

**1360 GROSVENOR AVENUE – RIVER HEIGHTS LAWN BOWLING CLUB
CLUBHOUSE**
Unknown, 1935



In 1935, the City of Winnipeg added to its growing recreational facilities with the organization of a lawn bowling club, with greens and a modest clubhouse, in the heart of the River Heights neighbourhood.

Most of River Heights developed between the two World Wars, although it was subdivided and advertised as early as 1904. The area filled with modest homes and residents who were mainly middle-income and from British heritage. Services developed hand-in-hand with the residential expansion, including schools, parks and playgrounds, commercial property and churches. The River Heights Community Club was organized in 1919 and several years later, land was set aside by the City of Winnipeg south of Grosvenor Avenue (originally Haskins) and west of Corydon Avenue (originally Jackson) for the Club. The site developed into one of the neighbourhood's main recreational facilities, beyond the lawn bowling greens and clubhouse are the River Heights Community Club and Arena (built 1961-1964), soccer fields, outdoor ice rinks, baseball diamonds, tennis courts and the River Heights Middle School (built in 1947).

Lawn bowling was a very popular sport in Winnipeg and Manitoba as the 20th century began, with dozens of clubs and greens operating during the summer season. Regular, daily reports on the sport were found in local papers and the province produced many fine players. Although participation in the sport has lessened recently, there are still seven active outdoor lawn bowling facilities in Winnipeg (with two more found in Manitoba).

The clubhouse itself features two entrances, west facing the parking lot and east facing the bowling greens. The building features a superstructure clad in rounded cedar siding except at grade where plywood has been used to protect the joists and footings. Newer windows are found on all elevations and the east and west side interior entrance doors are original to the structure. The building is covered with a hipped gable roof. The interior was designed for durability and efficiency. The east side of the building is open, providing space for members and their guests to meet and includes a fireplace on the south wall. The northwest corner of the building holds the modernized kitchen which is separated from the men's and women's change rooms and washrooms by a small hallway leading to the west door. The original layout of the clubhouse remains intact, as do some of its original elements including wood panelling, light fixtures and the telephone.

The structure is the oldest, least altered lawn bowling clubhouse in the City of Winnipeg and illustrative of the expansion of civic recreational services in a growing residential neighbourhood.

Elements of the building that would require approval if alterations were planned are:

Exterior:

- The east/west facing structure with its two main entrances
- Rectangular plan with rounded cedar siding and the hipped gable roof
- Regularly placed windows on all façades

Interior:

- Original interior layout which is an open assembly space
- Original lighting and east and west entrance doors