



# Annual Report 2025



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## Delivering Memorable Experiences Since 1951

The Red River Exhibition Association is a non-profit, community organization that manages the facilities and events at Red River Exhibition Park. As a self-sustaining organization, we rely on our own resources to raise operating revenue. This revenue is reinvested into facility and program improvements, supporting our mission to deliver memorable experiences to our guests. We are a member-owned association governed by a volunteer board of directors and managed by the CEO. At the core of the Red River Exhibition Association is over 250 volunteers who give their time, energy and passion to ensure the ongoing success of our events and our organization. Our dedicated team of full-time staff is complemented by a hard working group of seasonal employees. 2025 marked our association's 74<sup>th</sup> year and the 28<sup>th</sup> year of operation at our current location on Portage Avenue on the edge of Winnipeg.

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## Mission Statement

To enhance the lives of the people of Manitoba by showcasing their talents, abilities and achievements to each other and to the world.



# Who We Are



## Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Marlene Baskerville, President  
 Hermann Schweizer, Vice President  
 Jeffrey Coleman, Past President  
 Peter Synnychych, Vice President Finance  
 Andrew Curry  
 Roland Rey

### DIRECTORS

Ken Azaransky  
 Rod Cantiveros  
 Sarah Carter  
 Leila Castro  
 Ed Deen  
 Jack Hildebrand

Darren Lewis  
 Larry Nentwig  
 Jason Pusiewich  
 Dean Rey  
 Tom Tolton  
 Christine Ward

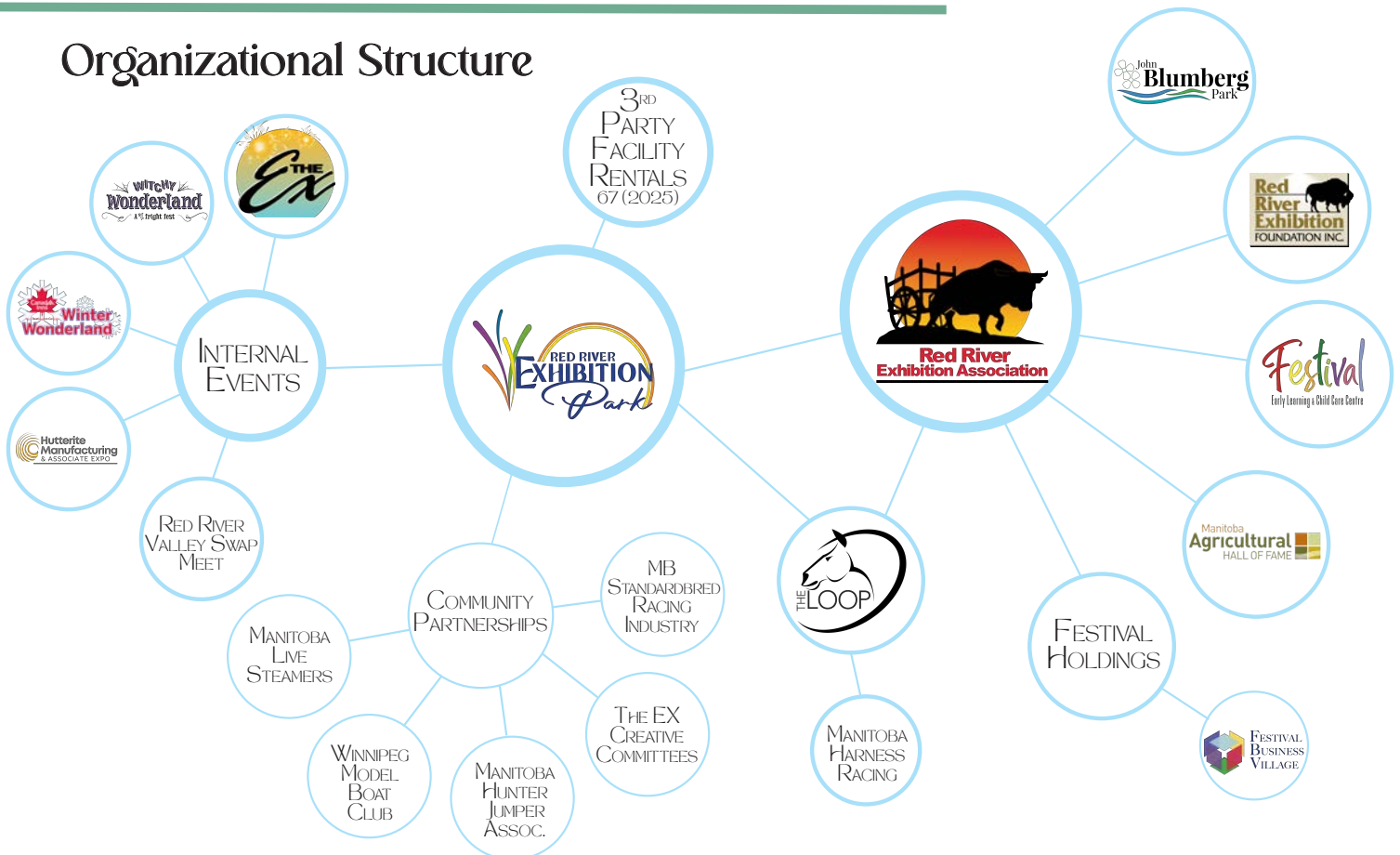
## Red River Exhibition Association Staff

