

Time Lines

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 41 No. 3
March / April 2009



MHS Multicultural Dinner

Tuesday, 24 March 2009

You are invited to the Annual Multicultural Dinner, held this year at the Polish Combatants' Association — or 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).

The guest speaker is Magdalena Jurak Blackmore, a Polish language instructor at University of Manitoba who is about to defend her Master's thesis in history, titled "The Second Generation of Polish Immigrants in Manitoba."

Doors open by 5:00 pm with cocktail hour at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00 pm. After dinner, there will be a performance by the Iskry Dancers.

Enjoy traditional Polish dishes including meatballs, pork cutlets, chicken with mushrooms, hunter stew and coleslaw, as well as Polish pastries and beer.

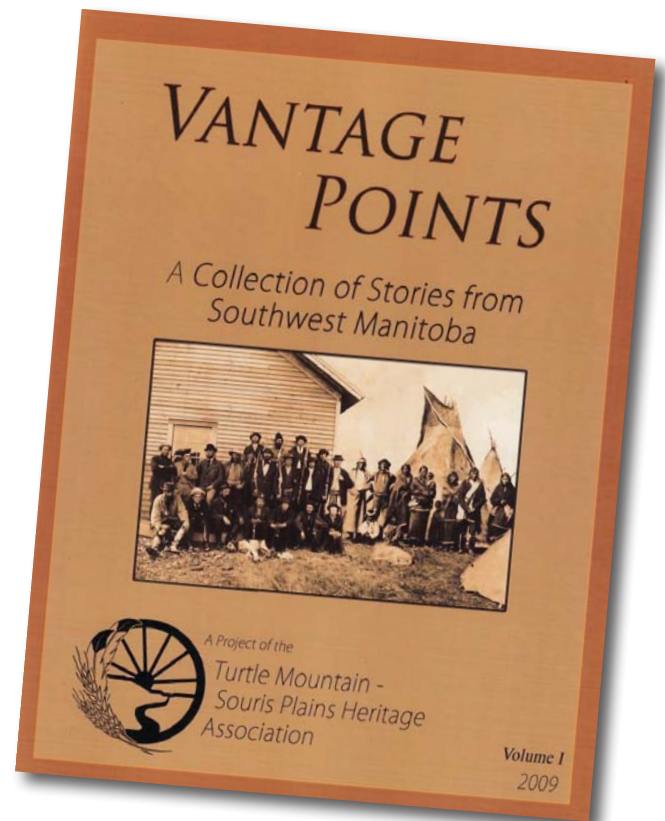
Cost per person is \$18.50

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



W. Fraser

The Polish Combatants' Association (Club 13) at 1364 Main Street will host the 2009 Multicultural Dinner.



New Local History Booklet

The Turtle Mountain – Souris Plains Heritage Association held its Annual General Meeting at Deloraine in late February, where it launched the first of a planned series of booklets on the history of southwestern Manitoba. *Vantage Points* is a collection of page-long illustrated stories on a wide variety of topics, including frontier posts, First Nation Reserves, one-room schoolhouses, ghost towns, trails, and colourful personalities. The Association is supported by the RMs of Brenda, Cameron, Morton, and Winchester, the Towns of Boissevain, Deloraine, Hartney, Melita, and Waskada, and the Manitoba Metis Federation and its Turtle Mountain Local. Copies of *Vantage Points* may be purchased for \$9.95 each (plus postage) by contacting David Neufeld, Chair of the Association, at 204-534-2303 or roomtogrow@explornet.com.

President's Column



MHS President
Dr. Harry Duckworth

When I was six years old, in September of 1950, I learned the word “tercentenary.” We were living in Middletown, Connecticut at the time, and in 1950, the town was 300 years old. There must have been various events, but what I remember was a parade, with floats—this may also have been the occasion when I learned the

word “float.” What was on the floats is no longer clear in my mind—I think there were pilgrims in tall felt hats. In any case, at the age of six I learned the word “tercentenary”, which I have had no other opportunity to use in almost 60 years.

The Americans may not have invented anniversary celebrations, but they certainly brought them to a state of perfection, and we have learned from them. The history we commemorate in an anniversary is simplified, to be sure—professional historians have long realized that history is made up of long-term developments and declines, not just a series of well-defined events. It’s easy to date, and recognize the historical significance of particular one-day battles (Issus, Hastings, Waterloo), or other critical events that started and ended on a particular day (the landing at Plymouth Rock, the Peterloo Massacre), but it’s far harder to calculate the anniversary of a protracted process like the spread of Islam after the death of Mohammed, or the Industrial Revolution.

