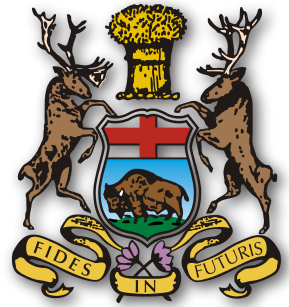


Time Lines

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 39 No. 5
July / August 2007



CONTEST
See page 12



Upper Fort Garry Reborn?

Plans of long-time heritage advocates and the Friends of Upper Fort Garry to use adjacent city-owned land to enlarge and enhance the park at Fort Garry Gate are in jeopardy because a City of Winnipeg Committee wants to sell part of the land for a condominium development. The land in question which is now occupied by a city office building at 100 Main Street has been declared surplus. The Friends of Upper Fort Garry intended this land to be part of a \$12 million heritage park and interpretive centre. The city hoped to sell the land for \$1.8 million and collect an estimated \$153,000 in property taxes every year when the twelve-storey residential building is completed. "The Friends" first fronted by former Lieutenant Governor the late Peter Liba, includes former premiers, a former mayor and prominent business leaders. Winnipeg newspapers, heritage groups, and the Manitoba Métis Federation have given their support to the proposed park and interpretive centre. On 29 May, members of the Manitoba Living History Society, decked out in voyageur garb, hoop skirts and top hats, gathered at the gate. A member of the group, Barry McPherson, said he does not want to see another historic site hemmed in by hi-rises. A spokesman for Friends of Upper Fort Garry said that the condo building would be located on the same

spot where his group hopes to erect an interpretive centre. In June, high school students demonstrated at the Gate to show their opposition to the proposed condo project. It is hoped that the city will be influenced by public pressure.

Upper Fort Garry, first established in 1822 and rebuilt in 1835, served as the headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company in Western Canada and the first seat of government for the District of Assiniboia and the Red River Settlement. The fort was seized by Louis Riel during the Red River Rebellion in 1870, and most of it was demolished in the late 1800s. The rear entrance to the fort was preserved in a small park across Main Street from the Via Rail station largely through the efforts of early members of the Manitoba Historical Society. The project proposed by the Friends of Upper Fort Garry would bring these early efforts of heritage preservation to their logical conclusion. Significant events in our past would come to life for present and future generations.

President's Message:

Lord Selkirk and the Abolition of the Slave Trade

This year is the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the British slave trade, a humanitarian reform that has been celebrated around the world, although less because of Britain's achievement than because of the sad need for it. The slave trade seems a long way from Manitoba and its fur trade at the time, but there are several connections, chiefly through Lord Selkirk.

In late 1806 Selkirk was elected to the House of Lords as a representative Scottish peer. During the negotiations over the union of Scotland



Dr. J. M. Bumsted

and England, the status of the Scottish peerage was one of the great sticking points. The English could not conceive of flooding the House of Lords with Scottish peers, and finally agreed that the Scottish peerage could elect fifteen of their number in open ballot to sit in Westminster. Ironically enough, these elections were some of the few democratic ones to be found in the unreformed British Parliament.

Although Selkirk did not immediately throw himself into the middle of proceedings in the House of Lords, he attended assiduously and made his maiden speech in the midst of a spirited debate on the second reading of the second bill to abolish the slave trade, the Grenville-Howick Bill for Abolition. This was the major piece of legislation of the Grenville government and called for total and unequivocal abolition.

The first shot in the formal campaign for abolition of the slave trade in Britain had begun in 1776 when David Hartley of Hull presented a bill for abolition. This effort met little support, but within a few years a small group of evangelical Anglicans (the Clapham Sect) led by William Wilberforce had managed to get the matter taken seriously by Parliament. The first legislative step in the process was the prohibition of the actual trade itself. In May of 1789 Wilberforce made his first speech in the House against the trade, concluding: "Sir, when we think of eternity and the future consequences of all human conduct, what is there in this life that shall make any man contradict the dictates of his conscience, the principles of justice and the law of God!" Abolitionism was one of those great moral questions that stirred up British public opinion to an extent that few other issues could do. Wilberforce's early efforts for abolition were failures, but the government-sponsored bill for prohibition met with very little resistance in Parliament. Quite apart from its moral virtue, the bill was favoured by the "West India Party" of British slave owners of the West Indies – the principal opponents of the elimination of slavery itself. This was because the British slave owners calculated that by abolishing the trade, they would make it harder for the French sugar islands to compete with them. The slave owners, in anticipation of abolition of the trade from Africa, had stocked up on slaves in the decade before the legislation was passed. The humanitarian legislation was therefore fully supported by the slavery interests.