Garth Rogerson, CEO  
 Ron Almonte  
 Bill Bain  
 Matthew Bowers  
 Freddie Breytenbach  
 Angie Brookman  
 Leia Cheroux  
 Lindsay Conley  
 Tyler Cook

Alex Cousins  
 Raul Espinosa  
 Alana Fehr  
 Shaun Fehr  
 Misha Korabelkinov  
 Kyle Kyryluk  
 Isabel Lang  
 Patrick Langan  
 Avery Langrell

Jacob Lilley  
 Chase Ross  
 Brenda Schwartz  
 Volodymyr Senkiv  
 Tara Stokotely  
 Jude Tanghe  
 Ethan Thacker  
 Quinn Thacker

## Organizational Structure





# Message from the President



## Marlene Baskerville

I am so pleased to be able to write this message to you. I have been fortunate to be involved with the Red River Exhibition Association for a number of years as an exhibitor, volunteer and board member. Over the years, I have been continually impressed by the Association's positive and forward-thinking approach. This progress is made possible through the dedication and sacrifices of everyone involved, from our CEO, Garth Rogerson and his capable staff to the members of the Board of Directors. Their leadership and commitment have resulted in new facilities, fixtures, activities, and programs. Together, these achievements reflect the organization's steady growth and expanding presence within both the industry and the community. They also demonstrate a strong vision and the ability to guide meaningful programming and future development. The strategic decisions made along the way to

expand the Association's business have contributed to consistent growth and a positive financial position.

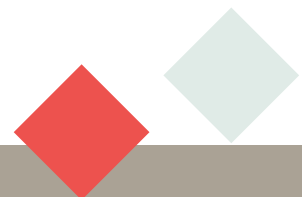
Our flagship event, The EX, once again proved to be a great success, featuring new activities and expanded programming. We also continued to extend our reach into other communities through events such as Caribbean, Filipino, and Indigenous Days, which highlight the vibrant cultures within our region. These celebrations showcase incredible music, costumes, performances, parades, and dancing which reflects the inclusivity and diversity of our broader community.

As part of the Association's continued growth, we are always exploring opportunities to introduce new events throughout the year. This past year included Witchy Wonderland, our October event that invites guests to enjoy fair rides, Halloween characters, spooky displays, and the creativity of those who arrive in costume. Throughout the summer, Manitoba Harness Racing provided weekend entertainment, offering visitors the chance to watch great races, place a bet on their favourite horse and driver, and enjoy time with friends. The winter season brought another beloved event, Canad Inns Winter Wonderland, which celebrated its 25th year. It is now the largest drive-through winter lights display in Western Canada and includes horse-drawn sleigh rides, mini donuts and hot chocolate, skating and photo opportunities galore.

The Association has also continued to expand its programs and services, including a top-notch daycare facility, management of John Blumberg Sports Park, and partnerships such as the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame, which recognizes leaders in Manitoba's agricultural industry. In addition, our active Foundation continues to support numerous scholarships across a variety of fields, including business, industry, and the skilled trades.

We also continue to grow the Association's rental and third-party event activities. Each year brings increasing demand for the use of the park's facilities, challenging us to explore ways to increase capacity and meet the needs of our clients and partners. This rising demand is encouraging, and we are proud to play a role in supporting this continued growth and development.

I encourage you to read the details in this report of all the programs and activities offered and reflect on the dedication and commitment of all who work hard every day to bring these experiences to our community. I'm sure you will come to realize that the Red River Exhibition Association is "not just a fair".





# Message from the CEO

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## Garth Rogerson

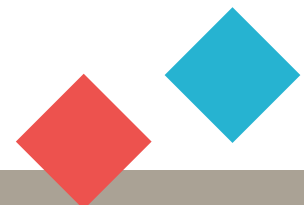
As someone who began working with the Red River Exhibition Association during the 28<sup>th</sup> annual fair, I never imagined I would still be here for the 74<sup>th</sup>. Many long-standing event and entertainment organizations struggle to remain relevant over time, and across Canada we have seen the impact of that challenge. Today, The EX stands as one of only three independent *Class A* fairs remaining in the country. While similar organizations have closed their doors or made drastic organizational changes, we often reflect and ask ourselves why we have continued to grow, even posting record revenues in each of the past two years. There is no single answer, but much of it comes from to our willingness to continually reinvent ourselves through creativity, innovation, and by seizing opportunities when they arise. I have always believed that if you sit back and become complacent, you risk falling behind. We have remained focused and proactive, hosting between one and three events every week, and the property itself has undergone significant development.



