



# SCOTIA-ST. CROSS HERITAGE WALK

All along the Scotia Street dike a carpet was placed to protect the sandbags and to assist the volunteers as they monitored the entire length of the structure.  
(M. Peterson, 1997)



## Volunteer Park & the 1997 Red River Flood

Volunteer Park was created by the City of Winnipeg to recognize the efforts and commitment of all the selfless volunteers who, like the settlers and residents before them, came together to preserve this unique community.

On February 26, 1997, a major flood alert was issued for the entire Red River Valley, including Winnipeg. Preparations immediately began in earnest, with the three levels of government cooperating in the development of emergency plans. The situation escalated to the point that, on April 23rd, Mayor Susan Thompson declared a local state of emergency. Throughout the city, approximately 8-million sandbags were installed by citizen volunteers and 3,000 military personnel from Canadian Forces Base Petawawa (Ontario).

Following the major flood of 1950, the level of Scotia Street had been raised to serve as a dike to protect homes to the west. However, the homes along the Red River east of the dike remained in peril of being consumed by the rapidly rising water. Volunteers, including homeowners, neighbours, countless citizens from other parts of Winnipeg and Manitoba and Canadian Forces personnel kept a 24-hour watch and worked incessantly to maintain the integrity of the sandbag dikes. On May 1st, the Red River crested at 752.1' above sea level, an incredible 17.5' higher than its seasonal average.



Volunteers from across the City and of all ages making sandbags on Scotia Street. (M. Peterson, 1997)

sign size:  
609 X 711 mm  
(24" X 28")

SCOTIA ST.  
INTERPRETIVE SIGN  
INSTALLATION

Project Title

PANEL 7  
ARTWORK

Drawing Title

HILDERMAN  
THOMAS  
FRANK  
CRAM

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Drawn

Approved

Scale NOT TO SCALE

Date SEPT. 25/07

Job

07 | 061

Drawing SA-7