

Time Lines

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 39 No. 2

January / February 2007



42nd Annual

Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner

The 42nd Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner will be held at the Fort Garry Hotel on 20 January 2007 with the reception at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm.

The dinner is the annual fundraising event of the Manitoba Historical Society. It is also a time to remember the colourful career of Canada's first Prime Minister.

This year's speaker will be Margaret Sweatman, whose topic will be "Bull in a China Shop: Making Fiction at the Archives." Ms. Sweatman is a playwright, poet and novelist. Her plays have been produced by Prairie Theatre Exchange, Popular Theatre Alliance, and the Guelph Spring Festival. She is the author



Manitoba author, poet, and playwright Margaret Sweatman will speak on her experiences writing award-winning historical fiction.

of the novels *Fox, Sam and Angie* and *When Alice Lay Down with Peter*, which won several awards, including the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction, and the Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic, the

Carol Shields Winnipeg Award and the McNally Robinson Book of the Year. She has an ongoing interest in the interface of history and fiction.

The evening will include a silent auction. **Jim Ingebrigtsen** will be the master of ceremony.

Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the work of the Manitoba Historical Society. Tickets: \$100 for members, \$110 for non-members.



**Five easy ways
to order
your
Macdonald
Dinner tickets**

- 1 Complete the order form on the reverse side of this page and mail it to the MHS office.
- 2 Send e-mail to info@mhs.mb.ca with your name, telephone number, and ticket order. We will call you back to complete the financial details.
- 3 Call the MHS office at 204-947-0559 during office hours (Tuesday, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Wednesday, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm) and speak to Jackie.
- 4 Call the MHS office at 204-947-0559 anytime and leave a message. We will call you back to complete the details.
- 5 Call Gordon Goldsborough on his mobile telephone at 204-782-8829 or Jack Bumsted on his mobile telephone at 204-795-2627. We will take your information on the spot.

President's Message



Jack Bumsted

We are once again in Canada involved in the tedious business of attempting to put precise definitions on loose amorphous concepts. Notions of a "nation" and a "national culture" began in the late eighteenth or early 19th century in Germany. The Germans started out with the assumptions that given peoples had a culture and that the

existence of that culture could be used to validate the existence of a nation and establish the boundaries of a nation as a geo-political entity called the "nation-state." The argument was circular. A nation had a culture and that culture defined the nation. Indeed, in the 19th century and on into the 20th, many have used the term "nation" as another word for the anthropological culture of any collectivity. Cultural Nations could—and perhaps should—be easily embodied into "nation-states." The subsequent history of the world demonstrates the problems with these sorts of notions. Modern political theory tends to regard nations and nation states as invented rather than discovered, and no nation-state has a perfect correlation between its anthropological culture and its political boundaries and membership. Japan probably comes closest. Most attempts to construct or maintain

a nation-state based on cultural homogeneity are doomed, not only to failure, but to terrible conflict and suffering, as the history of the Holocaust and recent events in the Balkans well demonstrate. The search for cultural homogeneity or purity leads both to political fragmentation and to genocide, often simultaneously.

Canadian discourse is not free from the problems of this terminological confusion over anthropological culture. Bilingualism and biculturalism, for example, are based on the assumption of "two founding peoples" and "two principal cultures;" the concept of "peoples" and "cultures" here is not much different from the old pre-nation state usage of "nation." It should be noted that this terminology was written into the legislation which founded the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism rather than emerging from the commission's study itself. The Canadian government to some extent recognized the artificiality of two founding peoples, in the sense that it left out a lot of inhabitants of Canada, including the First Nations. Hence it produced "multiculturalism within a framework of biculturalism." At the same time, the government has never really recognized the artificiality of the concept of two founding peoples in the sense that either of those founding peoples ever had much homogeneity to begin with. The artificiality of labelling all those who speak English in Canada a founding people regardless of their background is generally recognized. Québec commentators often slip into the habit of employing the terms "culture", "peoples," and "nation" interchangeably. Indeed, one of the principal arguments for Québec independence



The 42nd Annual

Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner Tickets

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Name to whom receipt should be issued _____

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City _____

Postal code _____

Phone/email _____

No. tickets _____
MHS members (\$100) Non-members (\$110)

Special requirements (check as appropriate)

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 304-250 McDermot Ave.
 Winnipeg, MB R3B 0S5
 Telephone: 204-947-0559

Please make cheques payable to "Manitoba Historical Society" or pay by:

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Name on card _____

is the assumption of an identity of these terms. Any attempt to equate modern Québec with a single “peoples” or “nation” must come to terms with the Anglophones, the Allophones, and the First Nations. In any event, an anthropological meaning of culture is usually involved in the Great Canadian Identity Debate. In 1954, the Tremblay report on the constitutional problems of Quebec defined “the nation” as “a sociological entity, a community of culture, which forms and renews itself down through the years by the common practice of a same general concept of life.” As for “the national culture,” it was “the totality of the rational and spiritual values forming the collective patrimony of a determined human group: modes of life, morals, customs, traditions, language, laws, etc. The national density of a given group is relatively higher as the values it possesses in common are more numerous, varied and comprehensive.”

One of the major problems with the anthropological usage of culture is simultaneously conceptual and methodological. Historically, anthropology developed both the concept of culture and the method for studying it in the context of the detailed analysis of small and relatively isolated “primitive” societies where it was possible to conceive of a certain level of homogeneity. Whether “culture” was an abstraction from reality or a reflection of it mattered little under such circumstances. However, studying (and even comparing) the ethnography of Pueblo Indians, the Dobu, and Northwest Coast Indians such as the Tsimshian and Kwakiutl—as Ruth Benedict did in her well-known and influential *Patterns of Culture*, first published in 1934—is hardly the same as studying the ethnography of a nation such as Canada, with its multiplicity of regions and successive immigrant groups, with its lengthy and complex historical processes. Anthropology has not really worked out a method for analyzing the culture in advanced nation-states, and the failure to do so has reduced the discipline to conceptual chaos. In recent years, anthropologists have retreated to the small society. Other disciplines have not really been able to provide any more satisfactory overall approaches to an integrated understanding of how culture works in complex nation-states than has anthropology, which has always tended to view such culture in idealist terms as representing the “informing spirit” of a way of life. As a result, concentration on concepts such as “national character” or “national identity”—remains prevalent in the literature.

