

# Time Lines

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 41 No. 2  
January / February 2009



## 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner

6:00 pm  
Saturday, 17 January 2009  
Provencher Room,  
Fort Garry Hotel

*Tickets: \$90 (members),  
\$100 (non-members)*

### Our Special Guest Speaker

Mr. Alan Latourelle  
Head of Parks Canada

### Master of Ceremony

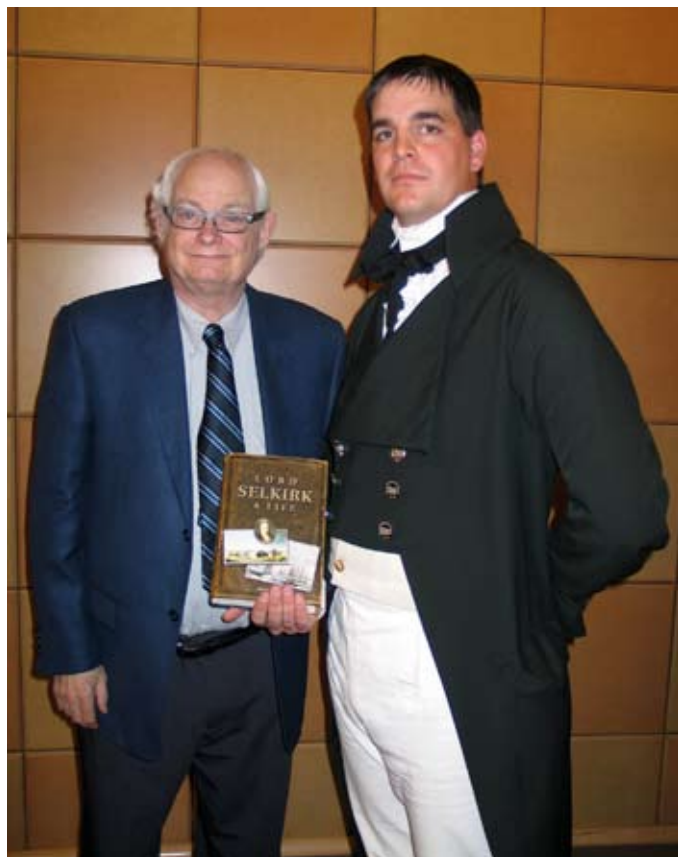
Jim Ingebrigtsen

### *To Order Your Dinner Tickets*

Complete the order form on the back of this page and mail to the MHS office.

OR send e-mail to [info@mhs.mb.ca](mailto:info@mhs.mb.ca) with your ticket order. We will contact you to complete the financial details.

OR call the MHS office at 204-947-0559 and speak to Jacqueline Friesen. (If no answer, please leave a message and we will call back.) Please call before 15 January 2009.



G. Goldsborough

**Lord Selkirk lives!** A special guest attended the launch of Jack Bumsted's latest book at the Dalnavert Visitors Centre in November. Christopher J. Black, a member of the Manitoba Living History Society, was deemed by Jack a "dead ringer" for the subject of his book, a biography of Selkirk. Chris is preparing for his role in the 2012 bicentennial of the arrival of Selkirk settlers.

## After the Dinner ...

After the Macdonald Dinner, why drive home in the cold when you can relax in the splendor of the magnificent Fort Garry Hotel?

We have arranged a special overnight package including a sumptuous room and the hotel's Sunday brunch for two people. The rate for this package is \$149 plus taxes or substitute

a hot breakfast (no brunch) for \$129. But take our advice and go for the brunch—it's great!

Call the Fort Garry Hotel (204-942-8251) to reserve your package. Please be sure to state the group code **"1062V3 Manitoba Historical Society Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner"** when calling.

## President's Column



MHS President  
Dr. Harry Duckworth

For a few days last October, the Winnipeg media were agog with the news that Bob Dylan, in town for a concert, had paid a visit to the Crescentwood house where one of Winnipeg's most celebrated pop idols, Neil Young, spent his teenage years. The house is not marked in any way, and the present owners are probably of two minds

about whether they want it better known or not, but Dylan and his manager found their way there, and were cordially received. The episode prompted a column by the *Free Press's* Gordon Sinclair, on 14 October, in which he lamented the failure of Winnipeg to draw attention to the former homes of its native daughters and sons, potentially valuable as points of interest for tourists. He even gave us a starting list – the boyhood homes of Young, Burton Cummings, Randy Bachman and Marshall McLuhan; Nellie McClung's last Winnipeg address before she moved to Alberta; and the house of Lemoine Fitzgerald.

Plaque programs that draw attention to the famous people who have lived at particular addresses can

indeed attract tourists, and they also put the residents of a community in mind of their history. The information on the plaques need not be complex or controversial. The "blue plaques" program, operated by English Heritage in London for over 140 years, and recently extended to some other cities, is a model of simplicity: "Michael Faraday, Man of Science, apprenticed here"; "Guglielmo Marconi, pioneer of wireless communication, lived here, 1896–1897"; "In a house on this site, Florence Nightingale, 1820–1910, lived and died"; "Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein* lived here, 1846–1851"; and so on.

