

Time Lines

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

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President's Message



MHS President
Dr. Harry Duckworth

The Manitoba Historical Society is about to embark on a new year of activities, during which the re-organization of last winter and spring will begin to bear fruit. Elsewhere in the newsletter, you will read of some of the plans for activities at Dalnavert, as devised by our new Chief Program Officer and Curator, Jennifer Bisch, who

took up her post early in July. Just as important, our Chief Administrative Officer, Jacqueline Friesen, is working with me on a comprehensive budget for the whole of the Society's activities, and is dealing with some remaining technical issues to do with the Visitors' Centre. The Society budget is to be ready for consideration at the November meeting of Council.

Those who attended the Annual General Meeting at Lower Fort Garry will know that I have been re-elected President for one more year. The new Executive had its first meeting on 8 June. New elected members are James Kostuchuk (Second Vice President), Gordon Goldsborough (Secretary), Dennis Butcher and Joyce Wawrykow (members-at-large), who join Annabelle Mays (First Vice President) and myself. We had a fruitful discussion of upcoming matters, and will begin our regular set of monthly meetings on 7 September. Also attending the Executive meetings will be Jacqueline Fri-

esen and Jennifer Bisch, who will report on matters for which they are responsible and take a full part in discussions. Their presence will ensure that the Executive has regular access to information on all aspects of the Society's business.

The Plaques program, marking the homes of Memorable Manitobans, now has its first tangible results. The plaque manufacturers, Insign Architectural Signage, of Winnipeg, took great care over the making of these plaques, and the first order of five plaques was ready late in July. The plaques



W. Fraser

This home at 279 Provencher Boulevard in St. Boniface was occupied by Alma Laurendeau (Mère Marie-Joseph-du-Sacré-Cœur) from 1882 to 1904. In 2010, it was commemorated with a plaque in the Society's new Memorable Manitobans: The Homes program.

Homes of Memorable Manitobans

Nominate the home of a noteworthy Manitoban to receive a commemorative plaque:

www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/homes

are made of aluminum, which is carved using a computer-driven router to leave raised lettering; the background is painted with a high-quality blue autobody paint, which stands up well to outdoor conditions. The finished product, mounted on a metal pole a few feet back from the property line, in easy view from the sidewalk or street, is handsome and satisfying.

The three plaques at Winnipeg sites were installed in July, without fanfare, and can now be admired at the following locations:

Nellie McClung house
97 Chestnut Street

Lemoine Fitzgerald house
30 Deer Lodge Place

Alma Laurendeau (Marie-Joseph du Sacré-Coeur)
house
279 Provencher Boulevard

It is intended to organize small dedicatory ceremonies for these plaques soon. The other two plaques in the first five, for locations outside Winnipeg, are still to be installed. These will be at the Alan McLeod house in Stonewall (now McLeod House Tea Room) and the Arthur Meighen house in Portage la Prairie. Installations and dedications will be organized locally at an early date.

Province-wide publicity, earlier in the summer, elicited a number of nominations for other houses of Memorable Manitobans, and we continue to get some attention in the press. Prof. Francis Carroll, historian at the University of Manitoba and a member of the MHS Council, has agreed to chair a panel that will consider all suggestions, and verify that the information is correct and that the proposal is within the terms of reference of the plaques program. Plaques will then be ordered and, when ready, installed. Thanks to the sponsor of the program, the Manitoba Real Estate Association, we have the money for a further five plaques this year, and an informal commitment to continue the

sponsorship in the future. The process of preparing each proposal has been slower than I expected, so it may or may not be possible to get a second group of five plaques installed before the winter, but we are on our way.

The first of the Selkirk Settlers arrived at the Forks of the Red and the Assiniboine, to begin to establish the first permanent European settlement west of the Great Lakes, in the late summer of 1812, so the bicentenary of this event will occur in 2012. A number of groups in Manitoba have already begun plans to commemorate this important event, and as I explained some time ago, the Manitoba Historical Society is among them. A newly formed entity, the Scottish Heritage Council of Manitoba, has established a steering committee that will keep in touch with all the interested parties, encourage collaborations, and head off collisions or potential duplications. I have asked that our Society have a member on the steering committee, and I expect that the request will be granted. Our own Bicentenary Committee, which I am to chair, will have its first meeting in September, and some details of our plans will be available for the next *Time Lines*.

Our Society can look forward to a stimulating year ahead, full of new ideas and initiatives. I look forward to participating in many events myself, and to meeting many members there.

Harry Duckworth

Welcome New Members

Helen and Leonard La Rue

Donations & Contributions

Thank You!

