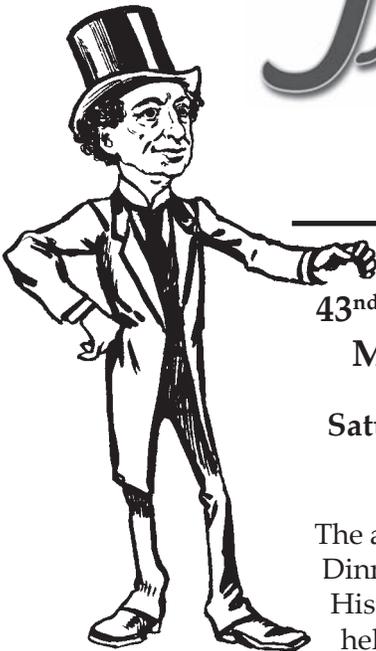


Time Lines

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 40 No. 1

November / December 2007



43rd Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner

Saturday, 19 January 2008
Fort Garry Hotel

The annual John A. Macdonald Dinner of the Manitoba Historical Society will be held this year on Saturday, 19 January 2008 at the Fort

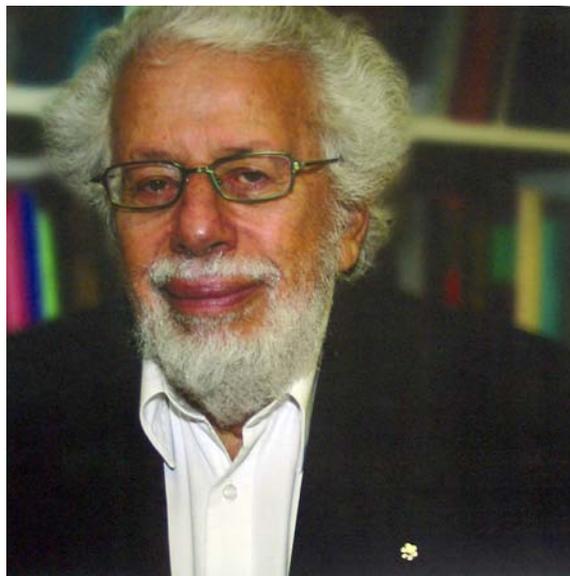
Garry Hotel at 6:00 p.m. Jim Ingebrigtsen will be master of ceremonies and the after dinner address will be given by the Honourable Roland Penner. Roland is the son of a distinguished and politically active North End family who has had a fascinating career, ranging from bookseller to provincial Attorney-General at the time of the Meech Lake accord. He has just published his memoirs, copies of which will be available for sale and autographing at the dinner. There will be a silent auction.

Because of a number of comments that the ticket price was preventing some members from attending this gala event, the MHS Executive this year has decided to reduce the price to \$55 per person, roughly the cost of the meal. We hope that members will welcome this significant change, and that the attendance at this year's dinner will both justify the change and create a positive experience on the night. No *gratis* wine can be provided at this price, and of course, no charitable tax receipt can be issued for the \$55 ticket.

Many members are accustomed to making donations to the Society at this time of year, however, and such donations are an important part of the Society's revenue. All donations above the \$55 cost of a ticket will be most gratefully received, and tax receipts will be issued for them, as usual.

Born in Winnipeg in 1924, Roland Penner became involved after his return from active service during World War II with the communist Labour Progressive Party and later with the New Democratic Party of Manitoba. He practiced law for 15 years and, in 1972, was the first Chairperson of Manitoba's new legal aid system. In this position, he helped lay the basis for a system that is still considered one of the best in Canada. In 1981, Penner was elected to the Manitoba Legislature and appointed Government House

Leader, Chair of the Treasury Board, and Attorney General in the NDP government of Howard Pawley. Penner served as Attorney General, Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs and, for a brief period, as Minister of Education. He was Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba, where he still teaches Constitutional Law. Penner was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2000, being cited for his contribution to legal aid and human rights.



Roland Penner will be the featured speaker at the 43rd Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner, to be held on 19 January 2008.

A Glowing Dream: A Memoir, published in October 2007 by Winnipeg's J. Gordon

Shillingford Publishing, is a tumultuous history that journeys with the Penner family from Russia where the threat of exile loomed, to Winnipeg's North End, and leads up to Roland's expansive political career.



St John's Cathedral Cemetery Tour

Saturday, 29 September was a perfect autumn day for a tour. A group of MHS members was guided through the headstones and monuments of the cemetery of St. John's Cathedral. Rene Jamieson informed and entertained us with stories of the church and a number of people – famous and less well known – buried there.

New Library Committee Established

The MHS Council is establishing a new Library Committee. The MHS Library has a useful collection, strong in items of western Canadian history and

local Manitoba history, which was recently moved to new quarters at Dalnavert. The Committee will be asked to bring the cataloguing up to date; to establish a policy on new acquisitions (which might encourage donations of identified items to fill gaps); and to establish good security procedures. Members with expert knowledge in any of these areas would be particularly useful, but any MHS member who would like to join the new Committee is invited to contact Harry Duckworth (vice-president). Contacts for him: 204-477-9737 (evenings) or 204-474-6252 (weekdays) or send email to Harry_Duckworth@umanitoba.ca.

MHS Open House on 16 September

MHS members attended an open house at the Dalnavert Visitors Centre to celebrate the launch of the greatly expanded MHS web site with the unveiling of the Manitoba Record Society books in digital format. Webmaster Gordon Goldsborough spoke about some of the information now available.

