

Countless community people dedicate countless hours;  
working together to improve our neighbourhood. Checking on a neighbour,  
planting a garden, participating in a committee.

SNA would like to acknowledge the work that happens daily,  
seen and unseen in our community.

SNA is also grateful to the many supporters, partners, and donors who help make our work possible, including:

- Government of Manitoba
  - Neighbourhoods Alive !
  - LightHouses- Manitoba Justice
  - Community Places
  - Urban Green Team
  - Environmental Youth Corps
  - Sustainable Development Initiatives Fund
  - Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention Fund
  - Manitoba Immigration and Integration Program
- City of Winnipeg
  - Community Grants Incentive Program
  - Support for programming at the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre
- Government of Canada
  - National Crime Prevention Center
  - Canada Summer Jobs
- Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative
  - Urban Aboriginal Strategy
  - Winnipeg Partnership Agreement
  - The Winnipeg Foundation
  - United Way
  - Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance
  - Local Investment Toward Employment
  - True Sport
  - Downtown Parent Child Coalition
  - University of Winnipeg Students' Association
  - University of Winnipeg
  - Thrifty Car Rental
  - Dollar Rent a Car
  - Rob Altemeyer, MLA for Wolseley
  - Andrew Swan, MLA for Minto
  - Harvey Smith, City Councilor
  - Pat Martin, MP for Winnipeg Centre

And over 150 donations from individuals and families over the past year.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been a year of considerable growth. Our community has developed and implemented new projects like the Rental Safety Program, the Youth Outreach Program, the Greenhouse pilot and Green Map; while continuing to sustain successful work in long time programs like the Skills Bank and the Housing Training Initiative. Over the past year, we have hosted a number of tours in the area of local groups, and also international ones. We now have more people than ever saying "Look at what is happening in Spence!"

We are working to sustain this growth while continuing to build on our success, together.

Gerry Berard

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spence Neighbourhood Association truly is a community undertaking. Connecting with thousands of community members through our board and committees, programs and staff, and community partners, we are supported by committed volunteers, creative, hardworking, and resourceful staff, a network of partnerships, enthusiastic political representatives, generous funders and donors; all of whom are inspired by and drawn to the vision of working together from the ground up. We are successful, I have no doubt, because of this complex web of relationships grounded in community that continues to develop; because of all of our willingness to continue dreaming, prioritizing, planning and working together. These next pages show the outcomes so far. Let's celebrate!

Kate Sjoberg

## Community Connecting

A well connected community allows us to better plan, prioritize, and work together.

This year, we were able to initiate the 'Block Captain Coordinator', staffed by Paula Keirstead. Paula recruited over 20 volunteers over the course of the year whose role it would be to help keep in touch with their neighbours about goings on in the community and to bring emerging issues forward. This work was especially helpful in working with residents on safety issues, and safety coordinator Greg and Paula helped to facilitate problem solving with groups of residents together.

Another recent initiative from staff member (and basketball coach) Sandra Medd is the Sunday Clothing Bank at the MERC. This regular weekly event quickly became a place for people to meet, have a coffee and a chat, and leave with some clothes for themselves and family members. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers

who ensure the Clothing Bank is up and running every week.

In April, we hosted a community review of the Five Year Community Plan for feedback on SNA's contribution to those goals, and a celebration of volunteers in our community. That feedback has been incorporated into committee discussions throughout the year, but perhaps more memorable was the energetic concert given by *The Magnificent Seven* at the MERC following the event!

Dozens of other 'connecting' events were held throughout the year, including last summer's 'Teach and Share' series where community members met to craft together at the MERC, and the Fall Election Forum. You'll find more examples of community connecting activities throughout this report.

The Small Grants Program is of course a major community connecting program. Over the past year, the program supported the Ellice Street Festival and Art from the Heart, a block party, a community tree banding event, Ol Time Country Friday Nights, and local programming like the Sherbrook Pool Sharks, and much more.

