

Time Lines

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 40 No. 5
July / August 2008



MHS Annual Meeting

This year's annual general meeting was held on Saturday, 31 May at the parish hall of the Church of the Ascension in Stonewall. After the business portion of the meeting, we enjoyed a hot turkey dinner prepared by the Anglican Church Women. This year is Stonewall's centennial year and guest speaker, Mayor Ross Thompson, was dressed in period attire of 1908. The afternoon ended with a tour of the lovely old stone church, which was built in 1882.

At the AGM, the following persons were appointed to the Council and Executive for 2008–2009.

MHS Executive Officers 2008–2009

Executive Committee

President.....	Dr. Harry Duckworth
First Vice President	Dr. Annabelle Mays
Past President	Dr. John "Jack" Bumsted
Treasurer	Dr. Gwyneth Jones
Secretary	Dr. Francis Carroll

Returning Council Members

Wayne Arseny	Dr. Jennifer Brown
Dennis Butcher	Dr. Francis Carroll
Owen Clark	Maureen Dolyniuk
Tom Ford	Diane Haglund
Carl James	Dr. Gwyneth Jones
Marg Kentner	Dr. Simon Lucy
Dr. Annabelle Mays	Ross Metcalfe
Bill Neville	Carol Scott
Dr. Scott Stephen	Joyce Wawrykow

New Council Members

Steve James	James Kostuchuk
Frances Russell	



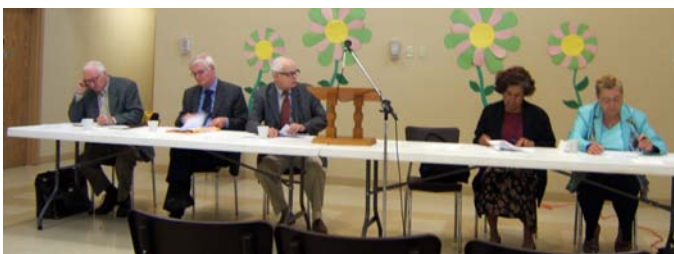
W. Fraser

Ross Thompson, Mayor of Stonewall, addressed the MHS annual meeting in his community.



W. Fraser

Members tour the Church of the Ascension after the AGM.



W. Fraser

Executive members (L-R): Francis Carroll, Harry Duckworth, Jack Bumsted, Gwyneth Jones, and Annabelle Mays.

Point Douglas Walking Tour

On Saturday, 20 September there will be a free walking tour of historic Point Douglas, Winnipeg's first neighbourhood. The tour begins and ends at Ross House Museum, 140 Meade Street. The tour will start at 2:00 PM and takes approximately 90 minutes. Please call Carl James at 204-631-5971 with questions.

President's Column



MHS President
Dr. Harry Duckworth

I am honoured by the Society's confidence in me, as expressed by my election as President at the Annual General Meeting on 31 May. At that meeting, under other business, we had a good discussion about the Society's activities, its problems, and its role in Manitoba society today. A couple of points of consensus quickly emerged. One is that we are providing many valuable services within

the province, but most of them are a cost to us, and at present, we have inadequate funds to cover the costs. These important services, which the Society effectively donates to the community, include the web site, with its vast collection of written materials relating to Manitoba history, and new features being added all the time; the Young Historians program; the programs to recognize Centennial Farms, Centennial Businesses, and Centennial Organizations; the Margaret McWilliams Awards for different categories of historical writing; and a series of program events. Other items are paid for, e.g., *Manitoba History* and *Time Lines*, by membership fees that are only slightly more than what is needed to cover these costs.

The second point of consensus was that we need to stir up more interest in the Society, and more support. Some high-profile "galvanizing project" (Tom Ford's expression) would help with this, though these do not come along every day. Some regret was expressed that the Society had not managed to be a part of Winnipeg's biggest history-related episode last fall and winter, the campaign to save the environment of the Upper Fort Garry Gate. I will deal with this matter first.

Last year, at the height of the excitement over whether the Friends of Upper Fort Garry would be able to stave off the building of a block of condos adjacent to the Fort Garry Gate, there were some who asked why the Manitoba Historical Society was not "taking a stand" on the issue. The Society's position on the need to preserve the Gate was surely never in doubt—it was the Society itself, after all, that encouraged the Hudson's Bay Company to donate the Gate, with a small plot of surrounding land, to the City in 1897. During the Friends' campaign, our own *Time Lines* kept our membership informed as to how donations could be made, but it is true that the Society never made a high-profile public statement on the merits of the issue. That may have been a mistake. The issue of the future of the Gate's environment occupied the front

pages of the local newspapers for many weeks. It is also true that our sister organization, Heritage Winnipeg, which the Friends had selected to receive the donations, stepped into a spotlight that, in years gone by, the Society would naturally have occupied.

