Sherbrook Pool & Friends of Sherbrook Pool (FOSP), 1992 Inc.

Outline of Events re: City of Winnipeg Capital Funds Commitment

1994 - 1995

- City Hall agreed to save Sherbrook Pool from demolition.
- Full City of Winnipeg Council **allocated $1.2 Million** for renovations to Sherbrook Pool, payable in **five yearly installments of $240K** each.
- Renovations and refurbishments to be completed by 1999.
- Sherbrook Pool receives **first of five $240K** allocations from City.

1996

- Sherbrook Pool receives **second of five $240K** allocations from City
- **Phase I Upgrade:** Infrastructure grant of $500K plus two $240K installments from City of Winnipeg spent on exterior walls, new windows and vapour barrier.
- **Phase II Upgrade:** Release of funds from City of Winnipeg does not occur.

1997 – 2003

- FOSP attempts to have remaining $720K released to fulfill City of Winnipeg's obligation through dialogue, discussion, presentation and negotiation.

2004-2006

- Release of Public Use Facilities Study.
- FOSP responds to suggestion to "surplus" Sherbrook Pool (Dollars and Sense document)
- FOSP enters into discussions with Federal/ Provincial government, the University of Winnipeg, core area community groups to submit an application to the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement (WPA) for the completion of the Pool Project (1.9 million based on 2000 estimates). Recommendation to EPC from Community Area Committee supporting the release of original capital funds committed and support for WPA submission.
- The FOSP, the users of Sherbrook Pool and community groups begin plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Sherbrook Pool.

The Phase Two renovations for the Sherbrook Pool-the details are outlined in a City of Winnipeg Property and Development Services Department document "Building Envelop Study" 01/2000. The following is a summary of those details taken directly from that report:

Phase Two Renovations

The additional future renovations included in the Phase Two are primarily functional improvements to the pool. These improvements will include:

Lower Level Renovations-renovations will include-redeveloping the Men's and Women's locker/shower facilities, new plumbing and ventilation, replacement of existing lockers as required, providing 5 new family change room areas, installation of a barrier free elevator to service the basement and mezzanine levels.

Main Floor Renovations-renovations will include: removing the bleachers on the west side of the pool above the Woman 's locker area and creating a deck level space, providing leisure facilities, providing a steam room and pool storage area, redeveloping the entry area, relocating the staff lockers to the main floor.

Mezzanine Upgrade-additional mezzanine level renovations will include: developing an observation/snack area, enlarging the fitness area and general purpose room, providing men's and womens' washrooms and a teaching area within the east side bleachers.

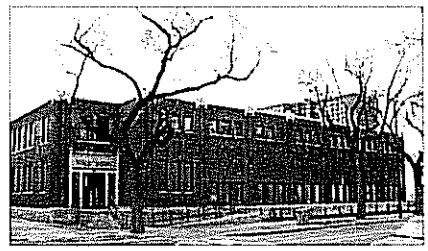
Additional notes:

With the exception of the lower level exterior walls, the build envelop was completely rehabilitated. Due to the lower humidity levels within the lower level the exterior walls were never subject to the damaging

effects experienced on the main level. To avoid potential future deterioration of these lower walls, especially due to the upgrading of the building envelop of the upper levels, it is imperative that the remaining lower walls be upgraded as well. The lower level exterior wall could be upgrade as pat of future renovations in this area if time lapse is not excessive.

The costs are based on estimates that are now over five years old. The original work was done by KGS group (BOB LONG) who also provided the above details. The report clearly states that the integrity of the phase on renovations are contingent on completing Phase Two of the Project.

Friends of Sherbrook Pool



The Past, The Present, The Future

Friends of Sherbrook Pool, Inc. involved in our Community...

