

# Spence Neighbourhood Association

Annual Report  
2008-2009



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**Cover photo taken by Jesse Gair**

# starting off...

What can a grassroots run neighbourhood organisation accomplish in ten years? What indeed. Since our beginnings above the Soap Opera on Sargent Ave, we have pushed to meet a hefty mandate from the community to make this place a more inclusive place to live. The approach is surprisingly simple. Our work relies on the ideas and gifts of people and organisations here, and what we can do together.

Take a look through our report. You'll see our programmatic success and growth. You'll see the many volunteers, partners, supporters, funders and donors who allow this work to happen. You'll also see how we are preparing the organisation to support our work into the future; engaging in more board and staff training, developing stronger policy, and striking a Sustainability Committee of board and staff members to examine what changes we need to make to ensure our strength.

This is going to be important. Our community faces complex problems of intense poverty, violence, and displacement, which calls for more change than we can accomplish on our own. With a good, strong base, we will be better at bringing forward community led solutions.

In the mean time, we're proud that SNA continues to be a source of opportunity for individuals that want to grow in their lives; and a vehicle of positive change in the community.

Gerry Berard  
President

Kate Sjoberg  
Executive Director



*Hoop dancer  
at the Ellice  
Street Festival*

# starting off...

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 08/09

The SNA Board is made of up 12 representatives. This includes: Eight area directors from different geographic areas of the neighbourhood. Four director-at-large positions.

The board meets once a month to oversee the organization. This year, the board engaged in new training events with a three day orientation in February, individual access to Volunteer Manitoba workshops, and bringing in a bylaws consultant over the summer. These measures helped board members better understand, and make stronger use of their roles.

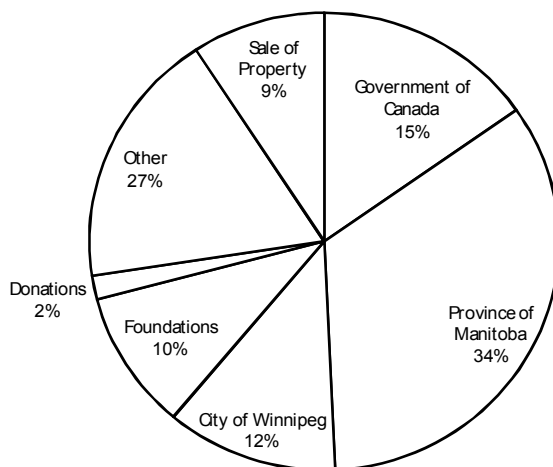
Gerry Berard (President)  
Sue McKenzie (Vice President)  
Lynn Sommerville (Treasurer)  
Susan Radstrom (Secretary)  
Anthony Hidson

Mike Backlund  
John Unger  
Sonia Bookman  
Angela Slater  
Anna Weier

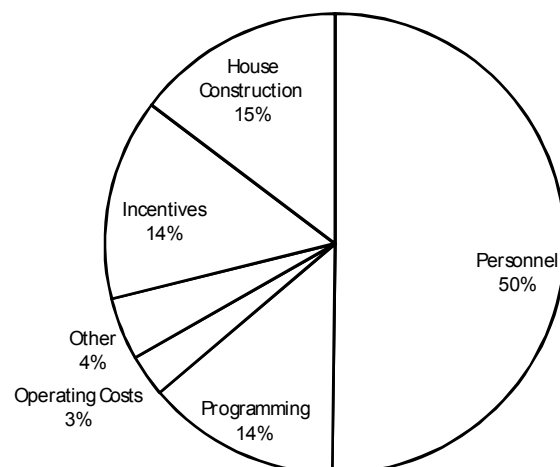
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## 08/09 breakdown of revenue sources and expenditures

revenue



expenditures



# starting off...

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS 08/09

The board is supported by the Rental Committee, Housing Committee, Green/Image Committee, Youth Committee, Community Economic Development Committee, and Safety Committee. These committees are made up of community residents, resourced by SNA staff members, and meet monthly to review programs, current issues, plan, and make recommendations to the board.

### IMAGE GREENING

Mavis Sanders  
Dalila Seckar  
Anna Weier  
Sue McKenzie

### CED

Angela Slater  
Sue MacKenzie  
Judith Harris  
Joan Hay  
Aynsley Hinds  
Bjorn Radstrom  
Hyeme Bae  
Matthew  
Konowalchuk

### YOUTH

Jocelyn Moise  
Dominic Landon  
Tomering Camara  
Jenelle Sammurtok  
Isadore Sammurtok  
Jamie Sanderson  
Tiana Oigg  
Ileana Baptiste  
Logan Delaronde  
Pearl Derouin

### HOUSING

Annette & Joe  
Athayde  
Daniele Davis  
Maggie Friesen  
Anthony Hidson  
Dwight Lavalee  
Mario Lopes  
Mike Petkau  
Ryan Herdman  
Mario Lopes  
Sue McKenzie  
Lynne Summerville  
John Unger  
Maggie Henderson

### RENTAL

Carolyn Minor  
Mario Lopes

Joan Hay  
Vince Durocher  
Charmaine Boittaux  
Lynne Summerville  
Corol Dyck  
Dwight Lavalee  
William Clee

### SAFETY

Gerry Berard  
Lynn Summerville,  
Sheila Hazzard  
Sgt Darrall Kotchon  
Susan Helenchilde  
Colin Wolfe  
Greg MacPherson  
Al Rutherford  
Kelly Ross





# volunteers

Many, many people generously gave their time and energy towards SNA work over the past year, including the following:

Abe	Betty	Cortney	Jessica Ehlers
Khaled Abedin	Bev	Eva Courchene	and family
Abdi Ahmed	Loh Bu	Alanna Crate	Sam Ehlers
Shena Alcock	Charmaine	Christine Daniels	Elisa
Aleah	Boittaux	Helen Daniels	Erica
Alison	Jill Bonner	and family	Ethan
Alma	Margorie B	Nikita Daniels	Jackie Ewanick
Rob Altemeyer	onner	Veronica Daniels	Greg Fehr
Rochelle	Sonia Bookman	Darren	Clinton Findley
Anderson	Lilly Boulanger	Dave	Ben Frank
Andrew	Noella	Dallas Davies	Fred
Chino Argueta	Boulanger	Daniele Davis	Maggie Friesen
Arnold	Deanne Bozek	Simon Davis	Jeff Froese
Annette Athayde	Gurp Brassi	Chantille Day	Stoddart
Joe Athayde	April Braun	Leah Dector	Stephanie
Bob Axworthy	Ezra Bridgemen	Rene Delorme	Fulford
Adam Bacchus	Genevieve	Edris Merina de	Michael Funk
Brenna Bacchus	Brown	Leon	Gabe
Mike Backlund	Jordan Brown	Phyllis de Leon	Karen Gies-
Hyeme Bae	Ryan Bruyere	Noelle DePape	brecht
Bridgitte Baker	Branwyn	Destiny	Dan Giesbrecht
Ileana Baptiste	Bundon	Krista Devos	George
Anne Barr	Selina Burke	Ashley Dilesky	Alfonzo Giglioni
Ofelia Bautista	Eric Cable	DJ Honeyflow	Randi Girard
Amante Bautista	Tomaring	Joey Doerksen	John Goshulak
Becci Bear	Camara	Ke Doh	Brian Gosselin
Jim Beckta	Charlie Cao	Nora Domingo	Rob Goulet
Paul Beckta	Joan Carolyn	Kreesta	Roslyn Graham
Becky	Jacob Carson	Doucette	Sarah Granke
Lateasha	Nenita Cerdon	Caroline	Cary Grant
Belcourt	Anna Chartrand	Doucette	Larry Gregan
Karen Bell	Georgina	Bijaya Dixit	Amy Groening
Mike Bell	Chartrand	Shantu Dixit	Nic Gus
Jennifer Bell	Lori Chartrand	Denise Duncan	Gustav
Gerry Berard	Chris	Kim Dutta	Trevor Hall
Dave Berg	Lorene Clarke	Vince Durocher	Leslie Hancock
Melanie	William Clee	Corol Dyke	Sabrina Harder
Bernadsky	Miriam Cohen	Kate Dykman	Elaine Harmony
Bradley Besel	Micheal Collette	Dylan	Clifford Hanna

# volunteers

Louise Hanna	Olga Kischook	Marissa McPherson	Joel Penner
Judith Harris	Stuart Klassen	Charlie Medd	Mike Petkau
Joan Hay	Jake Klassen	Sandra Medd	Todd Phillips
Sheila Hazzard	Alma Klassen	Johny Merasty	Pat Powell
Marlene Hazzard	Matthew	Alyssa Meseman	Anita Prince
Walton Hazzard	Konowalchuk	Micheal	Ginnie Prince
Helen	Steve Kopenik	George Miller	Bjorn Radstrom
Helga	Nishi Kumar	Carolyn Minor	Susan Radstrom
Maggie	Leslie Kwok	Mitchel	Heather Ramsay
Henderson	Ian La Rue	Carolyn Moar	Zach Reichardt
Ryan Herdman	Chris Ladd	Chorsh	Millie Richard
Gertrude	Dominic Landon	Mohammed	Christine Richey
Hicuburundi	Ron Laquette	Gilbert Moise	Darryl Riley
Jodi Hildebrant	Dwight Lavallee	Jayna Moise	Bob Rogers
Anthony Hidson	TJ Layer	Jocelyn Moise	Ron
Raven Hiebert	Sandra Leone	Rocky Moodgill	Heather Ross
Kevin Hillier	Leslie	Daniel Moore	Kelly Ross
Sarah Holder	Barbara Letander	Danielle Mondor	Rotary Leadership
Simon Hon	Debby Levine	Stanley Monias	Cirde
Sharon Houle	Caitlin Lewicki	Paris Moroz	Cory Roth-Masson
Knyam Htee	Ann Li	Gina Mount	Al Rutherford
Th'lay Htoo	Zimei Li	Fiona Muldrew	Veronica Ruiz
Virginia Hunter	Ashley Lingo	Ashwani Nagba	Jesse Sabourin-
Judy Hunter	Gladys Linklater	Nathan	Globensky
Iris Ingram	Audrey Logan	Christina Nguyen	Sabrina
George Ingram	Mario Lopes	Nicole	Mavis Sanders
Royce Ingram	John Lundgren	Ken Nickelson	Jamie Sanderson
Janet	Christie Anne	Tim Nielson	James Sainsbury
Jasmine	MacCulloch	Gabriella Neufeld	Isadore
Jeff	Cheryle Martens	Karin Neufeld	Sammurtok
Briane Johnson	Marilyn	Odessa	Jenelle Sammurtok
John Jones	Mike Maunder	Almera Oduca	Sara
Jorge and Ian	Carol	Mark Oduca	David Schulz
Josiah	Maytwayashing	Tiana Oigg	Fran Schulz
Julian	Eric	Marilyn Oshawee	Graham Schulz
Junior	Maytwayashing	Benjamin Oyat	Hellen Schulz
Justine	Lloyd Mcdougal	Alvin Pacag	Julie Schulz
Kevin Karanja	Rosalyn Mckay	Paulo and family	Tanya Schulz
Stephanie Kayler	Sue McKenzie	Sean Patterson	Trevor Scott
Heather Kimewon	Collen McManus	Klay Eh Paw	Carly Scramstad
Kio	Micheal McManus	Leweh Paw	Leah Scramstad
Bev Kirton	Greg MacPherson	May Peck	Rachel Scramstad

# volunteers

Dalila Seckar  
Shireen Seesahai  
Haley Seggewiss  
Silas  
Louise Shachtay  
Neil Shah  
Shakira  
Laura Shields  
Lyle Shields  
Trevor Shivdatt  
Cortney Sindair  
Doug Sindair  
Precious Sindair  
Jesse Singer  
Kate Sjoberg  
Liza Skidmore  
Angela Slater  
SOAR Heartland  
Youth  
Steve Solomon  
Lynne Somerville  
Rachelle Sorin  
Andrew Smith

Bonnie Spencer  
Belinda Squance  
Robyn Stanwick  
J Stuart  
Andrew Swan  
Rab Subedar  
Shanti Subedar  
Mona Sumner  
Kerry Sutherland  
Ferosh Tailor  
Mirade Tamana  
Larry Tanchuk  
Jean Tanchuk  
Nick Tanchuk  
Tasha  
Olive Tataquason  
Chris Thompson  
Jeanette  
Thompson  
Gaku Tobinobu  
Hilda Toews  
Owen Toews  
Tosin

Hien Tran  
Sean Traynor  
Chance Tremblay  
Jason Tuesday  
Obineche Ukonu  
John Unger  
Rachel Unger  
Stephanie Unger  
Travis Unger  
Eleanor Ulasz  
Rodrigo Valdes  
Valentine Valena  
Gustavo Velasco  
Bill Vennard  
Jerry Vesely  
Michaela Vickar  
Elizabeth Wall-  
Wieler  
Wendell  
Dawn Warren  
Anna Weier  
Ian White  
Kirby White

Marjorie White  
Amanda Wiebe  
Erika Wiebe  
Debbie Willems  
Maurice Williams  
Jonathan Wilson  
Jarika Winfield  
Britnee Wolfe  
Garry Yanyu  
Yuko Yukomizo  
Nikkie Zebrasky  
Amy Zhong  
Kristine Zylstra-  
Moore  
Peter Zylstra-  
Moore