The opening of Costco as our new neighbour this past fall marked an important milestone in the development first envisioned in 2009 for the land along Portage Avenue. Development of this scale takes time, but the groundwork laid over the past 15 years is beginning to pay dividends. It makes the Assiniboia neighbourhood feel closer and more accessible to the rest of the city, and we are seeing that reflected in growing attendance at our events. When I first presented our 50-year development plan in 2009, it required a significant leap of imagination to envision the possibilities. We have been fortunate to have visionary directors on our Board who recognized that potential and supported moving the organization forward. Their confidence has allowed us to grow from hosting only a handful of event days each year to more than 200. Our operations now extend well beyond traditional fair programming and include horse racing, daycare services, a sports facility, land development initiatives, and a Foundation that has grown to more than \$1.3 million in assets.

Looking back at 2025, we began the year with a very successful Canad Inns Winter Wonderland and followed it with record revenues at The EX. Exhibition Place continues to be an exceptionally busy facility, with nearly every weekend booked by third-party organizations. Outdoor venue rentals are in high demand for gatherings like concerts, car and driving shows, and a wide variety of other events. We recognize the need to expand Exhibition Place, but the cost of construction has been prohibitive. Nonetheless, it remains critical to our future, and will remain on our project list. Construction also began this year on our newest event building, which will allow us to broaden rental opportunities to include weddings and corporate events. The acquisition of John Blumberg Park allows us to offer sports programming and opportunities that promote healthy, active living.

While 2025 was a strong year, our focus now turns to 2026. We have already completed another successful Canad Inns Winter Wonderland, with a remarkable increase in attendance, setting a positive tone for the year ahead. Planning for The EX is well underway, and we are looking forward to opening our new event centre later in the summer. Development on the west side of the property will add approximately 4,000 parking stalls along with a new west gate entrance structure. This will set the stage for a transformational phase of development on that side of the property. With these initiatives underway, 2026 promises to be another exciting year for the Red River Exhibition Association. Hold onto your hats—it is going to be quite a ride.



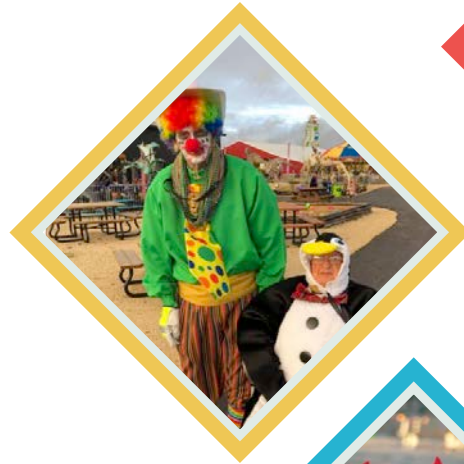


# Volunteer Appreciation

Volunteers have always been the cornerstone of the Red River Exhibition Association. While we have evolved in many ways over the years, at our heart we remain a volunteer-driven organization. In a small operation like ours, volunteers are not just helpful - they are essential to everything we do. Their time, passion, and commitment allow us to deliver experiences that bring our province and community together.

This spirit of volunteerism runs throughout the RREA, from those greeting our event guests upon arrival, to our board president, to the many individuals who take on roles in planning and executing the Creative Competitions (art, photography, and quilting) at The EX each year. Volunteers step in wherever support is needed, providing the RREA with the flexibility and resilience to thrive. Many generously share their expertise, leadership, and institutional knowledge, helping ensure that traditions continue while new ideas are welcomed.

At Exhibition Park, volunteers bring more than hands-on help - they bring community connection, a passion for tradition, fresh ideas for the future, and a shared pride in the accomplishments of the RREA. Their enthusiasm creates a welcoming atmosphere for guests and strengthens the sense of community that defines our events. Volunteers play a key role in helping us grow sustainably while staying true to our mission and values. We are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and dedication each volunteer brings to our events and initiatives, and we look forward with excitement to everything 2026 has in store.





# 2025 Event Highlights

## Manitoba Standardbred Harness Racing

The summer of 2025 saw the third year of harness racing at The LOOP at Exhibition Park, and although it was common this summer for the air to be filled with smoke from the wide-spread forest fires in the province, the air quality index on race days showed a low risk of concerns, and each race was able to go ahead. The simulcast signal program launched in 2024 continued to show the races across the world to casinos and gaming websites. Owners, drivers, trainers, grooms and caretakers travelled to Winnipeg each weekend from August to October with their incredibly athletic fillies, maidens, geldings and colts to deliver some very exciting races over the summer.