At the last MHS Council meeting, we had some preliminary discussion of the idea of establishing a plaques program in Manitoba, and identified some members for a possible implementation Committee. No details have been worked out yet, not even how the Society's existing committees might be involved. Some communities in the province are already well ahead of us—there's a practical, thriving program at Portage La Prairie, for instance—and we'll be able to learn from them. There are many questions to answer—choosing the places and verifying their importance, designing a suitable style of marker, persuading the owners of properties to allow the markers to be erected, how they will be maintained, and of course paying for it all. One thing that is already clear, however, is that this is a good idea, and that our Society is the natural organization to make it happen. You may look forward to details in the next few months, and as always, expressions of interest and offers of help are welcome.



The 44th Annual

## Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner Tickets

Name of person ordering ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name to whom receipt should be issued \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email \_\_\_\_\_

No. tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Each: \$90 members, \$100 non-members)

Special requirements (check as appropriate)

☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail to:

MHS Administration Office  
61 Carlton Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 1N7

Please make cheques payable to "Manitoba Historical Society" or pay by:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

These words are being written in the week before Christmas, but you will not see them until January. I hope that everyone's holidays were splendid, and that you've emerged with an optimistic outlook for 2009. High on your list of priorities, I trust, is the Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner on 17 January. I hope to see you there.

Harry Duckworth

### MHS Annual Multicultural Dinner

Enjoy Polish Food and Entertainment at the MHS Annual Multicultural Dinner.

The dinner will be held on Tuesday, 24 March 2009 at the Polish Combatants' Association—also known as Club 13—at 1364 Main Street, between Cathedral and Bannerman.

Parking is available in the parking lot of St. John's Presbyterian Church on Bannerman (west side of Main Street). Transit buses run along Main St. in front of the hall.

Doors open by 5:00 p.m. with cocktail hour at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy traditional Polish dishes and desserts, as well as Polish beer, domestic beer and wine. After dinner, there will be a speaker and a performance by the Iskry Dancers.

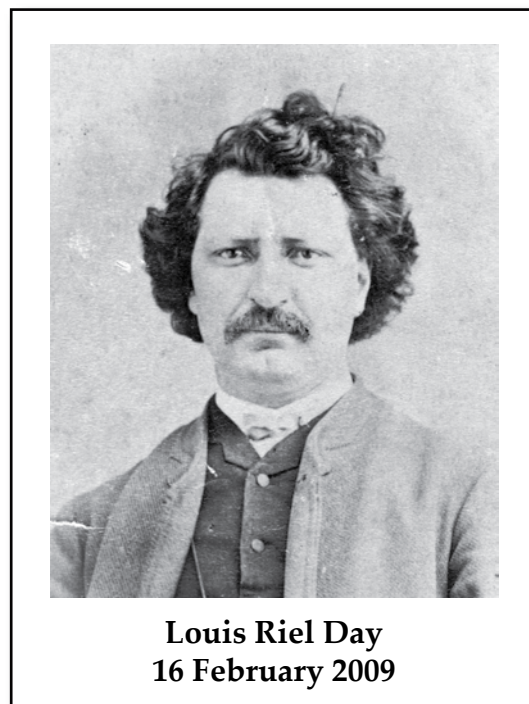
The cost per person is \$18.50.

Make your reservation by calling the Manitoba Historical Society office at 204-947-0559 by 19 March. Visa and MasterCard are accepted. Tickets are not available at the door.



W. Fraser

The Polish Combatants' Association at 1364 Main Street, site of the 2009 MHS Multicultural Dinner.



**Louis Riel Day  
16 February 2009**

### February 16 – A Special Day

The third Monday of February, 16 February, is Heritage Day across Canada. It is also Louis Riel Day in Manitoba.

Manitobans commemorate Louis Riel's essential role in the creation of our province in 1870.

The Heritage Canada Foundation has announced its theme for Heritage Day 2009: *Heritage and the Environment: Saving Places Built to Last*.

A number of useful resources are now available online to assist communities to develop a program around this theme—whether it is to celebrate the inherently green credentials of historic buildings, highlight how they have been upgraded to more environmentally friendly standards, or to offer information on how to “green” heritage buildings. Visit the HCF website to access these heritage resources.

[www.heritagecanada.org](http://www.heritagecanada.org)

HCF will continue to celebrate the Heritage 2009 theme when it hosts an annual conference *The Heritage Imperative: Old Buildings in an Age of Environmental Crisis* in Toronto this coming September.

For further information contact Carolyn Quinn, HCF Director of Communications via email to [cquinn@heritagecanada.org](mailto:cquinn@heritagecanada.org), or by telephone to 613-237-1066 ext. 229.



