WELCOME
OUR VISION

THE ASSINIBOINE PARK CONSERVANCY EXISTS TO ENHANCE THE ASSINIBOINE PARK EXPERIENCE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

FOUNDED IN 2008, THE ASSINIBOINE PARK CONSERVANCY (APC) IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION OF WINNIPEG’S HISTORIC ASSINIBOINE PARK.

APC is also responsible for establishing the future vision for the Park and Zoo and carrying out this transformation while protecting the Park’s cherished character and ensuring its long-term financial viability. APC has a 50-year lease with the City of Winnipeg, which owns the property and assets.

In 2009, APC unveiled a visionary redevelopment plan for the entire Park designed to help the organization meet its long-term goals and objectives. The redevelopment is supported by the Imagine a Place Campaign. In just a few short years, with the support of the private and public sectors, APC has added tremendous value to this cherished community asset and popular tourist attraction.

APC is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of community leaders whose affection for Assiniboine Park translates into a deep sense of responsibility to our stakeholders. They provide leadership, valuable guidance, and essential connections to the communities we serve. The Board of Directors includes representation from the City of Winnipeg as well as accomplished and respected leaders in our business, philanthropic, post-secondary and Indigenous communities.
Message from the Chair of the Board

There is no disputing that a renaissance has taken place at Assiniboine Park and Zoo. It’s hard to believe how far we have come in only seven years. We are now embarking on the third major phase of our redevelopment – Canada’s Diversity Gardens – an attraction that will exemplify the true Canadian spirit of diversity. This project is something we can all be immensely proud of.

It feels like just yesterday when we set out to breathe new life into the Park and Zoo with what many called a bold redevelopment plan. Since then, a transformation has indeed occurred. We started with the Heart of the Park, expanding and enhancing the Riley Family Duck Pond, along with the additions of the Nature Playground, Streuber Family Children’s Garden, Qualico Family Centre and The Park Café. Visitors were welcomed to the Park once more, where they could share quality time together and be transported into a world that made everyone feel like a kid at heart.

The Zoo has also risen in status to become one of Manitoba’s premier tourist attractions. Although there is ongoing revitalization, the changes to date are evidenced with additions that include the expansive Amur tiger exhibit, a revitalized Toucan Ridge exhibit, the new McFeeters Heavy Horse Centre, and the award-winning Journey to Churchill exhibit. Journey to Churchill is one of the most visited exhibits at the Zoo and considered to be among the best Arctic species exhibits worldwide.

In addition, we were proud to re-open the iconic Pavilion, a historic landmark that played a role in many of our lives growing up. The Pavilion is literally and figuratively at the heart of Assiniboine Park, and the efforts we have made to preserve it reflect our commitment to protecting the Park’s cherished history while continuing to invest in its future.

The next major initiative is Canada’s Diversity Gardens – a new iconic horticultural attraction planned for the southeast corner of Assiniboine Park. Canada’s Diversity Gardens is an exciting project not only from a local and provincial perspective, but also for Canada as a nation. This will not only elevate our city and province as a tourist destination, but serve as a place where visitors from near and far can immerse themselves in the critical relationships that exist between people and plant life. This next step in our journey has only been possible with the help of our government partners and the community.

The Park has certainly transformed over the last seven years. I am truly grateful for the unparalleled support of the Imagine a Place campaign from our local, provincial and federal partners, foundations, private donors and the community at large. We will continue to work hard to ensure that Assiniboine Park and Assiniboine Park Zoo remain places of beauty where people can go to reminisce about their childhood, along with a place where millions of visitors can gather, be inspired and make new memories.

Hartley T. Richardson
Chair, APC Board of Directors & Imagine a Place Campaign
We often describe the Park and Zoo as FOUR SEASONS OF FUN! 2016 was definitely this and more. Whether it was the opening of the Dinosaurs Alive® exhibit at the Zoo or seeing people use the newly refurbished Terry Fox Fitness Trail, Assiniboine Park was a place where visitors connected with nature in a way that we hope inspired them to conserve it for the future.

We knew the Dinosaurs Alive® exhibit would be special when May long weekend saw record breaking numbers at the Zoo. More than 15,000 people visited the Zoo during opening weekend resulting in the highest visitation numbers on record during a long weekend as far back as records show. The Zoo continued to experience a busy summer with local visitors and tourists alike.