In the House of Lords debates, the Earl of Westmoreland had argued that if Britain abandoned the slave

trade, others less humane might take it up, adding that the trade was an economically valuable one and abolition would endanger the rights of property, always a concern to the British aristocracy. Lord Selkirk rose to answer his colleague, insisting that moral offence took precedence over property. In some ways Selkirk's involvement in the debate over the slave trade had its ironies, since the principal point that most contemporaries took from his famous book on emigration was that parliamentary interference with the immigrant trade, often compared to the slave trade, was a bad policy. Opponents of immigration insisted that blacks transported to America as slaves experienced better conditions than most of the immigrants from Scotland of the early years of the nineteenth century. Selkirk did not rise to such a challenge, but characteristically, used the bulk of his speech to lecture on the demography of the West Indies, concluding that abolition of the trade would improve planter treatment of their negroes and hence would increase the population of the region. William Wilberforce, listening intently to the debate on his precious reform bill, thought Selkirk's remarks "sensible and well-principled." Selkirk was one of a number of young peers and heirs who spoke in favour of the bill. At one point, the House of Lords spontaneously gave Wilberforce, who appeared to observe the proceedings, three hurrahs. In the end, the vote was 283 to 16 for abolition.

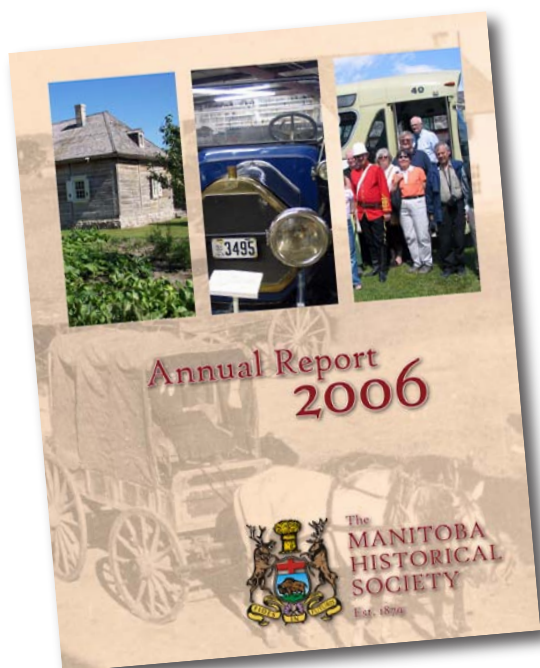
Wilberforce was twelve years Selkirk's senior, the son of a wealthy merchant of Hull who had been converted to evangelical religion through reading William Law's *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*. Selkirk, on the other hand, appears to have had no visible religious beliefs whatsoever. One searches his surviving papers in vain for any comments about God, Christ, religious doctrine, or church attendance. Nevertheless, the two men were probably acquainted before Selkirk's speech. The connection was through Selkirk's old teacher, Anna Laetitia Barbauld, who had published a poem entitled "Epistle to William Wilberforce, Esq. on the Rejection of the Bill for Abolishing the Slave Trade," in 1791 and subsequently become a good friend of the abolitionist, with whom she shared many reform sentiments. After 1807, Wilberforce and Selkirk would become close friends and occasional legislative allies.

To a correspondent, Wilberforce wrote that the Earl had spoken in the House of Lords with "so low a voice that he could scarce be heard." Nobody expected a maiden effort in Parliament to be outstanding, but

from the very beginning Selkirk had demonstrated two principal failings that would hold him back as a political figure in an era where the cut and thrust of parliamentary debate was one of the places where an aspiring young man could make his mark. In the first place, he was a terrible public speaker, lacking volume, animation, and any sense of humour. Fellow-Scot Archibald Constable, the publisher, reported a few weeks later, after attendance at the House of Lords, that "whatever may be his merit as a writer," Selkirk was a "most wretched speaker, and I think will never be a good one." In the second place, Selkirk had a tendency to lecture rather than to debate, droning on endlessly with carefully prepared arguments full of good points lost on his audience. He would have made a good academic but not a good parliamentarian.

Selkirk soon discovered his weaknesses, and within a couple of years had become involved with the Hudson's Bay Company, which would eventually lead to his establishment of the Red River Settlement in 1812, an enterprise with which William Wilberforce did not approve. But that is another story.

J. M. Bumsted



Copies of the MHS 2006 Annual Report can be obtained from the MHS office, including limited numbers of a full-color version. The Report can also be obtained from the web site:

www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/annual



Bill Burns speaks on his father-in-law, the late Manitoba premier Douglas L. Campbell, at a luncheon held after the 2007 MHS Annual General Meeting.

