

# Time Lines

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

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September / October 2009



W. Fraser

**The White Horse statue.** For the legend behind the statue, see the MHS web site at [www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/pageant/03/whitehorseplain.shtml](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/pageant/03/whitehorseplain.shtml)

## MHS Mini Field Trip Bus Tour of St. Francois Xavier and Poplar Point Area

**Saturday, 26 September**

The tour bus will leave promptly at 9:30 am. Prior to departure, we will meet on the north steps of the Legislative Building. Our tour leader Rudy Friesen (long time area resident) will direct us to a number interesting sites. Along the way, we will stop for lunch about 1:00 pm at the L' Auberge Clemence (formerly St. Martha's Convent) in Elie. The tour winds up back at the legislative around 4:00 pm.

Cost of the tour and lunch is \$42 per person. Payment can be made by cheque, Mastercard or Visa. Please contact Jacqueline Friesen at the MHS office (204-947-0559 or [info@mhs.mb.ca](mailto:info@mhs.mb.ca)) to book your seat. Seating on the bus is limited.

## Ukrainian Labour Temple Now a National Historic Site

Winnipeg's Ukrainian Labour Temple was recently designated a National Historic Site. The Labour Temple was previously designated by the Manitoba government in 1995 and the City of Winnipeg in 1997. Jim Prentice, minister responsible for Parks Canada, in a written statement said, "The designation of the Ukrainian Labour Temple not only recognizes the architectural significance of the building but also the important role it played in the social and cultural activities of Ukrainians."

The Labour Temple, known to be a rallying centre for the trade union movement, was raided during the Winnipeg General Strike by Federal authorities searching for evidence of alleged sedition and conspiracy. It was a gathering place for Ukrainian immigrants who wanted to fight for workers' rights. The national headquarters for the Workers' Benevolent Association has remained there since it was established in 1922. The Temple is the centre for many Ukrainian cultural activities and the site of Folklorama's Lviv Ukrainian Pavilion.



W. Fraser

**The Ukrainian Labour Temple**, a fixture at the corner of Pritchard Avenue and McGregor Street in Winnipeg, is now a designated National Historic Site.



MHS President  
Dr. Harry Duckworth

## President's Column

A couple of weeks ago I had the chance to spend eight days in England, to attend the wedding of the daughter of friends. What came back to me was how culturally settled that country still is, and how many of its practices, particularly its ceremonies, are solid and dependable. The English wedding is the best example. The stones of the church give back to the present the blessings of the ages, the music, and the words of the clergyman, are dignified and familiar, and many of the ladies still wear hats. I know that one could find English weddings that are very different, and they may represent the way of the future, but there is something special about doing things the old way, and the English can really deliver.

Being in England also reminded me how easy it is, compared to Canada, to protect history and heritage. They have a lot more written history than we do, and a lot more built heritage, but they certainly know how to protect it. Many buildings—some of quite modest age—are “Listed”, and anyone who wishes to modify, or even destroy one of those buildings must jump through bureaucratic hoops, and may well be denied planning permission. Wonderful resources are available to protect heritage. The National Lotteries scheme generates large profits that are used to support everything from the digitization of records to the refurbishment of historic buildings. The national collections of manuscripts are readily available, so that a researcher can usually turn up at the National Archives, for instance, and have the papers wanted in hand within the hour.

Like its health care, a nation's approach to its heritage is itself a product of its history. In England, a private organization, the National Trust, has taken responsibility for many important buildings and other properties. This wildly successful organization has several million members, who pay a substantial annual fee (currently £80 for a couple) in return for free admission to the full range of properties.

Other revenue comes from non-member visitors and on-site sales; while behind the scenes there is a shrewdly managed charity, which ensures that the money is in place for each property to pay its way. The National Trust is just one evidence that the population of England knows what its history is, and wants to preserve that history. Here in Canada, we are still trying to figure out what history we wish to save, and most of our heritage buildings are at an awkward age—not yet old enough to command universal respect.

My return to Winnipeg brought me face to face with our own reality. Some of you will have heard that the University of Manitoba is demolishing—by the time you read this, it will have been demolished—what is usually known as the Practice House. This was a typical example of a heritage building at an awkward age. It was built in 1938, as a place for young women in the Home Economics program to learn the practical skills of running a household and caring for a family—a live-in laboratory, in fact. Most recently, it housed the offices of the Alumni Association. The building was built in a neo-Georgian style, with a curving staircase and banister, and a bow window at the landing; a semi-circular alcove with windows looking toward the river; and eyebrow windows peeping out from the roof. Its site was just beyond one corner of the central Quadrangle of the Fort Garry campus, slightly set off from the larger buildings by roads and walkways. Most older universities have one or two buildings like this—survivors from simpler times, more elegantly built than the recent workaday structures, not as efficient as it might be, and on a human scale. When a visitor to a university campus comes upon such a building, there is a feeling of reassurance and peace. The Practice House was the University of Manitoba's building of this kind. A new edifice, some kind of laboratory for the School of Art, and no doubt very useful, will take its place.