**Donations & Contributions****Thank You!****MHS General Operations**

Paula Achtemichuk	Jane Maksymiuk
Doug Belcher	Rosemary & David
Arthur Blankstein	Malaher
Dennis Butcher	Janet Stevenson
Harry & Mary Lynn	Robert & Evelyn
Duckworth	Sutton
Audrey M. Kerr	Edith R. Young
David Lyttle	Wawanesa Insurance

**Centennial Farm Awards Program**

Lee Treilhard  
One anonymous donor

**Dalnavert General Operations**

Marina Plett - Lyle

**Obituary**

**Joyce McLetchie**, a long-time MHS member, died on 21 October 2008 in Winnipeg. She grew up and attended schools in Winnipeg's West End. Joyce had a successful business career in banking and insurance and was a founding member of the Insurance Women's Association. She was a world traveler. She took a keen interest in the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and traveled to many Grey Cup games. MHS members at her table at the Sir John A. Macdonald dinners will remember Joyce for her delightful sense of humour.

**Environmental History Podcast**

The Network in Canadian History & Environment (NiCHE) has launched a new episodic podcast on environmental history research in Canada. The monthly podcast will feature interviews, roundtable discussions, and lectures about the environmental history community in Canada.

The first episode looks at the environmental history of the Don River in Toronto and features a discussion about web resources for Canadian environmental history. Visit the podcast website to listen to new episodes here:

<http://niche.uwo.ca/naturespast>

Subscribe to the podcast through iTunes by searching on the phrase "Canadian environmental history".

*Opening the Vault Door,  
Exploring Masonic History*

**An Invitation from the Grand Lodge of Manitoba****28 January 2009**

The history of Freemasonry in the Canadian West goes back almost 200 years. The archives of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba in Winnipeg contain items dating back as far as the early days of the Selkirk Settlers. On Wednesday, 28 January 2009, members of the Manitoba Historical Society will have a rare opportunity to view some of that archival collection. This free event will be held at the Masonic Memorial Centre, 420 Corydon Avenue (Confusion Corner).

After a light lunch of soup and sandwiches there will be a brief presentation by Allan Brock, Grand Archivist, followed by a question and answer period. We will then have an opportunity to look at the items on display with several Masons available to provide assistance and answer questions.

Doors will open at 12:00 noon with lunch served at 12:30 and the event should wrap up by around 3:00 pm. There is ample parking at the east side and rear of the Centre and a number of bus routes serve the area. As the Grand Lodge of Manitoba is hosting this event there will be no charge for MHS members. Other wishing to attend should contact the MHS office (204-947-0559) for more information.

As seating is limited, please call Carl James at 204-631-5971 by Monday, 26 January 2009 to confirm your attendance.



W. Fraser

**Masonic Memorial Centre, 420 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg**



Linda Neyedly

**Gingerbread Dalnavert.** The museum was rendered in candy for the holidays.

### Municipal Contest Winner

A contest in the last issue of *Time Lines* posed five questions from the municipal history of Manitoba. Eric Huberdeau, a firearms officer at the RCMP Firearms Centre in Iqaluit, Nunavut wins a copy of the 2008 book *With One Voice: A History of Municipal Governance in Manitoba*. Éric's correct answers, all from the MHS web site, were as follows:

1. When and where were Manitoba's first parking meters installed?  
*Brandon, in August 1947.*
2. How many times does "municipality" appear in the titles of works that have won a Margaret McWilliams award?  
*Eleven.*
3. How many people attended the founding meeting of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, in 1905?  
*See all 50 at [www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/amm.shtml](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/amm.shtml)*
4. What Rural Municipality in Manitoba is named for a drowning victim?  
*The RM of Woodworth was named for Joseph E. Woodworth, who drowned in Georgia in 1889, after serving as an MLA for Brandon from 1883 to 1886.*
5. Why are the Rural Municipalities of Birch River, Chatfield, and Kreuzberg unique?  
*They were all disorganized by the provincial government when they ran out of money to carry out their duties.*

### Dalnavert News

As is the case every year, November and December were very busy at Dalnavert. Visitors love seeing the house decorated for a Victorian Christmas, and this year, an elaborate gingerbread house modelled after the museum got lots of attention, too. The charming Dickens' Village, generously donated in memory of R. S. L. "Les" Lobban, was installed in the glass cases in the auditorium. This whimsical display was the perfect complement to our annual readings of *A Christmas Carol*.

Mr. Lobban spent more than two decades collecting the items for the Dickens' Village, which was kept on permanent display in his home. We were only able to utilize a fraction of the pieces for this year's exhibit, and focused on those most pertinent to the story of Scrooge and Tiny Tim. The display features Scrooge's home and business, Bob Cratchit's house, the poultry shop where the prize turkey hung, several churches, a toy shop and a bakery. Next year, the Dickens' exhibit will be enhanced by special lighting and shelving that will enable us to incorporate more of the miniatures. We at Dalnavert are delighted that the Lobban family donated the Village for all to enjoy. Mounting the Dickens' display each year will become one of our Christmas traditions.

