



## GABRIELLE ROY'S ST. BONIFACE Self-Directed Walking Tour

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 walk. The walking described includes public lands and trails. While enjoying yourself, please hike carefully as you are responsible to ensure your own safety and that any activity is within your abilities. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information 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.*

Gabrielle Roy is one of Canada's most influential authors – and through her works helped to inaugurate the modern period in the history of the French Canadian novel. Among her many prizes and awards, Roy received the prestigious Prix Fémina in Paris and New York's Literary Guild Award for her first novel *Bonheur d'occasion* (1945), (translated as *The Tin Flute* in 1947).

Additionally she won the Governor General's Award for literature three times, in 1947, 1957 and 1977. In 1947, she became the first woman elected into the Royal Society of Canada. Although she passed away in 1983, Roy continues to be regarded among the world's elite Francophone writers and her works have been translated into more than 15 languages.

The youngest of eleven children, Gabrielle was born to Léon and Mélina Roy in St. Boniface on March 22, 1909. Although her family did not have a lot of money, she had a happy childhood in this small French community on the banks of the Red River. After being trained as a teacher and teaching school in rural Manitoba and in her hometown of St. Boniface for twelve years, she felt the pull of the outside world and left the Prairies to study drama in England in 1937.

She quickly grew discouraged with the interpretive role of the actor and moved to Paris where she began writing articles for French weekly journals. For nearly two years she lived in France, learning about the country and developing her writing skills

until the imposing shadow of World War II caused her to return to Canada in 1939, when she settled in Québec. It was here that her writing career took off. Over the years she published 12 novels and numerous short stories. Her works reflected how she was profoundly influenced by the prairie landscape and by the cosmopolitan world of the immigrants who settled in western Canada in the early 20th century.

The central theme of her novels and short stories is that of humanity in pain and solitude, but redeemed by the love implicit in creation and by hope for a world in which all people are reconciled. Often her books alternated one to the next between novels and short stories, between Québec and Manitoba, between the alienating conditions of crowded cities and the idyllic nature of the vast Prairie, and between the painful experience of adults and the innocence of children.

*Rue Deschambault* (1955) – translated as *Street of Riches*, a collection of short stories and *La Déesse et l'enchantement* (1987) – translated as *Enchantment and Sorrow* (1987), an autobiography that was published posthumously, both provide an excellent picture of the St. Boniface that Gabrielle Roy knew. This walking tour is intended to give you a glimpse of her hometown.

*This is a half-day tour. Shops and restaurants can be found along Provencher Boulevard.*

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

### St. Boniface Cathedral

190 de la Cathédral Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 233-7304

Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### St. Boniface Fire Hall

212 Dumoulin Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba

phone: (204) 233-8343

Open year round,

**Summer Hours:** Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 6 p.m.;

Weekends - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Winter Hours** (September to May): 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**St. Boniface Museum**

494 Taché Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba

**phone:** (204) 237-4500

www.francomanitobain.org/msbm

Open year round Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
with the additional hours indicated:**Additional summer hours** (starting May long weekend through end of September):  
Saturday's - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Sunday's and statutory holidays - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.**Winter weekend hours** (October - May)  
Saturday's - closed; Sunday's: Noon to 4 p.m.**Fort Gibraltar**

866 St. Joseph Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba

**phone:** (204) 237-7692**fax:** (204) 233-7576

www.fortgibraltar.mb.ca

Open only on special occasions;  
no interpretation available.

St. Boniface is considered to be the cultural centre for French Canadians in western Canada. St. Boniface was designated as a municipality in 1880 and was recognized as a town in 1903. The Catholic Church played an important role in the development of the community, providing churches, education and health care for the community. Its legacy is still predominant in St. Boniface today. Nonetheless, the area has changed significantly since the time Gabrielle Roy grew up here, stretching from 1909 to 1937. At that time it was a predominantly rural community, surrounded

by farmland and separated from Winnipeg not only by the Red River but also by language and culture. Growth resulted from the movement of residents of Winnipeg to St. Boniface because of lower land values and lower taxes, and after the turn of the century there was considerable residential and industrial construction. St. Boniface subsequently became an important meatpacking centre. Despite its proximity to predominantly Anglo-Saxon surroundings the town did not lose its French-Canadian character. It became part of the City of Winnipeg in 1972.

km to next location	DIRECTIONS	Total km
0.0	Start on the Esplanade Riel pedestrian bridge, at the little Plaza on the Saint Boniface side of the bridge, just at the end of the walkway, near the corner of Taché and Provencher.	0.0
	With your back to the River, looking down Provencher Boulevard, turn right on Taché Avenue and follow the sidewalk along the river.	