New Local History Book

A new local history on the Poplar Point and St. Marks area will be launched on Saturday, 10 November, at Poplar Point and Portage la Prairie. Copies are \$80 each, plus \$15 for postage. To purchase, call Elaine Dickenson at 204-243-2456.



Bill Fraser

The MHS Council, including several new members, met in September at the Dalnavert Visitors Centre. Front row (L-R): Dennis Butcher, Maureen Dolyniuk, Joyce Wawrykow, Carol Scott, Jack Bumsted, Diane Haglund, Scott Stephen, Francis Carroll, Ross Metcalfe. Back row: Harry Duckworth, Gordon Goldsborough, Alan Crossin, Mary Louise Zorniak, Carl James, Wayne Arseny, Bill Neville, Owen Clark, Judith Hudson Beattie, Jennifer Brown, Tom Ford. Missing: Bill Fraser, Gwyneth Jones, Marg Kentner, Simon Lucy.

**President's Column:
The Courts and Law in Red River: 1800-1870**



MHS President
Dr. J. M. Bumsted

When on 6 December 1869 Sir John Young, Governor General of Canada, issued a proclamation on behalf of Queen Victoria "To all and every the Loyal Subjects of Her Majesty the Queen, and to all those to whom these Present shall come," assuring the residents of Red River that "By Her Majesty's authority I do therefore assure

you that on the union with Canada all your civil and religious rights and privileges will be respected," what was he guaranteeing as far as the use of the French language in the settlement was concerned? To answer this question we must look at the history of law and the courts in Red River.

The province of Manitoba only with great difficulty morphed out of the Red River Settlement established by Lord Selkirk in 1811-12. From the standpoint of the early history of law and language rights in the new province, three points are worth remembering. First, the Red River Settlement was never part of the imperial establishment, but was instead a private jurisdiction owned initially by Selkirk and his family and subsequently by the Hudson's Bay Company. Secondly, despite this anomalous status, Red River after 1835 had both a stable and properly organized government in the Council of Assiniboia and a stable and properly organized justice system headed by the Court of Quarterly Session. Thirdly, from the very beginning, Red River had been a complex place linguistically, and any legal system was bound to reflect that reality.

Lord Selkirk and the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) had from the beginning attempted to get the British government to make Red River a British colony, but the public struggles between the HBC and the North West Company with the Settlement in the middle, described in detail in my book *The Fur Trade Wars*, made this quite impossible. The HBC used proposed systems of justice as a way to involve the government,

and the government resisted. As a result, until 1835, when the Selkirk family sold the settlement to the HBC, government and justice were administered within it as a result of the transference of the powers of justice granted the HBC by the Crown in 1670 in the charter to Lord Selkirk, and after 1835 directly by the HBC under the judicial powers of the Charter. Neither the political nor the judicial system were connected directly with the Crown. Red River (or Assiniboia, as it was usually known) was not officially part of the common law heritage of the British Empire overseas. It had a court and a law code, but these rested solely on authority of the Charter. British practice may have been visible throughout, but it was not required and not based on anything except practicalities and tradition. The Court of Quarterly Session was limited in its authority by Act of Parliament, but only insofar as it was not allowed to dispense capital punishment. Otherwise, the law in Red River was a thing unto itself.

Despite the fact that government and justice in Red River were privately rather than publicly based, the settlement did have both a proper government and an established judicial system after 1835. The Canadian government apparently did not understand this fact, for when Canadian Secretary of State Joseph Howe visited the settlement late in 1869, he was astounded to discover that not only was there a government and a court, but each kept thorough and detailed records dating back into the earlier years of the settlement.

Finally, Red River was a linguistically complex place from the outset. To the local aboriginal tribes and the ethnically mixed fur traders, most of the latter speaking French, Lord Selkirk had added a number of Gallic-speaking Highland settlers, and another contingent of German-speaking Swiss mercenaries. His estate after his death had added another group of German-speaking Swiss settlers. Many of the Gallic speakers and most of the German ones had left the settlement after the great flood of 1826, leaving behind a population that consisted mainly of French-speaking mixed bloods (the "Métis") and English-speaking mixed bloods (the "country-born"), as well as a number of aboriginals, some of whom resided in the settlement and some of whom visited it from time to time. While the court system had always accepted the need to accommodate the linguistic needs of the aboriginals, the recognition of French was rather more difficult.

On 12 February 1835, the Governor of Rupert's Land, George Simpson, and the Council of Assiniboia took measures to "put the administration of justice on a more firm and regular footing than heretofore." It was resolved that "a general Court of the Governor and Council shall be held at the Governor's residence on the last Thursday of every quarter." On 5 January 1838, George Simpson offered the position of Court Recorder (not judge) to Adam Thom, noting that a knowledge of the French language was a prerequisite for the job: "I presume you are qualified to express yourself with perfect facility in the French Language of the Country. . . without which you would not be adapted for the situation." Ten years later, in response to a refusal by Thom to use the French language in the court, the French-speaking population demanded "the immediate removal of Mr. Recorder Thom from the Settlement" and "[t]he conducting of all judicial business through a medium of a judge who would address the Court in the French as well as in the English language."

In Red River, Thom refused to speak French or allow it into his court, and this grievance added to other factors (chiefly a highly arbitrary behaviour on the bench) to force him out of office in 1851; much of the pressure for Thom's removal came from an orchestrated lobbying campaign headed by the elder Louis Riel. By this time Thom had been forced to agree to use French in his court, following a Métis petition of May 1849, but in 1851 he was replaced on the bench by Governor Eden Colville, although he retained the office of clerk of Assiniboia. (and its salary).

