

Bottled Up

text and photography by Claudine Gervais

Thousands of bottles – 5,000 for the church, 4,000 for the house and another 1,000 for the outhouse – catch daylight on the corner of Railway Avenue and Alexander Street in Treherne, Manitoba. A retirement project of Bob and Dora Cain (and their friend Fred Harp), the glass structures comprise bottles mostly from Winnipeg's Charleswood Legion. Inspired by translucent buildings they saw on their travels, the couple first completed the house in 1982 on their family farm north of Treherne and began welcoming visitors from around the world. The other buildings followed, and so did the

tourists – totalling 7,000 one summer. The Cains also hosted three weddings in the three-by-four-metre chapel, the photos still displayed today on the organ donated by the McGregor Anglican Church. (The stained-glass window is from the Cypress River Anglican Church.) Following Bob's death in 2007, the buildings were moved to Treherne. The site's shady trees and neatly kept flowerbeds make it a perfect place for a picnic, especially with supplies as close as the town bakery across the street. ^{GP}

treherne.ca/pages/glassbottlehouse.html



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