



MHS Gazette

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Spring-Summer 2013



Eva Janssen, the new MHS newsletter editor.

Editor's Welcome

Hello all! I'm Eva Janssen, the new editor of *MHS Gazette*. As you may know, former editor Bill Fraser has stepped down after 19 devoted years, though he will remain involved in the newsletter's production.

A little about me: I was born and raised in Thornhill, Ontario, a northern suburb of Toronto whose history dates back to the late 1700s. As a journalism student in the early 1990s, I researched the history of the community for our local magazine. It was probably the best assignment I ever had. Since I first visited Europe as a kid, touring its castles and cathedrals, I was hooked onto history. Like any good student, I read endlessly and took notes on just about anything. The joy of digging for information—in a pre-Internet era, no less—and sharing my nuggets with readers, was the main reason I became a newspaper reporter. Later, after I tired of chasing ambulances,

I took a walking tour of my city's architecture and re-discovered the beauty of old buildings. The Washington, DC-based National Trust for Historical Preservation, and the work of local historians Randy Rostecki, Russ Gourluck, and others, have inspired me greatly.

So, I am excited to carry on Bill's fine example while branching out in new directions. I aim to include more stories from our ever-growing aboriginal and immigrant communities. These might be profiles of individuals working in some way to promote their heritage, or personal stories of their historical struggles and successes.

Each issue will showcase notable individuals and places. This may include in-depth interviews, recent appointments, honours, and the like. We also will highlight current construction, restoration, or demolition projects, building or society anniversaries, new historical designations/de-listings, library and museum news, and anything else involving our built heritage around the province.

We will try to have more news on the younger generation. What are students of history learning in the classroom, and how are they learning it? Has the teaching of history changed dramatically with the advent of smartboards, laptops, and iPhones?

Finally, I'd like to encourage more reader involvement. After all, this is as much your newsletter as mine. So I ask you: What do YOU want to read about? What do you want to see more, or less, of? Do you have a good story to share? Feel free to e-mail me at evajanssen3@hotmail.com.

In the meantime, enjoy the new issue and have a great summer!

Eva Janssen

Shaver House Destroyed

In May 2013, the historic Shaver House near Killarney, Manitoba was completely destroyed by fire. Built in 1901 by Ontario-born farmer William Arthur Shaver, the building was occupied for decades by the Shaver family. Extensive restoration began around 1997 and the building, a municipally-designated historic site, opened as a Bed and Breakfast in 2008. On the morning of the fire, while owners Pam and Paul LaPierre were in town, a neighbor saw smoke and alerted fire officials, who spent nine hours battling the blaze. The Fire Commissioner deemed the fire to be accidental. Presently living in Killarney, the LaPierres are planning to build a new home on the same site.



G. Goldsborough



Jay Struth / Killarney Guide

The historic Shaver House at the time of an MHS visit in September 2012 (top), and during the blaze that destroyed it on 8 May (bottom).



MHS President
(2011–2013)
Dr. Annabelle Mays

President's Message

Another year has passed quickly and this is my final message for the newsletter. My second year as President has come to a close and James Kostuchuk is assuming the role of President. In my new position as Past President, I look forward to supporting James as the Society meets whatever challenges lie ahead.

This past year the Society engaged in many of the same activities and programs that we have carried out so successfully for many years. I will highlight some that we did with other organizations, since one of the goals I set two years ago was to encourage partnerships. These activities were important because they celebrated major historical events in our city.

This year was very significant for the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg. It marked the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Red River Settlement. A wide variety of activities celebrating this auspicious event took place throughout the year. The Manitoba Historical Society and many of its members were extensively involved in planning these events.

Last May, the MHS hosted a symposium marking the founding of the Red River Settlement. This one-day event was sponsored by the University of Manitoba's Department of History, and its Canadian Research Chair in Western Canadian Social History; the Province of Manitoba; The Winnipeg Foundation; and members of the Manitoba Historical Society. The symposium, entitled "The Selkirk Settlement Revisited: 1812 as seen from 2012", was organized by Dr. Gerald Friesen and Dr. Adele Perry of the University of Manitoba's History Department, Dr. Harry Duckworth and Dr. Gordon

Goldsborough from the MHS, and Robert Couatts from Parks Canada.

The symposium was well attended and contributed in a lasting way to the record of our province's history, in particular that of the Red River Settlement. A special edition of *Manitoba History* published in February 2013 included six of the papers presented at the symposium. Many thanks to the symposium organizers and the MHS publications committee for contributing substantially to the bicentenary celebrations of the Red River Settlement. Thanks as well to the Bicentenary of the Red River Settlement Committee for its generous financial support of *Manitoba History's* special edition.

Under the leadership of Harry Duckworth, the MHS partnered with the Manitoba Museum and the Provincial and Hudson's Bay Archives to create an exhibit in the Museum of artefacts and documents germane to the Red River Settlement, another of the 200th anniversary events.

This past year, we also completed our two-year partnership with the Winnipeg Press Club to celebrate its 125th anniversary. In 2011 the MHS worked with the Press Club to produce an edition of *Manitoba History* dedicated to the Club's anniversary. The Winnipeg Foundation supported publishing the special edition, which launched in November at a reception in our Visitors' Centre.

