

The City of Winnipeg

Records Committee

2009 Annual Report





Message from Jody Baltessen, Records Committee Chairperson

Qn behalf of the Records Committee, I am pleased to report on the City's Archives and Records Management programs for 2009.

Every day, Archives and Records Control Branch staff touch the lives of citizens and support fellow civic employees in their work. From researchers undertaking community history projects, to students learning about civic government, to civic employees engaged in departmental responsibilities, our response to requests for service, information or records is a vital part of Branch programming. As is the case in all areas of civic government, our ability to respond is affected by ongoing changes to the structure and operation of the City of Winnipeg, by changes in recordkeeping practices and the nature of records themselves, and by the changing expectations – driven by technology – of citizens and colleagues alike.

In keeping with this backdrop of change and evolving expectations, major Branch initiatives for 2009 were:

- research and discovery phase for a major revision to the Records Management By-Law (166/2003 and amendments)
- implementing new records centre management software
- care and control of core archival collections
- facility management and capacity building
- responding to research requests and to requests for recordkeeping advice.

Over the last eighteen months, the City has undergone significant organizational change, all of which affects the management of city records. In response to these changes, and in consultation with departmental partners, Branch staff began a major revision of the current by-law to realign recordkeeping responsibilities for functions that have moved from one department or branch to another. As well, dispositions for a number of record series are being reviewed and the format of the by-law is being revised to more closely reflect the structure of other City of Winnipeg by-laws. A new by-law will be tabled in 2010.

Following an information technology needs assessment conducted last year, Branch staff issued a request for proposals for software to track physical inventory and available storage space, and to administer the cost recovery process at the Corporate Records Centre. The first phase of our implementation of O'Neil Software Inc.'s records centre management software began in 2009. A second phase – which will enable client departments to order boxes and files, create new transfers and perform basic inventory functions remotely, via the City intranet – is planned for 2010.

Even as e-government takes hold across the City, the Archives has a significant backlog of traditional records that are not readily available for research use. While our focus is on preservation and the preparation of descriptive tools to improve access to our most requested holdings, we will begin developing a strategy to address the growing expectation of researchers to have easy online access to the City's archival collection.

Managing work flow and program delivery during construction/renovation is an ongoing challenge. In 2009, two major construction projects were completed at 380 William (foundation waterproofing and masonry repairs). Design and tendering for construction of an exterior ramp/interior lift to facilitate access to the building were also completed in 2009. Work on this project will begin in the spring of 2010, followed by reinstallation of the wrought iron fence removed from the grounds in the summer of 2009. Also in 2009, in partnership with Civic Accommodations, the Branch issued a request for proposals for a facility renewal and redevelopment strategy for 380 William. A final report with conceptual drawings and costing to ensure the best use of capital identified for 380 William is expected in the summer of 2010.

While 311 Ross did not undergo any major construction, the installation of new shelving and a security barrier around second floor records centre space was tendered and completed in the fall of 2009.



Message from Jody Baltessen, cont'd

With improvements to this area, Records Centre capacity has increased by 5500 boxes. In conjunction with increased capacity and the need for staff to be onsite on a daily basis, work spaces at 311 Ross were wired and connected to the City's intranet, thereby enabling staff to continuously monitor departmental record requests submitted by email and to properly manage data entry when pulling requests or receiving record transfers.

Along with this work, staff continue to engage with departmental partners on recordkeeping issues and with the public by providing tours, research orientations, presentations to university and college students like those in the Library Technician program at Red River College, and by responding to citizen requests for information.

Finally, as part of the City Clerks Department, staff were involved in the preparation and delivery of a councillor and school trustee by-election for River Heights/Fort Garry and Winnipeg School Division Ward One. As well, during the summer, staff worked with City Clerks' colleagues on a number of projects in anticipation of the 2010 Civic Election.

During 2009, the Records Committee met several times to review progress on archival and records management projects and to identify future initiatives for the Branch. On behalf of the Records Committee, I look forward to ongoing change, addressing emerging challenges and achieving objectives established for the coming year.



Archives and Records Management Staff (back row, l-r) Scott Reid, Martin Comeau, Evelyn West, Don Kroeker, Lynne Foster (front row, l-r) Jody Baltessen, Jeanne Gobeil. Not shown, Sallie Caufield.