Insofar as an approach to understanding culture has been developing to replace the older ethnographic models of the anthropologists, that approach has focussed on culture as an abstraction which can be variously understood as myth (Claude Levi-Strauss, Northrop Frye), as metaphor or trope (James Fernandez), or as symbol or sign (Clifford Geertz, various postmodernist interpreters, Raymond Williams). Common to all these strategies is a view of human cultural behaviour as a complex text—“foreign, faded, full of ellipses, incoherencies, suspicious emendations, and tendentious commentaries, but written not in conventionalized graphs of sound but in transient examples of shaped behaviour,” as Clifford Geertz puts it—which requires considerable craft to interpret. Geertz elsewhere has defined culture as “an historically transmitted pattern of meanings embodied in symbols, a system of inherited conceptions expressed in symbolic forms by means of which men communicate, perpetuate, and develop their knowledge about and attitudes toward life.” In this conception culture becomes not so much a material reality as a complex text of human behaviour. The interpretation of this complex text has come to be labelled “cultural studies,” which is the current prevalent North American academic approach to the analysis of culture. While there is considerable infighting among the practitioners of cultural studies, the enterprise does have a certain coherence in its refusal to visualize culture as something either tangible or complete within itself.

Given the foregoing different but related meanings of the term “culture”, it is no wonder that discourse on culture, nation, and national culture in Canada has become so confused. The traditional academy talks about high culture, the journalists and popular authors talk about anthropological culture or “Canadian identity,” the trendy academics engaged in “cultural studies” talk about deconstructing popular culture, and the Canadian government wants a policy to protect cultural production and especially the media, as well as one that avoids recognizing Quebec as a distinct political entity. Obviously none of the meanings or usages of culture exists in splendid isolation or in a total vacuum. There is constant overlapping of the usages. Presumably there is some direct relationship between anthropological culture and high or popular culture, as there must be some connection between popular culture and the cultural industries. Unfortunately, there is no general agreement on the nature of such relationships.

Perhaps equally critically, there is also a constant opposition (usually implicit) among the usages. Those who concentrate on high culture are often disparaging of popular culture, for example, and the reverse is equally common. An ongoing debate occurs among students of culture over whether culture moves from the top down or from the bottom up. This debate is undoubtedly futile, since culture moves in both directions, often simultaneously.

Despite the conceptual difficulties and disagreements, the anthropological meaning of the term "culture" seems to be the most useful approach to take to understanding culture. As T. S. Eliot pointed out fifty years ago, "a 'culture' is conceived as the creation of the society as a whole: being, from another aspect, that which makes it a society. It is not the creation of any one part of that society." Thus, for Eliot, culture encompassed all the characteristic activities and interests of a people: "Derby Day, Henley Regatta, Cowes, the twelfth of August, a cup final, the dog races, the pin table, the dart board, Wensleydale cheese, boiled cabbage cut into sections, beetroot in vinegar, nineteenth-century Gothic churches and the music of Elgar." A similar all-inclusive listing was reworked for Canada by Vincent Massey: "A constable of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police—and Canada has no better symbol; a sheaf of Marquis wheat; Canadian landscape painting; a beaver-pelt; a silvered church spire in French Canada; a bar of nickel; a bush-pilot; a pair of moccasins; the Wolfe-Montcalm monument at Quebec; a tube of insulin; a totem pole; a calèche; a cake of maple sugar; a Hudson's Bay blanket; the song 'Alouette'; a hockey stick; the Canadian Boat Song; a pair of snow-shoes; a roll of birch-bark; a silver fox; a canoe; a Canada goose; a grain elevator; a lacrosse stick; a boom of logs; a buffalo; the Quebec Citadel; a maple tree; the opening of Parliament in winter." Such a catalogue obviously does not focus exclusively on either *national* identity or the cultural industries.

Lurking over all the discussion of nations and peoples and nation states is the concept of a recognizable sort of "culture" as the manifestation of the collectivity. In Japan there is an enterprise called "nihonjinron," the search for the essential ingredients of the Japanese national character. In a similar way, one of the holy grails of Canadians has been the quest for the components of the "National Character" and "National Identity" These terms are two of the softest weapons in the arsenal of political/historical analysis. They make "culture" sound precise by comparison. Neither term has ever been precisely

defined or described, and those who use the concepts fail miserably to define them in operational ways. I would like to be able to say that these terms are only bandied about in the media, but they are too commonly employed in the academy as well. The concept of identity carries more than a suggestion of self-ascription, and one simple distinction could be made between Canadian Identity as what Canadians think of themselves and Canadian Character as what others think of Canadians. Alternatively, we could build from the American insistence that the American character is a social phenomenon with cultural implications, and argue that while the Canadian Character is social, the Canadian identity is cultural. At their softest, however, the terms are nothing more than excuses for catalogues of putative national stereotypes.

Moreover, many scholars today would doubt the cogency of a discovered organically-pure nation validated, as it were, by its culture. Nations are "invented" rather than discovered, and a shared national identity—if it exists—is the product of a long historical process. There is a considerable debate current today among scholars of the British Isles, for example, as to whether there is a "British" national identity or whether Great Britain is merely the political expression of four historic nations, each of which has its own distinct identity. The British example is an instructive one for Canada in several senses. It is possible to argue that the British Isles has experienced simultaneously an overriding British and a series of discrete national identities, depending on where and at what one looked. In a similar way, Canada could be conceived as simultaneously having a single Canadian national identity—or less, or more—and a series of many other regional, subcultural, and multicultural identities. The concept of "Limited Identities" has been extremely popular in academic circles over the past thirty years. Moreover, there is probably a substantial distinction to be made between the culture of a "nation state" and the culture of a "country," a point made by George Orwell many years ago. The former conjures up an image of a centralized political unit with a conscious purpose, while the latter suggests merely "my native land." In any event, one can but hope that Canada will not founder over such vague conceptualizations, which are at best political rhetoric.

