



INVITATION TO BE A TOUR GUIDE

'JANE'S WALK' IN WINNIPEG

May 3 & 4, 2008

On May 3rd and 4th, Winnipeg joins the likes of Toronto and New York in hosting "Jane's Walk" – a series of free neighbourhood strolls that offer an insider's take on this city's vibrant and fascinating neighbourhoods. These walks will showcase great Winnipeg neighbourhoods in a new and exciting manner while celebrating the legacy of urban activist and writer Jane Jacobs. Jane's Walk is an exceptional opportunity for Winnipeggers to discover their city – both places they think they know well and places they want to explore.

We welcome you to lead a tour as part of this event, in a Winnipeg neighbourhood you're involved with or where you live, work or play.

Leading a walking tour simply involves planning a route, thinking through the stories, places and people you want to talk about, then walking participants through it – you decide what's important. If you like, you could share the guiding duties with a few other resourceful friends or colleagues. Jane's Walks are meant to be fun, engaging and participatory – everyone's got a story and they're usually keen to share it. All tours are given, and taken, for free.

As Jane Jacobs noted, people who live or work in the community know it best and can offer insights and observations that no professional can. The Jane's Walk Winnipeg organizing committee will handle all the publicity, logistics and website development. We'll also help you out with helpful 'tips for tour guides', and so on.

You don't have to be familiar with Jane Jacobs work to lead a tour so much as have an appreciation for her common sense yet revolutionary ideas that dense, mixed use neighborhoods are the key to the health and survival of a city.

In “The Life and Death of Great American Cities” (1961), Jane Jacobs championed the interests of local residents and pedestrians over a car-centered approach to planning, made the case for refurbishing old buildings instead of tearing them down and building new ones, and demonstrated the desirability of increasing the density of cities over sprawling endlessly outward.

So far, Jane’s Walk has happened in Toronto and New York in 2007 and exceeded all expectations in media interest and attendance. This May, Jane’s Walk is coming to at least four other Canadian cities – Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver in addition to Winnipeg. See what Jane’s Walk was like last year by visiting the websites at: www.janeswalk.net and NYC’s www.centerforthelivingcity.org.

Jane’s Walk is a national initiative of the Centre for City Ecology, a recently formed Toronto-based think-tank devoted to furthering Jacobs’ ideas and concerns about cities and sustainability. Jane’s Walk raises urban literacy by combining the simple act of walking with personal observations, urban history, planning, design and civic engagement.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Beth McKechnie, Resource Conservation Manitoba
beth@resourceconservation.mb.ca tel: 925-3772

Jino Distasio, Institute of Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg
j.distasio@uwinnipeg.ca / tel: 982-1147

Joel Ralph, Canada’s National History Society
jralph@historysociety.ca / tel: 988-9300, ext. 21

Looking for walking tour ideas? Sift through a few samples from Winnipeg and elsewhere for 2008...

Riverview: “A Neighbourhood with Soul!”

Join Jino Distasio, life-long Riverview resident and Director of the Institute of Urban Studies, as he leads this tour through a great Winnipeg neighbourhood that meanders with the banks of the majestic Red River. Together, you’ll trace River’s rich history that stretches back to a time when the first streetcars rumbled up Osborne and into one of the city’s most dazzling sites – Riverpark. You’ll walk through the past to see how history has shaped the modern changes in this highly desirable character neighbourhood. You’ll see and meet the faces of local residents and shop owners, learn about the architecture, and get a sense of just how unique and beautiful this little part of Fort Rouge is.

Fort York Historic District: 200 Years of Lakefront Development

Sunday, May 4, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

Covering Fort York, Garrison Common and Environs

Starting at the canteen at Fort York National Historic Site, this special walking tour explores the evolution and history of Fort York, the Garrison Common and the nearby Lake Ontario shoreline from the early British colonial era to the present day. Learn about the origins of Fort York, the fortification of the harbour, local railway & road building, and the subsequent industrial and recreational development of this vital area. You may discover a surprising blend of past and present in this historic landscape surrounding the fort. Rain or shine. Free Parking. Free admission to Fort York following tour.

East Scarborough – The Amazing Place

Saturday morning

One of Toronto's oldest chapels, an aboriginal gathering place, one of the finest examples of mural arts in the City, a sculpture garden set in spectacular natural beauty...where else, but in Scarborough – a rich, diverse and dynamic neighbourhood. The tour is organized and led by a unique collaboration of grass roots organizations, local youth, historians, urban activists and community developers. It is co-ordinated through the East Scarborough Storefront, a partnership designed to bring services and support to the people of this diverse community. For more information: www.theamazingplace.org

The Roncesvalles Sausage Walk

Tonya Surman, Executive Director of Centre for Social Innovation takes us on a stroll of her Roncesvalles neighbourhood. Explore the depth and breadth of sausage culture, from designer hot dogs to down home kolbassa, and get the inside dirt on the local campaign to get the Liquor Control Board of Ontario to take over the Rogers Video Store.