Momentous achievements happened on several race days, including on August 30 when Manitoban Darryl Mason, attained his 1200<sup>th</sup> lifetime win as a driver. Several high-value stake races also took place throughout the season which delivered some high-value purse wins, like the Great Western Stake Final on August 30, where 3-year-old filly, "Piper's Luna" paced across the finish line in 1<sup>st</sup> place for the \$15,523 win with driver Dean Rey. An even larger purse of \$16,992 was claimed through the efforts of 3-year-old gelding, "Major Threat", driven by veteran sulky driver, Richard Remillard.

Congratulations to everyone who had a hand in making the 2025 Manitoba Harness Racing season a successful one. Your hard work, dedication and passion continues to elevate the standard of competition and showcase the incredible talent across the region.



## Hutterite Manufacturing & Associate Expo



Exhibition Park was approached by the owner of Prairieland Windows & Doors to partner together to hold a new event inside Exhibition Place in 2025. The vision was to create a unique shopping experience that offered guests a variety of household, farming, and building supplies made with unbeatable quality.

From farming supplies including tools, vehicles, hog feeders and metal hopper bottom bins, metal fabrication, metal roofing and siding, to kitchen and bath cabinets, this was a fruitful event for DIY enthusiasts, contractors, and homeowners alike, and will be back on the calendar for summer 2026.





# 2025 Event Highlights

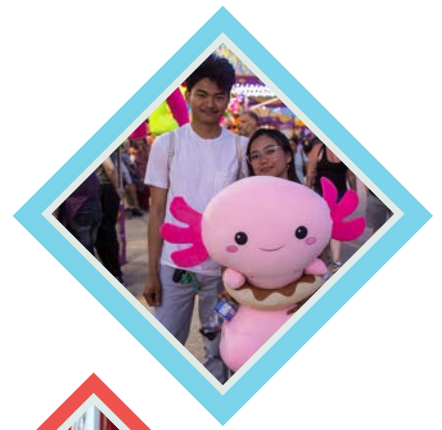
## The EX 2025

*How do we know that Manitobans love The EX?  
Because the 10-day midway strapped them in  
for over 700,000 rides in 2025!*

Annual attendance and sales once again confirmed this beloved event is a can't-miss experience for nearly 200,000 Manitobans. To keep the fair accessible to all, we proudly offered three one-hour free-admission opportunities during the 10-day run, ensuring everyone had a chance to join in the fun. Thousands of guests took advantage of these free-entry periods, helping make Manitoba's largest and most exciting fair more welcoming, inclusive, and unforgettable than ever.

North American Midway Entertainment (NAME) continues to contribute to this success by bringing the largest traveling carnival in North America to Winnipeg just before moving on to Calgary for the Stampede. This year, they introduced a simple and efficient self-serve digital ticketing process. The system modernized midway transactions while preserving the fair experience for guests.

The fair was also jammed full with other events and activities for everyone to take in including two very active live music stages, a lumberjack show, helicopter rides, dog shows, creative competition exhibits (art, quilt and photo), the shopper's market, Clydesdale horses, and many other family-friendly attractions at the "Free Family Fun Zone" at The LOOP. Just steps from the midway at The LOOP, guests enjoyed all sorts of free experiences like a haunted house, inflatable bouncers, mini-golf, an interactive animal display, and a very active stage with non-stop shows that included many loveable kids characters like Superman, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, Mario, princesses and many others. Just steps from the main midway, Winnipeg Pro Wrestling drew in a packed crowd for every show, multiple times each day.





# 2025 Event Highlights

## The EX 2025

More entertainment and attractions each of the 10 days centered around themes that fostered inclusivity, togetherness, learning and new experiences. Premier Wab Kinew personally opened the celebrations of National Indigenous Peoples Day beautifully with song, and talented performers delivered spirited celebrations throughout the day, including the Norman Chief Memorial Dancers, the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers, Ali Fontaine, Derek Miller, and the legendary C-Weed Band. June 14 saw an enormous crowd gather in Central Park where a celebration of black youth culture had multiple DJs and reggae performers show their talent. McDougall & Wallace of the Guess Who brought nostalgia to the Main Stage on Tuesday evening. Special daily programming brought out diverse crowds for Filipino Day, Baby Boomer's Day, Heroe's Day, Family Day, Kids Day, and a colourful parade toured the entire midway on Caribbean Day. Chainsaw carvers, race cars from Victory Lane Speedway, a Harley Davidson Show & Shine, horse jumping, and fireworks were just some of the attractions offered for entertainment. In the spirit of inclusion, we also introduced an all-faiths prayer room in a quiet corner of Exhibition Park, for those seeking a comfortable space when needed. Recognizable was anyone who had crossed paths with the always loveable DooDoo the Clown as they were surely sporting a balloon hat or animal.