J. M. Bumsted
President

Young Historians 2006 Awards Ceremony

The 2006 Awards Ceremony took place on Sunday, 12 November at Grant Park High School. The Hon. Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth, and MHS President Dr. Jack Bumsted spoke briefly. Awards were presented by Mr. Bjornson and Francis Carroll, a member of the MHS Executive, with help from the Young Historians Committee members, Irene Peters and Janelle Reynolds. Irene Shaw presented the Dr. Edward C. Shaw Award. Members of the Manitoba Living History Society attended in costume, mounting a display and interacting with the attendees. This is the third year that Grant Park High School has offered its facilities for the event, and we are grateful to Doug Taylor, Vice Principal, and M. Timmerman, Head of History, for their assistance and cooperation. A reception followed the ceremony.

Beginning during the MHS 125th Anniversary, we have given a bag of history-related items to all winners, as well as the usual MHS certificates and the McNally-Robinson gift certificates to the first place winners.



Peter Bjornson presents a Young Historians certificate to Nicole McLeod for her presentation on the town of Oakville.



MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis congratulates her son Joe for his research paper on the Winnipeg General Strike.



Judy and Barry McPherson of the Manitoba Living History Society attended the Young Historians ceremony.



Francis Carroll presents a Young Historians certificate to Amy Pasternak.

New Focus for the Young Historians Awards

Times change, and the Young Historians Program is changing how it achieves its goal of inspiring young people and recognizing their work. From its beginnings in 1879, the Manitoba Historical Society encouraged students to learn their province's past. A Junior Historical Society functioned in the 1880s and beyond. *Manitoba Pageant*, a "publication for young people", was published from 1956 to 1979, and awards for student essays were first made through the Margaret McWilliams Awards. Then a Committee was formed in 1978 to explore new ways to reward the work of young people, and in 1980 the Young Historians Awards were established for posters, art work and projects as well as written essays. Hundreds of students across the province have been honoured over the years.

More recently the Heritage Fairs, with their support through the Historica Foundation, attracted the efforts of the younger students interested in history. MHS has supported this new development by cooperating on the provincial and Red River Regional committees, and by providing special prizes for the three best projects on Manitoba history at the 2005 and 2006 Red River Regional Heritage Fairs. We plan to continue rewarding the younger history students through the Heritage Fairs, and hope to expand this support across the province. However, the time has come to focus our own Young Historians competition on the older students who are not eligible for Heritage Fairs.

Beginning in 2006-2007, the MHS Young Historians Competition will offer prizes to students in Grades 10-12 only, with our primary target being those taking Grade 11 History. All entries should be on a Manitoba theme, in one of three categories: Research Papers, Family History or Historical Fiction. Students are encouraged to do original research and use a variety of primary and secondary sources. In order to make the competition available to students across the province, we are recommending submission by e-mail to info@mhs.mb.ca, with a closing date of Manitoba Day, 12 May 2007. Details and application forms are on our web site (www.mhs.mb.ca). Monetary awards are available for the first place winners, and the best overall submission is eligible for the Dr. Edward C. Shaw Award of \$100. Winning essays may also be published (in the MHS journal, *Manitoba History* or elsewhere). Awards ceremony arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Any MHS members willing to participate in the judging in May can get in touch with the Chair of the Young Historians Committee, Judith Hudson Beattie at jhbval@mts.net or 204-475-6666. We hope to have each entry evaluated by two judges, with Committee members reviewing any discrepancies. The aim is to announce the winners before the end of the school year.

We hope this new direction will provide inspiration for budding historians, and will encourage them to explore the fascinating history of their province.

Dalnavert

From 1 to 22 December, Dalnavert will play host to approximately 230 children from six different schools for our annual Christmas program. The kids will enjoy a guided tour of the house, beautifully decorated for the festive season, then do a hands-on craft project. Options include a Christmas cracker, filled with treats and "snappers"; Christmas cards; and a Christmas collage. On 29 November, 65 Grade Two students and 14 Girl Guides visited the Museum and did special seasonal crafts.

Both the Victorian Tea and Heritage Needle Arts Fair were very successful, and we made over \$2,000 in gift shop sales on those two days alone!

Decorate Dalnavert – No Small Challenge

Trim the tree, thread the popcorn, weave garlands of holly and ivy, stuff every container with greenery, rescue the turkey from the cupboard where it spends the rest of the year—the preparations seem to go on for ever. Yet Dalnavert volunteers rise to the occasion every year—on every one of the thirty-two years since



Winter snow at Dalnavert.



The Christmas tree in the parlour at Dalnavert, all dressed for the holidays. Can you spot the pickle? Tradition holds that the first child to find it gets the first present.

the museum opened. The festive scene is always very Victorian but change happens, ornaments are placed a little differently, parlour furniture is moved to accommodate the tree. This is especially this year as the tree is truly magnificent—it's huge! The top had to be trimmed to accommodate ceiling height. Ornaments were retrieved from safekeeping under the main staircase. How many knew that Dalnavert had a hidden area for storage? As familiar treasures were unwrapped and hung on the tree they brought back memories. A few special ornaments have survived from the Victorian age, others have been crafted anew. Throughout the year volunteers keep an eye, open for period decorations at garage sales and shopping mall stalls.

Gradually Christmas comes to Dalnavert. The clean, tangy smell of freshly cut balsam, pine and cedar permeates the house. The problem of keeping the greenery fresh for the entire month of December is solved by placing it in water whenever possible. Artificial greenery is used to form the base over which freshly cut branches are laid, to be renewed when

necessary. Nearer to Christmas, and as a last finishing touch, real holly replaces the fake and Dalnavert is now ready for the holidays.