As to why we did not do more, the Executive was in a quandary. The Society did not learn about the Friends' campaign until all the arrangements had been made and announced. We were never approached to take part, apart from one email asking whether we would be willing to assist with an exhibition program, if an Interpretive Centre was built near the Gate. When we made one inquiry as to whether our help was wanted, we were told that everything was under control. We were also a bit cautious about what the Friends were planning—not just the acquisition of the real estate next to the Gate, but also the new Interpretive Centre. As operators of the Dalnavert and Ross House Museums, we know very well the difference between capital funds (to build something) and operating funds (to keep its doors open). We could see the possibility that the operating needs of a new Interpretive Centre would place a new and heavy burden on the limited resources available to all historical and heritage organizations, including the Society.

The other big issue that always looms above us is money. Much work, of course, is done by volunteers, but we have inescapable fixed costs. Very little of our operating income comes from Government, though we have an annual grant from the Province, which is much appreciated and too valuable to lose. We also have an annual grant from the City, but this is for the specific purpose of operating the Ross House Museum—it allows the Manager of the Museum, Victor Sawelo, to keep the Museum open during the summer months, providing an important focal point for the Point Douglas community in which it stands.

From our income, we must maintain and operate the Dalnavert Museum, and the Society office. Dalnavert, the elegant fin-de-siècle house that was rescued from oblivion when the Society raised the funds to purchase and then restore it, in 1970, is expensive, though the Director, Linda Neyedly runs a tight ship, and volunteers perform many indispensable duties. Dalnavert's costs are met from its own revenue (admission fees; profits from the shop; rentals; fundraising), plus income from an endowment fund managed by the Winnipeg Foundation, and gifts from a few generous benefactors. We receive no government funds for Dalnavert operations—in fact, unlike some museums in Winnipeg; we pay city taxes on the property. Because the Dalnavert endowment fund exists, there is a belief among some outsiders that our Society is rich. It is important to remember that the principal of the endowment is never touched; the income is used only for Dalnavert; and that income, combined with all other sources of revenue, is barely enough to balance the Dalnavert books.

The Society office is operated using income from fundraising (such as the Macdonald Dinner), individual gifts and bequests, and a small part of the membership fees. Our office is also run as a very tight ship, by our Office Manager, Jacqueline Friesen. Society expenses have exceeded annual revenues in most recent years, although occasional large gifts and bequests have let us balance the books. The generous bequest from the late Mrs. Bente Cunnings, in 2007, has provided us with a little working capital, and the ability to fight off an operating deficit for a few more years.

It is always useful to look back to history, to understand what is happening to us now. Professor Gerry Friesen's article on the history of the first hundred years of the Society, written upon our centennial in 1979 (published in *Manitoba History*, and available on the Society's web site at: www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/mb_history/04/centennial.shtml), helps us take the long view. The Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba was founded in 1879, as an important way for the more prosperous citizens, most of them recent arrivals, to express their identity as a distant but important part of the British Empire. The Society became a focus for the pursuit of knowledge about all parts of the Northwest: its plants, animals and minerals (thus the word "Scientific" in the name), and also its history. Then, as now, the Society did what volunteer organizations often do: it identified public needs that the current government structures were not meeting. It was the Society, in 1882, which first organized a public library in Winnipeg – at first a subscription library, but eventually, after political support came from a new quarter (the socialists), the City took charge and made it free to everyone. The Society's role in establishing this important civic institution is now largely forgotten.

The old guard eventually wore out, and lost touch with the go-go atmosphere of pre-War Winnipeg, and for several years, the Society, in Gerry Friesen's word, was moribund. A new group revived some interest in 1926, and a much more vigorous revival began in 1944, headed by Margaret McWilliams, Professor W. L. Morton, and the Provincial Librarian, J. Leslie Johnson. The reborn Manitoba Historical Society pushed for the establishment of a Provincial Archives and a provincial archaeologist; fostered scholarly studies on non-British ethnic groups; promoted historical publications of all kinds; and enhanced public understanding of history through commemorative plaques. We called attention to threatened historical structures, and came to their defence. Sometimes the effort failed (Nellie McClung House in Manitou, demolished 1964); sometimes other jurisdictions had to find the resources (Lower Fort Garry, Riel House); and sometimes the Society itself was able to do the job (Ross House, Dalnavert). Many of the Society's current activities have their roots in those halcyon days.