We were honoured when Journey to Churchill was added to Destination Canada’s collection of Canadian Signature Experiences in February, recognizing that the Zoo is an educational and innovative travel experience for visitors from around the world. In the fall, members of Assiniboine Park Zoo’s Polar Bear Rescue Team and Manitoba Sustainable Development worked together to bring two orphaned polar bear cubs to the Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre, giving them a chance of survival, and an opportunity to become ambassadors for their species while educating visitors about the effects of climate change on the north.

All across the Park, thousands of people connected with each other and the outdoors at the Lyric Theatre and the Leo Mol Sculpture Garden with summer fun and free family entertainment. The newly refurbished Terry Fox Fitness Trail was an active hub for runners, walkers and fitness enthusiasts of all abilities. Gardens were packed with kids of all ages playing Pokémon Go and dog walkers enjoyed their favourite trails. We were honoured to receive a 5 Blooms Bronze rating and a special mention for sustainability by Communities in Bloom during their 2016 International Symposium and Awards, a national competition based on environmental action, heritage conservation, urban forestry, and landscape and floral displays. This recognition affirms that we are creating something that the local community and tourists alike will enjoy for generations to come.

The Assiniboine Park Conservancy also reached a major milestone at the end of 2016 with completion of the design development phase for Canada’s Diversity Gardens, the horticultural attraction that will celebrate biodiversity and multi-culturalism. We hosted Indigenous and other community leaders, including Elders and Treaty One specialists, at a visioning workshop for the Indigenous Peoples’ Garden. The consultation process brought clarity to the design and understanding on how nature has and continues to influence Indigenous traditions and cultures. We hope that Manitobans and Canadians alike will be proud of this new addition, that recognizes Canada’s real beauty lies in its diversity.

One of the most exciting acknowledgments we received this past year was the 2016 Skål Sustainable Tourism Award for major tourist attractions. Winners were selected by a panel of independent judges based on a variety of criteria including contribution to the conservation of nature, cultural heritage conservation, community involvement, innovation and creativity, and educational features. As a conservation based organization, we strive to make every experience at the Park and Zoo educational, innovative and engaging. To have an impact though, we must make every effort to lead by example with the highest sustainability standards. We will continue to make this our goal and hope to educate our visitors on climate change and sustainable practices. After all, the real honour is when a visitor takes sustainable actions in their own lives, making a genuine difference in our community and in the world.

Margaret Redmond
President and CEO, Assiniboine Park Conservancy
WHAT’S NEW AT THE ZOO

New Animals

Polar Bears
Two orphaned polar bear cubs arrived at the Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre in fall of 2016.

First, a female, approximately 11 months old, arrived in late November. Second, a male, approximately 11 months old arrived in early December. Members of Assiniboine Park Zoo’s Polar Bear Rescue Team and Manitoba Sustainable Development worked together to coordinate the safe transfer of both cubs from Churchill. Their names, Nanuq and Siku, were selected via a public online poll that received nearly 4,000 votes for each cub.

Harbour Seals

Red Panda
Tango the Red Panda, arrived from Edmonton Valley Zoo in November 2016. His transfer to Assiniboine Park Zoo was recommended by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums Species Survival Plan (SSP) for red pandas. He is currently housed with Sachi in hopes of fulfilling the SSP’s recommendation.

Animal Births
There were several animal births at the Zoo in 2016, including:

- Four snowy owl chicks
- Three male pronghorn fawns
- Four reindeer calves

Zoo Tram
The popular 40-seat tram returned once more and operated with the Zoo on a route that connects the main entrance with the north end of the property. This included several stops along the way, such as Australian Walkabout, Dinosaurs Alive!® and Journey to Churchill. Operating seven days a week from spring through late fall, the tram is free and makes the Zoo more accessible for visitors.

DOMO Park Shuttle
From late spring to early fall, the DOMO Shuttle also returned and provided free shuttle service to Assiniboine Park Zoo from all major attractions within Assiniboine Park.
In February, Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC) announced that a custom tour of the Journey to Churchill exhibit within Assiniboine Park Zoo had been added to Destination Canada’s collection of Canadian Signature Experiences (CSE). CSE is a showcase of the rich diversity of Canada’s landscape, people and culture through innovative travel experiences all ages can enjoy. Experiences selected for the program connect visitors to Canadians, our geography and rich cultural heritage.

On October 4, APC was awarded the Sustainable Tourism Award at the 2016 Manitoba Tourism Awards. The award recognizes excellence in the delivery of a product or service that effectively demonstrates sustainable tourism practices.

On October 29, APC received a 5 Blooms Bronze rating and a special mention for sustainability by Communities in Bloom during their 2016 International Symposium and Awards in Regina.