The walkway on the river-side of Taché offers interpretive panels that explain a few points of interest along the way.

0.1	Interpretive panel explaining the construction of the Provencher Bridge.	0.1
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The Provencher Bridge 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 among 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 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.***

The old Provencher Bridge of Gabrielle Roy's St. Boniface was demolished in 2002-2003 to make way for this current structure. The old bridge was an important link between the Francophone city of St. Boniface and the largely Anglophone City of Winnipeg on the other side of the river.

For most St. Boniface residents of the time, crossing the bridge was like crossing into a foreign world. Gabrielle writes about crossing the bridge with her mother while on shopping forays to the Eaton's Department store in Winnipeg.

*"Toward the middle of the Provencher Bridge, Maman and I found ourselves surrounded by sea gulls; they flew low over the Red River. Maman took my hand and clasped it tight, as though to convey to me the movement of her soul [...] We continued on our way toward Winnipeg's large stores, where at the beginning of each month, we went to spend Papa's money; and almost all of it, alas, went for mere nothings, for things we could not do without. But the gulls accompanied our thoughts... as far as Eaton's..."*

- Street of Riches

0.1

The next interpretive sign highlights the Archbishop's residence (151 rue de la Cathédral) on the opposite side of the street - exterior viewing only.

0.2

Built under the guidance of Bishop Taché, the west wing of this residence (facing the river) stands as one of the oldest stone buildings remaining in Western Canada. Its mansard

roof, rectangular dormer windows and elegant veranda make this building truly remarkable.

0.1

Water bus dock - take a moment to enjoy the view from the top of the staircase that leads down to the Red River.

0.3

As you look across the river, you have a view of The Forks, the green dome of the Union Station, the spectacular Fort Garry Hotel and the skyline of downtown Winnipeg. Gabrielle would have boarded the train at Union Station for many of her travels outside of Winnipeg.

*"We used to take the train at the domed CN station, which we called le dépôt, though I don't know why. In no time we'd reach the flat land around Winnipeg. From above the train must have looked like some black caterpillar crawling into eternity beneath the immense prairie sky. I loved the open prairie; I've always been fascinated by it..."*

- Enchantment and Sorrow

***Want to know more about the geography of the Red River Valley? Try Routes on the Red's Glaciers to Grasslands: self-directed drive and stroll tour.***

At that time, The Forks would have been a rail yard. In 1888, the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railroad built its northern terminus at The Forks and railway activity came to dominate the area. With the building of Union Station in 1909 and the high main line in 1911, the site became inaccessible to the local population. But, since 1989, The Forks has again become a place where people come to shop and browse in the boutiques in the old railway buildings and gather for festivals and special events.

From this vantage point you can also see the new Norwood Bridge a little further up the river to your left. It is from the old bridge Gabrielle describes the view of St. Boniface directly behind you.

*"This evening I was leaning on the parapet of the Norwood Bridge looking across the Red River toward Saint-Boniface and its silhouette against the sky. This is the best view of the city, which lies back from the shore, with its cathedral in the foreground on the exact location of Monsignor Provencher's first small church. The sun gilded the sleepy water. Against the serene evening sky I saw the twin towers of the cathedral stand out, and the Nave of this great building constructed of Tyndall stone, the famous local limestone which grows darker with age. I saw the Grey Nuns' hospital, their former small Provincial House, so well preserved, the dome of the college and many other spires and belfries. On this side of the river, in Winnipeg, they used to call Saint-Boniface "the Saint" or the cathedral city because of its resistance movement. You could also call it a city with a soul."*

- The Fragile Lights of Earth

0.05

Cross Taché Avenue.

0.35

The cathedral cemetery is one of the oldest on the Canadian prairies and is the resting place of many important figures in Manitoba's brief history, including bishops Provencher and Taché, Chief One Arrow and one of the fathers of Manitoba, Louis Riel.

Although Gabrielle was not buried here when she passed away from heart disease on July 13, 1983, the graves of some of her family members can be found.

To visit the Roy family plot on the cemetery grounds, walk towards the church. About one third of the way down, on your right hand side you will see a memorial for Anna-Marie Prudhomme (if you have reached the Provencher memorial, you have gone a little too far).