Tickets for our annual Dickens' readings were completely sold out by the first week of December—a bit earlier than usual. Sales were spurred by an article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* announcing Richard Hurst's upcoming move to Victoria. Richard is willing to continue doing the readings for us in future, depending on his other commitments. He loves performing at Dalnavert and has already provided dates for a limited engagement in December 2009.

In other news, *The Heritage Needle Arts Sale* in late November attracted dozens of visitors, who patronized our gift shop as well as the fair! Sales in the shop have been surprisingly brisk, considering the state of the economy, and should match or exceed seasonal sales figures for 2008. Our 7 December reading of *Rainbow Heidi's Gingerbread House* was also well attended. Eighteen children, and an equal number of adults, listened to this old-fashioned tale about kindness and The Golden Rule.

Here's hoping that 2009 will be another banner year for Dalnavert Museum.

Linda Neyedly, Museum Director



### Macdonald Dinner Tickets

Contact the MHS office at 204-947-0559 or info@mhs.mb.ca. Visa, MasterCard, cheques, and cash are accepted. Tickets are \$90 each for MHS members and \$100 each for non-members. Please call before 15 January 2009

### MHS Book Club

We will be meeting again on Saturday, 25 January 2009 at 2:00 pm with Reinhold Kramer to discuss his biography of Mordecai Richler. This change is to accommodate his participation, since he will be coming from Brandon for the occasion!

We had a very interesting meeting and tour with Bob Coutts at the Parks Canada offices on 1 December. All Book Club meetings will take place at the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre (61 Carlton, Winnipeg). Please confirm attendance with Judy at 204-475-6666. Note: WPL = book(s) available at Winnipeg Public Library.

25 January 2009, 2:00 pm

*Please note change of date and time*

Rienhold Kramer, *Mordecai Richler: Leaving St Urbain* (2008) **Leader Marg Kentner** (WPL: on order, 17 requests); T Carol Scott

16 February 2009, 7:00 pm

Richard Gwyn, *John A: The man who made us* (2007) **Leader Shirlee Anne Smith** (WPL: 5 copies); T Joanne Ledohowski

16 March 2009, 7:00 pm

Carolyn Podruchny, *Making the Voyageur World: Travelers and Traders in the North American Fur Trade* (2006) **Leader Cathy Phillipson** (WPL: 3 copies); T Jane Frain

20 April 2009, 7:00 pm

H.S. Ferns, *Reading from Left to Right* (c1983, 1 copy); S.J. & H.S. Ferns, *Eighty-Five Years in Canada* (c1978, 6 copies) **Leader Jim Alward**; T Pat Challis

11 May 2009, 6:00 pm

Potluck, select books for next year

### Heritage News

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Gary Doer and other dignitaries were on hand for the ceremonial sod-turning for the construction of the **Canadian Museum of Human Rights** on 19 December. Actual construction for the \$265 million museum will begin in February. Funding includes \$100 million in federal funds, \$40 million from the province, \$20 million from the City of Winnipeg and \$105 million from private donations. The capital campaign is still more than \$3 million away from its goal. The museum, envisioned and promoted by Israel Asper until his death in 2003, is the first new national museum in four decades and the first to be built outside the national capital region. Harper announced that the Federal government will make the museum a federal institution and pay the operating costs that are estimated to be about \$22 million annually.

South Mountain Press reports that **Edward S. Stozek** just published another book on the history of the **Riding Mountain** area. The new book, *A Slice of the Parkland*, deals with the lives of Eastern European immigrant families, the country store, relief camps of the Great Depression, the lumber industry, early plane crashes and crimes of the 1930s. Stozek used first hand reports and items from community newspapers such as the *Dauphin Herald*, *Minnedosa Tribune* and *Shoal Lake Star*. He earlier published another book on the parkland area, *The Saw Mill Boys P.O.W s and the Conscientious Objectors*. Stozek, a retired high school teacher living in Dauphin, also makes presentations to schools and other groups. Slides, stories and original guitar music bring history to life in his presentations of "A Slice of the Parkland" and "The Ghost of Whitewater Lake."

*The Carillon* reports on a new book, *Annie: Through It All*, a biography of a 92-year-old **Steinbach** woman, Annie Reimer. The author, Betty Barkman, spent many hours interviewing Mrs. Reimer before writing this book. The book provides a treasure of information of how people of her generation lived in rural Manitoba. There is astounding detail of her childhood experiences in Giroux and Landmark (then known as Prairie Rose) and later about her husband and their twelve children and their struggles to survive in hard times. Five of the children died at an early age. She also raised 32 foster children. Her story is rife with tragedy and heartaches but Mrs. Reimer always retains a positive outlook because of her strong religious faith. The book is available



at Hull's Family Book Store in Winnipeg and the Mennonite Village Gift Store in Steinbach.