In the February-May 2013 newsletter, I announced the Society would celebrate the "approaching end of winter and the anticipated arrival of spring" with a reception for all members in the Visitors' Centre. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold this event. I hope we can have it next year. I also mentioned that, related to our new admission fees to Dalnavert, we would be applying for a Cultural Access Pass designed to give new immigrants "gratis" admission to selected cultural resources around Manitoba. This new pass was attributed incorrectly to the Lieutenant Governor; in fact, it is associated with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship.

In last year's annual report, I noted we needed to find some ways of reducing our costs and raising our income, "a condition common to nearly all non-profit organizations in this era of fiscal restraint." We managed to cut expenses, publication costs of the newsletter and *Manitoba History*, for example. However, over the last year, reduced grants—including a five per cent cut by the City—and reduced private donations have exacerbated our financial problems. The Executive and Council are committed to investigating alternative and creative solutions.

While finding a long-term solution is urgent, the Society's financial condition is not as dire as that of other non-profit cultural organizations. Thank you to all of our members for your continued support and donations above and beyond the yearly membership fee. For those of you whose yearly memberships are due, I encourage you to submit them.

In March, the Society hired the Mikuska Group to help us develop a fundraising strategy to enhance the income we receive from admissions and civic and provincial grants, and to explore new ways of generating income. This is the first step toward improving our finances. Part of this strategy includes developing our Council's and Executive's leadership abilities in fundraising. It is important to create a culture that is supportive and knowledgeable about the various aspects of fundraising. Toward that end, the Mikuska Group has gathered information from Society documents and responses to a survey of the Council and Past Presidents. A report is expected by the end of June that will help form a fundraising strategy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who gave generously of their time and leadership to support our activities and events. I would like, especially, to thank again Bill Fraser for his many years producing the newsletter. I am pleased he has agreed to stay on with our new editor, Eva Janssen. I would

also like to thank the members of the Executive and Council who provided thoughtful advice and support over the last two years.

Thanks also to the staff who are so committed to the MHS. Jacqueline Friesen works tirelessly on behalf of the Society, and she provided me with advice and support throughout the last two years. Jennifer Bisch brought a wonderful infusion of creativity and enthusiasm to her work as curator and program officer. Thank you as well to Victor Sawelo for his care of the Ross House Museum.

With my two-year term as President completed, I am looking forward to my role as Past President. We have many challenges ahead but I am confident we will be able to meet them head on and move the Society forward sustainably. While this may involve change, the Council and Executive are committed to maintaining and building on the Society's mission. The Society continues to play an important role in preserving and promoting Manitoba's history. I look forward to working with the Executive and Council and the general membership to achieve the Society's goals.

New Oral History Centre Presents Five-Year Plan

Within five years, anyone who ever wanted to record the life stories of loved ones will be able to carry out oral history projects and exhibit them at the University of Winnipeg.

The new Oral History Centre, which opened officially in May, plans to develop workshops and educational tools for the public, as well as a research library, digital archive, and exhibition space for university and community use. These and other goals are described in the Centre's annual report for 2012 to 2017.

"The most exciting thing is we now have the capacity to do state-of-the-art oral history projects," said Dr. Alexander Freund, a history professor and the Centre's co-director.

Some projects have been under way for well over a year. In February, the Oral History Centre and the Department of Indigenous Studies presented the inaugural screening of seven personal stories of indigenous men who are descendants of residential school survivors. It is the first of three phases of a project funded by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation that looks at the children of residential school survivors.

In the second phase, the Centre will develop a video educational toolkit to help Aboriginals tell their stories in a digital format. This summer, a small group of Aboriginal professionals, educators, front-line workers, and community leaders from across Canada will participate in a weeklong summer teaching institute. They will learn how to use digital storytelling to promote healing and reconciliation in their communities.

"History is increasingly used not just in academia but outside as well," Freund said.

The Centre, which took seven years of planning, is one of two in Canada and the only one west of Montreal. Concordia University in Montreal has a Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling.

Last year, the Winnipeg centre hired two part-time technical assistants and converted the east side of Bryce Hall into an audio and video recording studio, and a seminar room with ten digital workstations for post-interview production. There is also a lab for teaching and training, storage space, and kitchen area for staff and students. Equipment is available for studio, fieldwork, teaching, and community use.

The Centre is expanding its curriculum and hopes to offer by 2017, a one-year certificate, a four-year BA, and an MA in Oral and Public History. Until then, work continues unabated. Students have completed about two dozen projects. In March 2014, two major initiatives are winding down—the above-mentioned Aboriginal storytelling project and a history of

refugees in Manitoba. Ethnic groups studied include Nigerians, Metis, Salvadorans, and Chileans. Future research will examine Winnipeg's African communities.

Other oral histories focus on neighbourhoods, individuals, and organizations. Recently, the Centre worked with the Daniel MacIntyre Neighbourhood Association to document its history. Last year, the Centre began work on a history of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Manitoba, Local 832. This will involve interviewing retired and current union members, collecting photos, and gathering archival documents to create a multimedia history.

Still other history projects highlight local leaders, such as recently deceased Winnipeg activist Nick Ternette and Jewish historian/journalist/human rights advocate Abe Arnold. The Oral History Forum, the Centre's journal, will dedicate a forthcoming issue to the life story of Arnold, who died in January 2011. The issue will contain complete audio files from eight hours of interviews, excerpts from Arnold's publications, documents from his personal archive, and about 50 photos.