Bill Neville, one of our Society's Councilors, wrote a column in the Winnipeg Free Press on August 14, which lamented the loss of the Practice House, and pointed out the irony in the whole episode. In Canada, publically funded property owners, such as universities, are generally exempt from heritage protection laws. It has been assumed that those institutions need no supervision, that they understand their responsibilities as preservers of heritage. There is no doubt that within the community of the University of Manitoba, many individuals understand that role very well. Bill Neville suggested, though, that for

the institution as a whole, things seem to have got out of balance at the University of Manitoba, and that a Heritage Committee is needed to give formal advice when something like the fate of an important building comes up. It sounds like a good idea, but it will be too late for the Practice House.

Harry Duckworth

### Welcome New Members

Archives of Manitoba  
 Kenneth Bull  
 James Burns  
 Kevin Dearing  
 Cynthia J. Faryon  
 Scott Goodine  
 Frieda Klippenstein  
 Robert Lalonde  
 Darlene Litchie  
 Jeff Macdonald  
 Bob Nelson  
 David Neufeld  
 Orysya Petryshyn, Sisler High School  
 Kimberly Pohl  
 Cory D. Schreyer

### Donations & Contributions

**Thank You!**

#### *General Operations*

Association of Manitoba Municipalities  
 Jean G. Campbell  
 Bruce Donaldson  
 Kimberly Pohl  
 H. A. Skene

#### *In honour of David and Rosemary Malaher 50th Anniversary*

Harry and Mary Lynn Duckworth  
 David and Linda McDowell

#### *Website Projects*

Gordon Goldsborough  
 Jacqueline Friesen

#### *Young Historians Dr. Paul Thorlakson Fund*

Dr. T. K. Thorlakson

#### *Ross House Canada Day Program*

George Hicks

#### *Books*

Cynthia J. Faryon  
 Albert Van Walleghem

### Obituary

MHS member Dr. Allan Patterson died on Thursday, 23 July 2009 at the age of 90, in Winnipeg. Al was born in Ottawa on 12 July 1919. He attended the Ontario Agricultural College (now part of the University of Guelph) and received his BSA degree from the University of Toronto in 1943. He was employed for seven years by the Dominion Rubber Company Limited (now Uniroyal) in Kitchener and Winnipeg and for 15 years by the T. Eaton Company's Winnipeg store. On leaving Eaton's in 1965, he enrolled in the University of Western Ontario School of Business Administration (now the Richard Ivey School of Business) and receiving his MBA degree in 1967. After two years on Western's business school faculty, he enrolled in the Graduate School, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and received his PhD degree in industrial relations in 1975. In 1974, he joined the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Administrative Studies (now the I. H. Asper School of Business). He retired as an Associate Professor in 1988 following his election as the Liberal MLA for Radisson. In his retirement years, he remained active in Liberal Party affairs. For several years, he was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Fort Garry and of the Wildewood Club. He was a member of the board of the Winnipeg Public Library and the Winnipeg Library Foundation. He was active in the Association of Former Manitoba Members of the Legislative Assembly. In 2002, he received a Queen's Golden Jubilee medal from Sharon Carstairs.



W. Fraser

**The L'Auberge Clemence** (formerly St. Martha's Convent) in Elie is a stop on the tour of the St. Francois Xavier and Poplar Point area on 26 September.



## Business History Book Launch

On Monday, 21 September 2009 as part of the Rotman School Canadian Business History Speaker Series—Joe Martin, an MHS past president, will be speaking and launching his book, *Relentless Change: a Casebook for the Study of Canadian Business History* (Rotman/U of Toronto Press), in the Fort Garry Hotel, 222 Broadway (Concert Hall Ballroom, 7<sup>th</sup> floor).

Joe Martin is Director of the Canadian Business History Program and Adjunct Professor of Business Strategy and Executive in Residence of the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto. The event co-host is Canada's National History Society.

The presentation and Q & A begins at 5:30 pm sharp and ends at 6:20. Between 6:20 and 7:30 will be the time for cocktails and book signing.

Register at [www.rotman.utoronto.ca/events](http://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/events) The fee, \$39.95 per person plus GST, includes presentation, a signed copy of *Relentless Change*, and cocktails.

