



FICTIONAL WINNIPEG – MURDER MYSTERY TOURS Self-Directed Cycling Tours

*Is the building that would have housed Madam Melinda's brothel still standing?
Click here to answer and enter your name to win \$1000!*

Welcome to a Routes on the Red self-directed tour of the Red River Valley. These itineraries guide you through the history and the geography of this beautiful and interesting landscape. Several different Routes on the Red, featuring driving, cycling, walking or canoeing/kayaking, lead you on an exploration of four historical and cultural themes: Fur Trading Routes on the Red; Settler Routes on the Red; Natural and First Nations Routes on the Red; and Art and Cultural Routes on the Red.

The purpose of this route description is to provide information on a self-guided cycling trip. The cycling described includes roads and trails. While you enjoy yourself, please cycle carefully. You are responsible to ensure your own safety and that any activity you undertake is within your abilities. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this description is accurate and up to date. However, we are unable to accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained as a result of anyone relying upon this information.

Murder, mystery and intrigue provide the setting for these cycling tours through the streets and neighbourhoods of Winnipeg. Your guides on these journeys are the characters from three unique mystery novels, by three accomplished Winnipeg authors: *The Geranium Girls* by Alison Preston, *Sins of the Suffragette* by Allan Levine and *The Dead of Midnight* by Catherine Hunter. Three distinct tours make up Fictional Winnipeg – Murder Mystery Tours, these tours can be combined together to create one long tour, or each one can be taken on its own. For the most part, each novel focuses on a particular neighbourhood, however there is some cross over as the novels spill over into other sections of the city. Each loop is approximately 10 km in length and begins and ends at The Forks Market, with opportunities to end the tour or to continue on with the next novel and subsequent loop.

The Norwood loop brings cyclists to St. Boniface's Norwood Flats and into St. Vital. It is based on the novel - *The Geranium Girls* (2002), by Alison Preston and published by Signature Editions. This loop has an add-on loop for those who would like to cycle the extra distance to St. Vital Park, and explore the grisly scene

where the first body was found. Taking the add-on loop would add another 20 km to the regular 10km tour length.

The Downtown loop takes cyclists through Winnipeg's Exchange District and sharply contrasts the Point Douglas neighbourhood with the likes of the mansions of Wellington Crescent. It is based on the novel *Sins of the Suffragette: A Sam Klein Mystery* (2000), by Allan Levine and published by Great Plains Publications. The mystery is set in the early 1900s during Winnipeg's initial boom era. This tour is slightly more than 10 km long.

The Granola loop brings cyclists to the Wolseley area and is based on *The Dead of Midnight* (2001), by Catherine Hunter and published by Ravenstone, an imprint of Turnstone Press. This tour is just less than 11 km in length.

The setting in each of these novels evokes a strong sense of place, and exploring these neighbourhoods helps you to become even more immersed in story and mystery of these wonderful books.

Norwood Loop - The Geranium Girls

On today's trip you will visit the following sites:

The Forks
201 - One Forks Market Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 957-7618

www.theforks.com

Forks Market open daily from 9:30 am -6:30 pm
and Friday from 9:30 am – 9:00 pm.

Fort Gibraltar - 866 St. Joseph Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 237-7692

fax: 204-233-7576.

Open only on special occasions;
no interpretation available.

St. Boniface Cathedral -
190 Avenue de la Cathédrale
Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 233-7304

open daily from 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

About the Author:

Alison Preston was born in 1949 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. After trying on a number of other Canadian cities, she returned to Winnipeg, where she lives with her partner Bruce Gillespie and their cat in Norwood Flats. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Winnipeg and has worked as a letter carrier for the past twenty-seven years, in addition to being a writer of literary mysteries.

A Blue and Golden Year (1997) was Alison's first novel, for which she was shortlisted for the John Hirsh Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer. The locale switches back and forth between Winnipeg and Mexico in this story of murder, misunderstanding, despair and hope. Although a fictional novel, she found that she was often asked about the setting in her book. Subsequently, she decided to loosely set her next novel in a real location, the neighbourhood of Norwood Flats, a decision that was well received by her Winnipeg readers. This novel, *The Rain Barrel Baby* (2000), earned her another nomination for the John Hirsh Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer. It also introduces the reader to Frank Foote, a cop, who becomes involved in a grisly murder a little too close to home. Frank's character makes further appearances in her next two novels as well - her 2002 mystery, *The Geranium Girls* (2002), featured here, and her latest novel, *Cherry Bites*. This most recent book was nominated for three awards in 2005, including the Carol Shields Book Award, the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award and the

Mary Scorer Book by a Manitoba Publisher Award. *Cherry Bites* is also set in Norwood Flats.

Story Synopsis (Excerpt from publisher's web page):

The Geranium Girls provides the inspiration and setting for this part of the murder mystery tour. Our protagonist, Beryl Kyte, a letter carrier who lives in the Winnipeg neighbourhood of Norwood Flats, goes out for a walk one beautiful spring Sunday and literally trips over a body in the woods of St. Vital Park. It's a dead woman with mushrooms sprouting in her mouth. In a panic, Beryl struggles out to the main road and manages to hail a cellphone-toting passerby who notifies the police. Among the many officers who arrive on the scene is Inspector Frank Foote whom Beryl has seen around her neighbourhood. A badly shaken Beryl is questioned and escorted home.

It isn't long, however, before another body turns up and then another. As she follows the horrific discoveries in *The Winnipeg Free Press*, Beryl thinks she sees a pattern emerging. Beryl hadn't been of much help to the police in the case of the first dead woman – she'd only tripped over the body, after all – but when things begin happening around her own home, she wishes they could be of some help to her. But she can't even make the call, for the crimes taking place in her yard – someone has been deadheading her lobelia and someone has put a pretty little collar on her cat – will just make the police think she's crazy. Except maybe that nice Inspector Frank Foote.

km to next location	DIRECTIONS	Total km
0.0	Start at The Forks at the central Plaza, between The Forks Market and the Johnston Terminal building. Muddy Waters will be directly in front of you to the left.	0.0

Many Winnipeg restaurants and landmarks are referred to in this novel. After witnessing an unpleasant encounter between Frank Foote and Menno Maersk on Lyndale Drive in Norwood, Beryl and Dhani go for a drink at Muddy Waters Bar at The Forks.

"They sat drinking Lynchburg Lemonades at Muddy Waters' bar by the river; they were too wound up to go home. ... The river was high, inches from the sidewalk. It was going

to cover the walkway again, the paper had said, because of all the rain." The Geranium Girls

The Riverwalk referred to in this passage, which follows the north side of the Assiniboine River from The Forks to the Osborne Street Bridge, was built below the flood-water level. Often in the spring and during periods of heavy rain this walkway is flooded over.

km to next location	DIRECTIONS	Total km
0.1	Take the ramp along the side of the Muddy Waters restaurant in the Pavilion, or walk your bike up the 8 steps to the Prairie Garden Preserve and follow the main path	0.1
0.1	Following the path to the right, the Oodena Celebration Circle and the Indigenous Tribal Village will be on your left, to take the bridge across the Assiniboine River.	0.2
0.1	Continue straight on the main path.	0.3

After their outing at Muddy Water's, Dhani walks Beryl home. You will be following the same route.

"They crossed the foot bridge and the Norwood Bridge and walked all the way down Lyndale Drive to Beryl's street without saying a word". The Geranium Girls

0.2	Arrive at Queen Elizabeth Way and turn right towards the traffic lights.	0.5
0.05	Cross Queen Elizabeth Way at the traffic lights on Stradbrook Avenue.	0.55
0.05	Turn left to cross Stradbrook Avenue.	0.6
0.1	Join the bicycle path over the Norwood Bridge crossing the Red River.	0.7

The original Norwood Bridge was built across the Red River at this site in 1891 for a total cost of \$89,000. From that time until it was sold to the City of St. Boniface in 1909 it operated as a toll bridge (as did the Provencher Bridge until it too was bought by St. Boniface that same year).

As you cross the bridge you are entering the area of St. Boniface known as Norwood. This community in St. Boniface developed much later than the region further north – across from the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers. In 1891, following the completion of the first Norwood Bridge, the new suburb of Norwood was built on 400 acres of land purchased by the Norwood Improvement Company (essentially an arm of the

Canadian Pacific Railway) – in affiliation with the Norwood Bridge Company and the Norwood Electric Tram Company. Unlike the rest of St. Boniface this neighbourhood was settled primarily by English speaking people. The oldest section of Norwood is located to the east of St. Mary's Road, with the residences west of St. Mary's Road having been constructed in the 1950s. Much of what is now Norwood was surrounded by several bodies of water, which have since been drained. Early on, Norwood was divided into two by St. Mary's Road – the west was known as the Flats and the east was known as the Sticks. Today the entire neighbourhood is called Norwood Grove.

0.3	Immediately after the bridge, turn right onto Lyndale Drive. Poulin's Exterminators will be on your left.	1.0
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Beryl had noticed a hole in the side of her neighbour, Clive Boucher's house. He mentioned that he's been hearing some scampering, but wasn't around enough to do anything about it – so Beryl had to take action:

"Beryl didn't want mice or rats or whatever they were getting tired of Clive's place and setting their sights on hers. She pictured herself asking Mort Kruck-Boulbria if she could borrow his rodent trap. After her nasty comments to him about squirrels.

"Phone somebody," she said to Clive. "Phone Poulin's. And get someone to patch up the holes there in your foundation and wherever.

[...] Beryl phoned Poulin's, described the problem at Clive's, and set up an appointment for later that week." The Geranium Girls

What is now the area along Lyndale Drive was once the Norwood Golf Club (originally 6-holes, expanding to 9). Established here in 1894 (and known as the Winnipeg Golf Club) – it moved to a property south of Portage between Maryland and Home Streets in 1896 and then back to this location in 1908. Finally, it amalgamated with the Winnipeg Hunt Golf Club in 1919 and moved to its current location near the University of Winnipeg (known now as the Southwood Golf & Country Club). During its time in Norwood, the golf club had problems with wandering cattle damaging their course. This was such an annoyance that in 1908 they complained to the St. Boniface City Council (apparently wandering cattle were a major problem as the Western Canada Flour Mills Company had also complained of a similar problem). Following the move of the golf club to Southwood, the club building stayed in place at 156 Lyndale Drive until 1950 when it was demolished to build the new residential sub-division in the Norwood Flats area.

0.2	Pass a field on your left, referred to as the "Flood Bowl" in <i>The Geranium Girls</i> .	1.2
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"Dhani and Beryl stepped out the open door of Pasquale's Restaurant into the summer night. Cars whizzed by on Marion Street and they walked quickly till they reached the flood bowl and then the quiet street by the river that led to Beryl's house. The night was still, not a whisper of a breeze,

and the mosquitoes were elsewhere, maybe in the scrubby vegetation near the water or bothering other people in their yards." The Geranium Girls

1.4	Cycle past Fort Rouge Marina and the Winnipeg Canoe and Kayak Club, located on the opposite riverbank.	2.6
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"The river had been there her whole life and usually it was a comfort to her. But today all she saw were Chinese elms and purple loosestrife, the beautiful weed that was running

rampant along this section of the Red River, choking the life out of the other vegetation." *The Geranium Girls*

0.2	Turn left on Ferndale Avenue	2.8
0.1	Beryl's house might be on Ferndale Avenue - # 37 somewhat fits the description.	2.9

No specific street is mentioned as to the location of Beryl's house, but there are several passages throughout the novel that describe it and its surroundings.

