

DAWSON AND HIND

**VOLUME 8
NUMBERS 2/3**



HILLCREST MUSEUM

a quarterly publication of the association of manitoba museums

dawson and hind

VOLUME 8, NUMBERS 2/3

Dawson and Hind is published quarterly for the Association of Manitoba Museums by the Museums Advisory Service, with the co-operation of the Historic Resources Branch, Dept. of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Province of Manitoba.

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Unsolicited articles are welcome. Address all correspondence to:

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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Simon James Dawson was appointed by the Canadian Government in 1857 to explore the country from Lake Superior westward to the Saskatchewan. His report was among the first to attract attention to the possibilities of the North West as a home for settlers. He was later to build the Dawson Route from Lake-of-the-Woods to Winnipeg, Manitoba.

William George Richardson Hind accompanied his brother, Henry Youle Hind, as official artist, when the latter was in command of the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan exploration expedition of 1858. W. Hind revisited the North West in 1863-64 and painted numerous paintings of the people and general scenes.

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b) aiding in the improvement of museums in their role as educational institutions

c) acting as a clearing-house for information of special interest to museums

d) promoting the exchange of exhibition material and the arrangement of exhibitions

e) co-operating with other associations with similar aims

f) other methods as may from time to time be deemed appropriate

Invitation to Membership

You are invited to join the Association of Manitoba Museum so as to take part in its activities and provide support for its projects.

Activities and Projects

A number of activities and projects are planned to help the AMM achieve its objectives. These include:

a) the publication of a regular newsletter and/or quarterly to discuss the activities of the museums, provide information on exhibits, and to distribute technical and curatorial information

b) a regularly updated list of museums in the Province, including their main fields of interest and a list of personnel

c) conducting training seminars aimed at discussing problems of organization, financing, managing and exhibitions at an introductory level

d) organizing travelling exhibits to tour Manitoba

e) the completion of a provincial inventory to assist in preserving our cultural heritage

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Individual Membership - open to any resident of Manitoba who wishes to promote the aims of the Association, whether or not he or she is connected with a museum. Annual fee - \$3.00

Associate Membership - this includes institutions and individuals outside the Province of Manitoba who wish to promote the aims of the Association, whether or not such member is connected with a museum. Annual fee - \$3.00

Institutional Membership - this is restricted to museums located within the Province of Manitoba. Annual membership fee is based on the museum's annual budget as follows:

	Annual Budget		Membership Fee
	100	1,000	\$10.
	1,001	20,000	15.
	20,001	40,000	20.
	40,001	80,000	25.
	80,001	160,000	30.
	160,001	320,000	35.
	320,000+		40.

AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Object

The advancement of museum services in Manitoba by:

a) promoting the protection and preservation of objects, specimens, records and sites significant to the natural and human history of Manitoba.

Further information may be obtained by writing to the Secretary-Treasurer, Association of Manitoba Museums, 190 Rupert Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0N2.

Editor's Forum

DIANE SKALENDA

Museums Advisor

Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature

A great deal has been written about children in this—the International Year of the Child. Special projects, conferences and symposiums have been held throughout the world in celebration of the event.

There is, of course, great concern for the future of today's children as we approach the 21st century. Attention has been focused on their basic right to food, clothing, shelter, and an adequate education. We all share this responsibility. We in the museum community have a special obligation to ensure that they inherit a rich and well-preserved heritage reflecting their ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We are the custodians of this legacy. By understanding their history, and as a result a bit more about themselves, the children of today will be better prepared to accept the challenges of tomorrow.

We have three articles in this issue of *Dawson and Hind* in celebration of the International Year of the Child. "*Hillcrest Museum: Through the Eyes of a Child*" was written by a hostess at that Souris museum. She incorporated many of the comments she has heard from children over the years as they visited this stately home. Tim Worth, Curator of Dalnavert-Macdonald House reflects upon the life of a child at the turn of the century in "*Pastimes of a Victorian Child*". Last, but certainly not least, we have a charming narrative entitled "*Dalnavert Girl*" written and illustrated by a schoolgirl after she visited Dalnavert. She was asked by her teacher to write a story describing "a day in the life" of a member of the Macdonald family. Unfortunately, the author identified herself only as Norma H. I hope she got an A for a fine effort!

B.D.S.

UPDATE:

Manitoba Museum Training Resources Handbook

The Committee to Study Museum Training Needs and Opportunities in Manitoba has compiled a handbook entitled "*Museum Training Resources in Manitoba*" which has been published by the Association of Manitoba Museums. If you have not received your copy, write to the Association of Manitoba Museums, 190 Rupert Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0N2.

Dawson and Hind Editorial Committee

Cornell Wynnobel, Curator of Conservation and Collections at Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park and Treasurer of the Association of Manitoba Museums, has agreed to sit on the Editorial Committee of the *Dawson and Hind*. He fills the vacancy created when David McInnes resigned to assume his new position at the Museum of Natural History in Regina.

Seven Oaks House Museum

It has been brought to our attention that the article on Seven Oaks House Museum which appeared in our last issue contains a number of inaccuracies. Seven Oaks House was not built on the riverside but well back from the river and the walls of the house are of oak rather than stone as described in the article. The last Inkster to live in the house was Celin Inkster, grandson of the late Sheriff who died in 1934. The Captain's hammock is not the original, but rather one that was given to Seven Oaks House Museum by Admiral Pullen, R.C.N. Finally, the buffalo head was taken at night after the caretaker had left for the day. Seven Oaks House does not have a "resident caretaker" as indicated in the article.

We sincerely regret that these inaccuracies occurred and hope that our readers will change their copy to reflect these revisions.

Manitoba Forestry Association Project

In partnership with the Bank of Montreal, Manitoba and Saskatchewan Division, the Manitoba Forestry Association will be producing five more "Conservation Kits" during the 1979-80 school year. These kits deal with all aspects of Conservation and the natural environment, and whenever possible, include enclosures such as charts, posters, booklets, maps and other information provided by various sources.

For further information about the kits, contact the Manitoba Forestry Association Inc., 6-725 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Appointment of New CMA Director

The President of the Canadian Museums Association, Dr. George MacBeath, F.C.M.A., is very pleased to announce the appointment of Lynn Ogden to the position of Executive Director of the Association as of August 1st, 1979.

Mr. Ogden was previously employed by the Canadian Conservation Institute where he served in a number of capacities: he was acting Director of Conservation Services; as well as Regional Director of the Atlantic Conservation Centre in Moncton, New Brunswick and Regional Director for the Prairies.

Previously, Mr. Ogden was City Archivist in Vancouver, Coordinator of the Business Archives Programme at the Public Archives of Canada, and Team Leader in Alberta for the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings, a joint project of Parks Canada and the Provincial Historic Sites Branch.

Mr. Ogden is a graduate of the University of Alberta and Carleton University.

Resignation of Provincial Archivist

John Bovey, Provincial Archivist for the Province of Manitoba since 1967, resigned his position this summer. Mr. Bovey will be returning to his home province of British Columbia to become the Provincial Archivist for that province. Best wishes are extended to Mr. Bovey and his wife Pat, a curator at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, on their move west.

International Archives Week

International Archives Week is being celebrated in Canada from November 1st to 8th this year to help make the general public more aware of:

- archival repositories, their purpose and the kind of service they offer.
- the considerable interest which documents and other items in the home can have for individuals and their families.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery Opens New Exhibit

The Winnipeg Art Gallery recently opened its permanent Inuit art display area on the mezzanine. The Gallery houses the largest collection of contemporary Inuit art in the Western World.

Western Canadian Aviation Museum

Congratulations to the Western Canada Aviation Museum located at 11 Lily Street on their Official Opening on May 18th, 1979. They are also to be congratulated on the fine job they did in revamping their newsletter to magazine format.

Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame

On July 25th, 1979 eight of Manitoba's outstanding pioneer agriculturists were inducted into the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame. The ceremony, which was held in conjunction with the Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede, paid homage to Dr. W.J. Black, Mr. J.D. McGregor, Mr. James Roy McPhail, Mr. J.J. Siemens, Mr. Joseph McMurachy, Mr. John Sanderson, Mr. Harold Orchard, and Mrs. Janet Wood.

An Appeal for Articles

The Dawson and Hind has been very fortunate over the years to have contributions from all sections of Manitoba's museum community. We would like to see this continue, however, we need your support. If you have not done so in the past, why not consider writing an article for a future issue. Remember this is your publication, and we would like to see all of Manitoba's museums represented through its pages.

Please send all manuscripts for consideration by the Editorial Committee to the Editor, Dawson and Hind, 190 Rupert Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B ON2.

Letters

15 July 1979

Ms. Diane Skalenda
Editor
Dawson and Hind
190 Rupert Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B ON2

Dear Diane:

I would like to borrow a page in *Dawson and Hind* to say a word or two to my friends and associates in Manitoba's community museums.

By the end of July, I will have left this province to take a position with the Museum of Natural History in Regina. I will be leaving behind many good friends and taking with me many good memories of my five years with the Manitoba Museums Advisory Service.

I've enjoyed meeting and talking with you at seminars, and I've enjoyed visiting with you at your museums. Our work together has taught me a great deal for which I thank you. I would also like to thank the President and Council of the Association of Manitoba Museums for their friendship and good wishes.

I wish you all the very best of luck in your efforts to preserve Manitoba's heritage, and I look forward to receiving news of each of you through the pages of *Dawson and Hind*.

Sincerely,

David McInnes

David E. McInnes

President's Page

TIM WORTH

President

Association of Manitoba Museums

The last ten years have seen an enormous growth in the Manitoba museum population. Centennial celebrations of one kind or another spawned the interest in preserving the bits and pieces of past generations, of which many community museums were formed. However that was in the past ten years; now we must look to the future. We have moved from a period of abundant money for cultural promotion, to a period when money is scarce, not only for the financing of museum-associated programmes—but for all.

In a depressed economy everyone must bear the reductions of the public purse. Because of the low profile of many community museums, both on the local and provincial scene, there exists the chance that they will be left behind, if not totally out, in the division of the available resources. However, in Manitoba the community museums have their Association to act as their voice on the provincial scale. But the Association is only as strong as its members make it.

The strength of the Association of Manitoba Museums centres not only on its representatives on Council, but also on the involvement of every single community museum and individual member of the Association. By communicating individual problems to council through one's regional representative, answers may be found. Only by having an interaction between Council and members can there be any strength or representation of a provincial view.

With the holding of regional mini seminars, a step has been taken to create regional strength. But it must be taken a step further. That means that there must be member to member/member to council communication on a regular basis, not only once or twice a year. Only in the creation of a strong provincial Association do the community museums have any chance of sharing in the division of money or resources destined for the support of cultural pursuits.

Another matter of concern to the community museums in Manitoba is the celebration of International Museum Day, which this year must be accorded a much greater rating of success over last year. Many museums were able to co-ordinate activities in their community and build upon their public image. As many museums realized, it was not possible to stick to any particular date such as May 18th. But there is nothing really wrong with that, for the main purpose of designating such a date in the first place was to get museums, large and small, planning events which ultimately would build community support. If this has been accomplished by events this year, then there is no reason why similar events cannot be carried on from year to year. As more museums realize the advantages of having a period of intense activity more will become involved and only then will it take on the appearance of a truly "International Celebration".

At the recent meeting of the Canadian Museums Association in Vancouver, two Manitobans received Awards of Merit. On behalf of the entire museum community in Manitoba, I would like to extend congratulations to Watson Crossley of Grandview and to Diane Skalenda, Editor of the *Dawson and Hind*.

Finally it is with deep regret that the Association of Manitoba Museums must say farewell to a close associate, David McInnes. David has been with the Museums Advisory Service for the past five years and in that time he has given to all those that he has come in contact with his attention and benefit of his experience. Our loss is Saskatchewan's gain, for David has taken the post of Extension Services Supervisor at the Museum of Natural History in Regina. I am sure that all individuals in Manitoba who have known David wish him and his family all the best.

T.W.

Hillcrest Museum: Through the Eyes of a Child

BLANCHE BROWN
Hillcrest Museum
Souris, Manitoba

Editor's Note: The following article, in letter form, was written by one of the hostesses at Hillcrest Museum. She is especially fond of children and the observations and comments made in this letter are for the most part those made by children she conducted through the museum. Some of the ideas came from letters and drawings received from the children after their classes toured the museum.