In his 1979 article, Gerry Friesen mentioned a concern that could be summarized as the Society becoming the victim of its own success. Projects that would never have got off the ground without the advocacy of the Manitoba Historical Society—the free public library in Winnipeg, the Provincial Archives, the preservation of several important historic buildings, the commemorative plaques—had become the responsibility of permanent departments of government. Encouraged by us, local museums had sprung up all across the province, and there was now the well-funded, highly professional Manitoba Museum. Volunteer efforts were fragmenting: groups with limited interests were hiving off parts of the Society's mandate, and claiming them as their own. I might add that we have not always been vigilant in defending the activities that were most important for our public image. However, Friesen also pointed out that:

The Historical Society has always acted as a catalyst. It has taken stock of cultural conditions and defined what was needed to make a more humane, literate and congenial community. The purposes of the Society—education, preservation, scholarship—are unending tasks.

This is as valid now as it was then. Manitoba is very different than it was, 129 years ago: the rural community is much more thinly spread, and the urban community is much more diverse. Both parts of our province are in search of new symbols of identity, and both have needs that may be sensed, but are not yet clearly identified. Continuing to assist with these processes is still our task, and our challenge.

During my term as President, I will have two priorities. One will be to continue Jack Bumsted's efforts to improve the Society's financial position. We will restore the Macdonald Dinner's role as an important fund-raiser, and we will have to interest more people in supporting the Society financially. There is nothing novel about this, but it has to be emphasized. The second priority will be to restore the role of the Manitoba Historical Society as the "go to" organization for all aspects of history and heritage in our province. It is critical not to waste efforts duplicating those of others, so collaborations must be worked out with other like-minded organizations, large and small. New ties will have to be built to groups with whom our links are tenuous or non-existent—groups like the "movers and shakers" who formed the Friends of Upper Fort Garry; and the representatives of the heritage communities in the country. A continuing priority is to increase our membership, and efforts in this direction are already well underway. Under Jack Bumsted's presidency, a revived membership Committee was established, with our Treasurer, Gwyneth Jones, as Chair. This Committee is pursuing a number of strategies to increase membership in general, but also targeting younger people, people living

outside Winnipeg, and people from the more recently arrived ethnic groups.

If we are to expand our activities as much as will be needed, we will need more Society members to take part. We will also need every good idea that we can get. I welcome suggestions and criticisms from any member. The email address president@mhs.mb.ca will reach me, and I will also be happy to talk on the phone, and even to reply by regular mail. I look forward to hearing from you.

Harry Duckworth

Welcome New MHS Members!

Mathew Bencharski
David Crawley
William Guy
David Lyttle
Brian Onyshko
Joel Ralph & Jessie Klassen
Graham Spalding
Adam J. Spalding
Maureen Taunton
Norman Jerome Whitley

Donations & Contributions

Thank You!

MHS General Operations

A. Barry Campbell
Jean G. Campbell
Doris Kristjanson
Sam Loschiavo
Jane Maksymiuk
Margaret Morse

Centennial Business Awards Program

Judith Hudson Beattie

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

Dr. T. K. Thorlakson

Requests

Todd Bogoslawski, a SCUBA instructor from Dauphin, is interested in finding a logging train that went through the ice in Clear Lake (Riding Mountain National Park), possibly in the 1940s. Anyone who may have information about it is asked to contact Todd at 204-638-6804 or email him at t_bogoslawski@twinmotors.ca.

Author Zedar Thokme is researching a book about magical children in folklores of different ethnic groups. Anyone have information on such tales should contact him at zedar.thokme@yahoo.ca.

Obituaries

Daisy Knox, a former volunteer receptionist at Dalnavert Museum, died on 30 April at the age of 86. She retired from MTS after a long career. She was a long-time resident of Lions Place and a faithful supporter of Dalnavert Museum and the Winnipeg Humane Society.

Elizabeth Emma (Betty) Richards, a long-time MHS member, died in Winnipeg on 15 March at the age of 97. MHS members will remember her attending the Macdonald dinners. She graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BA in 1931. She was an artist and a life-long supporter of the Winnipeg Art Gallery and a founder of the Forum Art Institute. She was also an active member of the Winnipeg Junior League, the Women's Musical Club, the Manitoba Club, and the St. Charles Country Club.

Clarke Mearle Robson, a former MHS member, died in Souris on 13 June. He was born at Deleau, Manitoba on 22 October 1918. He enjoyed farm work and inventing and repairing equipment. He learned a lot through reading and listening to others. He committed strongly to the spirit of social justice and co-operation and he supported the CCF/NDP and their programs. He served on the Deleau-Hartney Credit Union, Hartney Manitoba Pool Elevator, Hartney Consumers Co-op boards and the Brandon University Board of Governors.