Finally, we continue to produce the monthly SNA newsletter, circulated to homes in the community, through the West Central Connect Listserve and on our website. Our website is regularly updated and provides information about SNA programs, events and research. And, we provide updates on our work through West Central STREETS, the community newspaper. Last, but certainly not least, we continue to offer free snowshovelling and lawn mowing for those who are unable to do it themselves.

## Housing

### Infill Housing

In the past year we worked on five infills, including three R2000 two storey homes and two slabs on grade accessible, low-volatile-gas houses. Slab on grade means that the house is built on a surface pad without a basement. This allows a person in a wheelchair access to the whole house. The in floor heating system in these models makes for a very comfortable home. The low volatile gas feature is important since many new houses give off formaldehyde and other gases which can cause allergic reactions. This model has been designed to have very low off gassing. We are grateful for the support of all three levels of government through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative and the Assiniboine Credit Union.

### House Moving

This year we worked with the University of Winnipeg, Housing Opportunities Partnership, and Westminster Housing to move four homes which would have otherwise been demolished. One went to Victor Street, one went to West Broadway, and the other two stayed in Spence on Furby and Balmoral streets. Having moved to Canada only two years ago, and having never owned their own home, one family shared their pride at being able to purchase one of these homes. We are grateful for the support of Jubilee Fund and the Assiniboine Credit Union.

### Housing Incentive Grants

For nearly ten years Spence Neighbourhood has been able to offer housing incentive grants to community homeowners and landlords with funding supplied by Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative. In 2008, fifty grants were approved varying from the \$700 curb appeal grant to \$2500 matching grants. Through this program, \$72,200 in grant funds has stimulated community members to spend an additional \$95,600, for a total of \$168,000 being invested in properties in our community.

### Housing Training Initiatives (HTI)

HTI offers hands-on workshops, an email, walk-in and telephone answer service, face-to-face home diagnostic visits, and home maintenance resource

Learning with the Housing Training Initiative





libraries in several communities. The HTI Coordinator arranges workshops which may include anything from financial training and mortgages to how to fix a toilet or put siding on a house.

Fifteen workshops were held in the first six months of 2008 with 257 participants. HTI has a strong steering committee made up of representatives from four Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations and serves eleven communities.

HTI is seeking sustainable funding to carry on this valuable program.

### **Manitoba Hydro Energy Efficiency program for Lower Income Homeowners**

SNA is promoting this program in our community which includes a free in-home energy audit, insulation upgrades and possible furnace upgrades. We are privileged to work with Warm Up Winnipeg - BUILD Inc. program which is training community people to do the work of the program.

### **Rental Safety Program (RSP)**

This program builds on the success of the previous Home Safety Program which offered free, basic home safety improvements for local residents. As Rental Safety Coordinator, Pat Macklem continues to offer basic physical safety improvements to apartments with an increased focus on building landlord and tenant co-operation for the rental units in the neighbourhood. The goal of the project is to help people stay in their homes and in the neighbourhood by improving rental suites and supporting tenants who need help.

Pat Macklem:



Workers with the Build Program

*"Home visits are an essential part of the program. In addition to the home safety audits which are performed as a part to the home visits, the SNA staff member can also witness repairs that need to be done, infestations that need to be reported and support tenants who are having trouble. Lots of people in the neighbourhood are having trouble with Bed Bugs. There are also lots of people who live with mice, holes in the floor, broken windows etc... In*

*many cases tenants who are on social assistance and whose rental units are in poor condition are hesitant to complain. There is a fear of eviction, with no reasonable hope of finding new accommodation."*

*"People have heard about the rental program from other agencies in the neighbourhood and they often stop by for help finding new places to live. Because of the*

*low vacancy rates it is very hard for people to find good place to live affordably these days. Happily, we have just hired a new staff member, Almera Oduca to help people find places to live."*

In the case of an insecure door or windows the rental safety co-ordinator will sometimes offer to install approved security devices. The security devices often provide an immediately improved sense of comfort and security in the home.