## MHS Book Club Schedule, 2009-2010

Unless noted, meetings are 7–9 pm at Dalnavert Visitor Centre. Please confirm attendance with Judy 204-475-6666.

Note: L= Leader, T= Treats, WPL = Winnipeg Public Library

21 Sept. 2009, Guest: Jack Bumsted, author of *Lord Selkirk: A Life* (2008, WPL 3 copies). T-Carol Scott

19 October 2009, Howard Adams, *Prison of Grass: Canada from the Native Point of View* (1975, WPL-3 copies) L-Joe Upton; T-Marg Kentner

16 November 2009, Mary Quayle Innis, *Mrs. Simcoe's Diary* (1965, WPL-2 cops) L-Céline Kear; T-Cathy Phillipson (there are also biographies)

18 January 2010, Maggie Siggins, *Marie-Anne: the extraordinary life of Louis Riel's grandmother* (2008, WPL-12 copies) L-Neil Challis; T-Pat Challis

15 February 2010, James Raffan, *Emperor of the North: Sir George Simpson and the remarkable story of the Hudson's Bay Company* (2007, WPL-12 copies) L-Shirlee Anne Smith

15 March 2010, Sarah Carter, *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915* (2008 WPL-2 copies) L & T-Judy Valenzuela

19 April 2010, Tom Avery, *To the End of the Earth: Our Epic Journey to the North Pole and the Legend of Peary and Henson* (2009, WPL on order) L-Marg Kentner

17 May 2010, 6 pm: Potluck, books for next year

## Membership News

Thank you to our dedicated members who continue to support the Society, by keeping their membership current, and to those of you who are participating in our “check your label campaign” and are sending in their renewals. We appreciate your continued support in this endeavour.

Your efforts in keeping your membership current are helping to reduce the steadily rising costs of membership processing and the savings generated from the initiative are being passed directly back to the membership, by offsetting costs in providing our membership benefits. Membership benefits include our newsletter *Time Lines*, our *Manitoba History* journal, and our regular and special programs such as the upcoming field trip to St. Francois Xavier organized by Joyce Wawrykow of the Society's Program Committee.

Members are reminded that renewal notices can be sent to you by email. This reduces the cost of membership processing further, and if you overlook your renewal, we can also send a friendly email to remind you.

We find that members email address information tends to change over time, and to that end, we ask that you send us an email with your current email address, in order that we keep your contact information current. We also use your email address to send out reminders of upcoming society and other heritage related events. Please be assured that your information is kept confidential. When sending your email information, please identify yourself as a member of the Society.

Members are reminded that your membership must be kept current to sit on all society committees and to receive special rates for special society events, such as our Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner.

Jacqueline Friesen, Manager

## MHS Edwin Nix Library News

The Society's Library recently received two new book donations for our local and family history collection, and we are grateful to the authors for their thoughtful and generous gifts. Coincidentally, the books trace the contributions of Manitoba pioneers and dairy farming in Manitoba.

*Our Van Wallegghem Roots* by Albert Van Wallegghem and Marjorie Van Wallegghem Guertin traces the

history of the Van Walleghe family, who migrated from Belgium in 1892, and their personal history of over 100 years of dairy farming, and the founding of dairy businesses in Winnipeg and area, the well-known *Modern Dairies* among them. The book documents the changes in dairy farming over the century interspersed within the family history, and a look at early Belgian settlement in Winnipeg. The book also features a list of dairy farms in and around Winnipeg since 1890.

*The Dream W. P. Davidson and the Davidson Era* by Cynthia J. Faryon traces the history of Marchland MB, in RM of La Broquerie, and the Manitoba Dairy Farms, and story of the man who began it all, Watson Pogue Davidson, a business man and land developer from St. Paul, Minnesota, who, in 1909 traded two hotels for 70,000 acres of swampy land in southeastern Manitoba. He drained swamps, built ready-to-move-in farms, brought in livestock, and wooed settlers from around the world to help him create his dream of "a garden of Eden in the wilderness"

*A Boy, A Farm, A Dream.* The story of the early settlers in Marchand through the eyes of Lloyd Lehman by Cynthia J. Faryon is a story of early settlers who were enticed by the dream of W. P. Davidson to settle in Manitoba, and carved out the community of Marchand.

Society members are reminded that the library is open by pre-arranged appointment. Please call Jacqueline Friesen, during regular office hours, Wednesday and Thursday, 1–5 pm. We regret that we cannot accommodate drop-in visitors to the library. Our library is a research library only, and book use must be conducted on site.