Over the summer, judges visited Assiniboine Park to evaluate a variety of components such as environmental action, heritage conservation, urban forestry, and landscape and floral displays.

In November, APC was awarded the 2016 Skål Sustainable Tourism Award in the major tourist attractions category. Skål International made the announcement on October 30 during the opening ceremony of the 77th Skål World Congress held in Monaco. The Sustainable Tourism Awards highlight and acknowledge best practices in tourism around the world and emphasize the importance of the interaction between the physical, cultural and social environment, the traveler’s responsibility, and the need for active community participation for sustainability.

In addition, APC was nominated for VISA Innovator of the Year Award at the Canadian Tourism Awards that was held on November 30 in Gatineau. The Awards are presented annually by the Tourism Industry Association of Canada to celebrate success, leadership and innovation in Canada's travel and tourism industry.
NEW ENTITIES AND REFURBISHMENT

Terry Fox Fitness Trail
The Terry Fox Fitness Trail in Assiniboine Park was rejuvenated with wider pathways, instructional signage, 12 pieces of modern outdoor fitness equipment, and the addition of more than 100 new trees. More than $115,000 was raised in support of the refurbishment thanks to many donors including that of lead donor National Leasing. The Terry Fox Fitness Trail re-opened June 17, 2016 in celebration of Garden Days, a national celebration organized by the Canadian Garden Council that encourages Canadians to experience the outdoors and gardens in their local communities. The Trail provides a way for users to be active outdoors while enjoying natural garden space at the same time.

Biovator
In an ongoing effort to enhance Assiniboine Park Conservancy’s (APC) sustainable operations, the organization has purchased and will install in 2017 what is hoped to be the first of several Biovators for the property. The fully automated compost processor is designed to accept any and all natural products and is capable of producing high grade compost material within one to two weeks on an ongoing basis. APC staff use the Biovator to dispose of natural byproducts collected during daily operations at Assiniboine Park and Assiniboine Park Zoo. The Biovator then transforms those materials into compost that can be used in both seasonal outdoor plantings and for the year-round maintenance and nourishment of greenhouse plants on the property. The introduction of the Biovator into APC’s operations is hoped to be both cost-effective with respect to waste management fees and will enhance the organization’s environmental sustainability practices.

Dinosaurs Alive!
Dinosaurs Alive! at the Assiniboine Park Zoo presented by Artis REIT officially opened May 21. The spectacular exhibit featured Jurassic-like landscaping, 15 life-size, animatronic dinosaurs from the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. Dinosaurs Alive! offered visitors the opportunity to step back in time to the prehistoric era as the lifelike dinosaurs move and roar demonstrating how they may have looked and moved in a natural environment millions of years ago. Visitors also learned how dinosaurs adapted over their lives based on their needs, environments and diets.

Featuring dinosaurs that lived across the globe, the exhibit included well-known species such as the three-horned Triceratops and the ferocious Tyrannosaurus Rex, as well as some of the latest paleontological finds including the Mojoceratops and Kosmoceratops, both discovered in 2010. In addition to the dinosaurs themselves, the exhibit featured a dig site and excavation site where children of all ages could discover what it’s like to be a paleontologist.

Bee Houses
APC partnered with Chris and Lindsay Kirouac, the husband-and-wife team behind Beeproject Apiaries, to install bee houses for research within the Zoo. The honey produced at the Zoo is used in the Park’s restaurants and sold at Wild Things Unique Gifts at the Zoo.
Pavilion Renovations

The Pavilion was temporarily closed starting February 1, 2016 as crews updated the second and third floors, the main-floor restaurant space and the event space funded in part by Western Economic Diversification Canada. The facility also received a new roof, an upgraded mechanical system and insulation. Also new to the Pavilion is Plains Call, a large bronze sculpture created and donated by Manitoba artist Ivan Eyre, which now stands in the garden in front of the building.

The Pavilion officially reopened on September 28, 2016 with officials announcing a new partnership between APC and the Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG) that will see the WAG provide their expertise to curate exhibitions drawn primarily from the APC collection, as well as from the WAG collection.