Dear Tom,

My teacher told us to write a letter to a friend and tell about our visit to the Hillcrest Museum in Souris. That's why I'm writing to you. Our school principal decided we could take a bus trip to Souris to see the Swinging Bridge and the Hillcrest Museum.

We left our school about 8:30 in the morning and after about an hour we were there. First we visited the Swinging Bridge. It was sure fun going across it. It bounced up and down when you walked and some of the kids were scared but most of us thought it was great fun.

Next we went to the Museum. Kathy cried out, "Oh, it looks just like a castle". I thought it did too. The grounds around the house were nice and we noticed a bench where people could sit in the shade.

We went inside the building and a lady wearing glasses and smiling welcomed us and asked us all to sign the register. We didn't have to pay because we were a school group and had two teachers with us. The sign said fifty cents for adults and ten cents for children under sixteen.

It is a lovely old house inside. The hostess pointed to the old staircase, the big birds etched in the hall windows and the valuable old hat rack. It had some old black umbrellas in it. We then went into a big room with a pressed tin ceiling and shiny wood floor. There were a lot of old chairs and things and silver and dishes. The dining



"Oh, it looks just like a castle!"

room table was set with old English china and silver and the hostess said the tablecloth had Battenberg lace on it. One of the girls said "This is different than eating off the kitchen sink, isn't it". Another one said, "I think it's nice". The fireplace made me think of Christmas. I wish we had one for hanging up stockings. The hostess told us they sometimes have a real fire in it at their meetings.

A sort of porch was off this room filled with farm tools, different kinds of skates and a big wheel of old license plates. My dad would like to see these. Near the door of the porch was a wishing well with a light in it and it was made of agates from all over the United States.

Next we went upstairs. Another hostess showed us around up there. We went through an old-fashioned bedroom and the dresser with a great big mirror belonged to the Sowden family who built this house. We saw a crock hot water bottle which is called a pig because it has a handle like a pig's snout. The old-fashioned clothes are sure

different with all those long skirts and long sleeves. I'll bet they were hot to wear. The girls all giggled about them especially the high-top button boots. We saw different kinds of walking sticks too.

The old-fashioned kitchen was next. It looked a lot cosier than our kitchen which is all electric. The lady told us about a little boy who got lost from his mother and they found him sitting at the kitchen table with the knife and fork in his hands. I guess he was hungry.

The boys sure liked to look at the war stuff. There was an old hand grenade. My dad was in the second world war and my grand-dad was in the first world war. They don't talk very much about it.

We jumped when we saw a lady in a black dress and white apron in the old parlour. Then we saw she was just a model. The old Huron heater has stuff in the doors which lets you see the flames when it is going. We saw a stereoscope, I think they called it, and a record player that plays cylinder records. The hostess played some music for us on the organ that she pumped with her feet. I can't imagine not having any television or radio.

The girls spied the sampler on the wall which was worked by a ten-year old girl. Jane said, "She must have been a better sewer than I am" and Nancy said, "She would likely get her fingers rapped if she didn't do it right. Grandma says that children were told to be seen and not heard. Wasn't that stupid?"

The collection of toys was super. The little pony covered with horsehide and with a real horsehair mane was really something. One kid thought he was a real stuffed pony. What a dope! I don't care much about dolls but there were some real pretty ones sitting on little chairs and in dolls' carriages. There was a bear on wheels that you could ride, that is a little boy could ride him. There were a lot of good things in this room and I'll bet it's the best toy room in all Manitoba.

My mom told me before we left home to try not to get too dirty. She said some museums are very old and dusty. I laughed when I saw this one. Why mom's own rooms aren't any cleaner than this museum. I wonder who shines all the silver and polishes all the furniture? The people in Souris must think a lot of these old things to keep them so nice. I kinda like them myself because it



The children's room at the Hillcrest Museum in Souris

Jean Philp



The dining room at the Hillcrest Museum displaying turn-of-the-century elegance

Jean Philp



A favourite room in every home—the kitchen

Jean Philp

sort of makes history more interesting for us.

They called the next room the history room and there were a lot of school and boy scout pictures in it. We looked out the glass doors and saw some boats going up the river. This town sure has everything! They had lots of arrowheads and Indian stuff too.

When we came back into the hall the hostess pointed out a whiskery old gentleman she said was Squire Sowden. He took a bunch of settlers out here in 1881, I think she said. He built the Swinging Bridge and his son built this house. The fellow with all the wrinkles next to him was the youngest boy to come with the settlers and he was only seven years old. They call him the last of the pioneers because he was the last one to die I guess.

On the walls of this hall are a hair wreath and a feather wreath and old pictures of Queen Victoria and her husband. It's because of her we get a holiday on the 24th of May. Then we went downstairs and were each given a little book telling the story of the house. The hostess told us all

goodbye and said to come again. I sure hope we do. We didn't want to go so soon and Mary said she would like to live in this house because it was like a dream house. A strange boy ahead of us said when he went out, "That was the best ten cents worth I ever had."

We had a picnic in Victoria Park and visited the rock shop too. Souris is famous for agates. Then we went home.

Your friend,
Mark

P.S. This is sure a long letter but I didn't know where to stop. Dad told us last night we are going to Souris for the weekend and camp in the park. Hurrah! I hope we go back to the museum so I can show them everything. I didn't make many mistakes because the teacher corrected it and I wrote it all over again right. What we kids don't put up with to get an education. Try and talk your family into going to Souris.

A Multicultural Exchange

ELZA SNIKERIS

Programme Interpreter

Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature

It has been some time since I was in Halifax with the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature's exchange programme which was sponsored by the National Museums of Canada. The programme was called "Manitoba and Its People" with displays and arts and crafts depicting Manitoba's cultural heritage—its traditions and history.

It was an early winter morning in November 1978 when I left Winnipeg. On the way to Halifax I could see the country preparing for a long winter. Although it was drizzling in Toronto and Montreal, there was no snow in Halifax. I was met at the Halifax airport by Miss Candace Stevenson, Chief Curator of Education at the Nova Scotia Museum and was made to feel very much at ease. On the way to the city from the airport, I was introduced to places as we passed by and we had a friendly discussion about our plans for the next three weeks.

Halifax has seen many Canadian immigrants as they first put foot on Canadian soil. The importance of the harbour has changed. There are no longer masses of people entering the country and soldiers no longer go overseas or return as they did in both wars. But there is still the blue sea with the research fisheries and foreign fishing ships off the coastline.

The city is proud of its historical churches and monuments and the people of Halifax are fond of their old houses and buildings. Preservation and renovation projects are taking place in many parts of the city. Soon the waterfront, with beautiful dining, recreation and shopping areas, will house a new marine museum.

Arts and crafts are a very important part of Nova Scotia heritage. Handicrafts serve both as a leisure activity and as a vital component of the province's business community. Both Halifax and the province of Nova Scotia have a long tradition

of fine craftsmen. Evidence of this can be seen in the excellent displays in the museums, historic buildings, and art galleries.

This tradition goes back to the early settlers of Nova Scotia. Various handicraft skills have been handed down from generation to generation. The Nova Scotia Museum in Halifax protects this tradition in over 18 branch museums throughout the province. Museums such as Perkins House established in 1766; Cossit House (1787); and Ross Farm (1817) have played a vital role in the history of Nova Scotia.

I must praise the Nova Scotia Museum for endeavouring to preserve traditional crafts through the use of proper techniques and materials.

Through the programme, "Manitoba and Its People", we painted a sketch of the diversity of



The restored Halifax waterfront

D. Skalenda



The Nova Scotia Museum in Halifax is the centre of a network of museums which extends throughout the province.



Perkins House in Liverpool, N.S. The home of merchant, ship-owner and diarist, Simeon Perkins, built in 1766.



Cossit House, Sydney, N.S. was built about 1787 by the Rev. Ranna Cossit, the first Anglican minister in Sydney.



Wool fleece being scrubbed prior to carding at Ross Farm in New Ross, N.S.

many ethnic groups and hoped to share the presentation with Nova Scotians. I tried to show the strength of multicultural unity as well as the value of man and the importance of one's conscience towards his or her ethnic origin and background.

With growing scientific understanding, our world has become dehumanized. Therefore the Museum of Man and Nature has tried to implement fine arts and crafts by the interpretation of old designs developed over the centuries.

Interpretation has been the motivation of my work. Interpretation by translating the wealth and values of the cultures and traditions brought to Canada and treasured by all Canadians.

Old arts are preserved and traditional designs used in museum arts and crafts such as weaving, embroidery, spinning, paper folding and cutting, wood and stone carving, and pottery.

An arts and crafts programme would not be complete without a display of items of *forgotten*

art and tradition—Easter egg decoration and other traditional holiday items.

Arts and crafts are an integral part of Canadian society through their symbols and interpretation. They have enriched our homes, schools, and cultural institutions and have shown us the strength of cultural unity.

I would like to express my appreciation to the National Museums of Canada for granting the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature this programme. I would also like to thank Candace Stevenson of the Nova Scotia Museum education department and her staff and volunteers for giving me the opportunity to be incorporated in their very well organized programmes. In addition I would like to remark upon the cordiality of the other museum staff members and especially Mr. and Mrs. Davis and family. Finally, thank you to the school children who, in such an appealing way, discussed our programme.

The Fort Garry Historical Society

CORINNE TELLIER

Director

Fort Garry Historical Society

An historical society does not need a museum opened to the public to take part in a special celebration such as International Museum Day. This is what we at the Fort Garry Historical Society found out last May. As the houses presently being restored by the Society in the St. Norbert area are not ready, it is with pleasure that we accepted another invitation from Miss S. Hall, librarian at the Fort Garry Public Library, to use the library facilities. A display of harness-making tools was set up in one of the cases from May 12 to June 1, 1979. The Museums Advisory Service of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature included us in the press release they prepared for International Museum Day and we informed the editor of the *South-West Lance* weekly newspaper.

Even if the display attracted the attention of a number of library patrons during the two weeks, May 16 was a day to remember for a group of upper elementary pupils of St. Norbert School. These students have a regularly-scheduled period at the library throughout the year. For that day, the teachers agreed that time for book selection would be minimized and a special program would be offered.

As the audience did not know what to expect, their interest was aroused when a number of slides showing street names of the area where they reside were shown. The names of pioneers who lived in the area became real people for the children. The site of their former property and markers or tombstones with the names and dates were shown to the students. Doctor Gendreau, long-time resident and professional of the area; Joseph Lemay, MP in the first provincial legislature; G.T. Landry, first secretary of the municipality, and La Barrière, are names that the children began to relate to history. One tall girl was sur-

prised to hear her great-grandfather's name, Grandmont, mentioned when his picture appeared on the screen. Needless to say, her friends were also interested.

A brief history of the two houses presently being restored by the Fort Garry Historical Society (Maisons Turenne and Bohémier)¹ was included in the slide presentation. A few artifacts available for the programme were discussed, with emphasis on the display of harness-making tools. A question period and a special treat followed.

One of our special projects committee members, Mrs. B. Paradish, graciously offered to make fudge (*sucre à la crème*) for our hosts and guests. The recipe used is one that was very popular in Maison Bohémier for many years. It is only fitting that a grandchild of a pioneer collaborate in this fashion.

The programme was an enjoyable experience for everyone. Reports reveal that many pupils went on their own field trip later as they wanted to rediscover the sites mentioned during the talk. The Society was invited to the school for another programme.

As Pierre Berton said at the Manitoba Historical Society Centennial Dinner in May, "history will not be dull if one starts around the corner from home". We are proud to have started around the corner from Lemay and Landry in St. Norbert. We hope this first contact with the school will benefit the children of an area so steeped in history and that many more will be interested in living history.

1 *The Fort Garry Historical Society*, by C. Tellier, Dawson and Hind, Vol. 6, No. 3, 1977.