If you leave the sidewalk at this point and head back a few rows towards the gravel service road, you will see a stone, cube-shaped memorial with a bronze plaque affixed at the top.

This family tombstone marks the graves of Gabrielle's father Léon, who died in 1929, her mother Mélina, 1943, her sister Agnès who died of meningitis at age 14 and another sister Marie Agnès who died at the age of four from injuries

sustained in a fire she lit herself. Next to it stands a more modest tombstone, marking the final resting-place of her brother Germain Roy who died in 1961.

0.05

Explore the cathedral.

0.4

The present cathedral is actually the sixth church built on this beautiful site since 1818. The first was a small log chapel built in 1818. The second was completed in 1825 and replaced in 1832 when 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. The cathedral that Gabrielle knew was the fifth structure, completed the year before her birth in 1908. It was built to replace the cathedral, which the parish had outgrown. It was a splendid basilica in the Roman Catholic tradition and a landmark on the Canadian prairies.

*"... the high vaulted nave seemed very dark. It seemed to be lit only by votive candles on stands at the back of the church [...] This was where we used to come and pray when we were in desperate need of help, as if here we'd have more chance of being seen and heard [...] when we came out, the brightness of the daylight hurt our eyes..."*

- *Enchantment and Sorrow*

Unfortunately it was destroyed by fire in 1968. The new building designed by renowned Franco-Manitoban architect Etienne Gaboury, incorporates the façade and remaining walls of the 1908 building, a remarkable architectural achievement, which attracts thousands of visitors each year.

Contained within the façade are the tombs of past bishops of St. Boniface. Just inside on the left are the tombs for J.N. Provencher, A.A. Taché, L.P.A. Langevin. On the right: Jean Edouard Darveau, R.A. Maisonneuve and Jean Tissot. The most important of those are Joseph-Norbert Provencher, the first bishop of Saint-Boniface, and Alexandre-Antonin Taché, an Oblate priest who arrived at the Red River from Lower Canada in 1845.

As you go down the steps from the cathedral façade, turn left and take the walkway along the parking lot and through the cemetery past the Muller family memorial.

0.1

At the Taché Centre parking lot turn right and head towards the statue of Jesus. From here you can see the white wooden building with green shutters. This is the St. Boniface Museum.

0.5

0.1

Follow the walkway to the front of the building to reach the museum entrance.

0.6

Visit the Museum.

The building in which the museum is housed was built between 1845 and 1851 and is Winnipeg's oldest building. It is also the largest oak log building in North America. Today it is recognized as a National Historic Site. The building was originally home to the Grey Sisters of Charity who arrived in 1844 and ran a hospital and school here for the offspring of voyageurs and fur traders that were settling in the area. The majority of the exhibits in this museum focus on these courageous and tough nuns; however, they have a nationally renowned exhibit on the life of Louis Riel. After visiting the museum, return to Taché Avenue and turn left, away from the cathedral and museum.

*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.*

<b>0.1</b>	To continue the walk, leave the museum and take the walkway that leads to Taché Avenue, towards the river, and turn left down Taché.	<b>0.7</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Turn left onto Despina, leaving the river behind you. Use the sidewalk that runs alongside of La Verendrye Park. Shortly the Taché Centre will be on your left.	<b>0.8</b>
<b>0.3</b>	Turn left onto rue Aulneau. As you proceed along Aulneau, you will be going uphill slightly towards the silver dome of St. Boniface College.	<b>1.1</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Stop briefly to look at the house on the corner of Aulneau and Hamel (light orange brick house with white trim) - 228 Hamel Avenue, Missionaries of Africa - White Fathers house.	<b>1.2</b>

The house was built in 1912 by Dr. Forunat Lachance, who practiced medicine in this house. During a brief visit home in 1947, Gabrielle Roy met Dr. Marcel Carbotte who was practicing medicine there as well. After a brief courtship, the couple married later that year. Shortly after the marriage he gave up his practice and accompanied Gabrielle to Paris,

where he pursued further training, and Gabrielle continued to write. The couple settled in Québec after returning from Europe and never came back to live in Manitoba. In 1956, the house was passed on to the White Fathers - African Missionaries who still own it today.

<b>0.1</b>	Continue along Aulneau, past the statue of Louis Riel at St. Boniface College.	<b>1.3</b>
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College St. Boniface is among the oldest post-secondary educational institute in western Canada. It originated in the mission school established in 1818. It was incorporated in 1871, at the same time as St. John's College and Manitoba College, and was united with them in 1877 to form the University of Manitoba.

