

By Loryn Willcocks



What began in 1970 as part of Manitoba's centennial celebrations has since blossomed into Winnipeg's annual excuse to party like it's 1815 — but with better boots and indoor plumbing. Tasked with promoting the very first festival, Georges Forest did what any reasonable person would do — he dressed up as a voyageur. Just like that, a legend — and a dress code — was born. The tradition of the "Official Voyageur" continues to this day, proving once and for all that if you commit hard enough to an outfit, you can make history.

The festival grounds are a winter

Education is also at the heart of the celebration. At Fort Gibraltar, a reconstruction of an 1815 fur trade fort, history comes alive. You can learn about the Francophone, Métis, and First Nations communities who shaped Manitoba — all while wondering how they survived winters without thermal socks and heated car seats. The party doesn't stop when the sun goes down at 4:45 p.m. Performances pop up around the city, from Wise



Local favourites like La Brasserie Nonsuch and Marion Hotel are serv-

Loryn Willcocks was born and raised in Morden, Manitoba. Working at Simmons Media, Loryn has worn many hats but has found her calling in creating Canadian content and news. She stays busy by raising two very active kids who are involved in nearly every activity imaginable and giving back to the community through volunteering. Her children are living their best life, and she's along for the ride. When not working for Simmons or catering to her children, she is busy on the farm working with cattle, custom planting and chopping.

By Sarah Hinnenkamp

The JDA is preparing to apply for grant

This structure ensures public dollars are leveraged with both private invest-

Duerr had correspondence from an artist asking to install a piece of art on Boyd Block. The sculpture would be about the height of the existing clock tower. Commissioners discussed and decided they liked the art and the idea, but not for Boyd Block.

City auditor RoxAnne Hennager reported that the city took in \$841,818 in sales tax in 2025. That is based on

The annual report for the sheriff's department is scheduled for the next meeting on Monday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m.



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