All Charities Campaign
Aqueduct Foundation-Malaher Family Fund
H. Jean Mitchell
Margaret Morse
Province Of Manitoba, CHT-PHA

General Operations

Ross House

Canadian Museums Association-YCW
George Hicks, MLA
Government of Canada
North End Revitalization Inc.
Province of Manitoba-Urban Green Team

Dalnavert Museum

Culture Days Event

Sunday 26 September, 12 noon

Culture Days is a nation-wide initiative to encourage arts and culture institutions to offer free, interactive programming to the public in an effort to raise awareness, accessibility, participation, and engagement between Canadians and their communities' cultural organizations.

Come spend the afternoon at Dalnavert and get a glimpse of what life was like over 100 years ago. Originally owned by Sir Hugh John Macdonald (former Premier of Manitoba, Police Magistrate, and son of Sir John A. Macdonald), Dalnavert is a beautifully restored home that is designed to depict the lifestyle of a well-to-do Winnipeg family in 1895. Visitors will interact with interpreters in each of our main-floor rooms to learn about some of the household jobs and leisure activities that were part of Victorian life. Join us for Victorian games and storytelling, as well as refreshments on the veranda. Feel free to bring a lunch and have a picnic on the lawn! This event will be held on the first floor of the museum only, to ensure wheelchair accessibility. Admission is free. The event is suitable for all ages. Limited parking is available in our Visitors' Centre parking lot.

Generous donations of flowering annuals from Bill's Greenhouse keep the gardens at Dalnavert in bloom for the entire summer and are a major attraction for museum visitors. The staff and Gardening Committee at Dalnavert are grateful for this company's ongoing support.

Hands On at Dalnavert: An Arts and Crafts Workshop Series

Workshop #1: Stumpwork

Led by: Theresa French

Date: Saturday, 6 November

Time: 12 pm - 5 pm

Cost: \$40 per student

Stumpwork? Yes, stumpwork! This impressive art of embroidery-sculpture dates back to the mid-17th century and has been practiced by needle artists ever since. While stumpwork techniques can be applied to create any three-dimensional form, it has traditionally been used to embody natural forms, such as flowers, leaves, and butterflies. Using wire and fabric to give each piece its three-dimensional

shape, stumpwork embroidery provides hours of enjoyment. Not a needle expert? Not a problem! This workshop is appropriate for all levels of needlework proficiency, from novices to experts.

Students will be provided with a kit and pattern for creating a stumpwork monarch butterfly and are asked to bring a pair of small, sharp scissors and two six-inch embroidery hoops. For ease of viewing, students are also encouraged to bring the following items: a reading lamp or Ott light, reading glasses, and a magnifier.

Coffee and tea will be provided. Only 12 spots are available, so enroll soon! Contact us at 204-943-2835 or at bookings@mhs.mb.ca.

Three Nations, A Harpsichord Concert

Sunday, 24 October, 2:30 pm

An 18th century whirlwind tour of France, England and Spain through the harpsichord music of their most famous composers. The concert will feature Carol Piller on the harpsichord. Tickets are \$20 per person at the door.

Other Dalnavert News

On 22 October, Dalnavert have a table at the 2010 SAG conference to promote school programming to Manitoba's teachers.

Phone Dalnavert (204-943-2835) for information on Halloween programming.

Jennifer Bisch

Film Event

Backtracks: The Story of Winnipeg's Streetcars

Sunday, 19 September

Time and place have not yet been determined. Please check the MHS website (www.mhs.mb.ca/news) for updates.

This will be a thirty-minute film and photo display. Admission will be 10 cents or 3 for 25 cents, just like the cost to ride the streetcar in 1918!

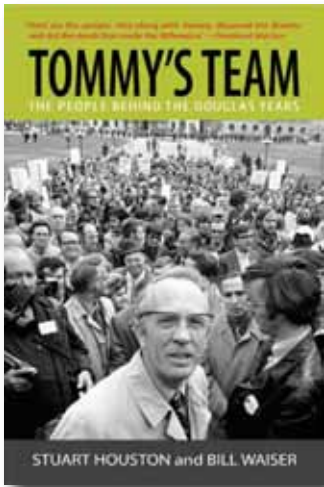
The purpose is to raise awareness and donations to restore Winnipeg's last remaining Streetcar, #356. More on the event, a trailer and Streetcar 356 can be found at

winnipegstreetcar.com

MHS Program

Tommy Douglas, His Manitoba Origins, Education and Connections

13 October



One of the most interesting periods in Canadian history was when Tommy Douglas headed North America's first social democratic government. You will be able to find out about those years when Stuart Houston, an acknowledged expert on Douglas, will be speaking at the Dalnavert Visitors Centre on Wednesday 13 October at 7:00 pm.