The creativity and talent of the food truck chefs had taste buds buzzing, with one of the year's biggest crowd-pleasers being the irresistible Dubai Chocolate Strawberries. The bloomin' onion truck had its first customer within minutes of the gates opening – no doubt an annual favourite for many.

All of these activities add to the sights, sounds and thrills of the event, making The EX a Manitoba experience like no other, and it's possible because of the dedication of our volunteers, staff, sponsors and media partners.





# 2025 Event Highlights

## Witchy Wonderland

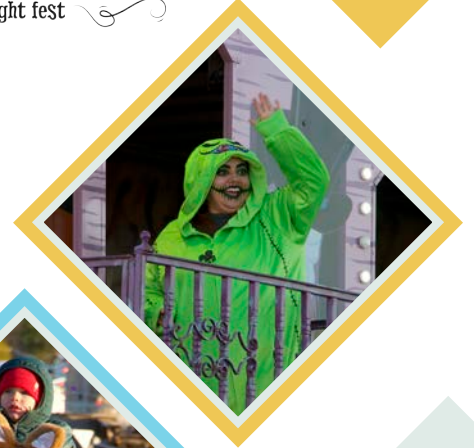
### A “not-so” Frightfest

Witchy Wonderland returned for its third year in 2025, welcoming guests over seven days across two mid-October weekends, just before the colder, less enjoyable temperatures arrived later in the month.

Since its debut in 2023, the event has been warmly embraced by the community and continues to grow in both popularity and attendance each year. Families have come to see it as a seasonal tradition, offering a festive way to celebrate Halloween together in a fun, welcoming environment.

One of the keys to the event's continued success is maintaining the elements guests have come to love, including fair rides and games, food trucks, and fireworks. At the same time, we recognize the importance of keeping the experience fresh by introducing new themed displays and programming each year. Stage performances and character meet-and-greets proved to be especially popular in 2025, along with the inflatable bouncers and a ride through the “Tunnel of (not-so) Terror” aboard Exhibition Park's new passenger train.

The lineup of shows and interactive experiences ensured there was something for everyone to enjoy. Together, these attractions created an atmosphere that was lively, imaginative, and family-friendly while staying true to our goal of ensuring visitors of all ages can participate without being overwhelmed by fright. Witchy Wonderland continues to capture the spirit of Halloween by offering all of the fun and festive elements of the season, but without the scares.





# 2025 Event Highlights

## CANAD INNS WINTER WONDERLAND

After completing its 25<sup>th</sup> year, this event has firmly established itself as a cherished holiday tradition for families across Manitoba. Building on the strong momentum of recent seasons, the show continues to attract impressive attendance, reinforcing its place as one of our most popular and enduring events. The 2025 season was once again very popular, resulting in meaningful donation support to our charities: Kidsport Manitoba and the Red River Exhibition Foundation.

The seasonal drive-through light experience continues to shine brighter each year thanks to an ongoing commitment to maintenance and renewal. Behind the scenes, a dedicated program ensures that existing displays are carefully maintained and refreshed to reduce wear and extend their lifespan. At the same time, new lighting features and creative elements are introduced each season to keep the experience exciting for returning visitors. While this work requires significant investment and planning, it plays a vital role in preserving the high quality of the event. Because of the scale and cost involved, improvements are implemented in phases, allowing the show to gradually evolve with splendid new additions each year.

The continued success of the event is also made possible through the generous support of our sponsors. Their contributions help keep admission affordable while allowing the show to grow and improve each season. In 2025, we were pleased to welcome Canad Inns back as the event's title sponsor. Their ongoing support ensures this beloved holiday tradition will continue to delight guests for many years to come.





# John Blumberg Park



In 2025, the Red River Exhibition Association (RREA) took on a new and strategically aligned management opportunity at John Blumberg Park. Located minutes down the highway from Exhibition Park, the site includes seven baseball diamonds, thirteen soccer fields, a viewing pavilion, and several supporting outbuildings. The property, owned by the City of Winnipeg, had not been operational for several years due to required maintenance and infrastructure repairs. In response, the City issued a Request for Proposals seeking a qualified management partner to restore the facility for community use.



RREA's operations and events teams embraced the challenge of preparing the park for the 2025 summer season. Through focused planning and coordination, John Blumberg Park was successfully reactivated and once again became a hub for local sport and recreation. Teams and organizations booked the facility throughout the summer for league play and tournaments, reflecting strong demand and community interest. This inaugural season provided valuable operational insights, allowing the team to address challenges, refine processes, and establish a strong foundation for delivering a high-quality venue experience in the 2026 season.





# Third Party Events & Rentals

Rental activity at Exhibition Place and throughout Exhibition Park continued to demonstrate strong momentum this year, reinforcing the site's role as one of Manitoba's most active multi-purpose event destinations. With a full and diverse calendar, the park hosts one or more events nearly every week of the year, reflecting sustained demand for both indoor and outdoor rental space. The number and variety of third-party events held on site continue to represent one of the strongest periods of activity in the property's history.