To date there have been 96 security hardware installations:

Security plates:	7
Swing Bar Lock:	18
Peephole	31
Deadbolts:	40
Total:	96

Many clients' homes are visited multiple times to address ongoing security concerns and provide support.

As a part of engaging all stakeholders we are also working with landlords and caretakers. In the late fall of this year, we hosted a pilot caretaker training course. There were eight participating caretakers from the neighbourhood who came to learn more about working with tenants with mental health issues and rights and responsibilities according to the Residential Tenancies Branch. The caretaker training course project is being developed in partnership with the University of Winnipeg and the Institute of Urban Studies.

At the request of local landlords and in partnership with the Assiniboine Community College, we have facilitated a Pesticide Applicator Dispenser course. This will allow landlords and property managers to reduce the inevitable costs of Bed Bug infestations.

### **Future Housing Developments**

\*Research with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has shown that more work has to be done to improve, protect and provide more housing for lower income families and singles (see the State of the Inner City Report, 2008). We are exploring a Property Management Company as one way to slow displacement in and from Spence neighbourhood.

\*The Rental registry will be an online database of available rental housing in Winnipeg. SNA is supporting its development to better support people looking for safe, affordable housing.

\*Due to the changing market, it is becoming more difficult to do infill work. As this work slows, we will shift our focus towards replacing vacant substandard housing.

\*With a focus on improving safety and liveability in rooming houses and duplexes while mitigating rent increases, we will be working on supporting landlords in accessing grants for improvements.

## **Community Economic Development**

### **Community Research Hub**

The Community Research Hub (CRH) trains and employs local residents to offer data collection services to local organizations and researchers. The eight member workers are now taking steps towards forming a member-run social enterprise.

#### **Training:**

New members attend training sessions in the classroom and in the field. They learn to conduct phone and in person surveys, interviews, and focus group facilitations. After that, they are offered experience in activities related to the social enterprise itself such as business management, marketing and business administration. Hard skill development is complemented by team building activities like learning circles, group dynamics and wellness workshops.

#### **Highlights:**

During the last year, we experienced the fortunate problem of demand beyond our research skill base. Two of these contracts helped us widen the services that we provide by allowing us to learn as we did the work. This reassured us of our ability to accept future customized contracts with success. In one case we helped implement a mystery shopper method with one of our members posing as a shopper. In another, we did a cost analysis where members had to find prices of used furniture and implement a database with this information.

We also received a contract with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives to organize and facilitate six focus groups, 20 in-person interviews and 20 phone surveys for their research on Housing in Spence.

For the first three months of 2009 we are planning a community food assessment with the Manitoba Food Charter which will include a number of focus group facilitations, surveys, and interviews with local organizations. We will also continue with regular training and team building activities, as well as marketing our services.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Jobs 4 Youth

First Jobs for Youth offers training and employment opportunities for youth, ages 16 to 19, every summer working with the organisation. This hands-on job experience prepares youth for Fall/Winter job placements with local businesses and other organisations following the summer program. Youth participants learn Workplace Safety and Health, Workplace Etiquette, Community Development, C.P.R./First Aid, Guidance on Opening a Bank Account, Childminding Training and receive Job Coaching Workshops. Assistance is available for all youth in the community in the areas of resume writing, job searching, interview skills, personal identification documents, and more.

This year our program made history with a 100% graduation rate for all eight participants. Over the next year, we will be adding a greater focus on Aboriginal cultural programming in addition to our strong core work preparation training.

“1<sup>st</sup> Jobs 4 Youth helps youth recognize how to behave in the professional world.” – Megan Letander

“I would recommend 1<sup>st</sup> Jobs 4 Youth, it's a great start. I know no one would hire me without the program. I had no work experience at all before 1<sup>st</sup> Jobs 4 Youth. Now I am working full time this summer at the NEEDS Centre and I have been offered part time work with them this fall while I am in school.” – Mastooreh Naseri

“I recommend 1<sup>st</sup> Jobs 4 Youth because I have gained the skills of gardening, had fun and I want other young people to have fun in the future.” – Solomon Negash

## Skills Bank

The Skills Bank matches workers from our community with jobs or training opportunities in the West Central Area. Since opening our doors to the public in 2004, over 400 odd jobs have been filled with reliable skilled workers. Skills Bank members are provided with their

own business cards, resume service and flyer advertisements to promote their skills. The benefits of hiring from the Skills Bank range from: access to a variety of skilled people to complete work at more affordable prices, access to part-time services like carpentry and reception, and access to small tool rentals.