The members of the Douglas government, many of whom had never been in government before, got Saskatchewan sorted out from the problems of the Great Depression and Second World War; brought in a complex health care program, North America's first, and delivered 16 consecutive balanced budgets.

The new book by Houston and historian Bill Waiser, *Tommy's Team: The People Behind the Douglas Years*, offers "an unprecedented look at (more than 30) people who played a significant, and often influential role in his life and career up until he decided to step down as Saskatchewan's premier in 1961."

You can learn about: "the Winnipeg doctor who saved Tommy's leg from amputation and provided Douglas with the inspiration for Medicare; the Weyburn storekeeper, an ardent Liberal, who opened the way for Tommy to preach at Calgary Baptist Church; the storekeeper's daughter who turned her back on her family's Liberal leanings and went to work as Tommy's executive secretary for nearly four decades; the Japanese-Canadian evacuee who became Tommy's foremost economic advisor and the son of impoverished Ukrainian immigrants who spearheaded the introduction of Medicare in the Swift Current region 16 years before the provincial plan." Douglas had an "uncanny knack" for choosing the right person for the task at hand. In addition, he ranged the world to find the right people including a member of one of the UK's wealthiest

families and a world expert on rural health. The diminutive premier had socialist leanings, but he was "both realistic and practical." He made clear to his experts what he wanted and when – particularly when it came to health care – but he rarely told them how to do their jobs.

Houston received his MD from the University of Manitoba in 1961. He has received numerous awards as an ornithologist and conservationist. He has written 11 books and co-edited the health sector articles for the *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* / 2005.

After the presentation, there will be light refreshments and an opportunity to purchase a copy of *Tommy's Team*. There is no charge but as seating is limited, please call Carl James at 204-631-5971 to confirm your attendance. Members of the Book Club will also be attending this event.



W. Fraser

Canada Day festivities at Ross House, 2010.



W. Fraser

Participants in the St. Francois Xavier Historical Society bus tour to Hecla and Arborg, June 2010.

MHS St. John's Cemetery Tour 30 September

It is Winnipeg's largest gathering of movers and shakers. Except, they are not moving and shaking anymore. They are buried at St. John's Cathedral Cemetery (135 Anderson Avenue), off Main Street in Winnipeg's North End. Walk through the city's most interesting cemetery during a guided tour arranged by the Manitoba Historical Society. It starts at 2:00 pm, Thursday, 30 September and will last about an hour and a half. The tour includes a stop at the historic Cathedral church and will finish with tea or coffee.

Walking the cemetery's grass pathways under huge shade trees, you can easily trace some of Manitoba's history: HBC factors; early pioneers including John Inkster, whose house is a museum at Seven Oaks, John Schultz, a big thorn in the side of Louis Riel and John Norquay, a 300-pound Métis and an early Manitoba premier who spoke in a "soft, clear, musical voice." A wide variety of famous people are buried at St. John's including journalists, doctors, politicians, lawyers, jurists, preachers, veterans of the 1885 fight at Fish Creek and an 1897 monument to a mother from "her wandering boy." St. John's is the final resting place for Augustus Nanton, an investment banker who personally patrolled his big Roslyn Road estate during the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike; the Ashdowns; and William Alloway, an active dealer in real estate who established the Winnipeg Foundation.

The first burial at St. John's was in 1812. Lord Selkirk met his settlers there in 1817. Four churches have



C. Latter

The cemetery at St. John's Cathedral, subject of an upcoming MHS tour, is a veritable *Who's Who* of early Manitoba society.



C. Latter

Among the monuments in St. John's Cathedral Cemetery is a memorial to the soldiers killed at the Battles of Fish Creek and Batoche during the 1885 North West Rebellion.

occupied the site, the first in 1822 and the present one in 1926. The tour is free, but donations are welcome. Receipts are given for gifts of \$10 or more. This is a "rain or shine" event. Since the size of the tour is limited, please call Carl James at 204-631-5971 to reserve.

Bumsted Conducts Fall Course

The University Women's Club is offering the following fall course:

"Orphans of the Fur Trade: The History of Red River and Rupert's Land, 1812-1870"

With the 200th anniversary of the Red River Settlement approaching in 2012, it is time to take a fresh look at our history. Award-winning author and historian Dr. Jack Bumsted will lead participants through this topic in a series of six lectures. Dr. Bumsted has more than 30 publications to his credit including the recent award-winning *Lord Selkirk: A Life*.

