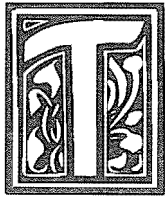


WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



THE FOCUS OF THIS

history is the three Winnipeg communities of Armstrong's Point, West Broadway, and Wolseley (including West Wolseley). In modern Winnipeg this area is bounded by the Assiniboine River on the south, Portage Avenue on the north, Osborne Street on the east, and Omand's Creek on the west. St. James Church, Polo Park, the Legislative Buildings and Memorial Park, and the University of Winnipeg, although just outside these boundaries, are significant focal points and have a role in our communities.

The earliest European maps and descriptions of this area describe it as "beautiful prairie" – grassland rising gently from the Assiniboine River, with occasional stands of trees, and a fringe of woodland along the river and on Armstrong's Point. The land was laced with creeks, including Catfish (Omand's) Creek, Spence's Creek and Colony Creek. Early settlers used the creeks for water (cleaner than the Assiniboine), skated and boated on them, and fished in them. Spence's Creek, which ran from northwest to southeast diagonally across James Spence's farm, seems to have disappeared early in the history of West Broadway, while Colony Creek survived until early in the 1900s. Omand's Creek at the western edge has been the focus of a major community preservation and restoration effort. Mary Ann Good, the Tree Lady of Wolseley, began planting trees in the 1860s, and most of the elms which shade the streets today were planted before World War I.

Our neighbourhoods today are home to about 14,000 people. We face many of the problems and challenges of any older urban neighbourhood – flight to the suburbs, aging infrastructure, striking inequality of income and opportunity among our residents. We also have a strong sense of community identity and pride. We enjoy rich ethnic and cultural diversity, a high level of tolerance, and a tradition of social responsibility and concern. This history brings together the stories of many people whose lives and work built the communities we live in today. I have enjoyed getting to know my neighbours, past and present, and I hope you will too.

I began this project thinking it would be easy to write a brief history, add some personal stories and a few photographs, and put it all together. It turned into a much larger task! I agonized over having to edit some of the stories given to me and hope there will an opportunity to use more of this information. I hope others will continue to document the history of their houses, schools, community organizations, save old photographs or letters found during renovations, write down recollections of community life, and interview older relatives and neighbours. Our history is not over. It is happening every day, just down the block.

FACING PAGE:

Map of Wolseley
Constituency,
1998