Attempting to understand what law and what legal practice was in use in the Court of Quarterly Session, particularly in terms of language usage, is no easy matter. There is in the Public Archives of Manitoba a book that contains minutes of the court's deliberations, but what is minuted depends to a considerable extent on the whims of the court clerk keeping the minutes at any given point in time. Some cases are recorded in some detail, but most contain only the barest outlines of proceedings. In most cases, the names of the jurors are listed, and in cases involving Francophones, at least half of the twelve jurors are usually French. One case, involving charges of abortion against Anglican clergyman Owen Griffiths Corbett in 1862, was transcribed verbatim and published in the local newspaper, *The Nor'-Wester*, but unfortunately it contains no language

issues. Other cases were occasionally reported on in the newspaper, but not systematically. We have no other legal papers besides the minute book. It is often asserted that the Red River legal system did not have any lawyers. True, there was no bar or any formal qualifications for appearance before the court, but the records and the Corbett case both demonstrate that people acting as lawyers did appear. John Bruce, who was the first president of the Métis National Committee in 1869, was described as having often served as a lawyer for his people.

Although before 1850 Adam Thom refused to entertain French in his court, he did have to deal with aboriginals speaking languages other than English. The most detailed report of a case involving an aboriginal was "The Public Interest v. Capennesseweet," on 4 August 1845, before a Grand Jury. Capennesseweet had fired a gun into the back of another aboriginal, causing a mortal wound not only to the individual he aimed at, but also to a second aboriginal who received the bullet after it had passed through the body of the first and died almost immediately. Sheriff Alexander Ross testified that the prisoner had admitted voluntarily before himself and other magistrates that he had "done the deed," and the Grand Jury had indicted him. The prisoner was brought before the bar, and the indictment "was heard, being through the medium of Augustin Nolin, interpreter into Indian." No other mention of the translator was made in the record, but presumably he at least explained to the prisoner the substance of the testimony subsequently heard against him. Capennesseweet was unconstitutionally executed on sentence of Thom.

The first known case involving French translation occurred in a coroner's inquest on 4 August 1850 on the body of Martin Jerome. All the jurymen had French names and all those giving testimony were French. At the conclusion of the testimony the coroner "through an interpreter (William Dease) advised the Jury to return an open and safe verdict." Dease's employment (as well as that of a special constable named Charboneau) was listed as one of the expenses of the inquest. In the case of Regina v. Magdelaine Parenteau for shoplifting, heard on 21 November 1850, William Flett was called upon to act as interpreter, although no further details are given.

To be concluded
in the next *Time Lines*

Obituaries

Miles Pepper QC, a long-time MHS member, died in Winnipeg on 12 September. He was born in 1930 and attended Isaac Brock School and Daniel McIntyre Collegiate in Winnipeg. At the University of Manitoba he received a degree in Commerce in 1952 and in Law in 1957. He was President of University of Manitoba Students Union in 1955 - 1956. In the 1960s he practised law and then worked for Canadian Industries Limited until 1970 when he began his career with the Federal Department of Justice in Ottawa. In 1986 he left Ottawa to become Assistant Deputy Attorney-General and Chief Legislative Counsel for the Province of Manitoba. He returned to the Department of Justice in Ottawa in 1987 as Secretary of the Revised Statute Commission in Ottawa where he worked on the Revised Statutes of Canada. In 1990 he transferred to Yellowknife NWT where he was Legislative Counsel and later Assistant Deputy Minister until he retired to Winnipeg in 1995. Miles had a life-long interest in curling. He also participated in the parachute club in Yellowknife. In recent years he served on the MHS Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner Committee. He frequently attended MHS dinners and field trips.

Beryl Aitken, a volunteer receptionist at Dalnavert for over five years, died on 25 August. She was born in England in 1919 and immigrated to Winnipeg when she was 3 years old. After her marriage in 1942, she moved to LaRiviere where she and her husband lived until 1946 when they moved to Dauphin. In 1993, they moved to Winnipeg. She retired from Dalnavert Museum when it closed during the construction of the Visitors Centre.

MHS Members' Reception 9 December

Members and their guests are invited to a Reception and Open House, on Sunday, 9 December, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Come and see our new premises, meet other members, learn about the Society's activities, and maybe do a little holiday shopping in the Dalnavert Gift Shop. There is some parking in the museum lot, and plenty of space on the street along Broadway. There will be no admission charge to this Members' event, and no formal program, but there will be information about MHS Committees, and a chance for interested members to sign up if any Committee takes their fancy. Please come and, if you wish, bring a friend who might consider joining the Society.