AGM Report

Executive Committee 2007 - 2008

President.....	J. M. "Jack" Bumsted
First Vice President	Harry Duckworth
Past President	Gordon Goldsborough
Treasurer	Gwyneth Jones
Secretary	Francis Carroll

Returning Council Members

Wayne Arseny	Gordon Goldsborough
Judith Hudson Beattie	Carl James
J. M. Bumsted	Simon Lucy
Francis Carroll	Carol Scott
Harry Duckworth	Scott Stephen
Tom Ford	Ken Zealand
Bill Fraser	Mary Louise Zorniak

New Council Members

Jennifer Brown	Marg Kentner
Dennis Butcher	Ross Metcalfe
Owen Clark	Bill Neville
Maureen Dolyniuk	Joyce Wawrykow
Diane Haglund	

Ex officio Council Members (Past Presidents)

Jim Blanchard	David McDowell
Alice Brown	Steven Place
Margaret Carter	Shirlee A. Smith
Alan Crossin	Lily Stearns
Celine Kear	Doug Taylor
John Lehr	Greg Thomas

Obituary Peter M. Liba

Peter Liba, the MHS patron from 2001 to 2004, was born on 10 May 1940 in Winnipeg, where he was raised and educated. Liba began his professional career in 1957 as a print journalist, and covered the Manitoba Legislature for *The Winnipeg Tribune* before being appointed City Editor in 1967. He was a founding shareholder in 1974 of what now is CanWest Global Communication Corporation, ultimately serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of CKND-TV Manitoba and Saskatchewan, then as Executive Vice-President. Liba was named Broadcaster of the Decade in 1994 by the Western Association of Broadcasters and in 1998 was inducted into the Canadian Broadcast Hall of Fame. From 1999 to 2004, he served as Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. His business career was matched by numerous charitable and volunteer roles, including Founding Chairman of the Variety Club Telethon for disabled and disadvantaged children, President of the Winnipeg Convention Center, and Chairman of St. Boniface General Hospital. Liba was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1984. He became the first Member of the Order of Manitoba in 1999 and served as Chancellor. In 2001, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Manitoba. He died on 21 June 2007, at his cottage on Lake of the Woods.

Correction

Former MHS member Anna Kirstine Storgaard, who died on 11 March 2007, was misidentified in the last *Time Lines*. We regret the error.

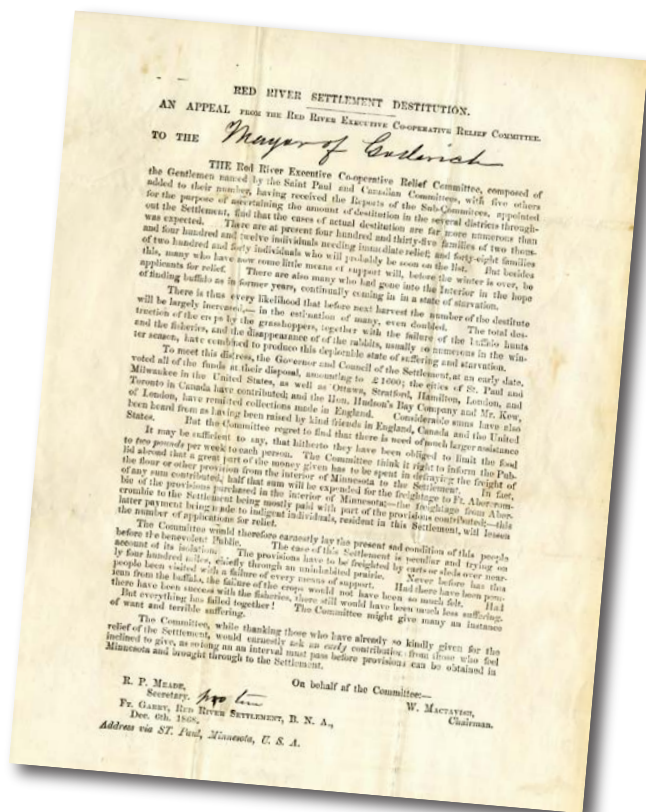
Important Notice

Effective 4 July 2007, our new administrative office at 61 Carlton Street (Winnipeg) will be open Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, and other times by appointment. The Edwin Nix Memorial Library will be closed temporarily until further notice.

The office will be closed 1 and 2 August.

Everyone is encouraged to visit our new office, tour Dalnavert Museum, and browse through the gift shop.

Jacqueline Friesen
Office Manager



Rare Fort Garry Broadsheet

The University of Manitoba has acquired an extremely rare broadsheet. Dated 6 December 1868, it is addressed to the Mayor of Goderich, Ontario, one of hundreds sent to cities across the United States, Britain, and Canada. It asked for the "immediate relief" of 435 starving families in the Red River Settlement who had little or no food reserves as winter approached.

The single-sided 8.5 x 11 inch public notice is the only known copy in existence. Valued at more than \$10,000, the broadsheet offers a glimpse of the fragile nature of the Red River Settlement nearly 139 years ago. The settlers were isolated and forced to limit rations to two pounds per person per week. Transporting dry goods from Minnesota "by carts or sleds over nearly four hundred miles, chiefly through an uninhabited prairie" was difficult and expensive.

The broadsheet is an example of early printing in the Red River Settlement. It was printed on the same press that turned out *The Nor'Wester*, the region's first newspaper, and a year later, publications and proclamations of 1868 and 1869.