Denzil W. Gamble, a former MHS member, died in Portage la Prairie on 28 April. Denzil was born in Kapuskasing, Ontario in 1928. He served from 1948 to 1954 in the RCAF. He then attended and graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Education. He taught in Vancouver B.C., and was principal at Coppermine NWT and vice principal at Hay River NWT. He moved to Brandon in 1968 where he taught at Neelin High School. From there he moved to Westbourne and he taught at Portage Collegiate Institute until he retired in 1993. He enjoyed reading, hunting, fishing and playing the piano. Denzil had a special interest in history. He authored and co-authored books on local history. He served on the boards of many heritage groups, including the Manitoba Historical Society, the Manitoba Heritage Federation, Fort La Reine Museum, the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame, and the Delta Marsh History Initiative. In later years, he also taught English as a second language at the Portage Learning Centre.

Winnipeg Free Press Archive

In late June, the *Winnipeg Free Press* announced its intention to establish an online archive of all *Free Press* pages published since the newspaper's birth in 1872. Publisher Bob Cox stated that much of the page history has been digitized, and a web site will be launched in the near future. Prices for access to the archives are being determined now.

Northern Great Plains History Conference

The MHS will be one of the sponsors of the upcoming 43rd Annual Northern Great Plains History Conference, to take place in Brandon on 24-27 September.

The conference is open to everyone, with presentations from all over the prairies, including Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ontario, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.

The MHS will participate in a special panel discussion, organized by the MHS Secretary, Dr. Francis Carroll, entitled "State and Provincial Historical Societies: The Promotion and Publication of Local and Regional History." It will involve the editors of our journal *Manitoba History*, as well as those for *Minnesota History*, *North Dakota History*, and *South Dakota History*.

Registration is \$60 per person if done before 9 September, or \$70 afterwards. An optional banquet is \$38, and luncheons on the themes of women's history and military history are \$22 each.

For more information on the conference, including a list of presentations to be given, refer to its web site at www.brandonu.ca/history/ngphc.htm.

Charles Bell Award

Jim Blanchard reports that the winner of the Charles N. Bell Award for the 2007–2008 academic year is **Mike Zhu** of Winnipeg. The \$150 award is given to the University of Manitoba student who gets the highest mark in first year Canadian history.



University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

Opening ceremonies for the newly renovated University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections on 29 April was attended by (L-R): Dr. John English (General Editor, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*), Dr. Diane McGifford (Minister of Advanced Education and Training), Dr. Emőke Szathmáry (University President), Carolynne Presser (University Director of Libraries), and Dr. Shelley Sweeney (University Archivist).



W. Fraser

Owen Clark's donation of documents on early Manitoba musicians was received by City of Winnipeg archivist Jody Baltessen.

Tribute to Manitoba's Music History

As part of the Society's Manitoba Week activities, member Owen Clark made an illustrated presentation on the history of popular music in Winnipeg. During the presentation, held on 18 May at the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre, Owen presented a copy of his new book, *Musical Ghosts, Manitoba's Jazz and Dance Bands, 1914 to 1966* to the MHS and to the Winnipeg Musicians Association. He also officially transferred his *Musical Ghosts* photograph collection to Jody Baltessen, Archivist and Records Manager at the City of Winnipeg Archives.

Alberta History Conference

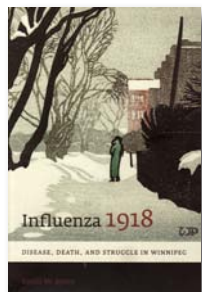
A conference on Alberta history, sponsored by the Historical Society of Alberta and the Chinook Country Historical Society, is being planned for 29-31 May 2009, in Calgary. The conference organizing committee is seeking research presentations including, but not limited to, the following topics: industries or businesses with special cultural relevance or involvement; unique cultural settlement patterns and/or forms of architecture, or the impact of ethnic groups in the shaping of Alberta's main streets; arrival and adaptation to Alberta or the eastern slope; education, social service, language and political history as it relates to one or more cultural communities; the process of identifying traditional land use and historically significant First Nations sites; biographies; artistic contributions (visual, literary or performing) of culturally identifiable individuals or groups; relationships and inter-relationships among ethnic groups, or between ethnic groups and "mainstream" culture(s) or industries; and cooperation, conflict or confrontation.

The organizing committee is accepting proposals now, with a deadline of 15 October. Send submissions or questions to: Alberta's Cultural Communities, c/o Trudy Cowan, Coordinator, 205 - 30 Discovery Ridge Close SW, Calgary AB, T3H 5X5, email: cwant@shaw.ca.