About the Records Committee

In 1996, a review of City recordkeeping practices found that civic policies for the management, retention, safekeeping, disposition and destruction of records were inadequate. To assist City Departments with recordkeeping, and to ensure that valuable City records and artifacts were not inadvertently destroyed or lost, City Council requested an amendment to the City of Winnipeg Act.

On March 1, 1996, the Province of Manitoba proclaimed Subsection 80 of The City of Winnipeg Act, which directed that a Records Management Program be implemented. The Records Committee was established at the same time and placed under the leadership of the City Records Manager/Archivist, City Clerk's Department.

Role and Mandate

Under Section 110 of the Charter, the Records Committee has several responsibilities, notably:

- to implement policies and procedures approved by Council for the management, retention, safekeeping, disposition and destruction of records in all City departments;
- to report on the management and condition of records-keeping and information handling;
- to determine suitable retention and disposal authorities and procedures for all City records;
- to make recommendations to City Council;
- to submit an annual report to City Council.

cont'd on page 3



About the Records Committee, cont'd

Composition

The Records Committee is comprised of seven members, namely:

- the City Records Manager/Archivist (or designate) to serve as Chairperson
- the City Clerk (or designate)
- the City Treasurer (or designate)
- the City Auditor (or designate)
- the City Solicitor (or designate)
- two citizen members, appointed by City Council for a 2 year term.

Members (for the year 2009)

Winnipeg Public Service Representatives:

Jody Baltessen, City Records Manager/Archivist

Richard Kachur, City Clerk

Carrie Erickson, Manager, Corporate Finance and Administration (City Treasurer designate)

Donna Woytowich, Administrative Coordinator (City Auditor designate)

Harold Dick, Solicitor (City Solicitor designate).

Citizen Representatives:

Elizabeth Blight

Dr. Tom Nesmith

Acknowledgements

The Records Committee wishes to acknowledge the work and commitment of:

- The staff at the Archives and Records Control Branch for their ongoing effort and achievements in 2009
- Corporate Education for administrative support and resources for all training initiatives
- The St. Boniface Museum for ongoing use of display cases
- All City of Winnipeg Departmental Records Officers and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Coordinators for their participation in records management access to information and protection of privacy services
- Civic Accommodations staff for their assistance and ongoing support of the Corporate Records Centre at 311 Ross
- Planning, Property and Development staff for their work on major construction projects at both 311 Ross and 380 William.

Archives and Records Control Branch Staff (as at December 31, 2009)

City Records Manager/Archivist	Jody Baltessen
Senior Records Manager	Scott Reid
Records Manager	Don Kroeker
Senior Archivist	Vacant
Archivist	Martin Comeau
Clerk	Lynne Foster
Clerk	Evelyn West

Departmental Records Coordinators

City Clerk's	Scott Reid
City Clerk's	Don Kroeker
Winnipeg Police Service	Vacant
Planning, Property and Development	Pam Langstaff
Community Services	Maureen Purdy
Water and Waste	Alan Neyedly
Public Works	Vacant
Winnipeg Civic Employees' Benefits Board	Trinity Willetts



■ Highlights

Civic records are created, kept and managed in the public trust to protect the City's corporate and public memory. Records management and archives are key functions in civic government because they support the creation and maintenance of accurate, authentic and usable records for all citizens. Records contain information about decision-making, daily operations and service delivery.

Through records management and archival programs the City ensures that records required to meet legal and fiscal obligations and for historical research are available when and where they are required.

In keeping with these responsibilities, the Records Committee is pleased to report on the year's highlights.

January/February

- Red River College Library Technician class tours Archives
- "At Your Service" photographic exhibit installed in Council Building

March/April

- Archives hosts Red River College Library Technician student for practicum
- By-Election, River Heights/Fort Garry and Winnipeg School Division, Ward 1
- Records Committee meeting

May/June

- Partnership with AMA, Media at Risk (AV and film inventory project)
- Records Committee meeting

July/August

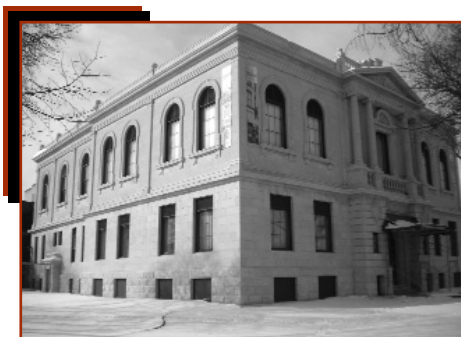
- 2 staff redeployed to Board of Revision to assist with appeals
- Redesign of Reception Area
- Training and implementation, O'Neil Inventory Control Software
- Appraisal of core archival collection for monetary value underway