Visitors are welcomed with spicy apple cider and Christmas baking, and are encouraged to sit in the auditorium and enjoy their visit. An added attraction in this area is the Festive wreath exhibition. The six exhibition cases each feature a wreath decorated according to different themes. One is shown with small Victorian toys tucked in among the greenery, while another features one of the most familiar carols of Christmas, "The Holly and the Ivy." It is impossible to enter Dalnavert at Christmas without sensing a feeling of tradition, of warmth and well-being. It is a step back in time. Today, however busy the season and however frantic the shopping, it is still the carols, the family home, wonderful aromas emanating from the kitchen and a prevailing peace and quiet that make the season what it should be.

Dalnavert volunteers wish everyone a happy holiday season. Listen to music, gather with friends and when the day actually arrives remember to push away from the table after the second—and preferably the first- helping of turkey and plum pudding.

A Christmas Carol with Richard Hurst

Tickets are selling well for the **18th Annual Presentation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*** 15, 16, 17, 20, 21 & 22 December, 7:30 pm, but there are still some seats available. Tickets are \$15.

Experience the magic of a Christmas past as actor Richard Hurst brings this beloved tale to life. Savour the readings in the comfort of our new, fully accessible Visitors' Centre and stay for light refreshments after the show. Doors open at 6:15 pm so visitors can view the museum decked out in all its Christmas finery and listen to holiday carols performed by the Potpourri singers. Phone 204-943-2835 to reserve your tickets.

Chocolate Madness Fundraiser

Sunday, 11 February, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Spoil yourself with decadent desserts, step back in time on a stroll through our lovely Victorian mansion and stock up on goodies for Valentine's Day. Tickets are \$8 per person and include complimentary beverages, one dessert sampling ticket, and a take-home treat. Call Dalnavert at 204-943-2835 for reservations.

Welcome New Members

Douglas Spencer
Giles Bugailiskis
Chloe Clark
Joyce Wawrykow
Warren & Virginia Chafe

Donations and Contributions

Thank you!

MHS General Operations

Warren & Virginia Chafe
Shirlee Anne Smith
Janet Stevenson
Margaret Mackenzie
Alfred Monnin
Emily Stamp
Duff Roblin
Margaret Carter

Young Historians Program

Canada Safeway, River & Osborne
Judy Hudson Beattie (Valenzuela)
Jacqueline Friesen
Doug Taylor
Dr. T. K. Thorlakson
Janelle Reynolds

Venue for Young Historians Awards

Grant Park High School Staff & Students

Goody Bags for Young Historians Awards

Canada's National History Society
Fort Garry Historical Society
HBC Archives, Archives of Manitoba
HBC, The Bay, Portage Avenue
Heartland Press
Heritage Winnipeg
Manitoba Hydro
Mariaggi's Theme Suite Hotel & Spa
MHS Dalnavert Museum & Visitors Centre
Musée de Saint-Boniface
Western Canadian Aviation Museum

Interactive Display
at Young Historians Awards
Manitoba Living History Society

The Young Historians Program is sponsored by the Manitoba Historical Society, and in part by the MHS Dr. Paul H. T. Thorlakson Fund. The Shaw Award is sponsored by the MHS Dr. E. Shaw Memorial Fund.

Centennial Farms

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

Benito	Bert & Donna Stewart	NE 21-35-29 WPM 1906
Dauphin	Mary Durston	NW 4-24-18 WPM 1889
	Mary Durston, Mervin J. Durston & Glen E. Durston	NE 4-24-18 WPM 1889
Otterburne	Barry & Helen Edwards	NE 18-6-3 EPM 1907
Pierson	John & Velma Campbell, Clarence Campbell & Barb Campbell	NW 17-2-29 WPM 1905

Heritage News

Heritage Winnipeg is pleased to announce that its National Heritage Day celebrations will be at the University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue on Monday, 19 February. Hall location and time have not yet been determined. Heritage Winnipeg's 22nd Annual Preservation Awards Ceremony recognizes outstanding conservation of heritage projects, this year in partnership with the University of Winnipeg and Parks Canada. The public is cordially invited to this free heritage event. For more information, please contact Cindy Tugwell, Executive Director of Heritage Winnipeg, at 204-942-2663 or e-mail at info@heritagewinnipeg.com.

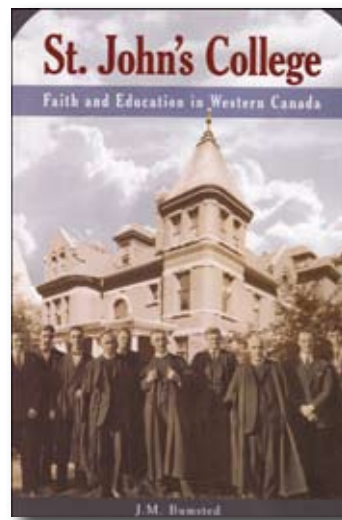
The Carillon reports that the board of directors of the **Mennonite Heritage Village** (MHV) in **Steinbach** plans to reduce costs with major restructuring and significant staff changes. The new structure will rely more on volunteers and less on paid staff, retaining only three core staff positions to attend to the administrative, programming, and curatorial functions. 446 volunteers donated over 10,000 hours to the activities at MHV this year. The board hopes to encourage the energetic and resourceful volunteers to help lead and run activities. Groups of volunteers have already taken leadership roles in managing their own stations or activities. For example, the auxiliary runs the Waffle Shop, quilting, sewing and even

catering, the millers interpret, run and maintain the windmill, the Steinbach Garden Club plans, plants and maintains the flower beds on the grounds, the tractor club maintains the museum's tractors and helps with farming activities and the steam club is in charge of the threshing and sawing demonstrations during event days. These volunteer groups can be used as models for other activities at the MHV.