"Beryl opened her bedroom window, the one that faced Lyndale Drive and the river, straining to hear more laughter from somewhere, straining to here anything at all."

"She spends the day sweeping the deck, hosing down her lawn chairs and preparing snacks. Her wooden lanterns are stuck into the grass here and there around the front yard to give the place a festive air. [...] She slips out of her yard and walks past three houses to Lyndale Drive and approaches her house from the river end of the street."
The Geranium Girls

We must allow for artistic license as well, since none of these nicely maintained homes fit Beryl's description of Clive's house, next-door. Maybe he's moved on and the new owners have fixed the place up.

"His house was a mess, from the outside, anyway. The paint was so old it was hard to tell what colour it was supposed to be. Maybe a beige sort of colour of nothing. And peeling badly at that, leaving the worn grey wood at the mercy of the elements. Unlike Beryl's house, which was stucco like most of the others in the area, Clive's house was made of wood.

His house was older than hers, too. It was probably here way back when this part of the Norwood Flats was a golf course. Maybe it was where the greenskeeper had lived. [...] She knocked on the door of her other next-door neighbours, the Kruck-Boulbrias, on the south side. No one was home there either, which wasn't surprising." *The Geranium Girls*

0.1	Turn right on Coniston Street	3.0
0.1	Turn right on Claremont Avenue. Detective Foote lives on Claremont Avenue.	3.1

When Beryl and Dhani witness a confrontation between Frank Foote and Menno Maersk on Lyndale Drive, she realizes that she had seen the police detective before and that he lived in her neighbourhood.

"Beryl placed him more particularly now, seeing him once more and hearing his name; he lived on Claremont. She had seen him with his kids on their bikes and in the flood bowl with their dog. The dog's name was Doris." *The Geranium Girls*

0.2	Turn left on Lyndale Drive.	3.3
0.1	Pass Monck Avenue.	3.4

If you would like to take a longer cycle (an additional 20 km), you can take the add-on route described at the end of the regular Norwood Loop routes. This add-on loop – entitled

St. Vital Add-On Loop – will take you to the Bridge Drive Inn and to St. Vital Park, rejoining the regular routes at Coronation Park – at kilometre 4.2.

0.1	Turn right onto Taché Avenue. See how many houses you can find with geraniums planted in the front yard.	3.5
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Taché Avenue was named after Alexandre-Antonin Taché (1823-1894), archbishop of Saint Boniface. He arrived at the Red River Settlement from Lower Canada in 1845 as a member of the Oblate order of priests. Taché was a strong advocate for the Métis of the area and fought hard to have the government attend to their problems, playing a key role along with Louis Riel in bringing Manitoba into the Canadian Confederation as a province in 1870. He served for almost 50 years in the Red River settlement where he was made bishop in 1853 and archbishop of St. Boniface in 1871.

The Geranium Girls has a second narrator on occasion and he refers to himself as Boyo, a name his aunt used to call him.

"The old wood frame house belonged to Aunt Hortense in those days. [...] How he hates the smell of geraniums! Heavy, oily, pungent stink"

"[...] He lives on Taché, at the river end," Frank said, "in a house left to him by his aunt, Hortense Frouten Keller."
The Geranium Girls

0.6	Cross St. Mary's Road and continue straight along Taché Avenue.	4.1
0.1	Pass Coronation Park.	4.2

Coronation Park was once the Norwood Cricket Grounds – and was originally rented by the city of St. Boniface in 1915 for five years for the development of a park. This is one of the many parks in Winnipeg that is dedicated to the men and women that died in one of the conflicts or wars in which Canada was involved. The bandstand in the park offers free outdoor concerts every Friday night (7:00 – 9:00 pm) beginning in late June and ending mid-August.

Beryl stops of at her friend Hermione's Hair salon on Taché Avenue for a chat about the body she stumbled across in St. Vital Park and about the pharmacist she met. On her way home she passes through Coronation Park.

"She came away from the shop feeling a little bit better and a little bit drunk. On the walk home she tried to organize her thoughts and couldn't. Who cares? She thought, as she passed through Coronation Park." *The Geranium Girls*

0.2	Pass Eugenie Street.	4.4
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Stan and Beryl are both letter carriers, and sometimes after work Stan will walk her home.

"He lived in Norwood too, on the other side of St. Mary's Road. In the sticks. At least that's what people had called it when Beryl was a kid: the sticks, where Stan lived and the flats, where she lived. Lived both then and now; they had both moved to Norwood as small children and neither of them had travelled very far."

"It was dusk by the time Beryl left Stan and Raylene's house on Eugenie Street. [...] She walked by Hermoine's shop on the way home and saw that the shades were down and the lights were out. It was dark upstairs too, where Hermione lived, but Beryl thought she heard a man's laughter coming from the open window. She crossed the street and cut through the park, and walked on to her own house, where she locked herself inside." *The Geranium Girls*

0.1	Hermione's Hair Salon would have been on this strip of shops across from the bowling alley, perhaps located at the Cutting Edge on the right.	4.5
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"Hermione's shop, Cuts Only, was on Taché Avenue, across the street from the pool hall and down a ways. It was usually a dowdy little shop from the outside. But this summer the window boxes were bursting with geraniums, both at street level and upstairs where the owner lived. A riot of robust blooms spilled over the boxes and filled giant pots on either side of the door. Flower pots sat in the windows as well, both upstairs and down. Nothing but geraniums of many colours: crimson, coral, creamy white, lavender – grown, Beryl knew, for their varied scents as much as for their appearance."

"The next day Beryl stopped by Hermione's shop again on her way home from work. She found her out back. There was an old moss-covered picnic table set up as sort of work station, and Hermione was puttering around with cuttings from plants, setting them up in shallow sandy pots till they took root and she could plant them anew." *The Geranium Girls*

0.05	Pass the barbershop and shoe repair on the left. Notice the geraniums in front.	4.55
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"F'in Geraniums! He wants to avoid them. But they're always there when he walks down Taché to the bank, to the barber, the shoemaker [...] she even has them in hanging pots along

the side stairs that lead up to what Boyo suspects is her apartment" *The Geranium Girls*

0.05	Cross Marion Street. Pasquales restaurant is 1/2 block down on your left, and the PharmaPlus where Dhani likely would have worked is on your right.	4.6
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Beryl is stung by a wasp while walking to the drugstore on Taché Avenue, where she meets Dhani.

"Sitting down where she stood, in the middle of the sidewalk on Taché Avenue, she removed her sandal and the crippled wasp fumbled away to certain death. [...]"

"She put her shoe back on and continued her walk to the drugstore: a good destination under the circumstances. One of the pharmacists would be sure to give her some good advice. [...] It was the handsome pharmacist who served her. [...] The pharmacist, whose name tag said "Dhani Tata" guided her – pushed her really – to a bench where an elderly couple sat waiting for their prescriptions." *The Geranium Girls*

0.4	Pass St. Boniface Hospital on your left.	5.0
0.6	Turn right on Rue de la Cathédrale.	5.6

The present **St. Boniface Cathedral** is the sixth church on this beautiful site. The first was a small log chapel built in 1818. The second was completed in 1825. In 1832, a cathedral with twin spires was erected on the same location under the direction of Bishop Provencher. After it was destroyed by fire in 1860,

a larger cathedral was built under the direction of Bishop Taché. In 1908, the fourth was completed to replace the old cathedral, which the parish had outgrown. This building burned on July 22, 1968, but its façade and partial walls were incorporated into the present cathedral, which was completed in 1972.

0.3	Turn left on Rue Aulneau.	5.9
0.3	Continue straight after crossing Provencher Boulevard, through the parking lot that runs next to the old St. Boniface City Hall, and the Fire Hall behind it.	6.2

Provencher Boulevard was named after Joseph-Norbert Provencher (1787-1853), who became the first bishop of St. Boniface in 1847. He came to the Red River Settlement from Lower Canada (Québec) as a missionary in 1818 and settled at The Forks amongst the Métis. He was to build the colony's first church and his duties were education, conversion of the Aboriginal population and the encouragement of Catholic immigration.

Want to learn more about the French Settlement in Saint Boniface? Try Routes on the Red's In the Footsteps of the Voyageurs: self-directed walking tour or Gabrielle Roy's St. Boniface: self-directed walking tour.

Beryl went out walking in Old St. Boniface, when she saw Wally.

"On Sunday evening Beryl went for a long walk, all the way over to Old St. Boniface. On her way up Provencher Boulevard she saw Wally entering a fried chicken joint. [...]"

*"As she walked back down Provencher she saw an ambulance outside the restaurant Wally had entered about an hour before. She'd heard the siren while she was watching the ball game. At least she assumed that was the siren she'd heard; lately there seemed to be sirens everywhere. The ambulance attendants weren't hurrying. It must have been a false alarm, or maybe they were too late. They slammed the doors shut and drove off slowly, this time without the siren."
The Geranium Girls*

0.1	Turn right onto DuMoulin Street. You are now in Old St. Boniface.	6.3
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St. Boniface is home to the largest francophone community in Western Canada – and is one of the oldest settlements in the West. Although it was first identified as a settlement in 1818 when the Roman Catholic Church in Québec established a mission here, French and Métis people had been living in this area for years already. The early economy of St. Boniface was oriented to agriculture. Union Stockyards, developed 1912-13, became the largest livestock exchange in Canada (possibly the

source of the wandering cattle mentioned by the Norwood Golf Club) and focal point for a meatpacking and processing industry. Additionally, by the early 1900s, numerous light and heavy industries were established. St Boniface was incorporated as a town in 1883 and a city in 1908. Over the years, this community grew along side of Winnipeg – maintaining its rich French heritage and character. In 1972, it was incorporated into the City of Winnipeg.

0.5	Turn left on Thibault Street.	6.8
0.1	Turn right to enter the Lagimodiere-Gaboury historic park. Follow the trail along the Seine River.	6.9

Jean-Baptiste Lagimodière, one of the park's namesakes, was born in Lower Canada in 1778 and came west in 1800 as a voyageur. The French term voyageur, meaning "traveller", was given to the men who guided and paddled the canoes of explorers and fur traders during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. He married Marie-Anne Gaboury (the other namesake of this park) in 1806. She was the first white woman to settle permanently in the west and, together, Jean-Baptiste and Marie-Anne were the grandparents of

Louis Riel, the great Métis leader who is regarded as one of the founding fathers of Manitoba.

Want to know more about the fur trade? Try Routes on the Red's People of the Fur Trade: self-directed drive & stroll tour or In the Paddle Strokes of the Voyageurs: self-directed Canoe or Kayak Trip.

0.1	Follow trail past interpretive sign.	7.0
0.1	Stay on main trail.	7.1

The Lagimodière/Gaboury homestead is thought to have been located somewhere within this park.