New Membership Benefit

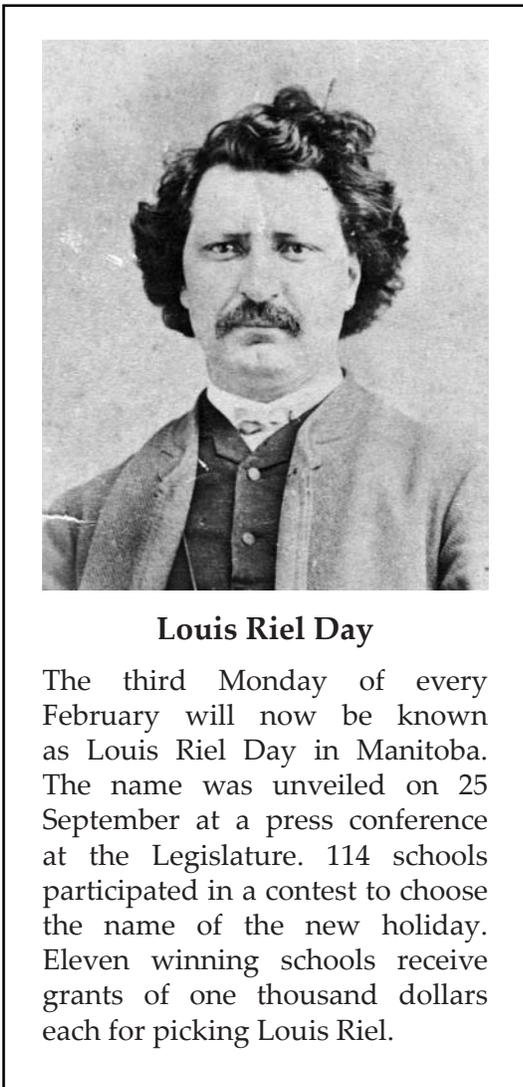
The MHS Executive Committee and the Dalnavert Management Committee are pleased to announce a new membership benefit offer exclusive to Society members. Effective immediately, Society members will receive a 10% discount on all purchases made at our Dalnavert Gift Shop, located in the Dalnavert Visitors Centre, 61 Carlton Street, Winnipeg.

New membership cards will be mailed to all members in good standing. To take advantage of this special benefit offer, the card must be presented when making a purchase at the gift shop.

Haven't received your new membership card yet but need to get that special someone a gift, or get an early start

on your holiday shopping? Not a problem! Visit the Society administrative office at 61 Carlton any Wednesday or Thursday afternoon between 1:00 and 4:00 pm to pick up your new card and start shopping immediately!

For further information, please contact the office, 204-947-0559, or info@mhs.mb.ca



Louis Riel Day

The third Monday of every February will now be known as Louis Riel Day in Manitoba. The name was unveiled on 25 September at a press conference at the Legislature. 114 schools participated in a contest to choose the name of the new holiday. Eleven winning schools receive grants of one thousand dollars each for picking Louis Riel.

Dalnavert Events

10 November: Remembrance Day Tea

Fashion show by the Manitoba Living History Society, with men in uniform and their mothers, wives or sweethearts in pre-WW1 clothing. Tickets: \$17.50 for the tea; \$2.50 for mini-tour

24 November: Heritage Needle Arts Fair

Free admission to the show and sale. Presented by members of the Winnipeg Embroiderers Guild. Half-price admission to the Museum.

1 December: Holiday Open House

Public unveiling of the house, beautifully decorated for a Victorian Christmas. Complimentary holiday treats. Regular Museum admission applies.

5 December: Christmas and Hogmanay Celebrations

Robbie Burns readings and a presentation on the traditions surrounding the most important season in the Scottish Calendar. The evening is a joint presentation with the School of Scottish Arts. Mini-tours and refreshments included. Tickets: \$15

17 - 23 December: A Dickens of an Evening

First night of our 19th annual presentation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* performed by Richard Hurst. Walkthrough tours, carol singing and holiday refreshments included. Readings held 17, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 23 December. Tickets: \$15



The Dalnavert Gift Shop is open during museum hours. The shop is an excellent place to find gifts not found at the shopping malls – tableware, handbags, scarves, jewellery, soaps, toys, cards and books.

Film Night

Thursday, 15 November, 7:00 pm at the Dalnavert Visitors Centre. Two films will be featured that take a nostalgic look at motoring to vacation destinations in Manitoba. The first is from 1934 and follows a road trip from Winnipeg to the Whiteshell. The second film from 1956 is the story of an American couple and their travels across Manitoba. Refreshments afterwards. There is no charge but seating is limited. Please call Carl James to confirm your attendance at 204-631-5971

MHS Young Historians Awards

The Young Historians Awards were presented on Sunday, 28 October at Dalnavert Visitors Centre.

Research Paper, 1st place, Shaw Award

Amirah Sequeira, Grant Park, Marijus Timmerman teacher, "Life and Work of Rev. Harry Lehotsky"

Research Paper, 2nd place (tie)

Olivia Zaporzan, Balmoral Hall, Teresa Friesen teacher, "Under the Little Red Roof" and Clarey Funk, St. John's Ravenscourt, A. Levine teacher, "Mennonite Immigration to Manitoba"

Research Paper, 3rd place (tie)

Natasha Zloty, Balmoral Hall, Teresa Friesen teacher, "Serving Readers for more than a Century - The History of the Winnipeg Free Press" and Joel Christopher Penner, Gordon Bell, Prema Bursa teacher, "The Suffering and Faith of the Selkirk Settlers"

Historical Fiction, 1st place (tie)

Priya Sharma, St. Mary's, B. Lucas teacher, "A Spirited Romance [Hotel Fort Garry]" and Krupa Kotecha, Balmoral Hall, Lois McGill-Horn teacher, "Diary of a Second World War Bride"