- ***Kidswim*** *has given 2000 inner-city children most at risk of gang involvement the chance to learn to swim and develop* ***a healthy and active life.***

- *The* ***Moffat Family Fund/Winnipeg Foundation*** *recognized Kidswim with $12,000 grant in October 2005.*

- ***Youthguard*** *trains twelve Aboriginal and visible minority lifeguards to meet lifeguard shortage with $92,000 from Winnipeg Development Agreement, cultivating* ***visible young leaders*** *for the community.*

- ***Sherbrook Sharks*** *gives 50 inner-city youth, including youth-at-risk, the chance to swim* ***and win*** *for a competitive swim team.*

Background

In 1992 a diverse group of socially-minded people formed *The Friends of Sherbrook Pool* to prevent the closure of Sherbrook Pool, a jewel in the heart of Winnipeg. A study deemed that Sherbrook Pool, because it was an older building with special needs, was not worth keeping. The study indicated that Sherbrook Pool was not bringing in revenue comparable to other pools in Winnipeg.

The Friends of Sherbrook Pool (FOSP) recognized the historical, cultural and social value of the pool, and vowed to create awareness about the role of the pool in communities throughout Winnipeg.

The FOSP was successful in demonstrating to the City of Winnipeg that Sherbrook Pool brought in less revenue due to the number of needy families using the free swims at the pool; annually in the vicinity of 16,000.

Mayor Susan Thompson became a supporter of the pool and its role in numerous communities and FOSP successfully negotiated a **Capital Funds Commitment** with the City of Winnipeg. In addition, FOSP gained financial support from the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada.

Outline of Events
City of Winnipeg Capital Funds Commitment

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- Sherbrook Pool receives **first of five $240K** allocations from City.

FOSP receives financial support of the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada. FOSP initiates, develops and implements programming at Sherbrook Pool in exchange for financial support from City of Winnipeg.

1996

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2004

Release of Public Use Facilities Study.

- PUFS declares $4 Million repairs/refurbishment required but City will not provide breakdown of said estimate.
- FOSP responds to suggestion to "surplus" Sherbrook Pool.

Dollars and Sense

In its 75 years, Sherbrook Pool has given the Winnipeg taxpayer better value for money than any other pool. Of the 13 indoor pools, according to the PUFS' Facility Condition Index, 6 pools,

average age 33 years, are cited as having higher preservation needs, while another 3 pools, average age 31 years, have preservation needs at least half as high. Built to last, Sherbrook Pool has stood the test of time better than any other pool: why is it targeted for closure?

What is the breakdown of the $3.9 million cited for preservation needs and how is it justified? Phase II upgrading costs as cited by KGS Consultants in 2001 were approximately $1.8 million. Basic preservation needs minus some of the extras could be considerably lower.

Sherbrook Pool operating needs account for only about 3.5% of operating needs for all indoor pools (PUFS Report, Fig. 8.12 pp. 8-15). Utility costs are higher at six other indoor pools. How can this be considered excessive when Sherbrook Pool's needs are average at worst?

Why build a new urban oasis that would be smaller (24,000 to 30,000ft^2 – PUFS Report, pp. 12-15) than Sherbrook Pool (32,500ft^2) yet have a much higher building cost than upgrading Sherbrook Pool to become a more multi-use facility?

Who Uses Sherbrook Pool?

FOSP members report seeing attendees not being counted. Have all user groups been included in attendance figures, including free swims? Given the importance of statistics in the PUFS report, and the possibility of significant underestimating of attendance, why does the PUFS report not tell us which figures were included?

Sherbrook Pool is the pool of choice for over two dozen user groups from the disabled to competitive swimmers. It is a niche pool for those with a variety of health problems, including arthritis, fibromyalgia and injury recovery. These swimmers come for the warm water and ambient temperature, and the superior skills of the instructors.

The pool is packed to capacity during free swims. If the city wishes to see higher attendance in this low-income area, would it not make sense to lower the fees for local residents and for University of Winnipeg students, given the health benefits from swimming?