Margaret McWilliams Awards

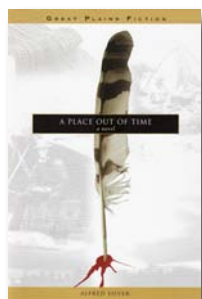
The 2007 Margaret McWilliams awards, presented by the MHS in recognition of excellence in writing about Manitoba history, were presented at a ceremony held at St. John's College on 27 April. The winners were as follows:

Scholarly History



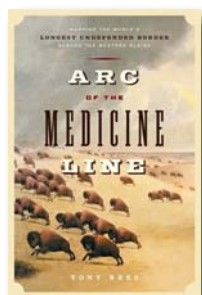
Influenza 1918: Disease, Death, and Struggle in Winnipeg by Eysyllt Jones, University of Toronto Press. The author looked at the impact of this pandemic on Winnipeg and especially the working class and the role it played in creating conditions that led to in the Winnipeg General Strike in 1919. Jones also won a Manitoba Day Award from the Association of Manitoba Archives.

Local History



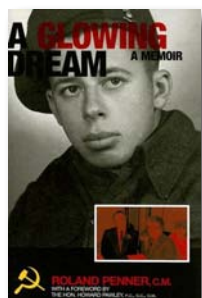
A Place Out of Time by Alfred Silver, Great Plains Publications. A gripping historical fiction set in the last days of the Red River Settlement. Told from the point of view of ordinary citizens, the story also brings to life key historical figures such as Louis Riel, Dr. John Christian Schultz and Joseph Howe.

Popular History



Arc of the Medicine Line: Mapping the World's Longest Undefended Border Across the Western Plains by Tony Ross, Douglas & McIntyre Publishing Group. A dramatic account of the hardships endured by the Canadian and American teams from 1872 to 1874 as they battled the elements to survey nearly nine hundred miles of the world's longest undefended border.

First Person Memoir



A Glowing Dream: A Memoir by Roland Penner, J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing. This memoir of a Manitoban's own personal experiences covers over eight decades. He provides a wealth of information on his immigrant family background and on his involvement in social reform, theatre, politics, government, law, and university.



G. Goldsborough

McWilliams award winners Eysyllt Jones (left) and Roland Penner (right) with MHS President Jack Bumsted.

MHS Book Club Schedule 2008–2009

With the exception of the 1 December meeting, all book club meetings will take place at Dalnavert Visitors' Centre. Please confirm attendance with Judy at 204-475-6666. Note: T= Treats, WPL = Winnipeg Public Library.

15 September, 7:00 PM: Guest **Marjorie Anderson**, editor of *Blessed: Portrait of Asdis Sigrun Anderson* [her mother] (2007, WPL: 5 copies). T Judy Valenzuela

20 October, 7:00 PM: Charlotte Gray, *Nellie McClung* (Penguin, 2008) Leaders **Dodie Metcalfe & Pat Challis** (WPL: 9 copies in processing); T Shannon Seney

17 November, 7:00 PM: Judith Hudson Beattie & Helen M. Buss, *Undelivered Letters...*, (2003) Leader **Judy Valenzuela** (WPL: many copies); T Cathy Phillipson

1 December, 7:00 PM: Guest **Bob Coutts** on his book *Voices from Hudson Bay: Cree Stories from York Factory*, edited by Flora Beardy & Robert Coutts (McGill-Queens, 1996, 2007; WPL 3 copies). At Parks Canada, 145 McDermot with tour of labs, etc.

19 January 2009, 7:00 PM: Rienhold Kramer, *Mordecai Richler: Leaving St Urbain* (2008) Leader **Marg Kentner** (WPL: on order, 17 requests); T Carol Scott

16 February 2009, 7:00 PM: Richard Gwyn, *John A: The Man Who Made Us* (2007) Leader **Shirlee Anne Smith** (WPL: 5 copies); T Joanne Ledohowski

16 March 2009, 7:00 PM: Carolyn Podruchny, *Making the Voyageur World: Travelers and Traders in the North American Fur Trade* (2006) Leader **Cathy Phillipson** (WPL: 3 copies); T Jane Frain

20 April 2009, 7:00 PM: H. S. Ferns, *Reading from Left to Right* (c1983, 1 copy); S. J. & H. S. Ferns, *Eighty-Five Years in Canada* (c1978, 6 copies) Leader **Jim Alward**; T Pat Challis

11 May 2009, 6:00 PM: Potluck, books for next year



M. Zbigniewicz

Wins Bridgman (right) was recognized by the Manitoba Association of Architects with one of its 2008 Prairie Design Awards, for his design of the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre. Joining Wins at the ceremony at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on 9 May was Gordon Goldsborough, former MHS President and Chair of the Dalnavert Management Committee during the construction.

Dalnavert Gift Shop News

Check out our new wrought iron/marble plant stands, bench, nesting tables, Dali style display units, Mary Meyer plush "Hot Socks," cute Mooseys, Barkley dogs, De-elicious green tomato pickles, Miinan wild triple berry jam, cute stained glass Inukshuks, birds, dragon flies, natural clove boxes, and bamboo charcoal Soy Harvest candle. (The orange-vanilla votives are the best.)