CMA Annual Conference 1979

HUGH FOX

On-Job Trainee

Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature

The Canadian Museums Association Annual Conference was held in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia from May 28 to June 1st, 1979. Jan Reid, Barry Curtis and I attended the conference as part of our on-job training programme. The following is an account of our week at the conference:

Sunday, May 27th

The three on-job trainees met at the Winnipeg International Airport. Winnipeg to Vancouver — a great jet escape for a prairie dweller after a long, snowbound winter. I just loved the transition from a few signs of spring to summer, snowshoes to sailboats, reading seed catalogues to flowers in full bloom.

Sunday was spent registering, unpacking and settling in, then strolling around the campus and beach to become acquainted with our surroundings. The more we strolled—the more we liked it. The University of British Columbia campus is a huge, delightful, scenic, beautifully landscaped institution of learning. What a pleasure to walk along its tree-lined paths and roads and smell the delicate perfumes of thousands of blooms from its exquisite gardens.

Monday, May 28th

Got up, showered and went to the Student Union Cafeteria for breakfast at 7 a.m. only to find several hundred people ahead of us. However, the efficient staff had us through before long.

I attended the Presidents' Meeting of the Provincial Associations, under the able chairmanship of Dr. George MacBeath and Mr. Robin Inglis of the Canadian Museums Association.

I represented the Manitoba Association's President, Tim Worth, who was unable to attend the conference this year. It was interesting to hear

the reports of the other Provinces and find that nearly all had the same problem—money, or I should say, lack of money.

Business discussed included Provincial funding and training, reports on International Museum Day, conservation, and CMA membership, fees, publications and accreditation. The 1980 Joint Conference at Boston was briefly touched upon and more information will be made available following the next planning meeting to be held in Cleveland.

Monday afternoon we attended an Open House at the Museum of Anthropology located on the campus and marvelled at the wonderful treasures therein.

At 8 p.m. the Official Welcoming Ceremony and Fellows Lecture featured Dr. William T. Alderson of the University of Delaware as guest lecturer. His topic was "Facing the Issues". A reception followed to round out the first day.

Tuesday, May 29th

There were so many highlights in this day that it is difficult to class or judge them. A series of excellent speakers in the morning sessions on "Museums and the Law" focused on what can happen if we become careless in our responsibilities of accessioning and deaccessioning, or infringe on copyrights, or fail to have binding contracts in regards to loans.

We took a scenic, restful bus trip to the pavilion at Stanley Park for lunch where we were welcomed by the Mayor. Following a pleasant stroll through the zoo, we were guests at the thrilling and unbelievable "Killer Whale" show at the Vancouver Public Aquarium.

There was a choice of three excellent panel presentations in the afternoon dealing with wildlife regulations, copyrights, and exporting and im-



Vancouver—site of the Canadian Museums Association 1979 Annual Conference

Diane Skalenda

porting anthropological material.

In the evening an exciting ceremonial presentation at the Museum of Anthropology entitled "A Celebration of the Salmon" by the Evelyn Roth Moving Sculpture Company had cameras clicking away among the spellbound crowd. This was followed by a superb, mouth-watering salmon barbecue. A showing of the film on the Potlatch entitled "A Strict Law Bids Us Dance" rounded out a perfect day.

Wednesday, May 30th

The weather continued with its Chamber of Commerce quality and at 8:45 a.m. we attended the Annual Business Meeting of the CMA.

Following coffee we attended an inspiring talk by Mr. Ian C. Clark, Secretary-General of the National Museums of Canada.

It was a great thrill for a newcomer to the "field of museology" to sit among the "Greats" from museums across the land and hear them



Vancouver Public Aquarium

D. Skalenda



Burnaby Art Gallery

D. Skalenda

speaking about the trials and tribulations of running museums and how to solve our mutual problems.

Lunch hour found us eating a delightful box lunch and attending a series of excellent Show and Tell presentations that made one wish that they could be in many places at once. They were all educational as well as entertaining and I for one would like to have the opportunity to see them again. Co-ordinator Lee Jolliffe is to be congratulated for her work.

The balance of the afternoon offered excellent sessions on advertising, touch exhibits, evaluating programmes and computer systems.

The evening was free to allow participants time to visit the city on their own.

Thursday, May 31st

A day of important topics around the theme "Politics and Purse Strings".

The morning session was attended by all to hear how new governments and their changing policies have an affect on the museum community. The afternoon concurrent sessions included discussions on financial cutbacks, financial management, major exhibitions and how nationalism affects our cultural environment.



Restored home located at Heritage Village *D. Skalenda*



Heritage Village Museum—Burnaby

D. Skalenda

No matter what your institution, big or small, one major problem seems to affect us all—decreasing available money. We must all buckle down to our own series of money-raising projects. One can hardly visualize the Royal Ontario Museum holding a bake sale, but to a community museum a bake sale could be a big thing in its programme.

Following lunch we were bussed to the city to attend a number of optional tours of museums, art galleries and the planetarium. On return to the campus we spiffed up for the Reception and Annual Banquet held at the University Faculty Club. During the banquet, we saw our own Diane Skalenda, Editor of the *Dawson and Hind*, and Watson Crossley of Grandview, receive Awards of Merit.

An excellent presentation of Belly Dancing

preceded the dance to end another Annual Conference. The Planning Committee is to be congratulated on a job well done as there was nothing but praise for all aspects of the Conference.

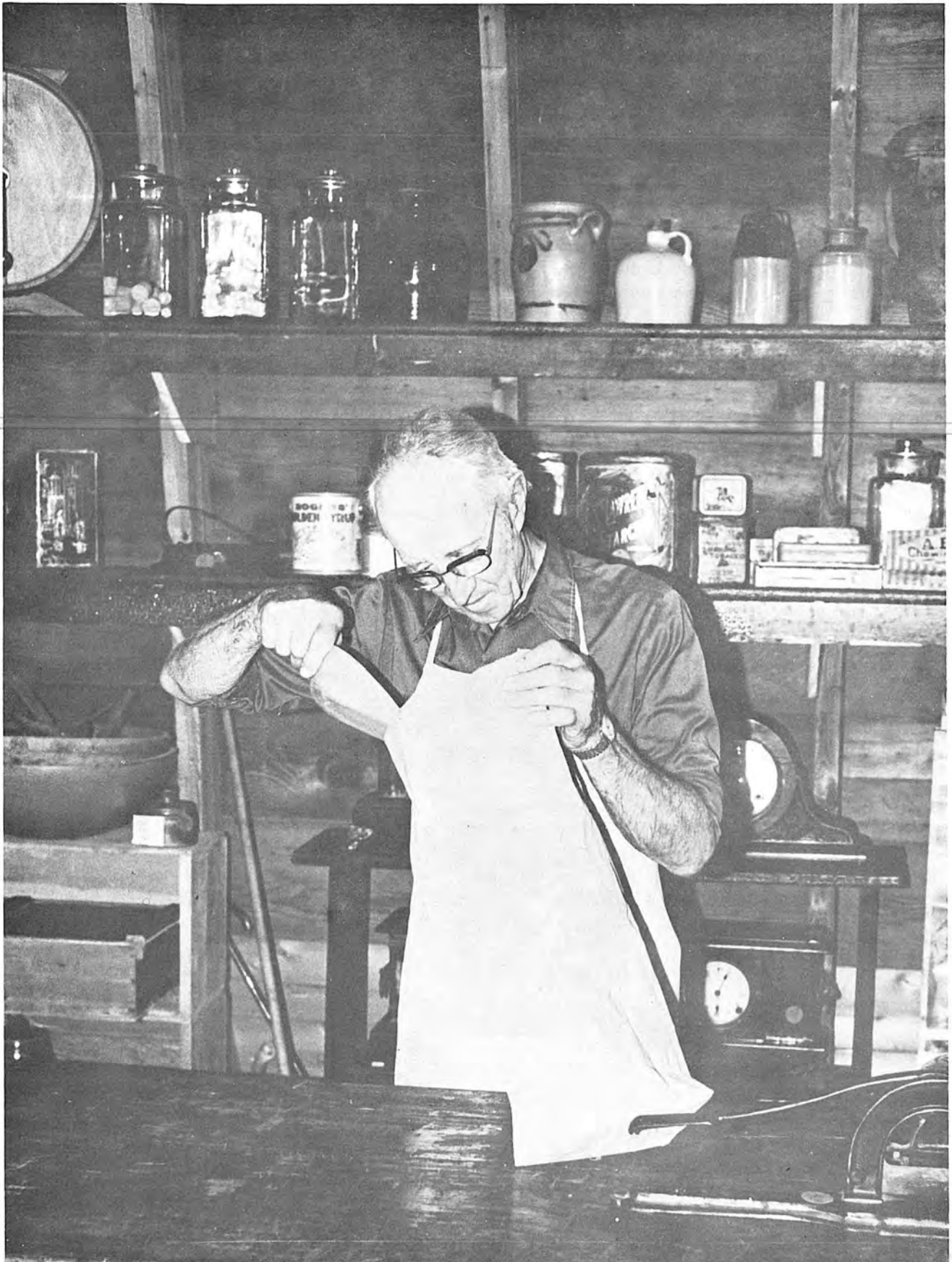
Friday, June 1st

The day started early with farewells and good-byes and “till Boston”. The participants then went their separate ways—either home or to join others on one of the post-conference tours to either the Fraser Valley, Victoria, Barkerville or Calgary, Alberta.

We enjoyed good food, good entertainment, good speakers while we “worked”, great scenery, meeting old friends and making new ones. What more could a humble servant of the Public want out of a fantastic day, week, month or a lifetime?



“A Celebration of the Salmon” performed by the Evelyn Roth Moving Sculpture Company at the salmon barbecue held on the grounds of the Museum of Anthropology during the CMA Conference. *Brenda Birks*



W.R. Wallcraft of the Archibald Historical Museum in the "General Store" exhibit area

Yvonne Tessier

The Archibald Historical Museum

LAURA BROWN AND YVONNE TESSIER
Archibald Historical Museum
La Riviere, Manitoba



The Archibald Historical Museum

David McInnes

The summer of 1979 was certainly a time of celebration for many people in the district of Archibald and surrounding areas. Everyone seemed to take time out to pay tribute to the pioneers who first settled the unbroken land one hundred years ago. The museum also joined in the spirit of the Centennial by giving tours to visitors and local people and by helping to prepare for the Archibald-Kingsley Reunion.

The Reunion took place on July 2, 1979 at the Mary-Jane Park which is located approximately one mile from the museum. The event was a big success and enjoyed by all those in attendance. Several people came from a distance and were reacquainted with those they had not seen in years. The day gave opportunity for reminiscing and a few heads could be seen shaking in disbelief at the changes that had taken place since they farmed.

Old-time fiddling and a square dance brought back memories of the "kind of fun we used to have". Another interesting attraction included a

demonstration of a model steam engine. A good old-fashioned picnic and baseball game gave the event the feeling of a "community gathering".

At 1:00 p.m. a few gathered at the site where the Archibald School had formerly been situated (NE¼ 7-4-9) to erect a marker in memory of the school. The first school was built in 1883 and opened in February 1884. Two other schools were built, the last one closing in 1962 when the school consolidated with La Riviere.

The Archibald School was only a short distance from the church (SE¼ 18-4-9) which was built in 1898. The Methodist Congregation, however, was actually formed in 1879. In 1925 the church became "United". It was closed in 1964.

The year 1879 is especially significant for the district of Archibald as it was in that year it had its formal beginnings. In October 1879 the first post office was established by Alex Bethune. It was named after the first Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba—Adams G. Archibald (term 1870-73). The building was demolished in 1976 but a piece of the original lumber has been retained and made into a plaque by Felix Kuehn. This plaque, which is in the shape of a shield, was presented to the Archibald Museum at the opening exercises of the 1979 Centennial in the town of Manitou, Man.

This year the museum has been proud to be a part of the 100th Anniversary of the area. Other projects also have been accomplished this year—such as setting up a "General Store" display as well as painting.

A large machine shed, used to house antique wagons and farm machinery, was opened on the museum grounds during the summer of 1978.