*November Art Show  
Opening, 615 Ellice*





# staff

Mike Alexander - Community Liaison  
Chino Argueta - Sports  
Allison Besel - Building Belonging  
Kendra Charles - Newcomer Outreach  
Amy Cranford - Youth Outreach  
Helen Daniels - Rental Support  
Courtney Desaulniers - Youth Program  
Jenna Drabble - Education  
Vince Durocher - Rental Support  
Robin Falk - Financial Officer  
Jesse Gair - Youth Outreach Coordinator  
Judy Hunter - CRH Training  
Virginia Hunter - CRH Administrator  
Danielle Jenner - Youth Outreach  
Mohammed Kamara - Gardens  
Paula Keirstead - Block Contacts  
Leslie Kwok - First Jobs 4 Youth  
Sandra Leone - Community Research Hub  
Pat Macklem - Rental Safety  
Kathryn MacKenzie - Image/Greening  
Jamil Mahmood - Youth  
Ronna Mariano - 3 Stars and a Wish, Volunteer Coordinator  
Colin McInnes - Building Belonging  
Leslie McNabb - Grants and Admin.  
Sam Medd - Youth Outreach  
Don Miedema - Housing

Almera Oduca - Rental Outreach  
Teresa Schramm - Safety  
Cortney Sinclair - Skills Bank  
Kate Sjoberg - Executive Director  
Shanti Subedar - Greenhouse Support  
Tanya Suderman - Kids Garden, Composting  
Nick Tanchuk - Sports  
Anne-Marie Williot - Greenhouse  
Chuck Wright - Youth Outreach

## First Jobs 4 Youth

- Sekou Cissay
- Pearl Derouin
- Jasmine Linklater
- Ashley McPherson
- Marissa McPherson
- Jacques Pacey
- Leweh Paw
- Mahmood Sesay
- Jenelle Sammurtok
- Leah Marie Sutherland



# community consultations

We consult with community members regularly to keep programs and plans relevant and effective. Here are some of the community consultations that happened this year:

- Four Greenhouse Advisory Committee Meetings, starting in April
- Five Year Green Plan Consultations: Surveys, Public meetings in community gardens and facilitated group sessions, including the following four meetings:
  - July 30th at the 637-639 Maryland Community Gardens.
  - August 13<sup>th</sup> at the 350-354 Agnes Street Green Space Celebration in collaboration with the St. Matthews/Maryland Community Ministry group and neighbours.
  - September 1st at the 483-485 Young St. Community Gardens
  - September 16th at 430 Langside
- Basketball Registration and Information Sessions at the MERC in September
- Youth Program parent and participant surveys in September
- 689 Maryland Greenhouse- 25 random individual surveys were completed on the impact of the Greenhouse Project in August.
- Summer education review:

This summer we conducted an informal survey of parents, teachers and youth to find out what the barriers to education are in the community. Over 40 one on one interviews were completed in addition to discussions at the Youth Committee meetings. This work led to the establishment of the SNA Education Committee which includes local residents and educators to improve access to education in the community.
- SNA Youth Program:

This year, SNA developed and implemented an evaluation framework for all youth programming in partnership with the United Way of Winnipeg. Program coordinators now use different survey tools on a regular basis with program participants, parents, and residents to gauge value and effectiveness of Youth Programming.

# learning events

SNA Staff and Volunteers attended a number of following professional development workshops and events over the past year, including:

- Coalition of Community Based Youth Serving Agencies Annual Gathering
- Community Learning Circle: Best Practices, Succession Planning, Promising Practices Derived from Aboriginal World Views, Knowledge, and Experience.
- CCEDNET-Strengthening Non-Profits Workshop Series: Evaluation, Writing Proposals, Strategic Planning, Human Resource Basics
- SEED Winnipeg Community Workers and Ownership Program
- United Nations Platform on Action Workshops on Women and the Economy
- Frontier College literacy program training
- Frontier College Connecting Communities Conference
- Housing Training Initiative Workshops
- CCEDNET National Gathering (June 3-5, 2009)
- CCEDNET Gathering (Oct 23, 2009)
- Effective Practices for Working with New Immigrant Families
- Food Handlers Course
- *If you want to change violence in the hood, you have to change the hood.* Criminal Justice Association of Manitoba Breakfast with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.
- "What Works" Crime Prevention Symposium with Dr. Mark Totten
- Assist Suicide First Aid Training
- Mentoring in Manitoba symposium
- National Aboriginal Gang Awareness Conference
- Non Violent Crisis Intervention training
- MB Food Charter conference
- Intro to Community Restorative Justice Forums
- Resource Conservation Manitoba Master Composting Certification
- Play it Fair training
- Focus Group Training
- Aboriginal Artists Workshop

SNA held two staff training days this year, with workshops on communication, proposal writing, supporting volunteers, self care, and coping with secondary trauma.

SNA Youth Programming offers additional training for Youth Workers in non violent crisis intervention, and restorative justice techniques, and held two staff training days for Youth workers for developing internal policy, program evaluation and effective program planning.

# community events

SNA hosts events to mark moments, encourage community learning, connecting, promote programs, and to get work done. The following are some of the community events we held in 2009/2010.

- **February** Growing Local, Getting Vocal Local Food Conference: Youth Forum, Vermi-composting (40 youth participants)
- **March** Workshop on How to Identify Crime with Susan Helenchilde, Community Prosecutor (15 participants)
- Basketball Wind-up at the University of Winnipeg
- Presentation from Dr Ken Reardon on Institutions in Communities (75 participants)
- Compost Bin Building workshop (4 participants)
- Tenants Rights workshop (8 participants)
- **April** Panel Discussion at the Ellice Theatre: Institutions in Neighbourhoods, Impacts and Possibilities (75 participants)
- Three Seed Starting Workshops
- **May** Spring Clean Up (175 participants)
- Two Transplanting Workshops
- Wesmen Inner-City Basketball Camps in partnership with the U of W
- Compost Bin Turning Event (6 participants)
- June Two Container Gardening Workshops
- 1<sup>st</sup> Jobs 4 Youth Job Fair (24 participants)
- **June** Youth Composting Demonstration (7 participants)
- How to conduct Focus Groups- Training for the community Research Hub
- Summer tenants suppers and lunches (four). (Average of 15 participants each)
- **July** IRCOM Vermicomposting Workshop
- July-September Eight Horticultural Therapy Workshops at the Greenhouse
- Three Summer Family BBQs
- Rooming Housing Tenants Rights workshop (30 participants)
- Bed Bug and Community Safety Workshops at University of Winnipeg, West Central Womens Resource Centre, and John M King School.
- **August** Inner City Community Garden Tour (60 participants)
- Greenhouse Site Apartment composting event (14 participants)
- The August Community Greenhouse Celebration (150 participants)
- Garden Ornament Making
- Summer garden work parties (5-15 participants per work party)
- **September** Fall Tree Banding (40 participants)
- September Intro to Basketball Camps at the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre

# community events

- Caretaker training series
- **October** Memorial Service for Louise Hanna, Greenhouse Volunteer (18 people attended)
- Kick off Dinner for Three Stars and A Wish at Sister MacNamara School (27 participants)
- Putting Your Garden to Sleep Workshop at the Greenhouse
- Family outing to Boo at the Zoo (60 participants)
- MERC Halloween Party (100 participants)
- **November** Greening Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (45 participants)
- RBC After School Grant Celebration (90 participants)
- Halloween Dance with IRCOM and NEEDS Centre (100 participants)
- **December** Book Launch, Three Stars and A Wish at Convocation Hall, University of Winnipeg (50 participants)
- MERC Holiday Party (100 participants)
- SNA Open House, 615 Ellice (100 participants)
- Friends of the CRH Gathering (25 participants)
- Rental Safety Program Wind Up Supper (30 participants)

SNA also participated in the Ellice Street Festival in June, running games for Youth, a Skateboard ramp, giving away plants, and providing information about SNA and our programs.

*Spring clean up 2009*





# sharing our work

SNA is regularly asked to share our work with other groups. We also ask to present to other groups to promote programs, recruit volunteers and gather support. This year, presentations included:

- Basketball Program Information and Volunteer Recruitment at University of Winnipeg and Canadian Mennonite University classes.
- *Composting for Community*. Tanya Suderman Community Led Emissions Reduction Program, Provincial Planning Services, Manitoba Local Government, and for the Master composting class at Resource Conservation Manitoba.
- *Community Development in Winnipeg*. Kate Sjoberg. Inner City Social Work Program
- *Community Research Hub*- Presentation to the West Central Women's Resource Centre
- *Developing a Sustainable Model for Inner-City Sport Development* Nick Tanchuk at the Coalition of Community Based Youth Serving Agencies Conference.
- *Homework Club and Youth Program Promotion*: Jenna Drabble, Kendra Charles. Gordon Bell Highschool classes, Gordon Bell Parent Council, Family Holiday Craft Night at John M. King School, Hugh John Macdonald Junior High School EAL Class, Sargent Park School EAL Class, General Wolfe School EAL Class, Welcome Place staff.
- *Spence Greening Program* Kathryn MacKenzie. Inner City and Urban Studies Program, UW; and New Directions
- Tours of Spence Greening Work: The Winnipeg Foundation, UW Staff and Students, Public Interest Law Center
- *Suburbanisation and Urban Inequality*. Kate Sjoberg. Cities and Urban Life Sociology Class at the UM.
- *Physical and Built Environment*. Kate Sjoberg. Canadian Mental Health Association National Conference.
- *Spence Neighbourhood Association*. Kate Sjoberg. Urban and Inner City Studies, UW, and for the
- *Spence Neighbourhood Association*. Kate Sjoberg. Community Development Class, UW.
- Restorative Justice at the MERC. Mike Alexander. Restorative Justice Week 2009.
- *Volunteering with Building Belonging*. Allison Besel. SOAR Heartland program at Fort Garry Mennonite Brethren Church.
- Wii Chiiwaakanak Community Information Session. Presented to community members at Wii Chiiwaakanak on Youth Outreach Program. Jesse Gair.

# building work and internal developments

SNA has owned the building at 615 Ellice for more than two years now, and the past year was one of further development of the property.

- Outdoor storage between 615 Ellice and Mr. Brown's Upholstery Store has added much needed space for compost program and other image greening materials, plus general storage.
- The front of the building has had a bit of a face lift with the addition of a bike rack, mail box, and new mosaic sign, designed and built by Art from the Heart.
- The Maryland side of the building now has a large community message board and Green Map installed for community use.
- The large inside room previously use for community meetings was converted into office
- Work has begun on the building's support beam to bring the building up to code.

## **INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS**

In 2009, SNA began revising the SNA Employee Manual and this work will continue over the next year. The first revisions have included updates to the SNA Overtime and Banked Hours Policy, and Employee Policies on Bereavement and Sick Leave. This work ensures policies meet current employment legislation, and current organizational values and priorities.

This year, we have also begun research into a stronger benefits plan, and better plan policies to ensure all full time SNA staff have access to health insurance.

The SNA Volunteer Manual was developed and finalized this year with policy on recruitment, training and support for SNA volunteers.

Finally, we initiated the Sustainability Committee, a joint group of board members and staff to consider organisational stability. The group has taken a holistic approach to the issues of sustainability; discussing issues ranging from relevancy to the community, to staff support and work environment, to diversifying of funding. The group has prioritized renewing an organizational vision, and developing an organizational structure to better reflect the current needs of the organization.

# programs

## **COMMUNITY CLOTHING BANK**

Advisory Bodies: SNA and DMSMCA Youth Committees

This project began in August, 2008 to help meet the basic needs of neighbourhood kids and families, and has been running steady ever since.

Every Sunday, gently used clean clothing, house wares, and furniture donated from Wolseley Wardrobe are laid out on one side of the gym at the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre, about the same time that Food not Bombs prepares their community meal. People come and gather clothing for their family, chat with friends, and enjoy a coffee and a meal while kids play on the other half of the gym. Between 40 and 100 people come every week; most families have a child in SNA Youth Programming.

Generously supported by Wolseley Wardrobe, Tall Grass Prairie Bakery, West 49, and Superstore.

## **SMALL GRANTS**

Advisory Body: SNA Board

Once again this year, the Spence Neighbourhood Association received \$50,000.00 from Neighbourhoods Alive! to provide grants for community projects in the neighbourhood. These grants of up to \$5,000.00 were awarded to organizations and groups of individuals in the community for community building and community connecting projects and activities. The Small Grants Fund was established to enable local community based groups, organizations and groups of residents within the Spence neighbourhood to undertake small projects that enhance the strength and cohesion of the community.

In 2009, twenty-two grants of \$250.00 to \$5,000.00 were distributed within the community. Grant recipients included groups of residents holding street parties, local organizations running community events and youth programming in Spence.

## **INNER CITY ABORIGINAL NEIGHBOURS**

This year, Inner City Aboriginal Neighbours separated from SNA, completing their steps towards autonomy after many years of development with SNA. Congratulations ICAN!

# programs: housing

Advisory Body: Housing Committee

Over the last 10 years, we've seen major improvements in housing in the neighborhood. Spence Neighbourhood Association along with Daniel MacIntyre/St. Matthews Community Association, Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corp., Housing Opportunities Program, Lions Club of Winnipeg, SAM Management Inc., University of Winnipeg, West Minster Housing and Habitat for Humanity is part of the West Central Housing Stakeholder group. Starting in 2000, with funding through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, this group has managed the renovation and building of almost 100 homes for private ownership and over 100 rental units. SNA alone built 30 houses and is looking to build 3 more in the coming year. All the new houses built are high energy efficient with an R2000 rating. Several properties are accessible, meeting the needs of those who live with a physical disability. The houses renovated and built are sold to lower income families.