The attraction of having a historic anniversary to celebrate is that it focuses attention on the mass of history that flowed into and out of the event commemorated. When we think of the Battle of Hastings, we are really thinking of the establishment of a centralized feudal government in England, at a time when other European countries were struggling to avoid fragmentation among warlords. When we commemorate the landing at Plymouth Rock, or some other early event in the European settlement in North America, we are really thinking about the whole complex process, still being played out, of contact between the First Nations peoples and the newcomers.

Anniversaries, like other ways of noting particular historical events and passages, have a way of including some people and excluding others. It’s not the event itself that causes the problems—it’s the meaning ascribed to it. Every individual can point to moments in the history of his or her family or ethnic group that were intensely important to them—may even have been critical for their future—but which are of little interest to others, or may even not be seen as something to celebrate. One group’s win is very often another’s loss. This unease about celebrating particular historical events, in an age when we are supposed to be as nice as possible to as many people as possible, has helped to weaken the place of history in our schools and other public institutions. There is also the difficulty that not every group has particular dates to celebrate—not because there were no important events in its history, but because conventional documentation is lacking. New groups of immigrants are usually too busy with their quotidian problems to spend much time recording their first experiences in a new land. Not all cultures have significant archives, or long-lasting monuments. And some of the most important events in human history—the migrations out of Africa, the decisions to raise livestock and plant crops, the first bold crossings to North America – can never be commemorated as anniversaries in a conventional way, simply because we cannot know exactly when and where they occurred.

I’ve been thinking about historical anniversaries lately, because we have an important one coming up in Manitoba—the bicentenary of the arrival of the first Selkirk Settlers in 1812. We must celebrate this anniversary, but what meaning and significance shall we ascribe to it? The remarkable episode of the Red River Settlement in southern Manitoba, like certain other crucial events in the early history of the province, has been well known to the public since the first Manitoba histories were compiled in the 1870s and 80s, chiefly by the Anglo-Saxon Protestant elite that was then settling into its role as defender of British values on the edges of Empire. The simplistic picture then produced, of heroic settlers struggling in an inhospitable land, has long since been redrawn, and the careful revisiting of those events by modern historians, such as our own Past-President, Jack Bumsted, has given us a more nuanced picture of what the Selkirk Settlement has meant to Manitoba and the West. We should hope to capture this picture.

In preparing the Society's part in commemorating the bicentenary of the Selkirk Settlement, in 2012, our challenge will be, not in remembering the day itself, but in how we celebrate it. Every detail implies something, and we will want to make sure that we send the right message. Soon, I hope, the Manitoba Historical Society will strike a Committee to prepare for our part in the 2012 Selkirk Settlement bicentenary. We will be contacting other interested groups, and learning how best to work with them. I'll be grateful for suggestions from members about what we might do, and for volunteers.

Harry Duckworth

2009 Sir John A Macdonald Dinner



G. Goldsborough

MHS patron and Manitoba Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable John Harvard (right), greeted Mr. Alan Latourelle (left), Head of Parks Canada, who was the featured speaker at the 2009 Macdonald Dinner.

MHS Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Historical Society will be held on Saturday, 13 June. Details will follow in next *Time Lines* and on the MHS web site.



M. Zbigniewicz

MHS President Harry Duckworth presents the Douglas Kemp Award to Gordon Goldsborough at the 2009 Macdonald Dinner.

Gordon Goldsborough Receives the Kemp Award

MHS President Harry Duckworth presented the Douglas Kemp Award to Gordon Goldsborough at the Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner in January.

Gordon's outstanding contributions to the study and promotion of Manitoba history and to the Manitoba Historical Society make him a most worthy recipient of the Douglas Kemp Award. He served as vice president, president and past president of the Society. He chaired the Dalnavert Management Committee at the time of the construction of the Visitors' Centre. He is the Gazette and photo editor of *Manitoba History*. He established the MHS web site and continues as its webmaster. Under his leadership MHS publications have been digitized and are now accessible to the world on the web site. At his initiative, other historical resources have been added. Almost entirely because of Gordon's leadership, the MHS web site is arguably the best Internet resource on Manitoba heritage.