For further information, contact University archivist Shelley Sweeney at 204-474-6350.

MHS Award Presentations 2007 by Lieutenant-Governor John Harvard



Centennial Organization Award
St. Matthew's Cathedral



Centennial Organization Award
The Canadian Club of Winnipeg



Centennial Organization Award
Ukrainian Catholic Parish of the
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Margaret McWilliams Award
Susan Elaine Gray
(Scholarly History Book)



Margaret McWilliams Award
J. M. Bumsted
(Organizational History Book)



Margaret McWilliams Award
St. Nicholas Church & June
Dutka (Organizational History)



Margaret McWilliams Award
Russ Gourluck
(Popular History Book)



Margaret McWilliams Award
Gerald Brown
(Local History Book)

Welcome New MHS Members!

Marie Tomasi & family
Art Mikki
Brian McLean
Don & Marie Zorniak
Eric Huberdeau
Maureen Dolyniuk & family
Canadian Club of Winnipeg
St. Mathew's Cathedral (Brandon)
St. Paul's Anglican Church (Dauphin)
Ukrainian Parrish of Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin Mary (Portage La Prairie)

Donations & Contributions

Thank You!

General Fund
Carol Holm
Mary Kerwiga
Margaret Morse

"In Memory of Mary O'Shaunossy"
Little House Spa

"In Memory of Anna Storgaard"
Inga Storgaard

Young Historians Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson Fund
T. Kenneth Thorlakson

Note of Appreciation

A sincere thank you to Charles Spalding, a regular visitor to our former office on McDermot Avenue, for the framed "Winnipeg 1884" artwork for the new office at 61 Carlton Street. His thoughtfulness is appreciated!

Special thanks to Salix Consulting and Harris Printing on the wonderful job of producing the MHS 2006 Annual Report. The report would not have been produced without the generous support and printing provided by Harris Printing, and the creative design efforts of Salix Consulting.

Office Move Volunteers

We thank the people who helped to move our administrative office from its former McDermot Avenue location to the new location at Dalnavert Museum. They included Judith Hudson Beattie, Chris Black, Harry Duckworth, Bill Fraser, Jacqueline Friesen, Gordon Goldsborough, Jock Lehr, Jane Maksymiuk, Michael Maksymiuk, Barry McPherson, Victor Sawelo, Jesse Schantz, John Schantz, and Carol Scott. Your help is much appreciated!

Douglas Kemp Awards 2007

The Douglas Kemp Award recognizes exceptional service in the promotion and preservation of Manitoba's heritage. Two awards were presented at this year's Annual General Meeting:

Mary B. Perfect

During her career as a teacher and administrator in Manitoba schools and in the years after her retirement, Mary B. Perfect contributed to the promotion and preservation of Manitoba's heritage. In 1978 she wrote a Master of Education thesis on the history of education in Manitoba which is still a valuable resource today: *One Hundred Years in the History of Rural Schools of Manitoba: Their Formation, Reorganization and Dissolution 1871 - 1971*. By the 1980s Mary was active in the MHS, serving on a Regional History committee set up by Margaret Carter. After her retirement as a school administrator she co-edited *Manitoba's Heritage Cookery, Selections from Personal Collections*, a wonderful compilation of recipes and Manitoba history published by the MHS in 1992. Mary was a stalwart member of the Centennial Farms Committee for 25 years, attending meetings and presenting plaques on many of her summer weekends to farms in western Manitoba north and south of her summer residence in Riding Mountain Park. Over the years she also presented plaques in the Pilot Mound area where she had her original home. Mary retired from the committee last year.

Margaret Morse

Margaret Morse (nee Chown) is well known for pioneering the discipline of speech therapy in Manitoba in a career that spanned over 35 years. Through her efforts the Speech and Hearing Clinic was established at the Children's Hospital. She persuaded

five other hospitals to establish speech therapy services. Over the years Margaret became adept at lobbying, fundraising, and publicity, and developed many contacts throughout Manitoba. She volunteered with several charitable organizations. The MHS is in debt to Margaret for chairing one of our most important commit-



Margaret Morse

tees, the Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner Committee. This is our single most important fundraising event, and under Margaret's guidance the dinners raised \$40,000 while providing an elegant and entertaining evening on what often turns out to be the coldest night of the winter. The care and attention to detail that Margaret and her committee brought to the dinners made everyone who attended know that they had done something important.

Good Old-Fashioned Fun at Dalnavert

This August, Dalnavert will offer four special days of family-friendly fun and frolic! Each day will begin with a guided tour of the museum; admission fees are included in the price unless otherwise indicated. Reservations are required for all programs. Call us at 943-2835 for details.

Craft Day

Friday, 10 August, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, \$8 per person

Enjoy a day of 19th century crafts. You'll learn to make your own crazy-quilt placemat and use a potato to print timeless wallpaper patterns! For "kids" of all ages.