Winnipeg would be in good company – Ottawa, Melbourne, Edinburgh – if it restored Sherbrook Pool. The Melbourne City Baths is now visited each year by thousands of national and international tourists who are drawn to this heritage building. Why not restore Sherbrook Pool to its 1930s splendor and promote it as a tourist destination and a film set?

Community Values and Democracy

Sherbrook Pool is an important Winnipeg landmark with Level III Historic Building Status. As one of few Art Deco buildings in Winnipeg, and the oldest remaining pool in Western Canada, it is an important part of the City of Winnipeg's architectural legacy.

Wolseley, Spence and West Broadway are communities that value their old buildings. The province has worked with these communities to preserve many landmarks, such as Mulvey and Laura Secord Schools, the Misericordia Hospital, and the University of Winnipeg. Why can't the city also respect the community values and the architectural integrity of this neighbourhood by upgrading Sherbrook Pool?

FOSP have been told by residents that Sherbrook Pool is a safe haven for all children and teens in the inner city. It is not on the turf of any one street gang. There is a fear, however, that if a one-stop shop mega-complex were built it could become disputed gang territory. When the PUFS consultants were told of the complicated social reality of the inner city by local parents, they were seen to take few, if any, notes. FOSP have spent years earning the trust of the local community and proving that they are willing to listen.

Even though cities world wide have saved their niche pools, we are told by American consultants that single-tank pools no longer fit the vision. Why would an American suburban model work in Winnipeg's inner city? Whose vision is this?

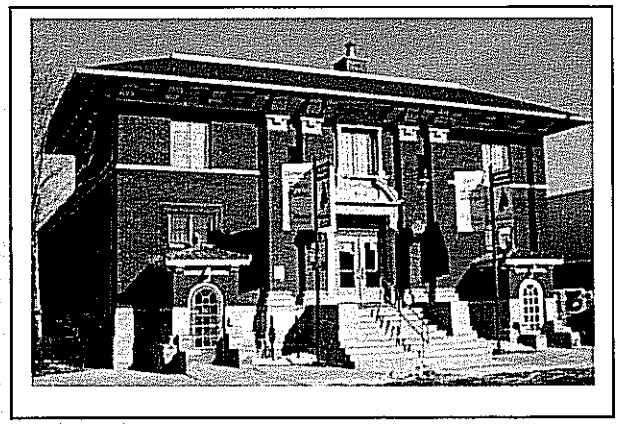
Friends of Sherbrook Pool Accomplishments

- won the support of all levels of government: municipal, provincial, federal.
- built a volunteer and funding base to build and sustain programs: Kidswim, Sherbrook Sharks, Youthguard

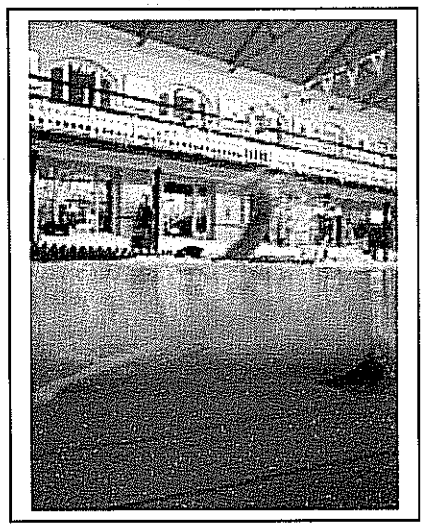
- nominated for a Manitoba Minister of Justice Crime Prevention Award (1998)
- raised tens of thousands of dollars from individuals, businesses, and foundations and liaised with many local organizations
- provided free swimming lessons to ~ 2000 inner-city children to through Kidswim
- initiated the Sherbrook Sharks, a nationally recognized competitive swim team for inner-city children (See attached article)
- initiated Youthguard, a program to train inner-city lifeguards, with $92,000 of funding from the Winnipeg Development Agreement

Other Jurisdictions

In 2004, Ottawa reopened its newly restored Champagne Baths, built in 1922. It had earlier renovated its Plant Baths. In 1983, Melbourne, Australia reopened its restored Melbourne City Baths, built in 1904. Edinburgh has renovated public baths and Paris has its own beautiful Art Deco baths which appeared in the renowned film *Bleu*. When cities like Ottawa, Edinburgh, Paris and Melbourne treasure their heritage pools, why would Winnipeg shut ours down?