The community of **Haywood** will be celebrating its centennial year on 3 to 5 August 2007, at which time a local history book will be unveiled. Festivities planned for the three-day homecoming weekend will include entertainment by local talent, baseball games, a tractor pull, children's activities, a catered cold plate supper, dance and beer garden, church service followed by pancake brunch, and old time threshing demonstrations. The Haywood history book will be on sale throughout the weekend. Copies can be reserved in advance by sending a \$75 deposit to Janice Souque, Box 9, Haywood, R0G 0W0, 204-379-2558.

The Mill Creek History Book Committee will hold a book launch for *Mill Creek Memoirs* (stories from **Mill Creek School District #929**). The launch takes place on Sunday, 17 December, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Silver Threads Centre in Oakville, Manitoba. Refreshments will be provided. Pre-ordered books can be picked up. Additional books will be available for sale. Cost is \$35 each. For those who paid a deposit of \$10 in 1998, a pre-ordered copy is being held in your name. For more information, call Colleen at 204-267-2075.

Brandon's Daly House Museum is hosting a history writer's contest as part of 2007 celebrations of the city's 125th anniversary. Open to all, those wishing to enter need not be a professional writer, but must be willing to provide a submission centering on the history of Brandon and area. Entrants should write a nonfiction essay or story of 1200 or more words in length. Top prize will be a beautiful City of Brandon heritage table lamp. The limited edition lamp features four unique images of Brandon burned into its glass shade. Second and third prizes will also be awarded. A selection of submissions will be published and sold through the Daly House Gift shop. The deadline for submissions is 31 May 2007, and they should be submitted to Daly House Museum, 122 – 18th Street, Brandon, Manitoba, R7A 5A4. For more information, contact the museum staff at 204-727-1722 or dalymus@mts.net.



St. John's College, one of the founding colleges of the University of Manitoba, launched the college history book written by MHS president Professor J.M. Bumsted, *St. John's College Faith and Education in Western Canada*, to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the continuous operation of the college on 1 November 2006.



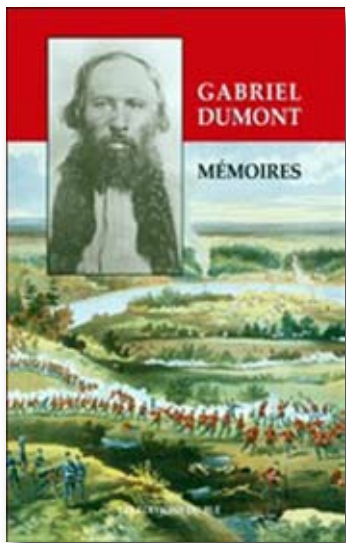
Jack Bumsted discusses his latest book at the 140th anniversary celebrations of St. John's College.



A selection of archival photographs and college mementoes were on display at the celebrations.

The Souris and District Heritage Club has published *The People of Souris and Glenwood from the Earliest Times to the Present*, 800 pages, \$65 plus \$12 postage. Write Box 548, Souris, MB R0K 2C0, Phone 204-483-2643. The club owns and operates the Plum 1883 Souris Heritage Church Museum and Victorian Tea Room, along with original live interpretive musical shows.

Letters, diaries and photos recording the life experiences of immigrant homesteaders on the prairies have been digitized and put on a new web site. Over 10,000 documents and 300 images are from archives of the **University of Manitoba, the University of Saskatchewan, and the Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre**. There will be a separate link for grade 6 students and teachers to an education site with lesson plans, activities, and an educational game. **The Prairie Immigration Experience website** can be reached at www.umanitoba.ca/libraries/archives/prairie_immigration.



A new book of memoirs by **Gabriel Dumont** has been published in a bilingual French-English volume. Based on an oral account, dictated around 1902-03, preserved in the archives of the Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Gabriel Dumont, a confidant of Louis Riel, gives his version of events. This new transcription was created and annotated by Professor Denis

Combet of Brandon University and translated by Professor Lise Gaboury-Diallo of Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface. Paperback, ISBN 2-921347-91-1, Les Éditions du Blé, \$24.95.

The **Western Canada Aviation Museum** is holding a Winter Break Flight School for children aged 6 to 12 on 27-29 December and 2-5 January. To register, phone 204-786-0730 or download a registration form from www.wcam.mb.ca.

The Peter Winkworth Collection of Canadiana—Vast New Lands—Canada's Northwest is one of a series of traveling exhibitions from Library and

Archives Canada. In this exhibition approximately 90 paintings, drawings and prints depict scenes of 18th and 19th Century Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. The exhibition is at the **Winnipeg Art Gallery** from 23 November 2006 to 21 January 2007.

Heritage Winnipeg on 24 November held a reception in honour of **Cindy Tugwell**, Executive Director of Heritage Winnipeg and newly elected Manitoba Governor of the Heritage Canada Foundation and **Professor William Neville**, recipient of the 2006 Gabriel Leger Award for his contribution to heritage.



Cindy Tugwell, Executive Director of Heritage Winnipeg and newly elected Governor of the Heritage Canada Foundation.

The **Fort Garry Historical Society** held a general luncheon meeting at the Holiday Inn South on 18 November. Guest speakers were **Lorna Miner** of the St. Vital Historical Society, **Gilles Lesage** of the St-Boniface Historical Society and **Rob Nedotiafko** representing the Red River Corridor Association.



William Neville, recipient of the 2006 Gabriel Leger Award.

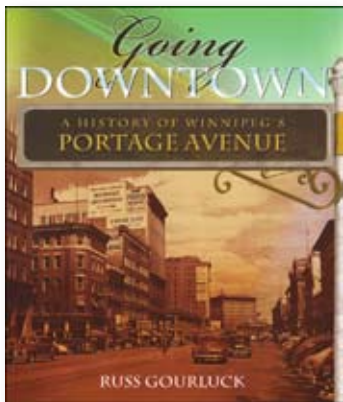


Sandy Stayner, president of the Fort Garry Historical Society thanks luncheon speakers Gilles Lesage, Lorna Miner, and Rob Nedotiafko.