On the Horizon

Wolf Exhibit

For the last three years, the wolves have been temporarily housed within the Journey to Churchill exhibit. As one of the Zoo’s most popular animals, it was recognized that the wolves required a permanent home within the Zoo. The new exhibit will be located in the Boreal Forest section of the Zoo approximately halfway between the Zoo entrance and Journey to Churchill. It has been designed to take advantage of a natural rise in elevation and abundant mature trees while maximizing the quality and number of viewing opportunities for visitors. Key elements include a water feature, heated rocks in prominent viewing locations, and a highly naturalized landscape that will provide the wolves with the opportunity to forage and explore naturally. The new exhibit is currently under construction and expected to open in late 2017.
Imagine a Place Campaign

In 2009, Assiniboine Park Conservancy unveiled a visionary redevelopment plan for Assiniboine Park and Zoo and launched the Imagine a Place Campaign with a goal of funding this transformation. In just a few short years, with the support of our government partners, corporate donors, foundations, and individual donors, APC completed five major projects, adding tremendous value to this cherished community treasure.
We took another important step towards making Canada’s Diversity Gardens a reality. The end of 2016 marked the completion of the design development phase.
2016 CAMPAIGN NEWS AND MAJOR FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 31

Susan Glass and Arni Thorsteinson announced a donation of $500,000 in support of the Imagine a Place Campaign and the development of Canada’s Diversity Gardens. This was the second donation made by the couple to APC bringing their Campaign commitment to $1 million. The donation was announced to a crowd of over 400 people at the Imagine Garden Party – APC’s signature fundraising event.

Garden Party

On August 31, over 400 guests attended APC’s annual Garden Party fundraising event in the Leo Mol Sculpture Garden in Assiniboine Park. Attendees enjoyed a night out with delicious food and drinks while having the opportunity to bid on exclusive Assiniboine Park and Zoo experiences. The event raised over $118,000, which would not have been possible without the support of the volunteer committee led by Co-chairs Ruth Asper and Lee Meagher and the generosity of our guests and sponsors including Presenting Sponsor The Asper Foundation. Proceeds from the event supported Canada’s Diversity Gardens.

September 9

Shirley Richardson and her family announced a generous commitment of $2.5 million on September 9. The donation will be recognized with the naming of the Shirley Richardson Butterfly Garden within Canada’s Diversity Gardens. A gift of $400,000 has been earmarked to match other community donations to the newly established ParkShare Endowment Fund created by APC through The Winnipeg Foundation. As it matures, this will serve as a long-term and sustainable source of operating funds that will support future initiatives designed to make Park and Zoo programming, admissions, and transportation more accessible for child, youth, and senior groups facing financial barriers.

September 29

On September 29, APC’s Donor Plaza was unveiled. These glowing “candle pillars,” located adjacent to the Pavilion, are symbolic of the generous leadership of our donors, showcasing those who have contributed $25,000+.

IN 2016, THE CAMPAIGN RAISED $4.9 MILLION FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR

MASTERPLAN ELEMENTS

- Heart of the Park
- Journey to Churchill & Zoo Projects
- Canada’s Diversity Gardens
PROGRAMS

Foodology
For two weeks last summer in July and August, nine children between the ages 7 and 11 participated in Foodology, a culinary art camp at Assiniboine Park in conjunction with Marymound. This program’s objective is to give children at risk access to nature at the Park in a safe setting, and to teach them about cultivating food from a garden, the importance of proper nutrition.

Participants learned about the benefits of urban bee keeping with staff of the Beeproject Apiaries, along with harvesting and preparing vegetables in the garden. They prepared their own food incorporating recipes like Three Sisters Salsa, Pico de Gallo, and refrigerator pickles, while preparing fresh tortillas and empanadas. The children honed their culinary skills under the tutelage of local chef Rob Thomas, and visited Fort Whyte Alive and Aurora Farms to learn the benefits of local agriculture. New this year, was the addition of five senior (55 plus) Park volunteers to mentor and support the children in these activities lending an intergenerational component to the program. Foodology was made possible this year with the generous support of The Winnipeg Foundation.

Green Kids Partnership
In September and October, Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC) partnered with Green Kids Inc. to deliver free environmental and sustainability focused programs for students in grades three to five in recognition of Sustainability Month. A River Runs Through It was a full day of exploring the importance of the Riparian Forest to river water quality and ecology through environmental education, nature walks, photography, and theatre. Fifteen schools participated in the programs with a total of 346 students.

Fostering Engagement with Pembina Trails
Children from the Pembina Trails Fostering Engagement Program have been working directly with APC’s education team since 2011. The students that attend this intergenerational program have been identified by Behavioral and Learning Support Staff from the Pembina Tails School division as having difficulties engaging in a conventional classroom setting and demonstrating feelings of frustration or lack of attention. The goal of the Fostering Engagement Partnership is to ensure greater engagement and success for these students outside of a traditional classroom setting by providing authentic, hands-on learning opportunities. Through the one-to-one support provided by APC educators, senior-aged Zoo volunteers, and Behaviour and Learning Support Teachers, students were well-supported while participating in the learning activities.