The Skills Bank opened the Tool Lending Library this past summer for Skills Bank members and the general public, in part so that workers would gain access to more jobs with the tools they need. The Tool Lending Library offers members and local residents' access to the tools they need to get the job done. Annual memberships are \$25.00 or members can work off the fee in sweat equity. This program provides tools at your fingertips in your neighbourhood. Although most of the tools are not specialized, people are invited to request tools to be added to the inventory. Over the summer, the library helped over twelve Skills Bank members and residents complete summer lawn care work with the use of lawn mowers and weed trimmers.



Equipment at the Tool Lending Library

“Aside from the fact that an individual can find occasional casual work through the Skills Bank, for me personally, I have found that it is also a great way to network future labour possibilities, as well as find resources to assist me in creating my own job market. The staff support has been ongoing and it's a great part of why I look forward to doing more with the Skills Bank.” -Bear, Skills Bank Member

“I am pleased to pay tribute to the community services

agency "Skills Bank" for all the help and support given me since I moved into the Spence Neighbourhood. Especially valuable were the timely and well delivered gardening services I required last summer. I enjoy dropping in to say hello to the friendly people in your office as I always feel welcome. I wish you well as you continue to provide these valuable services to the residents in this area which bring people together to form community".

Hilda Toews, Employer

One important thing I would like to work toward in the next year is promotion through the extension of a personal invitation to all business, local organizations and institutions to utilize our Skills Bank members.

Leslie Kwok  
Skills Bank Coordinator

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## SAFETY

The Safety Coordinator works with residents to find both proactive and responsive solutions to safety concerns. With a focus on bringing people together, the Safety Coordinator builds relationships between residents, with the police, the community prosecutor and various safety programs and services to provide information and opportunities for collective problem solving.

Working as a liaison between community members and safety programming a number of residents were connected with both the Winnipeg Police Service and the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act. By encouraging and facilitating individual efforts to record and report criminal behaviour we saw a direct impact on safety conditions in at least half a dozen neighbourhood streets and buildings. Beyond the prosecution and interruption of criminal activity, this process empowered community members to work for safer streets and improved local perceptions of safety by proving that action brings results.

"Support collective problem solving, we will encourage

greater involvement and interaction in the next year. From block safety meetings to street parties and safety audit events I'm looking forward to encouraging residents in Spence to get to know one another, both to improve perceptions of safety and to solve problems collectively."

-Greg MacPherson  
Safety Coordinator

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## Youth Outreach

The West Central Youth Outreach Project started in spring 2008, and supports area youth who are disconnected from positive supports and want to make changes in their lives. By building positive relationships with youth, advocating on their behalf and helping to connect them and their families to appropriate resources, the Youth Outreach Team works hard to make sure youth do not fall through the



cracks. Over the past year the outreach workers have been in contact with over 100 youth and are working intensely with 15 youth and their families.

Some successes include: connecting youth to a high level boxing program, facilitating restorative justice at a local Recreation centre, advocating to get youth



back in school and providing a trusting environment where youth feel more comfortable talking about their problems.

The Youth Outreach Team provides street outreach within the Spence, Daniel McIntyre and St. Matthews areas. Through outreach, the team connects with area youth by biking and walking around the neighbourhood, distributing weekly "What's going on" activity flyers, and providing a safe, positive presence.

We partnered on this project with Daniel McIntyre St. Matthews Community Association, and the West Central Women's Resource Centre with input from numerous partner organizations.

each day with a healthy meal and we offer a Safe Walk from school and home, using our new van to allow children who live further away from the centre to regularly attend even in the winter. We offer art, sports, cooking, weekly outings, bring in instructors to share specialized skills and engage the children in the greater community through partnerships with local organizations. We consistently bring 35-40 participants to our programming with new families registering every month.