## **HOUSING INCENTIVES**

Advisory Body: Housing Grants Committee

The Housing Incentives program ran for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in 2009. In an effort to improve the housing stock in Spence, the program offers grants to property owners within the neighbourhood to complete property-improving repairs. Grants for homeowners cover exterior work, while rental property owners can apply for exterior and critical repair grants. With funding from the Province of Manitoba and City of Winnipeg, SNA dispersed \$73,200.00 to 44 properties in the Spence neighbourhood. Of the total grants allocated this year, \$40,200.00 went to 29 private homes and \$33,000.00 was granted to 15 rental properties. Over 90% of this year's grants were given to first-time applicants.

# programs: housing

## **SHERBROOK IMPROVEMENTS**

At the writing of this report, Winnipeg is experiencing a less than 1% vacancy rate in the rental market, making rental housing very hard to get, especially for lower income community members. SNA staff continue to collaborate with above stakeholders to build and renovate rental housing. The area around Portage, Sherbrook and St. Matthews shows the most promise for developing additional housing with the possibility of doing mixed income family rental housing with both Lions Club of Winnipeg and St. Matthews Maryland Anglican Church. We are waiting for an answer on a community alternative energy project that would provide energy to Lions Housing, future housing in the church and the Sherbrook pool. We, along with other non-profits in the neighbourhood, such as Friends of Sherbrook Pool, are encouraging greater use and enhancement of the Sherbrook Pool.

## **ASSISTANCE WITH GRANTS**

We work with homeowners and landlords to obtain the best financial support package possible. The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) for homeowners (up to \$16,000), Rental RRAP (up to \$24,000), Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) for homeowners (up to \$10,000), Manitoba Hydro energy saving programs and seniors support programs (up to \$3,000) are available. Each have their own regulations and can be difficult to work through. We want to help community members get the full benefit of all these programs and will help members put together the best combinations of funding for their properties. If necessary, because of language barriers or shortage of finances, we are willing to work with funding agency staff as much as possible to make these improvements a reality.

## **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

SNA has recently been weighing the possibility of setting up a community run property management company to purchase, renovate and manage rental properties. We are frustrated that derelict buildings are not being turned into improved rental accommodations for people in the community, and that rent is becoming more expensive, and forcing people to move. We believe that community ownership may be a solution towards protecting, maintaining and developing affordable, safe, and livable neighbourhood housing. We'll continue to explore this option in 2010.



# programs: housing and rental

## **BOARDED UP BUILDINGS**

We're part of an inner-city action group which meets with the City of Winnipeg Planning, Property & Development Department and Community *By-law Enforcement* Services. The role of the group is to see the effective use of the Derelict Buildings By-Law and the Neighbourhood Liveability By-Law in order to decrease the amount of empty and derelict properties in the neighbourhood. We encourage city staff to deal with owners of long term problem buildings and we lobby for changes to the by-laws to make them more effective. This leads to an integrated approach on buildings in calling for by-law enforcement and working with partners to obtain funding to take over and improve these buildings.



## **RENTAL SAFETY PROGRAM**

Advisory Body: Rental Committee

Initiated in March 2008 with the hiring of a Rental Safety Coordinator (Pat Macklem), this program evolved out of SNA's Home Safety Program with an increased focus on rental properties and fostering landlord and tenant co-operation. The goals of the project are:

- to improve the quality and safety of rental housing in Spence, and
- to reduce the transiency of renters in the neighbourhood

We worked towards these goals through safety improvements of rental suites, conducting public education workshops around tenancy issues, assisting landlords to find grants and other resources to improve their suites, and serving as a support and resource center for tenants and landlords in the interest of fostering long term tenant landlord co-operation.

The rental outreach program proved to be extremely popular with local tenants and landlords, and successful in helping people

# housing programs:

## rental safety

stabilize their housing situation. In January of 2009, we hired another staff person to the project as a Rental Outreach Worker (Almera Oduca). Most participants were single women with children, or single men. All participants were very low income or on some form of assistance.

A recent review of the program showed that while all participants believed that their buildings need repairs, the program generally had a very positive impact with all participants reporting feeling safer in the buildings, and most participants reporting that their relationship with their landlord was improved.

**"When I contacted Spence, I was in a crisis unit. They helped me get extra funding and they helped me move into a decent apartment with a decent landlord. Since then they have secured my apartment with a deadbolt, peephole and latch and they continue to advocate for me with my Mental health worker, with my EIA worker, with my court process and with my landlord. Now, I've got a proper doctor and have regular medical appointments to deal with my health issues. I've also got a phone. This means a lot to me."**

**-SNA Rental Safety Program Participant**

Over the course of the program, we met the following benchmarks:

- 186 participants assisted in stabilising their housing or finding new homes.
- 200 participants who accessed help in making their homes more safe
- Over 50 landlords connected with the program, 35 of whom we work with regularly to help people secure housing.
- Over 190 referrals for SNA Rental Program services.
- This program will be renewed in 2010 through the Provincial Homelessness Mentor program.



# programs: greening

## Advisory Bodies:

Greening Image Committee

MB Eco-Network supports and oversees parts of our work

Based on the SNA 5-Year Green Plan (from 2004-2009), but starting much earlier (1997) with residents taking it upon themselves to clean up the vacant lots and turn them into gardens, the Image and Greening work is focused on community events and community building. This includes the Spring Clean-Up, Fall Tree Banding, and the Community Gardens and Greenspaces scattered throughout the community. Our work builds on the natural connectivity in the neighbourhood, encouraging healthy living and increasing pride. All ages can relate to or relax in our improved green spaces, like the Furby Tot-lot which is now used year round and includes a skating area.

Some shared goals are:

- To bring community together and decrease isolation.
- To help address the food security issues that are present in the Spence Neighbourhood by giving community members the opportunity to grow and learn about growing their own food in community gardens.
- To help increase the safety and pride of the neighbourhood through public space development and the revitalization of abandoned lots.
- To establish community resources for the enhancement of green spaces in Spence.

## Greening Image Year at a Glance

- Excellent youth participation in 2009 Green Plan consultations, calling for a skate park to be included in the 2010-2014 Green Plan.
- Strong support and good feedback on our kid friendly green spaces coming out of the Green Plan consultation process.
- Eight community gardens including a community flower garden maintained and flourishing.
- Art in the Front project showcased originals by 25 local artists in our foyer at 615 Ellice Ave in 2009.
- 225+volunteers participating in Greening & Image events and programs in 2009.
- Promise of Aboriginal Sprit Park development in 2010.