The **Costume Museum of Canada** which has been based in **Dugald**, Manitoba since opening in 1983 closed its doors on 23 October and the museum building was sold to the Municipality of Springfield. The museum has been home to about 35,000 items of men's, women's and children's clothing and accessories spanning 400 years. The museum has signed a lease on 10,000 square feet at 109 Pacific Avenue in Winnipeg in the building that at one time housed the Manitoba Children's Museum. The costume museum will re-open in its new location in March or April 2007.

This fall, the **Winnipeg Foundation** provided a grant to the Manitoba Historical Society that will enable us to make a large collection of historical materials available on our web site (www.mhs.mb.ca). Look for links to these new materials in the coming months in the Web Resources area of the site at www.mhs.mb.ca/docs.

Are you looking for **other web sites** relating to Manitoba and Canadian history? The MHS web site has a comprehensive list at www.mhs.mb.ca/info/links.shtml.



Heritage Day Luncheon

Russ Gourluck, author of the recently published book *Going Downtown: A History of Winnipeg's Portage Avenue*, will be the featured speaker at a luncheon held in commemoration of Heritage Day, Monday, 19 February, from noon to 1:30 pm at the Ramada Marlborough Hotel (331 Smith Street, Winnipeg). Tickets to this event will go on sale early in the new year; those interested in attending are asked to call Heritage Winnipeg at 204-942-2663.

Society "Greens Up" for the Holidays & New Year

Over the past several months, the Society staff has been busy converting our outdated membership reminder notice system to an invoicing data base system. Many of you will have already received your new membership invoice in the mail.

This system also has the capability to send these invoices to you electronically, to those of you who have up-to-date e-mail addresses. This will help us reduce processing, handling and mailing costs, significantly reducing the use of paper goods, and photocopier emissions. We will continue to send notices by regular mail to those of you who are not "on-line." With your co-operation, we hope to begin this process as soon as possible in the New Year.

To that end, we need to update our database, and we ask that all members forward an e-mail to us at info@mhs.mb.ca, with your name as indicated on your membership information, and your current e-mail address.

We are also asking our on-line members if they wish to receive e-mail notices about upcoming MHS and heritage events in the Province. This does not replace our newsletter, but it will provide a forum for keeping our members involved and up-to-date in between newsletter mailings. Newsgroup participation is voluntary. For those wishing to participate in the e-mail newsgroup, please indicate your interest in participating in your e-mail to us. As always, your address information is confidential, and your e-mail addresses will not appear on our newsgroup e-mailing, nor will it be shared with anyone. Your name will only appear on your personal e-mail from our office. Help us "Green Up" for the New Year, by sending your information to us soon!

Members are reminded to remit your membership fees as soon as possible to avoid missing our publications and Society events. Members are also encouraged to continue to check your mailing labels to insure that your membership is in good standing. Thank you for your co-operation, and Happy Holidays!

Jacqueline Friesen
Office Manager



Theatre Projects Manitoba
proudly presents the world premiere of

The Elmwood Visitation

by Carolyn Gray
16 - 25 February 2007

In 1923 Arthur Conan Doyle traveled to Winnipeg to join the city's famous Hamilton Circle. The leader of the circle was Dr. Thomas Glendenning Hamilton - one time president of the Manitoba Medical Association, Member of the Legislative Assembly and spirit photographer. Playwright Carolyn Gray calls to the stage famous mediums, Houdini's Water Torture Chamber, séances, grifters and the auspicious Doyle in her hysterical historically based tale.

Who was this Hamilton? Did he invent the fire drill? Is Winnipeg home to the largest collection of paranormal exhibits? Find out when Theatre Projects Manitoba teams up with the Manitoba Historical Society and the University of Manitoba Archives to illuminate this intriguing piece of our cultural history.

Directed by George Toles
featuring

Graham Ashmore, Monique Marcker, Harry Nelken, Miriam Smith, and Gordon Tanner.

February 16th through February 25th at the
WCD Studio, 211 Bannatyne at Main Street
(Crocus Building).

Tickets \$18 / \$15 students and seniors
Call 204-989-2400 for tickets and information

Theatre Projects Manitoba gratefully
acknowledges the assistance of the Manitoba
Arts Council, The Winnipeg Arts Council,
The Winnipeg Foundation, Investors Group
and the Manitoba Historical Society.

Warning: Ectoplasm!

Football Fever Film Night

Film Night was held at the Centre Court of the Forks on 26 October. The event was jointly sponsored by CBC in Manitoba, the Manitoba Historical Society, and the Archives of Manitoba. Two archival videos were shown on a large screen – *The Winnipeg Blue Bombers 50th Anniversary* and *The Thrill of it All (Great Grey Cup moments from 1952 – 1962)*. Several Blue Bomber alumni were in attendance. There was a live television broadcast of CBC News at Six.



Gilbert Comeault of the Archives of Manitoba introduces the football videos.

MHS Programs Coming Up

History Book Club

Wednesday, 17 January 2007, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The Book club meets at Gabrielle Roy House, 375 rue Deschambault in St. Boniface. Lee Treilhard will lead a discussion on Gabrielle Roy. If you intend to come, please phone Judy Hudson Beattie at 204-475-6666.

"Crimes of the Century" presentation

Wednesday, 21 February 2007, 7:30 pm

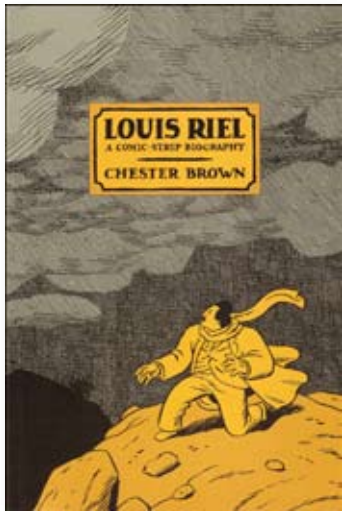
There will be a presentation "**Crimes of the Century**" by Manitoba author and *Winnipeg Free Press* writer Bill Redekop at the Dalnavert Visitors Centre with refreshments to follow. Seating is limited – please call Carl James at 204-631-5971 to confirm attendance.