Future issues of the journal will look at ethics and oral history (2014), oral history in Latin America (2015), oral history and the history of refugees (2015), and "living in the land of perpetrators" (2016).

Freund said the biggest challenge is to create an endowment fund to keep his staff permanently employed. Fundraising is ongoing.

New Look, New Name

With this issue, the former *Time Lines* newsletter becomes *MHS Gazette*. The change has been made to better integrate the newsletter with the journal, with the two being delivered together. The former *Gazette* section of the journal is now renamed *Pageant*.



C. Goldsborough

Ste. Anne Bridge to be Demolished

A concrete arch bridge along the Piney Road near Ste. Anne, designated in 1987 by the municipality as an historically-significant structure, has recently been de-designated in preparation for its demolition later this summer. Built in 1921 as part of the government's initiative to improve provincial roads for motorized vehicles, it is one of the few remaining examples of its kind. Damaged by heavy truck traffic over the past few years, local officials determined that repairs were not warranted and closed the bridge to all but pedestrians and cyclists in 2012. It is believed the bridge will be replaced with large steel culverts.

New Local History Volume

The Turtle Mountain–Souris Plains Heritage Association (TM-SPHA) has just published the third volume of a booklet series on the history of southwestern Manitoba. *Vantage Points III: A Layering of Footprints* is a collection of stories arranged in chronological themes. They begin with the pre-history of the region, describe the arrival of European settlers in the late 19th century and the pre-railway European settlements they established, and conclude with a series of events through the 20th century. As much as possible, Aboriginal and Métis perspectives are incorporated into the stories, which were researched and written by Teyana Neufeld of Deloraine.

Copies of *Vantage Points III* may be purchased for \$15 each (includes postage) by contacting Leona

Devuyst at Box 644, Deloraine, Manitoba, R0M 0M0. Copies may also be purchased for \$20 each at McNally-Robinson Booksellers in Winnipeg, along with the two previous volumes in the series.

The TM-SPHA is supported by the Rural Municipalities of Arthur, Brenda, Cameron, Edward, Morton, and Winchester, the Towns of Boissevain, Deloraine, Hartney, Melita, Pierson, and Waskada, the Turtle Mountain Métis Local, and the Southwest Manitoba Métis Federation. More information about the Association can be obtained at its web site: www.vantagepoints.ca.

Anniversaries

Several Manitoba communities are celebrating 100th anniversaries this summer.

Rosburn

Heritage bus tours will be offered as part of the town of Rosburn's centennial celebrations July 1-7. Visitors will see a one-room school built in 1922, St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, "Swistun Buddas," (temporary Slavic housing), and the Ukrainian Pioneer Mass Grave Site. Tours will take place Tuesday to Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 (includes lunch). For tickets, contact Becky at 204-859-2627.

Besides the bus tours, a local history book will be available July 1; author Pat Ternovetsky will read through a children's book she wrote about growing up in Rosburn; a time capsule will be opened; and there will be digital and traditional storytelling.

Rivers

The town of Rivers, Manitoba is celebrating its centennial with six days of activities, displays, and entertainment from 2 to 7 July. An important railroad town as well as an agricultural centre, Rivers later formed a strong bond with the nearby air base.

The festivities begin with an evening horse show, which leads into the annual Rivers Agricultural Fair the fol-

lowing day. There will also be a historical walking tour, a Rivers schools reunion, a recognition event of the 1964 football team, a "100 Years of Fashion" show and tea party, cribbage and dart tournaments, fireworks, socials, a church service, and many other events.

Roblin

Grade 11 history students and their teachers at Goose Lake High School are researching the histories of various Roblin businesses that have occupied local buildings in the past century. The project honours Roblin's 100th anniversary this year.

A full slate of celebration activities and events are planned for 12–21 July. A time capsule within the Jewel will be opened 13 July. Also, as part of its annual Museum Days, Keystone Pioneers Museum will hold a re-enactment of the North West Mounted Police, forerunners of the RCMP. There will be horse drills, lancing, ropemaking, threshing, flour gristing, log sawing, and a hands-on area for children, among other activities.

Another highlight is the Snowbirds Aerial Show on 17 July, which is expected to draw about 5,000 people. It is the only Snowbirds demonstration in Manitoba this year. Tickets are \$10 (children under 6 are free).

Named after the Premier of Manitoba, Roblin incorporated in 1913 and became a town in 1962. Its original name was Goose Lake.

For more information, phone 204-937-8333 or e-mail toroblin@mts.net.

Central School

Central School-Ecole Centrale, the oldest school in Transcona, will mark its 100th anniversary on 28 September, 10 AM to 3 PM.

Now a K-4 French immersion school at 604 Day Street (originally Oxford Street), the original Central School opened in 1913 and grew to almost 1,300 students at its peak. It was the only public school in Transcona until the 1950s.

Radio personality and alumnus Ace Burpee will emcee official ceremonies on Saturday at 11 AM. Former student, teacher, and principal Barry Kramble will talk about the history of Central School; co-principal Sid Shapira will talk about the period after the school switched to French immersion in 1983. During the ceremony, Shapira and students will open a time capsule from 1913 and add new mementoes. The school choir will sing *Maple Leaf Forever*, just as students did when the cornerstone was laid 100 years ago.