Champagne Baths, Ottawa





Melbourne City Baths
http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=287&pg=2578

Portobello Baths, Edinburgh

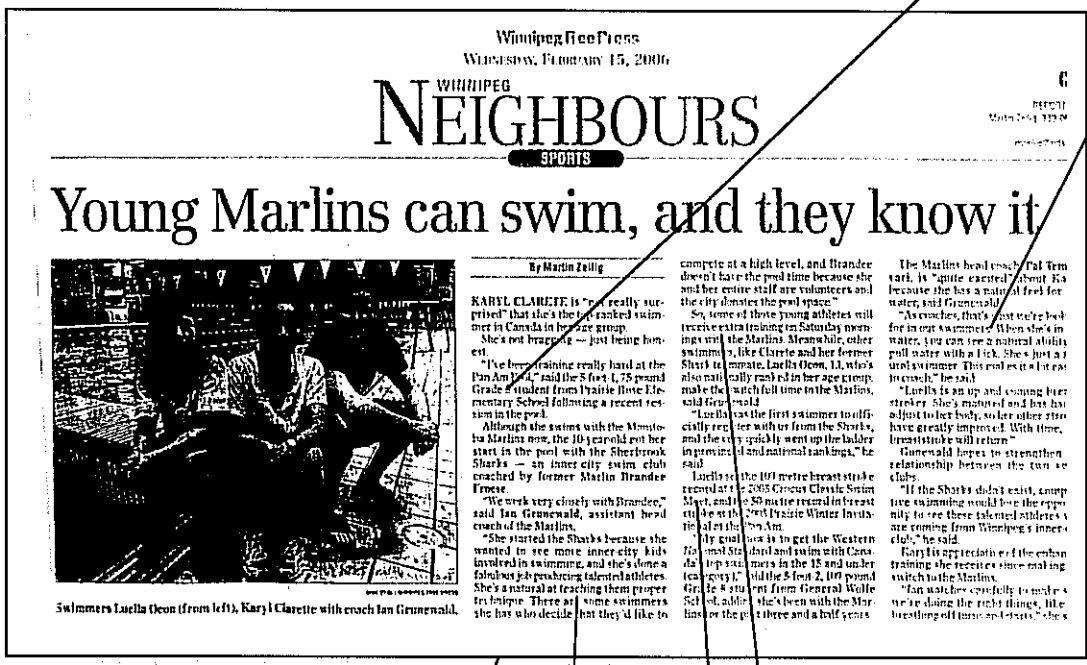


In April 1998, after a closure of nearly three years and another modernisation paid for by a lottery grant and the City council, the baths reopened as Portobello Swim Centre. 4.25 million pounds was spent upgrading the pools, changing facilities, pulse centre and cafe. The stonework was repaired and the main pool was fitted with a moveable floor. Many of the original features lost in 1967 were returned or uncovered. Unfortunately, the water in the pools is no longer salt, but the swim centre does have Russian, Turkish and aerotone baths.

Portobello baths has over the years been home to many famous swimmers and Water Polo teams.

From *The Winnipeg Free Press, 15 February 2006*

"I've been training really hard..."



Winnipeg Free Press
Wednesday, February 15, 2006

WINNIPEG
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SPORTS

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Young Marlins can swim, and they know it

Swimmers Luella Ocon (from left), Kary l Clarette with coach Ian Grunewald.

By Martin Zeilig

KARYL CLARETTE is "not really surprised" that she's the top-ranked swimmer in Canada in her age group.