*The Valley Leader* reports that the **Dufferin Historical Society** held its annual general meeting at Carman Collegiate on 19 November. The society operates the Dufferin Historical Society Museum every summer at 44 Kings Park Road in **Carman**. The guest speaker at the AGM, Tyler King, economic and development officer for Carman and RM of Dufferin, spoke on "Promotion and Marketing Opportunities for a Museum." Partnering and package tours with a historical theme could include visiting museums, points of interest and restaurants. Some museums are involved in geo-caching, which is a high tech treasure hunt for those who have a GPS unit. Other events might include a Museum Passport Adventure where participants would visit several museums and have their passports stamped. Names of participants were entered in a draw after visiting all the museums. The four museums in Morden held a successful passport event in 2008. King also suggested various ways to promote the museum through visitor guides, travel centres and trade shows.

*The Minnedosa Tribune* reports that the **Minnedosa Heritage Village** Committee has officially taken over a historic CPR pump house. It was moved to the heritage village grounds last year and a plaque was added briefly explaining its history. It was one of two built in 1921 to pump water from the lake for fire protection and to supply the roundhouse with water. *The Tribune* also reports that The Minnedosa Regional Archives has received a copy of a special journal written by local pioneer, Emma Louise Averill between April 1880 and May 1881. The archives of Manitoba hold the original handwritten journal. It is available online at [www.gov.mb.ca/rearview](http://www.gov.mb.ca/rearview).

The *Winnipeg Free Press* reports that the Thomas Sill Foundation will give \$250,000 over five years to the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in **Morden** for the building of a world-class mosasaur museum. At present, the Morden museum has Canada's finest collection of marine reptile fossils, including mosasaurs and plesiosaurs. A grant will also be needed from the federal and provincial governments so that the project can be completed. Recent grants from the Sill foundation also include \$7,500 for the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum in Morden and \$50,000 for Bethel Heritage Park, a heritage and horticultural park in Winkler.

The **Royal Canadian Artillery Museum in Shilo** has won the 2008 Innovator of the Year award from the Travel Industry Association of Canada. This is the first military museum to be honoured with a national tourism award. Museum Director Marc George said that the award is in recognition of the museum staff, museum members, volunteers, and all the people at CFB Shilo and Southwestern Manitoba who support the museum. Recently the museum held an art exhibition and assisted in technical direction for the film, *Passchendaele*. Earlier in the year, the museum won the Tourism Westman Best Product Development award.



G. Goldsborough

**History in chalk.** Among the collections at the Royal Canadian Artillery Museum is a plaster cast of the wall from a tunnel under the WWI Vimy battlefield. The wall had been etched in March 1917 by Private Aleck James Ambler, a professional stonecutter from Foam Lake, Saskatchewan. The story of the cast was told in the History Channel program *Vimy Underground*, in which museum director Major Marc George (below, discussing other collection artifacts during a September tour of the museum) played a prominent role.



G. Goldsborough

The **St. Boniface Museum** launched a new permanent exhibition on 18 December as part of Célébration 2008. The title of the exhibit is: Taking Roots on the Prairie Soil—The Fur Trade and French Canadian and Métis Settlement in Western Canada.

The **RM of Ste. Anne** has passed a motion declaring the Richer Catholic Church, Eglise de l'Enfant-Jésus a Municipal Heritage Site. The church originally opened in 1913 and had its last regular service in 2005. David Chartrand, president of the Manitoba Métis Federation presented a cheque for \$10,000 renovations needed for the church to the Friends of Prayer Committee of Richer. A strategic plan has been created in order to have realistic goals for the renovations. *The Dawson Trail Dispatch* notes that community members have committed 4000 hours to renovation since 2006.

The **Swan River History Committee** held an open meeting at the Northwest Regional Library on 18 November to look back at Swan River's centennial celebrations. Binders and books were on display and a pictorial history DVD of Swan River with over 600 photos with captions played through the evening. The DVDs are available for sale for \$20 each. The SWHC is always looking for more information. The information that has been gathered will be housed in the library archives. The Harley House Committee is still raising money to pay for the purchase the century heritage log building, Harley House. Cheques may be made out to Harley House, at Box 2161, Swan River MB.

**Ashern's** new history book, *Taming the Wilderness, The Next Chapter* has been launched. The book, printed by Friesens, is the product of two years of work by twenty members of the History Book Committee, chaired by Amie Whiteside. The greatest challenge was getting people to share their stories. There are more than 300 stories and sections on businesses, organizations, schools and churches. Young families and the older generation submitted material. 340 books were presold. Books may be purchased for \$75 through the RM office or by calling Priscilla Ebbers at 204-768-3051.

Four short poems were handwritten in English by **Louis Riel** in a Regina jail and given to one of the Mounties who guarded him as he awaited execution. The poems have come home to Winnipeg. For more than a century descendants of North West Mounted Police Constable Robert Hobbs held them. In one of the poems are the lines, "I must speak of God in Whom I trust, In him I have room to hope" and "The rope threatens my life; but thank God I fear not." The poems and two rare portraits of Riel were bought in an auction in Toronto by Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand in November for \$31,050. Chartrand obtained money from six sources. Chartrand said the poems would be kept in the St. Boniface Museum but later could be a centerpiece in a Métis Museum.