Members are reminded that we placed our extensive collection files of historical data on people, places and things, formerly housed in our library, at the Manitoba Archives. The material was archived and collected for over several decades by Society member Ms. Areen Mulder, during her employment with the Society, and after her retirement. The collection is named in her honour. In addition to her years of employment with the Society, Areen served on many Society committees over the years, has sat on the Governing Council, and served on the Executive committee as secretary.

Jacqueline Friesen, Manager

## Centennial Farms

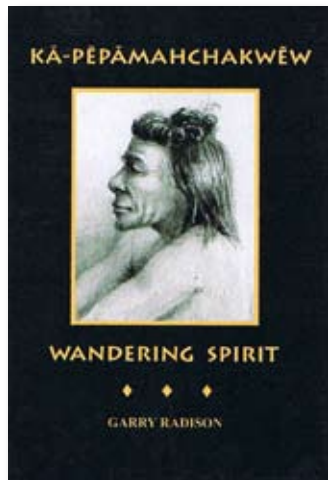
Members of the Centennial Farm committee are Anne MacVicar (Chair), David McDowell, Lee Treilhard, Corinne Tellier, Denise Kolesar, and Dale Guy.

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

<i>Altamont</i>	Scott Snowdon NE 27-5-8 WPM 1898
<i>Cardinal</i>	Ronald & Anne Boisvert SE 11-6-9 o.m.p. 1907
<i>Dauphin</i>	George & Shirley Fisher, Roderick & Elaine Fisher, Douglas & Irene Fisher E 5-25- 19 WPM 1905
<i>Fisher Branch</i>	Raymond & Betty Switzer SE15-25-3 WPM 1909
<i>Gilbert Plains</i>	David & Linda McNabb, Scott & Charissa Mcnabb NE 3-25- 23 WPN 1899
<i>Inwood</i>	Florence (Barchuk) & William Chitz NE 33-17-1 EPM 1909
<i>Rosser</i>	Martin Oatway ESW 8-12-2 EPM 1901; Oatway Farms Ltd. WSW 8-12-2 EPM 1901
<i>St.Jean-Baptiste</i>	Normand Lafond et Anne- Marie Lapointe, Le lot de riviere numero 274, Paroisse de Sainte-Agathe 1909
<i>Sandy Hook</i>	Frank & Geri Zabudny SW 14- 18-3 EPM 1900
<i>Silver</i>	Nick Richlicki and Pearl (Richlicki) Lacko E 110 Acres of NW 27-21-2 EPM 1909
<i>Silver Creek</i>	Lorne & Elaine Senko NW 2-21-26 WPM 1901
<i>Somerset</i>	George & Loretta Henderson SE 29-4-9 WPM 1909

## New Aboriginal History Book

*Ka-Pepamahchakwew: Wandering Spirit*  
by Garry Radison



The first in-depth biography of Big Bear's war chief. Born in 1845 on the Canadian plains, he learned the ways of a warrior during the inter-tribal wars of the 1860s. When the Canadian government threatened to starve his people into submission, he was the only war chief to take offensive action in 1885.

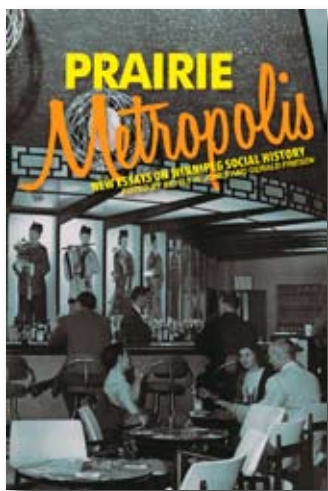
Author Garry Radison attacks the historical view that Wandering Spirit was a savage renegade and restores him to his rightful place in history as a protector of his band, the Plains Cree of the north-western plains. With new material and close analysis of the historical record, Radison reveals the war chief as a man with a limited perspective but a fierce desire to save his people and their land.

*Ka-Pepamahchakwew* is published by Smoke Ridge Books (<http://smokeridgebooks.webs.com>) from which copies may be purchased for CDN\$32.00 plus \$5 shipping.

## New Winnipeg History Book

*Prairie Metropolis:*

*New Essays on Winnipeg Social History*  
edited by Eyllt W. Jones and Gerald Friesen



At the turn of the twentieth century, Winnipeg was the fastest-growing city in North America. But its days as a diverse and culturally rich metropolis did not end when the boom collapsed. *Prairie Metropolis* brings together some of the best new graduate research on the history of Winnipeg and makes a groundbreaking

contribution to the history of the city between 1900 and the 1980s. The essays in this collection explore the development of social institutions such as the city's police force, juvenile court, health care institutions, volunteer organizations, and cultural centres. They offer critical analyses on ethnic, gender, and class inequality and conflict, while placing Winnipeg's experiences in national and international contexts.