In 2016, more than 20 students participated in the eight week program during the spring and fall, learning about subjects as diverse as vermicomposting, riparian forests, and polar bears.

All My Relations
Over the summer and fall of 2016, APC developed a new Zoo program focused on the cultures of the Indigenous nations of Manitoba, in consultation with Indigenous elders, knowledge keepers, teachers, students, and organizations, as well as governmental and educational institutions. Specifically focusing on teachings we receive from animals and the land in order to live mino bimaadiziwin, or the good life in Anishinaabemowin, the program has come to be called GAKINA NDINWEMAAGANAG: KAKINOW NIWAHKOMAKANAK: All My Relations, as translated in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe), Ininiw (Cree) and English.

Visitors began the program with an optional tobacco offering and were guided through the animals of North America as cultural teachings, history, environmental social issues, and stories from the land were shared.
799 children age 6 to 12 attended Zoo Camp during the summer, spring and in-service days.

14,234 participants attended curriculum-linked school and group programs at the Park and Zoo in 2016.

1,036 participants took part in outreach programs delivered by Assiniboine Park Conservancy’s Education Programming Team.

4,767 people participated in guided tours of Assiniboine Park and Zoo.

310 people participated in leisure programs such as art, crafting, botanical classes, family and tot programs and recreation programs.

2,097 students participated in education field trips subsidized by the Assiniboine Park Conservancy.

In 2016, there were more than 23,500 Park and Zoo members.
CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Summer Entertainment Series
The annual Red River Co-op Summer Entertainment Series at Assiniboine Park offered nearly 30 concerts and events from June through August at the Lyric Theatre and Leo Mol Sculpture Garden. The entire series, which is attended by tens of thousands of Manitobans each year, is offered free of charge to the public and made possible solely through sponsorship support.

The Tragically Hip
On August 20, the public was invited to gather at Assiniboine Park for a screening of CBC’s “The Tragically Hip: A National Celebration”. The broadcast was projected on a massive 27 foot-wide LED screen on the Lyric Stage and in keeping with Assiniboine Park’s history of offering free community events for all to enjoy.

Wildest Dreams
In 2016, the Wildest Dreams Campaign raised more than $37,000 in support of initiatives that help make Park and Zoo programs physically and financially accessible to those in need. On August 18, in celebration, the Assiniboine Park Conservancy partnered with 15 community organizations and welcomed more than 1,400 special guests at the third annual Wildest Dreams event at Assiniboine Park Zoo. The Wildest Dreams event provided a once-in-a-lifetime Zoo experience for children facing health and/or socio-economic challenges. From the moment these children and their families walked through the gate, they were treated to an evening full of special events and activities beyond an everyday Zoo visit.
CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

Saving Prairie Butterflies

Native grassland habitats are increasingly threatened by climate change and a wide array of human influences. These factors have resulted in the dramatic decline of several highly specialized grassland species including the endangered Poweshiek Skipperling. The Assiniboine Park Zoo is collaborating with Minnesota Zoo’s Prairie Butterfly Conservation Program, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and University of Winnipeg researchers, among others, to help establish a head-starting program for the Poweshiek Skipperling. This program brings female butterflies into the Zoo to lay eggs for 72 hours before they are released again. The eggs hatch and are raised until they are adults the following summer. These adults will be released into the wild to increase the population size or re-establish the population in areas where they have gone extinct. On recommendation of local and international experts, captive rearing operations were established in 2016 and continued in 2017 with a surrogate species, Garita Skipperling. The goal of the surrogate program is to develop the skills, techniques, and infrastructure to use for rearing Poweshiek Skipperlings in 2017. The goal of the surrogate program is to develop the skills, techniques, and infrastructure to use for rearing Poweshiek Skipperlings in 2017 and other threatened butterflies in the future. With this program, we hope to increase populations these butterflies in Manitoba and fill in some knowledge gaps that currently exist.

Bonnie Tulloch (Education)

In October, Bonnie volunteered and assisted with the planning of Sustainability Night, a PechaKucha-styled event held at the Manitoba Museum to launch the kick-off of Sustainability Month. Seven speakers presented 20 slides for 20 seconds each, and shared information about community initiatives they are involved in to help build a more sustainable future. Presenters included Chris Kirouac from Bee project Apiaries, Art Ladd from BUILD, Inc., and Janelle Delorme from Development and Peace. More than 180 people attended this important event, which was hosted by local CBC radio personality Trevor Dineen.