Gordon's achievements go beyond his involvement with the Manitoba Historical Society. In 2008, he wrote a book, *With One Voice, A History of Municipal Governance in Manitoba* for the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. In addition to his remarkable achievements in heritage, Gordon is a water quality scientist in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Manitoba and the Director of the University's Delta Marsh Field Station on the shore of Lake Manitoba.

Obituaries

Eira Alice “Babs” Friesen, a long-time MHS member, was born in Wales in 1917. She graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BSc degree in 1939 and worked as a laboratory technologist in Victoria for two years. After returning to Winnipeg, she married Dr. Rhinehart Friesen in 1944. As she was raising her family, she became a very active member of the community. She was the originator of the Y-Neighbours program and was instrumental in establishing the YWCA Women’s Resource Centre. She was active in her church, the University Women’s Club, Winnipeg and Manitoba Councils of Women, Immigrant Women, MATCH International, and the UN Platform for Action Committee. She attended the first International Women’s Conference in Nairobi, Kenya in 1985 and the follow-up conference ten years later in Beijing. She received many awards for her achievements, and she was inducted into the Order of Canada in 2003. She died on 11 December 2008.

Dr. Rhinehart F. Friesen, husband of Babs Friesen, was born in Gretna in 1909. After graduating from the Mennonite Collegiate in Gretna, he attended Normal School and taught in the elementary school in Winkler. Later he enrolled at the University of Manitoba where he completed studies in medicine in 1944 and then joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. In the 1950s, he completed his residency in obstetrics and gynaecology and was awarded his F.R.C.S.(C) in 1957. He performed the first successful intrauterine transfusion saving babies threatened by Rh disease. As an expert in his field, he lectured at conferences worldwide and continued his practice in obstetrics and gynaecology. After retiring in the 1980s, he made a wide range of volunteer contributions to seniors’ education, children’s love of reading and Mennonite history. He authored two books, *Almost an Elephant* and *A Mennonite Odyssey*. He died at Winnipeg on 6 February 2009.

Suzanne Irene Lucas, a long-time MHS member, died on 12 September 2008 at the age of 68. She grew up in Bissett, attending San Antonio School. She was involved in planning two Bissett reunions and she worked with others towards establishing a small museum and preserving Bissett United Church. She attended United College and the University of Manitoba from 1955 to 1959, graduating with a BSc. After her graduation, she worked at Great West Life in many positions, retiring in 1995 as Director, Individual Operations. One of her favourite activities

was curling which she played for many years as a member of the Wildwood Club. She was active in two charities, United Way and Villa Rosa.

Christian Andrew Edward Jensen, MHS member and Professor Emeritus of the University of Manitoba, died in Winnipeg on 20 January 2009. Born in Hamburg, Germany in 1920, he moved with his family to London, Ontario in 1929. He received his BA degree from the University of Western Ontario, his MA from the University of Toronto and his PhD from the University of Chicago. He began his career at the University of Manitoba in 1946 and rose through the ranks to Full Professor and Head of the Department of French, Spanish and Italian. He had an international reputation as an interpreter of the Romantic Movement in 19th Century French literature. For several years, he was on the board and the chair of the editorial board of *Mosaic*, the literary publication of the University. He was Honorary Life Member of the Humanities Association of Canada and the Modern Language Association and an Honorary Fellow of St. John’s College.

James Barclay Hartman, a life member of MHS, died on 23 January in Winnipeg at the age of 84. He was born in Winnipeg and graduated from the University of Manitoba (BA 1948 and MA 1951). He received his PhD degree from Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois) in 1959. The philosophy of aesthetics was his subject area. He taught at several universities before 1980 when he joined the Continuing Education Division Development at the University of Manitoba as associate professor and director, Humanities and Professional Studies. Throughout his academic career, he served in various editorial positions for academic journals. He authored articles and reviews for many journals, including *Manitoba History* and the *Journal of the International Society for Organ History and Preservation*. He had a passion for music, in particular for the organ and harpsichord, both of which he played. His chief publication was his 1997 book *The Organ in Manitoba* published by the University of Manitoba Press.

Point Douglas Walking Tour

On Saturday, 9 May there will be a walking tour of Winnipeg’s first neighbourhood—Point Douglas. The tour begins and ends at Ross House, 140 Meade Street, with a starting time of 2:00 pm. There is no charge for the tour. Please contact Carl James at 204-631-5971 for additional information.

Welcome New Members

Derek Dexter
 Paula Orecklin
 Starry Peng
 Terence Brennan

Donations & Contributions

Thank You!

