

# Time Lines

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 42 No. 3  
March / April 2010



## MHS Annual Multicultural Dinner Wednesday, 21 April 2010

Le Club Belge (Belgian Club)  
407 Provencer Boulevard, St. Boniface

Jean-Marie De Clercq, Honourary Belgian Consul for Manitoba and Nunavut, will speak on the history of the Belgian community in Manitoba.

A cash bar opens at 5:30 pm featuring Belgian beers. A four-course dinner follows at 6:30 pm. The Club is open all day and anyone who comes before 5:30 is welcome. After dinner there will be a performance by The Belgian Folk Dancers of Winnipeg.

Enjoy authentic Belgian dishes including leek soup, tossed salad, Belgian beer stew, potatoes, red cabbage with apples, and Belgian chocolate truffle cake.

The cost is \$18.00 per person. Please make your reservation in advance by calling the MHS office at 204-947-0559 by 15 April. Visa and Mastercard are accepted. Seats will not be sold at the door.

A parking lot is available. A city transit bus stops at the front door westbound and across the street eastbound.



Winnipeg's Belgian Club will host the 2010 MHS Multicultural Dinner on 21 April.

## President's Column

For this issue of *Time Lines*, I have details of new arrangements for the management of the MHS's operations, including the Dalnavert and Ross House Museums. These arrangements were agreed to at a special meeting of the governing Council of the Society on 9 February. Considerable work was done, over several months, by the Executive, by the Council, and by the co-Chairs and members of the Dalnavert Management Committee. The new arrangements will make it easier for the Executive and the Council to keep track of operations, and direct them where necessary. There should also be some financial savings.



MHS President  
Dr. Harry Duckworth

The immediate impulse for the new system was the fact that, since the summer of 2007, the office of the MHS has been in the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre. That move, which was made when the lease of our old premises on McDermot Avenue came up for renewal, made sense because the Society already had office and storage space available at Dalnavert, so it could begin paying rent to itself rather than to an outside landlord. It was also felt that the move would increase members' access to the Society offices: at Dalnavert we have our own parking lot, and access does not require negotiating steep stairs and a scary elevator.

It was soon realized that all the business aspects of the Society, including the two Museums, could easily be handled by one business manager, rather than keeping separate Dalnavert budgets and accounts as have existed for many years. With systematic budgeting, we could insure that money

meant specifically for Dalnavert (certain grants administered by the Winnipeg Foundation; revenue from Museum admissions, the gift shop and commercial rentals; and donations to the Museum) would continue to be used for the Museum, while money intended for the Society generally (Society memberships; revenue from the Macdonald Dinner; interest from endowment accounts; donations to the Society; and so on) would continue to go to those activities. The business activities of the Visitors' Centre, the gift shop and the commercial rentals, could likewise come under the oversight of a business manager. For the Museum itself, a new kind of administrator would be needed, who would concentrate on developing Museum programs and activities, and would have professional qualifications in museum management. The existing position of Museum Director, responsible for all aspects of the Dalnavert Museum and Visitors' Centre, including budgets, accounts, rentals and the gift shop, as well as curatorial and program responsibilities, would no longer be appropriate.

As a first step in the re-organization, the position of Director of the Dalnavert Museum was discontinued in January. Linda Neyedly, who served as Director since May of 2005, is no longer with the Museum. She was a devoted employee in a complex job, and the Society is grateful for her efforts and dedication.

At the Council meeting on 9 February, it was agreed to establish two new full-time paid positions, of equal status. The Chief Administrative Officer will be responsible for the financial business of the Society, including Dalnavert, and the operations of the Visitors' Centre (gift shop, commercial bookings, and maintenance). Assisting in part of this will be a junior position of Gift Shop and Events Manager. Jacqueline Friesen, who has been the Society's office manager since 2002, has been invited to fill the new position of Chief Administrative Officer, and she has accepted. Victor Sawelo, Manager of the Ross House Museum, will also report to her.

The second new position is that of Chief Curator and Program Officer, who will be responsible for the Dalnavert Museum, including care of the museum building and its collection, program development, exhibitions and tours, and outreach activities. A search for a person to fill this position will begin soon. We will be looking for a dynamic, imaginative individual with training in museum management, who appreciates what Dalnavert can teach about

the history of Winnipeg, but also understands the expectations of modern museum-going audiences. Full job descriptions for both positions will be brought to the March meeting of Council for approval, and the search for the Chief Curator/Program Officer will begin.