0.3	Cross beneath rail bridge to come to the confluence of the Red and Seine rivers. Stay on the trail as it follows the Red River.	7.4
0.8	Pass the ballpark on right. You are now in Whittier Park.	8.2

"Another dead woman had been found, this time in Whittier Park. According to the paper, there were 'similarities' between this case and the one involving the woman found in St. Vital Park." *The Geranium Girls*

On Beryl's walk through old St. Boniface she passed through Whittier Park where she spotted a couple of her neighbours.

"Some men were playing baseball in the park. ... She recognized two of the men on the home team: Mort Kruck-Boulbria and Frank Foote." *The Geranium Girls*

0.3	Arrive at Fort Gibraltar on left.	8.5
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Fort Gibraltar is a replica of the old 1810 North West Company post. The original fort was located at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers (where The Forks is today) and was an important post for the North West Company.

The fort is often closed, as the facility is only used for special events such as weddings and conferences. However, if you walk around to the other side, the main doors may be open and you can wander throughout the grounds and buildings.

0.2	Follow trail along river under the toboggan slides, ignoring turn offs to the left.	8.7
0.2	Where the trail meets the corner (beside climbing tower) of Messenger Street and Taché Avenue, proceed down Taché Avenue. Pass water-pumping station on left and round water tower. Turn left at stop sign to follow road.	8.9
0.7	Cross Provencher Boulevard and turn right to cross over the Esplanade Riel – a pedestrian and cyclist bridge.	9.6

The Esplanade Riel was completed in early 2004. This pedestrian bridge re-creates the alignment of the original Provencher Bridge (built in the late 1800s), which connected Provencher

Boulevard in St. Boniface with Broadway in Winnipeg. It is a modern cable-stayed bridge linking two of Winnipeg's primary tourism destinations – The Forks and St. Boniface.

0.3	After crossing the Esplanade Riel, follow the path to the left in the direction of The Forks.	9.9
0.05	Option 1: To end your journey, follow path to the right and return to The Forks.	9.95
	Option 2: To pick up the Downtown loop for the Sins of the Suffragette tour (at 0.2 km of that tour), follow the path to the left that takes you under the bridges. If the path is flooded go back to the plaza at the foot of Esplanade Riel and take the path direction Water Street and use the pedestrian crossing to pick up the path on the other side.	

St. Vital Add-On Loop

0.1	Continue straight on Lyndale Drive at Taché Avenue	0.1
0.6	Turn right onto St. Mary's Road.	0.7

St. Mary's Road was once part of the famous Crow Wing Trail – an ox-cart path that travelled along the east side of the Red River linking the Red River Settlement with St. Paul, Minnesota.

The portion of the Trans-Canada Trail between St. Adolphe and Emerson is called the Crow Wing Trail and it follows sections of the original.

0.2	Pass the Jardins St. Leon Gardens on the on left side of St. Mary's Road.	0.9
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The Jardins St. Leon Gardens is Winnipeg's only French outdoor market. Beryl and Frank meet over yellow beans at St. Leon Gardens, and he offers her a ride home.

[...] "Frank pulled out onto St. Mary's Road, drove a couple of blocks to Lyndale, where he turned left, and then cruised slowly down the drive toward Beryl's place. [...] Frank laughed. "This neighbourhood is a bit like a small town, isn't it?"
The Geranium Girls

"She held out her hand and Frank took it. They stood over the yellow beans at St. Leon Gardens. He smiled. A weary smile, one that couldn't rid his forehead of deeply etched worry lines. "Hi, Beryl, Yeah, I guess it is about time we spoke. I'm Frank Foote."

1.2	Turn right onto Mager Drive.	2.1
0.4	Turn right onto Kingston Row	2.5
0.4	Kingston Row becomes a two-way street.	2.9
0.6	Pass beneath the St. Vital Bridge and continue straight along Kingston Crescent.	3.5
1.2	Come to a three-way stop sign. The intersection is unsigned. Turn right to cross the Elm Park Bridge.	4.7
0.25	Enjoy an ice cream at the Bridge Drive Inn (BDI) ice cream stand.	4.95

The Elm Park Bridge, most commonly associated with the BDI ice-cream parlour, was built in 1912 to replace a pontoon bridge at this location. Prior to 1912, when residential development began in the Elm Park neighbourhood along Kingston Row, this area was a "trolley park". Albert William Austin's Winnipeg Street Railway Company developed this picnic ground as a streetcar destination in order to promote business during off-peak times. The name of the park came from the huge elms, ash and cottonwood trees that made this peninsula a very shady and "natural" place to get away from the busy hubbub of turn of the century Winnipeg.

On Beryl's second date with Dhani they come to the BDI for milkshakes.

"Her words were lost in the mess Dhani made turning off Jubilee into the Bridge Drive-In." [...] Beryl breathed deeply in the summer night, her gaze falling on the still waters of the Red River. The people on the boat, the party people, had the music turned up loud. [...] "I love this city," she whispered, as Dhani touched her bare arm with her cool peach milkshake. "There's no place on earth I'd rather be." *The Geranium Girls*

0.15	Cross over the Elm Park Bridge again and continue straight across the intersection at the three-way stop sign.	5.2
0.1	Turn left onto Kingston Crescent.	5.3
1.0	Turn right onto feeder road towards Route 62.	6.3
0.3	Turn right onto Dunkirk Drive.	6.6
1.5	Turn right onto St. Vital Road.	8.1

The first homes in St. Vital started appearing in 1822 with the settlement of some of the Red River settlers as well as retired French fur traders and Métis who took up farming along the Red River. In the 1850s, this area grew in importance as it developed a thriving market garden economy, with St. Vital residents supplying the communities of Winnipeg and St. Boniface with fresh fruits and vegetables, along with dairy products. The development of

the community of St. Vital really didn't begin to grow significantly until the 1920s and 1930s, when businesses and homes started to spring up around the junction of St. Mary's and St. Anne's Roads.

Want to learn more about the Métis and Louis Riel in the Winnipeg area? Try Routes on the Red's Métis and the Path to Confederation: self-directed drive and stroll tour.

1.0	Turn left onto River Road.	9.1
1.0	Turn right into St. Vital Park.	10.1

St. Vital Park is one of Winnipeg's most beautiful parks it features a duck pond (home to many different water birds) – which is turned into a skating rink in the winter, many walking paths, playgrounds and picnic areas. There is also a boat launch site to access the Red River at this park.

The Geranium Girls begins in St. Vital Park on a Saturday, where our protagonist, Beryl has parked her bike close to the entrance and decided to walk along a less traveled route through the park.

"Beryl tramped through the bushes in St. Vital Park, away from the well-trodden paths. She slogged through long grass and thistles, poison ivy and mushrooms. [...] Something long, solid and rounded, like a thin baseball bat, caught her hard in the arch of her foot. She lost her balance toppled to a sitting position in the drenched forest. [...] A female form lay next to Beryl in the woods..." The Geranium Girls

There are numerous side trails you can take throughout the park, or you can stay on the main road as it winds its way through.

2.3	Exit St. Vital Park and turn left onto River Road.	12.4
1.0	Turn right onto Moore Avenue.	13.4
1.0	Cross Dunkirk Drive, continuing straight.	14.4
0.3	Cross St. Mary's Road, continuing straight. Moore Avenue becomes Sadler Avenue.	14.7
0.8	Turn left on St. David Road.	15.5
1.2	At the end of St. David Road, use the traffic lights to your left to cross Fermor Avenue.	16.7
0.1	Turn right onto the residential street that runs parallel to high traffic portion of Fermor Avenue.	16.8
0.2	Turn left on St. Thomas Road.	17.0
0.3	Turn right on Regal Avenue.	17.3
0.3	Turn left on St. Anne's Road.	17.6
0.1	Turn right onto Avondale Road.	17.7
0.5	Turn left on Des Meurons Street.	18.2

Des Meurons Street is named after a Swiss de Meurons regiment who were recruited by Lord Selkirk in 1816 to restore order to the Red River Settlement. The Meurons soldiers established themselves along the Seine River to protect the Red River Settlement.

The regiment had been serving with the British army during the war of 1812 and many of its members had stayed as settlers in Lower Canada afterward. Thirty of them and two of their officers came west with Lord Selkirk.

2.1	Turn left on Dubuc Street.	20.3
0.5	Continue straight as Dubuc Street becomes Enfield Crescent.	20.8
0.2	Turn right onto Kenny Street.	21.0
0.2	Turn left on Kitson Street.	21.2
0.2	Turn right onto Taché Avenue. Coronation Park is directly in front of you. Rejoin the regular route at 4.2 km where it says "Pass Coronation Park."	21.4

Downtown Loop - Sins of the Suffragette

On today's trip you will visit the following sites:

The Forks

201 - One Forks Market Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 957-7618

www.theforks.com

Forks Market open daily from 9:30 am -6:30 pm
and Friday from 9:30 am – 9:00 pm.

Oseredok-Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre
184 Alexander Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 942-0218

Open: Monday - Saturday 10:00 am -4:00 pm,
Additional summer hours: Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The Manitoba Museum -
190 Rupert Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 956-2830

Open: Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm,
Weekends and holidays: 10:00 am -5:00 pm

Manitoba Legislature

450 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba;

phone: (204) 945-5813

Tours by appointment from September to June;
from July 1 to the Labour Day weekend in
September, tours are offered on an hourly basis.

Dalnavert Museum

61 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 943-2835

www.mhs.mb.ca/info/museums/dalnavert/
index.shtml#hours.

Hours: Closed Monday and Tuesday; Wednesday-
Saturday: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm; Sunday 12:00 pm
to 4:00 pm Entrance fee: \$5 – adults, \$4 – seniors,
\$3 – children and students.

About the Author:

Allan Levine was born in Winnipeg in 1956 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Certificate in Education from the University of Manitoba, and a Masters degree and a PhD in History from the University of Toronto. While working on his dissertation on the history of the Winnipeg grain business, he also worked for award-winning journalist and author Peter C. Newman as his researcher. Allan considers Peter to be a major inspiration, showing him that it was possible to write history that was both fascinating and intriguing and included a cast of colourful characters.

In addition to writing both works of fiction and non-fiction containing historical elements, Allan is a free-lance journalist as well as a history and world issues teacher at a prestigious Winnipeg high school. He has written hundreds of op-ed pieces and book reviews for *The Globe and Mail*, *The Winnipeg Free Press*, *National Post*, — among many other publications, over the last two decades.

His first book *The Exchange: 100 Years of Trading Grain In Winnipeg*, a re-working of his PhD. dissertation was published in 1987 to mark the centennial of the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange. He considers his first really successful popular history book to be *Scrum Wars: The Prime Ministers and the Media* (1993), which he researched while spending a year away from teaching in Ottawa in 1989-1990. In the mid 1990s, Allan decided to take a stab at fiction writing with his first historical mystery, *The Blood Libel*, published in 1997. Set in Winnipeg's North End at the turn of the century, the book introduced his protagonist Sam Klein, a Jewish immigrant. Klein struggled to fit into Canadian society, as many eastern-European immigrants did in the years before the First World War. Immigrants were expected to conform and assimilate, as there was no multiculturalism in Canada in 1911. The success of *The Blood Libel* led him to continue with Klein's adventures in *Sins of the Suffragette* (2000) and *The Bolshevik's Revenge* (2002). Both *The Blood*

Libel and *Sins of the Suffragette* have also been published in Germany by BTB-Random House. His most recent book is a work of non-fiction and is called *The Devil in Babylon: Fear of Progress and the Birth of Modern Life* (2005).