September/October

- Exterior work to repair masonry underway, 380 William
- Installation of new shelving and security barrier, 311 Ross, 2nd floor

November/December

- HGAC project underway (architectural plans)
- RFP for Facility Renewal and Redevelopment Strategy issued, 380 William
- 3 mayors' portraits removed/returned for conservation treatment
- Archives' calendar published
- Records Committee meeting



380 William after cleaning



311 Ross, Security gate and new shelviry



YEAR IN REVIEW

Corporate Records Centre Program

Records Management staff completed a number of projects designed to streamline work processes and expand capacity at the Records Centre. Major projects included the wiring of work spaces at the Records Centre and connection to the City intranet, as well as the installation of new shelving on the second floor of 311 Ross. Connecting the Records Centre to the City intranet allows staff to accomplish administrative tasks at 311 Ross which in the past they could perform only at 380 William. With the purchase of laptops for the Records Centre, staff can remain connected while at 311 Ross and model best practices in terms of data handling and management. The installation of new shelving and a security barrier on the second floor increased Records Centre capacity by 5500 boxes, which enabled staff to schedule the return of 1200 boxes of city records stored in a local commercial records centre. These boxes will be integrated into the charge-back system, thereby offsetting operating costs for the program.

RM and Archival Training/Education

Each year, Records Management staff work as guest trainers with Corporate Education to develop and deliver specialized training to City staff. In 2009, 31 staff from various departments attended courses on file systems, basic records management, records management for leaders and FIPPA. Also this year, the Archives developed an introductory course on digital image management for staff that create and store digital image records. The course, which introduced important standards and best practices for managing digital assets, was attended by 6 staff from City departments.

Departmental Records Management Programs/Electronic Recordkeeping

Archives and Records Management staff continue to work with City departments to address recordkeeping issues. This year, staff consulted with colleagues in the new 311 program, the Winnipeg Parking Authority, City Clerks Department, Legal Services and the Winnipeg Police Service to ensure that records created or received by these important programs were accurately described in the By-Law and that recordkeeping issues in these areas were understood and supported.

In addition to basic records management, Branch staff are responding to an increasing number of questions regarding records created, communicated or maintained using electronic recordkeeping systems. Our response to the challenge of authentically preserving electronic records is to partner with departments making process changes and advise them of their recordkeeping responsibilities.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Services (FIPPA)

A total of 209 citizen requests under FIPPA were filed in 2009 (please refer to Service Statistics for details). The number of requests is down this year, and remains low in terms of volume when compared with the number of information requests completed by staff in City offices, departments and via web applications.

FIPPA training courses are offered to City staff through Corporate Education. In 2009, 15 employees attended these courses.



2009 Remembrance Day Exhibit. D. W. Steuart – on active service during World War One – worked for the City circa 1911-1945.



CHALLENGES AHEAD

Archives and Records Control Information Technology

Last year, Branch staff began to identify needs for software infrastructure to advance both records management and archives programs. For the Corporate Records Centre, purchase of records centre management software has enabled the development of new processes to improve service delivery and streamline program administration. For the archival program, the addition of a public access workstation to the Research Room will serve as an interim solution to improving access to the research collection.

Core Archival Collections

Among the challenges faced by the Archives are the physical condition and the level of intellectual control over core archival collections. Records created by the City belong to its citizens, and providing access to them is a vital service. Through the appraisal process, records with archival value are identified for permanent retention – regardless of media. These records cannot be made available to current and future generations if we do not invest in processing and preservation management.

Archival processing encompasses all of the steps required to open a record to the public – basic intellectual control; identification of privacy issues; content analysis and documentation about the context in which the record was created.

The Branch has a considerable backlog of records that require archival processing. To deal with this backlog and to make our holdings accessible to the public, we will continue to identify and develop partnerships and seek grant opportunities to support this important work.

Records brought under control this year:

- Mayors and Reeves Association of Greater Winnipeg (1961-1971)
- Giles Bugailiskis Rare Book Collection (circa 1890-2008)

Electronic Recordkeeping

While there remains a considerable backlog of unprocessed traditional records, the Branch also responds to questions relating to electronic records and electronic recordkeeping systems. The trend towards e-government has critical implications for the lifecycle management of records. On the one hand, our departmental colleagues require direction when making decisions about new technologies and business processes. On the other hand, information technology is dynamic and there is no predictable end to its evolution or to the characteristics of records created in this evolving environment. As the adoption of electronic systems accelerates, Branch staff will be challenged to keep pace with requests for advice regarding the integration of recordkeeping principles into the electronic environment, and with demands on space and resources to manage records created in City systems superseded by process change.