Events include the dedication of a memorial plaque, children's concert, historical displays, centennial tea, and classic car show. A special page has been added to the school's website, <http://schools.retsd.mb.ca/ec/Pages/100Anniversary.aspx>.

The school is looking for memorabilia such as yearbooks, photos, and trophies from the Central School years. Multi-generational families who attended are encouraged to get in touch with the school. Central School's final yearbook in 1983 had two pages of three- and four-generation families who took classes at the school. Those willing to volunteer or donate can contact Shapira at 204-958-6426, sshapira@retsdb.ca.

- Sept. 1913: Central School opened with 308 students under Principal D. A. Baxter and eventually grew to include high school grades.
- 1976: Addition built on southeast corner to accommodate larger number of French classes formerly taught at Transcona Central North School (now Calvin Christian Collegiate).
- Sept. 1983: English program ended, relocating to Westview and Regent Park Schools. Central-Ecole Centrale became French Immersion.
- 1988: To ease overcrowding, students from Grade 5 upwards moved to area schools, leaving Central-Ecole Centrale to offer only kindergarten to Grade 4.

- 1994: School building from 1913 deemed structurally unsafe and demolished.
- 1996: School officially renamed Ecole Centrale.

St. Anne's Anglican

St. Anne's Anglican Church in Winnipeg will hold special events on 27–29 September commemorating the founding of St. Anne's Parish 100 years ago. There will be a short service on 27 September, followed by a Saturday dinner and dance, a Sunday Eucharist service and lunch, and other activities. The church is collecting names, addresses and email address of former parishioners and those who had an affiliation with St. Anne's. For more info, contact stannes100@mymts.net or (204) 334-6753.



G. Goldsborough

The former East Rosser School No. 594 building at its new home in Grosse Isle, near the Prairie Dog Railway station.

East Rosser School Has New Home

After sitting vacant for several years at a site east of Rosser, Manitoba, the former building of East Rosser School No. 594 has recently been moved to Grosse Isle, where it will become part of a museum at the northern terminus of the Prairie Dog Central Railway.

After closing in January 1958, the building was used as a community centre. It was later sold and used for a time as a carpentry shop. Municipal officials at Rosser worked for over a year to raise the funds necessary to move the building to its new home in Grosse Isle.

Catholic Parish Celebrates 100 Years

This fall, Ann Gislason will be honouring the church her grandfather helped build almost 100 years ago in Ashern.

Holy Cross Parish will hold a Mass, a blessing of the graveyard and old church site, and a lunch, on Sunday, 1 September, to celebrate 100 years of pastoral service. Gislason will raffle off a queen-size quilt she designed and made. It lists the surnames of everyone who has been a member of the church, as well as photos, names and years of service of all the bishops and priests, and pictures of people and celebrations.

In 1913, the parish held its first pastoral service in Ashern, however it took another two years for a church to be built. Between 1913 and 1915, priests came once a month to celebrate Mass at different homes, including the home of Gislason's grandparents. About 60 families resided in the area.

Marie Parent was the first person baptized in the area on 25 May 1913. In 1915, Gislason's grandfather Clifford HARRY and other volunteers helped build a church on ten acres of land donated by Mr. Felicien Michelon. A steeple was added later. The first Mass was celebrated in July 1915. Later that month, one of the church's builders, Andrew MacTavish, died in a horse accident. His widow, Gislason's grandmother Mary McTavish, married HARRY.

According to Gislason, church ladies raised money to buy many items including an organ. Mr. H. Schwartz donated a drum heater to make Mass warmer in winter. Rev. Arthur Alfred Sinnott, Archbishop of Winnipeg, held the first confirmation mass on 23 July 1921. The first communion was in 1931. Father Etienne introduced catechism for children; later on, visiting nuns taught them.

In 1937, Father C. Kerbrat arranged to move a farmhouse to a site near the church, to be used as a rectory. Father Schnerch supervised the work while staying with HARRY and his family.

After the church was condemned, a new one was built in 1981 across the road, on the rectory property.

Gislason's grandmother Mary Harry and mother Ethel Stolwyk were active in the parish their whole lives. Stolwyk taught catechism into her 80s and wrote the history for the church's 65th celebration. Gislason said she grew up hearing many stories from her mother about the early years of the church. She and her sister Frances VanTornhout are active members and helped plan the centennial celebration. Gislason is the religious education co-ordinator and has taught religious education for 32 years.

For more info on the centennial, contact Glenda at rg_granger@yahoo.ca or Joyce at hbudnick@mymts.net.

St. Boniface Cathedral

A \$6-million renovation to St. Boniface Cathedral—the most significant in 40 years—will turn confessionals into chapels of contemplation, and open the grounds to sound and light shows.

In April, Winnipeg city council voted unanimously to give \$350,000 to the St. Boniface Cathedral Renewal Project. To date, the project has received 60 percent of the necessary funds. The federal and provincial governments also will likely contribute. A gala dinner and dance in mid-June is expected to raise additional funds.

Already, there is a new roof, new windows, and drainage improvements. The project's second phase will add different types of lighting, as well as sound, ventilation, and air conditioning inside. Workers will also refurbish the space downstairs.