Dr. Stephen Petersen (Conservation and Research)

Dr. Petersen serves on the Terrestrial Mammal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). This sub-committee reviews status reports for Canadian wildlife and based on the science and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge available, recommends appropriate conservation status for each species. These status determinations (which you can see on all the animal ID signs of Canadian animals at Assiniboine Park Zoo) play an important role in how we protect and conserve species. Each year the sub-committee reviews five or more reports and meets for a week to make the final recommendations. APC supports this activity by allowing Dr. Petersen to travel to these meetings and contribute to conservation on a federal level.

Brittany Semeniuk (Veterinary Services)

Brittany volunteers with Save A Dog Network Canada, a local dog rescue that focuses on providing veterinary care and other resources to animals in remote communities. A team consisting of a veterinarian, vet technician, and other volunteers,
travel to remote communities where they host 2-3 day clinics to provide sterilizations, vaccinations, deworming, and general medical care for as many animals as possible. Most of these communities have no opportunity for veterinary care and often have large populations of feral dogs due to uncontrolled breeding. This work provides the animals with a better quality of life by providing exceptional medical care, reducing future populations, and as an effect, reducing incidences of rabies and canine parvovirus. It also provides a valuable service to northern communities.

**C-Jae Breiter (Conservation and Research)**

C-Jae is the past-president of The Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter and has volunteered with the executive team since 2013. The mission of this organization is to conserve and protect our wildlife resource base through public awareness, education, and always upholding responsible wildlife stewardship. The chapter offers several hands on professional development workshops each year as well as three major annual events including a fall mixer, winter getaway, and annual general meeting. This is a great opportunity to connect with other wildlife professionals in the province.

**Student Research Projects**

Each year APC’s Conservation and Research department hosts several students that conduct original research as part of their thesis projects. By having students do this type of work, APC is able to complete more research while maintaining current resources. More importantly, APC is able to give back to the community by helping to train the next generation of conservation scientists. In the spring of 2016, two such students completed and defended their undergraduate biology honours projects.

Justine Hudson (University of Winnipeg) spent four months at the Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre laboratories conducting DNA extractions, microsatellite profiling, and genetic analysis of ringed seals in order to fill that research gap. Landscape genetics allows us to identify barriers in the range of a species using the genetic signature that occurs. Justine’s work showed that there were very few barriers in the Canadian Arctic and that ringed seals could likely move freely in spite of long distances and dense ice. Justine successfully defended her Biology honours thesis in May of 2016 and will be pursuing a Masters of Science degree at the University of Manitoba in September.

**Celebrating Conservation – Supporting Global Partners**

APC celebrates a number of days each year to raise funds and awareness of conservation issues for other like-minded organizations. Special events days like International Red Panda Day and Snow Leopard Day were held to promote species conservation through public outreach. In 2016, the Conservation and Research department increased their efforts and raised more than $3,500 for the Red Panda Network, a non-profit organization that aims to educate people and protect red panda habitats and $1,500 for the Snow Leopard Trust, a non-profit organization that works to help snow leopards through education, stewardship, and research. They look forward to more of these important celebrations in 2017.

**Sharing Research – ArcticNet 2016**

In 2016, the Conservation and Research Team was in the field studying Arctic seals, beluga whales, polar bears, prairie butterflies, and burrowing owls. Staff and students of APC and the collaborative Arctic Seal Working Group presented research at the ArcticNet 2016. This 12th Annual Scientific Meeting held at the Winnipeg RBC Convention Centre, welcomed researchers, students, Inuit, Northerners, policy makers, and stakeholders from across Canada and the world. Participants attended with the aim of addressing rapid changes observed in the Arctic as well as the social, economic, and political challenges faced by people in the North. From Student Day to the Arctic Inspiration Prize Ceremony, the week was full of presentations, panel discussions, networking opportunities, and inspiring stories.