Facility Management

Given the age of the buildings that house both the Archives and the Corporate Records Centre, facility management is an ongoing issue. To design a strategic approach to this challenge, Branch staff worked with Civic Accommodations to draft a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Facility Renewal and Redevelopment Strategy for 380 William.

The RFP, issued in December, will result in a costed and prioritized plan to guide the design, construction and renovation of the building over a six year period, utilizing approved capital funds. Attention to the interior of 380 William is a much-anticipated next step to structural and access improvements undertaken over the last two years. An essential component of the study will be consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that redevelopment efforts and resources address both structural and program requirements.



PARTNERSHIPS

Heritage Grants Advisory Council

With a grant from the Heritage Grants Advisory Council (HGAC), the Archives hired contract archivist Carole Boily to arrange, rehouse and describe a collection of architectural plans for demolished buildings identified last year when plans were inventoried by Planning, Property and Development staff. The project will be completed in 2010.

Legal Services

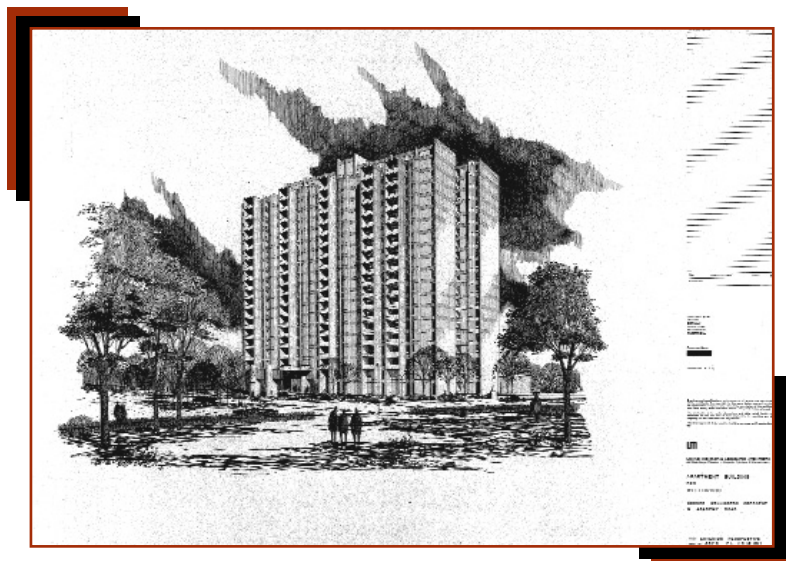
In collaboration with Legal Services, Archives and Records Control staff began work on an amendment to Records Management By-law 166/2003. During an extensive discovery process, it was determined that the By-Law was in need of a major revision to resolve two key issues:

- the By-law no longer reflected the City's corporate structure and organization;
- the format of the By-Law was out-of-date and did not allow for the documentation of changes to the City's corporate structure and organization and their effect on record keeping.

Now that the discovery process is complete, a new by-law will be drafted and tabled in 2010.

Water and Waste

In 2008, Archives staff piloted a Canadian Council of Archives' grant-funded project to digitize St. Boniface Council minutes for the years 1880-1924. Using experience gained from this project, staff worked with Water and Waste to design a solution to facilitate ongoing use of a significant operational/archival record. The record – which consists of approximately 100 hand drawn maps documenting the route of the Shoal Lake Aqueduct (dated 1913-1919) – was digitized according to standards established during the St. Boniface pilot project. The new digital version of this important record permits simultaneous use at multiple work stations, the ability to make hard copies as required, and prevents further damage to the original record.



Exterior Perspective. Apartment Building, Wellington Crescent and Academy Road. LM Architects. 1963.



PARTNERSHIPS cont'd

Historical Buildings Committee

With financial assistance from the Historical Building Committee, the Archives hired a consultant to coordinate an appraisal for monetary value of the core archival collection. The Current Fair Market Value of records examined during the appraisal is \$4.1 M. Given the tight timeframe for this project, the consultant did not examine records for all amalgamating municipalities. Thus the actual value of the collection is greater than stated in the project report.