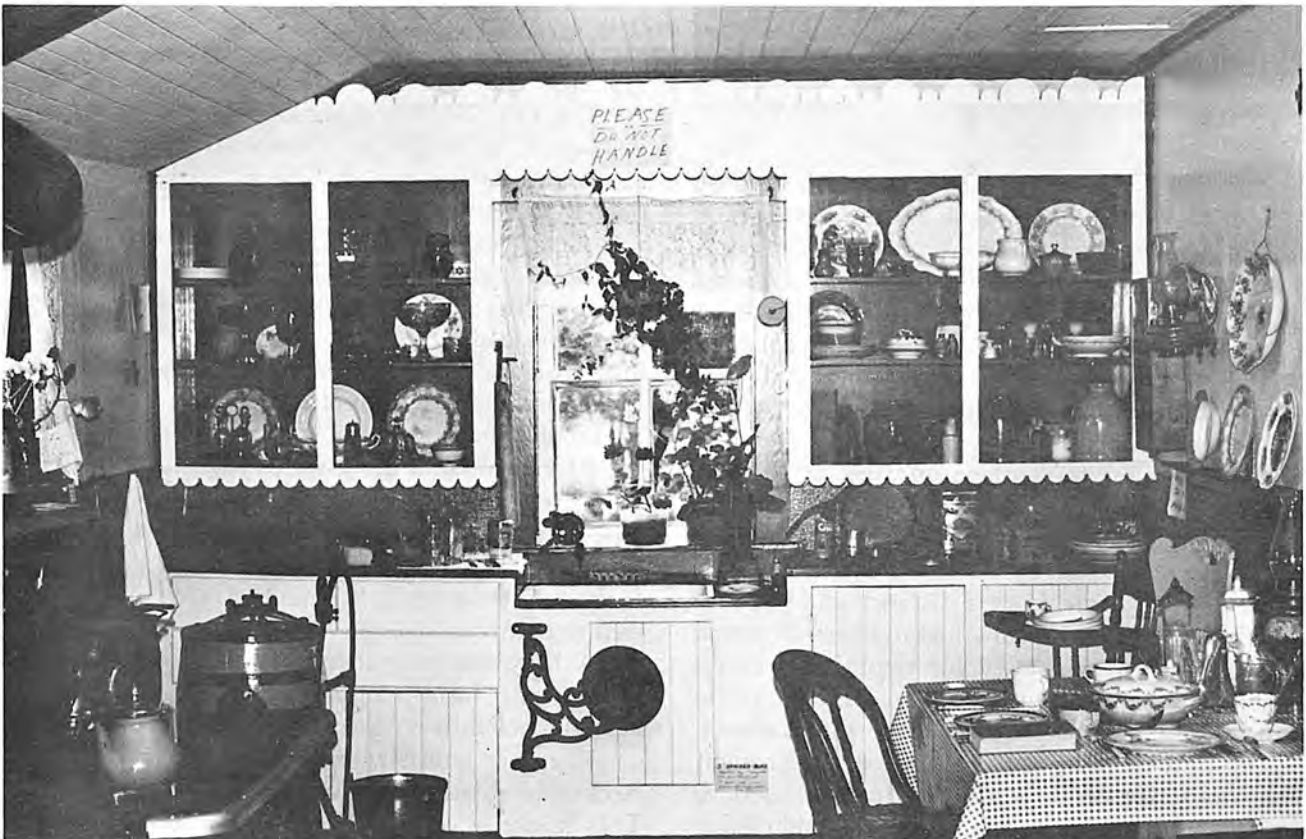
There is another interesting addition to the Archibald Historical Museum—the "tin house". This house was one of the first pioneer houses



A cast iron stove located in the general artifacts building of the Archibald Historical Museum
Yvonne Tessier



The library section of the Archibald Historical Museum
Yvonne Tessier



The kitchen of the home Nellie McClung lived in when she taught school in La Riviere in 1890-91. The house is one of four buildings which comprise the Archibald Historical Museum
Yvonne Tessier



The "tin house" built by J.J. Wilson and now located on the grounds of the Archibald Historical Museum Y. Tessier

built in this area. The rear section of the house, consisting of four rooms, was built in 1880 by Mr. J.J. Wilson.

Wilson came to Canada from Scotland with his parents at the age of nine or ten years. He left his Ontario home in 1878 to take up land near Manitou, Manitoba. Wilson raised a family of seven children in the original section of the house.

In 1908 he built a front section onto the existing house. The new section consisted of five bedrooms, a parlour, pantry, and large living room which housed dances for the area. The exterior of the house and the ceiling and walls of the living room are finished with tin.

In 1977 the "tin house" was to be torn down when the farm on which it was located changed ownership. However the new owner, Mr. Henry Wiebe of La Riviere, decided to donate the house to the Archibald Historical Museum rather than demolish it.

Presently the house is located at the museum where it has been placed on a sound foundation. The rooms are furnished in period furniture. Throughout the house a variety of clocks tick rhythmically and on cool days wood fires crackle in the stoves.

The Archibald Historical Museum is located two miles east and four miles north of La Riviere on No. 3 Highway.

A Miller's Story

PETER FRIESEN, SR.
Miller/Manager
Grant's Old Mill

When man settled down to a life of planting and reaping grain and other crops, he took a giant step forward.

From then on man hunted and fished when he could, but depended for a living on the yield of his fields and gardens.

Bread became so universally accepted and such an everyday commodity, that someone felt

compelled to warn: "Man does not live on bread alone!"

Bread or goods made from wheat flour is eaten everywhere for breakfast, for lunch, for tea, at break-times, at dinner and midnight snacks.

Truly it is the "Staff of Life"!

Man has been able to convert wheat into flour, meal, grits, cracked wheat, rolled wheat, puffed



Miller Friesen (*background*) describing how Grant's Old Mill operates

Warren Clearwater

wheat, fermented wheat for beer, distilled it into vodka, or made a sour ale that the Russians call Koass.

As grain growing expanded, flour and bread-making grew too, it was taken out of the hands of the producers and the honourable professions of millers and bakers developed.

People became dependent on these experts and mills and bakeries became known as real gold mines.

In the British Isles, Ogilvies became purveyors to "His Most Gracious Majesty the King".

As flour-milling became more and more refined, the stronger mills forced the weaker ones out of business or gobbled them up. What once was a common sight in the countryside—the blacksmith shop, the shoemaker, the baker and the flour mill—all have disappeared.

In Canada we now have nationally-known flour mills and a few dozen others which depend on odds and ends to keep them in business.

Forty years ago there were hundreds of mills. Since that time, the lesser ones have gone down the drain and are only memories now.

To bring back the memory of the first water

mill in Western Canada, and to rekindle an interest in our glorious past, some honourable gentlemen banded together in 1974 to form The St. James-Assiniboia Pioneer Citizens' Association. They decided to recreate a mill similar to the original one on Sturgeon Creek built by Cuthbert Grant in 1829, one hundred and fifty years ago.

Cuthbert Grant was the son of a Scottish father and a Metis mother—truly a child of adversity. Throughout his life he was beset by many tragedies and personal conflicts which might well have beaten a lesser man. In 1854 Cuthbert Grant fell from his horse and suffered severe injuries. He did not recover from this accident.

"Grant's Old Mill", as it was known a long time ago, was erected in memory of the first man to build a water mill in Western Canada. He was the first man in the West to head the list of honourable men who converted grain into flour to make it the "Staff of Life".

The mill is a replica of the original where we not only show how milling was done, but do the flour-making before your eyes. Grant's Old Mill is a museum of milling lore — a nostalgic place to those of us who have milling in our backgrounds.

Musk Ox in the Canadian North

LORRAINE BRANDSON
Eskimo Museum
Churchill, Manitoba

A 1200 pound male musk ox recently was acquired by the Eskimo Museum in Churchill. This animal was killed last year by an Inuit hunter, Allen Kitigun, near the Ellice River on Victoria Island in the Northwest Territories.

Musk oxen (*Ovibos moschatus*), considered by many to be a relic of the last ice age are believed to have crossed the Bering Land Bridge to North America 90,000 years ago.

Because of their humped shoulders and long black coat, they closely resemble the bison but

anatomically speaking, because of their lobulated kidneys, are considered to be closer to sheep and goats.

A bull may weigh between 579 and 1450 pounds and a female 620 to 650 pounds.

The winter is spent on hilltops, slopes and plateaus blown free of snow where they feed on Labrador Tea, cranberries, crowberries, ground birch and willow. Their rounded hooves with sharp rims provide good traction. In the summer they form smaller herds and occupy river valleys,



Male Musk Ox specimen at the Eskimo Museum in Churchill, Manitoba

lake shores and meadows where they can feed on grasses, sedges and willows. Unlike sheep, they are mobile intermittent feeders.

The bulls generally wander alone or in small groups but during the rutting season in the late summer they join up with the cows, calves and younger bulls.

Musk ox hair is composed of an overcoat of long coarse guard hairs and undercoat of soft fleece-like hair. Hair is moulted in late April or early May, shedding in patches. The replacement of guard hairs is uncertain and perhaps continues throughout the year. By mid-July a new dark undercoat appears. This wool-like hair or qiviut, as the Inuit call it, is very soft, light and extremely warm. An adult will lose six pounds a year and according to one source six miles of yarn can be produced from one pound of hair.

Their main natural predator is the wolf. When attacked the musk ox will form a circle with the nearest adult charging the enemy and retreating back to the circle. Bears have also been known to attack musk ox. The carving in figure 2 illustrates the following narrative told to Father Van de Velde by a Pelly Bay Netsilik Inuit.

"A muskox was peacefully browsing not far from the coast of Committee Bay. It was a large male, a "kisimgak". There came by an "angudjuar" or old male polar bear. As soon as the latter sighted the muskox, he started to run towards him.

The ovibos seeing his enemy approaching remained calm and, as is the habit of his kind, began sharpening his horns on a nearby rock. Then, facing the bear, he awaited the attack with his feet solidly planted and his head low. Mister Nanook, certain of his strength, sprang upon the muskox, reaching over the head of the latter to get a solid grip in the back with his vicious claws. That was all the muskox was waiting for. Taking the shock without flinching, he drew himself up and with one mighty twist of his head sent the bear flying. The bear fell to the ground with his stomach ripped open. However, he managed to get up, took a few steps and then collapsed, dead, while his opponent calmly continued to graze.

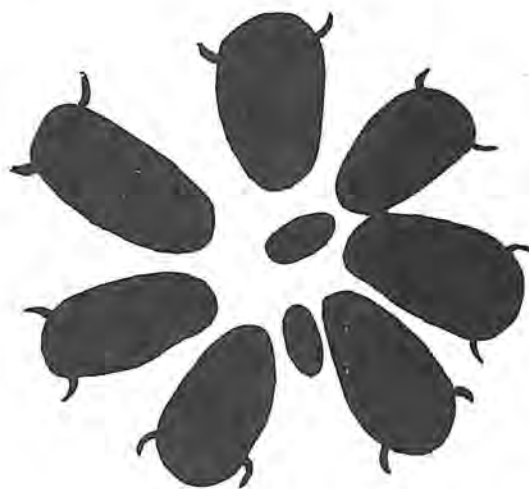
Needless to add that the Eskimo who had been a witness to this scene lost no time in dispatching the victor, happy at having killed two birds with one stone."

Hunting

Archaeological records suggest that the Independence 1 people (ancestral Eskimo or of Siberian descent) hunted musk ox almost 4,000



Battle between a Musk Ox and a Polar Bear by Fabien Oogark, Pelly Bay 1973



Defence formation against enemies (adults face outwards)

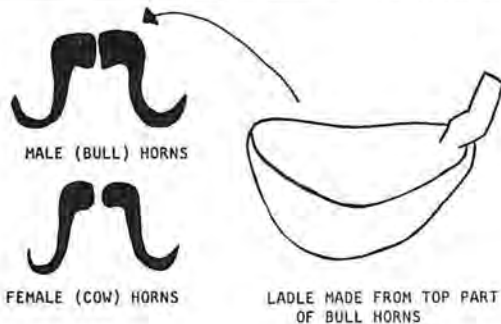
years ago in northern Greenland and on Ellesmere Island in the Northwest Territories.

Historically, Eskimo people (including the Canadian Inuit) have utilized the musk ox (*umingmak*) for various reasons. Meat would be utilized for human consumption and dog food, the skins for sleeping robes and footwear, and the horns for dishes, spoons, hunting bows, blubber pounders, ulu handles, barbs of fish spears and games.