Winnipeg Tribune collection,  
UM Archives & Special Collections

Can you identify this illustrious gentleman visiting Dalnavert (61 Carlton) in the mid 1970s?

Manitoba artist Don McMaster has created a series of nine large paintings celebrating the work of **David Thompson** in the prairie region. Inspired by Thompson's own journals, the series sets Thompson in various specific locations: meeting the Mandans; walking overland from Fort Assiniboine into a blizzard; running the Dalles; encountering toll-takers on Lake of the Woods; marrying Charlotte Small at Isle a la Crosse. McMaster, a landscape artist, travelled to each site in order to depict each scene accurately, and thoroughly researched such historical aspects of the time as clothing and footwear, dogs and horses, guns and canoes. The collection, *Diaries of a Mapmaker*, is now in need of a permanent home. It can be viewed online at donmcmaster.

com, or by appointment at Mayberry Fine Art Gallery in Winnipeg. Please direct inquiries to Don McMaster, admcmast@mts.net, or telephone Mayberry Gallery (204-255-5690). These paintings have travelled to several sites over the past summer, and he has given 16 artist talks, no less!

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation & Eastern Manitoba Tourism Association on 7 November 2008 on the North side of Lockport Bridge (East side of the Red River) on PTH 44 at the **Kenosewun Centre** had an unveiling ceremony to officially designate PTH 44 as Historic Highway No. 1.



A recent acquisition to the aircraft collection of the **Western Canadian Aircraft Museum** is a Fokker Standard Universal, a "major workhorse" in the early days of flying in northern bush lands. The plane, which had been lost over Charron Lake in northern Manitoba in a snowstorm in 1931, is known as the Ghost of Charron Lake. It was finally located in 2005 at the bottom of Charron Lake by a Western Canada Aviation Museum search team, using sophisticated side scan sonar technology. The engine and some artefacts were returned to Winnipeg in 2006. In the summer of 2007, the plane was raised and airlifted to Lac du Bonnet and then carried by flatbed trailer to the museum.

The **Fort Garry Historical Society** held its annual fall luncheon at the Holiday Inn South on 15 November. The guest speaker was Dr. Jerry Gray, chair of the Steering Committee of Friends of Upper Fort Garry. In the discussion that followed his presentation, those in attendance showed their support for Dr. Gray and the friends of Upper Fort Garry.



Corinne Tellier

**Members of the Fort Garry Historical Society** at a recent luncheon (L-R): Dr. Jerry Gray, Vice-President Norman Magnusson, President Sandy Stayner, and Past-President Kathy Stokes.

## Rivers – A Town on the Right Track

Rivers is conscious of its history and ambitious for its future. It started as a railway town.

Rivers was named to honour the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway's president Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson. Construction of the roundhouse, coal shed, water system, repair shops, etc., began in 1907. Houses and businesses appeared to meet the needs of the 350 rail workers, their families, and businesses.

The settlement was incorporated as a town in 1913. The first railway station, built in 1907, was lost in a fire in 1917 and the present station building was constructed in the same year. Rivers declined with the demise of the steam engine and the closing of armed forces bases and an Aboriginal training center that replaced it. The rail station eventually closed in the 1990s and it was designated as a national heritage site. The Rivers/Daly Community Development Corporation, in the fall of 2006, initiated the Rivers Train Station Restoration Project Committee. Its mission is to restore Rivers Train Station to a viable property for heritage preservation and economic development. The method of restoration will be carried out following the most environmentally efficient criteria making this Canada's first "green" heritage train station. Funding for restoration is being made possible through grants, corporate and individual support, and fundraising activities such as the sale of heritage keepsakes (railway spikes and station prints), personalized bricks for the wall of memories and tickets for a raffle. Brandon North has closed and VIA Rail Canada has sited Rivers as the only boarding station west of Portage la Prairie into eastern Saskatchewan. While the old station is being restored, a train "stationette" has opened next to the station to serve the passengers. Close to 2,000 passengers board or arrive on the Via Rail train at the Rivers depot annually and the RTSRP committee anticipates that those numbers will increase.

Win a train trip for two to Vancouver or Toronto. Rivers Train Station Restoration Project committee is selling raffle tickets. The prize is a round trip by Via Rail from Rivers to either Toronto or Vancouver. The value of the train trip, including Silver and Blue Class service, bedroom and meals is nearly \$5000. Only 1000 raffle tickets are printed. The price for each raffle ticket is \$20.00. All proceeds go to the Rivers Train Station Restoration Project. The draw takes place in Rivers on 14 February. The winner's voucher is not transferable and must be redeemed by 21 August 2009. The winner must depart on the train from Rivers. Raffle tickets are sold at Carol's Time Again Treasures in Rivers (open 10 am to 5 pm) phone 204-328-7841 or on evenings and weekends phone 204-328-7841.

