five milestone process that guides members in greenhouse gas emission (GHG) inventories, setting realistic and achievable
GHG reduction targets, developing local action plans and implementing plans using specific, measurable actions to reduce emissions. There are two streams for each milestone: Corporate and Community. Corporate looks at the City’s emissions within the corporation (fleet, City buildings, streetlights, waste, sewer and water), and community is based on the City as a whole (residential, institutional, commercial, industrial, and transportation). To date we have reached completion of all the milestones for both sectors and we are working with FCM to establish the next step.

Brandon Hills Wildlife Management Area

Just a short drive (approx. 13 km) south of Brandon on Hwy #10, east 3km along Beresford Road and then south are the beautiful Brandon Hills. The hills are a haven for recreation and wildlife with over 17 km of trails suitable for cross-country skiing, hiking, and mountain bike cycling. There are three individual loops ranging in distance from 2.5 km to 7.5 km. There is a warm-up hut and cook shelter available.

Walking and Bike Trails

- The City of Brandon Community Services Department installed trail markers along portions of the trail system within the city.
- These markers are 1 km apart and have been introduced on a route that circles the city.
- The markers are a great way for active people to track the distance that they have travelled as part of their exercise routine. The trail markers can be used by all ages from the novice walker to the long distance runner.
- If you wish to travel the whole trail around the city, it has a total length of 20 km.
• These markers encourage everyone to get active and allows one to travel the distances that best suit one’s fitness level.

• The trail markers are also helpful in case of an emergency. If a person should become injured or ill along the trail system the marker identification can be given to 911 and Fire/Emergency and Police Services will know where they are located.

• The trail has been well received by the public and is extensively used throughout the summer.

• A very popular portion of the trail is along 34th Street. In 2011 the City of Brandon added four pieces of outdoor fitness equipment spaced out along the trail.

**Fair Trade Town**

Fair trade is a certification program ensuring that the producers behind the products we buy are getting a fair deal. In May of 2014 the City of Brandon became the 19th Fair Trade Town in Canada, the second in Manitoba, to do so; this initiative was spearheaded by the Marquis Project. To become a Fair Trade town, five steps had to be completed: form a steering committee, receive political support, have a certain number of stores and restaurants to demonstrate product availability, and lastly public engagement and community support. There are hundreds of fair trade products in Brandon a complete list of what is available can be found at www.marquisproject.com.

*In July of 2016 the City’s Purchasing Policy was amended to include fair trade coffee and sugar for all meetings and offices.* Over the next year, the committee will continue to engage the community and keep the momentum going to promote Brandon as a Fair Trade town.
E-Waste Depot

A year round outlet for residents to drop-off unwanted household electronic equipment has been set up at the City of Brandon’s Landfill Site as well as at a local business within the city.

Leadership in Energy & Environment Design (LEED ) Projects

- ACC Trades Building – North Hill Campus
- Brandon University Healthy Living Centre
- Dood Cristall Family YMCA
- Westman Regional Laboratory
- Brandon Cancer Care
- Brandon Correctional Centre
- MB Housing – Stickney Avenue

Geothermal

- MB Housing – Stickney Avenue

Agriculture & Agri Research Station

The Brandon Research Centre (BRC) is one of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s national network of 19 research centres. The Centre is one of the original five experimental farms established by the Federal Government in 1886 under The Experimental Farm Station Act. The BRC conducts research on crop production, including fertilization requirements of crops, ecology and control of weeds, biology and management of crop diseases, genetics and breeding of barley, management of pastures and cattle, land resource management, and impacts of agriculture on the environment. Results of these research areas produce knowledge, technologies, and management practices that enable agricultural producers of the region to produce safe and healthy food and fibre products demanded by national and international consumers; to improve their husbandry practices in order to enhance the environmental and economic sustainability of their land and water resources; to improve the efficient use of inputs and resources; and to increase their economic and market competitiveness in domestic and international markets.

Bylaws and Administrative Reports

Pesticide bylaw 6650
Cemetery bylaw 6632
Water & Waste Water Control bylaw 5957
Home Renovation Tax Assistance Program bylaw 6873
Sanitation bylaw 6965
Lot Grading, Drainage & Elevations bylaw 6636
Cemetery Plan
Environmental Strategic Plan
Green House Gas Inventory
Greenspace Master Plan
Housing Plan
Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Solid Waste Management Plan
Transit Operating Strategy
Bulky Item Disposal Policy
The City of Brandon, established in 1882, celebrates its 135th birthday in 2017. Brandon retains its historical importance as a hub for agriculture, the railway, manufacturing and culture. The City of Brandon promotes heritage and encourages preservation through a number of programs.
City Commitment to Heritage

Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC)

MHAC (established in 1987) evaluates built heritage projects including Municipal Heritage site designation, and requests for demolition, alteration or renovation of those sites. MHAC’s role expanded in 2001 to include:

- public awareness and promotion of heritage resources
- development of municipal policies and programs to conserve and enhance heritage assets
- creation of heritage conservation incentive programs
- recognition of heritage sites and outstanding contributions to heritage conservation and tourism
- technical and professional advice to the local community

The Planning, Property and Buildings Department manages the City’s heritage portfolio through a Heritage Community Planner position.

Potential Heritage Sites List

Approximately 150 properties are identified as having heritage interest. Further investigation will determine if these sites will become a Municipal Heritage Site.

The Heritage Resources Act is used to evaluate any potential heritage site. The Heritage Conservation By-law recognizes Commemorative Sites—locations that do not have legal protections under a Municipal Heritage Site designation, but have significant heritage value. Properties on the potential heritage sites list are identified as Commemorative Sites if the site has significant heritage value, but not significant enough to warrant designation, or if the site warrants designation but the owner of the site is not supportive of designation. Commemorative Sites may be reconsidered for designation in the future.