Multicultural Dinner

Tuesday, 17 April 2007

Manitoba Historical Society Multicultural Dinner will be held at the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 180 McPhillips Street, Winnipeg. Watch for more information on this popular annual event in the next *Time Lines*.

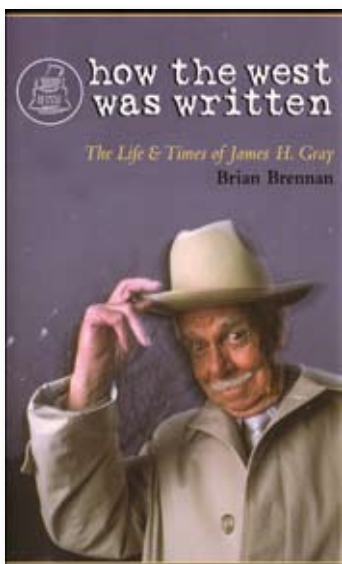
Gord's Micro Reviews



This 2003 book has been released as a paperback, which should make it popular with a younger generation. That, and the fact that it tells the story of Louis Riel and the 1870 birth of Manitoba in “graphic novel” (i.e. comic book) format. Chester Brown takes a few liberties with the story (which he documents) but his empty-eyestyle—which pays homage to Little Orphan Annie—makes this an engaging, if quick, read. ISBN 1-894937-89-9, \$19.95.



Patricia Phenix weighs in with the latest in a host of books on Sir John A. Macdonald. She focuses on his personal life, which she claims to have been especially tragic. Who knows? Life in the 19th century was tough, no matter how privileged you were. This book could have benefitted from a good editing to remove odd contradictions than seem to occur frequently. 2006, ISBN 0-7710-7044-6, \$34.99.



What more is there to say about a man like James H. Gray who has written several autobiographical books? Brian Brennan tries — with only limited success — to find a new angle on the prairie historian in this biography. My advice? Read Gray’s own books instead — several have been re-released recently. 2006, ISBN 1-894856-62-7, \$24.95.



In this panel from *Louis Riel: A Comic-Strip Biography*, Riel urges a foul-mouthed Thomas Scott to shut up while in captivity.

Storytelling Concert and Workshop

Friday, 26 January 2007, 8:00 pm

Giving Birth Beside the Buffalo: The True Story of Marie Anne & Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere
 Stories by Ruth Stewart-Verger (Ottawa storyteller) and Mary Louise Chown (Winnipeg storyteller), with music by Sierra Noble and Danny Flett, at the Unitarian Church Hall, 603 Wellington Crescent, \$10 in advance at McNally Robinson Grant Park & Downtown, Prairie Sky Books & Mary Louise Chown (204-489-6994), or \$12 at the door.

Saturday, 27 January 2007, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Workshop: Telling Historical Stories – Bring That Story to Life: How to research and give voice to historical people and events. Storytellers Ruth Stewart-Verger and Mary Louise Chown offer a full day workshop to guide participants through the steps of researching, crafting, and telling a story from history. The workshop is designed for those who wish to tell about historical events and people, museum staff and volunteers, walking tour guides, family history buffs, history teachers, anyone who has, or is looking for, a gripping story to tell. Cost \$40 (includes drinks and snacks). Bring bag lunch. For information on concert or workshop phone 204-489-6994 or mlchown@shaw.ca. Cheques payable to: Magic of One Productions, 23 McDowell, Winnipeg, MB R3R 2K7. Register by 19 January 2007. Registration is limited to 20.



The
**MANITOBA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Est. 1879

Society Office
304-250 McDermot Avenue
Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3B 0S5
(204) 947-0559 Fax: (204) 943-1093
info@mhs.mb.ca

Dalnavert Museum
61 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3C 1N7
(204) 943-2835 Fax: (204) 943-2565
dalnavert@mhs.mb.ca

December 2006

Dear Members,

During the past year, as well as our usual activities—including a journal increased to three issues and an improved newsletter—we engaged in a number of partnerships with other organizations, usually on a one-off basis. These partnerships enabled us to increase our presence in the community and stretch our scarce financial resources further. They have included:

- | | |
|--|--|
| CBC Manitoba & Archives of Manitoba | The MHS collaborates with these groups in the delivery of our Annual Film Night where a significant piece of historical video is screened |
| City of Winnipeg | The MHS operates the city-owned Ross House Museum, providing its staff and artifacts, maintaining the site, and erecting commemorative displays. |
| Dominion Institute | The MHS was a local sponsor for its Memory Project to scan memorabilia and record memoirs relating to veterans. The event was held at Gordon Bell High School, and an MHS representative helped at this successful event. |
| Friesens Printers | The MHS has offered two successful workshops, in collaboration with Friesens, for groups preparing to write local history books on their communities. The first was held in September 2005 at Winnipeg, and the second was held in August 2006 at Brandon. |
| Heritage Winnipeg | The MHS's Dalnavert Museum participates in its annual Open Doors Winnipeg event. The MHS also appoints a representative to its Board of Directors. |
| Manitoba Culture, Heritage, & Tourism | The MHS Centennial Farms Program is offered concurrently with the provincial Century Farm Program, and joint research in support of both applications is carried out by the MHS Centennial Farm committee. |
| Manitobia Consortium | The MHS provided its Manitoba Historical Atlas to be scanned for full digital delivery on the Manitobia web site (www.manitobia.ca). |
| Red River Regional Heritage Fair | The MHS has an information booth at the event, and it offers a certificate and "bag of books" to the best three presentations relating to Manitoba history. |
| Winnipeg Historic Buildings Committee | The MHS's representative on this committee advises on matters concerning structures of historic or public interest, and helps to monitor the city's inventory of heritage buildings. |

Winnipeg Real Estate Board

The MHS appoints a representative to its Walk of Fame Advisory Board, and nominates and evaluates persons in the historical category.