5 October – 9 November
9:30 – 11:30 am
54 West Gate

\$60 Club members, \$75 non-members
To register please contact the University Women's Club at 204-954-7880 or uwc@mts.net

Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame

Six Manitobans—John Cameron “Cam” Brown, Anton and Adeline Chorney, Dougal Leslie Fletcher, Hugh Maurice Jameson, and Jacob “Jake” Schulz—were inducted into the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame on 15 July at the William Glesby Centre in Portage la Prairie. A fundraiser for the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame will be held at the Viscount Gort Hotel in Winnipeg on 21 October. A limited number of tickets are available until 1 October at \$100 each. A \$50 tax receipt will be issued. For Gala ticket information please phone Judy at 204-888-690.

Cam Brown took a leadership role in rapeseed and canola research and marketing for the Canadian wheat board; He served as vice president of Marketing for Feed-Rite Limited. He acted as a valuable liaison between the University of Manitoba and the profession of agrology. With over 50 years of service in his profession, he received a Distinguished Service Award from the University of Manitoba and awards from many agricultural organizations.

Anton and Adeline Chorney were successful farmers. Potatoes were the commodity that brought them widespread recognition. They won numerous championships for table potatoes and seed potatoes at the Brandon Winter Fair and national and international competitions in the 1950s and 1960s. Adeline was a judge of potato classes in the Royal Winter Fair during the 1970s. The Chorneys were both community 4-H Club leaders. Anton served on vegetable grower and seed potato boards. He was a member of the Selkirk and District Hospital Board for 12 years.

Dougal “Doug” Fletcher worked for the Manitoba Department of Agriculture as the agricultural representative in The Shoal Lake district and the Carman district between 1945 and 1971. He was highly regarded for his knowledge and his technical expertise in soils and crop production. He assisted in the formation of the Carman and District Farm Business Association and the Manitoba Corn Growers Association. He spent countless hours assisting members and leaders of the 4H program. Following retirement, he was elected to the Carman Town Council in 1973 and he served as Mayor from 1974 to 1983. He was a driving force in the development of the Boyne River Diversion project.

Hugh Jameson and his wife and sons ran a 50-cow dairy for 49½ years until it was sold in 2010. They

continue to operate a 200 Angus beef herd, a 20,000 laying hen operation and 4,500 acres of grain, hay and pasture on their farm at Alexander, MB. Hugh Jameson has served on the Manitoba Milk Producers Board and represented Manitoba at annual policy conferences of the Dairy Farmers of Canada. He actively supported the Provincial Exhibition for over 30 years and was president from 1984 to 1986. He served as chair of Livestock Expo and the Livestock section of the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair. He headed the Heritage Committee for the 125th Anniversary of the Provincial Exhibition at the 2006 Royal Manitoba Winter Fair. As a counsellor on the Farm Debt Review Board, his insight and experience benefitted many farmers from across Manitoba who were in financial difficulties.

Jacob Schulz moved to Canada from Romania in 1930 with his wife and first child and settled in the Grandview area. He became councillor of the RM of Grandview. In 1950, he became the founding president of the Manitoba Farmers Union. With great passion and energy, he built the MFU into a 30,000-member organization. In the 1950s, he served as chairman of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council, the forerunner of the National Farmers Union. Farmer’s Union pressure helped pave the way for the present cash-advance program, the Canadian Wheat Board Advisory Committee and greater farmer control over organizations like the Canadian Grain Commission. He was elected to the Canadian parliament in the 1957 election to represent Springfield for the CCF party but he lost his seat in the next election a year later. Although his active involvement in farm politics was brief, he played a major role establishing a national farm organization. Many of the farm and rural policies that he championed are in place today.

2010 Bell Award Winner

This year’s winner of the Charles Bell Award at the University of Manitoba is Maria Schultz of Winnipeg. This award, inaugurated in 2004, recognizes the student with the highest standing in the course *History of Canada* (HIST 1440, formerly 11.144). The award commemorates the life and work of Charles Napier Bell, who was President of the MHS from 1889 to 1891 and again from 1913 to 1929.



G. Goldsborough

In the Famous Five Monument unveiled on the Legislature grounds in June, the women depicted (left to right) are: Henrietta Muir Edwards, Emily Murphy, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney, and Nellie McClung.