Municipal Heritage Incentive Program

This program is under review with a goal of becoming more robust. The current program offers an incentive of 50% of eligible restoration costs up to $5,000.00 spread evenly over ten years. Public engagement sessions in 2017 supported a stronger program that better conserves...
heritage assets. The proposed program, by-law and procedure will be taken back to the public later this year. It considers abatements on the municipal property tax increment, a municipal property tax exemption and a more generous grant.

**Municipal Heritage Site Plaque Program**

This program, created in 2008, features 22 Municipal Heritage Sites. The program offers two bronze plaque options available to owners of Municipal Heritage Sites. Standard plaques, 5"×9", identify the property as a City of Brandon Municipal Heritage site and are offered at no cost to the property owner. Premium plaques 16"×16" are larger and identify address, name, designation date and information about the significance of the site. The cost of this option is borne by the property owner.

**Doors Open Brandon**

July 15-16, 2017 features the 16th annual Doors Open Brandon event providing the public an opportunity to visit sites with unique historic or architectural value. The Community Development Department partners with the Planning, Property & Buildings Department to create an event that draws in over 1,200 participants. The event includes sites typically closed to the public like the Water Reclamation Facility where the public learns about the history of wastewater treatment in Brandon and the historical milestones achieved by the new facility. Highlights of this year’s Doors Open Brandon include the free showing of two documentaries, a former fire hall converted into a restaurant, the Brandon Indian Residential School Mobile Learning Centre, and the 50th anniversary of the Brandon Wheat Kings hockey team.
Stone Fence Rehabilitation

This heritage asset, located along the 100-block of 17th Street, is one of two City of Brandon owned Heritage Sites. Built in the early 20th century, the City is funding reconstruction of sections of the structure that are at risk of collapse due to mature trees’ roots undermining the structure. This work will take place throughout August and September of 2017.

Veterans War Memorial

The Veterans Memorial Project is now complete with the installation of the final plaque on the Wall of Remembrance. Donations will continue to be accepted for the Veterans Memorial through the City of Brandon Finance Department. The Brandon Cemetery will administer any future engravings to the Veterans Memorial. The Committee is encouraged to continue work with the former members of the Veterans Memorial Subcommittee to promote new engravings.
Gossip in the Graveyard

Gossip in the Graveyard premiered in 2006 at the National Communities in Bloom Symposium as an interactive walking tour. In 2007 it was again a part of Brandon’s 125th Celebrations. This event has continued every year and is sponsored by Brockie Donovan Funeral and Cremation Services, and features a two-hour interactive walking tour throughout the Brandon Cemetery. In 2017 the event took place on June 17th and 18th. Local actors, courtesy of 7 Ages Productions, play the roles of the colourful citizens who shaped Brandon’s history, and share their stories with tour participants. Brockie Donovan Funeral and Cremation Services has been sponsoring this Community Event since 2007 and are proud to announce that this event has raised over $23,000 for local charities during this time.
Museums

The City of Brandon has a diverse range of Museums covering broad areas of interest:

**The Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum**

This museum is a non-profit, charitable organization founded and operated by volunteers. The Museum is dedicated to the preservation of the history of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan and serves as a unique memorial to those airmen who trained and served, and especially those who died, while serving their country in the air war of 1939-1945. This is the only Museum in the world dedicated solely to this goal.

**The XII Manitoba Dragoons and 26th Field Regiment Museum**

This museum is dedicated to preserving the memory of those who served their country in the various wars and engagements in which Canadian troops participated—especially units that are associated with the southwestern corner of the province. There is a wide range of military memorabilia, including uniforms, webbing, bayonets, cap badges, shoulder flashes, flags, maps and swords. The museum library contains material which covers practically every war, battle or skirmish in which Canadian troops were involved. This information would be of particular value to anyone doing research in this area.

**The Daly House Museum**

This museum is located in the original home of Brandon’s first Mayor, Thomas Mayne Daly II. Built in 1882, the house is one of Brandon’s few surviving structures from the 19th century. The home on its original location has been designated as a municipal heritage site. The house now contains four floors of artifacts and archival materials representative of Brandon’s early history. It contains cherished antiques from the 1880s to the 1890s, as well as displays such as Mutter Brother’s Grocery Store and the Magnacca Research Center.

Over the last two years, the Daly House has been getting the community involved with planting flowers at the museum. New Era School students help plant flowers and have adopted the Canna lilies for the museum to care for them over the winter. The museum creates a unique space with many varieties of annuals, perennials, and ornamental grasses.
Brandon General Museum & Archives (BGMA)

The BGMA mandate is to collect, conserve, study, exhibit and interpret historic and heritage materials relating to the City of Brandon and its place within the history of Southwestern Manitoba. The BGMA is currently housed in the former Manitoba Telephone Building built in 1913. The BGMA also houses the Brandon Hills Model Railway Club and the B.J. Hales Taxidermy Collection.

Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame

The Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame was established in 1976, with the objective of acknowledging persons who have made a significant and outstanding contribution to the welfare and improvement of Manitoba agriculture and to a better way of life for farm families.

Its primary activity until now has been the recognition of inductees into the Hall of Fame, those individuals who have contributed to the development and advancement of agriculture in a significant way.

Display Building No. II

The Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba and its predecessor, the Brandon Agricultural Society, have utilized Display Building Number II continuously since its construction in 1913 for the Dominion Fair. Over the years, the building has been used for many purposes, from swine competitions to ice skating, and from petting zoos to home craft displays. It was still in use for storage for the equipment the Exhibition uses for its three fairs.

