

55 PAVILION CRESCENT – ASSINIBOINE PARK PAVILION
Northwood and Chivers, 1929-30



The formal opening of Assiniboine Park in 1909 was the culmination of sixteen years of effort by the Winnipeg Public Parks Board. Based on the formal parks developed in England and Europe in the 19th century, winding paths and roads were laid out, fields leveled, and thousands of trees, shrubs, and flowers planted. A focal point in the new park was the tower of the pavilion, built in 1908 and designed by Winnipeg architect John D. Atchison. The tower, which housed a large water tank, punctuated the low sweeping profile of the two-storey pavilion and was visible throughout the park. The pavilion contained dining and dance halls featuring loggias overlooking the park. Immediately behind the pavilion, a lily pond offered one a quiet walk beneath the vine-covered pergola.

When the pavilion, suffering from neglect as the Parks Board expanded, burned to the ground in an early morning fire on May 27, 1929 the Board responded quickly by commissioning local architects Northwood and Chivers to design a new pavilion. On May 29, 1930 the new pavilion was opened. Following the plan of the original pavilion and retaining the pergola and lily pond

which had survived the fire, Cyril Chivers designed a three-storey pavilion displaying a pastiche of European styles. The combination of English half-timbering with Northern European massing and roof form were intended to give the pavilion an “international” flavour. The tower was again used to identify the building as a landmark, although it no longer served as a water tower.

The pavilion originally served as the social focus of Assiniboine Park. Today, although no longer used as it was in the past, it stands as an impressive centerpiece of Assiniboine Park.