Dalnavert Coming Events

Starting in September there will be Yoga classes at Dalnavert on Wednesdays from 12:05 to 12:55. The Yoga will be in an active Vinyasa style. The cost is \$10 per class. Phone Craig at 204-297-9641 for more information.

Biographies Project Update

Earlier this year, the MHS received a provincial Heritage Grant to expand a collection on our web site of some 4,000 biographies of noteworthy Manitobans from the past.

This summer, we are employing two students, one in Brandon and one in Winnipeg, to do research and write biographies for the collection. They are focussing on underrepresented categories in the collection: women, ethnic minorities, and others.

See the collection here:

www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people

Switzer-Cooperstock Prize Awarded

Theodore Friedgut, Professor Emeritus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has been awarded the first Switzer-Cooperstock Lecture Prize in Western Canadian Jewish History. The prize is awarded biannually for new scholarship on the Jewish experience in Western Canada.

Professor Friedgut is a distinguished professor of Russian and Slavic studies, originally from Regina, Saskatchewan. The subject of his award-winning research is *Jewish Pioneers on the Canadian Prairies: The Lipton Jewish Agricultural Colony, 1901-1951*.

Professor Friedgut will present his lecture on Monday, 8 September 2008, at 7:00 PM, in the Asper Jewish Community Campus, 123 Doncaster Street, Winnipeg.

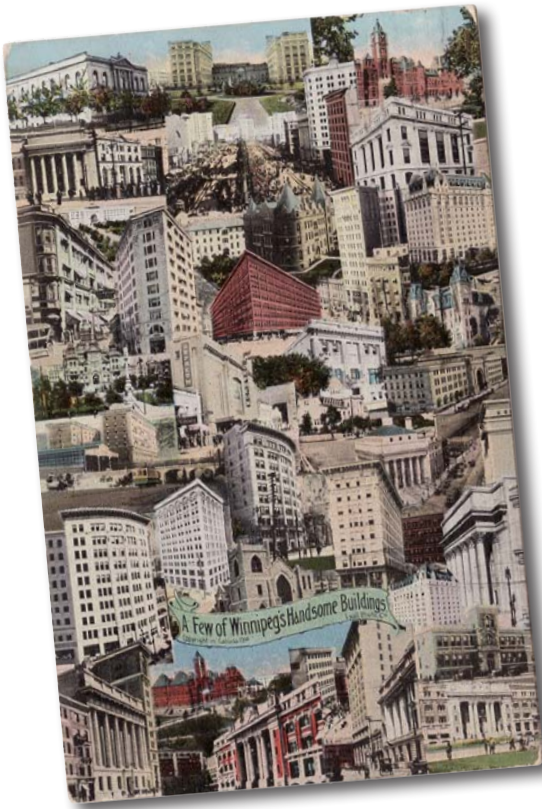
Professor Friedgut's research combines both his personal and academic interests. His grandparents settled in the Lipton Colony in 1906, and his father grew up there. At the same time, Professor Friedgut says, "the massive emigration of Jews, Doukhobors, Mennonites and Ukrainians at the end of the 19th and first quarter of the 20th century was ... a major factor in the formation of 20th century Jewish history. One of the streams of emigration led to the Canadian West." In his lecture, Professor Friedgut will provide a detailed picture of life in the colony, setting it against the political, social, and economic context of the times.

For further information about Dr. Friedgut, the Switzer-Cooperstock lecture, and its sponsors the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada, please contact Fran Barrett at 204-477-7460 or FBarrett@jhcwc.org.



Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada

Professor Theodore Friedgut



Contest Winner

Jim Blanchard is the winner of our contest, announced last year in *Time Lines*, to identify as many as possible of the 34 heritage buildings shown in an early twentieth century postcard. It was featured on the cover of *Manitoba History* volume 55. Jim correctly identified all but one building.

His prize is a copy of the book *Ten Years in Winnipeg*, written in 1879 by Alexander Begg and Walter Nursey. Congratulations, Jim!

Manitoba Living History Society 2008 Fall Gathering

The Manitoba Living History Society invites everyone to its Third Annual Fall Gathering at Fort Gibraltar (in St. Boniface) on the weekend of 5-7 September. Step back in time and visit the People of Red River, as they would have appeared circa 1815. Available on site will be tours of the Fort and encampment, ongoing fur-trade era demonstrations (blacksmithing, paddle making, military drills, musket demonstrations, bannock making, etc.), cooking on an open fire, workshops, presentations and games.

More information on the gathering is available on the MHS web site at www.mhs.mb.ca/news/mlhs2008.shtml.

Registration is \$20 per person. To register, complete a registration form (available at the above web address) and send with payment to: Carol Douglas, Box 675, RR #1, Dugald, Manitoba, R0E 0K0, email: ceilidh32@hotmail.com.