She's not bragging — just being honest.

"I've been training really hard at the Pan Am Pool," said the 5 foot 1, 75 pound Grade 8 student from Prairie Rose Elementary School following a recent session in the pool.

Although she swims with the Manitoba Marlins now, the 10-year-old got her start in the pool with the Sherbrook Sharks — an inner city swim club coached by former Marlin Brandee Froese.

"We work very closely with Brandee," said Ian Grunewald, assistant head coach of the Marlins.

"She started the Sharks because she wanted to see more inner-city kids involved in swimming, and she's done a fabulous job producing talented athletes. She's a natural at teaching them proper technique. There are some swimmers she has who decide that they'd like to compete at a high level, and Brandee doesn't have the pool time because she and her entire staff are volunteers and the city donates the pool space."

So, some of those young athletes will receive extra training on Saturday mornings with the Marlins. Meanwhile, other swimmers, like Clarete and her former Shark teammate, Luella Ocon, 13, who's also nationally ranked in her age group, make the switch full-time to the Marlins, said Grunewald.

"Luella was the first swimmer to officially register with us from the Sharks, and she very quickly went up the ladder in provincial and national rankings," he said.

Luella's 50 metre breast stroke record at the 2005 Circus Classic Swim Meet, and her 50 metre record in breast stroke at the 2005 Prairie Winter Invitational at the Pan Am.

"My goal now is to get the Western National Standard and swim with Canada Games swimmers in the 13 and under category," said the 5 foot 2, 100 pound Grade 8 student from General Wolfe School, adding she's been with the Marlins for the past three and a half years.

The Marlins head coach, Pat Temple, is "quite excited" about Karyl because she has a natural feel for the water, said Grunewald.

"As coaches, that's what we're looking for in our swimmers. When she's in the water, you can see a natural ability to pull water with a kick. She's just a natural swimmer. That makes it a lot easier to coach," he said.

"Luella is an up and coming butterfly stroker. She's matured and has had to adjust to her body, so her other strokes have greatly improved. With time, her breaststroke will return."

Grunewald hopes to strengthen the relationship between the two swim clubs.

"If the Sharks didn't exist, competitive swimming would lose the opportunity to see these talented athletes who are coming from Winnipeg's inner-city club," he said.

Karyl is appreciative of the coaching she receives since making the switch to the Marlins.

"I am watching carefully to make sure I'm doing the right things, like stretching all those muscles," she said.