Some highlights from this year:

- We enjoyed the plays "*Fantastic Mr. Fox*" & "*Mayhem Poets*" with the support of Manitoba Theatre for Young People in January.

- We learned about the strong francophone and Métis culture in Winnipeg at the Festival du Voyageur

- Spring Break was action packed with outings to the Pan Am pool, Family Day at Manitoba Theatre Centre, the Manitoba Children's Museum and the Festival of Fools at the Forks

## Building Belonging

Building Belonging provides free after school programming for children between the ages of six and twelve. We offer a safe, friendly, and positive environment for kids, while creating connections with the community through the outings and outreach we do within Spence neighbourhood. Whether taking field trips to local establishments or parks, planting vegetables in our Kids Garden, taking photos, participating in local cultural events or just playing games together outside, the children can see what a vibrant neighbourhood they live in, while they develop a sense of ownership, belonging and pride.

The Building Belonging program now runs five days a week, Monday-Friday from 3:30-6:00 pm at Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre. The program starts off



- At Ellice Street Festival we ran carnival games and a prize table.

- The launch of our Skate Board Club brought donations of skate boards, outings to local parks and winter indoor skating with the support of The Edge.

- Homework Club, specialized sports camps and the creation of a youth volunteer program involved youth in new empowering ways throughout the summer.

- At Camp Manitou, we tried canoeing, mountain biking, zip-lining, wall-climbing and a ropes course, thanks to the Coalition of Community Based Youth Serving Agencies. Later we participated on larger summer outings supported by the local Lions Club.

- The SPIN City of Winnipeg soccer program helped us organize a recreational league with local youth



centres.

- Our Kids Garden was planted, cared for and harvested by our participants with the help of the First Jobs for Youth and Greening staff.

- CKUW radio camps over the summer months taught participants about media production.

- Freestyle, a celebration of urban culture put on by the University of Winnipeg Students' Association in October brought a week of workshops in dj-ing, rapping, b-boy dancing, basketball, and skateboarding.

- We hosted an African drumming workshop with the West End Cultural Centre

- Our annual Halloween and Christmas parties brought families together, sharing a meal, trick-or treating, crafts, and a visit from Santa.

- Family outing to Winnipeg International Children's Festival and Boo @ the Zoo had record numbers of volunteering and parents joining us for the fun!

For kids who sometimes experience transience because of circumstances beyond their control, we can function as a constant, where their contributions and experiences are recognized and honoured. We can become a safe and comfortable space needed in their lives. In the next year we will work to increase the participation of families in our programming and our engagement with the community to bring more to our children who deserve much and enrich our neighbourhood.



## Youth Program

Youth Program operates five days a week providing free programming for youth ages 13-18. We provide a dinner each night, the use of computers and Internet, gym and entertainment facilities and one to two outings a week. The Youth Program supports the healthy development of teenagers in our

neighbourhood and has enjoyed strong participation since its inception in September 2007. The options that we provide empower youth to recognise and make positive choices in their lives.

Our attendance ranges between 25 to 30 youth a night. Throughout the year we held numerous larger events that increased attendance. Our 3 on 3 Basketball tournament brought in

over 120 in one night. The larger events that we ran included organizations that cater to refugee and newcomer youth and other local organizations that work with youth in neighbouring communities. The growing interest of youth constantly participating in programming and their feedback is shaping our approach to the types of activities offered. Indeed, youth are making their own decisions about what programming is offered, and are now participating in fundraising and volunteer activities.