Young Historians Awards

Winners of the 2008 Young Historians awards were as follows. Formal presentations will be made in the fall.

Research Paper

First place: Nicole Askin, "A History of libraries..." (St. John's Ravenscourt, Teacher: Ms. Wendy Owen)

Second place: Chelsea Chimilar, "An Immigrant's Story..." (Balmoral Hall, Teacher: Ms. Donna Alexander)

Third place: Starry Peng, "Creation of New Iceland..." (St. John's Ravenscourt, Teacher: Mr. Jeffrey Hull)

Historical Fiction

First place (tie): Erica Siddall, "One Amazing Woman" (Balmoral Hall, Teacher: Ms. Donna Alexander) and Breanna Mulhall, "One Bead at a Time" (St. Mary's Academy, Teacher: Mr. Dale Swirsky)

Second place: Jessica Enns, "Death at Dugald" (St. Mary's Academy, Teacher: Ms. Joy Beauchamp)

Third place: Jennifer Burgess, "Caged Bird" (St. Mary's Academy, Teacher: Mr. Dale Swirsky)

Red River Heritage Fair

The MHS selected three students at the Red River Regional Heritage Fair, held on 15 May, to receive a certificate for outstanding projects on Manitoba history:

Breanna Mulhall, "Mary Anne Gaboury Lagimodiere" (St. Mary's Academy); Cady Jessiman, "Time Stands Still at Victoria Beach" (Balmoral Hall); Alanna Flom, "Les Soeurs Grises" (Balmoral Hall).

Winners were selected by Mary Louise Zorniak, Diane Haglund, Joyce Wawrykow, and Cathy Phillipson.



G. Morlock

Paddlers of the 2008 Thompson Brigade, which recreated the 1808 travels of explorer David Thompson, left Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site in Alberta on 10 May, intending to arrive at Old Fort William on Lake Superior by 12 July. One of the canoes of the brigade was photographed on the Winnipeg River, near Sturgeon Falls, on 19 June.

Heritage News

St. Francois Xavier Historical Society held a one-day field trip going to Souris, Boissevain and Morden on Thursday, 26 June.

The *Wheat City Journal* reports that **Brandon City Council** has agreed to allot \$50,000 to investigate the No. 1 Fire Hall on Princess Avenue as a possible site for a general museum. The General Museum and Archives has as its mission to "collect, conserve, study, exhibit and interpret historic and heritage materials related to the city of Brandon and its place within the history of south-western Manitoba." A major focus of the museum is to be interactive and attractive to children. People are invited to submit their ideas for the museum to the clerk's office at the Brandon City Hall.

Major renovations are taking place at the **Miami Railway Station Museum**. The basement of the structure built in 1889 crumbled due to age, and water leaked in and froze causing further damage. This caused the museum to shut down last year. The building has been lifted off the foundation so that a new foundation can be built. The building will be lifted onto the new foundation and other renovations are planned. The project has received financial support from the Thomas Sill Foundation, Aggasiz Credit Union, Manitoba Culture and Heritage and Heartland Community Futures. For information on making a charitable donation, contact the RM of Thompson office in Miami at 204-453-2114.



Archives of Manitoba, Miami-Buildings-Railway Station 2, N18307.

Loitering at the station. L-R: Dan Leask, Olive Graham, and Jennie Scott at the Canadian Northern railway station in Miami, 1910.

The **Glenora Historical Society** is restoring a 119-year-old community church. Currently work continues on restoration of the foundation and exterior painting and window restoration will soon begin. Plans are under way to set up the Glenora Prairie Gardens History Museum on the site. The society is looking for old perennials, pictures, and stories that relate to plants of the early pioneers. For more information, phone Faye at 204-825-2445 or Glenice at 204-535-2270.

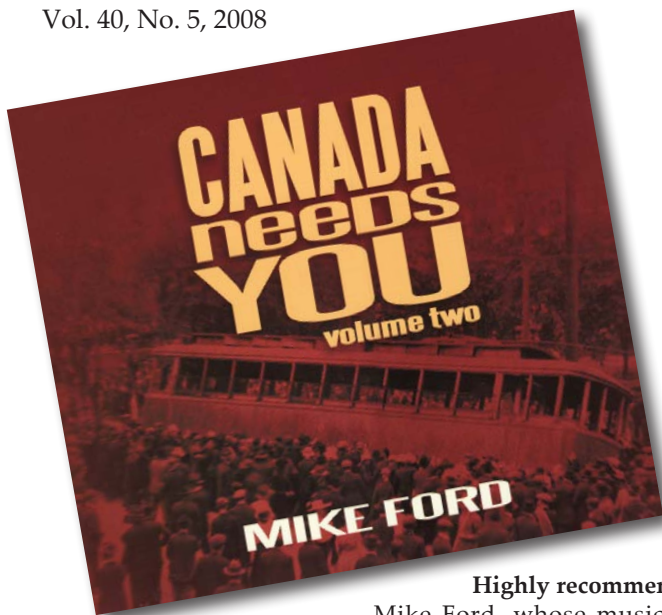
The *Swan Valley Star and Times* announces that it is now selling *A Centennial Chronicle Historical Happenings in the Town of Swan River* by Shirley Ross. The book is an expansion of her earlier book published in 1997, which had a series of historical facts gleaned from a hundred years of newspaper stories on **Swan River**. The second volume, commissioned by the Swan River Centennial Committee to mark the town's 100th anniversary, includes the complete text from the first book with additional historical photos and news clips to bring the story up to the present. Shirley Ross is well known in Swan River for her history column in the *Star and Times*.