Victorian Fun and Games

Friday, 17 August, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, \$8 per child

Young historians age 6 to 12 are invited to come out and play the Victorian way! We'll work up a thirst playing some old-time outdoor games and then cool off with some refreshing lemonade. (If it rains, we'll move the activity indoors.)

Two for One and Tea for Two

Saturday, 18 August, noon - 4:00 pm

Two for One admission prices plus \$5 per person for refreshments

Bring a companion along for a two-for-one tour of Dalnavert (regular admission prices are in effect), followed by tea, cookies and scones. 1st tour at noon with tea from 1:00 - 2:00 pm; 2nd tour at 2:00 pm with tea from 3:00 - 4:00 pm.

Family Day

Friday, 21 August, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, \$6 per person

Gather up the family for a fun-filled afternoon! Play Victorian games (outdoors, weather permitting), listen to story-time and enjoy refreshments that you'll help to prepare!

Dalnavert Museum

At the Volunteer Spring Tea, Dalnavert Director Linda Neyedly presented Long Service Awards to volunteers Gloria Seale (left) and Pat Lewak (right).



Dalnavert's summer hours are: Wednesdays to Fridays 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturdays 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Sundays noon to 4:00 pm.

Dalnavert Fundraising Movie Event

Date: Sunday, 23 September 2007

Place: Park Theatre, Osborne Street, Winnipeg

Time: 2:30 - 5:30 in the afternoon

Movie: *The Go-Between* (1970)

starring Julie Christie and Alan Bates

Cost: \$20 per ticket, includes refreshments

Here's the story line. It is Summer 1900. Young Leo turns 13. He is the guest of Marcus, a wealthy classmate, at a grand home in rural Norfolk. Leo is befriended by Marian, Marcus's twenty-something sister, a beauty about to be engaged to Hugh, a viscount and good fellow. Marian buys Leo a forest green suit, takes him on walks, and asks him to carry messages to and from their neighbor, Ted Burgess, a bit of a rake. Leo is soon dissembling, realizes he's betraying Hugh, but continues as the go-between nonetheless, asking adults naïve questions about the attractions of men and women. Can an affair between neighbors stay secret for long? And how does innocence end?

Tickets can be obtained through Dalnavert Museum (phone 204-943-2835) or at the door on movie day.

Visit Ross House Museum This Summer

The Ross House hours are: Wednesdays to Sundays 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The museum tours begin at 10:30, with a last tour at 4:00 pm. The historical walking tour is by appointment at 11:00 am or 2:00 pm.



Ross House staff (2007), from left to right: Todd Schultz, John Shantz, and Victor Sawelo (museum manager).

Book Club Change of Date

The next MHS Book Club date has changed from 15 October to 22 October. The book to be discussed will be Patricia Phenix, *Private Demons: The Tragic Personal Life of John A. Macdonald* (2006) led by Dodie Metcalfe. For more information, please call Judith Hudson Beattie at 204-475-6666 or jhbval@mts.net.

New Local History Books

The People of Souris and Glenwood. Contact: Averill Whitfield, Souris, MB, R0K 2C0, 204-483-2643. Copies are available at \$65 each at the Dalnavert Gift Shop.

More Reflections covering the RM of Turtle Mountain and Town of Killarney, 1982 - 2007. Contact: Carol Chapman, Killarney, MB, R0K 1G0, 204-523-4280, email: lowol@mts.net.

Haywood History 1907 - 2007 covering Haywood, Manitoba. Copies are \$75 each from Denise deRocquigny, Box 26, Haywood, MB, R0G 0W0.

Manitoba Celebrates the Red River and the Canadian Heritage Rivers System

On 11 June, Manitobans gathered at The Forks to celebrate one of Canada's most historically significant waterways—the Red River—and its role in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS). The Red becomes the 37th river to be designated to the CHRS and the fourth Canadian heritage river in Manitoba, joining the Hayes, the Bloodvein and the Seal rivers. The ceremony also launched the commemoration in Manitoba of the bicentennial of David Thompson, Canada's greatest fur trade era geographer and map-maker.

Manitoban Played Key Role in Last Great Buffalo Round-up

by Ron Kirbyson

Manitobans in 2007 take the buffalo/bison* for granted. As a symbol for their province, it is as familiar as a grackle or a dandelion. How many know that a Manitoban could be recognized as a central figure in saving the buffalo for future generations of Canadians?

Alexandre Ayotte, a long-time resident of St. Jean-Baptiste, Manitoba, was the right person in the right place approximately a hundred years ago. A former Quebecker, he was working for the Canadian government as an emigration agent in Montana. In the years leading up to the formation of Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905, people were being sought to settle the Prairies.

Meanwhile the herds of buffalo had been going the way of the dinosaur. Once countless millions, they had been reduced to a scattered few within a generation of slaughter as the frontier moved westward.

Yet somehow the buffalo survived. How did it happen? The present-day Ayotte and McDonald families of Winnipeg understand better than most. For they are descendants of Alex Ayotte, who became known to his contemporaries in the early 1900s as Buffalo Ayotte.