In the 1700's the musk ox was considered to have been a critical resource for the Chipewyan Indian people living in the Keewatin district of the Northwest Territories and in northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan. This resource was not exploited on a regular or seasonal basis but without it survival in certain areas or periods would have been difficult or impossible.



Musk Ox Horn Dipper from Repulse Bay



Musk Ox Horn Ladle

The first European sighting of musk ox in northern Canada was just north of Churchill by Henry Kelsey in 1689. He describes them as:

"Two buffalo...ill shapen beast Their body being bigger than an ox...their Horns not growing like other Beast but Joyn together upon their forehead and so come down ye side of their head and turn up till ye tips with ye Butts. Their Hair is near a foot long."

During the first half of the 1800's the musk ox was considered a staple resource of the Caribou Inuit people north of Churchill. Increased hunting pressures must have resulted in 1820 when the Hudson's Bay Company accepted musk ox skins as part of their trade. Whalers operating in the Bay after 1860 also traded in musk ox skins and meat. By 1899 the musk ox population in the southern part of the Keewatin district became greatly reduced and by the turn of the century they were pretty well extinct east of the Dubawnt River.

It is interesting to note that during the summer of 1897 parties of Indians reported seeing a pair of musk oxen between York Factory and Churchill. This is apparently the most southern record of the occurrence of the musk ox.

Musk ox are highly susceptible to overhunting due to their low reproduction rate, their general lack of wariness and tendency to stand their ground if closely pressed. The introduction of firearms simplified the hunt even more. One hunt in the Barren Grounds in 1885 illustrates quite vividly this fact.

"They presented a most formidable looking appearance with their rumps firmly wedged together, forming an unbroken circle of swaying horns, presented viciously to the front, with great bloodshot eye-balls glaring like red-hot shot amidst the escaping steam from their panting nostrils, and pawing and plunging at the solid circle of furious dogs that encompassed them. The rapid blacing of magazine guns right in their frightened faces—so close, often, as to burn their long, shaggy hair—made up a vivid scene."

In 1917 new Canadian laws were made to protect their species. Today there are perhaps 10,000 or more animals in the Canadian north with the greatest populations concentrated on Banks and Ellesmere Island, the Thelon Game Sanctuary, north of Great Bear Lake, Bathurst Inlet and the northeastern part of the Keewatin district. Since 1970 small quotas to hunt this animal have been established at various communities in the North.

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Preserving Canadian Culture

BETTY DYCK

Free-lance Writer
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the April 8, 1979 edition of the "Prairie Messenger" with the permission of the editor and author.

Once you have formulated your family tree or completed research for a regional history, you may end up with original documents, photographs and miscellaneous material that you do not wish to store.

It is possible that your local museum or provincial archives might be interested in your accumulations. Each repository will have a different priority regarding what they collect, so it is best to consult persons in charge before delivering items.

Even if you haven't been involved in researching history, you may have antiques around the house which you would like to share. What constitutes an antique? In an article in the Winnipeg Free Press (Jan. 18, 1979), Elizabeth M. Hawkins stated: "...anything that has the audacity to hang around for a 100 years or more can be good, bad or simply never learned to tell the time. First rule for the novice is that an antique is a statement of age, nothing else."

Once you begin to collect antiques, you may be in possession of a valuable collection. If no one in your family is particularly interested in it, consider willing it to a local museum.

A friend of mine collects hair receivers. Being a writer and researcher, she documents each hair receiver as to make, place purchased and approximate worth. Recently she made provision in her will for the collection to go to the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. She learned that any collection can be appraised—the museum will make provision for this by recommending an expert. Thus donors (or their heirs) can get a tax concession on the value of the collection.

Most people do not realize the contributions they can make to preserve our Canadian culture. In fact, the meaning of the word "culture" is often misunderstood. An excellent definition was accepted by the Duke of Edinburgh's Second Commonwealth Study Conference, held in Canada in 1962: "Culture is that complete whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by a man as a member of society."

Diversified traditions have come to Canadian society in abundance. About 30 percent of Canada's population is of neither French nor British origin. An enlightening ancestral roll call of Canada's people appeared in the Royal Bank Monthly Letter of June 1971. It included Finns, Afghans, Japanese, Macedonians, Serbs, Turks and West Indians, as well as Algerians, Danes, Icelanders, Lebanese, Portuguese and Welsh, plus 46 others.

Unless artifacts and antiques are preserved in public museums for future generations, our multicultural heritage could be forgotten. Every generation has a duty to add to the wealth of knowledge that was bequeathed to it. The task is not easy.

John Murray Gibbon's preface in his book *Canadian Mosaic* (McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1938) states: "Some politicians want to see these (ethnic groups) merged as quickly as possible into one standard type, just as our neighbors in the United States are hurrying to make every citizen a 100 percent American. Others believe in trying to preserve for the future Canadian race the most worthwhile qualities and traditions that each racial group has brought with it."

Fortunately, Canada's mosaic is being kept alive in numerous ethnic museums across the country. Two new centres catering to minority

groups recently opened new facilities in Winnipeg: the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre and the Mennonite Heritage Centre at the Canadian Mennonite Bible College.

The Ukrainian "oseredok" or centre includes a museum, library, art gallery and archives. The archives will store former Winnipeg mayor Steve Juba's personal papers. There is also a collection of Ukrainian newspapers published in Canada, numbering about 400 titles. Prints by William Kurelek and sculpture by Leo Mol feature prominently in the art gallery. The centre is open to donations of Ukrainian artifacts and documents.

The Mennonite Heritage Centre is collecting all materials related to Mennonites, particularly in Western Canada. Lawrence Klippenstein wrote: "This includes records of organizations that have had a direct Mennonite origin (five insurance companies, relief agencies, immigration organizations, etc.). Especially we are interested in congregational records such as membership registers, worship bulletins, minutes, financial records, photos, news articles.

"Besides that, we are looking hard for materials related to the Russian Mennonite experience—photos, memoirs, diaries, published books used in Russia, maps, landholding papers, sermons.

"With respect to Mennonite genealogy we need back numbers of German Mennonite periodicals and newspapers, family records (handwritten and published), photos (families, individual portraits, etc.), cemetery lists...we also like to mention that all the records of Mennonite Genealogy, Inc., formerly at Steinbach, are now located here."

The Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature in Winnipeg also holds numerous ethnic collections. Steve Prystupa, Curator of History for the museum, offered some sound advice for people to follow when donating items. His general suggestions are probably applicable to most institutions across the country.

First, telephone or write to the museum indicating what you have. A curator will assess the item, even come to your home if the artifact is large. Should your possession turn out to be of interest to the museum, it will be accepted. The curator might direct you to another museum in the city where your artifact would be better displayed or utilized.

The museums in this province are separate entities, but belong to the Association of Manitoba Museums and are closely coordinated. The Museum of Man and Nature has an advisory service which assists community museums.



Franco-Manitoban heritage preserved at the St. Boniface Museum

Warren Clearwater

Steve Prystupa indicated that a collection becomes more valuable when comprehensive. One item does not say very much. A range of items such as immigration papers, photos, costumes and personal belongings give a more complete interpretation of a group. Regarding documents, the museum accepts photocopies when a family wishes to keep the originals.

Artifacts are often a way to get at history through archival material, since the kind of people you are dealing with are not always capable of preparing documented material for archives. For instance, much history of the general public was gleaned from letters written by soldiers during the two world wars. Correspondence between soldiers and family gave a glimpse of everyday life.

When I asked Steve Prystupa if people were becoming more aware of the value of artifacts, he answered, "Yes. They are generally prodded or influenced by seeing an exhibit, then saying, 'Hey, I have something better than that at home.'"

Also, when businesses move, accumulated possessions get sorted out, he said, or when people retire and move into an apartment, space is limited and heirlooms are either distributed among family members or donated to a museum.

Steve added, "It is very important to write up an accompanying history of the items, enabling our research specialists to document them for future historians."

It is interesting to note that after items are catalogued, they are incorporated into a computer system tied up with a central office: the National Museum in Ottawa. Most museums are plugged into this centre. This means researchers can get a print-out of information and a quick indication of what is available where.

Museum artifacts are often used for educational extension programmes, giving an intimate

kind of knowledge to children and adults. If items are not too fragile, they can sometimes be handled. The Discovery Train that travelled across Canada last fall was a comprehensive exhibit assembled from a variety of provincial collections.

Speaking with John Bovey, provincial archivist for Manitoba, I learned that archives want specific material: originals, pertinent to the province and relative to the history of Manitoba. They would accept such items as unpublished memoirs, original correspondence, diaries, photographs, maps, land titles, account books, wills and inventories of goods people brought when homesteading in the province.

Mr. Bovey reiterated his appeal, made at the genealogical seminar this fall, for volunteers to help correlate and catalogue collected material.

For too long, Canadians have lacked a genuine consciousness of the past. Professor W.L. Morton summarized our need in his essay for the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences: "What is needed is positive direction by national agencies in all fields of historical work, archives, libraries, publications, exhibition and commemoration."

This could be achieved by legislation, grants and national associations. Yet in all the conversations I had with persons involved in museums and archives, a common complaint was how much government cutbacks were hurting any forward movement in a positive direction.

Donating artifacts to a museum is one way you can make an imprint on posterity. Whether you are sharing extra material from personal research or cleaning out your attic, there are many museums and archives willing and ready to accept your offerings.

We must forever be indebted to the past, for it is the source of our very identity.

Pastimes of a Victorian Child

TIM WORTH

Curator

Dalnavert-Macdonald House Museum

Editor's Note: Dalnavert-Macdonald House, located at 61 Carlton Street in Winnipeg, is the restored Victorian home of Sir Hugh John Macdonald, former Premier of Manitoba and son of Sir John A. Macdonald.

One hundred years ago children played with toys which were very similar to the toys of today. Although some of the materials may differ, the ability of children to play and create their own world around their playthings and pastimes has remained the same through the years.

In a late Victorian home, as depicted by Dalnavert-Macdonald House Museum, there would have been at some time a nursery for the small children. There a nanny would take care of the youngsters—feeding, dressing and watching over them during the day. Until the children acquired some manners, especially those of an upper-class family, they might have been barred from socializing with the rest of the family except on special occasions. Even on those few occasions the nanny would be near at hand ready to take over should the child become mischievous or naughty.

Within the nursery would be a bed, perhaps built for two, a bureau for the children's clothes, and a rocking chair for the nanny to sit in while she read to the children as they went off to sleep. But more than anything else there would have been the children's toys, some for play and others for education.

Horses have long been a popular plaything—whether they be a hobbyhorse on a stick, a horse on wheels or a rocking horse such as the one in the Dalnavert nursery which was illustrated on the front cover of Harrod's catalogue of 1895. Many children had plain wooden horses but a fortunate few had horses which were covered with genuine horsehide and a leather saddle.



The children's room at Dalnavert reflecting the playthings and pastimes of a Victorian child.
Tim Worth

Blocks of wood provided hours of entertainment for a youngster; creating out of their imagination castles and buildings of Ancient Rome and Greece. Animals were popular subjects for toys of the Victorian period. Some appeared as animated toys which moved when a block of wood suspended beneath them was put into motion. Perhaps some of the most popular animal toys were part of Noah's Ark which had hundreds of hand-carved animal and human figures.



Tim Worth

Whenever a household included girls there were sure to be dolls. What Victorian young lady would not have loved to be able to play with china or wax-headed dolls—along with their accessories of a black leather-topped carriage, a brown sleigh and a doll's bed? At tea time the young ladies would have a make-believe tea party served at a small rosewood settee, table, chair and rocker with the blue enamel tea set and nursery rhyme china plates. In families who could afford them, the daughter might have spent hours playing with her doll house. Many of these doll houses exhibited the perfection of the child's own home with fine wood paneling and papered walls and furnishings to match.

"Beautiful fittings could be seen inside the doll's house and drawing rooms full of knick-knacks which needed dusting with minute feather mops. Small china or bisque dolls performed various duties, nurses with tin baths, maids with master's shaving water in copper or tin cans, and the cooks would be in the kitchen with the tweeny-maids."