The breadth of events utilizing the park remains a key strength. Long-standing community favourites draw loyal audiences, while corporate and industry events—including dealer showcases, family barbecues, and large-scale meetings—bring new and diverse users to the site. The wide range of activity ensures there is always something new and engaging happening at Exhibition Park.

A continued emphasis on creativity and opportunity-driven planning has positioned Red River Exhibition Park for further growth. Purpose-built as a versatile, multi-use venue, the park is fulfilling that vision while actively exploring opportunities to expand its reach and impact in the years ahead.

Here are just some of the external events Exhibition Park accommodated in 2025:

- Artisan Alley by Inspirations Market
- Barkfest
- Centre Stage Dance Competition
- Corporate Holiday & Summer Parties
- Driven Auto Show
- Driver Training Classes
- Fabulous 50's Car Show
- Four Seasons RV Show & Sale
- Krevco Hot Tub Expo
- Manito Ahbee Festival
- Manitoba Fibre Festival
- Manitoba Hunter Jumper Heart of the Continent Competition
- Manitoba Mega Train
- Manitoba Street Rod Association Toy Run
- Manitoba Truckers Association Conference
- Movie Production Rentals
- National Pigeon Show
- Off-Reserve Treaty Days
- Rock & Gem Show
- Rodarama
- Scattered Seeds (Spring & Fall)
- Summer of Sound
- Third & Bird (Spring & Fall)
- Tuner Bash
- Vision Cheer
- Wanna Dance Canada
- Winnipeg Fine Art Fair
- Winnipeg Ice Fishing Show
- Winnipeg Tattoo Convention





# External Activities

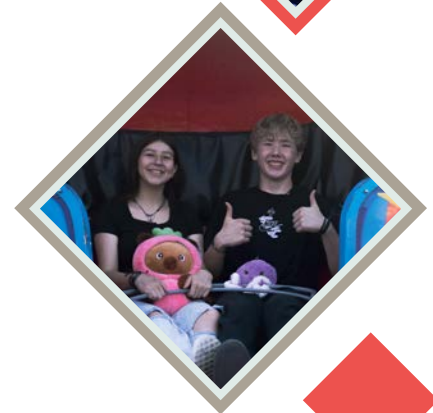
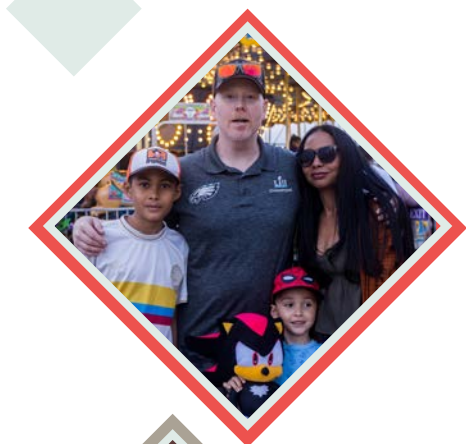
While the Red River Exhibition Association's primary operations remain based at Exhibition Park, our continued growth has allowed us to strengthen our presence throughout the community. With a broad organizational mandate, we actively pursue initiatives that support community needs while also generating revenue that can be reinvested into the park and our programming. These efforts allow us to broaden our impact while continuing to build long-term sustainability for the organization.

One of the most successful examples is the Festival Early Learning and Child Care Centre, which has continued to grow over the past year and has become one of the largest daycare providers in the province. Our childcare operations currently span four locations, including a nursery school program, and continue to provide high-quality care thanks to the dedication of an exceptional team of staff. During the summer months, it is a common sight to see groups of children exploring the displays and permanent activities on fairgrounds. These experiences provide unique learning opportunities while creating memorable moments.

The Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame (MAHF) remains an important part of our external programming. Guided by its own Board of Directors, the Hall of Fame continues its work recognizing individuals who have made significant contributions to Manitoba's agricultural industry. Each year, the Board reviews nominations and hosts an induction ceremony. Inductees are permanently honoured at the gallery in the Keystone Centre in Brandon, while the MAHF website provides a searchable archive so these accomplishments can be shared more broadly. Planning is underway to refurbish and expand the display in Brandon to ensure the stories and achievements of Manitoba's agricultural leaders continue to be preserved for future generations.

Harness racing also continues to grow as an important program operated by the Association. Our races are simulcast to wagering platforms and casinos around the world, creating both opportunity and complexity in managing the program. Significant planning goes into scheduling races, maintaining accurate charts, and ensuring competitive fields that support balanced wagering activity. While this industry requires years of experience to master, we continue to build expertise and refine our systems with each season.

We would like to thank the Government of Manitoba for their continued support and the confidence they have placed in us to deliver a strong racing program. We also extend our appreciation to the many horse owners, trainers, drivers, and participants who return to our track every weekend throughout the summer. Their commitment and partnership remain essential to the success of harness racing at Exhibition Park.



