

GOLDEN BOY

The Golden Boy is a bronze statue modeled after the Roman God of Mercury (Greek: Hermes) which represents Eternal Youth and Spirit of Enterprise. He is a symbol of the prosperity of Manitoba and its entrepreneurial spirit.

He holds a sheaf of wheat in his left hand and a torch in his right. He is facing the North which was the newest part of Manitoba. The North was thought to be the "Future of Manitoba" where many natural resources were found.

He was sculpted by Georges Gardet, a French sculptor and cast in a foundry in France during the First World War.

After he was completed, he was placed in the ballast portion of a freight steamer. However, instead of going straight to North America, the French ship was commandeered to transport Allied troops and supplies. The Golden Boy, used as ballast, took two long trips through the Mediterranean and 5 trans-Atlantic crossings.

The Golden Boy was finally placed on top of the Legislative Building on November 21, 1919.

Originally he was not covered in gold, but was plain bronze. He was first gilded in 1951 with 23.5 karat gold leaf, and then re-gilded in 2002 with 24 karat gold leaf, because the gold had worn off over the years, due to erosion.

A light was installed on top of the Golden Boy's torch and was lit for the very first time on December 31, 1966 at 15:00 hours as part of Canada's centennial celebrations in 1967.

In 2002 it was reported that the Golden Boy was in need of repairs because of rust accumulating on the inside of the statue and the post attaching him to the dome of the building eroding away. He was removed on February 9, 2002 for restoration.

During the restoration he was on public display at the Manitoba Museum as well as at The Forks National Historic Site, where more than 114,000 people came to visit him.

A new steel support post was installed as well as monitors and gauges intended to measure vibrations and strain as well as wind stress and temperature effect on the statue and support structure. He was also regilded in 24 carat gold.

Total cost of the re-gilding of the Golden Boy in 2002 was \$34,000, and the entire restoration for the Golden Boy was \$1.1 million dollars.

He was returned to the dome on September 5, 2002.

Since this restoration the Golden Boy's Torch is no longer lit. The electrical cord that was providing electricity to the torch was one of the causes of the rust that made a 2002 restoration of the statue necessary. In lieu of the torch, the entire tower and dome of the Legislative Building is now illuminated from lighting on the main building roof.



**OFFICIAL NAME: ETERNAL YOUTH
AND THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE**

HEIGHT: 5.25M (17.2FT)

WEIGHT: 1650KG (3640LBS)

**INSTALLED ON THE DOME:
NOVEMBER 21, 1919**

**MODELED AFTER MERCURY
(GREEK: HERMES)**

**SCULPTED IN FRANCE BY:
GEORGES GARDET**