Allan remains committed to making history come alive. "The past has many lessons for us and it is my view that it is impossible to understand today's world without the perspective that history offers." Both his fiction and non-fiction works have received considerable recognition. The first Sam Klein Mystery, *The Blood Libel*, was shortlisted for the Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award in 1997, Arthur Ellis First Mystery Novel Award in 1997, and won the Margaret McWilliams Medal Manitoba Historical Society Prize for Best Historical Fiction in 2000. His second Sam Klein Mystery, *Sins of the Suffragette*, was shortlisted for the Carol Shields City of Winnipeg Award in 2001. His book, *Fugitives of the Forest: The Heroic Story of Jewish Resistance and Survival During the Second World War*, won the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Prize in 1999 and was shortlisted for the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award in 1998.

Story Synopsis (Excerpt from publisher's web page):

When hard-boiled detective Sam Klein investigates the murder of Emily Munro, a suffragette with many sordid secrets, he enters a world of women's rights in 1914 Winnipeg. Here he encounters famous activist Nellie McClung as well as the uneasy tension between Victorian morality and real life.

Sins of the Suffragette is the second Sam Klein mystery, transporting readers back in time to experience the streets, sounds and smells of "the wickedest city in the Dominion" where immigrants from the city's tough North End struggle to find an identity in a world dominated by the English, white, middle-class.

This cycling tour will take you back in time, through some of Winnipeg's most glamorous and seediest neighbourhoods that contributed to this city's brief but rich history.

0.0	Start at The Forks, in front of the Manitoba Children's Museum sign. Follow the path towards the spire of the Esplanade Riel. The Inn at The Forks and the Pan Am Games cauldron will be on your left.	0.0
0.1	Stay on the paved path as it veers to the left in the direction of the Scotiabank Stage.	0.1
0.1	Pass the Scotiabank Stage, keeping to the right to follow the path that goes under the Esplanade Riel and Provencher bridges. If the water level is too high, take the path to the left to cross the street at the lights – continuing straight onto the gravel path on the other side of the street, as it heads toward the river.	0.2
0.4	Veer right and take an immediate left to follow the elevated, fenced-in path along the river. This is a former rail line. This is where the route that would have taken you under the bridges rejoins the description.	0.6
0.2	The path comes up onto Waterfront Drive just behind the Goldeyes Baseball Stadium. Turn right to continue down Waterfront Drive.	0.8
0.2	Pass under a railway bridge and turn left onto Lombard Avenue.	1.0
0.3	Arrive at the Grain Exchange Building, then turn right onto Rorie Street.	1.3

You are now in Winnipeg's Exchange District. At the turn of the century, Winnipeg was one of the fastest growing cities in North America and was Canada's gateway to the west. The downtown core, also known as the Exchange District, was named for the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange. Huge fortunes were generated in an amazingly short period of time, creating millionaires with numbers rivalling Chicago's. As reflected in the magnificent turn of the century architecture, this area was truly the centre of trade and commerce. In fact, Winnipeg's Exchange District is one of the most historically intact turn-of-the-century commercial districts on the continent.

Today, the Exchange District flourishes with an interesting mix of art, culture and commerce. The neighbourhood has an eclectic

mix of specialty retailers, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, art galleries, wholesalers and manufacturers, as well as Winnipeg's Theatre District. Its period architecture and cobblestone streets are an integral part of its ambiance and charm.

"A serenity descended on the city each Sunday. Banks and businesses were closed. The Grain Exchange trading floor, during the week the most frantic place on the Prairies, was quiet as a hospital ward. Timothy Eaton, the department store magnate, certainly understood the importance of a day of rest. To thwart temptation, he ordered that the drapes on his stores' windows be drawn on the Lord's Day. Sunday was for Church and family, not shopping." Sins of the Suffragette

0.3	Turn left onto Bannatyne Avenue.	1.6
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Alfred Powers introduced his new wife to the Rossi's – an Italian immigrant family that owned a business in downtown Winnipeg.

"I've been shopping at Ernesto and Rosa's fruit store on Bannatyne for at least ten years. Isn't that right Ernesto?"
"Ten years, at least."
"They have the sweetest oranges in Winnipeg."
 Ernesto beamed proudly, *"We opened the store on April 7, 1901..." Sins of the Suffragette*

Klein during the murder investigation went to talk to the Rossi's at their apartment.

"He walked around to Bannatyne where the entrance to the Rossis' upstairs apartment was located. Directly across Main Street was the imposing Ashdown's Hardware Store, three floors crammed with any item a man could want." Sins of the Suffragette

Want to learn more about Winnipeg's Exchange District? Try Routes on the Red's Art, Antiques and Architecture in Winnipeg's Historic Exchange District: self-directed walking tour.

0.1	Continue straight at Main Street. The Crocus Building on directly across Main was the former Ashdown Hardware Store.	1.7
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"The streetcar stopped at Bannatyne Avenue across from Ashdown's Hardware Store, and the elderly man exited, tipping his hat to Sarah as he descended." Sins of the Suffragette

0.05	Turn right onto King Street.	1.75
0.05	Pass the Old Market Square.	1.8

"In the distance was Market Square, quiet this time of the year but a main centre of business for Italian fruit sellers and Jewish peddlers from April to October." Sins of the Suffragette

0.2	Turn right on James Street.	2.0
0.1	Turn left onto Main Street.	2.1
0.1	Turn right onto Rupert Avenue. The Manitoba Museum is on your right. If you'd like to stop in for a visit.	2.2

In 1907, when the population of Winnipeg grew to 115,000 the police department had 90 members. Chief Constable John C. McRae was instrumental in securing substations throughout the City of Winnipeg. In 1908 a new main station on Rupert Avenue was opened just east of Main Street. The police force had grown to 108 members by the time the station opened.

Following the death of his wife, Alfred Powers tells Sam Klein that he is going to turn himself in at the Rupert Avenue Police Station and request that his son meet him there.

"No. I want Graham to meet me at the Rupert Station at three o'clock. I'm not about to start hiding from the police – not at my age, not with my reputation." Sins of the Suffragette

0.2	Turn left onto Lily Street.	2.4
0.05	Turn right onto Pacific Avenue.	2.45
0.15	Turn left onto Waterfront Drive and pick up the bicycle path. Stay on the path until the very end.	2.6
0.2	Pass the Scots Monument, erected in 1993 and dedicated to Thomas Douglas fifth Earl of Selkirk (1812-1824).	2.8
0.1	Pass an observation platform looking over the Red River towards Fort Gibraltar in St. Boniface.	2.9
0.1	Veer right to follow along the river. Path turns to gravel at this point.	3.0
0.4	A road appears on the left, but continue straight, staying on the path.	3.4
0.1	The next road is at the end of the path. Turn left onto Annabella Street and continue straight to cross Higgins Avenue.	3.5
0.4	At the four-way stop sign, cross Sutherland Avenue and continue straight on Annabella Street to the end.	3.9

Beginning in 1909, two streets in Point Douglas – McFarlane and Rachel streets (later known as Annabella) became designated as the City's segregated Red Light District. This was not an official designation, but rather a "behind-the-scenes" compromise between a few political leaders at the time and the Chief of Police. The aim of this policy was to keep the vice and sinful behaviour away from the homes of well-to-do and established Winnipeggers, while simultaneously maintaining a level of control over the activity.

This was not the first time that a "Red-Light" district had been established in Winnipeg. Originally, there was a "Colony" of brothels – outside of Winnipeg – along Colony Creek (what is now the section of Balmoral Street, between Ellice Avenue and Qu'appelle Avenue). With the construction of Manitoba College

nearby (resulting in a little too much attention paid to the brothels by the upstanding young college men), a new colony was set up a mile to the west – outside the new city limits on what is now Minto Street (known then as Thomas Street). Once again, the city expanded out to their new location, causing renewed friction with temperance groups. A morality crusade in 1904 forced the police to raid the Thomas Street brothels and shut them down. However, far from eradicating the problem, the police found that this simply spread the problem around by scattering the prostitutes all over the city. In 1904, an angry citizen complained in the Winnipeg Free Press that there was a growing number of attacks on innocent women in the city streets, which was a direct result of uncontrolled prostitution.

By 1909 things had gone from bad to worse and Magistrate T. Mayne Daly, along with the Winnipeg Police Commission, recommended that the Chief of Police (J.C. McRae) deal with the problem "in accordance with his discretion and best judgment". As a result, Chief McRae consulted Minnie Woods – a leading madam of the day – to come up with a new Red Light District. The Point Douglas site was chosen for its inexpensive houses, close proximity to the CPR station (a good source of clientele), and its relative isolation.

By the end of that year most of Rachel Street (now known as Annabella Street) and McFarlane Street were completely converted to brothels. By 1910, there were more than 50 reported brothels on the two streets.

Although the activities in these houses were "controlled" by the police – loud music, distinctive markings, bright lights, etc, were not permitted and the ladies were expected to receive medical examinations every two weeks, and to not leave the district with prior consent of the police – opposition by temperance and morality groups continued. An article in the Toronto Globe fuelled this opposition when Dr. J. G. Shearer, General Secretary of the National Moral and Social Reform League identified Winnipeg as having the "rottenest conditions of things ... in connection with the question of social vice to be found in any city in Canada". Shortly afterward the Toronto Star printed an interview with Dr. Shearer with the headline – "Wicked Winnipeg Wallows in Vice". In response to these labels, City Council set up a Royal Commission to investigate the validity of Dr. Shearer's allegations. While the Commission concluded that there was indeed a designated and segregated Red Light District, by the time of its findings, the general population had lost interest – and little changed in the Point Douglas area.

In 1913, 15 homes on Annabella Street were listed in the Henderson Directory as being owned by women – and are presumed to have been brothels. Minnie Woods (the woman

who helped form the Point Douglas Segregated District with Chief McRae) was at 157 Annabella Street. Olga Ross' house (179) is no longer standing (it is now part of the Hydro sub-station). Others that were once brothels are: #171 – owned by Lily Thornton, #169 – owned by Goldie Jones, #163 – owned by Marjorie Morris, #151 – owned by Doris Vennette, and #149 – owned by Flo Williams.

Sam Klein was very familiar with the Point Douglas area, having worked for Madam Melinda as a bouncer. His current investigation has brought him back into the neighbourhood. Could Levine's "Melinda" be based on the infamous Minnie Woods? The addresses used in the novel are subject to artistic license, but the neighbourhood is real enough.

"He walked briskly down Sutherland to Anabella Street and turned left. There was hardly a sole to be seen. January and February were always slow months for Melinda and the other city madams in the neighbourhood. At any other time of the year, the brothels would be packed with hordes of single men on Winnipeg stopovers, farm labourers and immigrants looking for work. They would arrive at the nearby CPR station, have a few drinks at a hotel bar, and eventually stumble to Melinda's doorstep in search of female company. [...] Walking up the path to the brothel at 118 Anabella Street, he struggled not to imagine Sarah on the stairs heading to her room with other men." *Sins of the Suffragette*

Sam's wife Sarah too, at one point had worked for Madam Melinda, but she had left that life behind her.