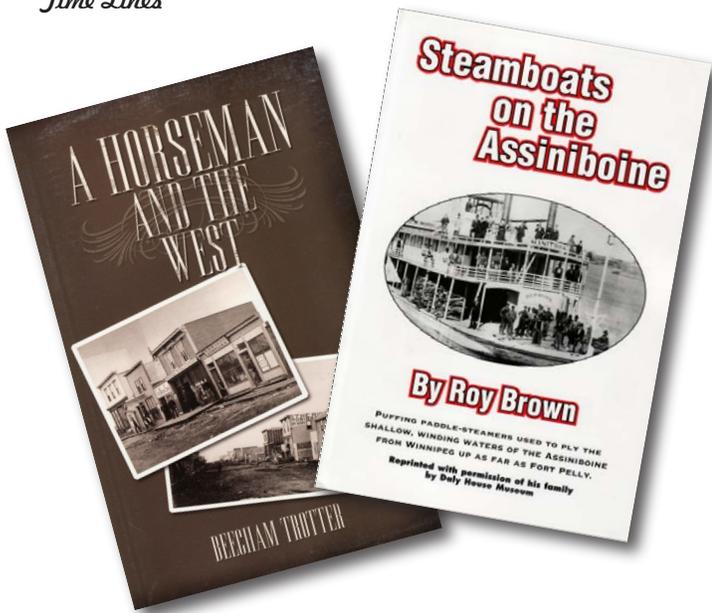
Historical Fiction, 2nd place

Nellie Minshull, Balmoral Hall, Lois McGill-Horn teacher, "Diary of John Kotter [RNWMP]"

Historical Fiction, 3rd place

Nicole Evans, St. Mary's, Joy Beauchamp teacher, "Vaudeville"

No awards were made this year in the Family History category.



Brandon History Books Reprinted

Two books on Brandon history have been reprinted in commemoration of the city's 125th anniversary this year. *A Horseman and the West*, written in 1925 by Brandon pioneer Beecham Trotter, was reprinted by Brandon's Pennywise Books. Copies are available at \$20 each at Pennywise (204-728-2665, pennywise@westman.wave.ca) and at Daly House Museum (204-727-1722, dalymus@mts.net). *Steamboats on the Assiniboine*, a study of early steamboats by historian Roy Brown, was reprinted by Daly House Museum, and is available there for \$15 per copy.

MHS Book Club Schedule

19 November: David Cruise & Alison Griffiths, *The Great Adventure: How the Mounties Conquered the West* (1996) led by Neil Challis.

14 January 2008: James H. Gray, *The Winter Years: The Depression on the Prairies* (1966) led by Jane Frain.

18 February: Charlotte Gray, *Reluctant Genius: The Passionate Life and Inventive Mind of Alexander Graham Bell* (2006) led by Shirlee Anne Smith.

17 March: Rodger D. Touchie, *Bear Child: The Life and Times of Jerry Potts* (2005) led by Carol Scott.

21 April: Denis Combet, *Gabriel Dumont: Memoirs* (2006) led by Joanne Ledohowski.

12 May, 6:00 pm: Potluck and selection of books for next year.

It helps the club's preparations for refreshments and seating if those planning to attend let Judy know at 204-475-6666 or jhbval@mts.net.

Welcome New MHS Members!

Sandee Campbell
 Farley Wuth
 Phyllis M. Audiss
 Christian Cassidy
 Michelle Wells & Fred Levesque
 Heather Ewasiuk
 Jim Mochoruk
 Alison Mayes
 Kyle Devine
 Ian Richards
 Warren Otto

Donations & Contributions Thank You!

MHS General Operations

Rosemary Malaher
 Emily Stamp
 Paula Achtemichuk
 Laird Rankin
 Barry Hyman
 Doug Taylor
 Bill Fraser
 Leonard and Mary Bateman

In Memoriam

In Memory of Miles Pepper
 Norman Larsen
 Jacqueline Friesen

MHS Centennial Farms

Lee Treilhard

Centennial Farms

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

Coulter	Stuart & Elizabeth Miller	SW 3-2-27 WPM 1898
RM of Minto	Evelyn (Blunt) Griffith and Sharon Blunt	SE 27-16-17 WPM 1907
Whitemouth	Lydia Malkoske	SSW 27-12-11 EPM 1907

Macdonald Dinner Tickets

Contact the MHS office at 204-947-0559 or info@mhs.mb.ca. Visa, Mastercard, cheques, and cash are accepted. Tickets are \$55 each.

Rupert's Land Colloquium

The 2008 Rupert's Land Colloquium will be held at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta from 14 to 16 May, with related community events running during the Colloquium and the weekend following. Along with the Friends of Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site, and partners and support from the community and region, the Centre is well on its way to planning an exciting and distinctive Colloquium for 2008.

The Colloquium will begin Wednesday evening (14 May) with a wine and cheese reception, and continue through to Friday evening (16 May). There will be a locally organized pre-colloquium workshop on Protocols of Respect on 14 May and a range of optional field trips and events offered 17 - 18 May.

Rocky Mountain House, Alberta is an ideal location for the 2008 meeting; this year marks the 200th anniversary of David Thompson's arrival at Rocky Mountain House after spending the winter on the west side of the Rocky Mountains, as he made his way to Fort William to bring news of his breakthrough into the Pacific watershed. In keeping with this, the 2008 Colloquium will be held in conjunction with a fur trade festival and the launching of two unique David Thompson Bicentennial projects. In addition to the diverse topics the Colloquium will cover, on Friday, 16 May, participants will have an opportunity to join the Friends of Rocky Mountain House and other lively characters, for an evening of good fun at the annual Rupert's Land Fur Trade Banquet.

For more information about the Colloquium, visit its web site at:

www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/ic/rupe/collo2008.html

Or contact The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies:

Dr. Jennifer S. H. Brown, *Director*
 Dr. Roland Bohr, *Interim Director to 1 January 2008*
 Ms. Anne Lindsay, *Administrative Assistant*
 The University of Winnipeg
 515 Portage Avenue
 Winnipeg, Manitoba
 R3B 2E9

Telephone: 204-786-9003
 Email: rupert.land@uwinnipeg.ca
 Web: www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/ic/rupe

Canadian Heroines Contest 2007

Next time the CBC launches a quest for The Greatest Canadian, historian Merna Forster hopes that Canadians will give more votes to women. To help spread the word about great Canadian women and kick-off Women's History Month in Canada, Forster has launched the Canadian Heroines Contest.