# greening programs: composting and greenhouse

## **COMPOSTING FOR COMMUNITY**

Composting for Community started in the spring of 2007 to promote composting through the maintenance and development of over 25 community compost bins located in community gardens, community composting workshops and the initiation of a business/restaurant organics pick up program. This past year the program expanded to eight businesses and implemented a fee for the pick-up service. Over 100 people have participated in our composting workshops and over the past fall we diverted over 1500 kg of organic waste from the landfill to local community composting sites.

## **GREENHOUSE**

Advisory Body: Greenhouse Advisory Committee made up of residents who live close to the Greenhouse site at 689 Maryland, and other invited guests.



Located at 689 Maryland, the Community Greenhouse Project is a space where community members can grow vegetables in raised beds. The difference between this project and other community gardens is that eight of its thirteen large raised beds are covered by four 108 square foot greenhouses. Demand for a community greenhouse is recorded at least since 2004, and is included in the five year green plan. In 2008, a derelict parking lot was selected as an appropriate site, and community members living near the site were surveyed for their input on how the site should be used. The physical development of the site began in April 2009. Half of the site remains a parking lot,



# greening programs: greenhouse

which helps to support project costs. This year, our main goals were:

- To bring community together and help revitalize an abandoned lot.
- To help address the food security issues that are present in the Spence Neighbourhood, by giving community members (most of which live in apartments) the opportunity to grow and learn about growing their own food.
- To help increase the safety of the neighbourhood through public space development.
- To establish a community resource for the enhancement of green spaces in Spence.



This year at the Greenhouse site:

- Community members came together in work parties and built 13 large raised beds, 16 smaller raised beds, four benches, a picnic table, a shed, two water barrel stands, and four 108 square foot greenhouses.
- Over 40 people gave over 400 volunteer hours to the project.
- Nine gardeners grew food for their families.
- Community members gained gardening skills and experience through their participation in workshops and receiving one on one mentorship during regular garden open hours.
- On August 15, 2009, there was a pipe ceremony blessing of the site by members of the Red Robe Women's Drum Group.
- Community members are meeting their neighbours and using the Greenhouse Site as a community resource.
- Neighbours feel safer in the area since the greenhouse site was developed.



# programs: youth

Advisory Body: Youth Committee

## **BUILDING BELONGING**

Building Belonging (BB) began in the summer of 2002 to increase youth involvement in the community and give them a voice in SNA. BB now provides free after-school programming for children ages 6-12 on weekdays from 3:30-6:00 pm at Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre. We offer a safe, friendly, and positive environment for kids, with healthy meals and a Safe Walk from school and home. The SNA van allows children who live further away to attend even in winter. We offer art, sports, cooking, weekly outings and engage the children in the greater community through partnerships with local organizations.

Whether by taking photos of the city around them, planting vegetables in the Kids Garden, visiting local businesses, participating in local cultural events or just playing together outside, the children can see what a vibrant neighbourhood they live in, while they develop a sense of ownership, belonging and pride. This year outings to Winnipeg Harvest, the Fringe Festival, the Manitoba Museum Science Gallery, the Assiniboine Park Zoo, Festival du Voyageur and Folkorama showed our kids the diversity of the world around them while trips to Fun Mountain, Winnipeg Gold Eyes games and Boo at the Zoo allowed kids to share new experiences with their friends. Spring Break was especially packed full of outings to the Pan Am pool, the Manitoba Children's Museum, Wheelies, the Manitoba Museum, a community carnival, a soccer camp at the U of W and workshops at the Manitoba Theatre Centre.

### ***Participant Highlight: Kylla, Age 9. Writer.***

*Kylla participated in 3 Stars and a Wish in June and she created the story of the fairy princess Flown and her prince Justin. This was just the beginning. She would continue to develop Justin and Flown's story into three sequels, incorporating her friends, family and SNA staff members into the story as the prince and princess fight robot bears, have kids, travel the world and briefly divorce only to reunite and save each other again and again. Everyone was inspired by Kylla's grand vision and went to work on a claymation film and the full staging of The Fairy Adventures Part 1 starring the kids for family and friends at the June Family BBQ and Talent Show.*

# youth programs: building belonging and youth

Our numbers continue to grow. Currently 40-60 kids attend programming every day. With support from volunteers and the community, we have developed programming to encourage the unique talents of each of our participants with specialized instructors and clubs such as a regular dance teacher and the new Girls' Club where local artists teach glass painting and jewelry.

Special events at Building Belonging this year included:

- Following the opening of the Freeze Frame International Film festival in March, we were able to hold workshops on claymation and stop motion animation through the summer where the kids created their own short films.
- My Life; My Lens at the Graffiti Gallery from June 4-12 showcased the digital photography of 10 young artists from BB alongside work from kids across the city thanks to the Coalition of Community Based Youth Serving Agencies.
- 40 kids and families enjoyed the Winnipeg International Kidsfest in June.
- 9 kids went to the overnight Coalition Camp at Camp Manitou, while over 50 kids went on 2 day-long outings to zip-line, wall climb, mountain bike, make bannock and swim.
- 10 youth volunteered across the city during the summer with the Rotary Leadership Circle, each earning up to \$200 for their efforts.
- IRCOM joined us for Freestyle, a celebration of urban culture put on by the UWSA and CKUW in October with a week of workshops in DJing, rapping, art and b-boy dancing.
- Skate Club wrapped up with a BBQ in the fall after weekly outings to the Edge in the winter and local parks through the summer.

## **YOUTH**

The 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 the inner city by offering positive options that would otherwise not exist. The program began in September of 2007. Our first year operating

# youth programs: youth

on a full time basis as a drop-in that provides daily programming was extremely successful and has increased to our current participation of twenty-five to thirty youth a night, with youth attending every evening.

This year, we focused on integrating more newcomer youth into the program, and increasing one on one time between youth and workers.

At the end of August, we took eight of our youth to the Coalition Camp in Lake of the Woods, Kenora. Since many of our youth do not have the opportunity to leave the province, they were very excited to venture to Kenora, Ontario, and camp in the wilderness. The four days we spent at camp were filled with canoeing, swimming, archery, rock climbing, dancing, arts and crafts, sports and learning camping skills. Many of the youth felt immediately uncomfortable in their surroundings at the camp. At first, the unknown of living in wooden cabins with strangers from other programs was very unnerving; however, many of the youth bonded with the others quickly and were eager to help out their fellow campers. We saw youth make connections with kids from other community clubs, learn new survival skills in the wilderness and build up confidence in themselves and their abilities. Throughout the year, youth program hosted a few "Cultural Cooking" nights where we prepared dishes from all around the world! These nights were filled with learning, teamwork and laughter, as the Newcomer and Aboriginal youth worked together to create a delicious meal for everyone!