"A life time ago, or so it seemed now when she had worked for Madam Melinda at the house on Rachel Street, she had spent many happy evenings at the theatre. Then Sarah revelled in being the city's most expensive whore – and in the shocked stares and gasps she provoked whenever she visited a public place." *Sins of the Suffragette*

0.3	At a T-intersection, turn right on Rover Avenue.	4.2
0.1	Turn right on McFarlane Street	4.3

"It took no time at all for Klein to reach the Point Douglas neighbourhood. He knew he was getting close when he started passing men with satisfied looks on their faces. Only a visit with the girls on Anabella and McFarlane Streets produced that kind of gratification. As he turned the corner onto McFarlane, he quickened his pace. [...] As he reached his destination, Klein tried to clear his head for he task at hand. Number 520. The ramshackle house was quiet and dark, except for a dim light shining through an upstairs windows." *Sins of the Suffragette*

The final demise of the Rachel/Annabella and McFarlane streets' brothels came about primarily as the result of a shooting, which took place outside 179 Rachel (a brothel owned by the "notorious" Olga Ross). Due to the proximity of this Point Douglas neighbourhood to the CPR station, it was a frequent stop for many drifters, transients and out of town criminals. In 1911, Constable William Traynor was shot and wounded while trying to apprehend a pair of robbers as they fled from Ross' house following a long chase throughout Elmwood and Point Douglas (the two were ultimately caught as they attempted to flee by buggy).

Following these events, the Winnipeg Tribune wrote that "the shooting of Constable Traynor may mean the end of Winnipeg's Red Light area and that many of the women are preparing to seek new pastures where there will not be so much notoriety ... in addition to [the] shooting affrays there have been a number of robberies and fights of a serious nature on the streets inhabited by the women of the underworld. Residents in the vicinity of the area say that the district is daily becoming more infested with tough characters and that fights and drunken brawls are a daily occurrence...".

In response to these events and concerns, two Morality Inspectors were hired to clean up the Red Light District. While the district did stay in place, even stricter rules were enforced. Many brothels closed and those that remained were deemed to be "fairly decent houses". However, by 1943 the Point Douglas Red Light District had effectively disappeared (although the Henderson Directory still listed four women as owning property on McFarlane and Annabella). The last of the red-hot mamas finally disappeared from the Directory in 1954.

0.2	Turn right onto Sutherland Avenue	4.5
0.1	At the 4-way stop sign, turn left onto Annabella Street.	4.6
0.4	Turn right onto the bike path at the end of Annabella Street.	5.0
0.3	Keep left to follow paved path along Waterfront Drive.	5.3
0.3	Turn right onto Alexander Avenue.	5.6
0.4	Alexander ends on this side of Main Street at the Oseredok-Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre.	6.0
0.05	Dismount and follow the side walk, first turning right to cross both lanes of Disraeli Freeway, And then left to cross Main Street, picking up Alexander Avenue on the other side.	6.05
0.05	You are passing through Chinatown.	6.1

This neighbourhood, now known as Chinatown, was established in 1909, with official designation in 1968. The Chinese community has always been an integral and significant part of the multicultural make up of Winnipeg. The first Chinese settlers came by stagecoach in 1877, numbering 200 by 1901 and growing to over 20,000 people today.

"It was only ten o'clock in the morning and already the neighbourhood was crowded. Women scurried in and out of the shops carrying bundles and bags, while men with pigtailed

stood reading Chinese posters plastered on fences and walls. Every so often, a slew of angry words were exchanged, generating a great debate, which Taber neither understood nor wanted to. And, of course there was the one distinguishing characteristic of this neighbourhood, as in every Chinatown across the Dominion: clouds of thick steam rising from the laundries. As he made his way down Pacific Avenue, Taber figured that dropping off your clothes at a laundry was the only real reason ever to visit Chinatown – that, and opium." Sins of the Suffragette

0.1	Turn left on Princess Street and keep to the left side if possible.	6.2
0.4	Pass the Red River College, downtown campus, with its old façade.	6.6

The new Red River College of Applied Arts and Technology downtown campus incorporates the facades of several of Winnipeg's historic buildings.

- **Utility Building** – 164 Princess Street – built in 1892, by Nicolas Bawlf, one of the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange founders – the first building to house the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange.
- **Exchange Building** – 160 Princess Street – built in 1898, the city's second structure built to house the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange (on the third floor.) The Chamber of Commerce was located here from 1908 to 1943.

- **Harris Building** – 154 Princess Street – built in 1882 - one of the oldest agricultural implement warehouses in Winnipeg. Harris eventually merged to form Massey-Harris Co. (also known as the Hochman Building).
- **Bawlf Building** – 150 Princess Street – built in 1882 as a revenue property by Nicolas Bawlf, one of the oldest warehouses in Winnipeg (also known as House of Comoy).
- **Benson Building** – 146 Princess Street – built in 1882 as a revenue property by Joseph Benson (also known as the Drake Hotel).

1.1	Cross Notre Dame Avenue.	7.7
0.05	Turn left immediately into the alley between the Burton Cummings Theatre (former Walker Theatre) and the Giant Tiger Store.	7.75

The alley behind the Burton Cummings Theatre is the scene of the first murder in *Sins of the Suffragette*. Sam Klein, who happens to be attending an event at the Walker that evening with his wife Sarah, sets off to solve the crime and clear the name of his friend, Alfred Powers.

"Lying in the alley behind the Walker, she could hear the roars of laughter tumble from the theatre. But try as she might,

she couldn't move her legs or arms. Her body was in agony, more pain that she had ever felt. She attempted to cry out, but her mouth was full of blood. In fact, her cloths were soaked through with it. She rolled her heat to one side, and saw him lying face down in clumps of red snow. "Oh Antonio," she cried to herself. "What have I done to you?" He did not move." Sins of the Suffragette

0.05	Dismount at the end of the alleyway at Ellice Avenue and turn left.	7.8
0.05	Walk your bicycle to Smith Street and turn left.	7.85
0.05	Stop for a moment in front of the Burton Cummings Theatre at the interpretive panels describing Nellie McClung and the Women's Suffrage movement.	7.9

The **Walker Theatre** was designed by Howard C. Stone and officially opened in February 1907. It showcased some of the finest pre-World War I performers from American and British stages. The Walker is the oldest of Winnipeg's surviving grand theatres. It is the only one of the group that was developed by a resident owner, Corliss Powers Walker (1853-1942), who had moved to Winnipeg with his wife Harriet, from Fargo, North Dakota in 1896. Walker's new theatre soon dominated the city's cultural scene and set the standard for similar facilities in major centres across western Canada. In 1945, it was converted into the Odeon movie theatre. After the movie theatre closed in 1990, it was eventually restored for use as a live theatre venue, reminiscent of its old glory days. Today it bears the name of the Winnipeg musician, Burton Cummings, who along with band mate Randy Bachman formed an integral part of the 70s rock band "The Guess Who".

Set in 1914, during Winnipeg's women's suffrage movement, the novel begins with a performance at the Walker Theatre, where Nellie McClung has organized an evening of satire. Although many of the characters and events in the novel are fictional, some of the people and places did actually exist. Nellie McClung was instrumental in the women's movement

in Winnipeg – and she did organize such a "mock parliament", which was held at The Walker. Thanks to women like her, women in Manitoba were the first in Canada to be allowed to vote.

"The highlight of that evening's full programme was to be two delicious and witty satires. "How They Won the Vote" was a skit originally performed by suffragettes in London, but adapted by the women for a local audience. That was to be followed by the piece de resistance, a "Mock Parliament" in which roles and situations were reversed. The concept, Nellie assured them, was brilliant: stage a parliamentary debate about men's demands for the franchise and use the male politicians' own words to make them look like fools..

[...] As Nellie had predicted, the Walker was overflowing with people. For about forty-five minutes, a steady stream of horse-drawn sleighs had trundled by, the jingling bells on the steeds heard for blocks in every direction. It was mainly a middle-class crowd that evening, supportive women from River Heights and the nearby city of Tuxedo, with their reluctant husbands in tow. Noticeably absent were women from the North End." *Sins of the Suffragette*

	Turn right to get onto King Street at the point where Smith Street splits in two directions.	
0.2	Turn right on McDermot Avenue.	7.1
0.35	Pass the Mariaggi Theme Suites Hotel on your left.	7.45

In 1903, Frank Mariaggi built Western Canada's first European style hotel at 231 McDermot Avenue in Winnipeg. While Mariaggi went back to his native Corsica, where he died in 1918, the hotel continues to carry his name.

When it was built, this hotel offered more than the typical hotel suite of the day (which consisted of a bed and a wash basin). Each suite had its own toilet, bath and sink as well as electric light and a telephone. The furnishings included heavy velvet carpets,

thick draperies and oak chairs covered in soft leather, oriental divans and oriental brass beds. In addition, the hotel had a 6,000 square foot dining room that served the elite businessmen of the neighbourhood each day. In the basement, there were a series of private dining grottos complete with flowing waterfalls and pools stocked with goldfish. The Mariaggi's claim to fame was its block long bar – stretching from Albert Street to Arthur Street. Today, it has been transformed into a small boutique, themed suite hotel.

0.05	Turn right onto Albert Street.	7.5
0.05	Pass the Royal Albert Arms Hotel, and neighbouring buildings.	7.55

The **Royal Albert Hotel** opened in the fall of 1913. Its opening was overshadowed or overlooked by the press due to the opening of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway's luxurious Fort Garry Hotel on Broadway.

"It was a short walk over to the Royal Albert Arms Hotel. Not in the same class as the Mariaggi or the new Fort Garry Hotel, the Royal Albert, with its red-tiled roof and iron lights and balconies, looked like a villa in an Italian postcard. Klein sauntered through the hotels double-arched doorway. The carpets were a blue tint, very plush, and paintings and Roman sculptures emphasized the continental ambience. Crowds of businessmen, mostly brokers and bankers with commercial interests in the grain trade, were milling around the lobby." *Sins of the Suffragette*

Note the little shops beside the Royal Albert Hotel. The barber-shop described in Levine’s novel would have been located in this little strip.

“The Albert Street barbershop was a few doors down. As he entered the establishment, Klein grimaced as he was assaulted by a confusion of sickly-sweet colognes and after-shave.” *Sins of the Suffragette*

0.05	Turn left onto Notre Dame Avenue and get into the far left lane.	8.0
0.05	Turn left immediately onto Garry Street, where the street intersects with Ellice Avenue and Notre Dame Avenue.	8.05
0.25	Turn right on Graham Avenue. Winnipeg’s main post office is to your left.	8.3

As we pass sites on Graham Avenue, we jostle between The Geranium Girls and Sins of the Suffragette. Beryl started her workdays sorting the mail at the main post office.

in there this morning I could forget about Saturday for a few minutes here and there.”

