



# MILLENNIUM

C E N T R E

389 MAIN STREET | WINNIPEG, MB R3B 1A6 | [CINDY@HERITAGEWINNIPEG.COM](mailto:CINDY@HERITAGEWINNIPEG.COM)

## RENTAL INFORMATION

The Millennium Centre is the perfect venue for both public and private events, including weddings ceremonies and receptions, corporate meetings, exhibitions, conferences, photo shoots and more. The main floor is wheelchair accessible and air conditioned. If you are interested in using the Millennium Centre as a filming location, please contact us directly for information.



## CELEBRATION HALL

The spacious main level Celebration Hall features approximately 6500 square feet of useable space with 50 foot ceilings capped by a 52 foot stained glass dome and classical stylings throughout. A popular wedding ceremony and reception venue, Celebration Hall breathes effortless elegance and sophistication into any event. A maximum capacity of 220 guests is recommended for events such as wedding ceremonies and receptions.



## TAPESTRY ROOM

Originally the bank manager's office, the main level Tapestry Room is named for the wall coverings found throughout the space. With approximately 850 square feet of space and 10 foot high ceilings, it features a striking mahogany fireplace, decorative plaster ceiling, grand chandelier and a collection of plush leather chairs. The intimate feel and rich décor provides the perfect setting for wedding photos or meetings, and is an excellent location for a martini bar when hosting a wedding reception in the adjoining Celebration Hall. The Tapestry Room can accommodate up to 45 guests.





**CELEBRATION HALL AND TAPESTRY ROOM RENTAL**  
(MAXIMUM OF 220 GUESTS)

Sunday thru Thursday rental for up to 8 hours: \$1000  
Friday or Saturday rental for up to 8 hours: \$1500

**CELEBRATION HALL AND TAPESTRY ROOM RENTAL  
FOR WEDDING CEREMONY ONLY – NO DINNER**  
(MAXIMUM OF 220 GUESTS)

Sunday thru Thursday rental for up to 8 hours: \$600  
Friday or Saturday rental for up to 8 hours: \$900

**AMENITIES AVAILABLE WITH RENTAL**

- commercial kitchen for caterers
- 30 round tables
- 150 basic folding chairs (chiavari chairs are \$5.00 extra per chair, up to 160 chairs)
- risers for the head table/speaker
- podium, microphone and speakers
- red carpet for wedding ceremonies
- grand piano
- universally accessible washrooms
- up to 3 hours for rehearsal and/or decoration set up for wedding ceremonies

Cost of setting up and taking down for events is **NOT** included in any rental prices.  
Custom event lighting, video and photo booth rental packages are available, please inquire.

**TAPESTRY ROOM RENTAL**  
(MAXIMUM OF 45 GUESTS)

Sunday thru Thursday rental for up to 8 hours: \$450  
Friday or Saturday rental for up to 8 hours: \$900

**PHOTO SHOOT RENTAL**

Cost per hour: \$200

Includes access to Celebration Hall and Tapestry Room.  
Special requests for other locations can be made during booking.



## CATERING

Catering is **not included** in the rental cost of the Millennium Centre. We encourage you to bring your own catering company or use our recommended catering companies, *WOW Hospitality Concepts*, or *Bergman's On Lombard* if available. Contact information can be provided.

## LIQUOR SERVICE

A certified caterer of choice who is registered with the health department can only serve alcohol with food services. A social occasion permit is required for the event to serve alcohol, whether purchased through the caterer or by the client.

## COVID-19 REGULATIONS

The Millennium Centre follows the protocols set by the provincial government health authorities concerning COVID-19. For more information, please check the provincial health guidelines for current regulations regarding occupancy limits, face masks, proof of vaccination and physical distancing.

