

Almost 700 gather at 360 Portage for downtown Earth Day cleanup



Crowd gathering in the Hydro Gallery, waiting to hear from the day's speakers.

Despite the gloomy weather, around 700 volunteers from surrounding downtown businesses (including about 90 Manitoba Hydro employees) donned their rain jackets and trash picks to clean up the streets in honour of Earth Day.

Downtown Winnipeg BIZ organized the annual Downtown Spring CleanUp, presented by Manitoba Hydro, from the Legislative building to Chinatown.



Hal Turner podium – Hal Turner (Interim President & CEO) raising his hands in thanks to Hydro staff for participating in and making this event a possibility.

Elder Barb Nepinak led a blessing shortly after 10:00 a.m., kickstarting the event and opening the floor to an “incognito” Mayor Scott Gillingham as well as our very own **Hal Turner** (Interim President & CEO) and Selena Hinds, Vice President of Communications & Marketing at Wawanesa.



*Hal and Kathleen – Hal Turner and **Kathleen Hodgson** (Community Investment & Public Safety Specialist), hard at work collecting litter ear Broadway Blvd.*

Manitoba Hydro’s employees were responsible for a largely residential zone between Broadway Boulevard, Assiniboine Avenue, Osborne Street and Main Street.

Broadway/Don’s Photo – Our employees walking to the muster point at Broadway Boulevard and Carlton Street.



Megan Anger and **Geneva Cloutis** (both Transmission and Distribution Environment and Engagement) were excited to be involved in the cleanup, especially as Environmental Specialists.

“I’ve done informal cleanups with my friends, but this was my first clean-up with Manitoba Hydro,” said Geneva.

Laughing ladies – Two Hydro employees laughing as they gather litter down Carlton Street.



Holly Benson and **Michael Hanson** (both Customer Engagement Specialists) found a particularly messy side alley to tackle. This was both their first times participating in the Downtown BIZ CleanUp.

“My mother-in-law volunteers at The Zoo, so we help out with their community cleanups sometimes! I was really excited to join in today because I love making a difference and helping our city look a little nicer,” said Holly.

Holly and Michael – Holly explains to Michael how she appreciates being able to give back to her community on behalf of Manitoba Hydro.



Bags were filling up and rain was starting to drizzle, but this didn't put a damper on the spirits of **Donna Martin** (Vendor Management) **Sarah Hachey** (Real Estate Services) and **Cydney Bergen** (Customer Engagement Centre). They had not volunteered for the cleanup in the past but they're hoping to do so again next year and within their own communities.

Donna, Sarah, Cydney –showing off their litter haul and trash picking skills.



“The event has more than doubled in size since last year,” said Rena Journault (Community Investment). Rena, along with other Community Investment team members Kathleen Hodgson and Julie DesLauriers, help organize Manitoba Hydro’s part in the CleanUp.

“We are thrilled by the overwhelming support we received from the downtown community for this year’s Earth Day cleanup. This event shows Winnipeggers are committed to taking care of our neighborhood and helping make downtown clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone,” said Rena.