The restored Display Building Number II and the nearby Government of Manitoba Trade Fair Building will be the hub of an agricultural park, surrounded by agricultural demonstration projects and activities. The park will truly be a community project with participation from a broad cross section of organizations and interests, providing recreational and educational opportunities for all while retaining a green space.
Post-Secondary Institutions

Assiniboine Community College

Assiniboine Community College (ACC) has been providing exceptional learning experiences for over 55 years. For staff and students alike, ACC offers unparalleled learning environments and responds well to the demands and requirements of the Manitoba labour market. Instructors follow the philosophy of “learn by doing”, combining theory with hands-on learning inside classrooms, labs, kitchens, shops, fields and the college’s Sustainable Greenhouse.

ACC offers more than 40 diploma and certificate programs across a variety of disciplines including culinary arts and hospitality, business, agriculture and environment, health and human services, trades and technology. The college also delivers apprenticeship programming in a range of skilled trades disciplines.

The college welcomed more than 3,200 full-time students last year. With campuses in Brandon, Dauphin and Winnipeg, ACC provides comprehensive education opportunities throughout Manitoba. The college also partners with many communities, First Nations, and organizations across the province to deliver customized education and training.

A recent study showed ACC’s annual provincial economic impact at $613 million.

Assiniboine Community College – North Hill Campus

Assiniboine Community College is in the process of relocation and expansion to the North Hill Campus. The first piece of this exciting project was completed in 2007, with the opening of the Manitoba Institute of Culinary Arts. Another major project was completed with the $45 million Len Evans Centre for Trades and Technology opening in September 2010. The sustainable
greenhouse opened in January 2013 and is home to the Horticultural Production and Sustainable Food Systems programs as well as applied research projects.

In 2015, after many months of college and community-wide consultation, ACC released a complete campus master plan for the site. This plan sets the stage and direction for the college's future growth over the next several decades. It conceptually outlines the physical structure of the future campus' built form, open space, and circulation network—all with the aim of providing opportunities to bring out the strengths and values that define ACC as a place that provides an unparalleled student experience and engages students, staff, faculty and the wider community.

**Brandon University**

Along with around 3,300 students and around 500 faculty and staff, Brandon University (BU) welcomes around 50,000 visitors to campus every year, who arrive for events, concerts, and to use its facilities. Many of them come to the Healthy Living Centre for Bobcats games or for the gym facilities and walking track. Many also come for performances through the School of Music, including at the Lorne Watson Recital Hall. There are also annual alumni events, including Homecoming every fall, and regular movie showings at the Evans theatre and art exhibitions at the Sutherland Gallery.
New Campus Master Plan

Brandon University’s new Campus Master Plan will guide development of the campus for years and decades to come. Building on wide-ranging community and campus consultation, the plan calls for an increased focus on pedestrian amenities, including improved green space, additional tree-planting, and better links with the city trail and cycling network.

Increased Campus-Community Engagement

Community engagement is one of the hallmarks of the 2015 Academic Plan, and it is echoed in the Campus Master Plan. One of the physical ways BU will be increasing its community engagement is by removing visual barriers around the perimeter of the campus, creating a more open and welcoming space for visitors and increasing the permeability of the campus itself. This will include selective hedge-trimming and tree-limbing to increase the enjoyment of the great lawn in front of Clark Hall and to improve the connection between 18th Street and the BU campus.

New Downtown Campus Initiative

Brandon University is also embarking on an ambitious new downtown campus initiative. With land assembly nearly complete, a parcel of five properties on Princess Avenue between Ninth and 10th Streets is eyed as the future location for a new-style resident development, plus innovative new academic and learning spaces, which will increase opportunities for campus community engagement. Although the full scope of the development is a few years away, the university will be beginning to animate the space as early as midsummer, in partnership with Renaissance Brandon, the BNRC, and others.
Art Galleries

**Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba**

This year marks the 110th anniversary of the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba (AGSM), making it one of the longest standing institution of its kind in Canada! Every year the Art Gallery offers a dozen exhibitions of exciting, thoughtful, and beautiful works of contemporary art; hundreds of classes for all ages, taught by professional artists in the region; countless workshops and tours available to schools, business, and community groups; and a wide variety of new and exciting events for everyone to enjoy. This past year has been a very busy one for the gallery, welcoming a new Executive Director, John G Hampton, former Artistic Director of Trinity Square Video (Canada’s oldest media arts centre), and began several new initiatives.

*Early in 2017 the AGSM opened a brand new Digital Studio at the gallery.* The Digital Studio is outfitted with Linux computers and a powerful Virtual Reality production station that is open for members and artists to use in the production of new works of digital art. In the fall the AGSM will be launching our very first Art + Game coding classes for children in Brandon.

In July of 2017 the AGSM launched their third exhibition space—In addition to their Main Gallery, and Community Gallery, the AGSM will now be doing programming for the AGSM Billboard, which will feature artworks made specifically for this 12’×30’ public exhibition space. The first project featured in this site is Colleen Cutschall’s “The Crossing” which looks at Brandon’s history as a space of cultural exchange and commerce while also acknowledging and honouring the treaties of this territory. The billboard projects unfolding over the next two years will also look at the Indigenous presence on this land, celebrating Indigenous visual cultures in a public way.

**Glen P. Sutherland Gallery**

Run by the Brandon University Fine Arts Student Association (BUFASA), the Sutherland Gallery of Fine Art programs exhibitions of student work throughout the year. BUFASA has a mission to help create more interest in visual art through means of paintings, ceramics, drawings, prints, photography, and mixed media sculptures and paintings.

**12th Street Studio/Gallery/B&B**

Located at 307-12th Street in a beautifully restored Victorian century home in central Brandon, the gallery features exhibitions by contemporary artists from Southwestern Manitoba.