Having consulted with appraisers elsewhere in Canada, the consultant noted that the City of Winnipeg has an exceptionally rich collection of records. Safeguarding the future of this valuable civic resource will be an important consideration for the architectural firm awarded the contract to develop a Building Renewal and Redevelopment Strategy for 380 William.

Association for Manitoba Archives (AMA)

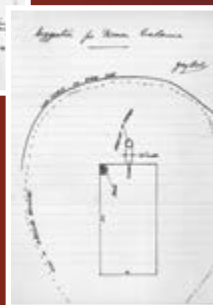
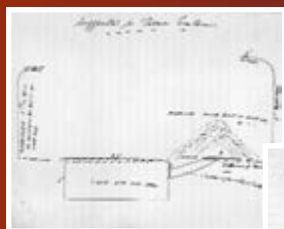
As a member of the AMA, the Archives is able to participate in a variety of AMA programs developed in consultation with member archives. In 2009, the Archives worked with the AMA on its Audiovisual Media at Risk Survey. The purpose of the survey is to determine the state of preservation and intellectual control over moving image and sound holdings in Manitoba archives. In responding to survey questions, Archives staff identified and assessed the condition of approximately 800 items in a variety of formats dating circa 1920 through to the present time – the Archives collection consists primarily of VHS tapes, but also includes 8 mm and 16 mm films. Information collected through the survey will be used to develop cooperative conservation and description projects to improve access to these important records.



Appraisal Singles out Significant Materials

In 1931, famous naturalist Grey Owl wrote three letters to Herbert Cottingham, chairman of the Parks Board, suggesting improvements to the beaver house in the Assiniboine Park Zoo. The letters were written after the publication of a newspaper article in which Grey Owl berated the zoo for the poor condition of the Park's beaver enclosure. As it happened, Grey Owl gave the interview before he visited the Park. When he finally did so, he discovered that the beaver were adequately housed and in good health.

In the letters to Cottingham, Grey Owl writes: "If they are to serve, for our pleasure, a term of life imprisonment, let us at least make their incarceration as cheerful as possible, thereby keeping them happy, and also providing the people of your city an opportunity of seeing a little of our national animal at his widely known but little observed activities. Thus, the requirements of both the people and the beaver coincide somewhat."





DONATIONS FROM FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES

Friends of the Archives are donors of items or collections of items related to the history of Winnipeg.

The Archives received 9 donations from individuals in 2009, including photographs, publications and memorabilia relating to various aspects of life in Winnipeg. Among this year's donations was a bound copy of a rare manuscript entitled *The Power of a City: A Story of City Hydro*. Attributed to E. S. Russenholt – a proponent of Grant's Old Mill and first president of the Historical Museum Association of St. James-Assiniboia - this 421 page volume documents the political and commercial struggles that resulted in the establishment of Winnipeg Hydro.

The Archives is grateful to all who donated materials in 2009. Tax receipts may be issued for some donations, depending on their value. For information regarding donations, please contact the Archives at 986-5325.



Winnipeg's First Water Distribution. Line Drawing. Greater Winnipeg Water District. Aqueduct Construction Scheme: What it is. What it means. 1918.



SERVICE STATISTICS

Service Statistics for 2009 reflect operational activities undertaken by the Branch this past year. Statistics are captured in a variety of reporting tools developed by staff to track service delivery levels for Branch programs. It should be noted that staff are at maximum capacity in most areas. For example, the number of Requests for Information/Research has remained essentially constant for the five year period 2005-2009. However, over this same time period, inquiries have become more complex and require staff to spend more

time with researchers to identify and explain a wider range of records. As a result, the Archives routinely carries a backlog of 40 to 50 incomplete requests for information and relies almost exclusively on grants to process records for inclusion in the research collection.

For the Corporate Records Management program, gains made through process improvements have allowed staff to dedicate more time to client departments working on critical projects to improve recordkeeping practices and compliance with the Records Management by-law.

RESEARCHER SERVICES, 2005-2009

YEAR	RESEARCH VISITS (IN PERSON)	REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/RESEARCH (VIA MAIL, E-MAIL AND TELEPHONE)	RECORD RETRIEVALS*	COPIES PREPARED**	ACQUISITIONS***
2005	841	675			
2006	1170	774			
2007	1270	661	1437	1020	16
2008	1298	705	1842	1460	114
2009	1195	686	1886	1469	4

* Prior to 2007, this figure included departmental requests for record retrievals as well as requests by researchers. Departmental record retrievals are now shown under Records Centre Services and the figure shown here reflects public use of the archival collection.