McClung Monument Unveiled

A monument was unveiled on 18 June to commemorate Nellie McClung (1873–1951) and the achievement of women's rights. It is appropriately located on the lawn of the Manitoba Legislature Building. The monument depicts the so-called Famous Five—Nellie McClung, Emily Murphy, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney and Henrietta Muir Edwards—who were responsible for making women “persons” under the law. The text inscribed on the plaque accompanying the monument is quoted below.

Nellie McClung believed that a few committed women could bring about change and proved it on 27 January 1916, when she helped Manitoba women become the first in Canada to win the right to vote.

In 1912, as part of this effort, she helped found the Political Equality League and played a

leading role in the satirical Mock Parliament of Women. Her passionate yet peaceful efforts changed commonly held beliefs among women and men. As part of the Famous Five, depicted here, she also helped influence the 1929 landmark decision where women in Canada were recognized as persons under the British North America Act.

Born in Ontario, Nellie Mooney moved to Manitoba in 1880. She began her writing and speaking career in Manitoba where she was influenced by her future mother-in-law Annie McClung. She married Wesley McClung and together they raised five children. Before retiring to British Columbia, she also lived in Manitoba and Alberta. As one of the earliest best-selling female authors, McClung published sixteen books, including the renowned *Sowing Seeds for Danny*.

Nellie McClung is a celebrated Manitoban who is remembered as a writer, orator and life-long champion of human rights.

MHS Book Club Schedule, 2010–2011

Unless noted, meetings are on Mondays 7–9 pm at Dalnavert Visitors' Centre. Please confirm attendance with Judy at 204-475-6666. WPL = Winnipeg Public Library

- 13 September, guest Allan Levine, *Coming of Age: A History of the Jewish People in Manitoba* (2009) (WPL 20 copies)
- 13 October (Wednesday), Stuart Houston speaking on *Tommy's Team: The People Behind the Douglas Years* by Stuart Houston and Bill Waiser (2010)
- 8 November, *Loyal Till Death: Indians and the North-West Rebellion* by Blair Stonechild and Bill Waiser (1997, WPL 11 copies) leader Maggie Keller; [alternative: Rudy Wiebe, *Big Bear* (2008) (WPL 11 copies)]
- 10 January 2011, Icelandic heritage suggested reading: George J. Houser, *Pioneer Icelandic Pastor: The Life of the Reverend Paul Thorlaksson* (1990, 1 copy WPL)
- 14 February 2011, guest Donna G. Sutherland, *Nahoway: A Distant Voice* (2009) (WPL 3 copies), leader Shirlee Anne Smith
- 14 March 2011, John Boyko, *Bennett: A Remarkable Life* (2010) (WPL on order) leader Jim Alward
- 11 April 2011, Charlotte Gray, *Flint & Feather: The Life and Times of E. Pauline Johnson, Tekahionwake* (2002, WPL 5 copies) leader Céline Kear
- 9 May 2011, 6:00 pm: potluck dinner at Dalnavert, choose books for next year

Heritage News

Manitoba Branch United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada holds a Heritage Dinner Saturday, 25 September 2010 at the Viscount Gort Hotel 1670 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg. Guest Speaker is The Honourable Peter Milliken U.E. M.P. for Kingston and the Islands and Speaker of the House of Commons. A reception at 6 pm is followed by the dinner at 6:45 pm. Cost per person is \$40, gratuity and tax included. Cash Bar. Silent Auction. For further information, please contact Margaret Carter 204-489-6954 or jmcarter@mts.net. For reservations, please forward cheque payable to the UEL Manitoba Branch to Dianne Nerbas, 43 Centennial Avenue, Selkirk R1A 0C8.

The **Rural Municipality of Strathcona** has erected a monument to commemorate tuberculosis patients who died at the former **Ninette Sanatorium** and were buried in unmarked graves at Hillside Cemetery near Belmont. Unfortunately, records of some sanatorium patients who were buried in the cemetery were lost in a fire several years ago. The Ninette Sanatorium Memorial Cairn, constructed in the cemetery with grants from the Thomas Sill Foundation, the Killarney Foundation and the Manitoba government, lists the name and ages of about 300 patients who died at the sanatorium. *The Gazette* notes that most of the patients are First Nations or Inuit people from northern Manitoba. The monument was unveiled on 1 August during Belmont's homecoming and school reunion.

Rotary Park in **Flin Flon** celebrates its 75th anniversary. It was first named Jubilee Park to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the reign of King George V in 1935. After World War II it was renamed Rotary Park in honour of the local Rotary Club that had provided a lot of money and labour to drain and develop the park. The Rotary Club ran an array of fundraisers "including a tug-of-war between a team of dray horses and 24 husky miners." A Rotarian killed in action in World War II left in his will about \$10,000 for the benefit of Flin Flon area children. The money was used to revitalize the park. In recent years, Rotary has invested about \$250,000 to continue modernizing and upgrading. Mayor Tom Therien thanked the Rotary Club for its time, efforts and money to develop the park over the past 75 years.