*"The highlights from the past year are endless. From dancing in the street while trying to sell baked goods to break dancing battles between staff and youth, this year is flooded with countless memories. It is very difficult for me to try to summarize the growth that I have seen as different relationships have evolved throughout the year. Youth that were once leading others to sabotage programming have now become the leaders of fitness training for example. These are kids who I am certain are the glue that keeps their families together. In the martial arts training we offer,*

*for example, participants work at refining their skills, finding the strength that it will take for them to become masters at their art. Through this they are learning focus, discipline and long term reward. Unless highly motivated, it is difficult to teach youth the benefits of such skills. Excitedly I am watching these youth grow stronger, pay more attention to nutrition, fitness, health and to one another. If youth do not have discipline or encouragement from parents or strong role models they are vulnerable to falling into self-destructive cycles and they often try to find short term solutions to their problems using whatever resources they have available to them. Unfortunately for youth that crave stability, power and security and want it as quickly as possible, joining a gang can be an easy solution that can devastate many members of a community. By meeting the needs and finding out the interests of youth in our community we keep them coming back. The kids that I work with are a support network both for each other and for the younger generations that follow. They are aware of the dangers in their neighbourhood, they are constantly watching, constantly learning and they are continuously helping one another out. Although it would seem logical that they would operate to fend for themselves, my heart is constantly warmed to witness the unity that this group has formed.*

*One of the most exciting events held at the MERC this year was the Youth Halloween Dance. We hired one of Winnipeg's top D.J.'s and had the Dangerous Goods Break dancing Crew put on a performance. Youth set up decorations, handed out candy and gave away prizes for those that had the best costumes. The ambience was spooky and filled with constant laughter."*

*-Robyn Stanwick, Youth Coordinator*

In the next year, we would like to increase participation by working to increase our staff complement to include a second Youth Program Coordinator and increasing the level of youth participation in program planning. Increasing our administrative capacity will help us advertise our program, recruit participants, and maintain a high level of quality in our programming.

## Youth Fathering Group

The Youth Fathering Group is run twice a year as a ten session program run by Glenn Schroeder at Job Works on Ellice. Participants have an opportunity to reflect and explore the role of parenting together. They talk about the parenting examples they have had in their own lives, social pressures, and the choices they can make as an important presence in their family's life.

This year, activities like sports and outings were added to increase the groups connections with one another and increase connections with the wider community. We were very proud to participate in the program graduation party at Juliana's Restaurant in December. Congratulations, dads!

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## Basketball

The basketball program provides access for over 120 kids to play and learn the game of basketball in the Winnipeg Minor Basketball Association. We provide safe door-to-door transportation, equipment, gym space, 20 skilled and caring volunteer coaches and another six volunteer drivers to overcome the social and economic barriers that deny inner city youth the chance to play and learn an organized team sport. During the week our ten teams, two of which are run in partnership with Boys and Girls Club of Winnipeg, practice at the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre and in local school gymnasiums.

Every weekend from October until mid-March, these teams play games throughout the city. At SNA, basketball is a teaching tool; we teach kids to strive for excellence, to listen and think critically under pressure, to feel proud of personal bests, to develop individual strengths and to overcome personal weaknesses to work together for the good of the community as a whole. We offer a sense of belonging and self-esteem that offers a positive alternatives by

providing structure, positive role models and a fun environment within which to learn valuable life lessons.

From October to mid-March we have over 100 inner city youth playing an organized team sport. This became possible thanks to a one-time private grant from the True Sport Foundation which allowed us to offer what is, so far as I know, the largest full-service



community based sports program in the city and the only organized sports teams in the Spence Neighbourhood. This was aided by generous donations by The University of Winnipeg, who purchased college-quality uniforms for all of our teams, and Dollar Thrifty Rent-a-Car who generously donated mini-vans for every weekend during the season to help kids get to games. These contributions combined with the hours of time contributed every week by our more than 25 volunteers, made our basketball season possible. This possibility grew into the reality of ten teams of inner city boys and girls, the vast majority of which are from new Canadian, First Nations and Métis backgrounds to come together, across the divisiveness of gang turf lines, to develop into some of the most exciting teams to watch in the Winnipeg Minor Basketball Association.