The family, particularly Dennis and Bill McDonald, Dr. Brian Ayotte, and Lorraine Bonnefoy have assembled information from the rather scant historical record. Their motivation for this enterprise is the fact



Michael Pablo (left) and Alexandre Ayotte (right) negotiating the purchase of the buffalo herd.

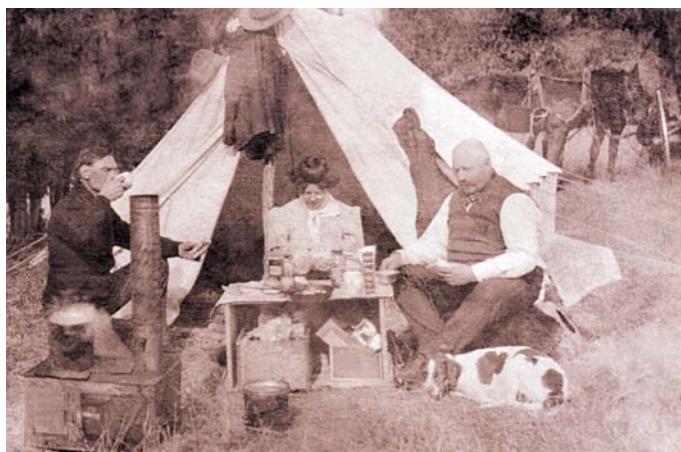
that 2007 is the 100th anniversary of the Canadian acquisition of surviving buffalo. Herds were built initially in Alberta, then eventually across the West, including Manitoba.

Alexandre "Buffalo" Ayotte proved to be the pivotal figure in the story. From his location in Montana, he facilitated the original purchase from an entrepreneur named Michel Pablo, who, in turn, had acquired a dozen or so buffalo from Sam Walking Coyote of the Pend d'Oreille tribe.

Buying some buffalo was one thing, another story in itself. So was the transporting of them to their Canadian home near Wainwright, Alberta. For example, they had to be first moved more than 20 miles to a railway location. Though buffalo are huge and fast, faster than a cowboy's horse, and tend to scatter when corralling them is attempted, Ayotte organized a roundup in 1907. Apparently none of the scores of cowboys involved were killed, and lessons were learned that made subsequent roundups less treacherous!

And Canada once again had a buffalo herd, or at least the beginnings.

* In an informal, popular sense, the word *buffalo* is used interchangeably with the biologically correct term *bison*.



Life in camp on the Flathead Indian Reservation with Alexandre Ayotte and special guests.

A Renewed Interest in Commemorating the Battle of Seven Oaks

The Seven Oaks Monument Redevelopment Committee is pursuing funding to redevelop the Battle of Seven Oaks monument site, located in Winnipeg at the corner of Main and Rupertsland Boulevard. The committee members include representatives from the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Manitoba Historical Society, The Seven Oaks Residents' Association, the Seven Oaks Resource Network Historic Places Committee, Seven Oaks House Museum, Bleak House Museum/Seniors Centre, Parks Canada, the University of Manitoba History Department, and Seven Oaks School Division. Victor Sawelo, Manager of Ross House Museum, represents the MHS.

The committee feels that the existing monument fails to tell the story of Seven Oaks from the perspective of all the participants. The intent of the project is "to capture the spirit of the place, to recognize, in a meaningful way, all the participants of that sad day and to accurately tell the story of what took place." The committee envisions a new interpretive environment with more usable green space for the community. As a first step, a Manitoba Heritage Grant would be required to pay a landscape architect to prepare a detailed site plan.

Governor Semple School, in partnership with the Seven Oaks Monument Committee and with the encouragement of local MLA Gord Mackintosh secured funds from the Heritage Grants Program for an educational project.

Important Reminders

- Please check the expiry date on the mailing label of your newsletter and renew your membership when due. Renewal can be done by mail, phone, or visiting the MHS office (Wednesdays, Thursdays, 1:00 - 5:00 pm). Cash, cheque, Visa/Mastercard are accepted.
- Your donations are needed to support the ongoing work of the Manitoba Historical Society. Tax receipts are issued.
- As of 1 July 2007, the MHS administrative office has moved to a new location: 61 Carlton Street, Winnipeg (Dalnavert Museum). The telephone and email address are unchanged.



Judith Hudson Beattie (left) and Brandon mayor Dave Burgess (right) presented an award certificate and prizes from the MHS to participants at the Brandon Heritage Fair, held on 13 May.