**Library**

Brandon Public Library, a branch of the Western Manitoba Regional Library, provides thousands of books, magazines, DVDs, and online resources for public use. The Library connects the community by providing a free public space where all are welcome. The Brandon Public Library also offers dozens of programs every year, from Babytimes and Storytimes for families and young children, to youth and teen programs, all the way up to Book Clubs and Creative Writing Groups for adults.
Installation view of Sedimentary Antiquity by Kevin Conlin, Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba

Photo: Kevin Bertram
Community Engagement

Thanks to the dedication of community volunteers, sponsors, supporters and partners, Brandon is a vibrant and culturally diverse city with a dynamic cultural program.

Diversity/Inclusion

Brandon has experienced considerable growth and cultural diversification in the past several years. The arrival of new comers from around the world has sparked excitement in this city and inspired the community to honour, recognize and celebrate cultural heritage and expression. Some important initiatives that support diversity and inclusion of all people are outlined below.

The Safe Harbour program is beginning to gain momentum in Brandon. This is a program that has been brought to communities across Canada since it was developed on the west coast ten years ago. Businesses and organizations are able to learn Safe Harbour to carry the key message of Respect for All back to their staff. The central commitments are: Equitable Treatment of All People, Providing an Immediate Safe Place, and Prepared Employees and Workplaces.

Cultural Programs

In addition to being a vibrant and multicultural city, Brandon also has a wealth of festivals, events and programs like the Royal Manitoba Provincial Exhibition and Summer Fair and the Brandon Folk, Music and Art Festival which bring thousands of people to our city year after year. All of these provide opportunities for the public to engage in and support arts, cultural activities, and make it possible for artists to live and work here. With two dance studios, incredible educational programs and workspaces offered to artists year-round through facilities like the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, Brandon University’s School of Music, and Brandon University’s Visual and Aboriginal Arts programs, Brandon is a city that fosters creativity and celebrates the innovation and expression of its citizens through cultural activity.

Cultural Resources

There are many cultural resources in Brandon, not the least of which are our cultural venues and spaces. Key venues include the Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium, the Evans Theatre, the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, the Keystone Centre, Brandon University and a variety of pubs, restaurants, community centres, schools and churches that all regularly facilitate the delivery of cultural programming and events.

Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since 1950, the Assembly has invited all states and interested organizations to observe December 10th as Human Rights Day. Over the last number of years, Community Development has moved toward creating an event for Human Rights Day comprising a single topic of discussion. This format accommodates in-depth discussion from multiple speakers and gives a chance for the audience to engage in conversations of limited public discourse. In 2016, the City of Brandon hosted the event “Life Gets Better Together” that focused
on LGBTTQ* (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, transgender, Two-Spirit, Queer, and other minority gender identities and sexual orientations) rights. The programming for this event worked very closely with groups and organizations that make up this community in Brandon.

**Culture Plan**

The Culture Plan provides a cultural vision and strategic directions to help guide the success of the culture sector and its contribution to social and economic well-being in Brandon for years to come. The plan incorporates the cultural needs and desires of residents, business, non-profit organizations, and municipal leaders that is inclusive, comprehensive, and encourages collaboration. In May of this year, the City of Brandon Culture Plan was honoured with a Manitoba Planning Excellence Award at the annual Manitoba Planning Conference in Winnipeg. The award acknowledged individuals, organizations, companies, and Manitoba municipalities and planning districts in their efforts to enhance communities through innovative and high-quality planning initiatives.

**Brandon National Aboriginal Day Celebrations**

Every June 21st marks National Aboriginal Day Celebrations. This annual event promotes Indigenous Culture to our multi-cultural community in a positive and interactive way. Through the provision of both static and dynamic opportunities, citizens of all ages learned about the positive aspects of Indigenous culture and heritage. Celebrations also provided school-age children with interactive events that promoted inter-racial fun and built foundations of trust between Indigenous and non-Indigenous future decision-makers.
**Tipi Tours**

*Locations – Brandon Police Station, City Hall, Discovery Centre, Brandon University, Global Market, Manitoba Metis Federation, Brandon Friendship Centre, and Princess Park.*

This community project was started as a way to memorialize the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, and a way for Brandon to commemorate the Walking With Our Sisters display that was hosted at Brandon University, with our community for two weeks in February 2016. At the same time it offered an opportunity to build on acknowledgement of “land” with the Indigenous community.

By acknowledging the Indigenous peoples of Brandon and by leaving a legacy marker from the art exhibit, we are creating not only a better sense of belonging, but also building on community beautification with culture. The inside of each tipi will feature a different teaching and belief from the Indigenous peoples of Manitoba.

**Westman Immigrant Services**

Westman Immigrant Services can be found in the old CPR Station on Pacific Avenue where the staff and volunteers provide services to newcomers. Languages Services provides new comers with language classes where the program teaches English to the level required for Canadian citizenship. Classes are provided in the morning, afternoon, and some evenings.

Settlement Services assists newcomers acquire documents for living in Canada such as a health card. In addition they provide a series of classes on such topics as positive parenting, women’s wellness, and workshops on topics that assist newcomers to successfully integrate into the community. There is also a youth service that hosts a number of programs that helps them learn English, do well in school, and learn about Canadian culture.

Community Outreach provides a number of services for the community such as presentations on cultural diversity and cultural shock and hosts series of cooking classes where participants have the opportunity to learn about the food from other countries.

Employment Services assists new comers with preparing to obtain employment by helping them write resumes, interview skills, and introduction to potential employers.

Resettlement Assistance Program is Westman Immigrant Services’ newest program that assists and provides refugees transition into our community. The staff assists them in finding places to live, registering their children in school, and with medical appointments.