Special events at Youth Program included:

- Trips to the Birds Hill Park Beach in July and August
- Trip to Grand Prix Amusement Park for youth volunteers
- Fun Mountain

*According to one father, he trusts his daughter to come to youth programming because he knows that she is safe there and is surrounded by people who positively influence and care about her. He told us that coming to youth programming is like a second home for his daughter and is one of the few places in Winnipeg that he feels comfortable sending her.*



# youth programs: sport and education

- Camp Coalition at Kenora
- Neighbourhood scavenger hunt with IRCOM kids
- Halloween Dance with NEEDS Centre
- Christmas feast at Foody Goody

## **SPORT**

The sports program provides the only access to organized team sports for children in the inner city. Our programming strives to provide a healthy, safe and constructive environment in which kids can participate and develop their skills. We focus on integrating life skills along with basketball skills and support our athletes to develop communication, self-confidence and social skills. These skills help our athletes overcome life obstacles, and to become community leaders.



The Sports program started in 2004 with two basketball teams in the Winnipeg Minor Basketball Association. This year we are running eight basketball teams and we also offered four soccer teams in the Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association. This program reached over 175 kids in the community and has over 30 volunteers helping make this project a success.

## **EDUCATION**

The Education program began in September 2009 as the result of a needs assessment conducted over the summer. Through a series of interviews in the community, it was decided that an Education Coordinator could work to address the barriers to education in the Spence community. The main goals of the Education program are to connect SNA with schools and learning services, provide for the basic needs of youth and better support youth in overcoming the barriers to education. One component of this is an after school homework club that runs Monday through Friday which children and youth can access if they need help with homework.

Education Program Year at a Glance:

- A meeting with superintendents from Winnipeg School Division 1 was held to arrange tours of schools in the area, which will be

# youth programs: first jobs 4 youth

done in the New Year. SNA staff will use this opportunity to promote youth programming and connect with the resources that exist at the schools.

- There has been a substantial increase in the number of children and youth attending homework club on a regular basis. Several participants come every day and are showing visible academic progress.

## **FIRST JOBS 4 YOUTH**

First Jobs 4 Youth began as a discussion at the Youth Advisory Committee of the Spence Neighbourhood Association in 2003. This group of West End youth talked about their difficulties getting a job without work experience. Together, they designed a program to give them work experience and tools for securing a job. First Jobs 4 Youth helps to build the Spence



Community as a personally, socially and economically viable place to grow. It is both a starting point and a bridge for youth as they explore the world of work.

Today, we support up to 10 youth every summer through work experience and training with SNA, and support for fall work placements in local businesses and organizations. We run an employment support centre for youth at the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre, and run a 'junior' First Jobs 4 Youth Program, Odd Jobs for Youth, for younger kids who want to gain experience, and work for pay, but are still too young for the program.

### **Positive Points:**

- 90% Graduation Rate
- Participants hired long term by the City of Winnipeg, Fort Whyte Alive, and the West End Biz.
- Participants win West Central Streets News Literacy Contest
- Participants showcase their art at Art From the Heart annual show and sale



# youth programs: three stars and a wish

## **THREE STARS AND A WISH**

Now in its third year, SNA's Three Stars and a Wish Literacy project connected families from Sister MacNamara School with mentors from The University of Winnipeg's Education Program in the valuable tradition of storytelling. During the workshops, parents shared a personal or family story with their child, who then transcribed and illustrated their stories with support from mentors from the University of Winnipeg. Their stories, illustrations and wishes were then compiled into a book and presented to the community at a book launch, along with selected readings from the participants.

Goals of the project:

- To improve the literacy skills of 10 children in the Spence neighbourhood.
- To give the parents of these 10 children the opportunity to become involved in their children's education.
- To empower these 10 parents by giving them the opportunity to be a significant part of the literacy process as the storyteller.
- To give education students from the University of Winnipeg the opportunity to work with families outside the formal classroom setting and give them the opportunity to take part in an innovative model of literacy education.

Positive points:

- This is the third 3 Stars & a Wish book published!
- Second partnership with Sister MacNamara School.
- Seven families and 10 students contributed stories to the book.
- 500 copies of the book were printed and distributed to all the guests at the book launch, participants, partners, funders and to the community.

The book launch was a success that included a visit from the deputy Minister of Education.



# youth programs: outreach and restorative justice

## **WEST CENTRAL YOUTH OUTREACH**

The West Central Youth Outreach Project started in the spring of 2008 to support area youth who are facing multiple barriers and are at risk of joining gangs. The outreach team builds positive relationships with youth, advocates on their behalf and helps to connect them and their families to resources and supports.

In its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the Youth Outreach team is in continuous contact with over 50 youth while working intensely with 15 youth and their families. This year's focus has been to provide one-on-one mentorship, strengthen relationships with other social service providers and develop strong restorative justice practices with SNA Youth programming at MERC. The project is an initiative between the West Central Woman's Resource Centre, Daniel McIntyre St. Matthews Community Association and Spence Neighbourhood Association with input from numerous partner organizations.

## **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

About three years ago we decided that all SNA youth programming would respect and use the principles of restorative justice, and adopted these practices with support from the City of Winnipeg. This means that when youth are disrespectful or present a danger to themselves or others, they are empowered to learn from their actions and restore whatever damage may have occurred. Youth are respected for their own ability to understand the impact of their actions, and to regain the trust of their peers; albeit sometimes with a lot of time and energy. The outcome is that SNA programming remains inclusive for all youth; and that youth know that there is a place in the community where they are taken seriously and valued.

This approach is fairly unique, and requires significantly more training, time and investment from workers than the more common 'kick out' behaviour management strategy. However, we believe that it holds the long term interests of our youth in mind, and results in better outcomes for safety and community development in our neighbourhood. This year partnered with Mediation Services and will be expanding staff training and developing a new model to better meet the needs of the community. We hope to make SNA a model for restorative practices in our youth programs and the community as a whole.

# ced programs: skills bank

Advisory Body: Community Economic Development Committee

The Skills Bank is a community economic development project in the West Central area run by Spence Neighbourhood Association. Our mandate is to highlight inner city residents' skills and be a referral to jobs, trading and training opportunities in the community. We link people in need of work with people looking for workers in the neighbourhood. Our most common work orders are for assistance with small repairs, babysitters, painters, yard maintenance workers, and one-time basis homemakers.

In 2008/09, a total of 197 work orders were received. Out of these, we have had a 76% success rate in fulfilling the work orders. Only 8% of these were cancelled due to not having the appropriate skilled members or tools to take on certain jobs.