Centennial Farms

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

Altona	Stanley & Gertrude Hiebert	NE 27-1-2W 1896
RM of Dufferin	Edith G. (Laycock) & G. Wilson Fraser	SW 25-6-4W 1897
Gimli	Joseph & Rose Malinowski, Valerie (Malinowski) & Rudolph Hutch	WNE 14-19-3E 1899
Minto	Mary H. Robertson, Don Robertson and Dale Robertson	NE 36-5-19W 1905
Napinka	Gerald & Florence Brigden, Robert Patricia Brigden	NW 15-4-25W 1905, ENE 15-4-25W 1905
Russell	Scott A. & Brigitte M. Davidson	SW 7-22-27W 1907
Sperling	Gordon & Mona Brown	SW 8-6-1W, W 7-6-1W, NW 8-6-1W 1906

2006 Annual Report Errata

The antique automobile on the front cover is a Russell, not a Ford. The anaglyph is on page 7. The photo of piper Doug Roxborough on the back cover was taken by Victor Sawelo.

Heritage News

The **Oak Lake Centennial** and the RM of Sifton's 125th Centennial celebrations took place on 19 - 22 July in Oak Lake. Oak Lake's 18-month Calendars and Centennial t-shirts were for sale. Centennial Banners were created by Oak Lake School students. Special events included an RM of Sifton tour, fish fry, parade, antique tractor pull, 121st annual fair, dance, an interdenominational church service, and a concert and refreshments in the park.

The Town of Gladstone and the RM of Westbourne invite you to attend **Gladstone's 125th Celebrations** 8 - 12 August. Check the web page www.town.gladstone.mb.ca, phone 204-385-2332, or write to Gladstone 125th Celebration c/o Town of Gladstone, Gladstone, MB R0J 0T0. A William Morton Collegiate reunion is also planned for 10 August in Gladstone.

Thirty-eight items of documentary heritage of exceptional value have been added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, bringing the total number of inscriptions since 1997 to 158. Among the items of exceptional value were **Hudson's Bay Company Archival records**, in Winnipeg, comprising the documents that contain the history of the company founded in 1670 and still existing today, which played a crucial role in Canada's creation.

The *Red River Valley Echo* reports on the renovation of buildings in **St. Joseph Museum Historical Village**, including the church, the store, the school and an old timber house that dates to the 1860s. Some renovations were complete in time for the St. Joseph's Annual Montcalm Heritage Festival on 30 June and 1 July. The *Echo* also reports that the Neubergthal Heritage Foundation wants the housebarn dwelling in the village of Neubergthal restored to its original glory in a way that will promote its rich Mennonite heritage.

The Right Honourable Edward Schreyer has donated his childhood home and several books to the **Beausejour Pioneer Village Museum**. The house was built in 1941 in the Cromwell area, approximately five miles from Beausejour.

Glenora Historical Society received a grant from the Thomas Sill Foundation for major renovations to the town's 118 year old community church. The church was originally located in Marrinhurst. Because of a shift in population it was moved to Glenora in 1926. Recent renovations included a new cinder block foundation, siding, repairs to windows, and a fresh

coat of paint. Efforts were made to complete the renovations by 24 June 2007 when the RM of Argyle celebrated its 125th anniversary.

The **Town of Carberry** has established a heritage district – the southerly two blocks of Main Street. The Town Council has drafted a bylaw which could recreate the atmosphere of Carberry's downtown in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Participants in the heritage district would be offered a maximum of \$10,000 per year for the next five years. A maximum of \$2,000 per property per owner would be matched for exterior heritage-type improvements. Any tax increases resulting from improvements would be phased in at 25% over four years. There is no requirement that each property must make renovations. But any future façade renovations would be governed by the regulations set out for the Heritage District. Official notice of intent, listing forty addresses in Historic Downtown Carberry, appeared in the *Carberry News-Express* on 21 May.

A new book will update the **history of Cartwright** and district published in 1985. It will include updates of family histories that appeared in the 1985 book plus histories of new families in the area. Businesses, schools, sports, churches and organizations will again be important sections. The anticipated completion date is August 2010.

The **Western Canada Aviation Museum**, 958 Ferry Road (Winnipeg) presents an exhibition *Lost: the Macalpine Expedition*. It was 78 years ago that a party of flying prospectors disappeared in Canada's barren lands, sparking an Arctic search that cost a fortune and kept the country on edge for weeks. Documents, photographs and artifacts associated with the expedition and rescue mission are on display at the museum until 30 September 2007.

An antiques and collectable sale in benefit of the **Margaret Laurence Home** will take place in Neepawa at the Yellowhead Centre on 22 July, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. For table rental and information, contact Blair Chapman at 204-476-2359 or bchapman@bpsd.mb.ca.

The Annual Conference and AGM of the **Association of Manitoba Museums** will take place at the Sam Waller Museum at The Pas on 21 - 22 September. This year's theme is Destination: Museum, talking about tourism and other partnerships. The meeting will be preceded by a bus tour leaving Winnipeg on 20 September. The tour will include coffee breaks, lunch, and tours of three museums along the route.

For more information, call the AMM Office at 204-947-1782 or toll free at 866-747-9323.