Project co-chair Gerry Labossiere said the church will be able to host more outdoor community events such as symphony concerts. He said the restoration has become a "spiritual journey" that will culminate in peace gardens and footpaths connecting the cathedral with Tache Avenue and the Forks.

There have been five churches on site since 1818. The current structure was built in 1972 after fire destroyed its predecessor. The façade and walls of the burned-out 1906 church loom in front.

St. John's Cathedral

Restoration continues on the exterior of St. John's (Anglican) Cathedral in Winnipeg's North End.

This spring and summer, masons will repoint the stonework and carry out other repairs and maintenance.

Work started in 2008 to protect the 87-year-old building from falling apart. The roof was replaced, and in fall 2012, new larger eaves troughs and downspouts were installed to improve drainage and prevent water from seeping into the foundation, which had been a longstanding problem. Also, masons repaired stonework on the Emslie St. side of the building near the entrance to the chapel to close large gaps where grout had fallen away.

The Thomas Cropro Foundation, The Winnipeg Foundation, and the Province's Designated Building Grants Program have given \$65,000 to pay for the repairs. The church's building fund is also contributing. The majority of the work is expected to be finished by 2014.

This is the fourth church built at 135 Anderson Ave. since 1822 and is a designated heritage building.



G. Goldsborough

The historic St. John's Anglican Cathedral in Winnipeg is undergoing masonry restoration of its exterior.

Obituary

Elizabeth Feniak, a long-time MHS member, scholar, teacher and community activist, died on April 13 in Winnipeg. She was born in 1920 in the RM of Shoal Lake and began her education at the one-room Wolfe Creek School. She received a degree in home economics from the University of Manitoba and an M.Sc. in Foods and Nutrition from the University of Minnesota. She later taught in the Faculty of Home Economics at the University of Manitoba. Through the years, Feniak earned her PhD, became a full professor, department head, acting dean, and associate dean of the Faculty of Home Economics. She was an active participant and leader in organizations supporting her profession and her community. Feniak and one of her graduate stu-

dents piloted the Meals on Wheels program. She served as president of the Manitoba Provincial Council of Women and the Canadian Home Economics Association. In 1982, the YWCA named her a “Woman of Distinction.” She was honoured as a life member of the National Council of Women of Canada, Manitoba’s Provincial Council of Women, and the Manitoba Women’s Institute. In 1988, she was named a member of the Order of Canada.

Heritage News

Work has begun on the World War II RCAF Memorial at the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum at the Brandon airport. According to the Westman Journal, the memorial wall will contain the names of RCAF members who died in the war, and the names of air force members from Australia, New Zealand and the United States who lost their lives in or near Canada during the war. Names have been etched in granite and landscaping is under way. The memorial will cost \$1.2 million; over \$300,000 has been raised. Supporters hope the memorial will be completed by August 2014 for the commemoration of the end of the Second World War.

The St Francois Xavier Historical Society plans to interview current and former senior residents of the community, providing a valuable resource for future historians. According to the Headliner, the Society has developed a questionnaire for face-to-face interviews and will keep recordings safely stored and confidential to address privacy issues. The project is urgent, as some local residents are in their 90s. Families are encouraged to make recordings.

Daly House Museum in Brandon held a fundraiser in March to com-

memorate the 100th anniversary of the Prince Edward Hotel, which opened in 1912 and closed in 1980. Former hotel manager Tony Griffin, a guest speaker at the event, expressed his regrets for losing the city’s social landmark affectionately called the “Prince Eddy,” the Westman Journal reports. The hotel hosted prime ministers and held social events such as the Policemen’s Ball and the Firemen’s Ball before it was demolished in 1980. Griffin said the hotel could have been saved were it not for the unfavourable economic and political climate. In an interview recorded in the Journal, Griffin stressed the importance of preserving buildings for the sake of knowing our common heritage.

A five-member committee in the RM of Glenella is planning a sequel to *Tracks of Time*, an 865-page local history book printed in 1990, reports the *Neepawa Banner*. The new book will continue the stories of former contributing families and present new stories. A few copies are still available for \$25. For information call 204-352-4283 or email kschmidt@inetlink.ca

The Marine Museum of Manitoba in Selkirk is inviting stories from people who were associated with any of the museum’s six ships. The stories may be of general interest or mainly for children, and can involve anyone including maids, engineers, and passengers. Improvements to the SS *Keenora*, the museum’s flagship, will begin once research is complete. The museum recently made exhibits more interactive thanks to additional grants of about \$12,000. The museum is open, weather permitting, from the May long weekend to the September long weekend.

Anglicans Hope to Restore Historic Cree Canvases

Fundraising is quietly under way at Christ Church, The Pas to restore four painted canvases that are a historic symbol of Cree-English relations.

The panels, about six feet high, are among the first examples anywhere



Christ Church, The Pas

A panel in Christ Church shows Cree text transliterated into the Roman alphabet.

of Cree transliteration, where the Cree language of symbols is converted into the Roman alphabet. Two panels recite the Ten Commandments, the third has Paul’s explanation of the Communion, and the fourth holds the Lord’s Prayer.

After almost 170 years hanging in poorly insulated buildings, they’re deteriorating.