Zuken Memorial Association

In 2006, the MHS collaborated with this group in commemorating the contributions of Joseph Zuken to the social and cultural development of Winnipeg.

But the financial resources available even for the foregoing sorts of partnerships keeps shrinking. You can help in three ways:

First, you can buy tickets for the Macdonald dinner, the MHS's chief fundraiser, and encourage your friends to do the same. The tickets are \$100 each for members and \$110 each for non-members. You will receive a charitable tax receipt for approximately \$50 for each ticket.

Secondly, you can donate items to the society's auction to be held on that evening. Any goods and services would be appreciated, and we can give you a charitable receipt for the goods.

Thirdly, you can pick up your chequebook and write us a cheque before year's end, or authorize us to debit your Visa or Mastercard. For your convenience, a clip-off form is attached to the bottom of this letter. Donations may be mailed to our office address, or you can contact us by phone at 204-947-0559. If you wish, you can earmark your donation to support a specific programme or activity. If you prefer, we can discuss bequests, planned giving (we have just reactivated the planned giving committee), gifts-in-kind, or any other ways to support the Society. Please note that receipts for contributions postmarked on or before 31 December will be issued for the 2006 tax year.

Finally, I note that you may phone me at 204-488-1115 or e-mail me at bumsted@cc.umanitoba.ca to discuss any concerns you have about the MHS. Recently, the Society actually received a letter that praised it for what it was doing. This came as such a refreshing surprise that I thought I might remind you that you need not contact me only when you have a complaint.

Yours in history,



J. M. Bumsted



The
Manitoba Historical Society est 1879

I want to support MHS projects with the following donation:

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

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

Mail to:

Manitoba Historical Society
304-250 McDermot Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0S5
Telephone: 204-947-0559

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Province _____

Please make cheques payable to "Manitoba Historical Society" or pay by:

- Visa Mastercard

Card # _____ Expiry _____

Signature _____

Charitable Tax Registration BN 12281 4601 RR0001.

Please use my contribution:

- Where the need is greatest Museums
 Awards Programming

Other: _____

Calendar of Events

- 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22 December** Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* performed by Richard Hurst at Dalnavert, 7:30 pm
- 17 January** History Book Club at the Gabrielle Roy House, 375 rue Deschambault in St-Boniface, 7:00 pm
- 20 January** Sir John A. Macdonald Anniversary Dinner at the Fort Garry Hotel, 6:00 pm - bring a friend (or two)!
- 11 February** Chocolate Madness Fundraiser at Dalnavert, 1:00 to 4:00 pm
- 19 February** Heritage Day luncheon at the Marlborough Hotel featuring Russ Gourluck's book on Portage Ave
- 21 February** Bill Redekop speaks on "Crimes of the Century" at Dalnavert Visitors Centre, 7:30 pm Phone 204-631-5971 to confirm attendance.
- 4 March** Presentation by Russ Gourluck on the process of writing popular history books, at Dalnavert
- 17 April** Multicultural Dinner at Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 180 McPhillips Street, Winnipeg

Back Issues

Back issues of *Times Lines* can be viewed on the MHS web site at www.mhs.mb.ca/info/pubs/timelines/index.shtml.

Obituary

David Bradshaw Stewart (18 June 1916 – 21 November 2006) Dr. David B. Stewart, a MHS member and son of former MHS President Dr. David A. Stewart, was born in Ninette, and graduated in medicine at the University of Manitoba in 1941. After serving as a medical officer during the Second World War, he completed a clinical residency in Scotland before becoming the founding professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the new University of the West Indies in Jamaica in 1953. He became Dean of Medicine and co-authored a book on Obstetrics and Gynecology in the tropics. He retired to the Killarney area in 1970 and took a position as a professor of Zoology at Brandon University. He initiated courses on human anatomy and physiology for nursing students, and later served as chair of Zoology. After his retirement he wrote a book on the history of the Ninette Sanatorium, where his father had pioneered the treatment of tuberculosis in Manitoba.

Important Reminders

- Please check the expiry date shown on the mailing label of your newsletter and renew your membership when due. Renewal can be made by mail, by phone, or by a visit to the MHS office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Payment may be made by cash, cheque, Visa or Mastercard.
- Your donations are needed to support the ongoing work of the Manitoba Historical Society. Tax receipts are issued.

Time Lines, Vol. 39, No. 2, 2007

ISSN 1715-8567

Canada Post Agreement 40015704

Time Lines is the newsletter of the Manitoba Historical Society, © 2007. Its contents may be copied so long as the source is acknowledged. *Time Lines* is published bi-monthly and submissions are welcome. Copy deadlines are: 1 February, 1 April, 1 June, 1 August, 1 October, and 1 December.

Membership fees for the Manitoba Historical Society are: Individual \$40, Family \$45, Youth/Student \$20, Non-profit Institution \$50, Corporations \$275 and Life \$575. Rates to USA and other countries are slightly higher. Two and three year memberships in the individual and family categories are available at a reduction. See the MHS web site for details.

Manitoba Historical Society, est 1879

www.mhs.mb.ca

President: Dr. J. M. Bumsted

Office Manager: Jacqueline Friesen

Time Lines Editor: Bill Fraser, newsletter@mhs.mb.ca

Time Lines Layout: Salix Consulting

Office 304 - 250 McDermot Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 0S5
(204) 947-0559, info@mhs.mb.ca

Dalnavert 61 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 1N7
(204) 943-2835, dalnavert@mhs.mb.ca

Ross House 140 Meade Street N, Winnipeg, Manitoba
(204) 943-3958, rosshouse@mhs.mb.ca