A new history book is being compiled. If you have any information regarding the history of Rivers, please contact Dora at the Prairie Crocus Regional Library at 204-328-7613.

## Rearview Manitoba

A database of holdings of the Archives of Manitoba can be accessed on the internet, but not the documents themselves. A notable exception is Rearview Manitoba, an on-line exhibit of five intriguing Manitobans revealed in the records held by the Archives of Manitoba. The web page at [www.gov.mb.ca/rearview](http://www.gov.mb.ca/rearview) also includes a brief write-up on each of these people, which is copied below:

**Thanadelthur** (?–1717) was a Chipewyan woman who was born some time in the 17th century in what is now northern Manitoba. She did not leave a written record of her life, but her story has survived through others who bore witness to her remarkable achievements. These achievements have been told and retold in the centuries since they occurred by people who have been impressed with the story of Thanadelthur. Thanadelthur has survived in the oral history tradition of the Dene, of which the Chipewyan people are one tribe, as well as in the records of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), where her interactions with the HBC are documented. She was instrumental in establishing a peace between the Chipewyan people and the Cree people. The peace negotiated by Thanadelthur facilitated trade relations between the HBC and the Chipewyans and paved the way for the construction of the HBC fort at Churchill, Manitoba.

**Alexander Kennedy** (1781–1832) was one of many Orkney men who sailed the Atlantic Ocean to work for the Hudson's Bay Company in North America. Kennedy signed on as a writer in 1798, worked at many posts and outposts and eventually, became one of HBC's chief factors before retiring in 1829. He retired with his family to the Red River Settlement and the Kennedy family became one of Manitoba's prominent Métis families. HBC records trace Kennedy's travels, his activities and his rise through the HBC ranks. Records written by Kennedy chronicle his activities with colourful detail, including on the ground conflicts with the North West Company. Follow Alexander Kennedy's HBC adventure, over land and sea, and catch a glimpse of one man's experience during a pivotal time in the history of the fur trade.

**Emma Louisa Averill** (née Peacey), (1870–1915) was born in England's Cotswold Hills country. In 1870, Emma married Octavius Averill and the couple settled on rented property near the village of Tetbury. Seeing no future for their children in England, the

Averill family set sail for Canada on board the S.S. Sardinian on 1 April 1880. A year after leaving her home in England, Emma Averill wrote a journal which gives her account of the trip from Liverpool to the "Far West of Manitoba" and the experiences in establishing a homestead near Minnedosa. Emma's journal gives us a glimpse into the life of one Manitoba homesteader: her motivations for moving to Canada, her optimistic approach to her new life and the building of rural Manitoba, one homesteader at a time.

**Emily Hilda Blake** (1878–1899) was born in 1878 and was orphaned at an early age. She lived at the Heckingham Workhouse in England. At the age of ten, she was sent to Canada with her brother, Tommy. She initially worked as a domestic servant for Alfred and Letitia Stewart near Brandon, Manitoba but spent the rest of her childhood moving from family to family. As a result, disputes arose about her guardianship. Blake eventually settled in Brandon and worked as a domestic servant for Robert and Mary Lane in 1898. On 20 June 1899, she purchased a revolver and ammunition from a Winnipeg gun store. Blake shot and killed Mary Lane while she was hanging curtains a few days later. The discovery of Mary Lane's body outside their family home on 5 July 1899, the police investigation, Blake's confession and arrest shortly after the crime, and her sentencing and execution garnered intense public interest. Blake's childhood experiences and disturbing crime reflect the life of one Manitoba domestic servant – her status within the social order of 19th century prairie life, her views on gender and religion, and the path she travelled through the Manitoba justice system.

**Fred M. Gee** (1882–1947) became Winnipeg's full time impresario in 1927 when he established the Celebrity Concert Series. Over the next twenty years, Gee brought hundreds of world-renowned musicians to Winnipeg. Gee played a vital role in encouraging a vibrant cultural community in Winnipeg and in establishing an audience that expected and attended high-calibre performances year after year. Catch a glimpse of the Celebrity Concert Series and Winnipeg's impresario, Fred Gee.

Here's a useful tip for researchers. Search any word—not just names—in recent obituaries in the *Winnipeg Free Press* by going to the Google web site and use its Advanced Search restricted to the domain [www.passagesmb.com](http://www.passagesmb.com).

### Centennial Farms

The following Centennial Farms have been designated since the last issue of *Time Lines*.

<b>Elphinstone</b>	Lena (Plewak) Coad, NE 36-18-22 Margaret (Plewak) WPM 1900 Sawicki, Mabel (Plewak) Nakonechny
<b>Marquette</b>	Alvin & Florence SW 30-13-3 Tully WPM 1904
<b>Roland</b>	Larry & Helen SW 12-5-4 Frith WPM 1907
<b>Shoal Lake</b>	Linda (Wood) & NE 1-17-25 Dale Newton WPM 1908

### School Holidays 2008

For the fourth year running, Winnipeggers Reid Dickie and Linda Tooley celebrated the Twelve Days of Christmas with an online heritage event.