MHS General Operations

Brian J. McKenzie	Carol Budnick
Catherine Macdonald	Friesens Corporation
David & Linda McDowell	Gwyneth Jones
Jacqueline Friesen	Janet Arnett
Laird Rankin	Lee Gibson
Lawrie & Fran Pollard	Lily Stearns
Robert D. McIntyre	Susan Rosenberg
Victoria Lehman	

Dalnavert General Operations

David & Linda McDowell

MHS General Operations

Silent Auction

Judith Hudson Beattie	Whodunit Bookstore
Ross & Kris Metcalfe	Harry Duckworth
Prairie Theatre Exchange	Mrs. Josef Randa
Winnipeg Folk Festival	Jock Lehr
Lawton Partners	Gordon Goldsborough
Joyce Wawrykow	Ivan Eyre
Doreen Stephenson	Winnipeg Art Gallery
Centre for Rupert's Land Studies	
Partners in the Park Pavilion Gallery	
Manitoba Chamber Orchestra	
Carl James & Sandra Mott James	
Winnipeg Blue Bombers Football Club	

Paul Yuzyk Honoured

Jason Kenney, Canada's Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Citizenship, announced that the government is creating the annual **Paul Yuzyk Award** to be presented each year to an individual or organization that has demonstrated excellence in promoting multiculturalism. Paul Yuzyk (1913–1986) was a professor of History and Slavic Studies at the University of Manitoba in the 1950s and 1960s. He was a strong advocate for multiculturalism. He wrote the book *The Ukrainians in Manitoba – Social History* in 1953. He was president of the Manitoba Historical Society from 1961 to 1963. He was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 1963.



M. Zbigniewicz

Dr. Gordon Goldsborough launched his book on the municipal history of Manitoba at the November convention of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, held at Winnipeg's Convention Centre.

MHS Book Club – Note Date Changes

All Book Club meetings take place in the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre, 61 Carlton Street, Winnipeg. Please confirm attendance with Judy at 204-475-6666. All the changes just underline the importance of people confirming their attendance! We welcome visitors, but the club is intended as a benefit for MHS members, so we hope those who come regularly keep their memberships up to date. If this is a hardship for anyone, please speak to Judy and we can make special arrangements.

Schedule

9 March, 7:00 pm Carolyn Podruchny, *Making the Voyageur World: Travelers and Traders in the North American Fur Trade*, leader Cathy Phillipson

27 April, 7:00 pm H. S. Ferns *Reading From Left to Right* (c1983) and S. J. Ferns *Eighty-Five Years in Canada* (c1978), leader Jim Alward

11 May, 6:00 pm Potluck, and select books for next year

Local History Workshop

The MHS will host a one-day local history workshop, in collaboration with Friesens History Books, at our Dalnavert Visitors Centre, on 23 March. A brochure on the workshop is included with this issue of *Time Lines*. Please note the registration deadline is **17 March**—not 10 March as indicated in the brochure.

Heritage News

The *Central Plains Herald-Leader* reports that the **North Norfolk – MacGregor Archives** is accumulating and cataloguing pictures, information and documents to preserve the history of the Rural Municipality of North Norfolk and MacGregor. In its obituary/cemetery/military service database alone, there are more than 6500 entries. More volunteers are needed to work on the collection. This year the Association of Manitoba Archivists (AMA) produced a calendar showing photos from rural archives in Manitoba. A photo of the Course family from MacGregor is the cover photo for the 2009 calendar. The archives, located in MacGregor in the public library, are open by appointment. For more information, contact Bev Anderson 204-685-2094, Sandra Rempel 204-466-2775 or Doris Bagnall 204-466-2708.

St. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church at the corner of Pleasant and Hazelridge Roads in the community formerly known as Eastdale has been demolished but the steeple was saved. The church was originally built between 1942 and 1945 under the direction of Father Philip Ruh who was also responsible for building several other churches in the area. It officially closed in May 2003. The steeple and belfry will be moved to Cooks Creek.

St. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which was constructed in Tyndal in 1933, closed in July 2008. It is the only church building still standing within the village of Tyndal. The church is in need of painting and some minor repairs. The RM of Brokenhead has given first reading to a bill that would designate the building as being of architectural and historic value.

The Clipper Weekly reports that the former home of the Dugald Costume Museum in **Dugald** will be renovated at the cost of \$420,000. The RM of Springfield has indicated that the building will house the Springfield Regional Municipal Library, the municipal archives, a historical centre and a multipurpose room for a variety of user groups. It is hoped that renovations will be completed by May 2009.