**Westman Multicultural Festival**

The Westman Multicultural Festival began in 2000 as a result of a challenge from the Honourable Peter Liba, Lieutenant Governor to His Worship Dave Burgess, Brandon’s Mayor to do something that would break the monotony of Manitoba’s winter. The challenge lead to the creation of the Lieutenant’s Governor’s Winter Festival. The Festival takes place on the last weekend in January or the first weekend in February. There are a number of Pavilions that make up the Festival over the three days, and in 2016 festival-goers were able to experience the cultures of seven different countries: England, Honduras, Ireland, Mauritius, Scotland, Philippines, and Ukraine. Volunteers are the heart of the Festival and its success continues as a direct result of the legion of volunteers, and the good relationships with businesses and different levels of Government.
Overhead Profile:

Length of Pole Required 13ft for 3 Poles (without Screw Pile)
Length of Pole Required 12ft for 5 Poles (with Screw Pile)

Teakwood Floor/Finished Grade
Bottom of Poles Subgrade: 1 ft below Finished

Side Profile:

Width of opening at Bottom: 4 ft. 6 inch
at Mid Ring: 2 ft. 6 inch
at Srowth: 1 ft. 6 inch
Top of Screw Pile to Finish Grade: 5.5 inches
Bottom of Screw Pile to Finish Grade: 2 ft. 3 inches

Grand Flagstone Stepping Stones
Engraved with Vendor/Donation Thank-you
Orange Shirt Awareness Week

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of a former student’s account of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. Orange Shirt Day was also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

Brandon Folk, Music and Art Festival

Founded in 1985 as a not-for-profit organization, the Brandon Folk, Music and Art Society carries a broad mandate for the support and promotion of the arts and culture in Western Manitoba. In 1989, the BFMAS was granted registered charitable tax status. As an umbrella organization with the capacity for professional management and coordination, the BFMAS is proud to offer arts and cultural programming for its city and the rich and diverse community of arts and cultural groups that call Westman home. 2017 marks the 33rd annual Festival and will feature headliners Richard Thompson and Greg Brown.

Summer Lights Concert Series and Festival

Summer Lights Concert Series is a series of free concerts held during the months of June, July, and August with the intent
of bringing in acclaimed Canadian musicians to Brandon. This series takes place three times throughout the summer at Princess Park in downtown Brandon. The concert series reaches out to emerging artists in Brandon for the opening acts to accompany the main artist, which gives our local artists a chance to play beside Canadian music professionals. This event fosters the emerging artist scene in Brandon; it helps Brandon artists make a name for themselves while they learn from professionals who have experience in the music industry.

**Music in the Park**

Music in the Park is a free concert series on Tuesday evenings during the months of June, July and August organized by the City of Brandon. This program provides local amateur musicians a platform to showcase their talents in a low pressure environment; allowing them to expand their performance capabilities. Music in the Park also allows regular performing musicians in Brandon and surrounding area a chance to give back to their community with a performance for the community's enjoyment. This program is a great way to build culture in Brandon as it fosters an environment where seniors, adults and youth can all join together over their love of music and the beauty of Brandon's parks.

**Wheat City Nuit Blanche**

Started in 2015, this project is a collaboration between the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba and Brandon University School of Music. The event transforms the studios, hallways, stairwells, and hidden corners of the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba into an all-ages multidisciplinary art “happening”. In the White Night tradition made popular in cities around the world since 1984, the gallery was filled with live music, performance,
visual art, installation, DJs, interactive kiosks, and a family-friendly dance party. In addition to the events at the AGSM, businesses and spaces around downtown Brandon hosted performances and installations throughout the day. This past year’s event took inspiration from its collaborative beginnings and focused on duos and duets.

**Winter Gardens**

*In 2017 the Winter Garden project saw temporary public art installations in downtown Brandon, using the theme Winter Garden.* Community groups were paired with local artists to facilitate cultural expression. This past year was the first of the Winter Garden project which is expected to expand in the years to come.

**Bylaws and Administrative Reports**

- Economic Incentive Policy bylaw 6885
- Heritage Conservation bylaw 6644
- Heritage Tax Credit bylaw 6740
- Home Renovation Tax Assistance Program bylaw 6873
- Water and Wastewater bylaw 5957
- Cultural Development and Diversity Strategy
- Environmental Strategic Plan
- Green House Gas Inventory
- Heritage Resource Management Plan
- Housing Plan
- Solid Waste Management Plan
- Culture Plan
Axis Bridge by Chris Reid — part of the Winter Gardens Program
The City of Brandon has numerous historic buildings, heritage sites, cultural programming and events that reflect Brandon’s preservation efforts for our history. The importance of heritage has been developed and encouraged in the community which plays an important role in Brandon’s growth, infrastructure and culture.
City Commitment to our Landscape

Greenspace Master Plan

The Greenspace Master Plan guides the City of Brandon over the next twenty years and will be reviewed in 2020. Projects are prioritized in a coordinated and financially equitable manner and include the development of new high quality greenspaces, the upgrade of existing parks and the completion of the trail system.

Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Brandon is developing a series of hubs throughout Brandon to enhance the leisure opportunities in those areas. Individuals are more willing to travel longer distance to visit these destination parks because of the wide range of activities for all ages. Locations: Kin Park at 3rd & Aberdeen, Stanley Park at 15th & Princess, Westridge Linden Lanes at 61 Silverbirch, and Rideau Park. The Westridge Linden Lanes recreation hub was created through a partnership between the City of Brandon and the Brandon School Division as it is located on shared land.

Landscape and Design Standards

The Urban & Landscape Design Standards Manual intends to promote quality urban design in the City of Brandon. The Manual identifies standards for all new development and redevelopment on properties located within the City of Brandon. These standards establish minimum expectations of the community, while at the same time are intended to provide design flexibility and opportunity for creativity and innovation.
Flood Protection

Since the 2011 flood the City of Brandon has made massive improvements to flood infrastructure:

- Design and Construction of the 18th Street Dike was completed in 2013. It involved an earthen dike on the west side of 18th Street at PR 459 (Grand Valley Road).

- Design and Construction of the Kirkcaldy LDS Project was completed in 2014/2015. It involved a new Land Drainage Sewer and large controlled outfall into the river along with removal of several small uncontrolled outfalls.