*Prairie Metropolis* is published by the University of Manitoba Press. It will be launched at 7:30 pm on 5 October at McNally-Robinson Booksellers (Grant Park location), to which all are welcome.

## Dalnavert Museum News

This past spring, Dalnavert received some noteworthy items for display at the Museum. The first was a replica of the sign that advertised the law firm established by Hugh John Macdonald in 1882. He set up practice with his friend, J. Stewart Tupper, in offices near the intersection of Portage (then known as Queen) and Main. The sign incorporated both their names.



W. Fraser

Replica sign on display in the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre.

Hugh John was the son of Canada's first Prime Minister, John A. Macdonald (1867–1873) and Tupper's father, Dr. Charles Tupper, a medical doctor and former premier of Nova Scotia, would serve in the same capacity, although only for a short time (1896). Interestingly, it was the Manitoba Schools Question that led to his undoing after only 69 days in office.

E. Cora Hind, later a renowned agricultural writer and editor for the *Winnipeg Free Press*, was hired as the firm's typist, at a salary of \$6 per week—a post she retained until 1893.



The firm went through a number of incarnations as new partners came and went, including Tupper's youngest brother, William Johnston Tupper (who later became Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba) and Tupper's son, Sir Charles Stewart Tupper. However, an image of the Macdonald & Tupper sign appeared on the company letterhead for many years.

In 1982, the decision was made to commemorate the firm's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary by creating a replica of the original sign. A solid oak door, salvaged from the CPR building at Portage and Main, was used for this purpose. The existing law firm of Tupper & Adams kindly donated the sign to Dalnavert this past April. George E. Van Den Bosch, who is still with the firm, and Alan Adams, who recently retired after 60 years, delivered the sign in person.



L. Neyedly

Lawyers George E. Van Den Bosch (left) and Alan Adams QC holding the Macdonald & Tupper sign at Dalnavert.

In May, Dalnavert took delivery of another significant piece, a very rare, late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century Hoosier kitchen centre, in excellent condition. This oak cabinet comes complete with sugar and flour bins, metal-topped drawers for storing bread and other baked goods and an enamel worktop. Even the original glass spice jars are intact!

According to the website *Everything Pantry*, Hoosier cabinets were extremely popular into the 1930s. Named after the Hoosier Manufacturing Company of New Castle, Indiana, they were also made (i.e. imitated) by several other companies.

“Often billed as a ‘pantry and kitchen in one’, the Hoosier brought the ease and readiness of a pantry with its many storage spaces and working counter right into the kitchen....

The popularity of the Hoosier would herald a gradual shift towards increased cabinetry and workspaces in the American kitchen until they, like the pantry, became all but obsolete. Today the Hoosier cabinet is a much sought-after domestic icon and widely reproduced.”

Dalnavert's Hoosier is currently situated in our gift shop and used to display china, candles and assorted kitchenware. In future, it could become an era-appropriate-addition to a summer kitchen display.

The Hoosier came to us from former Winnipeggers who were moving out-of-province. They had purchased it from a source in Gimli some years ago and kept it in their own kitchen until their recent move. They were very fond of the cabinet and wanted to find it a “new” home where it would be appreciated.

People often call the Museum offering to donate books, clothing, artefacts and furniture. In order to be considered for the collection, items must be representative of the period and preferably date from the late 1890s or before. Of course, any items that belonged to Sir Hugh (and his immediate family) are most welcome! Potential donors are quite disappointed if we cannot accept their treasures, but our limited amount of storage and display space means we can only take items of definite benefit to the Museum.

On occasion, people will donate items that we are free to sell in our gift shop, at garage sales, through dealers or via the internet. The proceeds then go into our Museum operating fund.

Tax receipts are issued in accordance with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) regulations and guidelines, and MHS/Dalnavert policies and procedures. Readers who own items that could be of interest to Dalnavert are welcome to call the Museum at 204-943-2835.

From September to November, we are featuring an exhibit entitled *Winnipeg's 1919 General Strike: The Ripple Effect of Fear*. This display, developed in commemoration of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, showcases those who were in charge on either side and the consequences of the fear that gripped that era as witnessed in Winnipeg. Learn why this event was so significant at that time and what seeds were sown affecting our lives today. We thank Jane Fudge and the Winnipeg Police Museum for their assistance with this exhibit.