**Polar Bear Rescue Team**

Assiniboine Park Zoo’s Polar Bear Rescue Team is a group of animal care professionals consisting of veterinary staff, animal husbandry experts and conservation scientists that are called to action by Manitoba Sustainable Development when there are polar bear cubs in need of rescue. If Manitoba Sustainable Development identifies a polar bear in need of help, the Polar Bear Rescue Team will help transfer them to the Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre (LIPBCC) at the Assiniboine Park Zoo. The LIPBCC is a state-of-the-art polar bear rescue and transition facility and is the hub of the Zoo’s research and conservation initiatives. The only one of its kind in North America, the Centre is the first home within the Assiniboine Park Zoo for rescued polar bears. Here, polar bears are given the highest standard of care as they adjust and transition to their new home.

After new polar bears get used to increasing exposure to people they eventually move over to the Zoo’s international award-winning Journey to Churchill exhibit where they join other polar bears rescued from the north. Here, these bears act as ambassadors for their species, helping to educate visitors about life in the north and climate change issues. It is our hope that by seeing and learning from these bears, people will be inspired to make changes in their own lives that can have positive effects on climate change and wildlife conservation.
STAFF AND VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

In 2016, Human Resources undertook several initiatives to create a better working environment and to develop programs to support APC employees.

APC completed a market review of the non-union compensation program to assess and validate the overall compensation philosophy. The review identified positions that required market adjustments to create a more equitable compensation structure as well as an opportunity to develop a new compensation model for non-union hourly staff effective January 1, 2017.

Another initiative in 2016 was the review of APC’s non-union benefit program’s cost structure and sustainability. After a thorough review, APC elected to move parts of the benefit plan from insured to a self-funded or Administrative Services Only (ASO) model with our Group Insurance provider effective January 1, 2017.

Leadership development continued to be a focus in 2016 and 20 additional supervisors, team leads and new managers participated in a five week “Challenge of Leadership” training program. APC further developed an APC Manager’s Tool Kit and enhanced its monthly manager forums to provide more support to frontline managers and supervisors.

APC completed its first formal Employee Engagement Survey conducted by AON Hewitt in the summer of 2016. APC had a participation rate of 82% with 265 respondents and an overall engagement score of 54%.

In the fall of 2016, the AON Hewitt Employee Engagement Survey results were shared at 14 staff forums with over 250 employees attending. The forums were led by APC President & CEO Margaret Redmond and employees identified four key areas that APC could focus on in 2017 to improve engagement:

- communication & understanding roles and APC as a whole;
- learning & development;
- career opportunities; and,
- recognition and appreciation.

Our people are essential to the success of APC and the visitor experience. During the peak summer season APC staff compliment reached 444 employees. This includes 86 non-union permanent, 96 CUPE permanent, 66 CUPE seasonal, and 196 non-union hourly staff.

A key recruit for APC was hiring a new Chief Operating Officer, Bruce Keats who joined APC in June 2016.

Volunteers are an integral part of the Park operations, from partnering with staff behind the scenes to enhance the many attractions and visitor experience to being a welcoming face to visitors as Zoo Ambassadors.

The Volunteer Program continues to attract high quality, dedicated volunteers to Assiniboine Park Conservancy where they support many attractions and facilities within the Park and Zoo.

During the peak summer season there were 308 active volunteers who donated just under 39,000 hours of service in 2016, a significant increase of hours from the previous year. Volunteers played an important supporting role in enhancing the visitors experience with their involvement in the new Dinosaurs Alive® exhibit as well as continuing to assist with the McFeetors Heavy Horse Centre and visitor rides.

APC introduced two new volunteer roles with great success. The first role was the Zoo Ambassador program where 70 volunteers completed training. Through a pilot program, a second role was created for youth volunteers ranging in age from 15 to 19 who formed the Zoo Camp Crew, providing assistance to Zoo Camp Counselors for the summer camp programs.
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of,
Assiniboine Park Conservancy Inc.

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summarized balance sheet as at December 31, 2016 and the summarized statement of operations and changes in fund balances for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of Assiniboine Park Conservancy Inc. (the “Organization”) for the year ended December 31, 2016. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the financial statements in our report dated April 13, 2017. The financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Organization.

Management’s Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements.

Auditor’s Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of the Organization for the year ended December 31, 2016 are consistent, in all material respects, with the financial statements, in accordance with the Canadian Auditing Standard 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Chartered Accountants

Winnipeg, Manitoba
July 25, 2017
## Assiniboine Park Conservancy Inc.