## DISCOUNTS

The Millennium Centre offers discounted rental rates for non-profit charitable organizations. Please contact us directly for more information.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The Millennium Centre is managed by Heritage Winnipeg, a nonprofit charitable organization established to promote the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of Winnipeg's built environment. Please include your desired date and event type, and direct your inquiry to:

### CINDY TUGWELL

Executive Director of Heritage Winnipeg

[cindy@heritagewinnipeg.com](mailto:cindy@heritagewinnipeg.com)

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



## HISTORY

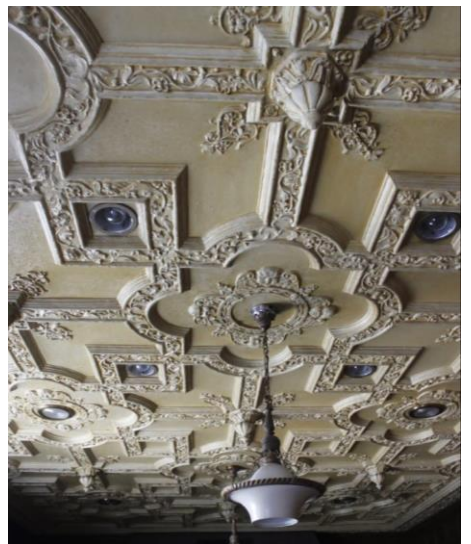
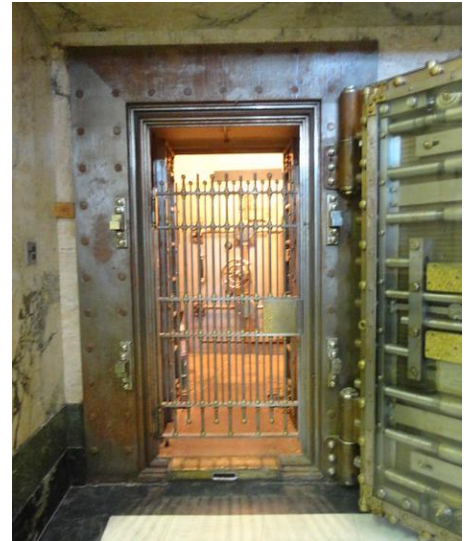
Built from 1910 to 1912, the Millennium Centre is the current name of the historic Canadian Bank of Commerce building in Winnipeg. Located at 389 Main Street, close to the iconic corner of Portage and Main, the building was part of what was once known as Banker's Row in the heart of the Exchange District, now a national historic site. A relic of Winnipeg's boom era at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the bank had flourished as part of the grain trade and spared no expense when constructing its magnificent building, ensuring it would stand proudly for generations to come.

The Millennium Centre we see today is the third iteration of the bank at the same location, which rented a space in the Bannatyne Block when it first arrived in Winnipeg in 1893. The bank bought the building in 1899, replacing it with a small Beaux-Arts "temple of finance", designed by renowned architects Darling and Pearson of Toronto. The second space was also quickly outgrown, though this time the building was dismantled and shipped to Regina, Saskatchewan, where the façade still stands today. With the old structure gone and adjoining properties purchased to make room for expansion, construction on one of the grandest buildings to grace the streets of Winnipeg was ready to begin.

As the regional head office for the bank, the six storey Millennium Centre was opulently designed to impress and even intimidate customers. It is an excellent example of the majestic architecture that defined Winnipeg's commercial core and exclaimed its importance as a financial center in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Another project of Darling and Pearson, the Millennium Centre's neoclassical style is timeless, erected for an expenditure of roughly \$750,000. The building's structural design exhibited all the newest achievements of technology at the time and featured the best Canadian manufactured building materials available. A modern marvel, the building radiated wealth both inside and out, and was very well received by the community.

After 75 years in the same location, fortunes had changed in Winnipeg and the bank decided to leave its nearly perfectly preserved building in 1968. Eventually plans were made to demolish the Millennium Centre and replace it with a parking lot, which became the catalyst for the heritage movement in Winnipeg. The community refused to stand by as another heritage building was lost, taking to the streets to protest in 1978. When the dust settled, the Millennium Centre was saved and given a heritage designation by the city which protects it from demolition in the future. Additionally, Heritage Winnipeg was created as an advocacy group within the city to help save threatened heritage buildings as well as ensure their sustainability into the future.

After sitting empty for many years, in 2000, the owners of the building, coaxed by a generous donation from philanthropist Bill Loewen, kindly donated the Millennium Centre to the 389 Main Street Heritage Corporation. A nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to maintaining, preserving and restoring the building in a manner befitting its heritage status, 389 Main Street Heritage Corporation is still the owner today. The building reopened in 2004 as the Millennium Centre, a glamorous space for both public and private events, all while numerous projects have been undertaken to ensure its ongoing functionality, maintenance and preservation. And it seems only fitting that the Millennium Centre is now managed by Heritage Winnipeg, with dreams of slowly revitalizing the entire building through adaptive reuse – ready to serve its community well into the new millennium!