(White, p. 199)

Many toys of the 1890's were more instructive than the toys of today. Every home would have had a slate on which to learn to print and do figures, and an abacus on which to count. Of course, there would have been books of nursery rhymes and animals. Often the books were made almost indestructible by printing them on linen. The more interesting books incorporated a picture with elaborate movements, achieved by thin pull tabs at the side of the picture. There were also scrap books into which things could be pasted—a pastime especially favoured for rainy days when outside excursions were not allowed.

As the children grew older they received their own bedrooms such as the one received by John Alexander Macdonald, Hugh John's son. From



Tim Worth

the nursery would be transferred all his private possessions, clothes and playthings, thereby opening a new world around which he could develop.

In his own bedroom would be found the more mature interests of a growing boy. On the bed there might be a pair of Indian clubs—for exercise and to build co-ordination, or a game board and pieces.

"Many games were educational or moral, even the early Snakes and Ladders had a moral significance. The little pictures depicted good and bad deeds. A child who carried a load for an old woman would go up the ladder, but one who was greedy and over-ate would go down the body of a snake, virtue being rewarded and vice punished."

(White, p. 119)

On a desk to the side of the room would be books illustrating a growing desire for the printed word and the tales they had to tell—*Knights of the White Cross*, *Follow the Flag* and perhaps *Pilgrim's Progress*.

Every young lad had his collection of marbles, some made of procelain, others of marble, and a few of glass. There also might have been the beginnings of a butterfly collection, a set of dominoes, or even a broken toy being prepared for mending. Only the fortunate might have a magic lantern and glass slides for showing cartoon pictures on the wall.

But everyone grows up eventually and is forced to put away their playthings to be replaced by more mature pastimes. So it was for a Victorian child and so it is today. Before long the toys of today's generation will bring back fond memories of playthings and pastimes of another time—so long ago.

Another Peter the Great?

HUGH FOX

Curator

Fort Dauphin Museum

Ask a young school child who Peter Fidler was and you will get a blank look and a negative answer. Repeat the same question of a student slightly older and you might get the answer "I think he worked in Hollywood". Most adults will answer the same question in one of the above ways.

It is a shame that all can tell who Buffalo Bill, Davy Crockett or General Custer were—yet a man who contributed so much to the surveying and mapping of the area that is now divided into Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia remains in historical darkness.

I think that it is time that more of our historical figures, who did so much in opening up the West, were thoroughly studied in the history classes of our schools.

Peter Fidler led a very colourful and strenuous life as he explored the rivers and plains of Western Canada 150 years ago.

He was born in Bolsover, England in 1769 and was brought to York Factory by the Hudson's Bay Company as a labourer at the age of 18. After two years it was noticed that he had a higher education than the average employee. He was, therefore, taken under the wing of the Hudson's Bay Company surveyor to serve as one of two assistants—the other being David Thompson.

On completion of his training, he was sent to Isle a la Crosse where he wintered with the Chipewyan Indians and learned their language. In the spring of 1791 he journeyed to Lake Athabaska and mapped out the route on the way.

It is interesting to note that on this trip his journal contains notes on the Athabaska tar sands. He mapped out the Slave River then returned to winter, with the Chipewyan Indians, at Lake Athabaska. He returned to York Factory in the spring and completed mapping, for the first time, the 1600 mile route from York Factory to Athabaska and Great Slave Lakes.

Soon after his return he was sent to map out the North Saskatchewan River and establish a trading post. In company with another employee, he spent the winter of 1792-93 travelling with the Piegan Indians and surveying the Battle, Red Deer, and Bow Rivers and outlining the Rocky Mountains on a map. During this trip he made mention of seeing coal near where Drumheller is now situated. He took time in his daily jottings in his journal to mention Indian customs as well as the terrain he travelled through. He also made note of several passes in the Rocky Mountains which he heard about from the Kootenay and Snake Indians.

He returned to York Factory in 1793 and explored and mapped out the Seal River. During the next two years at York Factory he married a Cree Indian and started his family.

In 1795 he was sent to various posts including Swan River, Carlton House, Cumberland House and Buckingham House.

With the defection of David Thompson to the North West Company in 1797, Fidler became the only Hudson's Bay Company mapmaker until the amalgamation of the two companies in 1821.

The Hudson's Bay Company in 1799 decided to establish trading posts in what is now Northwest Saskatchewan and Peter Fidler was sent to organize the campaign against the North West Company. While there he located and mapped a second and shorter route to Athabaska via the Churchill River. He established and took charge of several posts including Bolsover House, Greenwich House and Chesterfield House.

All companies abandoned their Posts in 1802 due to wars amongst the Indian tribes and Fidler returned to York Factory.

His maps were sent to England and he received praise for his work from the Hudson's Bay Company, The Royal Society and the Admiralty. From his maps the drainage system of the Missouri

River was established and this information was instrumental in the Lewis and Clarke Expedition using the Missouri pathway in America.

Fidler was again sent into the Athabaska area to establish posts as rivals of the North West Company. He built Nottingham House and Mansfield House and spent several miserable years due to severe harassment by the North West Company. Finally in 1806 the Hudson's Bay Company posts were abandoned and the area left to the opposition. Fidler took charge of Cumberland House and from there mapped the Wallaston Lake area then moved east to map Lake Winnipeg and the Nelson River outlet.

Peter Fidler returned to England in 1811 for a year's holiday and on his return to York Factory he was sent to the Red River Colony, surveying lots and supervising the building of houses. Due to continued harassment by the North West Company, the Colony was abandoned in 1815. Fidler accompanied the colonists north to Norway House where he was put in charge of another group returning to Red River. He left the settlers at Red River and again journeyed to Brandon House to lay up supplies for the Colony. Brandon House was destroyed by a Metis uprising in 1816 and he returned to Red River where he again surveyed lots along the river.

Peter Fidler was also a meteorologist. During his long journeys back and forth across the country he had been an ardent observer and recorder of the weather. He kept records faithfully, day after day, for over 30 years. His thermometer, wind vane and barometer were read many times a day and nothing was allowed to interfere including an attack by Indians on York Factory in June 1794 when six met their deaths.

He also recorded bird migrations, the annual break up of the ice, and vegetation conditions. It is also interesting to note that he recorded at what temperature the different liquors at York Factory froze. The reports that this early weatherman kept are much more colourful and descriptive than those used today to tell us about the weather. He describes the winter of 1797 as the most back-

ward spring and coldest winter ever known by any person in these parts.

On several occasions in his journals he makes mention of his garden and its progress, thus making him one of this country's first white horticulturists. Truly a remarkable man.

Peter Fidler was appointed District Master at Fort Dauphin on Lake Dauphin in 1819 and retired there in 1822. He died at Fort Dauphin, where he lies in an unmarked grave, on the 17th of December 1822.

His Will was a source of wonderment in that the interest from his investments were divided amongst his children until such time as the youngest, who was only one at the time of his death, reached the age of 21.

His capital was held in abeyance until the 200th anniversary of his birthday and at such time was allotted to a male child descended from his son Peter. His journals and maps were left to the Hudson's Bay Company and his extensive library went to the Red River Colony.

Peter Fidler's death at 53 ended a long and faithful service to the Hudson's Bay Company and the accumulation of valuable geographic information to the eventual benefit of all Canadians.

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Miniota Municipal Museum

P. GLEN CAMERON
Chairman
Miniota Municipal Museum

In 1978, the Miniota Municipal Museum continued to grow with more displays, more visitors, and new ideas and layouts.

Although we did not have a Canada Works Programme grant helping us throughout 1978 as we had in 1977, we still managed to continue expansion within our museum. Articles have continued to come in and have been assembled into displays—both downstairs and in our home of yes-

teryear which occupies the upper levels of our museum. With the new exhibits came an increased workload of filing and cataloguing items.

Throughout 1978 approximately 550 individuals signed our guest book. This year we utilized our front porch as a tourist information booth, with maps and pamphlets supplied by the provincial Department of Tourism and Recreation.

In addition to working in the museum, some



One of the refurbished period rooms located on the upper level of the Miniota Municipal Museum

Warren Clearwater

members of the committee, accompanied by visitors from Winnipeg, took a field trip to discuss and view some of our local historic sites. These sites, many of which have gone unnoticed, include ferry landings on the Assiniboine, the grave of a ferry Captain's nephew, and teepee rings.

Attendance

During 1978 approximately 550 visitors signed our guest book. Approximately 125 of these came in special school class tours, as well as in groups such as the delegates from the Regional Municipal Councillors' meeting held in Miniota in May. Our general admission remains at 50¢ for adults, 25¢ for students, and groups at 15¢ for each person.

Throughout 1978 our museum committee looked after the reprint publication of the 1920 satirical cartoons *The Doo Dads* by Arch Dale which continues to prove extremely rewarding from both a financial and general interest point of view.

Building and Landscaping

There were no major renovations to our building throughout 1978. We did, however, continue with our wiring project providing more electrical outlets on the second story. Our flower beds, trees and lawn added to the general appearance of the exterior of our museum.

Collections

In our museum during 1978 we received approximately 75 separate articles with many more now being offered. Articles included pieces of

furniture, clothing, pioneer artifacts and archival material—the most notable of which is a paper appointing a constable for the village in the early 1900's. Various photographs of our community of yesteryear have been donated and the identification of some individuals is a constant topic of conversation amongst our guests.

Future Plans

We have many plans for the development of our museum and tourist booth. The cataloguing of items, setting up of displays, and general house-keeping will occupy a good deal of time. We also hope to further develop our downstairs back vault area into a teepee setting with mannequins utilizing Indian tools. On the second floor we hope to have mannequins dressed in appropriate attire to bring a more realistic look to our pioneer home.

Throughout 1979 we hope that some of our members may be able to attend some of the seminars and meetings regarding museum practices. We also hope to visit other museums to study different aspects of running a museum.

Another project we may consider undertaking is the upkeep, marking and preservation of historic sites in our community such as ferry landings, teepee rings, etc. A great deal of visual history lies on our doorstep going unnoticed; therefore formulation of a local tourist map should be considered to help bring to life the early settlement of our community.

In conclusion, we hope that 1979 will be as rewarding and interesting as the past years. We would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to visit our museum and tourist booth in Miniota.

Dalnavert Girl

Introduction

When a class of students pay a visit to your museum, do you wonder what it is that they see and will remember later? It is possible to register their reaction by having the teacher assign the students a project to convey their impressions in words or pictorially. Quite often the results will be startling and to a certain extent amusing; especially those from a younger age level. At the same time, the results may reveal areas of your programme which require improvement in order to complement the school curriculum.

The following narrative is an example of one of these post-tour projects, in which the students were asked to come up with an explanation of "*A Day in the Life*" of one of the Macdonald family members. Some of the facts may have become twisted around, however, it is interesting to see how a young girl of 1978 perceived "a day in the life" of a girl of the 1890's; as it might have involved the style of living depicted by Dalnavert—Macdonald House Museum.

Unfortunately the author, who wrote this charming narrative in May 1978, is unknown.

Tim Worth
Curator
Dalnavert

Ding dong. The door opened and Daisy nearly blew in. Her veil was frosted and her muff was full of snow.

"Why Daisy, you're nearly frozen!" Bub, (their maid) said worriedly.

Bub closed the door just as a whirl of snow hit the front porch.

Daisy gasped for air and sunk into a chair.

Bub peeled away the veil and shook the snow from the muff.

Daisy look at Bub's worried face and laughed.

"I'll be all right now."

"Sure?"

"Positive."

Bub smiled and bustled off to the study to continue her dusting.

Daisy got up and took off her coat. When she removed her hat half of her chestnut brown hair came tumbling down to her waist.

"Drat. It came out again," Daisy groaned.

She spent half an hour twisting, pinning, braiding and arranging her hair using the front entrance mirror.

The doorbell rang again and Daisy said, "Don't bother Bub. I'll get it this time."

Daisy opened the door. The snow had stopped blowing but it was still COLD!!!

Daisy stepped back. There in the door was the biggest gossip of the town. Cylvia Brubaker.

She was wearing her best hat and coat. It was a royal purple, velvet hat with a huge white feather arching over the brim with plastic spring flowers. Her coat was purple velvet with buttons matching the flowers.