Along with linking members to jobs, the Skills Bank works to decrease barriers to employment. For example:

- This year we helped 30 members get government identification for free. Without ID, securing employment, housing and accessing other public services is nearly impossible.
- Over the past year, we have referred 22 members to Warm Up Winnipeg, a training program supported by a number of community development organizations, including Spence Neighbourhood Association.
- Our Community Tool Lending Library is now operating in its second year. The Library provides Skills Bank members access to the tools needed to do jobs around the neighbourhood– eliminating lack of tools as a barrier to getting a job. The Tool Lending Library continues to be recognized by residents, and local handymen as a innovative resource.



# ced programs: community research hub

## **COMMUNITY RESEARCH HUB**

The Community Research Hub began in 2006 as an attempt to capture the local research market with a community approach. With all the research taking place 'on' the neighbourhood, surely local people could take advantage of this consistent, funded activity; and do it from a community perspective! Our main goal is to build community capacity by providing local community people the opportunity to train in the field of research. This training provides our members with the skills, knowledge and professionalism needed to succeed in the research industry and to begin work on becoming a Workers Cooperative. This year we published an inner-city report on Food Resilience; we made a brochure, enjoyed new clients and initiated the "Friends of the CRH" advisory group.

At the beginning of the project, we created an initial business plan for a social enterprise offering community-based research, mainly data collection services. People from the community came to our training workshops and some stayed and became members of CRH. Through promotion and marketing efforts of our members and staff of Spence Neighborhood Association, we were able to get contracts from the greater Winnipeg community.

Our main volunteers are our committed members who have a long term interest in our community-based data collection business plan.

We are developing an ever growing list of partners for our project including:

- North End Community Economic Development.
- UN Platform for Action Committee Manitoba.
- Opportunities for Employment.
- Kani Ka nichihk Inc., through whom we secured a contract with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.
- Manitoba Food Charter, who granted us our biggest contract of the past year and who gave us creative control of the whole project.
- Leslie Fuga, an independent researcher
- West Central Women's Resource Centre, which was a venue to reach common community members who were willing to provide valuable data for CRH.

# programs: safety

## **SAFETY PROGRAM**

Advisory Body: Safety Committee

Our approach to safety at Spence is one of basic community connecting, learning and resource provision. Over the past year, we've had success in developing strong partnerships with the Winnipeg Police Service to better understand their work, and provide feedback; held community learning events such as How to Recognise Crime and Dealing with Bedbugs, and initiated a meeting of local organisations to plan together on issues of common concern. We have also done work to recruit and support Block Contacts, who help to connect their neighbours to local resources, and communicate issues of concern to back to us.

We've been pleased to work directly with groups on different streets to problem solve together localized safety issues. In more than one occasion, this resulted in more supports provided to a family, increased understanding from street residents on how the police can help them with safety concerns, and increased ability of local residents to work together to solve safety concerns.

In the coming year, we will increase community engagement and learning in safety work through organising a safety audit of the neighbourhood, initiating the West Central Safety Coalition, and continue to organise and support block contacts.

*August Greenhouse  
Celebration*





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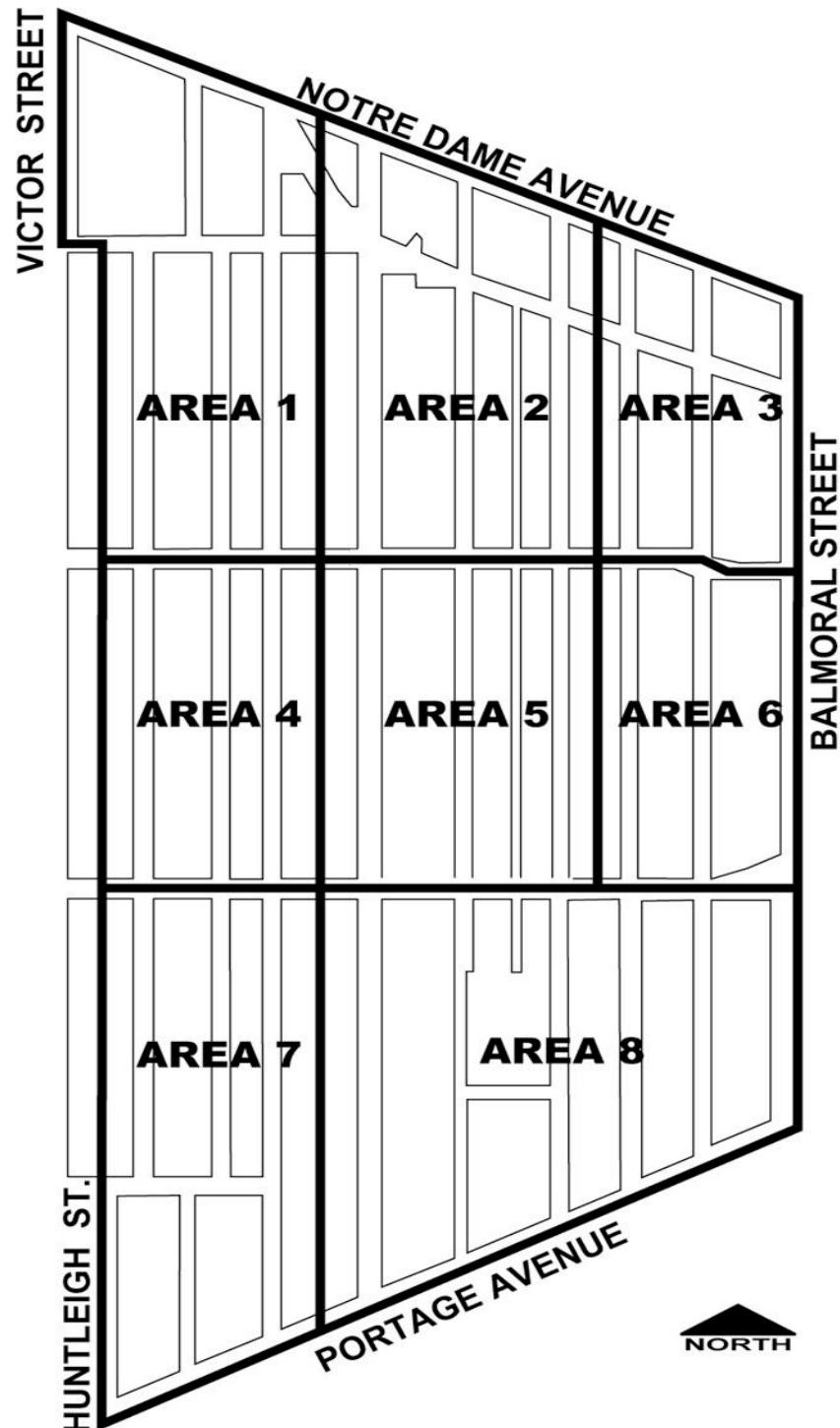
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# SPENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE BOUNDARIES



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