Both the new full-time officers will report directly to the Executive, and will attend Executive meetings as non-voting members. This reporting line for the Curator/Program Officer means that the Dalnavert Management Committee is no longer needed, although an Advisory Committee of experienced persons should be established to assist the Curator, once he/she is appointed. Council passed a motion to abolish both the Dalnavert Management Committee and the Ross House Management Committee, and offered votes of thanks to the members of both committees, who have served the Society with distinction, some for many years. Since both Committees are specified in the Society's constitution, a constitutional amendment will have to be brought to the Annual General Meeting in May, before these Committees officially cease to exist. The Ross House Manager, Victor Sawelo, is being encouraged to maintain his own community relations committee, to foster the excellent interactions that he has with the Point Douglas community.

Finally, Council has created a new Coordinator of Volunteers, who will be her/himself a volunteer, and a voting member of the Executive and the Council. The first task of the Coordinator will be to rebuild the Society's volunteer base, which is in need of rejuvenation.

The new system, we know, will need to be fleshed out, and many details have yet to be finalized. The changes will strengthen the Manitoba Historical Society for its roles in the new century. There will be places for volunteers to assist in many of the tasks.

Harry Duckworth

### MHS Annual General Meeting

The MHS Annual General Meeting will be held at Lower Fort Garry on 29 May. There will be more information in next issue of *Time Lines*.

## Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner was held at the Fort Garry Hotel on 6 February. Before the dinner started people were making early bids on the silent auction which continued throughout the evening. There were addresses from His Honour, the Honourable Philip S. Lee, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and the Patron of the Manitoba Historical Society, from the Honourable Flor Marcelino, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism who spoke on behalf of the Province, and from Dr. Harry Duckworth, MHS President. Mr. Jim Ingebrigtsen was Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Francis Carroll introduced the speaker Dr. Jerry Gray, Chair of the Friends of Upper Fort Garry. Dr. Gray spoke on "Building a Future for Upper Fort Garry" and enlightened us on what will be happening in the next few years as the Gate and adjacent land evolve into a vibrant interpretive park. MHS Vice President Dr. Annabelle Mays formally thanked the speaker for his inspiring address.



G. Goldsborough

Dr. Jerry Gray, Dean Emeritus at the University of Manitoba and Chair of the Friends of Upper Fort Garry, spoke of the group's work to reclaim one of the most historically significant sites in Western Canada and the birth place of Manitoba—the site of Upper Fort Garry.



G. Goldsborough

MHS president Harry Duckworth (left) and former president Bill Fraser (right) presented the 2010 Douglas Kemp Award to Carl James at this year's Macdonald Dinner.

## Carl James Receives Douglas Kemp Award

The Douglas Kemp Award was inaugurated in 1988 to recognize exceptional service in the promotion of Manitoba's heritage and it acknowledges service to the MHS.

This year's recipient of the award is Carl James. Carl has volunteered for the Society in many capacities since 1993. He began as a volunteer at Dalnavert Museum. He became a member of the museum management committee which managed Dalnavert and Ross House Museum. While serving on this committee, he organized several successful garage sales for Dalnavert. Carl has been a valued member of the MHS Council for many years. He is a long-time member of the Society's Historic Preservation Committee. He still personally conducts walking tours of North Point Douglas. He is a member of the Society's Program Committee and is currently chair of this committee which plans and organizes the annual general meeting program, tours, events for guest speakers, and multi-cultural dinners. Carl chaired the MHS 125 Committee which organized special events for the Society's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2004. He has also for many years assisted with the silent auction held at the Sir John A. Macdonald Dinners.

*Please note:* The fundraising concert of the Sisters of the Holy Rock, originally slated for 30 March, has been cancelled.





Don McMaster

A panoramic scene by Don McMaster shows David Thompson marrying Charlotte Small in a ceremony at the North West Company post at Ile a la Crosse on 10 June 1799. Charlotte was his devoted wife for 59 years, accompanying him on many of his travels, and bearing him 13 children.

### MHS Program Diaries of a Map Maker

7:00 pm, 24 March  
Dalnavert Visitors' Centre

We are pleased to announce that painter Don McMaster has agreed to speak about and display his large paintings illustrating episodes in the career of fur trader, surveyor, and map maker David Thompson, in commemoration of the David Thompson Bicentennial celebrations. Thompson's diaries were the principal source of information for the paintings. Don lives in the landscape he loves to paint—the prairies—and also in Northwestern Ontario where he maintains a summer studio. Since moving from Winnipeg in the 1990s he and wife Ardythe live on the native mixed grass prairie overlooking the Assiniboine Valley southwest of Portage la Prairie. Don's paintings explore the western Canadian landscape in all its changing lights and seasons. A member of the Assiniboia group of artists, he exhibits and sells his new work at the Manitoba Art Expo in November.