- Design is complete and construction is ongoing for the South Dike Works project. It involves improvements (mainly widening) to the existing earthen dike system south of the river between 26th Street and 3rd Street along with controlled outfall structures at 24th Street and 18th & Kirkcaldy. Completion is expected in October 2017.
Wheat City Golf Course

The Wheat City Golf Course has recently undertaken a major project with new elevations on the 3rd and 5th holes with drainage improvements on the 4th and 7th holes. 1st, 3rd, and 4th holes have been sloped and winter-seeded while the 2nd and 7th holes are being worked on. There are new cart path that leads to the 1st hole. The City sold a small portion of land at the recreation centre and has since been able to provide greater protection to this valuable public recreation space through water retention.
Brandon Community Sportsplex

There has been a lot taking place at Brandon’s Community Sportsplex! The swimming pool has been completely renovated as of July of 2016. The track is currently under renovation and is expected to be done by the time the Legion Games take place here. The games will be held in August of 2017, as well as 2018. The Provincial Special Olympics took place within the facility on June 17th and 18th. Spring programming has wrapped up and the summer programs are now in full swing.
Skate Plaza

The Kristopher Campbell Memorial Skate Plaza Group, in partnership with the City of Brandon, has successfully completed the development of a skate plaza in downtown Brandon. This plaza provides many benefits to Brandon and the Westman area. Brandon’s youth are provided with an innovative, accessible and challenging skate plaza. The plaza promotes healthy living and encourages an active lifestyle. The plaza has seating areas, trees and landscaping, that welcome non-active users who are there to watch participants. The location (the former site of the Prince Edward Hotel) has served as a cornerstone in the development of Brandon and the skate plaza will add to rejuvenation of this location of the city. This is truly a community project with the benefits trickling down to many citizens in the City of Brandon and the surrounding area.

Hanbury Hill

Hanbury Hill was developed in partnership with the City of Brandon and the Construction Association of Rural Manitoba (CARM) in 2008. The area took thousands of yards of soil to fill the location to create a massive hill. The hill provides one of Brandon’s most impressive toboggan slopes. Also located at the hill is a warm up gazebo for those cooler winter days. This greenspace is not only for tobogganing, during the development the surrounding landscape was left unaltered for an impressive greenspace with walking and bike trails. There are a number of native plants and trees that compliment this impressive recreation area.
Lions Park

Lions Park was originally two minor baseball fields. As other ball fields were developed these fields were earmarked for demolition and the lot sold for residential development. A large group of concerned citizens felt that this was not the best fit for the land and began to fundraise and lobby City Hall to stop that sale. The Lions Club and the citizens in the area have since then taken on the park and The Community Services Department assists them when needed. A large supporter within the volunteer base was employees of Hillcrest Senior Home that is located a block away. They assisted in the development of the park and they have now incorporated outside activity in their daily recreation programming. The club continues to raise money for the ever evolving development of this area and have purchased a number of amenities that are located in the park.

Amenities include:

- 1 Minor baseball field
- 1 Dog park
- Walking trails
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Flower gardens
- Benches & picnic tables
- Extensive playground
- Sand play area
- Parking lot
**Active Transportation**

The City of Brandon Community Services Department installed trail markers along a certain portion of trail system within the city. These markers are 1 km apart and have been introduced on a route that circulates the city. The markers are a great way for active people to track the distance that they have travelled as part of their exercise routine. The trail markers can be used by all ages from the novice walker to the long distance runner. If you wish to travel the whole trail around the city, it has a total length of 20 km. These markers encourage everyone to get active and allow you to travel the distances that best suit your fitness level. The trail markers are also helpful in case of an emergency. If a person should become injured or ill along the trail system, the marker identification can be given to 911 and fire/emergency so that police services will know where they are located. The trail has been well received by the public and is extensively used throughout the summer. A very popular portion of the trail is along 34th Street. In 2011 the City of Brandon added four pieces of outdoor fitness equipment along the trail. Each piece of equipment is evenly spaced along the trail.

**Rideau Park**

In the spring of 2014, the restoration of Rideau Park was complete. New facilities included a playground, spray park and washrooms. Rideau Park is one of the most heavily utilized parks in Brandon. This tremendous greenspace also includes lawn bowling and a public pool for all community members to enjoy.
Community Gardens

Community gardening in Brandon began in 2000 through the work of Samaritan House to bring food security to Brandon low-income residents. There were many challenges in the early years, including access to water and available space. Since that time, the Community Garden Network has blossomed. Through partnerships with Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, Healthy Brandon, The City of Brandon, Agricultural Research Station, and Samaritan House, all the gardens have water access, interested gardeners and the support of educational workshops. Today there are almost 850 active community garden plots in Brandon.

Andrews Field

Andrews Field was built in 1987 to facilitate the hosting of the Canadian Selects in the City of Brandon. Since that time, local, provincial, and national events have taken place at the stadium including two World Youth Baseball Championships (1991/1994), Canada Summer Games (1997) and Canadian Senior Baseball Championships (2006/2008). In 2000, the City approached a group of baseball advocates to come up with a solution for the time and manpower taken to run the field/facility. A group of volunteers headed by Neil and Nate Andrews took over the task of overseeing the operations of the stadium from grounds keeping and building maintenance, stadium bookings and scheduling, to bookkeeping and running the canteen. It is a great partnership between the City of Brandon and The Andrews Field Group. Andrews Field is one of the premier baseball facilities in not only western Canada but Canada as well.
Brandon Municipal Cemetery

The Cemetery originally located outside the urban fabric has, since 1972, been included within the City boundary when the boundary was moved south from Richmond Avenue to Patricia Avenue. The cemetery is now surrounded by a variety of uses including recreational (trailer park), industrial, commercial, agricultural and in the last two years, tremendous residential development as well.

