

WINNIPEG FOR VISITORS TO THE CHA

There are many events planned around Congress 2004 at the University of Manitoba campus, but the City of Winnipeg also offers many recreational and cultural facilities and activities for visitors.

In addition to a large range of cafes, restaurants, clubs and musical events, all in full swing during the brilliant Prairie summer, Winnipeg has a particularly fascinating built environment. It is a city of neighbourhoods and all are eminently walkable. The city includes not only highly distinctive neighbourhoods, ranging from the hearth of francophone Manitoba, St. Boniface, to the fount of radicalism, the North End, as well as remarkable examples of urban innovation like Riverview and Wildwood. There are other architectural gems such as the magnificent site of commercial architecture, the Exchange District, and the contemporary hub of Winnipeg consumer culture, the Forks Market. The Forks is the confluence of two rivers and offers splendid walking access to the banks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. The Exchange District is adjacent to Portage and Main and the sites of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.

The city offers numerous historical and cultural facilities that reverberate with meaning. Riel House, a national historic site, is a snap-shot of mid-19th century Red River. Lower Fort Garry, located 20 minutes' drive north of Winnipeg, is an extensive reconstruction of the Hudson's Bay Company's imperial headquarters in North America. (For the imperial and colonial historian who wants to work before or after the Conference, the Provincial Archives contains the great reposi-

tory of three centuries of the Bay's imperial project in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives and both facilities are of course open for business.) The Winnipeg Art Gallery contains vital collections of Canadian as well as international art in all media, including probably the most extensive collection of Inuit art in the world. Many other galleries of contemporary art in different media are found in neighbourhoods like Osborne Village and the Exchange District. There are also more traditional destinations including the Manitoba Museum with its emphasis on human settlement and the Manitoba Children's Museum which is chock-full of interactive exhibits and displays.

Winnipeg is adjacent to spectacular recreational facilities, each worthy of extending your stay. Grand Beach is a many-kilometred lakeshore strewn with 12 meter dunes; it is one of the great sand beaches of North America and is a 75 minute drive north of the city on Lake Winnipeg. To the east, Lake of the Woods is a spectacular site for boating, camping and swimming with its outlet at Kenora a 150-minute drive. Riding Mountain National Park is 180 minutes drive west of the city, reached after passing through the "Manawaka" home of Margaret Laurence, in Neepawa. Riding Mountain is a pristine outdoor recreational park located on one of the greatest of the upland forest-oases in the Canadian Prairies.

Barry Ferguson, University of Manitoba



*"The new Provencher Bridge and Pedestrian Bridge connects The Forks and old St. Boniface across the Red River"
« Les ponts Provencher et Riel enjambant la rivière rouge relient les Fourches au vieux Saint-Boniface »*