“They’re crumbling before my eyes,” said Rev. Rebecca Graham, the Anglican church’s pastor.

She noticed the problem about two years ago. Paint was flaking away and, in some cases, the canvas was crumbling. Investigation has revealed that each panel will require two weeks of work involving insulating, gluing, cleaning, and repainting where necessary. Restoring all four will cost about \$20,000.

Graham said the project is necessary, as the panels are “a vital part of teaching our tenets of faith.”

“Most of the community aren’t even aware they’re here.”

MHS Gazette is a benefit of membership in the Manitoba Historical Society. Join the MHS and enjoy the Gazette three times a year.

The church holds as many as 125 parishioners, of whom 10 to 25 per cent are of Cree heritage, she said. Two other Anglican churches in the region—Church of the Messiah, and Church of the Redeemer—also serve the large Cree population.

Graham figures it would be practical to insulate the whole church and install a climate control system to preserve the church's other "treasures," including the pews, altar, and baptismal font hand-carved by the expedition that searched for missing explorer Sir John Franklin in the mid-1800s.

Graham and her team in charge of the project hope to remove the church's vinyl siding and recreate its original shiplap wooden design.

They are applying for grants and hope to collect \$1 from each resident. Graham would like to see work start this year and be complete by 2015, the 175th anniversary of the Devon Mission, which brought Anglicanism to the area.

In the 1820s and '30s, Anglican missionary Rev. John West, and two protégés, closed the language barrier between the English-speaking clergy and the Cree inhabitants by creating a system that converted Cree script into Roman.

The Cree panels were unveiled in 1845 and placed in the newly built Christ Church. After the church burned down, the panels went to the local school and were used as a teaching aid for communication.

The current church was built in 1887 adjacent to the site of the first church. In 1949, the school closed and the panels returned to the church. Incidentally, Rev. West's protégé Henry Budd, a Swampy Cree from Norway House, became the first Anglican priest from the First Nations in 1853. He was also the local school teacher.

Those wishing to donate to the restoration can send their contribution to Christ Church – Devon Mission Heritage Preservation Project, P.O. Box 125, The Pas, Manitoba, R9A 1K3.



City of Winnipeg

Enjoy the Victorian gardens at Dalnavert Museum.

Summer Events at Dalnavert & Ross House

Summer is here and there are a lot of activities to take part in at Dalnavert and Ross House. You can also follow the museums on Facebook and Twitter for frequent updates. We hope to see you at the museums this summer for one of our programs or for a drop-in tour!

Dalnavert House

Treasure Hunt!

Every Saturday, July-August 2013, 10 AM - 4 PM, \$5/person (all ages). Pop by Dalnavert and wander through the museum, seeking hidden treasures. After you have found all the treasures, head up to Dalnavert's attic and make a Victorian-era toy to take home. This family drop-in program is suitable for ages 5 and up. Children must be accompanied by at least one adult.

My Secret Garden

Every Thursday, July-August 2013, two sessions daily: 11 AM and 2 PM, \$5/person (all ages). Join us at Dalnavert for fun in the sun! My Secret Garden is a drop-in program for boys and girls aged 6-12 and their guardians. Through games, crafts, and stories, students will learn about plants and insects, the history of Dalnavert, and the importance of gardening in the past and present. This program takes place indoors and outdoors. Please remember to bring sunscreen, a hat, and insect repellent! Contact dalnavertprograms@gmail.com or 204-943-2835 to reserve.

Lady Mac's Tea Party

Offered by advance booking only, \$7/person (all ages). Take a leisurely tour of Dalnavert Museum's first-floor rooms and learn about the house's history as a hub of social activity during the MacDonalds' time here. After visiting the kitchen, dining room, and parlour, you will end your tour with tea on the veranda and a lesson in the Victorian language of flowers. Contact dalnavert@mhs.mb.ca or 204-943-2835 to reserve.

Dalnavert Museum Tours

Guided tours of Dalnavert are offered on a drop-in basis during our regular operating hours (July-August, Fridays-Saturdays, 10 AM - 4 PM). Groups of 7 or more are encouraged to book in advance. Follow our website or our Facebook page for an announcement about our upcoming audio tour!

Ross House

Guided tours of Ross House are offered on a drop-in basis during our regular operating hours (July-August, Wednesdays-Sundays, 10 AM - 4 PM). Groups of 7 or more are encouraged to book in advance. Walking tours of the historic Point Douglas neighbourhood are also offered by advance booking. Contact the museum at 204-943-3958 to reserve.

MHS Membership Renewal ?

Please check the mailing label on the envelope in which this issue arrived by mail. It shows the month and year that your MHS membership expires. To renew your membership, contact our office at 204-947-0559 or info@mhs.mb.ca.

Membership fees can also be paid, quickly and securely, using the new MHS online shop:

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



T. Goncalves, Manitoba Government Photographer.

Randy Rostecki, a recipient of the 2013 Lieutenant Governor's Award for Historical Preservation and Promotion.

Preserving History a Passionate Pursuit for Award-Winning Historian

In the fall of 1969, a North End teenager saw an ad in the paper announcing that a rundown old house at 51 Lily Street was going to be demolished. Curious, Randy Rostecki went with his sister and her husband to see the Point Douglas property. It was spooky – they dubbed it the “Witch’s House” – but also spectacular.