The Bibliotheque Allard in **St. Georges** opened on 9 January 2009. It is named after Joachim Allard, a missionary, who encouraged some of the area's settlers to make St. Georges their home. It is located on the site of the Bouvier family store which had been "a popular meeting place for decades." The library was formerly located in the St. Georges School.

The new history book of **Cartwright**, *Along the Badger*, will be coming out in 2010 with histories of businesses, sport groups, organizations, local government and, of course, families. The deadline for all write-ups is 31 July 2009. Submissions should be emailed to cartwright.history@mts.net or mailed to Judy Kemp, Box 131, Cartwright, MB, R0K 0L0. Copies of the book may be pre-ordered with a down payment of \$50 per book.

From 2 February to 29 March, the Sam Waller Museum in **The Pas** is featuring the Images du Nord exhibit showing the black and white images of a collection conserved from mission reports, articles and documents produced by the Oblates of Mary of the Keewatin-Le Pas Archdiocese between 1905 and 1955. The archdiocese covers 430,000 square kilometres in northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. The photo collection, which is an important link to northern history, was donated to the St. Boniface Historical Society and digitized by Lorne Coulson. The Sam Waller Museum is open every day from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

People who collect antiques or are interested in antiques are invited to join **The Manitoba Antique Association**. Membership fees are \$25 for an individual or \$35 for a family. Meetings are held monthly, with presentations by members or guest speakers on some aspect of antiques, collectables or history. Presenters share their knowledge about their particular interest such as collecting, historical research restoration, and identification. Members are encouraged to bring in articles from their own collection that relate to the topic being presented for the "Show & Tell" portion of the presentation. Refreshments are served. As a member, you are able to rent tables at our two annual shows—one in March and one in November. The Spring Show is on 22 March at CanadInns Polo Park. Tables may be rented for \$40. The association library contains a wide range of reference books and publications on preservation and identification of antiques and collectables. The address is Box 2881, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 4B4. The web site is www.manitobaantiqueassociation.com

The **Historical Museum of St. James Assiniboia** will hold an antique and collectables show and sale on Saturday 2 May from 10 am to 5 pm at the Canadian Mennonite University (Shaftsbury Blvd. and Grant Ave.). For vendor costs or a registration form phone 204-888-8706 in Winnipeg or toll free 866-695-0599 outside Winnipeg, email: jamesmus@mts.net.



W. Fraser

Historian Dr. Eryllt Jones discussed her recent book at a recent meeting of the Fort Garry Historical Society.

The Annual General Meeting of the **Fort Garry Historical Society** was held on 21 February at the Pembina Trail Library. Guest speaker Professor Eryllt Jones of the Department of History, University of Manitoba spoke on the 1918 flu epidemic.

In November 2008, the **St. Vital Historical Society** received a grant of \$8,500 under the City of Winnipeg's Community initiative Program to restore photographs and develop a research database.

A Visit With the People of Red River 2009 is a special historic experience for grades 4–6 students presented by the Manitoba Living History Society and St. Boniface Museum on 27 May 2009. Interact with the people of Red River during the fur trade and early settlement era (1812–1845). There will be morning and afternoon sessions at the St. Boniface Museum. A selection of the following will be offered: Master the military drills of the Swiss Regiment de Meurons. Learn how to card and spin wool with a Selkirk Settler. Become involved in Aboriginal crafts. Learn how to be a student in 1820 - Write with a quill pen. Handle the trade goods, carried by canoe from

Montreal by the voyageurs. Listen to the story of the arrival by voyageur canoe. Dip candles for long winter evenings. Visit the St. Boniface Cathedral ruins and cemetery. Take a part in Laundry Day in the Selkirk Settlement. The cost is \$4 per student. For more information or to register, please call Cindy Desrochers at 204-237-4500.

Brandon's **Daly House Museum** will host an exhibit entitled "And The Bride Wore White: A Century of Wedding Fashion" from 3 March to 18 April. Featuring 100 years of bridal fashions, the exhibit encompasses over a dozen gowns from 1870 to 1970, marriage certificates, photographs and other wedding memories. For information on museum hours, or other details on the exhibit, call Daly House at 204-727-1722 or email to dalymus@mts.net.