** Includes photocopies of records and prints of photographs and plans.

*** In cubic feet (9 donations).

OUTREACH SERVICES, 2005-2009

YEAR	PUBLICATIONS	ARCHIVAL EXHIBITS	LECTURES/SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS	ARCHIVES TOURS
2005	5	10	8	10
2006	2	3	4	11
2007	2	5	6	13
2008	2	2	7	9
2009	2	2	4	6



Records Centre Services, 2007-2009*

YEAR	TRANSFERS**	REGULAR RETRIEVALS	RUSH RETRIEVALS	REFILES	DESTRUCTION**	WITHDRAWALS**
2007	3315	813	84		633	261
2008	1357	1025	69	564	462	64
2009	687	996	51	408	310	0

* Statistics for services provided to City departments under the Corporate Records Centre Program that came into effect on January 1, 2007.

** In cubic feet.

FIPPA Services, 2005-2009 (Internal Statistics compiled by City Clerk's Department)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total Requests Processed*	228	288	177	213	202
Granted in Full	89	59	37	90	43
Granted in Part	95	125	88	69	80
Denied	40	21	28	29	32
Denied – Record does not Exist	48	22	19	13	20
Refused to Confirm or Deny Existence of a Record	1	0	1	2	4
Repetitive/Incomprehensible/Already Provided/Publicly Available	15	6	1	2	8
Pending				3	15
Appeals made under FIPPA	19	10	10	2	23
Appeals made under PHIA	0	0	0	0	0

* The City assigned tracking numbers to a total of 209 FIPPA requests in 2009, 7 of which were withdrawn.



FIPPA Requests by Departments, 2009

DEPARTMENT	NUMBER OF REQUESTS*
Assessment & Taxation	1
Audit	1
CAO Secretariat	2
City Clerk's	9
Community Services	9
Corporate Support Services	13
Fire Paramedic Service	36
Mayor's Office	0
Planning, Property and Development	9
Public Works	9
Transit	8
Water & Waste	14
Winnipeg Police Services	116

* The column total for Number of Requests – 227 - includes withdrawn and transferred requests and reflects the fact that some requests are sent to more than one Department.

FIPPA CONTACTS (as at December 31, 2009)

Assessment and Taxation - Mel Chambers

Audit - Donna Woytowich

CAO Secretariat - Janet Thomas

City Clerk's - Danielle Caron

Community Services - Kathy Knudsen

Corporate Services - David Laird

Fire Paramedic Services - Michelle Weimer

Mayor's Office - Brad Salyn

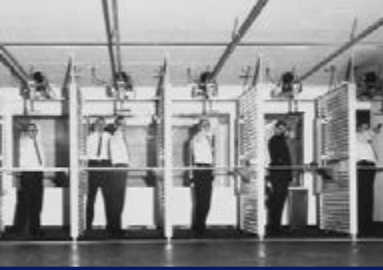
Planning, Property and Development - Pam Langstaff

Public Works - Brenda Jasper

Transit - Carrie Eriuckson

Water and Waste - Allan Neyedly

Winnipeg Police Service - Kim Carswell



At Your Service!

Installed in the lower level corridor of the Council Building, the exhibit “At Your Service!” pays tribute to City of Winnipeg workers. The exhibit features twenty-three black and white photographs – dated 1921 to 1981 – that capture the dedication and hard work of a wide range of municipal workers.

The exhibit was curated by the City of Winnipeg Archives, using photographs from the Archives’ collection as well as those held in City departments.



Relocating “Minto” at the Winnipeg Zoo. May 30, 1957. Photo Courtesy of the Community Services Department. Minto, the city zoo’s first Grizzly is anaesthetized before being relocated to newly completed bear range.



Inaugural Meeting of Unicity Council. January 4, 1972. Photo Courtesy of the City of Winnipeg Archives and Records Control Branch. City Clerks administering the first meeting of Unicity Council. His Worship Mayor Stephan Juba presiding over council.

