

A photograph of a man and a young boy sitting in the cab of a steam locomotive. The man, wearing a grey cap and a green shirt, is looking out the window. The boy, wearing a yellow and blue shirt, is pointing out the window. The locomotive is dark with a red door and a large number '3' on the side.

# Manitoba Heritage SUCCESS STORIES

Reid  
Dickie

**front cover:** A young visitor enjoys one of Manitoba's heritage successes, the Prairie Dog Central Railway. Photo courtesy of Travel Manitoba.

**opposite:** A sunny day on the Prairie Dog Central. Photo courtesy of Travel Manitoba.

**back cover:** The Negrych bunkhouse with its rare long shingle Carpathian roof.  
Photo courtesy of the Manitoba Historic Resources Branch.



## Manitoba Heritage Success Stories

Twenty Stories by Reid Dickie

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# From the Publisher

This book of celebration is for you. Community Heritage Manitoba and our partners for this project - the Historic Places Initiative and the Manitoba Historic Resources Branch - are bearing witness, through this book, to the people and communities who hold heritage dear. We have seen ordinary people become heritage champions, many of whom are featured in this book. They show us not only the critical need to preserve their past, but also the benefits a culture of conservation and celebration can bring to the entire community in areas such as economic development and quality of life.

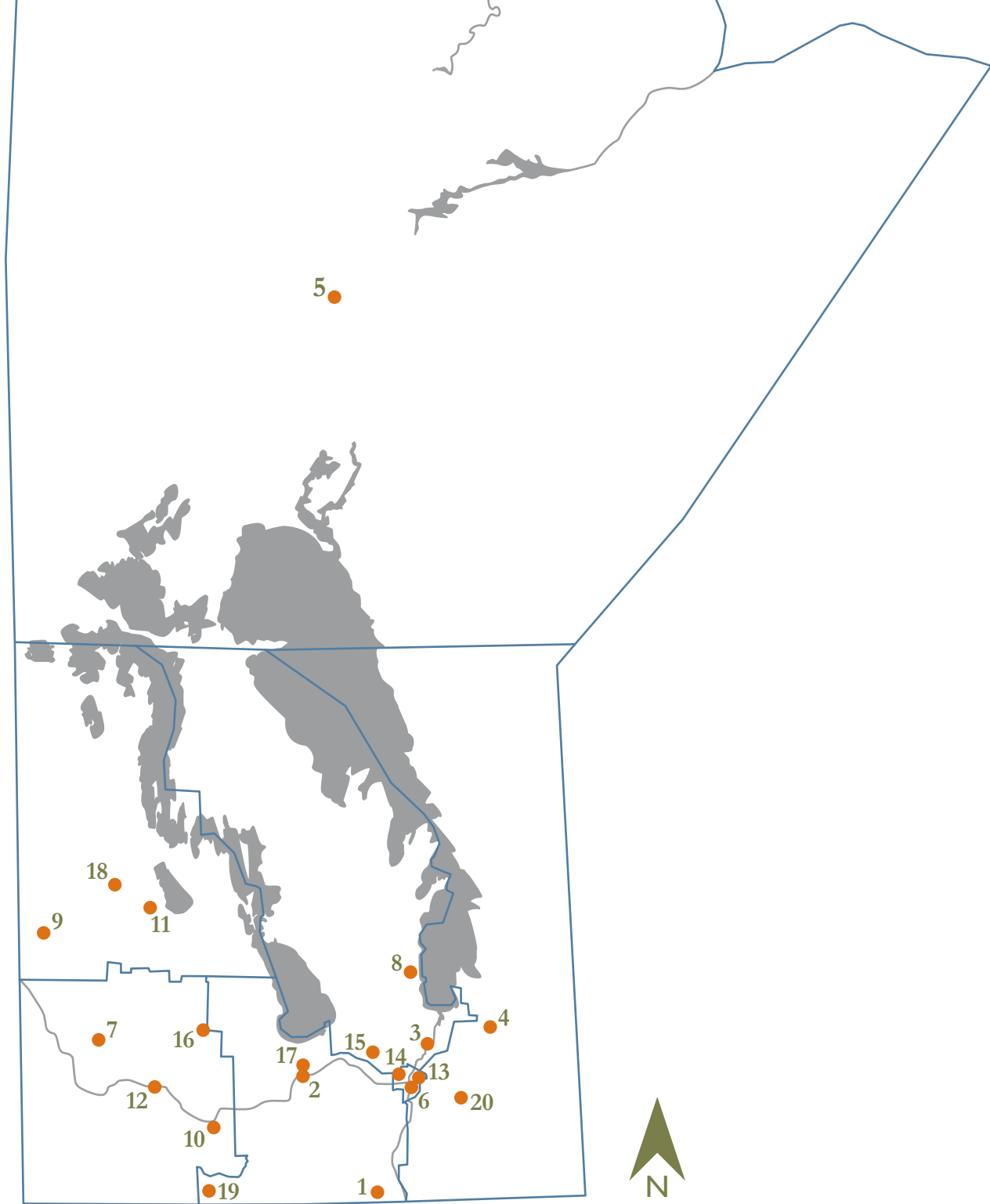
When we talk to heritage champions, we find that sometimes they feel they are alone in the wilderness. We have also talked to people who want to preserve their heritage but don't know where to start. It is our hope that this book offers something to address both of these conditions – insight into exciting things going on in other communities and practical advice on how to get started and how to succeed.

Read it. See it. Feel it. Walk it. If this book supports, motivates or empowers you in your community's contribution to Manitoba's heritage, then our goal of publication is accomplished.

*The Editorial Board*  
*Community Heritage Manitoba*

[www.communityheritagemanitoba.ca](http://www.communityheritagemanitoba.ca)





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# Note to the Reader

Community Heritage Manitoba wants to share some of the province's many heritage success stories. To that end, I have researched and written twenty stories covering a wide range of local heritage initiatives from every region of the province. The stories demonstrate the ingenuity and perseverance of passionate people as they solve problems and harness resources to complete their heritage projects.

The stories show the unifying effect that heritage projects have, bringing communities together, creating a sense of accomplishment and fellowship. This community pride inspires and motivates volunteers and organizers, giving hope to the discouraged, renewal to the burnt-out and proof to everyone that it's all worth it.

Heritage projects happen by forming partnerships. Every story names the organizations, community groups and government departments that provided funding and expertise.

Each story ends with three pieces of advice that my principal contact would give someone doing a heritage project. It is advice from those directly involved and based on all they learned. There are over sixty wise suggestions from people who have had recent, hands-on heritage experience. Even if their project is different from yours, the advice is still valuable.



The book joins diverse communities with different histories into a culture of heritage that share one characteristic: passion. It is the thread that binds these stories together. Passion is the seed. Without passion, there is no foundation, nothing to inspire you in the project's darkest moments. Passion will pull you through.

Everyone who contributed stories had the passion. It was obvious face-to-face, over the telephone and in their emails. Passion sparkled in their eyes, brought joy to their voices and infused their words. Equally evident was their willingness to share their passion, as you will see in every story. This combination of leadership, creativity and enthusiasm manifests in vastly differing ways but always has the same result: a unique heritage success.

So share in the challenges faced by other Manitobans as they pursue their proud heritage dreams, learn how they solved problems and enjoy with them the satisfactions gained from their successes.

*Reid Dickie*  
*February 2006*