“Well, once you get out of that hell-hole it’s not so bad.” Beryl nodded in the direction of the main post office. “And at least

[...] They sat on a low pebbled wall across the street at the library. It was cool there in the shade of the downtown buildings, a relief from the sticky heat inside the post office.” *The Geranium Girls*

0.1	The Winnipeg Centennial Library is on your left. (The Geranium Girls)	8.4
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“As soon as she was finished with her walk, Beryl went to the third floor of the Centennial Library to look up Hortense Frouten’s obituary in the Winnipeg Free Press.” *The Geranium Girls*

	The Holy Trinity Anglican Church is on your right. (Sins of the Suffragette)	
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Holy Trinity Parish was established in 1868 under Archdeacon McLean. The first church building was completed November 4th of that year and enlarged in 1870. It was quickly outgrown, as was its successor. The present building was completed in 1884, with a seating capacity of 750. This neo-gothic structure is now a designated national historical site.

“ June 10, a Saturday, was a lovely day in the city. A clear blue prairie sky greeted Powers and Emily’s guests as they made their way to the majestic Holy Trinity Church on Donald Street. With its turrets and spires, the white bricked Anglican Church, nearly as old as the city, resembled a fairy tale castle.” *Sins of the Suffragette*

0.1	Pass the MTS Centre – former Eaton’s Department Store location.	8.5
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The MTS Centre was built at the location of the former T. Eaton Company Department Store and has maintained a few artefacts. The T. Eaton building was a spectacular example of Chicago-style architecture, built in 1905 as the most significant Canadian commercial building west of Toronto, with a structural steel frame and airy expanses of glass. It was more than just a department store (see picture). It was practically a city unto itself. It was designed as a Crystal Palace of engineering, equipped with 29 elevators and a sprinkler system that drew water from artesian wells 60 metres beneath the building. It had its own hospital clinic, fire department, library, and restaurants. It even had its own neighbourhoods - beyond the main store was the towering Catalogue building, as well as smaller structures like the power house, the parkade, and the bus depot.

“Typically by mid-morning, Eaton’s department store was buzzing with customers. In fact, the moment the store opened at 8:30 a.m. until it shut its doors at five in the afternoon, the sales clerks didn’t have a minute to rest. Dresses, hats, pots and pans, there was little that couldn’t be found in Timothy Eaton’s grand emporium. Moreover, unlike on Selkirk Avenue the prices marked were the prices that were paid - no bartering allowed. At first, back in ’05 when the store opened at the corner of Donald and Portage, it took Winnipeggers a little while to get used to that strict policy.” *Sins of the Suffragette*

Although the building has since been demolished, some of the important elements remain, including the choice to build the MTS Centre in brick. Additionally, the original bronze plaque commemorating the first Eaton's Board of Directors meeting in Winnipeg has been placed on the Donald Street exterior of the MTS Centre, in almost the exact southeast corner location it had on the original Eaton's store.



The Timothy Eaton statue was originally presented to John Eaton in 1919 by the employees of the Winnipeg Eaton's store to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the T. Eaton Co. For many years it stood in Winnipeg's Eaton's building. Designated as a heritage object by the Province of Manitoba in 2002, it was saved prior to the building's demolition. Today, it can be found on the Portage Avenue side of the MTS Centre on the second floor. It is considered good luck to rub the outstretched foot of Timothy Eaton.

0.1 As you cross Hargrave Avenue, look to your left, and you can see St. Mary's Cathedral beyond the parking lot one block down. **8.6**

The cornerstone of St. Mary's Church was laid on August 15, 1880, by Archbishop Taché. It was consecrated on August 4, 1881. The building could originally accommodate up to 1,000 people. The rather plain, though pleasingly simple-looking, church had its façade redesigned by Samuel Hooper in 1896, with corbelling and an off-centre bell-tower being added. Once a prominent feature of the Winnipeg skyline, the church has now been overshadowed by the construction of the Winnipeg Convention Centre and nearby hotels. St. Mary's Cathedral was the first Roman Catholic church in Winnipeg proper (not including St. Boniface, which was a separate

city at the time) and, for many years, boasted the largest Catholic congregation west of the Red River. The last major renovations took place during 1951 when much of the original stained glass was changed and the interior updated.

"Graham informed Klein as well that the police had finally released the bodies of the murder victims. The Rossi family had already arranged for Antonio's body to be delivered to St. Mary's Cathedral downtown." Sins of the Suffragette

0.2 Pass the Second Cup coffee shop on your right. (The Geranium Girls) **8.8**

Beryl would stop for coffee with fellow letter carrier, Stan Socz. She is telling Stan about Joe, the guy who keeps calling after he helped her after finding the body. Stan tells her that Joe Paine is a well-known veterinarian.

"They were sitting outside at the Second Cup on Graham Avenue with their bulging mailbags next to them. ... This stop for coffee had become a ritual for them, as their routes began in the same section of downtown." The Geranium Girls

- 0.1** Turn left onto Kennedy Street **8.9**
- 0.5** Cross Broadway. **9.4**
- 0.2** Pass the Lieutenant Governor's House on the right. **9.6**

As a part of the negotiated transfer of Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company to the Dominion of Canada, the Hudson's Bay Company retained a large tract of land around Upper Fort Garry, located near Main Street and Broadway. This tract of land stretched west from the Red River to Colony Creek (what is now Osborne Street) and north from the Assiniboine River to Notre Dame Avenue. This property became known as the Hudson's Bay Reserve. To increase the value of the property, the Company undertook several development schemes including bridge construction and

a residential subdivision. In the 1870s, numerous cottages and other small structures appeared on the reserve, but with the real estate boom of the following decade, many of the city's prestigious families chose to build their mansions on sizeable, landscaped lots within the reserve. As Point Douglas, which had been one of the city's earliest residential areas was being transformed into more of an industrial hub, due to its proximity to the rail lines, families began to move to more prestigious neighbourhoods such as the Hudson's Bay Reserve.

As the city expanded, several of the city's elite relocated further away to the developing neighbourhoods of Armstrong's Point, River Heights, Fort Rouge, Crescentwood and Wolseley. Many of the Reserve's original properties were subdivided, allowing more modest infill housing to dot the streets and avenues. Many of the larger dwellings were converted into boarding houses and apartment blocks.

The house at 23 Kennedy was built in 1912. Its original owner was the merchant, Alexander Reid. One can imagine from its location that this house could have been the home of Dr. Oliver Parker. He would hold séances at his house on Kennedy Street.

"A meeting tonight at Parker House, 15 Kennedy Street at 8:30 p.m. Dr. Oliver Parker, esteemed surgeon and psychic investigator, will be delivering a lecture on teleplasm and other psychic phenomena." [...]

"The tall grandfather clock in the parlour struck midnight as the lights in the house on Kennedy Street were dimmed. Not one of the eight people sitting in wooden upright chairs around the table made a sound. The three men and five women held hands, adding to the heightened tension. [...]

"Liza trudged down Kennedy and across Broadway. The wide and grand avenue with the large homes and apartment buildings was serene. Dr. Parker's home was third from the corner, directly

*across from Government House, an exquisite white mansion set back from the street where the Lieutenant Governor resided. In the moonlight, Klein could make out the Union Jack hoisted high on the house's flagpole and fluttering in the wind. Glancing further down Kennedy Street, he could also see the large home of millionaire grain broker Nicholas Bawlf." *Sins of the Suffragette**

As is the case with many of the grand homes that once stood here, the Nicholas Bawlf house at 11 Kennedy Street, is gone. Like the Alloway, Tupper, Kelly and Ashdown homes, the grain merchant's mansion made the Broadway-Assiniboine area the city's show place. An unnamed writer of 1903 wrote: "Socially Winnipeg takes the palm. The city has scores of palatial mansions inhabited by wealthy men of plain, practical ideas, whose greatest aim is the work of building up commercially, industrially, socially and morally the city they live in. No claim can be made in Winnipeg for austere, alleged saints. The people are too active and practical for that."

If you would like to visit one of these magnificent homes – Dalnavert Museum on Carlton Street (two blocks to the east) has been returned to its turn-of-the-century grandeur, when it was built and occupied by Sir Hugh John MacDonald, the son of Canada's first Prime Minister – Sir John A. MacDonald. It is now a wonderful museum that displays the style in which Winnipeg's wealthy of the early 1900s lived.

0.1	Arrive at Assiniboine Avenue.	9.8
	Option 1: To continue cycling and join The Dead of Midnight tour turn right pick up the path that goes towards the river, but do not descend to the River walk, as their directions will be taking them to the mid level path and underneath the Osborne Street bridge (join in at 1.3 km mark).	
	Option 2: To end your tour and return to The Forks, turn left on Assiniboine Avenue	
0.2	Pass Dubrovnik Restaurant on your right.	10.0
0.3	At the three-way stop sign on Navy Way, you can see the top of the Hotel Fort Garry slightly to the left on Broadway.	10.3
0.1	Turn right into Bonny Castle Park and follow the path towards the river.	10.4
0.1	At the staircase, follow the path to the left, if you do not wish to walk your bike down the stairs to reach the River walk.	10.5
0.1	Turn left to pass beneath the Main Street bridge and rail bridge to return to The Forks.	10.6

Granola Loop - The Dead of Midnight

About the Author:

Catherine Rose Hunter was born in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1957 and grew up in Winnipeg. She began her studies at the University of Winnipeg, followed by the University of Victoria, where she pursued her English doctorate. She has been a leather worker, clam digger, doughnut-shop waitress, convenience store manager and carpet cleaner. Catherine is the editor of the Muses' Company Press and a poetry reader for Prairie Fire magazine. She has taught in the English Departments at the universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba, and has also designed and taught numerous writing workshops. Currently, she teaches English and Creative Writing at the University of Winnipeg. Catherine used to live in the Wolseley neighbourhood of Winnipeg, but has since moved to St. Boniface, where she lives with her daughter and cats.

Catherine is the author of three collections of poetry: *Latent Heat* (1997), for which she received the Manitoba Book of the Year award, *Lunar Wake* (1994), and *Necessary Crimes* (1988), and one spoken word CD, *Rush Hour* (2000). She is also the author of three literary mysteries: In the *First Early Years of My Death* (2002), which was shortlisted for both the

McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award and for the Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction, *Where Shadows Burn* (1999), and *The Dead of Midnight* (2001).

Story Synopsis (*Excerpt from publisher's web page*): Members of the book club at the Mystery Au Lait Cafe in Winnipeg are getting nervous, as events from their favourite murder mysteries start to come true — right in their own quiet neighbourhood of Wolseley. But Sarah Petursson and her neighbours can't stop themselves from reading the popular Midnight Mystery series published by Alfred, a prominent member of the club.

For Sarah, the mystery novels are an escape from her tragic memories of Lake of the Woods. For Morgan, they're a cheap thrill. And for Alfred, they're a goldmine. As he continues to release the books to greater and greater acclaim, the popularity of the reclusive author of The Midnight Mysteries soars — and so does the body count. Who could be imitating the details of the plots, killing off mystery fans one by one, as they helplessly read on?

0.0	Start behind The Forks Market and follow the ramp down to the Assiniboine River.	0.0
0.1	At the bottom of the ramp, go straight to follow the path under two bridges putting the river to your left.	0.1

As you follow the path, you'll be riding on the bank of the Assiniboine River and into a part of the city that was for a long time a middle-class area. Between Portage Avenue and the river, there were streets of large, well-kept houses, shaded by large

trees. With suburban development south of the Assiniboine River, areas closer to downtown became less desirable and many of the houses have been torn down and replaced by apartment blocks.