Enthralled, Rostecki launched a one-man campaign to save the house, built by lumberman Alexander Black in 1895. He talked to the home’s second owner, thinking to himself “How can you let something that can be fixed up – this magnificent – go like this?”

Rostecki’s efforts failed; the house was demolished the following year. However, it marked the beginning of a lifelong passion for Rostecki, who until then had never paid much attention to history beyond stamp and coin collecting, a pastime enjoyed by many kids.

Over the decades, he lobbied loudly to save historical buildings in Winnipeg, all the while writing articles and books (his latest was Armstrong’s

Point, released in 2009). In May, he was one of five to receive a Lieutenant-Governor’s Award for Historical Preservation and Promotion.

Ironically, he is calling for more activism though his own has diminished.

“The degree of militancy in the heritage movement has all but gone in the last 25...30 years,” he told *Time-lines* recently. Heritage planning has become a government enterprise “with bureaucrats who don’t have a passion for what they’re doing (and who) risk their livelihoods by becoming too involved.”

For instance, former Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray led many to believe he supported heritage but, in the end, flip-flopped on key issues and allowed the Eaton’s building to be demolished despite public protest, Rostecki said.

In earlier days, when he was still an idealistic history student, Rostecki fought back, taking on the developers and politicians who displayed “total callousness” toward anything old. At 21, he became the Manitoba Historical Society’s (MHS) young-

est council member and served on the Historical Buildings Committee with mentors Edwin Nix and George Reynolds. Among other activities, they lobbied for city bylaws to protect heritage buildings – bylaws that have proven ineffectual, as in the case of the recently torn-down Shanghai Restaurant, said Rostecki.

It’s not only city leaders who are to blame. “The MHS has become very conservative in the last 30 years. If Dalnavert (House) came up the way it did in 1970, I can’t see the historical society saving it,” he said.

To him, the younger generation seems more interested in blogging than full-out battling, however he may not be seeing the whole picture. For one thing, Rostecki doesn’t own a computer, so he’s perhaps unaware of the daily missives posted on Facebook and personal blogs about heritage issues that sometimes lead to face-to-face confrontation with city council. If he expects a lot from others, he’s equally hard on himself. “I don’t feel my contribution has been that important. It’s been four years since I turned out a book,” he said.



T. Goncalves, Manitoba Government Photographer

Recipients of the 2013 Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Historical Preservation and Promotion at the presentation ceremony at Government House in May, back row (L-R): Ken Smith (Hamiota), Bette Mueller (Manitou), Randy Rostecki (Winnipeg), Margruite Krahn (Neubergthal), and Linda Shewchuk (Gardenton), along with front row (L-R): Harry Duckworth (MHS), Gordon Goldsborough (MHS), The Honourable Philip S. Lee, Mrs. Lee, and James Kostuchuk (MHS).

At 61, he focuses almost entirely on historical research, having given up advocacy after the Leland Hotel burned down in 1999. Fighting the developers and politicians affected his health, forcing him to rechannel his idealism, he said.

“I always felt I was largely ostracized because I showed too much passion... I guess I tried to be a conscience for old buildings and nobody was really listening.”

To prove his point, he is working on a book about Winnipeg’s 100 finest buildings that are no longer around. Called *Lost Winnipeg*, the publication should teach others the dangers of losing our built heritage.



D. Craig

Brewerianists Dave Craig (left) and Bill Wright (right) drank to the June launch of their new book *300 Years of Beer: An Illustrated History of Brewing in Manitoba*. Published by Great Plains Publications of Winnipeg, the book contains over 400 colour and black-and-white illustrations of rare beer labels, retro bottles, and ads dating back as far as the 1870s.

Postcards from the Past

One man’s collecting craze has turned into an online public project for anyone with an interest in Winnipeg’s history.

Years ago, Rob McInnes was living in California but was homesick for Winnipeg despite twice yearly visits. One day, he came across a postcard of Upper Fort Garry Gate and decided to start collecting postcards of this famous site. Since then, he has amassed 3,500 cards with images from across Winnipeg.

“It was (my) longing to be connected to Winnipeg that started this,” he told an audience at Cornish Library, where he helped launch a new Winnipeg Public Library website featuring more than 300 high-resolution postcards from Winnipeg.

Besides postcards, “PastForward - Winnipeg’s Public Digital History” (<http://wpl-digitization.wpg.ca>) also hosts oral histories, documents, other historical images, and a small sampling of Henderson City Directories. For example, there are images of Winnipeg’s branch libraries, audio clips from the North End

Library users can download postcards in full resolution. The site also allows users to tag specific locations and add comments. Every few months, the Winnipeg Public Library will invite members of the public to digitally scan their historical documents or memorabilia for free. So



E. Janssen

Rob McInnes discussed the usefulness of postcards as historical documents during the launch of a digitized sample of his extensive postcard collection as part of the *PastForward* project at the Winnipeg Public Library.

far, the library has held two “digitization” events; the most recent one focused on music history.

You can see McInnes’s postcards throughout the MHS website. For more information on the history of postcards, see the MHS articles www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/features/winnipegthennow/ and www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/mb_history/56/brandon-postcards.shtml. You can also find biographies of Winnipeg postcard photographers on the MHS website.