Manitoba Brewing History

A group of Winnipeg collectors of breweriana—brewery paraphernalia—is working on a history of brewing in Manitoba with a working title of The Breweries of Manitoba. They are looking for old photographs, advertising items like early signage, labelled bottles, glasses, ash trays, etc. from Winnipeg and rural breweries. They are also looking for any written information about the owners and their employees. So far, they have found information on breweries at Lower Fort Garry, and in Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Emerson, Neepawa, Minnedosa and Middlechurch, and hope to find more. If you can help, please contact Bill Wright (email: wpgbeerhistory@shaw.ca) or Dave Craig (email: beerybear@hotmail.com).

Genealogical Workshop and Dinner

The South West Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society is having a workshop and heritage dinner Saturday, 18 April 2009 (8:30 am to 4:00 pm) at Knox United Church in Brandon.

The theme is "Lines Across the Ocean" and featured speaker Elizabeth Briggs will talk on the following topics: genealogical web sites for Britain and North America, and British church records. Other topics: Family History from Beginner to Novice, Metis Genealogical Research, Preparing to Publish your Family History, and Genealogical Case Studies. A Heritage Dinner at 6:30 pm will feature a presentation of the Ruth Tester Award and Elizabeth Briggs speaking on "Festivals and the Calendar: The Significance of the Church in Our Ancestors Lives."

Cost of the workshop will be \$30 per person before 4 April or \$35 after. The Heritage Dinner will be an extra \$16 per person.

For more information and a registration form visit www.geocities.com/swestbranch or phone 204-725-3095 or 204-748-2875.

MHS McWilliams & Centennial Organizations Awards Ceremony

MHS members and friends are invited to attend our special award event on Sunday, 19 April, 2:00 pm. at our Dalnavert Visitors Centre, 61 Carlton Street.

The event will feature presentations to the winners of the Society's distinguished Margaret McWilliams Book Awards, celebrating books written about the history of Manitoba. The McWilliams award program is one of the oldest of its kind in existence, and one of few today that recognize writing excellence for history. The book awards will be presented in the scholarly, popular, and fiction categories.

The event will also feature presentations of our Centennial Organization Awards. This award honours Manitoba organizations that have reached the significant historic milestone of operating for 100 years or more, and have contributed significantly to the fabric of our Manitoba communities.

Manitoba Métis Association Unveils Louis Riel's Last English Poems

Four religious poems were written by Louis Riel in 1885 while he was in jail in Regina awaiting execution. He gave them to North West Mounted Police Constable Hobbs whose family held on to them for more than a century. The Manitoba Métis Federation paid \$32,000 for them at an auction in November 2008. The four poems in two gently frayed, yellowed notebooks were unveiled at the Manitoba Métis Association office at 150 Henry Avenue in Winnipeg at 10 am on Louis Riel Day. The artefacts were officially transferred to the St. Boniface Historical Society. They were displayed at St. Boniface Museum in a glass case guarded by two mounties in red serge uniform. Crowds visited the museum and about forty people took part in a procession from there to the Festival du Voyageur in Voyageur Park to honour Riel.

Heritage Winnipeg's 24th Annual Preservation Ceremony

Heritage Winnipeg held its 24th annual awards ceremony on National Heritage Day and Louis Riel Day on 16 February. The program was held at the Manoir de la Cathédrale Manor in St. Boniface which reincorporated the existing Convent of the Sisters of the Holy names of Jesus and Marie into an assisted living complex.

Conservation Awards of Excellence were made in three categories: Residential, Institutional, and Commercial. After refreshments, there were tours of the building.

Awards in a residential category were presented to the Caleb Group of Companies and Saunders Evans Plosker Wotherspoon Architects Inc. for conserving and transforming the structure, built in 1911 for the Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Marie at 321 Avenue de la Cathédrale in St. Boniface, into the Manoir de la Cathédrale Manor, a 144-unit assisted living complex.

The Institutional awards were presented to the Province of Manitoba and Bridgman Collaborative Architecture for restoration of the A. A. Heaps Building at 254 Portage Avenue.



W. Fraser

Heritage Winnipeg recognized Manoir de la Cathédrale Manor with one of its 2009 Preservation Awards. The entrance shown here leads into a new wing at right added to the original 1911 structure at left.



G. Goldsborough

Architect and MHS member Wins Bridgman (right) was recognized by Heritage Winnipeg for his work in restoring the Heaps Building.

Awards for commercial buildings were presented to ID Fashion Ltd. and Cohlmeier Architecture Ltd. for the Henderson Block at 332 Bannatyne Avenue and to Birks Inc. and Oberti Architecture and Urban Design Inc. for Birks Jewellers in the Union Trust Tower at 191 Lombard Avenue.