Dalnavert will host two harpsichord concerts this fall. The first, on 18 October at 3:00 pm, is entitled *French Lessons: Discovering the harpsichord through the music of the French Baroque Masters*. With Carol Piller on harpsichord, the program will include *Suite in A Minor* featuring the great Gavotte and Doubles by Rameau and *French Suite #5 in G Major* by J. S. Bach along with other works by Couperin, Balbastre, Duphy, D'Anglebert and Forqueray. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Light refreshments will follow the concert. The second concert on 6 December at 3:00 pm is entitled *1685: Music of three great masters all born in 1685: Bach, Handel and Scarlatti*. It features Eric Lussier on harpsichord and Haley Rempel on flute. As before, tickets are \$20 at the door.

Linda Neyedly  
Museum Director, Dalnavert

### Heritage News

On 26 July, the official opening of the **Douglas L. Campbell House at the Fort la Reine Museum** in Portage la Prairie was hosted by Mr. Campbell's family, Sonya Scott-Wright, Dawn McKeag, Owili Burns and Keith Campbell. MLA Bill Blaikie represented the provincial government and spoke very warmly and personally about Mr. Campbell, his debating skills and his statesmanship. David Faurshou attended as the MLA for Portage. Mr. Campbell's son spoke briefly on behalf of the family. Several years of restoration have been done on the house. The main floor is much as it was when the family lived in it, with additional information panels on the other premiers from the Portage area—Walter Weir and Sterling Lyon—and MP and Prime Minister Arthur Meighen. In recognition with Mr. Campbell's long association with the Masonic Lodge, a large upper room has displays of Masonic Memorabilia. The Campbell Farm at Flee Island NW 25-13-6W was one of the first centennial farms recognized by the Manitoba Historical Society in 1980.

On 5 September, Lieutenant-Governor Philip Lee presided at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations to commemorate the beginnings of the **Winnipeg's Chinatown**. Anniversary kiosks were set up along King Street. Festivities included dancers, singing and martial arts demonstrations. In 1909, six Chinese families came to the area north of the city hall where they set up homes and shops. As more Chinese immigrants settled there, the area became known as Chinatown. Chinatown remains a cultural and

commercial centre for the 18,000 Chinese who live in Winnipeg today.

The *Daily Graphic* reports that Barry Bills, chairman of the **Portage la Prairie** Heritage Advisory Committee, spoke at a Rotary Club luncheon on heritage preservation in Portage. He reported on the progress of restoring the Portage CP Station. Bills noted, at the moment, work has been done to stabilize the building, paint it, add new shingles to the roof, preserve the stonework and install new windows. Plans now focus on installing new washrooms and, whenever \$40,000 to \$50,000 is available, a new geothermal heating system.

The *Neepawa Banner* reports that the **RM of Rosedale** celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and that former students and teachers gathered at the unveiling of the **Huns Valley-Polonia School #732 Cairn**. A vertical log school in Huns Valley, which was named after Hungarian immigrants in the area was built in 1887 and had to be replaced in 1911 because of structural deterioration. The cairn that was unveiled is half a mile west of the original log school location. A second school was built about a half mile further west to accommodate Polish settlers who homesteaded in the area. This school burned down in 1934 and was replaced by a third school, which was built on the original school site. This school was named Polonia School because the town's name had changed from Hun's Valley to Polonia in 1921. The Polonia School closed in 1968. A total of 34 teachers taught at the Huns Valley -Polonia School, including ten Benedictine sisters who taught between 1933 and 1956.

The **Manitoba Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada** will hold its fall meeting in the Presbyterian Church in Neepawa on Saturday, 26 September at 11:00 am. Following the meeting there will be a tour of the Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1891 and designated as a Provincial Heritage Site in 1992. Lunch will be provided by the women of the church at a cost of \$15 per person. After lunch there will be a tour of the Beautiful Plains Court House built in 1884 and declared a Provincial Historic Site in 1982. It is one of only two remaining courthouses in Western Canada that is still being used for its original purpose. There will also be a visit to the Beautiful Plains Museum that was built as the CNR station in 1902 and provincially designated in 1984. A map will be available, marking all of the heritage buildings and



sites in Neepawa including the Margaret Lawrence Home for those whose time permits. The other Manitoba Branch Meetings in 2009 are scheduled for the fourth Saturdays in the months of October (AGM) and November at The Gates on Roblin at 10:30 am with lunch to follow. For further information contact Barb (204-727-3054 bjandrew@westman.wave.ca), Margaret (204-489-6954 jmcarter@mts.net) or Lynn (204-257-7724).