### Series Returns to Ralph Connor House

The Continuing Education Committee of the University Women's Club is pleased to present six more scholars who will present lectures on books that have had an impact on our understanding of our world. They will discuss what prompted the writing of the book, what the author had to say, its influence at the time it was written and its

continuing influence. Series One was a "sell out" and had a waiting list, so sign up early!! This course is presented in cooperation with Creative Retirement Manitoba.

*The Power of Print: Series Two - Six More Books that Shaped the Western World* will be presented on six Tuesdays, 13 April to 18 May, 9:30 to 11:15 am at the University Women's Club, 54 West Gate. The fee is \$55 (Members), and \$70 (non-members).

- 13 April *The Confessions of Saint Augustine*, Dr. James Christie, Dean of Theology, University of Winnipeg
- 20 April Marc Bloch, *Strange Defeat: A Statement of Evidence Written in 1940* (a classic in France and in historical debate), Dr. Robert Young, History Department, University of Winnipeg
- 27 April *Crime and Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Dr. Myroslav Shkandrij, English Department, University of Manitoba
- 4 May *The Plays of William Shakespeare*, Dr. Lloyd Siemens, English Department, University of Winnipeg (retired)
- 11 May *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Dr. Luke Tromly, English Department, University of Manitoba
- 18 May *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen, Celine Kear, Past President of the Jane Austen Society of North America; founder of the Winnipeg Chapter of JASNA

To register, please submit course fee to: Janice MacDonald, Manager, University Women's Club, 54 West Gate, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2E1. Payment must accompany registration. Registration will begin for Club members on 1 March. Non-Club members may register beginning 8 March.



G. Goldsborough

The 2010 Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner at the Fort Garry Hotel.

## Welcome New Members!

David Crawley	Jocelyne Isabey
Ludwig Deglmann	Bashir Ahmed Khan
Russell Field	Rachel Mills
Anne & Raynald Girard	Sandra Klos &
Sharon &	Lorne Swirski
Alphonse Granger	Hilda Zaiser

## Donations & Contributions

### General Operations

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### Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner

The Honourable Philip Lee, C.M., O.M.  
 The Honourable Flor Marcelino  
 Dr. Jerry Gray  
 Dr. Annabelle Mays  
 Dr. Francis Carroll  
 Jim Ingebrigtsen  
 Keith Burr, *Vets Unit 60 Pipes & Drums*  
 Hotel Fort Garry & Staff

### Silent Auction Donors

Judith Hudson Beattie  
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 Dalnavert Museum  
 Drs. Harry & Mary Lynn Duckworth  
 Carl James & Sandra Mott- James  
 James Kostuchuk  
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 Ross & Kris Metcalfe  
 Pavilion Art Gallery  
 Victor Sawelo  
 Joyce Wawrykow  
 Whodunit? Books

### Macdonald Dinner Committee

Harry Duckworth  
 Jacqueline Friesen  
 Gordon Goldsborough  
 Carl James  
 Salix Consulting



City of Winnipeg

Dalnavert's impressive Victorian gardens are a highlight of summer visits to the museum.

## Dalnavert Heritage Seed Project Sprouting

Dalnavert has established a partnership with a local heritage seed supplier to sell packets of seeds that would have been available in 1895 and that are well suited to Manitoba growing conditions. Packets of annual flower seeds that were available in the 1890s are for sale THIS SPRING. For only three dollars you can enjoy blooms like "kiss me over the garden gate", "love in a mist" and "bachelors' buttons" and support Dalnavert at the same time. Available soon at Dalnavert Gift Shop. Watch for updates on the MHS website and tell your friends.

## MHS Book Club Schedule

Unless noted, meetings are 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre. Please let Judy Valenzuela (jhbval@mts.net or 204-475-6666) know if you are attending so enough chairs and treats can be provided.

15 March, 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, 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, 6:00 PM: Potluck, books for next year

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

## **Brandon Conference Commemorates Radisson and Riel**

To mark the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Pierre-Esprit Radisson (1710) and the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hanging of Louis Riel (1885), Brandon University, the Collège Universitaire de Saint-Boniface, the Société Historique de Saint-Boniface, and the Centre d'études Franco-canadiennes de l'Ouest are jointly organizing a bilingual, interdisciplinary conference to take place in Saint Boniface, 18-20 November 2010. More than two centuries separate Pierre-Esprit Radisson (1640-1710) and Louis Riel (1840-1885), a period forming the outline of Canada's early socio-political configuration: the Europeans' gradual expropriation of First Nations' lands, the emergence of the Métis Nation, and its confrontation with the Canadian army in 1885. In order to do justice to this formative period of Canadian history, the conference will focus on two major themes: From the early voyageurs to the birth of the Métis Nation.