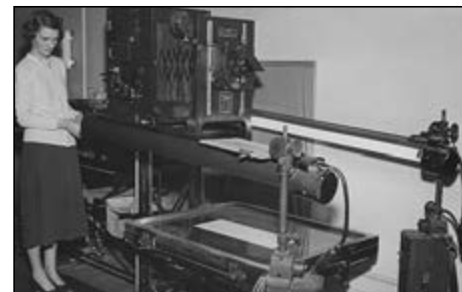


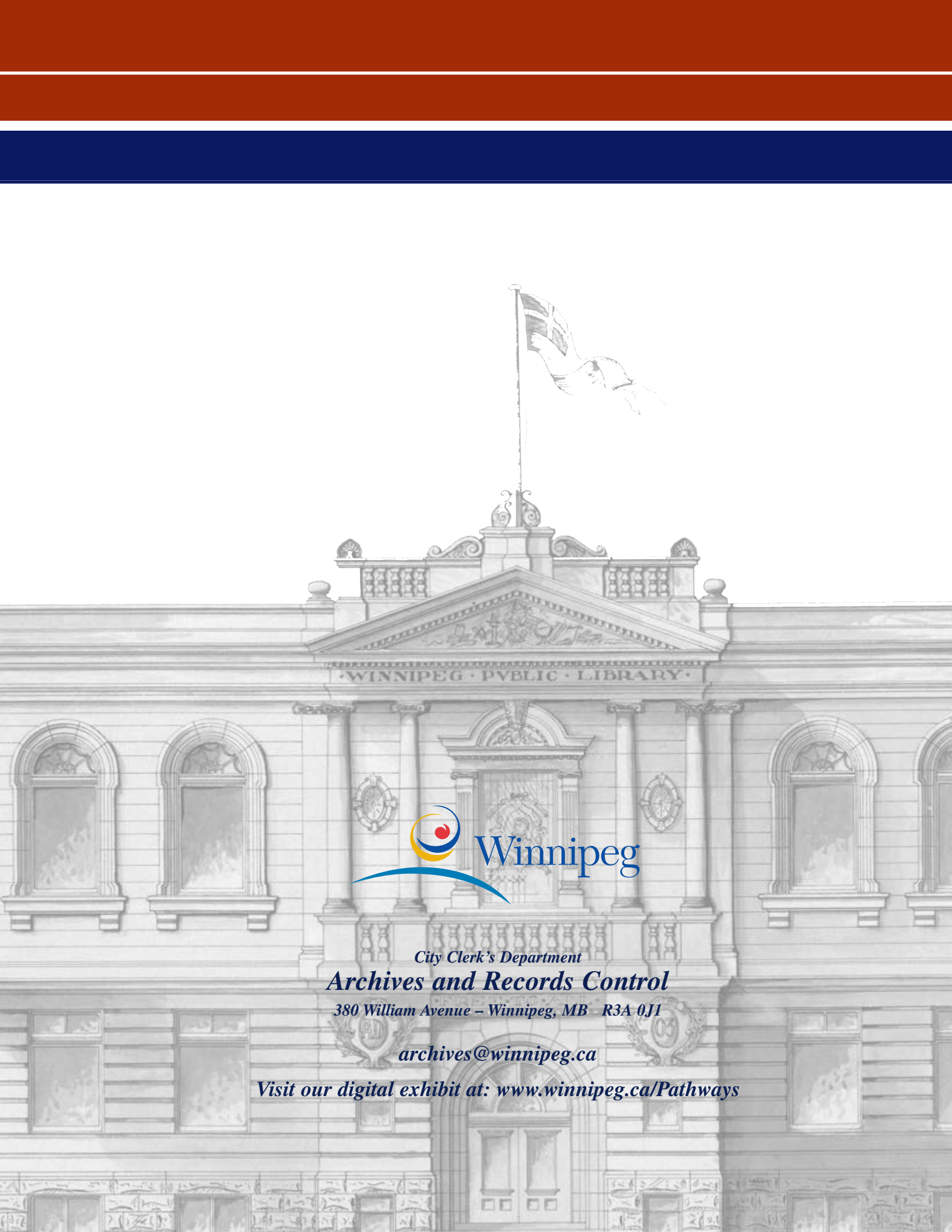
City Police Officers Patrolling Streets in Winter. March 1966. Photo Courtesy of the City of Winnipeg Police Museum. City of Winnipeg Police Officers wearing buffalo fur coats and hats and snowshoes to patrol Winnipeg streets in winter.



Photos from 2010

City of Winnipeg Archives Calendar





City Clerk's Department

Archives and Records Control

380 William Avenue – Winnipeg, MB R3A 0J1

archives@winnipeg.ca

Visit our digital exhibit at: www.winnipeg.ca/Pathways