Did You Know?

- 1869 First known postcard, in Austria
- 1871 Canadian government issues the first postcard, preprinted with postage. Most postcards were used for business correspondence.
- 1895 Government allows private publishers to print postcards
- 1900-20 Golden age of postcards
- 1900 Canada’s population 5.3 million and Canadians mail 27,000 postcards (one per 196 individuals)
- 1904 Government allows divided postcards, where the front is for images, and the back is for messages. Since cameras were still rare, families went to portrait studios for group

New MHS Membership Fees

Effective 1 July 2013, annual membership fees in the Manitoba Historical Society are as follows:

Category	Canada	USA	All other countries
Regular	\$45	\$50	\$60
Youth / Student	\$25	\$30	\$40
Family	\$50	\$55	\$65
Non-profit Institution	\$55	\$60	\$75
Corporation	\$275	\$280	\$295

This modest increase, the first in over six years, was necessitated by the rising costs of postage and production.

Scenes from the 2013 Doors Open Winnipeg

photos that were then printed on the back of postcards. Sending a postcard for a penny was cheaper than sending portraits.

- 1908 Population 6.6 million and Canadians mail 41 million postcards (6 per person)
- 1913 Population 7.2 million and Canadians mail 60 million postcards (8 per person)

Germany had the best quality printers. After the country's printing presses were destroyed in the First World War, the postcard industry never recovered.



E. Janssen

Silvester-Willson Building (22 McDermot Avenue) was built in 1904. Shown here is building owner Doug Wiebe who is also pastor of Exchange Community Church that occupies the building's second floor.



E. Janssen

Caron House (50 Cass Street) was the Charleswood residence of Francophone farmer George Caron and his family. After they moved out in the 1940s, the surrounding land sold for residential development.



E. Janssen

Filipino singer-songwriter and activist Levy Abad spoke and sang at the 2013 MHS Multicultural Dinner in April.



E. Janssen

The Marlborough Hotel (331 Smith Street) was built in 1913 and expanded in 1921 and 1923. Its banquet room shown here has original wood floors, chandelier, and "chicken wire" in the windows. A plaque in the lobby of the hotel, erected in 2009 by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, commemorates a meeting here in November 1925 that led to the founding of the Royal Canadian Legion, Canada's largest veteran-based social and advocacy organization.



E. Janssen

The Marlborough's basement has, at various times in the past, housed a barber shop, laundry, shoeshine, restaurant (from 1914, the "Olympia Grill Room"), a piano bar, and the Winnipeg Press Club. Part of it is now rented out as a recording studio; another part is a housekeeping area. The beamed ceiling and woodwork date to 1914. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stayed in the hotel in the 1920s and held a seance in this room with his friends, the Sifton family.

Centennial Farms

The following Centennial Farms have been designated since the last newsletter.

Minnedosa

Robert & Gladys Stewart:
SE 34-14-18 WPM, 1910

Morden

Leslie & Celine Titchkowsky:
SW 11-2-6 WPM, 1911

Sidney

Paul & Gayle Ham:
SE 7-11-12 WPM, 1912

Virден

Arnold C. & Jacqueline M. Hill,
Tim & Cheryl Hill:
SW 36-11-25 WPM, 1913

125 Plus Recognition

Clearwater

Craig & Carol Bere:
NW 36-1-13 WPM, 1888

Hamiota

Brent & Donna McKinnon:
NW2-13-24 WPM, 1882

The Manitoba Historical Society est 1879

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

- Regular Member (\$45) Youth/Student Member (\$25)
- Family Member (\$50) Nonprofit Institutional Member (\$55)

I want to support the MHS with the following donation:

- \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 \$ _____

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$10.

Please use my contribution:

- Where the need is greatest Museums
- Awards Programming
- Other: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____

Postal code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Mail to:

Manitoba Historical Society
 61 Carlton Street
 Winnipeg, MB R3C 1N7
 Telephone: 204-947-0559
 Email: info@mhs.mb.ca

* See our web site (www.mhs.mb.ca) for annual membership rates in the USA and other countries

Make cheques payable to “Manitoba Historical Society” or pay by:

- Visa MasterCard

Card # _____ Expiry _____

Validation code (back of card) _____

Signature _____

Charitable Tax Registration BN 12281 4601 RR0001.



Calendar of Events

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

- 7 August Old St. James Church Concert Series: “The B-side Apostles”
- 9–10 August The First Annual Carberry Heritage Festival (Carberry, Manitoba) is for everyone with an interest in history, heritage, country living and having fun.
- 14 August Old St. James Church Concert Series: “Little Opera Company”

Important Note

The MHS Visitors’ Centre is presently operating with reduced staff, so we may not be able to respond to phone calls immediately. Your calls are important and will be returned as quickly as possible. Devoted, friendly volunteers will greet you when you visit our museum and gift shop.

The MHS office is open to the public Wednesday to Fridays, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Appointments should be arranged in advance of visits.

Thanks for your understanding and patience.

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Effective 1 July 2013, MHS membership fees are: Individual \$45, Family \$50, Youth/Student \$25, Non-profit Institution \$55, and Corporations \$275. Rates to USA and other countries are slightly higher. See the MHS website for details.

Manitoba Historical Society, est 1879

www.mhs.mb.ca

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