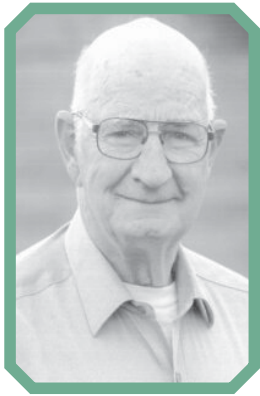


# Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame

The Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame was pleased to induct two individuals into the Hall of Fame in 2025 at a celebration held in October. Usually held in July, the induction ceremony was postponed due to the summertime wildfire situation in the province.



## MR. LLOYD ACHESON



Mr. Lloyd Ellice Atchison (Pipestone, MB), has dedicated his life to farming excellence and environmental stewardship, and is recognized for his exemplary contributions to agriculture, conservation, and community service spanning over five decades. Lloyd's pioneering work with Limousin cattle began in the late 1960s when he enrolled in crossbreeding experiments with the Canadian Department of Agriculture. His commitment to breed improvement led to his recognition as a founding member of the Manitoba Limousin Association in 1971, where he served as president and on numerous committees. Lloyd Atchison's legacy represents the finest traditions of Manitoba agriculture: innovation in farming practices, dedication to conservation, and selfless service to community. His lifetime of contributions has not only advanced agricultural excellence but has also inspired future generations to embrace sustainable stewardship of our natural resources.

## MR. WILLIAM CAMPBELL



Mr. William Leslie "Bill" Campbell (Boissevain, MB), exemplified the spirit of Manitoba agriculture through five decades of unwavering dedication to farming, livestock breeding, and agricultural leadership. Bill's passion for Limousin cattle breeding began in 1974 when he and his father Glen purchased their first purebreds from the Brandon Research Station. This launched a lifelong journey that would see Campbell Limousin become a nationally recognized operation, marketing genetics across Canada and internationally to Brazil and Mexico. His commitment to breed advancement was demonstrated through over 50 years of service with the Manitoba Limousin Association (MLA) and Canadian Limousin Association (CLA), including serving as President of both organizations. As an agricultural leader, Bill's influence extended far beyond his farm gate. He served as President of Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) from 2018-2023 and was a longtime member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture Board of Directors. His advocacy for sustainable farming practices and rural communities shaped agricultural policy at provincial and national levels. Bill Campbell's legacy is one of passionate advocacy, innovative farming practices, and selfless service to the agricultural community. His contributions will continue to benefit Manitoba agriculture for generations to come.



# Red River Exhibition Foundation

The Red River Exhibition Foundation has raised over \$1,000,000 in support of our scholarship and bursary program since it began in 2001. 100% of the funds raised go towards scholarships and bursaries providing support to our young people as they pursue their educational goals.

A total of 34 financial opportunities valuing \$41,000 were available to be awarded in 2025.

## Agriculture and Agri-Food Industry Scholarships

### Farm Family of the Year Scholarship

One, \$1,500 scholarship is awarded in honour of the Farm Family of the Year.

*2025 Recipient* Ethan Corbett

### Manitoba Women's Institute Scholarship

Two, \$1,250 scholarships are presented to applicants taking a Manitoba academic or vocational course.

*2025 Recipients* Abby Sigvaldason  
Ethan Corbett

### 4-H Centennial Scholarship

One, \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 4-H in Canada.

*2025 Recipient* Charlene Walker

### Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame

One, \$1,500 scholarship is awarded in honour of the inductees in to the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame.

*2025 Recipient* Keenan Karish

### Tourism Industry Scholarship

Three, \$1,000 scholarships are presented to individuals in a tourism or hospitality diploma program at a Manitoba post-secondary institution.

*2025 Recipients* Alexander Cousins  
Anthony Mahin

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Farm Family Scholarship

One, \$1,500 scholarship is awarded in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Farm Family program.

*2025 Recipient* April Stepler

### Manitoba Farm Women's Conference Scholarship

Two, \$500 scholarships are presented to students from rural Manitoba studying agriculture or any field that supports rural life.

*2025 Recipients* Jayden Baldwin  
Madison Howell

### R.D. Payne Equine Scholarship

One, \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to an individual striving to advance their equestrian abilities and, ultimately, pursue a career in the equine industry.

*2025 Recipient* Keenan Karish

### Cam Brown Scholarship for International Study

Two, \$3,000 scholarships are awarded to University of Manitoba agriculture students interested in studying outside Manitoba and/ or Canada.

*2025 Recipient* Brooklyn Piasta





# Red River Exhibition Foundation



## Business, Aerospace, Tourism, Performing Arts and Trades Scholarships & Bursaries

### Business Industry Scholarships & Bursaries

Three, \$1,000, W. Garfield Weston Foundation and the Real Canadian Superstore scholarships and three \$1,000, bursaries are presented to Manitoba residents pursuing post-secondary studies in a business-related program at a university or accredited college.