In past years, Manitoba heritage churches and houses were featured. This time they chose some of Winnipeg's finest old schools, featured on the MHS web site:

[www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/features/schoolholidays](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/features/schoolholidays)

Each school included a photo and description of its architecture, history, illustrious alumni, and other interesting tidbits. The text and photos—most taken by Reid—were excerpted from his unpublished book, *This Old School: 41 Historic Winnipeg Schools*. Linda once again selected snippets from some favourite seasonal songs to end each greeting.

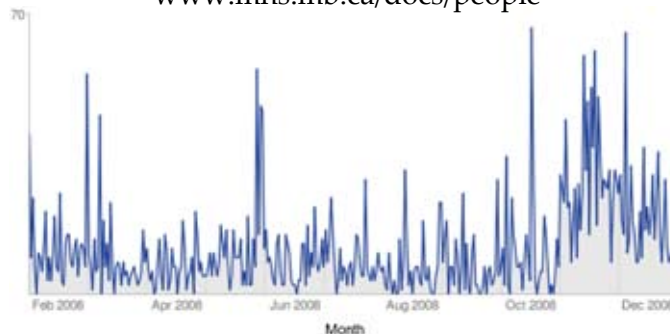
The twelve featured schools were:

1. Luxton School
2. École Provencher
3. Isbister School / Winnipeg Adult Education Ctr
4. Laura Secord School
5. La Verendrye School
6. Linwood School
7. Demolished schools: Alexandra School, St. Mary's School, Winnipeg Collegiate Institute
8. Winnipeg Technical Vocational High School
9. Somerset School
10. Assiniboine School
11. Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute
12. Earl Grey School

### Web Site Update

The MHS web site ([www.mhs.mb.ca](http://www.mhs.mb.ca)) continues to grow by leaps and bounds. In 2008, with a grant from the provincial government, two University students were hired to research and write about 200 short biographical profiles of Manitobans from the past. Meanwhile, MHS webmaster Gordon Goldsborough prepared biographies for 400 men featured in the 1906 book *A History of Manitoba*. As of the end of December, the collection comprises some 4,500 people.

[www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people)



Use of the biographies area of the web site increased markedly this fall when we added the ability to search the collection from any page in it. A Remembrance Day feature drew visitors to biographies of those who have served Canada in war-time.

Our web site now receives about 2,500 pageviews per day. (A pageview occurs when one page is viewed.) The five most popular pages are **the home page** ([www.mhs.mb.ca/index.shtml](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/index.shtml); 3.12% of pageviews), **the biographies page** (address above; 1.61%), **the Winnipeg 1911 census page** ([www.mhs.mb.ca/data/census/1911/winnipeg](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/data/census/1911/winnipeg); 1.58%), **the Dalnavert Museum information page** ([www.mhs.mb.ca/info/museums/dalnavert/index.shtml](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/info/museums/dalnavert/index.shtml); 1.06%) and **the Winnipeg street name history page** ([www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/winnipegstreets/index.shtml](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/winnipegstreets/index.shtml); 0.97%).

### Important Reminders

- Renewal invoices are sent to members, and are payable on receipt. Members are encouraged to help us reduce costs by checking their labels and sending in renewals when due. Renewal can be done by mail, phone, or visiting the MHS office (Wed., Thur, 1:00 to 5:00 pm). Cash, cheque, Visa or MasterCard are accepted.
- Your donations are needed to support ongoing work of the Manitoba Historical Society. Tax receipts are issued for donations over \$10.



# The Manitoba Historical Society est 1879

I want to renew or join\* the MHS as a:

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\* See our web site ([www.mhs.mb.ca](http://www.mhs.mb.ca))  
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## Calendar of Events

For updates and more information, see [www.mhs.mb.ca/news/events.shtml](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/news/events.shtml)

- 11 January** John A. Macdonald's birthday  
**17 January** Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner at the Fort Garry Hotel  
**25 January** Book Club: Reinhold Kramer: *Mordecai Richler Leaving St. Urbain*, at Dalnavert Visitors' Centre  
**28 January** "Opening the Vault Door, Exploring Masonic History" at Masonic Memorial Centre, 420 Corydon (Confusion Corner), lunch and presentation

- 15 February** Book Club: Richard Gwyn: *John A: The Man Who Made Us*, at Dalnavert  
**16 February** Louis Riel Day and Heritage Day  
**16 March** Book Club: Carolyn Podruchny: *Making the Voyageur World: Travelers and Traders in the North American Fur Trade* at Dalnavert  
**24 March** MHS Polish Dinner at 1364 Main Street 5:30 cocktails, 6:30 Dinner

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Membership fees for the Manitoba Historical Society are: Individual \$40, Family \$45, Youth/Student \$20, Non-profit Institution \$50, Corporations \$275 and Life \$575. Rates to USA and other countries are slightly higher. Two and three year memberships in the individual and family categories are available. See the MHS web site for details.

**Manitoba Historical Society**, est 1879

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