The first day of the conference will focus on various aspects of the life of the voyageurs, their interaction with First Nations throughout the period of the fur trade, and other activities from the time of New France until the merger of the HBC and the NWC (1821). Included here are the coureurs de bois (independent traders), the voyageurs, and the explorers, in light of the complex process of métissage (hybridization) that took place in the Pays d'en Haut (upper country) from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The emergence of the Métis of the West will also be examined in the context of the political and cultural role this people played in North America. Against the backdrop of the major changes taking place from 1821 until 1885, with the disappearance of the bison and arrival of European settlers, the increasingly marginalized Métis communities were faced with political and economic crisis, culminating in hostilities with the Canadian government.

Louis Riel and the Métis: Past and Present: The second day of the conference will focus on the life of Louis Riel and the Métis nation throughout the crucial events of the Red River and Batoche Resistances. During a period of Canadian economic and political expansion in the West, what was the relationship of the Métis with the First Nations, the settlers, and the clergy? How did the Métis perceive Louis Riel, their representative in 1870 and "the prophet of the New World" in 1885? Linking past and present will allow us to reflect on the political, social, and identity

issues that are of concern to the contemporary Métis world. What are the new challenges, and what new relationships have been forged with the provincial and federal levels of government, with which the Métis have clashed since 1885? Finally, if Louis Riel symbolizes the struggle to defend Métis rights, how exactly does today's political establishment view the Métis leader, and how do the Métis people view him?

Since this is an interdisciplinary conference, proposals are welcome from all disciplines related to the conference themes. Finally, a round table discussion "Images of Louis Riel" will be devoted to the representation of Louis Riel, past and present, bringing together personalities from different backgrounds who will share with us their vision of the great Métis leader: Albert Braz (scholar), Cathy Mattes (art historian and curator), Diane Payment (historian), and Jean Teillet (lawyer and activist). Please send proposals by regular mail or by e-mail before 15 March 2010 to: Denis Combet, Department of French and Modern Languages, Brandon University, 270-18<sup>th</sup> Street, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 6A9 or [combetd@brandonu.ca](mailto:combetd@brandonu.ca). For more information about the conference, please contact Gilles Lesage at [glesage@shsb.mb.ca](mailto:glesage@shsb.mb.ca).

## **Manitoba Women's Institute Celebrates 100 Years**

by Rose Kieper

Adelaide Hoodless of Stony Creek, Ontario lost a child in 1897 due to drinking unsanitary milk. She was the leading force in the establishment of an organization that would bring education and socialization to the often isolated rural women.

In 1910, following the success of this organization in Ontario, the idea was brought to Morris, Manitoba, where an institute was quickly formed, followed shortly by groups in other areas of the province. These groups were known as "Household Science Associates", until the name was officially changed to "Women's Institutes" in 1919 with the motto "For Home and Country." From the beginning, MWI meetings at the local, regional and provincial levels focused on topics such as education and literacy, health, food safety and agriculture. More recently meetings have also focused on the environment.

Members were instrumental in establishing rest rooms in small towns where farm women, coming in

for shopping, could go to attend to their needs and those of their children. Many rural communities owe the WI members a debt of gratitude for their vision and persistence in the formation of libraries, music and spoken arts festivals, as well as the organization of fund raising efforts to build and maintain community halls and hospitals.

WI members became skilled, not just in the art of homemaking, but were also schooled in the art of parliamentary procedure and the writing of resolutions. Over the years the WI has been very active in learning about governmental issues and in lobbying for change. Two of the many women of note who were members of MWI were Nellie McClung and Emily Murphy. Both lived for a time in Manitoba but later moved to Alberta, where they were members of the "Famous Five" who initiated the "Persons Act" which officially declared women to be persons with the right to own property and the privilege to become senators. In 1931 the MWI presented a plaque which hangs in the Manitoba Legislative Building honouring pioneer women. Another commemorative plaque was installed in 1982 at the Morris Town Hall.

WI resolutions bring positive results. One resolution resulted in the creation and operation of mobile mammography units which gave rural women better access to regular mammograms. A resolution requesting reflector strips be put on rail cars brought improved safety to rural crossings at night.

The WI has lobbied for more government involvement to stop the brutalization of women and children in Darfur. This year, one resolution petitioned the government to become more proactive in solving the mysterious disappearances and deaths of so many of our aboriginal sisters.

WI has always worked closely with the department of Human Ecology (home economics) at the U of M. WI lobbied hard to have this department left as a faculty by itself, rather than be dissolved and amalgamated with other faculties.