The **RM of Arthur** and the town of **Melita** are celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. **The Antler River Historical Society Museum** had many visitors during the anniversary celebrations. It is located in the original Melita School building that was built in 1893. There are thirteen display rooms covering different themes: old photographs, Native heritage, a rural classroom, a pioneer home, military exhibits, wildlife, antiques, community history, fashions of yesterday, antique tools, and paintings by local artists. A recent addition is a display of pictures, shoes, a hat and documents of John Bloomfield Barker, a family member of the Barkers Ltd. clothing store. Another display, the A. F. Fred Jensen Trophy Room is located just outside the doors of the museum. This room displays trophy animals collected by Mr. Jensen through his travels in Africa and North America as an avid sportsman and hunter in the 1950s and 1960s. Both the museum and the trophy room are open in June, July and August. Copies of the history book, *Sequel to "Our First Century" Town of Melita/RM of Arthur*, were sold during the 125 celebrations. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy should contact Jean Loucks at Delmar's Rona Hardware in Melita.

A new history of **Birtle**, *"Passing It On" RM and Town of Birtle History 1884–2009* is now available. The book features nearly 600 histories and over 600 pictures on the history of the Town and RM of Birtle, its families, businesses, services and organizations with special chapters on Foxwarren and Solsgirth. A thousand books were printed and over half have been sold. Copies of the 632-page book are available from the RM of Birtle office.

In July 2009, residents and friends gathered for the dedication of the Henderson Cairn to commemorate the pioneers of **Oak Lake Island** and especially more than a century of stewardship by the Henderson family. The plaque reads "Henderson Cairn, 1892 2005." In 1892, William Henderson bought the property from Amable Marion on what was then

known as "Marion's Island." The Henderson family owned and developed the island as Oak Lake Island and it became a popular resort area.

Celebrations at **St. Andrews on the Red** marked the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the church. The church was consecrated in 1849 and the Church of England completed its limestone buildings in 1855. The church is the oldest church in continuous use in Western Canada and is a national historic site. All events except for church services took place on the St. Andrews Rectory grounds. Events on 1 August centered on presentations on the church's history with Aboriginal and Métis communities. Events on 2 August related more to Scottish and English activities, including a fashion show by the Manitoba Living History Society. On 3 August, there was a combination of the themes of the first two days.

On 3 August 1871, **Treaty One** was signed in Lower Fort Garry between the Ojibwa, the Swampy Cree and the Crown. It was the first of 11 numbered treaties in western Canada. On 3 August 2009 at Lower Fort Garry over 1,500 people attended the annual event to commemorate the signing of Treaty One and to celebrate the contribution of aboriginal peoples and First Nation treaties. The great increase from the 500 who attended last year is probably due to putting greater focus on inviting Treaty One members and also to free admission to the fort.

The *Minnedosa Tribune* reports that the **Minnedosa Regional Archives** has received a priceless collection of documents of General Hugh Marshall Dyer and his wife, Helen May Dyer. In World War One, he was a brigadier general and one of Canada's most highly decorated soldiers. Dyer immigrated to Canada from England in 1881. When World War I began in 1914, he was senior officer (Major) in the Dragoons in Minnedosa. During the war, he became Lieutenant Colonel in command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion and later he took on command of the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade and became brigadier general. His granddaughter, Susan Murphy, donated the collection to the *Minnedosa Tribune* Archives in the 1990s. From there it was lent to historian Murray Graham who was writing a book on Dyer. Now the collection has returned home to Minnedosa to join other Dyer related materials (maps, books and photographs) in the Minnedosa Regional Archives.

The **Hillside School Cairn** between Virden and Scarth was constructed in 1984. It was vandalized

circa 2006 but was refaced and rededicated in July 2009. On the top of the original cairn was a small replica of the school. The replica has been restored but will not be returned to top the cairn. It will be in a safer place in the Reston Museum.

The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies at the University of Winnipeg will host the 2010 **Rupert's Land Colloquium** on 19-22 May 2010. During the Colloquium, Aboriginal and fur trade researchers from many disciplines will share their research and interests, and take advantage of the rich history that is still being made at the Forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. For more information, see the Colloquium web site at <http://uwwebpro.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/ic/ruPERT/collo2010.html>.