The Louis Riel sculpture you see on this side of the building is by Franco-Manitoban artist Marciem Lemay. For many years it stood behind Manitoba's Legislative Building, but was removed after heated public debate over its portrayal of Riel as an emotionally tormented and troubled individual.

<b>0.1</b>	Turn right on rue de la Cathédral leaving the College behind you.	<b>1.4</b>
<b>0.3</b>	Staying on rue de la Cathédral, cross St. Jean Baptiste Street.	<b>1.7</b>

On your right is Provencher School. It was founded in 1906 and operated by the Marianist Brothers. In 1930, after completing her first year as a teacher in the small Manitoba town of Cardinal, Gabrielle Roy returned to teach a class of Grade One immigrant children at Provencher School.

She won the position over several more experienced teachers. She remained at Provencher School until she left St. Boniface for Europe in 1937.

*"The high marks I'd got from the inspector at Cardinal combined with the principal's recommendation were enough: at twenty, there I was on the teaching staff of our city's major school for boys, which must have had nearly a thousand pupils at that time. I found myself in charge of a class representing nearly all of the nations of the earth, most of whom knew no more English than they did French. [...] I thought of my class simply*

*as a mirror of our country, which is about as rich as any on earth in ethnic variety. I became very attached to it and very close to those children, and they taught me a great deal about the folklore, songs and dances of their people, as well as something deeper, something both painful and joyous."*

- Enchantment and Sorrow

0.1

On your left as you continue walking, pass St. Joseph's Academy.

1.8

On your left is St. Joseph's Academy. Built in 1912 by Joseph Sénécal for the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Joseph's Academy was Gabrielle Roy's alma mater, where she completed both her elementary and secondary schooling. At that time, it was an all girls school, with close to 800 registered students, divided into about 20 classes and taught by approximately 30 nuns. Today it is a retirement facility for members of the order.

Gabrielle worked hard at school, winning prizes for work in French and English. The money she won for her final examination results paid for her first year at the Winnipeg Normal Institute.

*"In grades eleven and twelve, the Manitoba French Canadian Association prizes were fifty and one hundred dollars respectively. [...] I won both of them, which covered my enrolment at normal school and the purchase of necessary books, so that I cost my parents practically nothing after I finished school, and that was essential since by then they had come to the end of their meagre resources.*

*When we were so far from Quebec, for those of us who finished school the achievement wasn't so much to have done so but to have done it in French as well as in English. And despite the law that allowed only an hour a day for teaching of French in public schools in French-speaking neighbourhoods [...] Who or what was responsible for this almost miraculous situation? [...] most of all the zeal and tenacity of our school teachers, mostly nuns but also some lay teachers who used to give extra, unpaid time to the teaching of French despite already onerous schedules. A few used to take quite brazen liberties with the law..."*

- Enchantment and Sorrow

0.1

At the end of de la Cathédral, cross Des Meurons at the traffic lights and turn right.

1.9

This street is named for the Swiss de Meuron regiment recruited by Lord Selkirk in 1816 which accompanied him to the Red River Settlement to restore order. 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.

*"In those days on rue Deschambault we lived as though we were in the country. But along Desmeurons, where our street ended, and which itself was none too built up, a yellow trolley car passed every fifteen minutes. It discharged very few passengers for Deschambault: my father most days at about six, returning from his office; or else Horace and my brother Robert..."*

- Street of Riches

The area was still sparsely populated, but expanding rapidly. Gabrielle's sister, Marie-Anna Roy, also a writer, wrote detailed descriptions of St. Boniface at that time in *Les Visages du Vieux Saint-Boniface*. She describes the development of the area and the increasing numbers of school girls making their way along Des Meurons towards the Academy.

0.1

Turn left on Deschambault Street.

2.0

0.1

Visit Gabrielle Roy House - 375 Deschambault, second house from the corner, on the left.

2.1

Deschambault Street looked very different at the time of Gabrielle's birth in 1909. There were only five homes on the street, most of them located on the north side. The street's south side opened onto a vista of uncultivated fields and prairie forests, a panorama that changed slowly over the course of Gabrielle's childhood, as new homes were built. At the east end of the street beyond the railway tracks, was a small oaken forest along the Seine River, where Gabrielle spent much of her time playing. A notable house on the street can be found at number 385, which belonged to the Bernier family - an inspiration for the Guilbert family in Street of Riches.