To celebrate Women's History Month 2007, people are being asked to show their favourite Canadian heroine in Canadian history in the medium of their choice: short video, sound recording including song, photograph, painting, sculpture, collage, etc. Show us who your favourite Canadian heroine is in a creative way and you could win a great prize! Plus have your entry featured on heroines.ca. The first prize winners for each of age groups A and B will receive \$100 and a copy of the bestselling book *100 Canadian Heroines: Famous and Forgotten Faces* by Merna Forster. The first runners-up for each age category will receive \$50 and a copy of the book *100 Canadian Heroines: Famous and Forgotten Faces*.

The rules are simple. Your heroine must be: 1) a girl or woman you admire; 2) Canadian-born or have accomplished something significant in Canada. You must be: 1) 12-16 years of age (age group A), or 17 and over (age group B), and 2) living in Canada. All entries need to be received by 30 November 2007. Please send your submissions to: Contest, heroines.ca, 2041 Newton Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 2R7. Or you can email your submission to mail@heroines.ca with the subject line "Contest Entry 2007." Winners will be announced in December 2007. For complete contest rules, visit heroines.ca and follow the links, or go directly to www.heroines.ca/features/contestrules2007.html.

Important Reminders

- Renewal invoices are sent to members, and are payable on receipt. Members are encouraged to help us reduce costs by checking their labels and sending in renewals when due. Renewal can be done by mail, phone, or visiting the MHS office (Wednesdays, Thursdays, 1:00 to 5:00 pm). Cash (in person), 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.

Heritage News

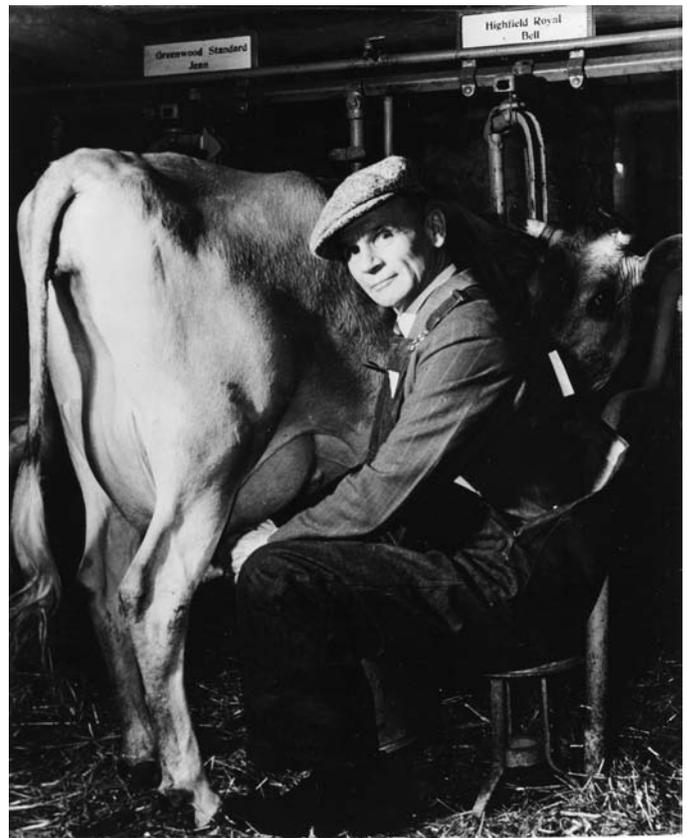
The **Fort Garry Historical Society** will hold a luncheon and general meeting on Saturday, 17 November, 11:45 at the Holiday Inn South (Pembina & Oakenwald). People will buy lunch from a limited menu. An open session will follow to share and discuss ideas for the centennial celebrations of the Rural Municipality of Fort Garry in 2012. Everyone is welcome. To reserve your place or to get more information please phone 204-284-6567 by 14 November.

The **Association of Manitoba Municipalities** (AMM) is preparing to write a book on the history of Manitoba municipal governance. This book will cover the history of municipal government over the last century, and include information on the AMM as well as its predecessors, Union of Manitoba Municipalities (UMM) and Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities (MAUM). If you have previous involvement on the executive or board of directors of any of these organizations, they need your help. They are looking for the following: 1. Any photographs of municipal association activities and initiatives over the years. This could be anything from portraits of prominent municipal officials to candid shots taken at annual conventions, to photos of meetings with provincial and federal government representatives. 2. Any records on significant municipal association affairs, such as meeting minutes, annual reports, letters, etc. 3. Perhaps most importantly, we are looking for people who have been involved in AMM, UMM or MAUM and who are willing to be interviewed about their memories and experiences. If you are interested in contributing your memories or mementoes to the AMM History Book Project, please contact Lynne Bereza at 204-856-2366 or lbereza@amm.mb.ca.

“**The Premiers**” will be a political biography series for national television broadcast on the Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC). The series will profile ten premiers—one from each province—who made an impact on the Canadian experience. The choice for Manitoba is **John Bracken** (1883 - 1969). Bracken, a farmer and Progressive, was born in a log cabin

Macdonald Dinner Tickets

Contact the MHS office at 204-947-0559 or info@mhs.mb.ca. Visa, Mastercard, cheques, and cash are accepted. Tickets are \$55 each.