### Summarized Balance Sheet as at December 31

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<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and short term investments</td>
<td>$11,640,668</td>
<td>$9,517,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Accounts receivable</td>
<td>253,535</td>
<td>210,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government remittances receivable</td>
<td>41,396</td>
<td>7,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial grants &amp; tax credits receivable</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>328,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>286,578</td>
<td>284,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>343,297</td>
<td>327,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$12,565,474</td>
<td>$10,676,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term Capital assets (Note 1)</td>
<td>103,505,339</td>
<td>103,829,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art collections</td>
<td>14,057,344</td>
<td>13,776,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits receivable</td>
<td>420,675</td>
<td>417,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$130,548,832</td>
<td>$128,699,604</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>$3,547,320</td>
<td>$2,410,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Deferred contributions - operating</td>
<td>469,206</td>
<td>451,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes payable</td>
<td>6,150,000</td>
<td>9,610,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of long-term debt</td>
<td>323,497</td>
<td>382,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$10,490,023</td>
<td>12,853,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term Deferred contributions - operating</td>
<td>87,490</td>
<td>305,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred contributions - capital</td>
<td>105,028,225</td>
<td>100,695,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term debt</td>
<td>544,747</td>
<td>868,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued employee benefits</td>
<td>189,508</td>
<td>186,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>116,339,993</td>
<td>114,908,125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>14,057,344</td>
<td>13,776,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internally Restricted (Note 2)</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>1,495</td>
<td>14,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14,208,839</td>
<td>13,791,479</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Note 1
The Province of Manitoba has a $30 million investment in the Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre ("LIPBCC") and Polar Bear Facilities, which include the Gateway to the Arctic Building, the Animal Holding and Filtration System Building and the Polar Plunge. As a result, the Province’s $30 million investment in these capital assets do not appear on the Conservancy’s balance sheet.

### Note 2
The Conservancy has internally restricted funds for a fiscal stabilization reserve to support the long-term sustainability of the organization.
Assiniboine Park Conservancy Inc.

Summarized Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances for the year ended December 31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Winnipeg</td>
<td>$10,512,000</td>
<td>$11,376,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating grants</td>
<td>246,474</td>
<td>256,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts and sponsorships</td>
<td>1,002,735</td>
<td>827,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization of deferred contributions</td>
<td>6,869,160</td>
<td>7,648,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park revenues</td>
<td>13,154,499</td>
<td>12,076,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$31,784,868</td>
<td>$32,185,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct costs of park revenues</strong></td>
<td>7,107,612</td>
<td>6,374,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$1,625,047</td>
<td>$1,509,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>190,942</td>
<td>405,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization of capital assets</td>
<td>7,117,350</td>
<td>6,962,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>186,392</td>
<td>208,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>2,567,052</td>
<td>2,589,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>1,079,302</td>
<td>964,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages, benefits and contract services</td>
<td>11,687,922</td>
<td>12,177,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation to Winnipeg Foundation - ParkShare</td>
<td>65,889</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>$24,519,896</td>
<td>$24,817,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of Revenue over Expense</strong></td>
<td>157,360</td>
<td>994,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transfer to fiscal stabilization reserve</strong></td>
<td>(150,000)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transfer to restricted fund</strong></td>
<td>(20,800)</td>
<td>(5,492)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted Fund Balance, Beginning of Year</strong></td>
<td>14,935</td>
<td>(973,725)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted Fund Balance, End of Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,495</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,935</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2016 REVENUE BY SOURCE**
- City of Winnipeg 33%
- Other operating grants 1%
- Gifts and sponsorships 3%
- Amortization of deferred contributions 22%
- Park revenues 41%

**2016 EXPENSE BY CATEGORY**
- Wages, benefits and contract services 37%
- Donation to Winnipeg Foundation - ParkShare 0%
- Direct costs of park revenues 22%
- Administration 5%
- Interest 1%
- Amortization of capital assets 23%
- Insurance 1%
- Operations 8%
- Utilities 3%
### Contributing Agencies

#### For the year ended December 31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributions received</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Winnipeg</td>
<td>$5,050,750</td>
<td>$5,282,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province of Manitoba</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations and Charities</td>
<td>1,778,433</td>
<td>6,045,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>2,202,082</td>
<td>1,746,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>2,171,048</td>
<td>3,904,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Contributions</strong></td>
<td>11,202,313</td>
<td>16,977,918</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Amortization of deferred contributions: (6,869,160) (7,648,476)
- Deferred Contributions - Capital, Beginning of Year: 100,695,072  91,365,630
- Deferred Contributions - Capital, End of Year: **$105,028,225**  **$100,695,072**

#### 2016 Contributions – Capital

- City of Winnipeg 45%
- Foundations and Charities 16%
- Individuals 20%
- Corporations 19%