*"When he built our home, my father took as model the only other house then standing on the brief length of Rue Deschambault - still unencumbered by any sidewalk, as virginal as a country path stretching through thickets of wild rose [...] he looked happy as he drew up in front of our house; at a glance he took in the three small apple trees in bloom, the wide porch with its row of rocking chairs, the fresh look of the paint..."*

- Street of Riches

Her father Léon Roy built the home in 1905 on a large portion of land he had purchased at the corner of Des Meurons and Deschambault. He subdivided the land into five lots, sold four and kept the fifth for the location of his house. The dormer window on the top floor marks a place of retreat for Gabrielle where she could read and daydream in private.

Léon Roy was already in his late 50's by the time Gabrielle was born. He was employed as an immigration officer for the Federal government, helping to colonize Western Canada. He lost his job in 1916, a few months short of retirement age, leaving him unable to collect a pension, and plunging his family into what Gabrielle would later describe as a "genteel poverty". Her mother, Mélina, would try and make ends meet by taking in boarders and sewing for other families in the community. Her childhood as a poor Franco-Manitoban imprinted Gabrielle with the sense of being an outsider, which was later reflected in her writing. In 1929, the year her father died, she began to teach school and continued to teach and to contribute her wages to her family until 1937 when she departed for Europe.

Gabrielle Roy's childhood home at 375 Deschambault has been completely restored to its original state and is designated as a historic building. It is now a museum and is open to the public. This was Gabrielle's home from the time of her birth in 1909 to her departure for Europe in 1937.

<b>0.1</b>	Following your visit, return to Des Meurons, and turn right to walk toward Le Club LaVerendrye.	<b>2.2</b>
<b>0.3</b>	Pass La Vieille Gare Restaurant.	<b>2.5</b>

Formerly the old train station of St. Boniface, this Winnipeg landmark built in 1913, was the arrival point in Manitoba for many immigrants, and remained a busy centre of the community until its closure in the 1950's.

It reopened in 1969 as a restaurant. La Vieille Gare is today considered to be among Winnipeg's finest restaurants specializing in French cuisine

<b>0.1</b>	Turn left onto Provencher Boulevard at the lights.	<b>2.6</b>
<b>0.2</b>	Pass the Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre.	<b>2.8</b>

A focal point for French cultural life in Winnipeg, the Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre is home to many events and celebrations throughout the year. Among other things, it features an art gallery, restaurants as well as administrative offices for

many Franco-Manitoban Arts organizations. It is a frequent host to live entertainment, especially Tuesday nights when it becomes the hottest jazz venue in the city.

<b>0.4</b>	Cross Provencher Boulevard using the crosswalk at Langevin Street.	<b>3.2</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Turn left and continue down Provencher towards the Old City Hall.	<b>3.3</b>

During Gabrielle Roy's time in St. Boniface, this prominent structure on Provencher Boulevard would have been the home of St. Boniface's civic government. It functioned as the St. Boniface City Hall for almost 70 years. This building recalls the era when St. Boniface was an independent city, prior to its amalgamation with Winnipeg in 1972. Today this building houses the Riel Tourism Bureau, an excellent source of information for attractions and events throughout St. Boniface and French Manitoba. The building

also houses a small gallery, the Maison des artistes franco-phones, where you can purchase works by Franco-Manitoban artists.

Across the street is the St. Boniface Post office. It shares the same New Empire styling as the St. Boniface City Hall and Fire Hall. It still functions as a post office and offers bilingual services.

	Turn right just past the Old City Hall to walk through the parking lot toward Dumoulin Street, leaving Provencher Boulevard behind you.	
<b>0.1</b>	Reach the St. Boniface Fire Hall on your right.	<b>3.4</b>

The St. Boniface Fire-Hall was built in the New Empire style typical of the period in 1907. This St. Boniface landmark features a distinctive brick construction with limestone foundation and trim. No longer used for fire fighting, the

building is currently home to Winnipeg's only fire hall museum. It features three vintage fire trucks among other exhibits.

	As you exit the fire hall turn left down Dumoulin Street.	
<b>0.1</b>	Turn right onto St. Joseph Street.	<b>3.5</b>
<b>0.5</b>	Just after you pass under the train bridge on St. Joseph you will see the Theatre de la Chapelle, the current home of the Cercle Molière, on your left.	<b>4.0</b>

The theatrical company the Cercle Molière was founded in 1925 by three men. Raymond Bernier, a customs officer, was the first director. Andre Castelein, a Belgian teacher, was the first artistic director, and Louis-Philippe Gagnon, the owner of a small bookshop, was the first president. It is the oldest, continuous theatre company in Canada. Since 1997 it has been performing here at le Theatre de la Chapelle.

