



*A path leading down to the river at St. John's Park, c. 1909. An edging of rough stones emphasized the curves of the path. PAM N12995.*



*Fort Rouge Park, c. 1900. These little "traffic islands" at the points where pathways met were a common feature of public parks at the turn of the century. The rough rocks piled up artfully to look as if they had been there forever were meant to suggest a natural landscape. PAM.*

with nature in a quiet and reflective way and for families to picnic together or enjoy scenic walks and drives. The small design touches that Champion provided indicate something about the rural feeling that he tried to create for park pleasure-seekers. Rustic benches and foot bridges of rough wood with the bark left intact suggest a rural experience. Triangular islands of trees and shrubbery directed traffic where walkways divided. These islands would often be composed of both deciduous and evergreen trees along with artfully piled pieces of stone. The pathways themselves might be edged with stone. The ambiance he strived to create was that of

a walk in some quiet country place.

Music was also considered appropriate for a public park. Although the board had experimented with giant phonographs and loudspeakers, Chairman Stovel favoured live band concerts, even on Sundays. Some people, he said, would not approve of Sunday concerts but he believed they were a virtual necessity. "It would be a great gain if the crowd of young men who roam up and down Portage avenue and Main street could be carried from these streets on Sundays to the park where properly supervised concerts were given."<sup>18</sup> None of the programs for these concerts have survived but since mili-

tary and pipe bands predominated in Winnipeg at that time, it is likely that they provided staple fare. For example, the 1914 season of band concerts featured the 79th Cameron Highlanders Band, the 100th Grenadiers Band, the 106th Winnipeg Light Infantry Band, the Citizen's Band and the Winnipeg Highland Cadet's Pipe Band. In that season, the board had allocated \$5,000 for music and had not been able to spend the full allocation.<sup>19</sup> Reading was another pastime of which Champion heartily approved. He suggested that a branch of the city library could be located in the pavilion of Assiniboine Park during the summer months. In