The **Association of Manitoba Municipalities**, founded in 1905, is preparing a book on its history for publication in Fall 2008. Those with information or photos relating to any aspect of municipal governance in their area are asked to contact Lynn Bereza at the AMM office in Portage la Prairie, at 204-856-2366 or lbereza@amm.mb.ca.

The Welsh Church in Winnipeg

by Keith Davies Jones

A hundred years ago a flourishing Welsh community in Winnipeg supported many Welsh organizations; several choirs, a Welsh rugby team, a Literary and Debating Society, an annual eisteddfod and the St. David's Society. Of them all, only the St. David's Society, beginning in 1894, and possibly the oldest in Canada, has continued till today, and that not without interruption in its activities for a number of years.

A Welsh Church was founded in Winnipeg around 1903; nominally it was affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in Minnesota, but in practice it seems to have been largely non-denominational. For thirty years, the church met in a number of borrowed locations including First Baptist Church, Winnipeg Business College, and latterly Wesley College, now the University of Winnipeg. In 1932, after many years of fundraising efforts, the congregation moved into its own premises, the First Welsh Church on Sherbrook Street. Building work was supervised by Mr. Joseph Farr, who came from Merthyr Tydfil. He was also president of the St. David's Society, and conducted the Winnipeg Welsh Male Choir. Unfortunately, the Depression set in before construction was complete, money ran out, and only the basement was ever finished.

No records of the Welsh Church have been found; its history compiled from notices appearing sporadically in the *Free Press* is necessarily somewhat incomplete. The first minister was the Reverend D. J. R. Johns; by 1912 he had been succeeded by Reverend Humphrey W. Griffith, previously pastor of the Welsh Presbyterian Church in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He died in Winnipeg in September 1924 at the age of 65. The church then seems to have been without a regular minister until R. E. Williams came from Philadelphia in May 1927. He was followed by J. D.



The former Welsh church building on Sherbrook Street as it appears today.

Thomas who arrived in December 1928 from Mankato, Minnesota. By April 1930, the minister was the Reverend W. Barker Jones. He died in June 1930.

The cornerstone of the building on Sherbrook Street was laid on 5 December 1931 by Mr. Esten K. Williams, and the new church opened on 6 February 1932; guest preacher on that occasion was the Reverend Monfa Parri from Milwaukee, and soloists were Miss Jennie Roberts, Mr. R. Oliver Evans and Mr. Herbert James. Music, as always, clearly played an important part in the life of the Welsh Church. Joint pastorate at that time was by the Reverend T. Owen Hughes and Reverend D. H. Jacobs. From 1933 to 1951 the minister was the Reverend J. G. Stephens, who was born in Port Talbot in 1868. He came to Winnipeg from The Pas and before that had been in Saskatchewan. He died in Brandon in December 1951 at the age of 83. The last minister, the Reverend Tegwyn Evans arrived from Bala in September 1951, and left sometime after 1958, moving to Vancouver and then Australia. The congregation dwindled, and sometime after December 1972, the church closed. The building was sold in 1975, becoming for a while the Italian Club, and later a photographic studio. It is now occupied by the Inner City Lutheran Mission, having briefly before that been home to a martial arts club.

Gwen Hodgson remembers attending the church as a child in the 1930s, and she remembers the cornerstone of the new building being laid. She estimates the number of the congregation at that time as some twenty or thirty regular attendees, and remembers the names of many of them. Myfanwy Evans, later a noted contralto, was her best friend at the church. She recalls the Reverend Stephens being a short and rather round man. He was a member of the Charles

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Dickens Society, and always played Mr. Pickwick in their presentations. Services were held once a month in Welsh, otherwise they were in English. Gwendda Owen Davies, a prominent Winnipeg musician at the time, was the 'official' accompanist but mostly it was Daisy Jenkyns who played the piano. There was no regular choir but a children's choir was formed for special occasions, such as Christmas.

Prominent members of the church included Rupert Reece, an Executive of the Grain Exchange, and Esten K. Williams, KC, who was subsequently appointed Chief Justice of the Manitoba Court of King's Bench. (The University of Manitoba's Law Library has been named in his honour.) There were also 'Jones the Electric' and Mr. and Mrs. 'Maesteg' Edwards. There were many concerts – "Will Jenkyns had a good baritone voice and loved to sing at all the concerts. Unfortunately, his favourite songs were 'The Road to Mandalay' and 'Come to the Fair' and we heard them over and over and over again!" Hodgson

also remembers the famous Welsh-American baritone, Thomas L. Thomas, who had a more extensive repertoire, singing at the church when he came to Winnipeg to perform in one of Fred Gee's Celebrity Recitals at the Civic Auditorium in October 1946.

CONTEST

The back cover of *Manitoba History* 55 (June 2007) shows a great old postcard of Winnipeg buildings, circa 1914. The person who can identify the most number of buildings in the postcard, before 1 November 2007, will win a prize. Enter on the MHS web site:

www.mhs.mb.ca/news/contest2007



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Manitoba Historical Society, est 1879

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