# MAKE HISTORY.

Preserve Manitoba's Past.

## Bank of Commerce

### Description of Historic Place

The Bank of Commerce, completed in 1912, is a six-storey building of steel, concrete and brick construction on Main Street in Winnipeg's Exchange District, a national historic site. The City of Winnipeg designation applies to the building on its footprint and the entire interior.

### Heritage Value of Historic Place

The Bank of Commerce is a premium example of the grand architecture that defined Winnipeg's commercial core and its importance as a financial centre in the early twentieth century. Designed by Darling and Pearson of Toronto, foremost Canadian practitioners of Beaux-Arts Classicism, the structure's stately facade and gloriously opulent three-storey banking hall made it one of Canada's best examples of the "Bank of Commerce style" and a precedent followed by lesser facilities across the country. At a time when banks were busily erecting ever more ambitious buildings, the Commerce distinguished itself by using the best Canadian materials and for the second time redeveloping a site it had occupied since 1893. The site was in the heart of Bankers' Row, a series of busily appointed Main Street institutions that fringed the phenomenal early growth of the grain and wholesale trades in Western Canada. The building, which was the bank's regional administrative centre until 1969, remains virtually intact, now functioning as a banquet facility.

Source: Winnipeg City Council, November 7, 1979

### Character-defining Elements

Key elements that define the site character of the Bank of Commerce include:

- the building's placement flush to the sidewalk and mid-block on east Main Street between Lombard and McDermot avenues
- the physical and historic relationships with two adjacent contemporary towers completing the block, the Bank of Hamilton to the north and Union Tower Building to the south, as well as with Main Street's other remaining early bank buildings to the

south, north and west

Key elements that define the building's grandiose Beaux-Arts Classical styling include:

- the basic rectangular six-storey form with a flat roof and central skylight and well
- the symmetrical main (west) facade of white Stanstead, Quebec granite featuring a monumental colonnade of eight massive fluted Doric columns rising in front of the recessed facade from a one-storey rusticated base to a fastidious entablature and ornamented balustrade
- the two imposing, richly ornamented front entrances with heavily articulated doors, the centred and recessed main bronze doors with classical scenes accompanied by the words "BANKING", "COMMERCE", and the ancillary brass south doors with caryatids, one labelled "JUSTICE" and the other "TRUTH", etc.
- the lintelled rectangular openings, including the base's five deeply inset windows, the middle floors' vertically aligned openings, the smaller triplets on the fifth level, eyelid service windows throughout, etc.
- the details, including fretwork, a modillioned cornice, circular projections around the main entrances, in spandrels and separated by triglyphs in the frieze, egg-and-dart banding throughout, etc.

Key elements that define the opulent character and grandeur of the building's spaces include:

- the foyer with a four-metre-high barrel-vaulted ceiling, green marble Doric columns, marble walls, etc.
- the majestic spatial quality of the 15-metre-high banking hall, illuminated by a row of stained-glass windows seven metres above floor level on the curved east wall and by a massive centred circular dome of coloured glass, offset in each corner with shields
- the hall's luxurious appointments, including marble wall panelling with contrasting geometric patterns; fluted Doric columns rising to a full entablature and coffered ceiling; semicircular green marble counters; pedestals topped by wreathed bronze urns



- with bison heads; profuse classical moulding and flooring, etc.
- the main-floor manager's office with walnut panelling, ornate tapestries, fluted pilasters, modelled plaster panel ceiling, ornate fireplace, entrances framed by pedimented architraves, etc.
- the third-floor superintendent's office with oak panelling, modelled panel ceiling, large fireplace, etc.
- other important, meticulously finished spaces, including the second-floor mezzanine featuring sets of tall French doors, abundantly framed and opening on to the banking hall, the savings bank; the upper-level staff quarters; the basement, etc.
- the large main staircase with marble steps, wrought-iron balusters, decorative newel posts, etc.
- the era's novel technology, including a cage elevator; a hydraulic service elevator; the many intact vaults in the basement; rear banking hall, etc.

David Butterfield

David Butterfield  
Manitoba Registrar  
Canadian Register of Historic Places



Canada's  
Historic Places

Le site patrimonial  
du Canada



Manitoba