1.0	At the end of the Riverwalk, follow the ramp up and turn left to continue following the river (if you go to the street level, come back down).	1.1
0.2	Veer left to go under the Osborne Bridge. Immediately after the bridge, keep straight (Do not curve upward) to continue following the river. (<i>Sins of the Suffragette</i> connects here for continuation to <i>The Dead of Midnight</i>).	1.3
	Follow the paved path past the Granite Curling Club to your right. The path will start to ascend.	
0.4	After the ascent, turn left onto Mostyn Place (not signed).	1.7

Officer Daniel Bradley gets the call about a murder in the Woseley area and makes his way to the scene of the crime.

"Winnipeg, though known in recent headlines as the "murder capital of Canada," was also a city with a ninety-eight percent conviction rate for murder. Strangers didn't kill each other here. No. They'd look first at those closest to the victim. Interview the neighbors, question the family.

He sped north across the Osborne Street Bridge, siren flashing and bleeping. His palms were sweating, and he took them off the wheel one after the other to wipe them on his pants. He had to appear calm and collected. [...] He exited the bridge, zig-zagged around the meridian, and made an illegal left-hand turn onto Mostyn, accelerating past the curling club." *The Dead of Midnight*

0.1	At the stop sign, turn left onto Balmoral Avenue. Turn left onto Young Street as the road curves.	1.8
	Pass Balmoral Hall School on your left.	

Balmoral Hall School is the result of the joining together of two girls' schools (Rupert's Land College and Riverbend School) in 1950. Rupert's Land College was originally known as Havergal College when it first opened in 1901 at 122 Carlton Street (no longer standing – it is now a parking lot on the west side of Carlton Street between York Avenue and Broadway), it changed its name to Rupert's Land College in 1917. (See photo)

In 1929, upon his death, Sir James Aikins bequeathed his house to the United Church of Canada with the stipulation that it be used as a school for girls. This house (as well as Red House, donated by Sir Aikins' son), located on the banks of the Red River was named Riverbend School for Girls, opened in September 1929.

With declining enrolment and growing deficits, the two schools joined together at the Riverbend site in 1950 under the name Balmoral Hall, after Balmoral Castle in Scotland. Since then, the school has prospered and grown, becoming one of the most prestigious schools in the city. This private school is non-denominational and is still dedicated to the education of girls from nursery school through Grade 12.



Rupert's Land College – 122 Carlton Street

This area also developed as a somewhat exclusive area with large houses and generous lot. Its first inhabitants were mainly Anglo-Saxon. Today, the housing in this area is fairly mixed with some beautiful well-kept houses and others that are very run down.

0.1	At the stop sign, turn right onto Westminster Avenue.	1.9
0.1	Turn left on Langside Street.	2.0
0.2	At the stop sign, continue straight onto East Gate.	2.2

Armstrong's Point was developed between 1880 and 1920 with the intention of becoming Winnipeg's "Faubourg St. Germain," an exclusive neighbourhood for the upper crust. Its peninsular shape ensured that there was no through traffic and gave it lots

of privacy. The stone gates were built in 1902. The neighbourhood did indeed become home to many of Winnipeg's notable citizens.

0.5	Turn right onto Middle Gate.	2.7
0.5	At the stop sign, continue straight onto Furby Street.	3.2

This area, north of Armstrong Point and east of Maryland and Sherbrook streets is discussed among the members of the Mystery Au Lait Café Book Club.

"Murder's half Acre," Joe muttered. "Wasn't it Cady's newspaper that gave this neighborhood that nickname?"

"That's east of here," Byron told him.

"Way east," Zina agreed. "Five, six blocks east."

"Eight blocks at least," said Alfred decisively. "Up past the Big Sky Tavern. It's a completely different neighborhood up there. There's an invisible line running right down the middle of the street.

One side it's a jungle. This side it's safe." The Dead of Midnight

Betty's sister Anna lived in a rooming house on Furby Street, and Alfred described it on one of his few visits.

"[She lived in] a rooming house on Furby Street, down past the Big Sky Tavern."

"He'd pictured Anna's apartment as an unkempt hole, with cracked linoleum and cockroaches. Instead, he found himself in a spacious, colourful room..." *The Dead of Midnight*

0.3	Turn left onto Westminster Avenue.	3.5
0.1	Cross Sherbrook Street.	3.6

The Sherbrook Inn on your left provided the inspiration for The Big Sky Tavern.

"The Bartender admired his handiwork as he set down the two lime margaritas in their frosted glasses. Betty noticed they were the same color as Anna's fingernail polish. She paid the

bartender – no one was allowed to run a tab at the Big Sky Tavern – and fiddled with the straw in her drink." *The Dead of Midnight*

"Betty Carriere watched her sister suspiciously across the glasses of beer that littered the terry-cloth-covered table of the dark Big Sky Tavern." *The Dead of Midnight*

0.1

Cross Maryland Avenue.

3.7

"Zina, letting herself out quietly at dawn, was reminded of an old episode of The Twilight Zone about a man who woke one morning to find himself alone on the planet. Westminster Avenue seemed artificial, like an abandoned movie set. The little grocery stores and laundrettes were locked up. The ragged posters, stapled in thick layers onto every telephone pole, flapped in the breeze, advertising concerts and yard sales and Zina's book-club meetings. On the side streets, the large old brick and clapboard houses were still dark. The sense of unreality was heightened by the bright sunshine and the silence. She heard only the cooing

and chirping of unseen birds somewhere above, and even they seemed - or was it her imagination? - strangely subdued.

Zina turned down a back lane, a shortcut to the café. In contrast to the well-kept front yards of the neighborhood, the lanes were a mess, especially in spring. Old plastic bags and soggy newspapers lay tangled among the bushes. The gravel was littered with broken shards of beer-bottle glass and cigarette butts and, oddly, a discarded ski mask, lying face up on the ground, its two stitched eyeholes staring at the rising sun." *The Dead of Midnight*

0.6

Pass the Tall Grass Prairie Bakery.

4.3

Those familiar with the Wolseley area will immediately identify the Flax Fields Bakery in *The Dead of Midnight*, with the Tall Grass Prairie Bakery on Westminster Avenue. Stop in and try their famous cinnamon buns.

"Betty smiled modestly. She'd been too hungover earlier this week to do everything herself and had bought the tarts at the Flax Fields Bakery down the street." *The Dead of Midnight*

0.1

Pass Sled Dog Music (Hand Made Harmony) at 869 Westminster Avenue, Prairie Sky Books at 871 Westminster Avenue (Mystery au Lait Café) is on your right and the house that is featured on the cover of the book on your left (44 Evanson Street).

4.4

"Byron turned onto Westminster Avenue, riding past Zina's café and Linda's Handmade Harmony shop. A man he'd never seen before was standing in front of Linda's display window, watching her through the glass. Byron slowed down, then came to a stop and waited. The man glanced over his shoulder warily and then moved on." *The Dead of Midnight*

Author Catherine Hunter combined the location and ambiance of Prairie Sky Books with the café / poetry-reading venue of the now defunct Heaven and Art Café on Corydon Avenue to create the Mystery Au Lait Café.

"Her Mystery Au Lait Café, a combination bookstore and restaurant, had been busy tonight, but now it was quarter past eleven [...] Zina rolled her eyes and returned to her sweeping. Long ago, she had painted the hardwood floor like a night sky, deep blue

with white and yellow stars scattered across it. This theme was repeated on the curtains that hung at the large windows set deep into the red brick walls, and repeated again on the tablecloths that graced the twelve small tables at the front of the café near the windows, where Morgan was sitting. Pine bookshelves, packed with hundreds of mystery novels, were crowded into the back of the café, along with a couple of cosy chairs for reading and an antique wooden telephone booth, from which Byron Hunt was now emerging." *The Dead of Midnight*

"[...] He followed her as she wove between the small tables and squeezed past the chairs where Morgan was sitting with Linda Rain, who ran the Hand-Made Harmony shop next door." *The Dead of Midnight*

0.1

The Fleetwood Apartments on the corner of Westminster Avenue and Lenore Street might be where Cady Brown lived.

4.5

"The lawn and sidewalk in front of the River Point apartment building were swarming with men and women, both in plain clothes and in uniform. The entire yard was cordoned off with yellow crime-scene tape, the kind she had seen only on television." *The Dead of Midnight*

0.1

Turn left onto Ruby Street. Notice the homes that have planted gardens in the boulevard.

4.6

Byron Hunt lived on Ruby Street.

"Zina grinned. That bike! It must have been twenty years old, at least! But of course Byron could not afford a new one. He had never, as far as Zina knew, held down a real job for longer than a

couple of months. He spent all his time revising his unpublished collection of poems and song lyrics. If he hadn't inherited his mother's house over on Ruby Street, he would probably be homeless." *The Dead of Midnight*

0.2

Turn right onto Wolseley Avenue.

4.8

This whole neighbourhood gets its name from this street. Wolseley is named after Colonel Garnet Wolseley, who was in charge of the expedition sent west in 1869 to put down the Red River Resistance.

This area has garnered a reputation for its eclectic gardens and interesting mix of beautifully kept homes and front gardens alongside more modest dwellings. Additionally, it is known for its organic and whole foods markets as well as for the annual battle between neighbours regarding the use of pesticides to control the mosquito population in the summer. Within Winnipeg, many people refer to this neighbourhood as the "Granola Belt".

"Wolseley had always been such a peaceful neighborhood, which was why Byron stayed here. Well, that and the fact he'd inherited his parents' house. He glanced at the innocent wares in the shops he passed, wholesale health food, incense, books of Zen poetry. The front yards of the houses were works of art, the wooden porches painted burgundy and turquoise and hung with wind-chimes from the corner store. The gardens were

blooming, spilling out from the yards onto the grassy boulevards. Byron knew the people who lived in nearly every house he passed: playwrights, philosophy professors, hip young mothers, and truly alarming number of publishers." *The Dead of Midnight*

However, if one turned ones mind to murder and mysteries, this neighbourhood, especially at night, could easily become a spooky setting.

"He turned onto Ruby Street. But he could not enjoy the sense of contentment that usually cheered him as he arrived home. All along the sidewalk, he suddenly noticed, the cement was badly cracked. [...] The narrow brick houses, with their overlapping eaves, took on a gothic, haunted cast, and the neat picket fences creaked ominously. A dark, translucent film descended from the sky and settled like a fine dust on the rooftops, the children's bicycles, the flower beds. The elm trees stretched taller, their high, warped branches forming a tangled net that blocked out the sky." *The Dead of Midnight*

0.3

Turn left onto Garfield Street.

5.1

0.1

Follow the road to the left as it turns onto Palmerston Avenue.

5.2

Dahni Tata, the pharmacist and Beryl's love interest in *The Geranium Girls* lived on Palmerston Street.

"Why couldn't she manage to stay mad at this man for more than a few minutes at a time, she wondered. She came back.

"I don't even know where you live," she said.

"On Palmerston."

"Palmerston is one of my favourite streets."