The Flin Flon *Reminder* is looking for pictures relating to Flin Flon from 1980 to the present. Pictures may

be sent to the *Reminder*, 14 North Avenue, Flin Flon, R8A 0T2 or to Gail Baker, 1 Hillcrest, Flin Flon. Please label the pictures with the year and the identity of people or buildings. Pictures will be returned.

Brandon Doors Open was held on 24 and 25 July. There were free self-guided tours of 16 of Brandon's historic buildings between 1 and 5 pm. Guided historical tours were available at 1 pm. and 3:30 pm. The sites that were featured at Doors Open were:

Daly House, 122-18th Street
 Stone Fence, Princess & 17th Street
 Clarke Hall, 270-18th Street
 Gingerbread House, 228-15th Street
 Moreland Manor, 1340 Louise Avenue
 Brandon Amouries, 1116 Victoria Ave.
 Former Brandon Club, 100-158-11th Street
 Former Merchants' Bank of Canada, 1043 Rosser Avenue
 A. E. McKenzie Building, 30-9th Street
 St. Mary's Ukrainian Church, 933 Assiniboine Avenue
 Central Fire Station, 637 Princess Street
 Former B. J. Hales House, 1312-10th Street
 St. Augustine's Church 327-4th Street
 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 361 Russell Street
 Former Brandon Courthouse, 325 Victoria Avenue East
 Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum, Brandon
 Municipal Airport

The **Minnedosa Tribune** reports that a heritage inventory entirely funded by a \$5,000 government grant has been completed. The initiative has been named "Special Places: Minnedosa's Heritage Sites." In the fall of 2009, a Canada's Historic Places consultant roamed on the streets identifying community heritage sites and gathering information and photographs about each location. One hundred forty eight structures or locations have been identified. The heritage inventory is now available for residents to view and to make corrections or add additional information for the final report. The final report will be a "valuable research tool for present and future generations."

The Carberry News-Express reports on the official opening of the Seton Centre in **Carberry** on 24 August. The festival for Seton's 150th birthday was on 10 August. Children's programs were held through the summer. There was an open house to celebrate the newly built addition and a tour of the addition and the native gardens of Little Seton Park.

Seton Centre commemorates **Ernest Thompson Seton** (1860-1946), the famous naturalist, writer and artist. Seton was born in England and educated in Ontario and Europe. In 1882, he joined his brother on a

homestead near Carberry and began to keep scientific records. The nearby hills later became the setting of some of his most famous stories, including *The Trail of a Sandhill Stag* and part of *Wild Animals I have Known*. Some of his works are published in *Transactions of the Manitoba Historical and Scientific Society* (on the MHS web site). A plaque commemorating Seton is located on Highway #1 east of Carberry.

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, housed in the lower level of the **Morden** Community Centre, has the largest collection of marine reptile fossils in Canada, including the 43 foot-long mosasaur named Bruce. As more fossils are found in digs in the Morden area a significant find could happen at any time. The CFDC is now unearthing the fossils of a xiphactinus, a huge predatory fish that lived in the Western Interior Seaway 80 million years ago. The discovery centre will need more publicity and a world-class facility. The Morden Times suggests that a Discovery TV Channel program could showcase the collection and heighten interest across Canada and also notes that CFDC is working towards building a new state-of-the-art facility in the Manitoba escarpment.

Country newspapers are great advocates of family and local history. *The Neepawa Press* in an article "Genealogy more than names – It's about the stories that go along with your discoveries" discusses some of the activities of the Beautiful Plains Genealogy group. The cemetery project transcribed all the headstones in the local cemetery. A second project for the group was obituaries. The group cut out obituaries, birth and wedding announcements and mounted them in 16 binders so that they would be available for others doing research. Other resources mentioned are local histories and legal documents—birth and death certificates, wills, etc. Now the internet is an important research tool. Often curiosity about family history leads to gathering stories. Sharing stories with others and brainstorming can help us get other ideas about a person or event.