**Daly House Museum** in Brandon will host an exhibit entitled *The Scarlet Force: First Steps of our Heroes* from 11 September to 28 November. This exhibit explores the history of the North West Mounted Police and the living conditions of the officers while on the march. The museum is open Tuesday to Saturday, from 10:00 am to noon and 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

### Ross House Museum Report

The sun was shining as more than two hundred people of all ages, including many North Point Douglas residents attended the annual Canada Day celebrations on the grounds of Ross House Museum and Joe Zuken Park. Visiting Dignitaries included Judy Wasylycia-Leis MP and Manitoba Liberal Party leader Dr. Jon Gerard MLA. The Canadian flag was raised. Then everyone feasted on hotdog wieners wrapped in rye bread. Bananas, apples, ice water and a birthday cake from Gunn's Bakery were also provided. Hoop dancers, and First Nations dance groups, the Summer Bear Dancers and the Half Pints performed in the amphitheatre. Spectators, including Dr. Gerard, participated in the dancing as well.

Ross House Museum is actively involved in the North Point Douglas Community. The Point Douglas Residents' Committee Women's Centre barbecue was held at Ross House in August.

This summer, two interpreters, Rosanna Hemple and William Jordan, assisted Ross House museum manager Victor Sawelo. The interpreters conducted tours of the museum and walking tours of Point Douglas when requested. The museum closed for the season on 30 August.



W. Fraser

**The Ross House staff** in summer 2009 (L-R): manager Victor Sawelo with interpreters Rosanna Hemple and William Jordan.



V. Sawelo

**A tepee** graced Canada Day celebrations at Ross House.



V. Sawelo

**Liberal leader Dr. Jon Gerard** (centre) joined dancers in the Amphitheatre on Canada Day.

## Gimli History Revisited

*Gimlunga Saga A History of Gimli and the Vidirnes Settlement* will be a new three-volume illustrated history of Gimli and the historical Vidirnes settlement of New Iceland from 1875 to the present day. Included in *Gimlunga Saga* will be the histories and pictures of pioneer families (Icelandic and non-Icelandic alike) who settled within the designated area (Townships 18 & 19, Range 4 East) as well as write-ups on families now making their home in this district. All descendants and interested persons are invited to submit information and photos to ensure their family's inclusion.

This is an entirely new history—not a remake of any previous publication. Unlike most local histories, one researcher and writer, with input and assistance from the descendants of Gimli's pioneers, is compiling *Gimlunga Saga*. Districts included in this history include Boundary Park, Sandy Hook, Husavik, Siglufvik, Willow Island, Minerva, Dnistrer and Gimli. The new history will be unusual for its in-depth and comprehensive accounts of the area's pioneers, whose individual ancestral backgrounds and early settlement experiences are being pieced together through research into primary sources such as Icelandic ministerial records and Canadian homestead files as well as various secondary sources in Icelandic. Close to 500 pioneer families settled in the area. In many cases, a single pioneer family now includes hundreds of descendants.

Each volume is expected to include 500 to 600 pages. The first volume covers the area from Boundary Creek north to Siglufvik. The target publication date for Volume I is in the year 2011. Volume II focuses on Township 19-4E (Willow Island north to Lakeside Road). Volume III covers the town of Gimli. A fourth volume to accommodate the town of Gimli's residents after 1925 is also a possibility.



W. Fraser

**Gimli's signature Viking statue**, designed by Gissur Eliasson, sculpted in fibreglass by George Barone, and erected in 1967 in commemoration of Canada's centary.

Corporate or individual sponsorships for each volume to assist in the project's realization, and full or partial page acknowledgements/dedications honouring specific pioneers/individuals will be published in the respective volumes to recognize this support. Those wishing to make inquiries, contribute material, and /or lend support to this project are invited to contact the writer: Nelson Gerrard, Saga Publications & Research, Box 925, Arborg MB R0C 0A0.

### 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.



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## Calendar of Events

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

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| <p><b>21 September</b> Book launch: <i>Relentless Change: A Casebook for the Study of Canadian Business History</i>, 5:30 pm</p> <p><b>21 September</b> MHS Book Club, guest Jack Bumsted, author of <i>Lord Selkirk: A Life</i>, 7 pm</p> <p><b>26 September</b> Mini field trip to St. Francois Xavier - Poplar Point area, leaving at 9:30 am<br/>Contact MHS office to reserve.</p> <p><b>5 October</b> Book launch: <i>Prairie Metropolis: New Essays on Winnipeg's Social History</i>, 7:30 pm</p> | <p><b>19 October</b> MHS Book Club: Howard Adams, <i>Prison of Grass</i>, 7:00 pm</p> <p><b>16 November</b> MHS Book Club: Mary Quayle Innis: <i>Mrs. Simpson's Diary</i>, 7:00 pm</p> <p><b>18 November</b> Film Night: Watch for details in upcoming <i>Time Lines</i> and on the MHS web site</p> |
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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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