The Manitoba organization is part of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, which in turn belongs to the Associated Country Women of the World, an association of sister organizations in over 70 countries, making it the largest organization working with and for women in the world. Many projects in Third World countries are funded through donations of members. These funds help women

better themselves through education, better access to water and the establishment of small businesses. In this way, the women are empowered to improve their own lives, and those of their families and communities. The MWI also owns and maintains a beautiful picnic nook at the International Peace Gardens, as well as a fountain. The fountain on the Canadian side has a duplicate, funded by American counterparts. MWI celebrates its 100th anniversary this year on 13, 14 and 15 May in Morris where it all began. As we look into the future we are faced with a dwindling membership, but we hope to remain a viable voice for women for many years to come.

### Heritage News

"Manitoba's Homecoming: Our Multi-Cultural Heritage" Genealogy Workshop, sponsored by the Southwestern Branch of the **Manitoba Genealogical Society** will be held on Saturday, 24 April 2010 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Knox United Church, 18<sup>th</sup> Street & Victoria Avenue, Brandon. For registration information, visit [www.mbgenealogy.com/index.php?page=south-west-branch](http://www.mbgenealogy.com/index.php?page=south-west-branch) or call 204-725-3095 or 204-727-3054. The Premier Presenter will be author and genealogist Elizabeth Briggs BSc BEd MEd.

*The Clipper Weekly* reports that The **Beausejour** Centennial History Book committee has been set up in preparation for the Town of Beausejour's 2012 centennial celebrations. A book will focus on the past fifty years that are not covered in earlier publications such as *They Stopped at a Good Place*. Family histories will also not be included because of appearing in other publications. The book will take the form of "a collection of submissions from organizations or groups that impacted the Beausejour area". It is preferable that each contribution be electronically submitted, including a narrative history and a collection of quality photos or other illustrations. For more information contact committee chair Lawrie Goalen at 204-268-2964 or [lgoalen@mts.net](mailto:lgoalen@mts.net).

The provincial and federal governments have pledged a combined \$2.7 million to ensure that a new interpretive centre with an arts component will be built in **Stonewall**. The previous interpretive centre burned down in November 2007. The money is available under the new Infrastructure Stimulus fund, a part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. A condition is that work must be completed by 31 March 2011.



### Centennial Farms

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

<i>Kola</i>	John & Elizabeth Naylen, N W-10-29 WPM 1908
<i>Hamiota</i>	Edward & Rosalie Beamish, SE 10-14-23 WPM 1880, NE 10-14- 23 WPM 1884
<i>RM Rossburn</i>	Conrad Tanasychuk, 97.2 acres of SE 32-20-25 WPM 1903
<i>Stonewall</i>	Norman Blagden & family, NSE 35-12-1 EPM 1897
<i>Sanford</i>	Audrey & Karl Johnson, 151.95 acres of NE 3-9-1 WPM 1878

The *Stonewall Argus* reports that the rocky towers in Stonewall's Quarry Park which housed the five kilns, three on the west side and two on the east side of the quarry, have big cracks that are growing larger because of water seeping in them and freezing and melting. There is a danger of rocks falling on children if they are playing in them. Engineers who did an assessment on the kilns estimated that between \$750,000 and \$800,000 worth of repairs are needed for restoration. Only a small amount of money is available and these funds have been used to install braces inside the kilns and to put up fencing to stop children from playing in the kilns.

The **Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society** held its second Wine and Cheese party for 170 guests in December at the community centre and raised \$4,000. The money has been raised for the restoration of the Hans Erickson Log Cabin at Halliday Park. The cabin will serve as a historical museum. Another wine and cheese fundraiser is planned for 10 December this year.

The *Southern Manitoba Review* reports that the major components of the Christ Church Restoration project in **Cartwright** after years of planning, fundraising and work on the building will be complete in time for 2010 community celebrations on the August long weekend. The restoration committee is grateful to support from the Thomas Sill Foundation, Cartwright United Church, Cartwright and Area Foundation, Village of Cartwright, the RM of Roblin, Manitoba Community Places, the Manitoba Churches Program, and the Manitoba Historic Resources Branch.

The *Brandon Sun Community News* announced that **Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services** has produced a book, *Taking Care of Our Own*, dealing with the first 25 years of the agency. The co-authors, writers Marj Heinrichs and Diane Heibert, took three years to research and write the book. Bobbi Pompana, the DOCFS executive director said that DOCFS was the first First Nations agency in Canada. Research for the book included "gathering oral histories and stories that detail the hows and whys involved in the agency" The initial print run was 2000 copies. Possibly the book will be used as a textbook in native studies courses. The book is available for sale at DOCFS offices at 702 Douglas St., Brandon. Phone 204-729-3650 or toll-free number 877-508-8289. The book price is \$30 plus \$8 for handling, if needed.