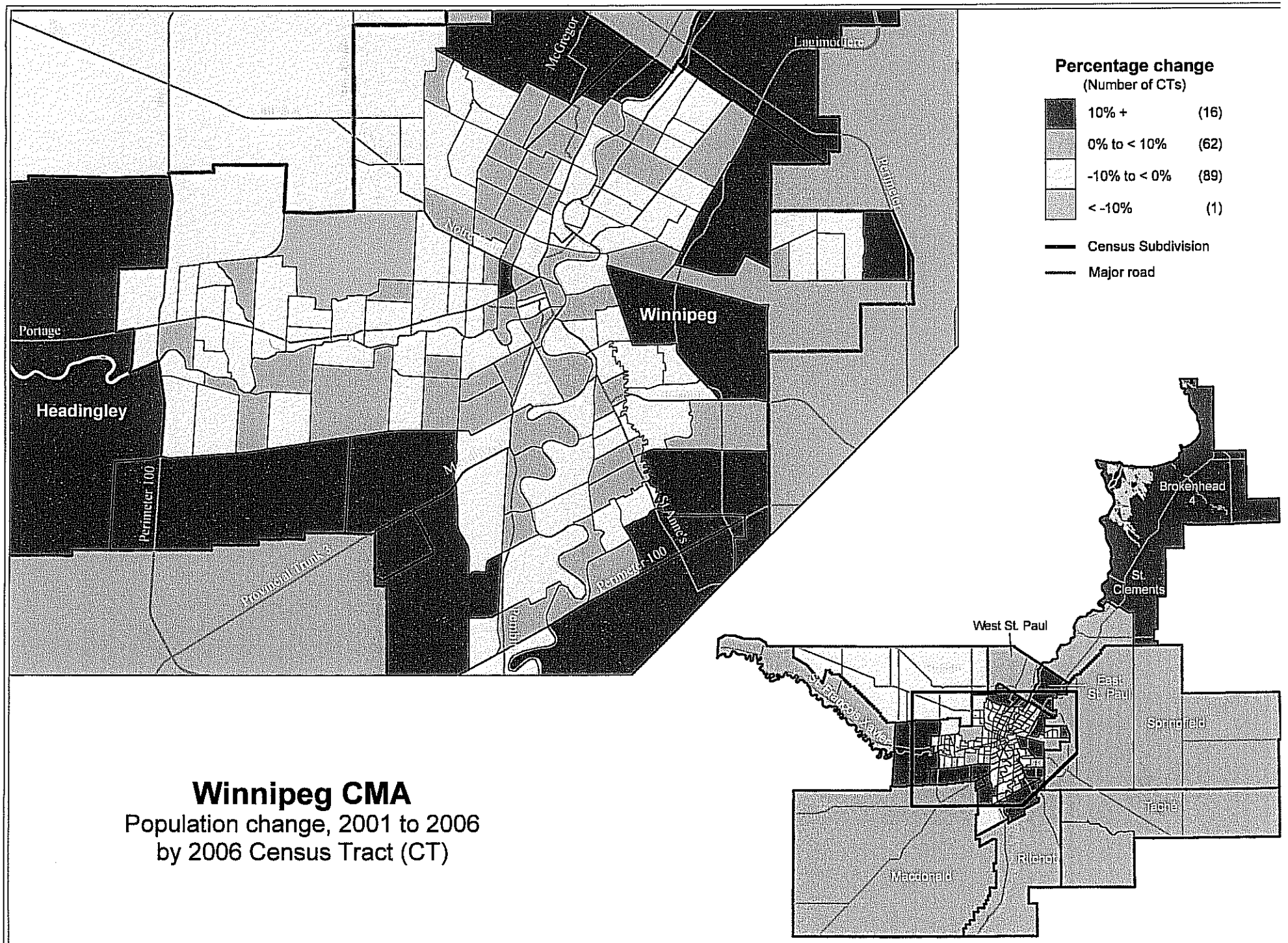
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Winnipeg CMA

Population change, 2001 to 2006
by 2006 Census Tract (CT)

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Sources: 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Canada. Produced by the Geography Division, Statistics Canada, 2007.

Canad

Healthy Living Program

A partnership of: St Matthew's Maryland Community Ministry, Klinic Community Centre, Spence Neighbourhood Association, Urban Aboriginal Ministry

641 St Matthew's Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 0G6
Telephone:783-6159, Fax: 774-1847
Email: diabetesprevention@yahoo.ca

October 17, 2006

Sophie Melynchuk
Secretary
Friends of Sherbrook Pool
c/o 403-15 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1N8

Dear Sophie,

This is a **letter of support for Friends of Sherbrook pool** to keep Sherbrook pool open, maintained and to have accessible programming for local residents.

As Healthy Living Program coordinator I have been promoting the use of Sherbrook Pool through free swims and different programs we have held at the pool. The familiar pool with its friendly staff is a place of comfort, fun and celebration for local residents. The community benefits greatly physically, emotionally and socially from all the programs that are offered free of charge or at a reduced rate.

Thank you for your good work in keeping Sherbrook Pool in existence and for offering free or subsidized programs for the community.

Sincerely,

Gerry Pearson
Healthy Living Program Coordinator

Funded by: The Winnipeg Foundation, Population & Public Health Agency of Canada, Neighbourhoods Alive!