MS Lord Selkirk II, Manitoba's largest retired passenger ship, has been sold to an international buyer and will be dismantled later this year for scrap. The former cruise ship has been docked at the end of a slough, a target of vandalism and theft, since it was retired in 1986. *Lord Selkirk II* was built in 1969 by Purvis Navcon/Selkirk Machine Works Limited in Selkirk. It sailed in the Red River and Lake Winnipeg for 17 years. Longer excursions stopped at various ports on Lake Winnipeg. The ship had cabins, a

game room, dining room and a lounge where guests could enjoy live entertainment. Probably the most prestigious passenger was Queen Elizabeth II who sailed on the ship with her family and Premier Edward Schreyer in 1970. For more information, go to the web site www.lordselkirk2.com

The centenary of the opening of the Locks at **Lockport** was celebrated on 20, 21 and 22 August including a fun-filled weekend showcase of local and Manitoba performers, a heritage village and a live re-enactment of the opening of the Lock and Dam in 1910. The St. Andrews Lock and Dam (SALD) brought two sides of the Red River together and opened the waterway up for transport. This facility controlled the flow of the Red River at the treacherous St. Andrews Rapids and permitted boat traffic to pass to and from Lake Winnipeg. The dam is notable for the use of the "Camere" system, the only known use of this type of dam technology outside Europe. The 4th of May 1910 was the big day when the official ceremony



C. Cassidy

Actor J. Craig Oliphant portrayed Canadian Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the 100th anniversary ceremony for the St. Andrews Lock and Dam on 21 August 2010.

of opening the locks took place. "Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier was present and spoke to several thousand people from Winnipeg, St. Andrew's and Selkirk who had gathered for the event.

The late historian Hart Bowsfield writes in the *Manitoba Pageant* (Spring 1966): "This is what the locks meant to shipowners, farmers, builders, and manufacturers. The Red River would be navigated down to Lake Winnipeg and a great industrial development would take place all along the river from St. Norbert to the Lake. The river would provide boating and cruising pleasures seldom enjoyed by a city so far inland. The first test of the locks was made on 2 May 1910 when the government steamer *Victoria* passed through. The locks worked and were declared ready for traffic. The next day the *Alberta* from Winnipeg cleared the locks and went to Selkirk and the Brokenhead River—the first official trip over the new water highway. This first trip was a slow one because the *Alberta* had been held up for two and a half hours at Redwood Bridge. The swinging span of the bridge had been tested just a few days before but in closing the span it had become jammed and the fifty horsepower gasoline motor in the operating cabin was not powerful enough to budge it. Not until a set of jacks was sent for and the span opened could the *Alberta* continue.... It was a day people had waited years for — and there was a sense of pride in the great engineering achievement that connected Winnipeg with the Lake".

It was not until 1907 that a final design was chosen. The Department of Public Works found no existing structure in North America that would work at the site so they dispatched Montreal engineer H. E. Ventelet to Europe. He found that a the Camere-style dams on the Seine River in France would work but needed modification for the canal and road bridge. The SALD is truly a one-of-a-kind structure.

The ceremony included representatives from three of the major historical groups of the area: First Nations, Metis and the Scottish. The highlight of the ceremony was 'Sir Wilfrid Laurier' (actor J. Craig Oliphant) re-enacting the speech given by Wilfrid Laurier at the opening of the Lock and Dam 100 years earlier, a quote from which follows:

"As we were passing down this stream, as we came past the church of St. Andrews (and) of Kildonan, I asked myself what would be

Centennial Farms

Bagot: Harvey & Hali Nichol, N 9-12-9 WPM 1910

Baldur: Glenn & Orla Mabon, NW 31-3-14 WPM 1910

Clearwater: Robert & Celia Guilford, Jessie Guilford, SE 34-2-13 WPM 1903

Ethelbert: Buddy & Audrey Herman, E ½ SE 13-29-22 WPM 1910

Grandview: Calvin & Sherry Morran, SW 11-26-24 1909

Hartney: Victoria R. (Hodgson) & Kenneth D. Lewis, W 16-5-23 WPM 1910

Miami: Thelma Alexander, South half of legal subdivisions 9 & 10 of 31-4-6 WPM 1910

George Alexander, S 31-4-6 WPM 1910

Manitou: Donald R. and Catherine Jordan, SE & NE 29-4-8 WPM 1900

Morden: William C. & Linda Sandercock, SE 2-4-6 WPM 1910

Pilot Mound: Lorne E. Grain, James M. Forbes, N 27-2-10 WPM 1910

Rorketon: James & Donna Smith, SW 17-27-15 WPM 1910

St Claude: Raynald Chappellaz, NE 32-8-7 WPM 1908

Sifton: Miss Bertha Morgan, Murdoch & Debbie Morgan, William & Diane Morgan, NW 13-27-19 WPM 1910