Le Gendre de M. Poirer and in 1936 she played Maryvonne in Les Soeurs Guédonec. At that time, plays were being performed at the Walker Theatre in Winnipeg (which is now known as the Burton Cummings Theatre, and can be found at 364 Smith Street – on the edge of The Exchange District). It was her interest in theatre that prompted her to leave her teaching post at Provencher School and travel to England.

Gabrielle Roy performed in three plays during her time with the Cercle Molière. In 1933 she played the role of Lucie Galoux in Blanchette. In 1935 she played the role of Antoinette in

<b>0.1</b>	Continue along St. Joseph, past Whittier Park and Fort Gibraltar.	<b>4.1</b>
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Fort Gibraltar is a replica of the old North West Company post that was located at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, where The Forks is today. Fort Gibraltar was built in 1810 to replace their temporary trading posts in the area and its close proximity to the rival Hudson's Bay Company's headquarters (Fort Douglas) led to many conflicts.

The Hudson's Bay Company destroyed Fort Gibraltar in 1815. The capture was deemed illegal by British authorities and the North West Company was given permission to rebuild in 1817. Fort Gibraltar continued to operate after the North West Company merged with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821 and the fort was renamed Fort Garry in 1822.

The fort was reconstructed by the Festival du Voyageur in 1978. The fort is often closed, as the facility is only used for special events such as weddings and conferences. However, if you walk to the main doors, they may be open and you can wander throughout the grounds and buildings. There is no interpretation here and re-enactment is only carried out for the public during the Festival du Voyageur in February.

Marie-Anna Roy writes about coming to this spot, a little piece of prairie that gently rolls down towards the Red River, a favourite place for picnics and pleasure outings.

<b>0.1</b>	Take the walking trail at the end of St. Joseph on Messenger Street that heads toward the river.	<b>4.2</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Follow the path to the left that goes underneath the toboggan slide.	<b>4.3</b>

From here you have a view of the Alexander docks in downtown Winnipeg and the historic Exchange District.

<b>0.2</b>	The path ends on the corner of Messenger and Taché Avenue. Continue straight along Taché Avenue.	<b>4.5</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Pass the Taché booster pumping station on your left.	<b>4.6</b>

This beautiful red brick water tower is a surge tank constructed in 1918, before the City of Winnipeg's original aqueduct started bringing water from Shoal Lake in 1919. The tank is 44 feet in diameter and sits on a 12-foot stone base that is covered in vines. It is approximately 42 feet high. It was built by local

contractors, Thomas Kelly and Sons, who also erected a number of warehouses in The Exchange District. Far from being a relic of the past, the 1918 tank continues to be a functioning part of the city water system.

<b>0.6</b>	Continue along Taché Avenue until you reach Provencher Boulevard.	<b>5.2</b>
<b>0.1</b>	Cross Provencher on the left side at the lights to return to the Esplanade Riel on the other side.	<b>5.3</b>

If you look directly down the middle of the pedestrian bridge between the metal archway, you will notice that the walkway is centred with the green dome of the Union Station. On the other side of the bridge you will find Water Street, which runs alongside the baseball stadium. This picturesque little street had a bad reputation during Gabrielle's time. She describes Water Street after crossing the Provencher Bridge on a shopping excursion with her mother.

*"But as soon as we were on the other side, we'd undergo a kind of transformation that made us draw together, as though solidarity would help us face a kind of shadow that had fallen over us. It was partly because we were now on dismal Water Street beside the railway sorting yards, undoubtedly the most woebegone part of Winnipeg, full of drunkards, the wails of crying children and the hiss of escaping steam; the hideous face which the haughty city couldn't hide, a mere stone's throw from its broad airy avenues. But there was more to it than that; our discomfort came partly from inside us too..."*

- *Enchantment and Sorrow*

*On this trip you have had the opportunity to explore the St. Boniface that was once home to one of Canada's greatest writers. If you would like more information about Gabrielle Roy, be sure to contact the Gabrielle Roy House.*

*Thank you for joining Routes on the Red's self-directed walking excursion exploring the St. Boniface of Gabrielle Roy. 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 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.

Contact us for more information at:

[www.riverswest.ca](http://www.riverswest.ca) or [www.routesonthered.ca](http://www.routesonthered.ca)

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