For many participants this is the first and only opportunity that they've had to play organized team sport. Their level of energy and excitement is amazing! While starting in a league where other players have been playing for years can be daunting,

our participants have worked hard and developed quickly to catch up with many more experienced teams. Their enthusiasm for sport spills over into more involvement in other programs in the community, contributes to higher self-esteem and stronger social skills. We have seen this demonstrated in the respect players show to their teammates, coaches, opponents and the community as a whole; helping each other improve, listening to adults giving them guidance, helping to take care of equipment and uniforms and volunteering in our other community centre programs.

Over the next year, we look forward to stabilising and increasing funding for basketball and other sport programs at SNA .

*"I started out so sucky at basketball, now I'm really good. I love playing basketball! I'm going to play at Gordon Bell next year." - age 13*

*"When I play basketball I feel... like so good. I like going in the van (to play) in different places. I make lots of new friends at basketball. When I grow up I want to play for the Wesmen (University of Winnipeg Team)." - age 11*

*"My friends play on my basketball team. We get to play with all girls and so I get to shoot more. My coach, Caiti, is cool!" - age 11*

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## Literacy and Education

SNA Youth Programming also expanded over the past year into increased focus on literacy and educational support. The Homework Club ran successfully throughout the year, offering regular after school support for help with homework, and a quiet place to read and study. Homework Club also offered additional activities for youth to explore learning possibilities, especially through the summertime.

Three Stars and A Wish Literacy Program offered support for family literacy through story telling. Participant families came from Sister MacNamara School. Parents agreed to share a story with their child, which the child transcribed with the help of a mentor from the University of Winnipeg Education



Program. Parents also offered a wish for their child for the future. The stories and wishes were compiled, published, and presented by the children at a 'book launch' in the Spring. What a success! We look forward to carrying on this work in the coming year.

## IMAGE GREENING

The SNA Image/Greening Department works to improve community spaces by beautifying, planning, caring for and creating community connections as well as sourcing the required resources, building community pride, and seeking ways to make positive changes that represent

our diverse neighbourhood. We work primarily from the SNA 5-Year Green Plan that was written and created by community with recommendations from the Image Committee. We have begun preliminary work to update and renew the Five Year Green Plan. This work will continue over the next year.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008

**Spence Green Map Launch-** the Green Map is the first online and physical community level map of important neighbourhood activities, organizations and sites in Spence and was compiled through consultations over the recent past with residents of all ages in Spence. The Green Map lists all the green spaces, child friendly sites and other community

determined hot spots! Copies of the map are displayed on the exterior of 615 Ellice and at 430 Langside as well as on our website. The Green Map makes a great teaching tool, and we will be using it especially in our work with youth.

**Spring Clean Up-** This annual event invites the community to celebrate spring with a big clean up and BBQ. This year was the best ever; over 150 people came to participate, and DJ RAHDIL helped host the party.

**Furby Park** –Renovations in 2008 included a new play structure, new community flower gardens, trees,

new pathways, more seating and the installation of the Spence Community Compass.

The Spence Community Compass is a public art project representing the 200+community residents who told us "where they are from", by listing their home away from Spence and the distance and direction. The in ground concrete compass is lined

with sage, prairie grasses, and tile mosaics designed by the kids. This project was created over three years with the help of youth staff, 250+ local volunteers, artist Leah Decter, the SNA working group and the Winnipeg Arts Council With Art public art program.

**Community Workshops** over the past year included DIY rain water barrels, Basic Gardening, Compost Bin building and more.

**First Jobs for Youth Placements-** Five local youth earned work experience in the tot-lots, green spaces, and community gardens. They painted new garden signs, helped with community events and generally had a good time taking care of business in Spence while learning some new skills and staying out of



trouble!

**Community Gardens-** We continue to support seven great looking community gardens and community composting sites. We help to facilitate increased community involvement in the gardens providing access to resources like the SNA "Tool Library" and related workshops.

**Tree Banding-** For the first time in Spence we set out to create a community wide effort to protect our local treasures, the big trees lining the streets here. Through the work of volunteers, local youth workers, and with the support of donations, we banded close to 800 trees!