Archives of Manitoba, Bracken 58, N19540.

Wearing a pair of farmer's coveralls over his suit, Manitoba premier John Bracken proves that he can milk a cow, 1942.

and became Manitoba's longest serving premier. His tenure from 1922 to 1943 marked the sunset of rural Canada as a political power. Bracken was later drafted as national Leader of the Opposition in 1942 and rebranded the Conservative Party as the Progressive Conservatives. A mild-mannered compromiser, Bracken was outwitted by Mackenzie King in two federal elections. The Cable Public Affairs Channel is searching for people who were witness to the Bracken era, particularly people who may have met Bracken or worked for the election of his party. If you have any information on the Bracken era, or know someone who does, please contact: Holly Doan, Producer, Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC) at 613-364-1114 or hdoan@cpac.ca.

On 25 June, **The Costume Museum of Canada** opened at 109 Pacific Avenue in Winnipeg, after moving from Dugald. Museum hours are Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm; Thursday: 10 am to 8 pm; Sunday: noon to 4 pm. The renowned collection of 35,000 artefacts spans 400 years. It represents the identity of everyday Canadians, urban and rural, public and private through the garments that they made, purchased and

wore. The museum also displays some of the best of world fashion. The purpose of the CMC is to serve as a Canadian repository uniquely dedicated to the collection of costumes, textiles and related accessories and to preserve, research, exhibit and interpret those items in its collection. For more information and a virtual tour, visit www.costumemuseum.com

Explore unique and exceptional gifts at **The Manitoba Museum Shop**. Spoil your family and friends this holiday season with handcrafted Manitoba treasures and fun stocking stuffers for three days only: 16, 17 & 18 November. Enjoy a one stop shopping experience one-of-a-kind seasonal ornaments, exciting toys and games, works from over 25 Manitoba artisans, exquisite jewellery for all tastes and styles, and more.

A historical marker commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the **Dugald Train Disaster** of 1 September 1947 was unveiled by The Honourable John Harvard and two descendants of those who died in the accident. The unveiling, hosted by the Springfield Women's Institute, took place in the Springfield Agricultural grounds in Dugald on the anniversary date. The disaster occurred when the Minaki Special Camper bringing people home to Winnipeg at the end of the Labour Day weekend failed to take a siding in Dugald and crashed into the a waiting east-bound Continental passenger train. All the 31 deaths were on the Minaki Special. Another 81 were injured. Springfield Women's Institute has published a book with firsthand accounts from survivors and their families. Proceeds from the sale



Bill Fraser

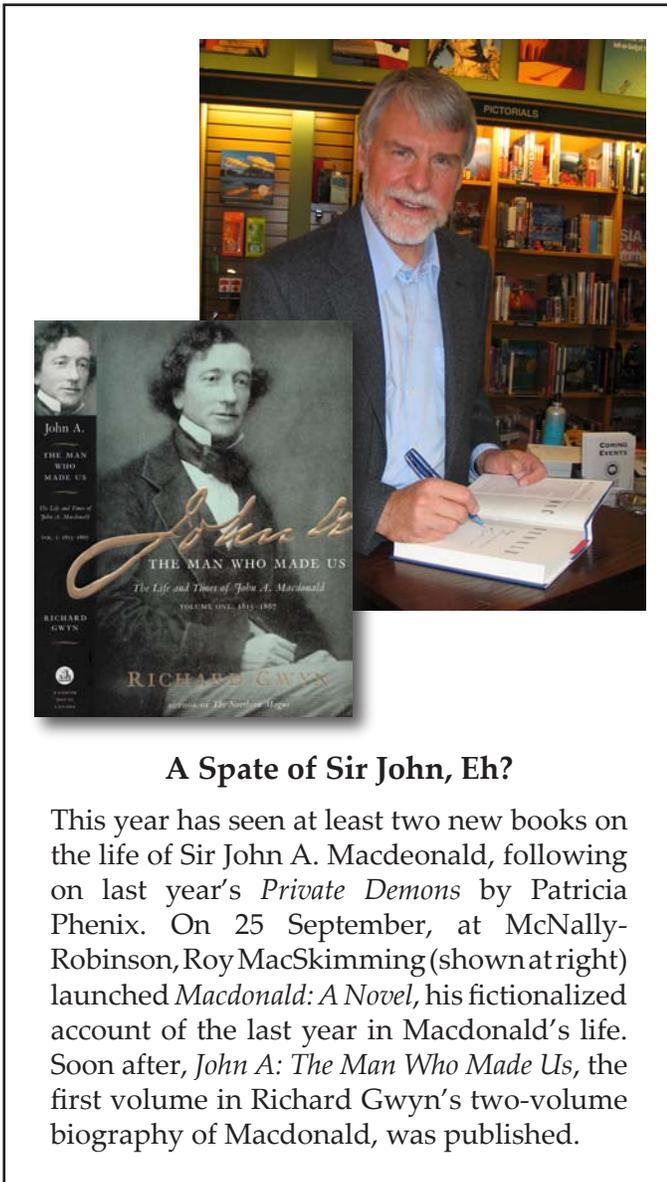
of the book have gone towards the marker. Transcona Historical Museum offers a Dugald Train Wreck exhibit and Minaki Train Crash video that is open to the public, Tuesday to Friday, from 12 to 4 pm.