She was smiling slyly as she walked in.

"My servant was here an hour ago. She told me you weren't here. I wish it was true. Hey, what's this? You answered the door. You can't afford a maid anymore?" she laughed haughtily.

"Here take my coat," she said as she shoved it in Daisy's arm.

Daisy dropped it on the floor and said, "I wasn't here an hour ago, and we can afford a maid and I wish you weren't here!" she snapped angrily as she stepped on Cylvia's coat.

"Why did you come here?" Daisy demanded.

"I was just going to tell you. Roger and Janice Tomkin had a baby and you're invited to her shower. It's on Tuesday at 7:00 at Kate's. Good-bye." With that she stuck her nose in the air and hit Daisy in the face with her plume.

"Aren't you taking your coat?" Daisy asked teasingly.

"Umph" was the reply as she grabbed her coat and stomped out.

"Hilda! Make me some coffee." Daisy commanded still fired up.

"Coming up." Hilda shouted back. Hilda was the best cook in Winnipeg. Everyone knew that. Even Cylvia.

Daisy glared into the mirror and then, suddenly, she burst out laughing.

"Hold the sugar, Hilda."

"Why, of course. I always do!" Hilda exclaimed surprised.

"I love Dalnavert!" Daisy yelled forgetting she was a lady, as she skipped up the stairs and glided down the banister.

"Elizabeth Macdonald!" Lady Macdonald said firmly.

"I'm sorry mother."

"I hope so. That's no way for a sixteen year old girl to act."

"I really am sorry."

"Well, all right."

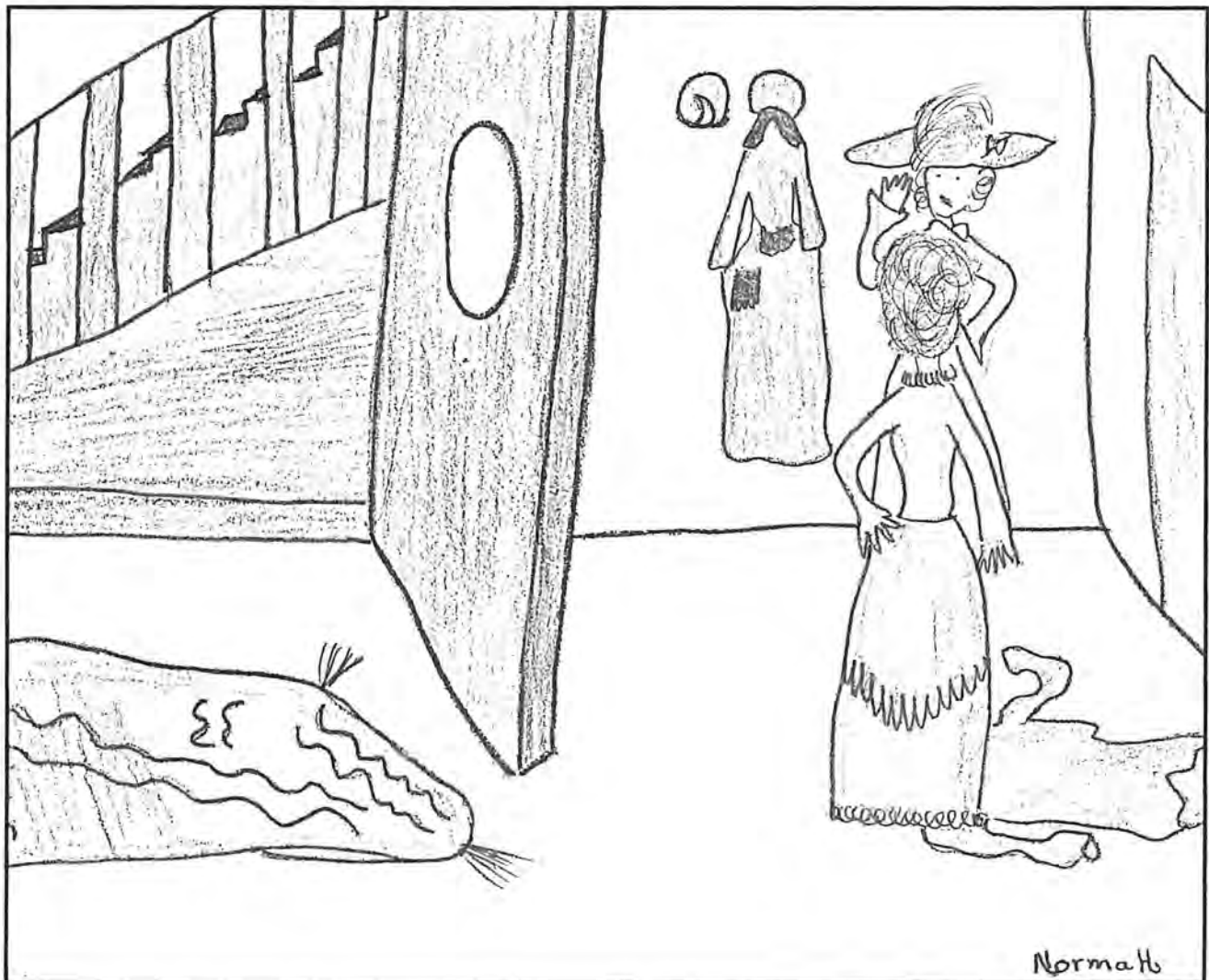
"Coffee's ready." Hilda stated.

"Coming Hilda." Daisy replied.

Hilda served Daisy in the dining room where tea was set out.

"Daisy," Lady Macdonald sounded serious.

"Yes mother."



"Aunt Agnes wants you to come to France. Would you like to go?"

"Why mother, of course. I'd love it. Oh mother!" Daisy shouted gleefully.

"I thought so. I'll get the train and boat tickets for you after tea. You leave in two weeks."

"Oh...mother. I'm so happy!", Daisy exclaimed again as she sipped her coffee.

"Goodness child. What's all this racket?" Bub said questionly, as her head popped around the corner of the door.

"Oh, Bub. I'm going to France. I'm really truly going to France!"

Daisy jumped up and ran to hug Bub and her mother, and she even got her brother in the hall.

That night she stayed awake and thought awhile. Her last thought before she dozed off was, "Won't Cylvia be jealous!"

The two weeks passed quickly. She went to the shower on Tuesday and packed every other day.

Finally the day came. She rode to the train station in the coach. There was no more snow but it was still cold.

The two months in France passed quickly and when she returned to Winnipeg it was the middle of May.

After a week at home her brother died. Daisy

was so upset she didn't go out of the house for a month and she didn't pass his room for two months.

She was seventeen and dating. A year later Daisy got married. It was a beautiful wedding and Daisy looked lovely.

Four years later the Macdonalds moved away and Dalnavert became a boarding house.

Daisy was heartbroken.

One day the doorbell rang and just like before the maid was in the study and Daisy said she would answer the door. This visitor turned out to be more pleasant though. For in the doorway stood a fat, gray-haired woman who looked vaguely familiar.

"Oh...My Bub. Oh Bub." Daisy repeated over and over.

"Goodness, my child. What's all the racket?"

"Oh, Bub. You know it's the cook."

Bub looked into Daisy's eyes.

"Yes, you are my Dalnavert girl. No mistake. You are."

And they wandered into the dining room talking and laughing about old times with Bub repeating, "My Dalnavert Girl!"

And Daisy repeated, "Oh Bub, they left me, reading the paper, alone."

Spring Regional Seminars

WARREN CLEARWATER

Museums Advisory Service

Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature

In spite of, or because of, Mother Nature's inclement weather this spring, Manitoba had one of its most successful series of Spring Regional Seminars. Of the five regions in the province in which the community museums are divided, four regions hosted mini-seminars this year.

Throughout the winter months the regional councillors sent letters to each museum in their area requesting ideas for workshops. Volunteer communities were also sought to accept the responsibility of hosting the one-day seminars. The host museum was responsible for arranging an area large enough to seat approximately three dozen participants, make arrangements for at least one catered meal, and have a continuous supply of coffee available. Any profits made on the registration fees by those attending went to the host museum.

The first seminar was held in the Manitoba North Region and was hosted by the Eddystone Museum. It took place in the West Lake Hall on Saturday, April 28. Despite continuous rain and a number of washed out roads in the area, attendance was pleasing indeed. Total attendance was 32, representing seven community museums. Participants were welcomed by Hugh Fox, regional councillor, J. Johnson of the Eddystone Museum, and Tim Worth, president of the Association of Manitoba Museums.

The first workshop entitled *Volunteers in Museums* was given by Museums Advisor, David McInnes. Following coffee, doughnuts, vina terta and panakoker, a two-hour workshop on the *Uses of Photography in Community Museums* was given. This workshop was split between Barry Hillman, Museum Technician from the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature and myself. Topics discussed included photocopying, photo preservation, dry-mounting, photo and negative catalogu-



David McInnes conducting a seminar on voluntarism

W. Clearwater

ing, local history and photography and uses of photos in community museum displays. This workshop was followed by a smorgasbord of local fish products which was catered by the West Lake Ladies Auxiliary. Dishes included were mullet fillets, fish balls, smoked carp, carp perogies, and mullet casserole, to name but a few.

Following the dinner, participants toured the vast collection of antique automobiles, furniture, and rare Icelandic pioneer artifacts found in the Eddystone Museum.

Adjournment was followed by Mother Nature dumping at least six to eight inches of heavy snow on the entire area the same evening.

The second regional seminar was held in Winnipeg on May 6, 7 and 8 and differed in format to most regional seminars. It was held in conjunc-

tion with the Interpretation Canada Annual Meeting and all community museums in the Winnipeg area were urged to attend. The 18 museum personnel representing 12 community museums soon discovered they had many problems in common with the approximately 80 representatives from Parks Canada, the Provincial Parks Branch, etc.

Lectures and workshops, all which took place in the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature classrooms, included: *The Need for Interpretation, Methods of Interpretation, Storytelling, Special Needs of Handicapped Audiences, Small Exhibits/Advertising, Handicrafts in Manitoba, and Operating Programs with a Limited Staff and Budget.* A scheduled field trip to Oak Hammock Marsh was cancelled due to flooding, but the participants enjoyed an informative tour of Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park.

Miami, Manitoba was the host community for the third regional seminar—that of the Manitoba Central Region. The seminar was held on May 10 in the Oddfellows Hall. Henry Marshall, regional councillor and David McInnes, councillor-at-large for the AMM, made the opening remarks.

Detailed instruction in the techniques of proper conservation and preservation were given in the first workshop by Maurice Mann, Conservation Technician at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. It was followed by a question and answer session chaired by Maurice Mann and members of the Museums Advisory Service. The afternoon sessions saw David McInnes demonstrating methods used in displaying clothing in

museums stressing the use of home-made mannequins, and a workshop conducted by myself on photocopying, preservation and display techniques. Participants had a choice of visiting two museums in Miami—the Miami Museum, as well as the Mid-western Rail Museum. Many favourable comments and exchanges of ideas and information were heard in both museums.

Not so favourable comments were heard during adjournment when large, wet snowflakes began to fall and continued to accompany us on our return trip to Winnipeg.

The last of the four Spring Regional Seminars took place in the Manitoba West Region on Thursday, May 17. It was hosted by the town of Melita and was held in the Antler River Historical Museum. Final registration showed a total attendance of 44 people representing 12 community museums. Following registration, greetings and opening remarks were given by the Mayor of Melita and Mrs. Ruth Stewart, regional councillor for the Manitoba West area.

The first workshop of the morning was an informative talk, combined with a tour of the museum, by Ken Williams, curator of the Antler River Historical Museum. Ken stressed the various types, ages and methods used to display native artifacts in the museum. A hot lunch was served by the United Church Ladies, and coffee and cookies were supplied throughout the day by members of the Antler River Historical Museum Society. Following lunch, a workshop on *Making Museum Labels* was given by David McInnes.



Over 135 participants, representing 43 community museums, attended the 1979 spring seminars

Warren Clearwater

Costume display and simple mannequin making, stressing the use of common scrap materials, was demonstrated by myself.