- Ownership: City of Brandon
- Size: 44.2 acres
- Land Status: All is developed: “sold”/occupied or awaiting sale
- Landscaping: Consists of well-established tree cover of coniferous/deciduous trees (ash, maple, aspen, elm, basswood, cedar and spruce) shrubs include caragana, lilac, currant, cotoneaster, mugho pines and junipers pruned in a “formal” manner.
- Brandon Municipal Cemetery Columbarium Plaza 64 niche unit installed in 1999, 2 niches remaining. Two 64 niche units added in 2001, sold out. Two 84 niche towers added in 2006, 3 niches remaining. Two 296 niche custom solid granite columbarium walls installed in 2012, 502 niches remaining.
- In 2015 the City of Brandon published the Cemetery Expansion Master Plan to enhance land drainage capacity and accommodate cemetery expansion to serve the needs of the local community. The plan provides clear guidance for the City to continue providing quality cemetery services to Brandon and area resident over the next 25-75 years.
Renaissance Brandon Development Corporation

Renaissance Brandon as the downtown development corporation has become well known. In turn, was granted authority from the City of Brandon to conduct activities related to downtown business development such as the ownership of property, granting of loans, establishment of incentive programs and retention of proceeds from investments. Further, the organization is to create unique partnerships between the public and private sectors that bring renewal and energy to downtown. The Renaissance District was defined as 6th Street westward to 13th Street & Pacific Avenue southward to Lorne Avenue as an area containing a cornucopia of buildings from newly built and renovated to those nearing the point of no return. In 2010, the Renaissance District was rebranded the Downtown HUB. In 2012, City Council adopted a secondary land use plan that has boundaries from 1st Street to 18th Street at Rosser and Pacific Avenues and approximately 5th Street and 13th Streets on Princess Avenue and between 9th Street and 10th Street on Lorne, Louise and Victoria Avenues. Currently, the Downtown HUB boundaries are significantly smaller than the secondary land use plan boundaries and are identified by the HUB street signs located in the core of downtown Brandon. As the continued transformation and revitalization of our downtown continues the HUB boundaries will continue to expand throughout the secondary land use plan boundaries.

The Downtown BIZ

The Brandon Downtown Biz Association started in August 2010 because it was felt by some downtown business people that downtown businesses needed an organization they could join voluntarily that would act as an effective voice for businesses located in our area of the City.

Defined Boundaries: From 1st Street to 18th Street, and from Pacific Avenue to Victoria Avenue.

Incredible Edible Brandon

Businesses, non-profits, and the municipality have teamed-up with community volunteers and gardeners to bring edible gardens to Brandon. They are completely open to community members and visitors to appreciate and harvest throughout the growing season. The projects vision focuses on three “spinning plates”: community (working in and with the local community), learning (helping people learn about food from cradle to grave), and business (supporting and promoting local producers and suppliers). Coordinated by BNRC, the first phase of implementation included the development of the Incredible Edible Garden Route throughout the downtown.

Bylaws and Administrative Reports

Greenspace Master Plan
Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Landscape and Design Standards
Parks & Recreation bylaw 5268
Brandon is known for its beautiful and abundant floral displays: stunning in-ground beds, luscious baskets and colourful planters. The City of Brandon strives to engage the community not only with stimulating visual displays, but inspire the public to take pride and get involved in the floral displays around the city.

There are many ways for the public to get involved with gardening programs in Brandon. Residents take initiative to actively plant and adopt greenspace within the city, and take part in community programs and gardening contests.

While some people enjoy physical involvement, others show their appreciation and commitment by visiting the gardens and simply enjoying their beauty. Brandon is home to numerous beautifully landscaped parks, and abundant gardens. Brandon is carpeted with hanging baskets and gorgeous planters along the city streets.

Communities in Bloom has created an active awareness of the importance of gardening to create community pride and promote sustainability.
FLORAL DISPLAYS

Photo: Kevin Bertram
City Commitment to Floral Displays

Brandon in Bloom

The mission of Brandon in Bloom is to inspire a sustainable approach to improving the quality of life and civic pride within our community through sustainable best practices in community involvement, environmental awareness, beautification, heritage preservation, education and networking. It is integral to engage the community—of all ages, service groups, businesses, associations and private citizens in a public-spirited effort to succeed and be recognized.

Brandon in Bloom is integral to our City. Communities that look successful are most likely to be successful. Whether a community’s specific goals are to increase tourism, generate new economic development or simply to build civic pride, the face presented to its citizens and others is a key factor in achieving those goals.

Spring Planting and Adopt-A-Bed Program

The Adopt a Bed program asks volunteers to help keep many of the flowerbeds in the City maintained and free of weeds. Over 70 volunteers helped plant flower beds at 10 locations during the first week of June. The City provides the plants and volunteers create beautiful public floral displays under the direction of Parks staff. Over the summer months these beds are tended to by generous residents who give up their time to help make our City beautiful. These volunteer groups are organized by a lead volunteer and they independently coordinate and manage the maintenance of the beds. Individuals and groups take great pride in “their” beds. Volunteers are individuals and
Floral Displays organized groups of business or neighbourhood members. Volunteers are recognized throughout the season, and invited to special volunteer appreciation events.

Communities in Bloom Week
Brandon has proclaimed the week of July 16th to 22nd as Communities in Bloom Week. The City of Brandon is celebrating this week by welcoming the Communities in Bloom judges, Larry Hall and Marylaine de Chantal to the Wheat City.

Open Garden Tours
Our annual Open Garden Tours is a one-day event where visitors get to view and learn about some of Brandon’s most breath-taking gardens, both public and private, through self-guided tours. It is an opportunity for Brandon’s gardening community to showcase their immense talents, and visitors will get a chance to learn about different flowers, new techniques, and innovative designs for their own gardens! The tours also run in conjunction with Heritage Brandon’s Doors Open Tours. This event allows citizens to tour some of Brandon’s beautiful historic buildings and learn more about the city’s heritage. Together, they create the Open Brandon program. These events have become very popular over the last few years; it’s a neat way to see another side of our beautiful city! This event is free and requires no registration.