The **St. Vital Museum** is operated by the St. Vital Historical Society. It is located in the former police station within the old fire station at 600 St. Mary's Road. The firehall, erected in 1914, was designated a heritage building in 1982. The museum opened in 2008. It displays artefacts dating back to the first settlers in St. Vital in 1820, a copy of the handwritten diary of Victor Mager who was at Fort Garry in 1870, and the original 1939 Fargo Pumper truck used by the St. Vital Fire Brigade. The goal of the museum is "to tell the stories and present a pictorial history of such pioneers as Abraham Guay, Victor Mager, Joseph and Marie St. Germain, Fredrick Hulton, William and MaryAnn McDowell, Peter Tod and St. Vital's most famous son, Louis Riel." For museum hours and more information, phone the St. Vital Historical Society, 204-255-2864 or email svhs@mts.net.

The **Ogniwo Polish Museum** at 1417 Main Street in Winnipeg is featuring the "Faces of Polonia" exhibit. The exhibit is a collection of photos of people well known in the Polish community. The exhibit also includes photos of the annual "Springtime in Poland" ball, a women's baseball team, events at Winnipeg's former Polish Consulate, parades on Main Street, churches, halls and organizations. This display is the first of several events being planned to celebrate the museum's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For more information visit the museum or phone 204-586-5070.

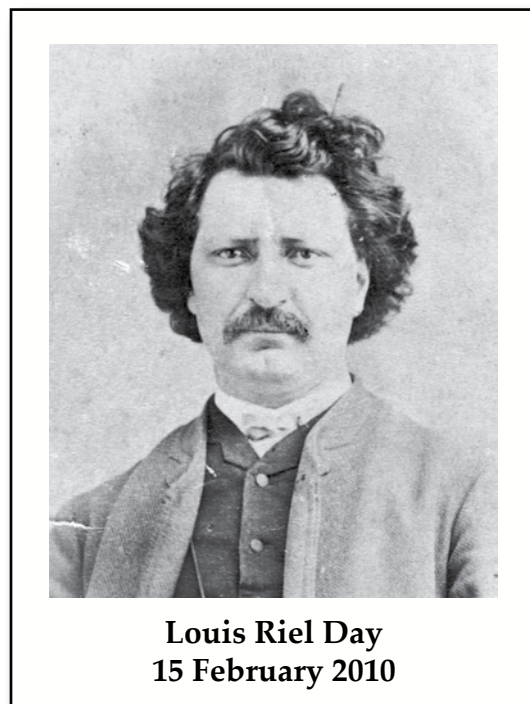
*Winnipeg Free Press* writer Bill Redekop reviewed the saga of **Fort Ellice**. The site of the old HBC fur trading fort and an aboriginal burial ground is a cow pasture near St. Lazare in western Manitoba. For decades people interested in history or in tourism of



the area have said that the land should be purchased and put in the public domain. They say that it should be preserved and developed as an important historic and archaeological site. All attempts to purchase the site have failed "I just can't understand why our fort isn't developed like other forts. It just sits there and gets trampled by cows." said Colombe (Fafard) Chartier, a local artist who painted a Fort Ellice diorama at the interpretive centre in St. Lazare. Fort Ellice was near the junction of the Assiniboine and Qu'Appelle rivers.

On Louis Riel Day, 15 February at **Saint Boniface Museum**, there was a display of items recently donated to the St. Boniface Historical Society. One of the items was a copy of a photo of Louis Riel taken in a photo studio in 1872 when he was in St. Paul Minnesota hiding from bounty hunters. There was a \$5,000 reward for his arrest issued by the Province of Ontario. It is not known why he had the photo taken at that time. Another item was Riel's report card from the College de Montreal when he was 14 or 15 years old. Also on display was a hand-written letter of thanks from Riel in 1858 to a woman in Montreal who paid his way to attend the College de Montreal. He signed the letter Louis Riel-Fils (Louis Riel Jr.) because he was named after his father.

On National Heritage Day/Louis Riel Day, 15 February **Heritage Winnipeg** held its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Preservation Awards Ceremony. The awards were presented at the Ellice Theatre, 587 Ellice Avenue, followed by a reception at the Ellice Café and, across the street, a historical tour of the new West End Cultural Centre. The 2010 Award recipients were:



*Institutional Conservation Awards* were given to: 1) the City of Winnipeg, Alpha Masonry Ltd, and Cohlmeier Architecture Ltd. for the Waddell Fountain in Central Park; and 2) the Province of Manitoba, Alpha Masonry Ltd., and Bridgman Collaborative Architecture for the Trappist Monastery Ruins in St. Norbert.

*Commercial Conservation Awards* were given to Mark and Rick Hofer, owners of The Edge Apartments at 230/232 Princess Street, and to Colin Neufeld of 5468796 Architects.