The *Minnedosa Tribune* reports on the progress of two heritage restoration projects. Save Our Station, volunteers have completed restoration of the roof and fascia on the historic former Minnedosa CPR Station. Work is continuing on the octagon-building project for the Minnedosa District Museum and Heritage Village. Phase 1 included nailing cedar shakes on the roof and placing windows in the cupola. The 13 windows for the first storey will be constructed over the winter and installed in the spring of 2008. Plans for a two-storey deck structure will also be drawn up. Donations for the octagon-building project may be made at the Minnedosa Credit Union or the RM of Minto and Odanah office.

A story of the **Winnipeg Falcons**, the first winners of the Olympic hockey gold medal in 1920, is now available for all to read. Manitoba author David Square's book, *When Falcons Fly: the story of the world's first Olympic Gold Hockey Team*, was published in July of this year. It is available in local bookstores. For more information on this young adult novel, check the website, www.whenfalconsfly.com

Three former schools, the **Big Valley School** in the RM of Rosedale and **Lucania School** No. 1290 in the RM of Glenella, and **Smalley School** about 11 kilometres northeast of Amaranth, have been commemorated by cairns that were unveiled on their sites in September.

The Red River Echo reports on the historical re-enactment at **Fort Dufferin** on 13 October of three major historical events: the work of the International Boundary Commission of 1872 - 1874, the North West Mounted Police March West of 1874 and the arrival of the Mennonites in 1874. Felix Kuehn, founding president of the Boundary Commission NWMP Trail Association, led the Boundary Commission re-enactment. Emerson Mayor and MHS council member Wayne Arseny, in a red serge uniform, led the NWNP procession as Col. George French. People were dressed as Mennonite settlers wearing suits, bonnets and long dresses. There were Horses, wagons and even a Red River Cart. The re-enactment was recorded for Red River Showcase, a program on **Prairie Public Television**.



A Spate of Sir John, Eh?

This year has seen at least two new books on the life of Sir John A. Macdonald, following on last year's *Private Demons* by Patricia Phenix. On 25 September, at McNally-Robinson, Roy MacSkimming (shown at right) launched *Macdonald: A Novel*, his fictionalized account of the last year in Macdonald's life. Soon after, *John A: The Man Who Made Us*, the first volume in Richard Gwyn's two-volume biography of Macdonald, was published.

Carberry has found a way to solve a problem. Two full blocks of century-old brick buildings on Main Street are in a designated heritage district. Some of the buildings need repairs but there is a real shortage of bricklayers in the area. With help from the Manitoba government, the town decided to host a one-day masonry workshop with a technician explaining basic repair and Maintenance techniques. The course has attracted many building owners and the class is now full. Town officials are considering holding another class in the spring.

The *Brandon Sun* reports that the Department of Veterans Affairs Cenotaph/Monument Restoration Program will provide \$2,470 to the Deloraine Legion to relocate and restore the town's First World War Memorial Archway. The archway will be dismantled

and moved from its present location at the Bren-Del Win Lodge to the entrance of the Legion. New gates and light fixtures will be installed.

On 21 September, on behalf of the Honourable John Baird, Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, James Bezan, Member of Parliament for Selkirk-Interlake, unveiled a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque at The Pas commemorating the national historic significance of the construction of the **Hudson Bay Railway** in northern Manitoba.

The University of Winnipeg at its fall convocation on 21 October awarded **Otto Klassen** an Honourary Doctorate of Letters for his contribution to Mennonite history as a documentary film maker. His more than fifty documentaries have made the life stories and history of Mennonites in Canada accessible to a wide audience. Part of a University of Winnipeg news release states "Not formally educated after grade seven, Klassen discovered his creative voice and found his artistic focus through keen observation, extensive reading, diligent self study and life experience – including his knowledge of six languages. Klassen's films tell the story of the Mennonite people of Russia, Paraguay, Mexico and Canada. He exhibits careful attention to detail in every project he undertakes and is a diligent researcher, historian and scholar in his own right."

The Manitoba Branch, United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada celebrates its 75th anniversary at its annual general meeting and luncheon at the Manitoba Club in Winnipeg on 3 November. The branch was formed in 1932 as the Winnipeg Branch and has met regularly ever since. In 1997, the Branch name was changed to Manitoba to better include the entire province. The Manitoba Branch is one of 28 across Canada. Although it assists with research and documentation of Loyalist ancestry, it also welcomes into its membership all those who are interested in this important era of Canadian history.

Genealogists will be interested to know that 55% of Manitoba respondents to the **2006 federal census** agreed to reveal their census results in 92 years, whereas 45% said no, or did not respond. This is close to the national average, at 56% and 44%, respectively. The highest "Yes" result was in PEI (65%) and the lowest was in Nunavut (51%). For full results, see the Statistics Canada web site: www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/reference/info/gen_results.cfm.

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Calendar of Events

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

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| <p>10 November Dalnavert Tea</p> <p>15 November Film Night</p> <p>19 November Book Club: <i>The Great Adventure: How the Mounties Conquered the West</i></p> <p>24 November Annual Heritage Needle Arts Fair at Dalnavert, 10 am – 3 pm</p> <p>1 December Dalnavert Holiday Open House</p> <p>5 December Christmas and Hogmanay Celebrations, Dalnavert</p> | <p>9 December MHS Members Reception</p> <p>17-19, 21-23 December Annual Charles Dickens <i>A Christmas Carol</i> at Dalnavert</p> <p>14 January 2008 Book Club James H. Gray, <i>The Winter Years: The Depression on the Prairies</i></p> <p>19 January Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner. To purchase tickets at \$55 each, contact the MHS office at 204-947-0559 or info@mhs.mb.ca.</p> |
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Manitoba Historical Society, est 1879

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