Miracle-Gro® Garden Contest
The Miracle-Gro® Best Garden Selection contest is a fun way to recognize community members who go the extra mile to make our city beautiful! You can nominate yourself, a neighbour, a local business, or any Brandon resident. After all nominations have been submitted, the City of Brandon Community
Development team will select 12 winning estates to receive the Miracle-Gro® gift package and a recognition sign. The Brandon Community Development team reviews every application and evaluates each property. It is important that the garden follows certain criteria including:

- Suitability of plant material, balance, attractiveness, ease of maintenance, selection and arrangement of plant combinations and harmony with walls, fences, driveways etc.
- No artificial flowers and/or holiday décor.
- Upkeep in the control of insects, diseases, weeds and overall vigor of plant material.
- The condition and maintenance of landscape elements such as planters, walkways, lawns, special garden features, etc.

This event brings together the community by supporting each other and having a strong appreciation for others’ efforts. Brandon’s Community Development team is looking forward to seeing all the beautiful gardens.

**City Hall Blooms all year round**

Indoor plants help clean our air and increase our health & productivity. Brandon City Hall “grows” fresh air all year round. Seasonal displays of poinsettias, mums and hydrangeas are grown in the Parks greenhouse. Tropical plants are kept maintained throughout the rest of the year.

**Bylaws and Administrative Reports**

Parks & Recreation bylaw 5268
Volunteer Recognition

Brandon thrives because citizens give back. We have seen volunteers mobilize to protect our City in times of crisis as well as to expand its floral beauty. These silent guardians do it without the expectation of recognition which is why recognizing their efforts is such a wonderful way to acknowledge them.

Volunteer Appreciation

Throughout the year, the City of Brandon hosts events to recognize our dedicated volunteers. In 2016 the City hosted two formal events to appreciate the generosity of volunteers. On Thursday, July 21, 2016, to thank participants in the Open Brandon event, the City organized a dinner at the historic Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum. The City invited volunteers who participated in Doors Open and Open Garden Tours, as well as the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee. The event featured jazz music performed by Abby Ziprick and Friends and a Powerpoint presentation showing off the different properties that were part of Open Brandon.

The second Volunteer Appreciation Event of 2016 took place on Saturday, December 3rd from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the A.R. McDiarmid Civic Complex Cultural Resource Centre. The event was open to all volunteers and supporters of City of Brandon Community Development programming. This is the first time the event was held on a weekend afternoon. The event featured hors d’oeuvres and musical entertainment from a live Jazz trio consisting of Brandon University School of Music students, and motivational speaking from Dawn Bourbonnais from Volunteer Manitoba.
City of Brandon

Quick Facts

Established: 1882
Population: 48,859 (2016 census)
Area: 465.16 sq. km.
Municipal Budget: $81,200,000
Mission Statement: To improve safety, health, economic security, and quality of life in our community.

Brandon Facts

2015

- The registration for the environment expo filled up in less than four hours for this high in demand event.
- All of the City of Brandon’s shredded paper is recycled. This has saved 50 trees!
- the average resident uses 177L of water/day.
- We share our information on greenhouse gas emissions with the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) a non-profit organization that compares data with over 200 cities across the globe!
- Trees can increase a property’s value as well as prevent water pollution.

2016

- 1,787 tonnes of CO2e ghg emissions reduced because of the green cart program.
- 250 lbs of batteries were recycled through Call 2 Recycle Program in 2015.
- There are 847 community gardens spread out over 17 locations.
- The City of Brandon is a participant in the “Partners for Climate Protection Program.” The program helps municipalities reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Brandon is 1 of 32 municipalities across Canada and the first municipality in Manitoba to complete all five milestones!

Economic Development

- Between 1995 and 2003, an average of 66 immigrants made Brandon their home annually.
- In 2004 Brandon’s historical average doubled and continued to climb upward peaking in 2010 when Brandon welcomed 1433 immigrants. In the past five years Brandon has welcomed 2973 immigrants.
- The majority of immigrant growth since 2006 has been in three language groups: Spanish, Mandarin and Ukrainian.
- The City of Brandon’s population in the 2016 Census was 48,859, a 6.1% increase from the 2011 Census.
- Unemployment annual rate is 7.2% for 2016.
- In 2016, there were 581 residential units sold through the Brandon Area REALTORS® with an average price of $274,351. These figures are inclusive of duplexes, single attached and detached homes, however does not include condos or mobile homes.
- In 2011 an estimated 59% of those aged 25 to 64 in Brandon reported a university or college certificate, diploma or degree and 86% of the population aged 25 to 64 have a high school graduation certificate or higher.
Acknowledgements

Thank-you Communities in Bloom!

Thank you for your generosity of time visiting Brandon as a judge for the National Communities in Bloom program. It takes more than knowledge of the program to go from community to community as a judge; it takes commitment, dedication and a belief that if a community follows the program criteria, it will be a vibrant place to live! We sincerely appreciate the time and thought you have given to Brandon as our new friends, mentors, and honourary citizens.

Thank you for inspiring communities across Canada to be the best that they can be.

Thank-you

Mayor and Council
City of Brandon Staff
Volunteers and Citizens of Brandon

Communities in Bloom Leadership Committee

Gwen Beam
Kevin Bertram
Esther Bryan
Drew Collins

Jenna Dobson
Carly Gasparini
Jason Gobeil
Melissa Habok
Lindsay Hargreaves

Lois MacDonald
Riley Morningstar
Elizabeth Saftiuk
Hope Switzer