There is still time to register for the **Rupert's land Colloquium** on 19–22 May. The registration fee is \$250 (early bird) and \$280 (after 1 April). For more information contact The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies at the University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3B 2E9 or phone 204-786-9003, email [Rupert.land@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:Rupert.land@uwinnipeg.ca) Make cheques or money orders payable to "The University of Winnipeg."

**St. John's High School** in Winnipeg will have its Centennial Reunion on 17–20 June. The registration deadline is 5 June. The registration form can be downloaded from the web page [www.stjohnshigh100mb.ca](http://www.stjohnshigh100mb.ca) Registration fee is \$40. The fee includes access to school activities, a welcome package, *St. John's 100 Years/100 Stories* memory book and free admission to the Thursday Coffee House and Sunday Pancake



G. Goldsbrough

A *Distinguished Service Award* was given to Gordon Sinclair for his historical writings in the *Winnipeg Free Press* on the Upper Fort Garry Project.

Breakfast. Tickets for attending a social at Canad Inns Polo Park on 18 June are \$12. Tickets for the Centennial Gala, Dinner and Dance on 19 June are \$105. The Gala will feature Burton Cummings, Coleen Savage and Ken Kostick. The guest speaker will be Monty Hall. For more registration information phone 204-480-8790 or email [stj100regchair@gmail.com](mailto:stj100regchair@gmail.com).

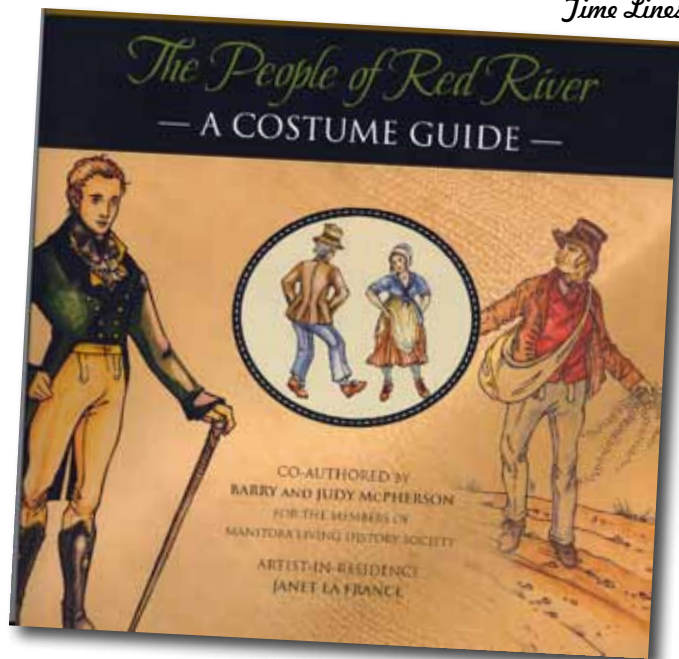
**Heritage Winnipeg** is holding a Fundraising Luncheon on Friday, 26 March from noon to 1:30 pm, in the Provencher Room of the Fort Garry Hotel. There will be a hot lunch, cash bar and a door prize. Heritage Winnipeg is preparing a visual presentation on the old hotels on Winnipeg's Main St. strip. Their presenter is Brice McLeod, a producer with the aboriginal television network APTN. He is writing a book on Main Street and is interested in the role that hotels played as an economic catalyst. They were not all "rubby dub" bars. The fact that many of them lasted more than 100 years and are now reinventing themselves speaks to their importance. Tickets are \$55 each, available from Celine Kear at ([kear@mts.net](mailto:kear@mts.net)) and Cindy Tugwell at Heritage Winnipeg ([cindy@heritagewinnipeg.com](mailto:cindy@heritagewinnipeg.com)).

A collection of some 15,000 prairie historical postcards is now available on the web site of the University of Alberta:  
**<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/images>**

### New Book on Red River Clothing

*The People of Red River—A Costume Guide* has been written to celebrate the upcoming bicentennial of the arrival of the first European settlers in the Red River Valley (Winnipeg). It is the product of 25 years of research by Barry and Judy McPherson, in collaboration with Janet La France, whose art work clearly illustrates each costume detail. The second half of the book contains a wealth of contemporaneous art work of people of the middling sort from Scotland, Ireland, England, The Canadas and a small number from the United States. A bibliography and a costume and textile glossary are included.

The authors draw comparisons between the clothing worn by men and women in the British Isles and in Western Canada, and in so doing, reinforce the notion that there were few substantive differences between men and women of the lower orders—no matter from where they emigrated. We show that



people on the frontier did not suddenly design a unique frontier costume. Yes—the harsh realities of a Western Canadian winter required overcoats and the unique capote of Lower Canada as well as modified footwear and the addition of mittens and warmer head covering. These, however, were local and normal adaptations to a new environment.