A Distinguished Service award was presented to "The Broadcaster", *West Broadway Views & News* for their efforts to communicate heritage conservation in the West Broadway neighbourhood.

Heritage Winnipeg Fundraising Luncheon

"The House That Ruined a Government:
The Roblin /Kelly Scandal"

Time: 20 March 2009, noon

Location: Provencher Room, Fort Garry Hotel

Tickets: \$50 each with a \$20 tax receipt

Heritage Winnipeg feels that our built heritage has been under particular siege recently. In 2008, the organization has made at least eight appearances before Winnipeg city council advocating protection for threatened buildings. It has lobbied for tax grants and incentives for owners of heritage buildings and for improvements in design processes.

The house built at 88 Adelaide Street in 1882 was the residence for prominent building contractor Michael Kelly. By 1902, the ownership of the house had transferred to his brother Thomas Kelly. Scandal erupted around the Kellys in 1912 during construction

of the Manitoba Legislature over its skyrocketing costs. A Royal Commission was struck. Thomas Kelly fled the city and most of his assets, including the Kelly House, were seized. The house has had several owners since then and has been vacant for several years, facing threats from encroachment by the surrounding commercial area, vandalism, and age. More information is available on the City of Winnipeg web site.

Kelly House will be the focus of this luncheon. Heritage Winnipeg is preparing a presentation on the contributions made by Thomas Kelly to the built heritage of our city. He was involved in the construction of many landmark buildings, not just the provincial Legislature. Thomas Kelly will make a special appearance to explain his role in the scandal that brought down the government of Rodmond Roblin.

There will be an update on the Upper Fort Garry project.

For more information or to purchase tickets to this luncheon, please contact: Heritage Winnipeg, 204-942-2663; email: info@heritagewinnipeg.com; web: www.heritagewinnipeg.com



G. Goldsborough

Inky Mark, MP for Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette, discussed his childhood experiences during the opening ceremony for a new historical exhibit at Brandon University, on 16 January. The exhibit, prepared by BU professors Dr. Allison Marshall and Dr. May Yoh, concerns the history of Chinese immigrants to western Manitoba. A selection of photographs and text from the collection will be featured in the June issue of *Manitoba History*.

A Dalnavert Exhibit

The Margaret Scott Nursing Mission: A Labour of Love

Submitted by Linda Neyedly,
Museum Director, Dalnavert

“Find a need and fill it” is a popular business mantra—but it applies to philanthropy, too. Margaret Scott (1855–1931) the remarkable woman behind the Nursing Mission applied this principle over a hundred years ago, with astonishing results.

Scott’s early life was marked by loss—she was orphaned by the age of twelve and widowed at twenty-five. These tragic experiences fostered self-reliance and independence that served her well in a life dedicated to serving others.

Her husband’s death had left her without financial resources, so Margaret did clerical work to support herself. She learned typing and shorthand and eventually became known as the “most proficient stenographer in Winnipeg”, according to an article in the *Winnipeg Tribune*.

Around this time, she met Reverend C. C. Owen of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church and began assisting in his work with the poor and indigent. She felt God was calling her to a life of service, but she resisted as long as she could! In 1897, she gave up the security of her job in a law firm and lived on voluntary donations while carrying out her charitable work.

Over the years, her base of support grew to include the “grateful poor”, members of the middle and upper classes, Winnipeg City Council, corporate donors and various levels of government.

A frequent visitor to city jails, she nursed female inmates and assisted released prisoners in finding work, lodging, and support. She also taught hygiene to inner city families and advised them how to treat common ailments like colds, flu, scabies and head lice. She used a horse and cart, both donated, to deliver food and clothing to those in need.

Although she had no formal medical training, she read and studied on her own to learn how best to alleviate sickness among those living in less than ideal conditions.

In 1904, funding from local churches, influential citizens and the City of Winnipeg enabled her to

establish the Margaret Scott Nursing Mission at 99 George Street.

This nursing station is the focus of a new exhibit in the Dalnavert auditorium, incorporating photos, artefacts, letters and newspaper clippings. It highlights how donations large and small enabled Scott to carry on her work.

Examples include a letter dated February 1905, confirming a \$10.00 semi-annual donation from The Bell Telephone Co. of Canada Ltd. A letter from the Hudson’s Bay Company details the donation of 120 yards of striped flannelette (to make 2 dozen adult gowns) and 24 yards of white flannelette (enough for 1 dozen infant gowns).