Warren: Margaret Munroe, James & Ian Munroe, 110 acres of SW 24-13-1 WPM 1910

Wellwood: Leonard Johnstone, SW 26-12-14 WPM 1889, NW 26-12-14 WPM 1897

Winkler: (homesteaded by their great grandparents) Agatha Penner & Jacob Penner, Lots 3 & 4 of block 1 and lot 2 of block 2 NW 22-2-4 WPM 1879

Peter and Susan Thiessen, Lot 1 of block 2 NW 22-2-4 WPM 1879

the astonishment and wonder of the old fur traders of the past ... if they were to come here and see this wonderful achievement.”
Sir Wilfrid Laurier, 14 July 1910

The full text of Laurier’s speech can be read on the Internet at <http://westenddumplings.blogspot.com/2010/08/lockports-100th-part-three-lauriers.html>.

More information on the SALD and the 100th anniversary celebration is available on the Internet at <http://westenddumplings.blogspot.com/2010/08/lockports-100th-part-one-history-of-st.html>.

More photographs of the ceremony, by MHS member Christian Cassidy, is available at www.flickr.com/photos/christiansphotos/collections/72157624793556972/.

New Web Sites for Westman Heritage

The Brandon Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee has developed a new web site to raise awareness about the city’s rich heritage. First established in 1987 to consider applications and make recommendations to the Brandon City Council respecting the designation of heritage sites as municipal heritage sites, and the demolition, alteration or renovation of those sites, the Committee was given a new mandate in 2001 “to maintain community commitment in the City of Brandon to the preservation and presentation of heritage resources and to provide opportunities for public awareness, education and participation in heritage conservation”. The committee has representatives from Brandon City Council, Assiniboine Community College, Brandon University, along with local citizens. The new Heritage Brandon web site is at www.clientsites.ca/heritage.

Meanwhile, in Virden, western Manitoba heritage consultant Ken Storie has developed an online profile

of noteworthy historic buildings as part of the Virden Downtown Heritage District Project. The first step in the process was the compilation of an inventory of buildings within the proposed boundaries of the Heritage District, based on research on the origins and owners of the older buildings in Virden. Later, a Heritage Value Statement will be prepared for specific buildings determined to have heritage value, articulating the reasons that value is placed in specific buildings.

A prototype of the Virden Downtown Heritage District web site is at www.kenstorie.ca/VHDP.

Historic Sites of Manitoba Update

As described in the May/June issue of *Time Lines*, the MHS has begun a project to map as many as possible of the historic sites around the province. Coordinated by MHS webmaster Gordon Goldsborough, the map on our web site now contains some 1,200 sites around urban and rural Manitoba.

Based on information collected during travels this summer, several hundred more sites will be added in the coming months. And we have many more sites to locate, based on lists provided to us by the Manitoba Historic Resources Branch and other sources.

Contributions of sites were made by Pilot Mound resident Ed Grassick and Neepawa resident Allan Drysdale. Especially noteworthy was a list of those who died in the Ninette Sanatorium while being treated for tuberculosis, based on a monument unveiled at Belmont Cemetery on 1 August. Among the 318 names listed on the monument were some incomplete or misspelled names, as identified by Chris Irwin of Belmont. These have been corrected in the list on the MHS web site, and a few names omitted altogether were added. The updated list is at www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/ninettesanatorium.shtml. The full map can be seen at www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites.

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 or phone. Payments can also be made in person at the reception counter at the Dalnavert Visitors’ Centre during regular operating hours, Wednesday to Sunday. Cash, cheque, Visa or Mastercard are accepted.
- Your donations are needed to support ongoing work of the Manitoba Historical Society. Tax receipts are issued for donations over \$10.

The Manitoba Historical Society est 1879

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

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Calendar of Events

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

- 13 September MHS Book Club with guest Allan Levine—*Coming of Age: A History of the Jewish People in Manitoba*
 26 September Culture Days Event at Dalnavert
 30 September MHS tour of St. John's Cathedral Cemetery
 5 Oct – 9 Nov Dr. J. Bumsted speaks on "Orphans of the Fur Trade" at University Women's Club on six Tuesdays
 13 October Stewart Huston speaking on *Tommy's*

- Team: The People Behind the Douglas Years* by Stewart Huston and Bill Waiser at Dalnavert Visitors Centre
 24 October Carol Piller plays harpsichord music of France, England and Spain at Dalnavert Visitors Centre
 6 November Hands-On at Dalnavert workshop #1: Stumpwork
 8 November MHS Book Club—*Loyal Till Death* by Blair Stonechild and Bill Waiser

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Manitoba Historical Society, est 1879

www.mhs.mb.ca

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