The day was brought to an end with an informative and entertaining lecture and slide presentation by John Hopcraft of Brandon. Mr. Hopcraft was instrumental in establishing the Burundi National Park in Kenya and had excellent slides showing some of the local flora and fauna of the area. He is presently working with the Calumet Nature Foundation, a non-profit organization working in the Oak Lake and Plum Marsh area of southwestern Manitoba. The Foundation hopes to conduct educational programs, study waterfowl and wildlife, investigate hay production and agriculture, as well as promote tourism in the largely undisturbed area by creating an "outdoor museum". The entire area has been described as "one of the finest prairie wetlands existing in Canada".

Adjournment followed the lecture as well as a continuous downpour for most of the return trip to Winnipeg.

Attendance statistics for this year show a marked increase in total attendance over previous years. This year, a total of 137 people representing 43 community museums attended the four mini-seminars. This would seem to indicate a definite need for one-day seminars in conjunction

with the individual museum workshops and those put on during the Annual Fall Seminar. Participants benefit not only from the lectures and demonstrations, but also from the contact with other museum personnel with problems similar to their own. It is the indirect benefits gained by participants that make measuring the success of regional seminars difficult.

The Museums Advisory Service would like your opinion. Are you satisfied with the present format of the regional seminars—that being two or three various workshops in one day plus time for an exchange of questions and ideas? Would you prefer a one-day, detailed workshop on one topic such as cataloguing or labelling with greater audience participation? Or would you prefer one half-day workshop and one or two shorter workshop such as cataloguing or labelling with greater audience participation? Or would you prefer one half-day workshop and one or two shorter workshops?

If you have any preferences, please let your regional councillor know or drop a line to the Museums Advisory Service, 190 Rupert Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B ON2.

It is through your interest and support that the Association of Manitoba Museums will continue to maintain and improve its present level of assistance to Manitoba's community museums.



"MUST BE ONE OF THOSE SMALL MUSEUMS, THAT WE HAVE BEEN HEARING SO MUCH ABOUT !"

Museum Memos

DAVID McINNES

Extension Services Supervisor
Museum of Natural History—Regina

How do you store delicate paper valentines safely and display rocks and minerals attractively?

I recently came upon the following methods which I thought might be of interest to the readers of *Dawson and Hind*.

Photograph or Paper Document Storage Folder

At the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, a collection of rare valentines, some dating back to 1862, will be stored in special folders to protect them from further damage.

The Conservation Department at the museum made these folders from a heavy paper which is called Museum Board, available from Fraser Art Supplies in Winnipeg at a cost of \$2.85 per sheet.

Two folders were made from each sheet. They were designed not only to hold both the valentine and its envelope, but also to fit a legal-size file drawer. All four sides of the storage envelope have folds to prevent the contents from sliding out when the folder is opened.



Paper document storage folder

D. McInnes

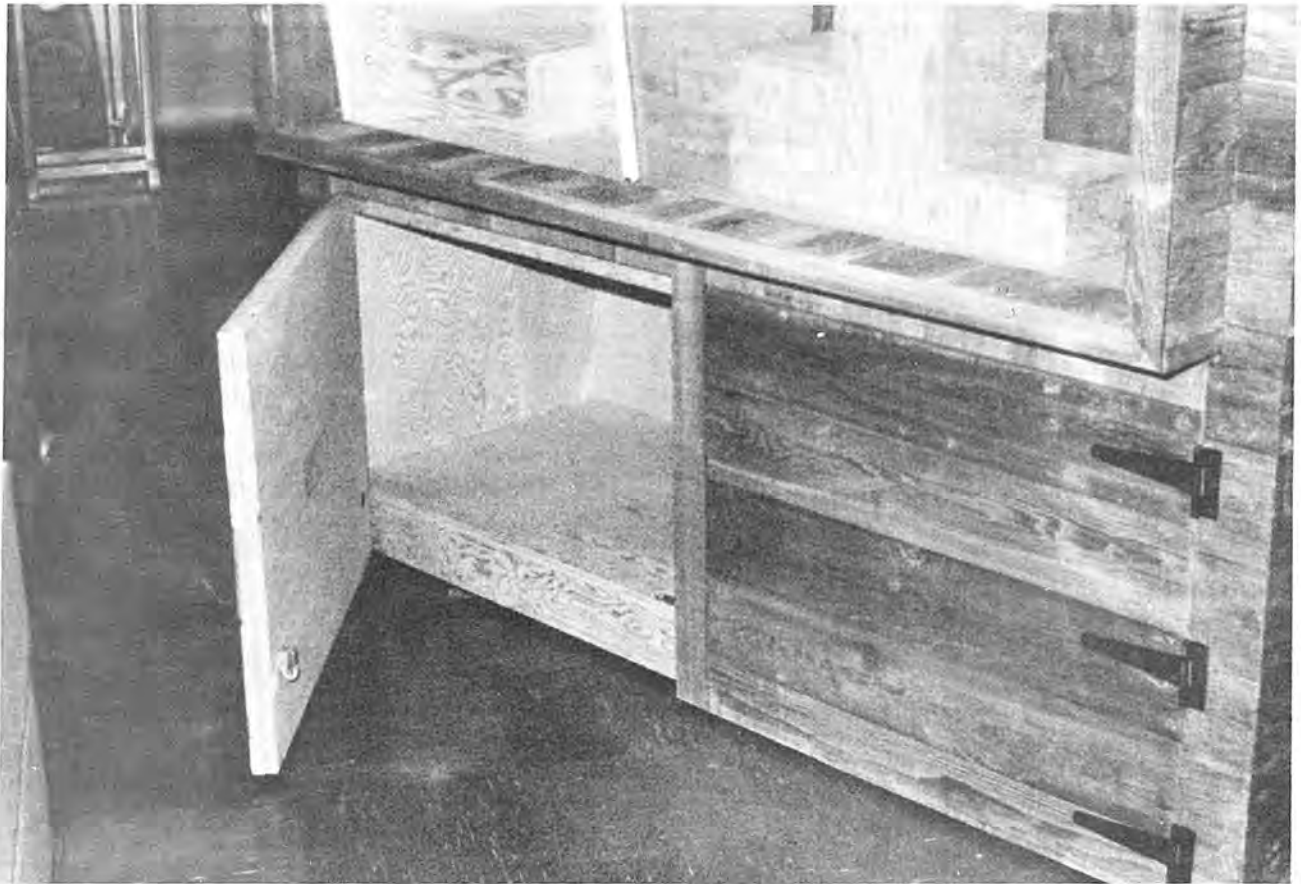
Of special importance is the fact that Museum Board is acid-free. If there is too much acidity in the storage paper, it will eventually make the valentines too brittle to handle.

If your museum is concerned about the amount of acid in the folders and envelopes you use for photographs or paper documents, please contact either the Conservation Department or



Rock and mineral display case

D. McInnes



The base of the rock and mineral display case makes an excellent storage area

D. McInnes

the Museums Advisory Service at the Museum of Man and Nature, 190 Rupert Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B ON2.

Rock and Mineral Display Case

Dianne Perrier, Director of the Leaf Rapids National Exhibition Centre, had this display case built to house a collection of rocks and minerals provided by the local mining company.

The case is built of three-quarter inch plywood covered with rough-sawn cedar boards to match the decor of the centre itself. It features sliding plexiglas doors which have been sloped to reduce reflections, a storage area beneath the display, and casters underneath to make the heavy case easier to move.

Shown here in its last stages of completion, the case is modelled on one found in Arminta Neal's *Help! For the Small Museum*. This publication is full of useful ideas for museums, and is available from the Canadian Museums Association for \$9.95 (\$8.00 for members).

Editor's Note:

We would like to publish this column in every edition of *Dawson and Hind*. It provides a perfect opportunity for museums across the province to exchange ideas. Please send photos and a description of your idea to: The Editor, Dawson and Hind, 190 Rupert Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Ex Libris

MAURICE MANN

Conservation Technician
Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature

MUSEUM AND ARCHIVAL SUPPLIES HANDBOOK, edited by Nancy Wilson, published by The Ontario Museums Association and The Toronto Archivists Group, 1978, 126 p., \$3.

It was inevitable! A seemingly thorough guide to everything an individual could want and "how to do it" guide all in one handbook. Too bad it will be outdated relatively quickly. A looseleaf-type catalogue system might have proven less costly in the long run.

In the right hands, there is a fund of hints as to where the supplies are available. At least one local source said they were going out of business and they are still included. Perhaps the fact that their home address is substituted for their business one will allow some contact. This individual may feel some sympathy for others finding it difficult to acquire certain items and may find it almost profitable to continue a small-scale outlet.

Heresay or not, several sources claim one product "Endust" must not be used in association with museum furniture. It is listed here. The claim passed on to me declares that it prevents proper refinishing techniques from being applied.

On the whole, the volumes of information accumulated here took ages to compile. It looks good, but watch out for "wonder cures". It is still wiser to have a basically stable environment for most of your collection than pursuing expensive treatments which are questionable after completion.

Final conclusion—a best seller for the layman or professional to review the current market without leaving an evening's comfort in your best armchair. You will require a hardy coffee pot and at

least two or three sharp pencils to note all the wonderful ideas you will wish to remember to follow up.

MUSEUM AND ARCHIVAL SUPPLIES

A "Where-to-get-it" source book for hundreds of specialized materials required in the care and maintenance of archival holdings and museum collections. The Handbook includes supply listings for:

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Developed for Ontario institutions, the Handbook gives over 300 provincial, national and international supply sources. Listings include product information, sample prices, and many sources of further information on products and suppliers.

\$2.50 OMA or TAAG members

\$3.00 Non-members

Send pre-paid orders to:

Ontario Museum Association

38 Charles Street East, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1T1

Published by the Ontario Museum Association and the Toronto Area Archivists Group,

under a project funded by the National Museums of Canada.

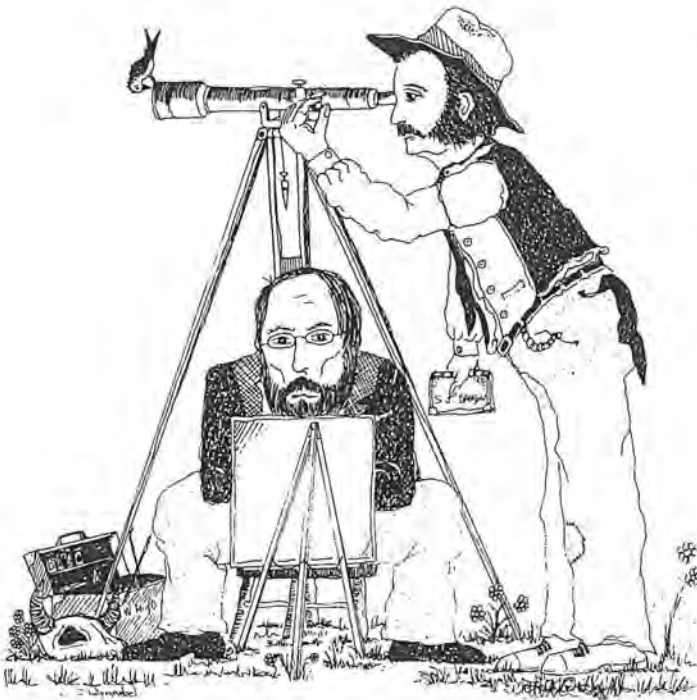
Notes to Contributors

We invite you to submit articles for publication in the **Dawson and Hind**. We would appreciate if you would bear in mind the following guidelines:

1. We would prefer all articles to be **typewritten** and **double-spaced**. We realize this is not always possible; and under such circumstances we will accept handwritten articles only if they are legible and double-spaced.
2. As a rule of thumb, articles should be a **minimum** of four double-spaced pages; or a **maximum** of 20 double-spaced pages.
3. If possible and appropriate, we welcome photographs to complement articles. Black and white photographs are the most suitable for reproducing although colour photos can be used.
4. Please **do not cut or crop** photographs.
5. All photographs must be identified.
6. Photographs will not be returned unless requested, in writing, by the contributor.
7. Should an article include a bibliography, please list author, title, publisher, location and date of publication (as well as name of journal, if applicable).

Please address all articles and correspondence to:

The Editor
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