

Green Healthy and Sustainable Communities for All

Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc. Annual Report 2017 (April 2016- March 2017)

Board of Directors

President
Michelle Meade

Past President
Murray Gibson

Vice President
Derick Young

Treasurer
Brian Born

Secretary
Debbie Svaling

Directors at Large
Bruce Garner



Our special thanks to **24/7 Teen Stop Jeunesse** for providing meeting space and being great community partners!



BGG Trail Completion Oct. 2008

It was typical prairie with tall grasses and wildflowers bounded by two rivers bordered by river bottom trees. By 1918 the Winnipeg aqueduct was constructed 7 feet below ground surface, above ground was grassland that still sustained much of its native plant and animal life. In the 30's Manitoba Hydro obtained the right of way for power transmission lines for hydro corridor. Finally in 1978 land adjacent to the corridor was bulldozed and what was left of the grasslands was replaced by a major roadway .

Today the reclaimed land that runs parallel to Bishop Grandin Boulevard hosts an east-west active transportation route as well as 5 km of linear green space, recreation gardens, Monarch Way Station, and 3 retention ponds. Vision and sweat equity by community volunteers created a green haven out of a Hydro right of way and roadway dumpsite, and that vision and sweat equity will guide our future.

Our motto “for the community, by the community” certainly rang true this year as both St. Vital Agriculture Society and Girl Guides of Canada brought forward plans to further enhance the Greenway with the development of allotment garden plots and tree planting, both slated for summer 2017. It is exciting to see the Community share in the vision to enhance this green space, and through their volunteer efforts create new

experiences and visual points of interest along the way.

Preservation is one of BGG’s objectives, so with the aid of City Naturalists, areas have been identified for renaturalization. These designated ‘No Mow’ zones encourage wildlife habitat. However, in the recent years BGG supporters have raised issue with the zealous over-mowing by contract companies. Forwarding our concerns, City Naturalists have taken back that responsibility of mowing to ensure the protection of these now mow zones

This past year wasn’t without its challenges. Much planning and consultation has gone into the development of Bittersweet Way – a project to fulfil our vision to honour the natural and historical heritage of St. Vital – leading to a successful application for seed funding through the Community Incentives Fund. Our excitement was damped by new funding provisions that made it difficult for the Board to use the grant money.

With patient renegotiations by our longstanding Board Member, Murray Gibson, we are again hopeful that the funding will be available to start some work on Bittersweet Way in 2017-2018. It’s a first step, but to truly see our vision of Bittersweet Way come to fruition more work still needs to be done to raise the dollars required to see the project through.

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We also lost 2 key board members: Richard Kish, our treasurer, and Kerry Taschuk, Director at large. This development prompted an effort to renew the board. We were happy to welcome our new treasurer Brian Born, and thank Kerry and Richard for their service.

As in previous years, we hosted our annual community clean-up day and had over 40 volunteers pick 95 bags of garbage off the Greenway. It's heartening to see that more and more groups volunteer at other times to help keep the Greenway clean.

A generous donation from the Bluebird fund allowed us to plan a fall planting of trees and shrubs to add visual interest and habitat for birds. Those plans had to be delayed to fall 2017 for various reasons, but we look forward to further enhancing the Greenway.

Once again, we had a successful garden year. All of our garden boxes and ground beds were assigned, and we had the pleasure of welcoming returning gardeners and some new faces as well. It is gratifying to see how much of an impact the gardens have on the surrounding community. We have received many comments of how much people enjoy working in them, and also how much people enjoy visiting them.

The gardens are located in a densely populated area. On any beautiful summer evening, you will notice that the gardens are a

natural gathering spot. You will find people of all generations working, watching and strolling through them.

Several of our gardeners attended our Annual General Meeting in June. It was valuable to receive feedback on their experience. It was noted that the soil in the garden beds could use some enhancement, and the garden boxes needed to be topped up with additional soil. We plan to approach the City of Winnipeg to see if they would be amenable to provide us with some compost next year.

The lilacs we planted several years ago are getting bigger. The cranberry and gooseberry shrubs are bearing fruit. During the peak planting season, the gardens hum with activity. As we approach fall, the plantings have reached full maturity. Vegetables are ready for harvest.

Flowers in full bloom attract bees and butterflies. If you are lucky, you may see a swallowtail butterfly flitting amongst the blossoms. It may have emerged from a cocoon hidden in a dill plant in one of the garden boxes. This is one of the many wonderful things you may experience on the Bishop Grandin Greenway.

There is always something interesting and beautiful to see in the gardens!

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Girl Guides of Canada tree planting, 2017

In closing I thank again our loyal Directors of our Board of Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc. and our volunteers who continue to devote their valuable time and talents to this important greenspace and community development initiative.

Statement of Revenue & Expenses 2016-2017

Revenues

Memberships	80.00
Bank Interest	3.13
Total Revenues	\$83.13

Expenses

Director's Insurance	300.00
Corp. Registration fee	25.00
Trailer Insurance	75.00
Office Costs	51.53
Total Expenses	\$451.53

Surplus/(Deficit) -\$368.40

BGG Cash Position

Cash April 1, 2016	\$8,424.00
Less Deficit	<u>- \$ 368.40</u>
Ending Mar 31, 2017	\$8,055.60

Each year BGGI partners with governments, corporations, schools, health organizations other not for profit entities. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and thank you for your interest in partnering with us.

If you are not yet a member of Bishop Grandin Greenway, now is the time. Please see our website as listed below for ways to become an active member of BGGI.

Web: bishopgrandingreenway.com

Facebook: "Friends of Bishop Grandin Greenway"

Email:
bishopgrandingreenway@gmail.com

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