"Is it?"

"Yeah. Do you live on the river side?"

"Yes, I do." *The Geranium Girls*

0.3

At Ruby Street and Palmerston Avenue, follow the path behind Laura Secord school to rejoin Palmerston Avenue on the other side. Take a moment to sit in the shade of the Wolseley Elm.

5.5

0.4

Turn left onto Home Street.

5.9

Sarah Petursson, the protagonist in *The Dead of Midnight* lives on Home Street. She almost becomes the first victim of a strange series of murders in this Wolseley area.

"Daniel Bradley made a sharp u-turn on Broadway when the call came through on the radio. His shift was over, but he was only two blocks away from the address. [...] He pulled onto Home Street. The nearest street lamp was dark, burned out. But he knew by the address the house must be near the river. There! One porch light glowed near the end of the block. He sped up. He could see a tiny woman, about sixty years old, standing on the curb, dressed in a threadbare housecoat and slippers." *The Dead of Midnight*

"[...] Sarah's house looked different to her, and it wasn't just the plywood nailed over the broken living-room window. The barn-shaped roof seemed to loom above the upper gables, casting warped shadows across the blank, shuttered windows that stared blindly down at her. Below, the high stone foundation seemed cold and formidable, the wooden steps to the front porch nearly unscalable. She leaned on Morgan as she drew herself up the steps and crossed the porch to the front door." *The Dead of Midnight*

Sarah describes the neighbourhood as she hobbles up to Westminster on her crutches.

[...] "Here in Wolseley, the tall houses were built so closely together that their upper eaves overlapped, and the huge American elms on either side of the street had spread so

wide that their branches touched each other high above the middle of the road. Sunlight was at a premium, and every available patch of sunny ground was crowded with plantings. Avid gardeners, frustrated with their own shady yards, would plant anywhere they could. They dug up the wide grass boulevards between the sidewalk and the road, and seeded them with marigolds and oregano and sometimes even tomatoes, though that was risky- too tempting for passersby. Tulips and daffodils bloomed around the bus stop and a morning-glory vine was beginning its long climb up the bus stop sign. Along the curb Sarah recognized the green shoots of peonies, shasta daisies, and day lilies. Yes, summer was coming to Winnipeg. Summer, and the Manitoba Marathon, which Sarah wouldn't be running. Her arms ached, but she pressed on, determined to make it to Westminster Avenue." *The Dead of Midnight*

0.2

Turn right onto Wolseley Avenue.

6.1

The remainder of this portion of the cycling tour takes us back in time to *Sins of the Suffragette*. Although some things in Wolseley haven't changed since the days of Nelly McClung, the young elm trees have matured creating a shady canopy for neighbourhood streets. It still provides more affordable housing than the upscale neighbourhoods along Wellington Crescent. It is home to teachers, publishers and likely the odd accountant. Neighbourhood residents still have a reputation for being activists, promoting social change and wanting to live herbicide and pesticide free urban lives.

"This part of Wolseley was a relatively new neighbourhood, populated by middle-class Anglo-Saxons. The homes were more affordable than in upscale Crescentwood or nearby Armstrong's Pont. In those neighbourhoods a man had to be of a certain means to be admitted. Wolseley, on the other hand, with its young elm trees, offered an accountant, a teacher, or a salesman a little bit of the good life. The homes had four and five bedrooms, finely crafted brick fireplaces and white picket fences. In some there were even third floors in case homeowners chose to rent a room to a boarder." *Sins of the Suffragette*

Although 223 Wolseley does not exist, it is easy to imagine any of the fine houses along Wolseley Avenue hosting a meeting by the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

"It wasn't difficult for Klein to find the right house on Wolseley Avenue. Even if he hadn't remembered the address, number 223, it was plain to see by the number of horses and sleds lined up in front that there was some sort of gathering taking place. [...]

"Klein instantly recognized Nellie McClung, who stood in the middle of the circle holding a Bible. Another woman stood before her with right hand flat on the book. [...] "Repeat after me Cynthia," said McClung. "I hereby promise, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled, fermented and malt liquors, including beer, wine and cider, as a beverage, and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same." [...] you are now a full-fledged member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union..." *Sins of the Suffragette*

0.6

Turn right onto Maryland Street to cross the bridge.

6.7

"Bundled beneath a colourful Hudson's Bay blanket, Graham Powers told Elspeth to get him to the police station as quickly as possible. Nodding, the tall, silent Scot urged the large horses

on, guiding them down Wellington Crescent and over the Maryland Street Bridge north towards Portage Avenue." *Sins of the Suffragette*

0.5

Turn left onto Wellington Crescent, passing St. Mary's Academy on your right.

7.2

St. Mary's Academy started off in a rented house on what was then Victoria Street in 1869. At that time Archbishop Tache brought two Grey Nuns from Quebec to the burgeoning Red River Settlement to open the first Catholic school in Winnipeg (as opposed to St. Boniface, which already had a Catholic school). St. Mary's Academy was to serve the English-speaking Catholics on the west side of the Red River across from St. Boniface. The convent chapel also became home to St. Mary's Catholic Church until August 1874, when a church was built at the corner of St. Mary Avenue and Hargrave Street and this later became St. Mary's Cathedral.

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary were subsequently recruited to take over the role of educators at the school in 1874. They began with 19 students; 12 girls and 7 boys in August 1874. In the weeks to come the enrolment swelled to 126, including 50 boys. The following year, three Christian Brothers came to Winnipeg and began a school for boys on Hargrave Street (the beginnings of St. Mary's School) and from that point on St. Mary's Academy became an all girls' institution.

Increasing enrolment required that first an addition be built and then a move to a larger quarters on Notre Dame Ave. East in 1881. The school's continued growth required the Sisters to seek out yet another new location, so by August 1903 a stately new St. Mary's Academy was completed on a fifteen-acre site in Crescentwood. It became the admiration of all who saw it, but also the cause of some wonderment: "Why did the Sisters ever build so far out on the prairie?" Winnipeg, itself, answered the question by surrounding the school so quickly that it soon found itself again in mid-city and, in 1909, another addition was imperative.

In 1926, St. Mary's became affiliated with the University of Manitoba and began functioning as St. Mary's Academy and College. At the time, St. Mary's was the western Canada's only Catholic institution where full college courses were offered to women. A pupil entering kindergarten could now continue through college without change of school!

The college and elementary school levels were gradually phased out in order to reduce crowding, and its boarding school days came to an end by June 1960. Today, St. Mary's Academy remains the oldest, continuously operating, independent school in the province. The school is noted for its commitment to young women and for providing quality academic, religious, and extra-curricular programs.



St. Mary's Academy, undated, Winnipeg Tribune Collection, University of Manitoba

Pass 529 Wellington Crescent on your left

Now a fine restaurant, this building was the residence of J. H. Ashdown, who came to be known as Winnipeg's "Merchant Prince". Ashdown arrived in Winnipeg in 1868 as a tinsmith went into the hardware business, expanded into a variety of other business ventures, and eventually became a millionaire. He was mayor of Winnipeg from 1907-8. It is possible to see in Ashdown's residential moves a reflection of the history of Winnipeg's urban development. Ashdown had lived on James Avenue in South Point Douglas, which was at one time a highly desirable area. Today, there is no sign of the comfortable middle-class houses that once graced James Avenue. As Point Douglas became more industrialized, Ashdown, like other residents, left for more upscale

surroundings, in his case, to a beautiful mansion at the corner of Broadway and Hargrave Street. The next step was to move even further out to Crescentwood and to an even more grandiose house on Wellington Crescent.

Alfred Powers lived in one of these fine mansions on Wellington Crescent, with his son Graham and daughter Elizabeth. Emily, one of the murder victims, was his second wife.

"At the family's mansion on tree-lined Wellington Crescent, Powers kept a ready stock of fine French brandy and wine that a Parisian dealer shipped to him regularly, as well as a supply of gold-tipped Egyptian cigars!" Sins of the Suffragette

0.3 Turn right onto Kingsway

9.9

0.1 Turn left onto Ruskin Row.

10.8

Ruskin Row, along with Armstrong Point and a few others, is one the last enclaves to preserve the architectural integrity of Winnipeg's prestigious residential districts from the turn of the 20th century. From the 1890s to the 1910s, these neighbourhoods were home to families of both old and new wealth, resulting in architecturally diverse homes, nestled in generously treed and landscaped settings. It was here, as well as along Wellington Crescent, that the leading business and political leaders of the day lived.

Number 29 Ruskin Row (at the corner of Ruskin Row and Kingsway) is one of these amazing homes. It was built in 1914 for Robert R. Scott, a businessman, who organized the Scott Fruit Company Ltd. in 1912, a very successful fruit buying and selling business with branches throughout the prairies and in Minneapolis.

0.4	Turn left onto Grosvenor Avenue	8.0
0.2	Turn right onto Wellington Crescent	8.2
0.9	Turn left onto Nassau Street North	9.1
0.3	Turn right onto Roslyn Road.	9.4
0.2	Turn left onto Osborne Street to cross the bridge.	9.6

In some neighbourhoods the police would turn a blind eye to goings on. John Jordan was the city's Morality Inspector and was described as a fervent anti-gaming crusader.

"Only one game in the city was off-limits to Jordan by a special order of the Police Commission. That was the high-stakes poker game regularly convened at an apartment on fashionable Roslyn Road and attended by civic politicians, business executives, grain brokers and some of the wealthiest gentlemen in the city."
Sins of the Suffragette

The apartment described in this passage was most likely the one located on the northeast corner of Roslyn Road and Osborne Street. The Roslyn Court Apartments were the height of high society apartment living in the early 1900s.

0.3	Turn right on Assiniboine Avenue.	7.5
0.1	Turn right into Bonny Castle Park and follow path down to the Riverwalk to return to The Forks.	7.6

On this trip you have had the opportunity to explore several Winnipeg neighbourhoods that provided the setting and inspiration for a number of fictional murder mysteries written by some of Winnipeg's finest contemporary authors.

Thank you for joining Routes on the Red's self-directed cycling tour, exploring the crime scenes of some of Winnipeg's most intriguing, fictional murders. We hope that you had an enjoyable trip. We would love to have you discover more of the Red River Valley on our other self-directed itineraries.

We greatly value your input and comments. If something was not clear, a road sign changed, or if you found a delightful picnic site or visit that you would like to share with future travellers, please let us know. The best way to communicate is to write the changes or new information directly onto the appropriate route description page, and mail or fax it to the Rivers West office. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

Rivers West, officially known as Red River Corridor Inc./L'Association du Corridor Rivière Rouge, is a not-for-profit organization, with the overall objective to develop the Red River Corridor as a destination. Our mandate is to create and implement a long-term tourism and conservation strategy focusing on the development, promotion and management of the natural, tourism, cultural and heritage, and recreational resources of the Red River from Emerson to Lake Winnipeg.

We are pleased to receive financial support from the federal and provincial governments and the participation of rural municipalities, towns and cities along the length of the river. A variety of projects are underway in the Red River region. These include the preservation of special lands for conservation, designation of the Red River as a heritage river, increasing opportunities for public access to the River, and the development and promotion of the river valley's natural, cultural, recreational and tourism resources.

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