The book sells for \$35 plus GST and shipping. Order the book directly from its publishers, Barry or Judy McPherson, by contacting them via email to [baggage@mts.net](mailto:baggage@mts.net). Copies are also available at the Dalnavert Gift Shop.

### Red River Luggage Tag Discovered

During the summer of 2009, a brass luggage tag, believed to have been issued in the late 1870s by the North West Omnibus Company of Winnipeg, was discovered by a collector near Anaconda, Montana. It is thought to be the only existing tag of its kind. The collector wants to see the tag returned to Canada so he invites collectors and museums who may be interested in purchasing it to contact him:

Mel Skoglund  
Anaconda, Montana  
Telephone: (406) 560-1029  
Email: [melskog@rfwave.net](mailto:melskog@rfwave.net)

The North West Omnibus Company was established on 9 December 1878 by a group of Winnipeg businessmen, with Hamilton G. McMicken as manager, using equipment purchased from W. F. Alloway. The business was "to run busses in



connection with the trains at St. Boniface, calling for and depositing travellers at any place in town. An office has also been established in the Morris block." Its purpose was to connect the growing City of Winnipeg with the terminus of the Pembina Branch of the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway (later a part of the Canadian Pacific Railway), located across the river in St. Boniface.

By the Spring of 1880, the company acquired "two fine busses from Nienah, Wisconsin, and a baggage wagon, to meet the increasing business" and it ran a coach between Winnipeg and Selkirk three times a week. By 1882, however, McMicken offered to sell the plant "owing to the press of other business" at a sale price of \$5,500.

### Obituary

**Joan Margaret Birt**, a long-time MHS member, died on 22 February in Winnipeg. Born in London, England in 1918, she moved to Canada one year later. She was a life-long resident of East Kildonan and she spent her summers at the family cottage at Whytewold on Lake Winnipeg. She was a world traveler, an accomplished photographer and a talented gardener. Passionate about music and theatre, she regularly attended W.S.O, R.W. B, and M.T.C. performances. She was a graduate of Wesley College and took University of Winnipeg Continuing Education courses well into her eighties. She was a former Manitoba Senior Ladies Curling champion. Joan was a volunteer for MHS and the Health Sciences Centre. She was a member of the Engineers' Wives Club and the University Women's Club.

### Inquiry

MHS received the following letter requesting information. Members are encouraged to respond if they have information they would like to share.

"I am writing to inquire about the process to announce and seek out memoirs to be used in a scholarly project. We would like to post this inquiry in your next publication. I am a graduate student and I am writing on behalf of Dr. Ruth Sandwell of OISE / University of Toronto whose project this is.

Briefly, this history project is seeking to discover more about what kinds of fuels, machines, technologies and practices Canadians used to heat, light, and work inside the home from 1900–1950. In addition to standard practices of archival work, Prof. Sandwell is also adding an oral history component to the project and wants to obtain as many accounts as possible from people across Canada. As a result we are looking to find organizations that can pass the word along through their normal communications. We are making this request to all provincial and territorial historical societies a few at a time.

We hope you will find the project appropriate to your membership and include it in your next publication or perhaps on your website. I am attaching an announcement that we used previously in Alberta and British Columbia historical associations for your review. We are more than happy to refine it based on your publication's requirements. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or Dr. Sandwell at the addresses below. Thank you very much for your consideration."

Melissa Otis (PhD candidate) and Ruth Sandwell (PhD, Associate Professor, Theory and Policy Studies in Education), Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1V6, email: melissa.otis@utoronto.ca or ruth.sandwell@utoronto.ca, telephone: 416-978-1216, fax: 416-926-4741

### Help !

The MHS receives numerous inquiries by email on a variety of interesting and obscure topics in Manitoba history. We answer them where we can but, often, the answer is "we don't know!". We will begin posting these questions on our web site in hopes that others may be able to help:

**[www.mhs.mb.ca/questions](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/questions)**



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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](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/news)

- 15 March** Book Club: Sarah Carter, *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915*  
**24 March** "Diaries of a Mapmaker" Artist Don McMaster will speak about and display his large paintings of episodes in the career of David Thompson.  
**19 April** Book Club: Tom Avery, *To the End of the Earth: Our Epic Journey to the North Pole and the Legend of Peary and Henson*  
**21 April** MHS Multicultural Dinner at the Belgian Club

- 12 May** Manitoba Day and deadline for MHS Young Historians competition  
**17 May** Book Club: Pot luck and selection of books for next year  
**19 - 22 May** Rupert's Land Colloquium  
**29 May** MHS Annual General Meeting at Lower Fort Garry

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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](http://www.mhs.mb.ca)

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