In November 1905, St. Stephen’s Church forwarded a cheque for \$593.15, the proceeds from its Thanksgiving Day collection. A pretty tidy sum in those days!

The size of the donations grew over the years, as did the scope of Margaret’s activities. She organized a wood yard to provide work for unemployed men, which was later taken over by the city. In 1911, she started a children’s hygiene department to help combat high rates of infant mortality. By 1913, the department’s staff of eight nurses had conducted 30,000 home visits. In 1912, Scott created a Little Nurses League to teach schoolgirls about food preparation, hygiene and childcare. The program was adopted by the Winnipeg School Board and offered at thirteen schools.

By 1914, all nurses in training at The Winnipeg Women’s General Hospital were required to spend two months at the Margaret Scott Mission to gain experience in community nursing.

Many prominent citizens supported the Mission, including Ralph Connor, E. Cora Hind, Sir A. M. Nanton and Lady A. C. Schultz.

Scott’s tireless work continued until her death in 1931. Newspaper obituaries referred to her as The Saint of Poverty Row, Winnipeg’s Angel of Mercy and the Florence Nightingale of Winnipeg. In her case, the hyperbole was justified.

After her death, the Nursing Mission continued through the efforts of the City’s Child Welfare Department and the Victorian Order of Nurses, who still serve provide Winnipeggers with in-home care.

Two Winnipeg Foundation funds set up to carry on the work of the Margaret Scott Mission still exist today. The Foundation's 2008 Annual Report listed assets of \$4,478 and \$21,831, respectively, in The Mrs. Margaret Scott Fund and The Margaret Scott Samaritan Club Fund.

Information for this item was gleaned from the exhibit prepared by Dalnavert volunteers Jane Fudge and Mary Steinhoff, with assistance from the Manitoba Historical Society, The Victorian Order of Nurses and the Archives of Manitoba.

Additional information was taken from "Three Manitoba Pioneer Women: A Legacy of Servant-Leadership", an article by Carolyn Crippen published in the October 2006 edition of *Manitoba History*.



G. Goldsborough

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.

Manitoba History 60

In commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike this year, articles in the next issue of *Manitoba History* will focus on the history of labour, starting in the 1600s with the Hudson's Bay Company. Some of the articles include:

- Class, Community, and Urban Consciousness: The Winnipeg Street Railway, 1902–1910
- 'Covenant Servants': Contract, Negotiation, and Accommodation in Hudson Bay, 1670–1782
- Playing in the Shadow of the Ukrainian Labour Temple
- Manitoba's Own Kentucky Colonel
- Strike While the Iron's Hot: Diary of a Musical

Old Fieldstone Church Rises Again

Those attending the recent AGM of the Turtle Mountain–Souris Plains Heritage Association in Deloraine were treated afterwards to a tour of a local heritage building. The Deloraine Presbyterian Church, an impressive fieldstone structure erected in 1896, was used for only a decade before its congregation merged with a nearby Methodist Church. The building was used as a high school starting in 1941, and later housed local government offices. Interior walls put up when it was a school came down when the building was vacated in the mid-1990s. The basement—the only part of the building now heated in winter—is used as an employment centre and Internet access site. The old church is being restored gradually (its large windows were replaced recently) by a local group which hopes it will eventually serve as an arts and entertainment centre, a museum, or some other purpose that benefits the community.

The
Manitoba Historical Society est 1879

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* See our web site (www.mhs.mb.ca) for annual membership rates in the USA and other countries, and for two- and three-year memberships.

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Calendar of Events

For updates and more information, see www.mhs.mb.ca/news/events.shtml

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|--|
| 9 March | MHS Book Club: <i>Making the Voyageur World</i> | 27 April | MHS Book Club: <i>Reading from Left to Right and Eighty-Five Years in Canada</i> |
| 20 March | Heritage Winnipeg Fundraising Luncheon at the Fort Garry Hotel | 9 May | Point Douglas Walking Tour starting at Ross House |
| 24 March | MHS Multicultural Dinner – Poland | 11 May | MHS Book Club: Potluck and select books for next year. |
| 19 April | MHS Awards Event – Margaret McWilliams Book Awards and Centennial Organizations Awards | 23 & 24 May | Doors Open Winnipeg |
| | | 13 June | MHS Annual General Meeting |

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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

www.mhs.mb.ca

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