#### 2025 Scholarship Recipients

Myroslava Shermetynska  
Hana Sigurdson  
Harrison Elliott

#### 2025 Bursary Recipients

Max Sholdra  
Logan Mason  
Alexander Cousins

### Ron Meyers Memorial Scholarship for Performing Arts

One, \$500 scholarship is awarded to an individual pursuing post-secondary education in the performing arts.

2025 Recipient Hannah Schaeffer

### Aerospace Industry Scholarship

Three, \$1,000 scholarships in this category are awarded every year in memory of Bob Lang, a long-time employee of the Association.

2025 Recipients Bevan Tuttosi-Wanke  
Kierra Reidulff

### Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg Bursaries

Established in 2022, these three bursaries will support individuals in their post-secondary education.

#### TRADE BURSARY (\$1,000)

2025 Recipient Andrew Chammartin

#### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD (\$1,000)

2025 Recipient Jaydn Baldwin

#### KATHY KENNEDY BURSARY (\$1,500)

2025 Recipient Dionne Jennings

### Industry Trade Bursary

One, \$2,000 trade bursary for a Manitoba student is awarded annually. Reserved for candidates that are pursuing continued education in a recognized trades program offered by a college or professional trades facility. This bursary is made possible as a result of the continued support and success of the Red River Exhibition Foundation by its partners and operators.

2025 Recipient Ty Tosh

### John Blumberg Sports Bursary

One, \$2,000 sports bursary for a Manitoba student is awarded annually. Reserved for candidates pursuing a sports degree program in a variety of fields ie: sports medicine, kinesiology, PE teacher, physio, message therapy, etc. Viable candidates can also be pursuing a higher coaching level through a certification program and not necessarily through a university or college. This bursary is made possible as a result of the continued support and success of the Red River Exhibition Foundation by its partners and operators.

2025 Recipient Tori Mangin





# Exhibition Park Development



2025 was another active year in the ongoing development of Exhibition Park. Across the property, we focused on visual and functional improvements, including new flagpoles, additional trees, gravel upgrades, and continued expansion of asphalt surfaces. One of the most significant occasions for the neighbourhood was the long-awaited opening of the new Costco, resulting from long-awaited land transaction with the Association; a culmination of nine years of planning. With the opening of this first commercial store in Westport, work is underway to enhance ditches and pathways. We anticipate additional commercial buildings to be introduced in the near future, expanding Winnipeg's newest retail hub right next door to Exhibition Park.

Parking has historically been a challenge for us for large events, so in 2025, we advanced our west-side expansion plan with the goal of adding 4,000 new parking stalls. Once complete, the park will accommodate over 7,000 vehicles for parking off of Festival Drive. To improve our guest experience, shuttle services, including our new trackless passenger train, will remove or reduce walking distances from the far reaches of the new lots. These improvements support our long-term strategy to transition event access and everyday operations to the west side of the park.

Another highlight for 2025 was the start of construction on a new multi-purpose event building on the west side of our main lake. After years of planning, this facility will soon open to accommodate trade shows, weddings, and corporate events. A name for this new building will be announced in the near future.

This year also saw the opening of John Blumberg Park under RREA management. This popular sports facility along Highway #1 had been closed for several years, so some immediate upgrades and repairs were needed to open the facility for guests. Significant progress was made last summer, and we welcomed sports teams and opened a new concession stand. Future plans include renovating the upper clubhouse into a sports bar and grill (opening in spring), upgrading washrooms, refurbishing the playing fields, enhancing lighting, and renovating the operations buildings. Once complete, this facility will again serve as Winnipeg's premier softball and soccer venue.

The LOOP area of Exhibition Park also received upgrades by way of expanded asphalt surfaces which allows for more convenient accessibility, improves cleanliness, and enhances operational access. Asphalt additions will continue in phases over multiple years to manage costs. The Display Building was insulated and equipped with heating, creating a bright and functional four-season exhibit space. Additionally, upgrades to the race track surface now classify it as an all-season track, ensuring harness racing can continue in the event of inclement weather as it is extremely difficult and costly for the participants to attend when a race day is rescheduled due to weather.

Looking ahead to 2026, we plan to add more asphalt at The LOOP and continue landscaping, including the addition of trees to create a more park-like setting. These enhancements will support our current efforts of creating a dynamic family environment at The LOOP to compliment nearby Kiddieland during The EX, and allow for greater creative useability during events like Witchy Wonderland, Winter Wonderland, and other rentals.

Our goal remains to continuously improve and expand the property while managing financial risk through phased development. Over the past decade, land improvements have been substantial, and we remain committed to ongoing enhancements that will benefit guests and the community for years to come.





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