**Art in the Foyer-** Three local artists showcased their work in the lobby of our storefront office at 615 Ellice in 2008.

**Growing Green Kids** is an annual fall-time after school outdoor education and gardening program. Two youth staff work with nearly one hundred kids over the season learning how plants grow, playing outdoor games and growing produce in the SNA Kids Garden. Many kids tried fresh peas, carrots and lettuce for the first time, made crafts and went on exciting field trips, like the one to Fort Whyte Centre.

**Community Greenhouse Pilot-** Over the past year, we began the work of preparing to launch a Community Greenhouse. This involved selecting a site at 691 Maryland, (a partially abandoned parking lot), as well as preliminary planning work and site design. SNA staff facilitated community workshops, outreach, and fundraising and surveyed community members living close to the site to get their input on how the site should be used. One highlight of this year was the pipe ceremony blessing of site that took place in August. We are looking forward to the ongoing greening of

this lot over the next few years.

**Composting for Community** is a new initiative this year that serves local businesses by composting their organic kitchen waste in community garden sites, enriches the soil at our local community gardens for food and flowers, and provides education through community composting workshops. Between May and October, we diverted 1800 kg (4000 lbs) of waste from the landfill to our compost bins, and our program is going strong. We

have been able to reduce waste to landfill by 25% for our business partners. Composting locally prevents greenhouse gases created through transportation and improper decomposition of organics in landfill. We plan to offer our service to six

additional businesses this spring, and support community composters with new bins and more hands-on workshops! Leaf drop off sites provided by the program at the community gardens were well used this year, and will be incorporated into the compost over the coming season.

Over the past year, Greening work has earned some great publicity- Winnipeg Free Press, CBC Radio, STREETS, Uniter and other media outlets.

"The Community Garden helps me to stay busy and gives me a chance to grow veggies and flowers -I never thought it would be possible in the middle of the City"

*-Community Gardener-Young Street*







## **Board as approved at the 2008 AGM**

President: Gerry Berard  
Vice President: Lynne Backlund  
Secretary: Sue McKenzie  
Treasurer: Bree Ana Wiebe  
Area 1: Sue McKenzie  
Area 2: Lynne Backlund  
Area 3: Carolyn Minor  
Area 4: Mike Backlund  
Area 5: Gerry Berard  
Area 6: Vacant  
Area 7: Anthony Hidson  
Area 8: Daniele Davis

**Jesse Gair**  
Youth Outreach Program Coordinator  
**Sam Medd, Tito Daodu**  
Youth Outreach Workers  
**Nick Tanchuk**  
Sport Coordinator  
**Leslie Kwok**  
First Jobs for Youth/Skills Bank  
**Courtney Sinclair**  
Skills Bank  
**Tana Hendren**  
Community Economic Development  
**Greg MacPherson**  
Safety Coordinator  
**Pat Macklem**  
Rental Safety  
**Elmera Oduca**  
Rental Outreach Worker  
**Karen Giesbrecht**  
Home Resource Coordinator  
**Don Miedema**  
Housing Coordinator  
**Kathryn MacKenzie**  
Image Greening Coordinator  
**Cory Peters**  
Gardens Coordinator  
**Sandra Smith**  
Spence Green Kids Coordinator  
**Tamara Weller**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
**Kate Dykman**  
Composting for Community Coordinator  
**Millie Richard DaCosta, Stephanie Walker**  
Greenhouse Coordinators  
**Sandra Leone, Virginia Hunter**  
Community Research HUB



## **Staff at SNA 2007—2008**

**Kate Sjoberg**  
Executive Director  
**Robin Falk**  
Financial Officer  
**Laurene Enns**  
Office Administration Assistant  
**Carol Moar, Sharon Roberts**  
Community Liaison  
**Paula Keirstead**  
Block Captain Coordinator  
**Jamil Mahmood, Robyn Stanwick**  
Youth Program  
**Allison Besel, Megan Rutzki, Jess Singer,**  
**Maggie Henderson**  
Building Belonging  
**Sara Atnikov**  
Summer Education Coordinator