A detailed article on the history of the Customs office at **Snowflake** from 1908 to 2008 appeared in *The Western Canadian* newspaper published in Manitou on 20 May 2008. A copy of the newspaper is available at the Manitoba Provincial Library. Snowflake first became a Customs Collecting and Manifesting Station under the Port of Winnipeg on 1 June 1908, replacing a former customs office at Mowbray, which had opened in 1899. An open house was held at the Snowflake Customs Station on 1 June to commemorate the anniversary.

The *Lac du Bonnet Leader* reports that the **Lac du Bonnet Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC)** this summer will develop the first official photographic inventory of approximately 60 known historical sites in the town and RM. Funding has come from the federal Historic Places Initiative in partnership with the Manitoba government's Heritage Matters campaign. Currently the MHAC, in partnership with organizations such as the Lac du Bonnet Historical Society, is helping to preserve a few heritage sites such as the Hans Erickson Log Cabin and the old Riverland School. The inventory will provide valuable information to MHAC on other sites as well.

The **Arborg Multicultural Heritage Village** was officially opened for the year on 23 May. The village has restored buildings that have been moved to the site: Sigvaldson House, Vigfusson House, Brandson House, the Bjarmi Church, (St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church), the restored St. Nicholas Parish Hall, Poplar Heights School. Other attractions include bread baking on an outdoor clay oven.

Riding Mountain National Park celebrated its 75th anniversary on 26 July but the entire summer season is filled with other special events such as re-enactments, tours, golf tournaments, parades, festivals and more. The Riding Mountains are what remains of the of the Lake Agassiz shoreline. The first known inhabitants of the area lived about 10,000 years ago. The Ojibwey occupied the land when European fur traders arrived. The area became a Dominion Timber Reserve in 1895. The Wasagaming area on Clear Lake was at one time known as Clark's Beach, named after the Clark family from Newdale who camped there in 1912. It was renamed Wasagaming in



Highly recommended.

Mike Ford, whose music was featured at the 2006 Macdonald Dinner, has released *Canada Needs You, Volume Two*, a second set of songs based on events from Canadian history (such as the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, illustrated on its cover). Picking up where 2004's *Volume 1* left off, Mike's new album is set in the twentieth century and is aimed at school-age kids. But it is just as much fun for adults. The catchy songs draw from a variety of musical genres, including folk, country, rock, soul, reggae, and others. Copies of the CD are available for \$18.00 from Maple Music (www.maplemusic.com).

1932 after a Cree word that means "clear water". The park was established in 1930 but it opened officially in 1933. Park buildings and other projects were constructed as part of depression relief programs. Camps for conscientious objectors and German prisoners of war were operating in the park during World War II.

The first **International Historic Preservation Conference** was held from 2 May to 4 May at the International Peace Garden. The conference theme was Preserving Prairie Places in the Heart of North America. Workshops included how to write national register nominations, fundraising for historic preservation and the art of masonry. Educational sessions focused on the history and architecture of the International Peace Garden and the history of the Turtle Band of the Chippewa. Conference tours visited Boissevain in Manitoba and also sites in North Dakota. The conference attracted heritage advocates from southwestern Manitoba and North Dakota.

The *Carberry News-Express* announced the arrival of architect Wins Bridgman's report concerning several Main Street heritage buildings in **Carberry**. The report looks at specific restoration and renovation concerns for individual buildings in the town's Heritage District. The structural assessments and recommendations along with photo documentation in the report will be very helpful to building owners and local authorities as they make decisions for the future.

The *Winnipeg Free Press* reports that a plaque has been unveiled in what is now the town of **Bissett** to honour trapper Duncan Twohearts from the Sagkeeng area who found a piece of a piece of gold-flecked quartz in 1911 on his trapline along the Manigotagan River. He showed the piece to prospector Ephrem Pelletier and the result was a mini gold rush in the Bissett area in the 1920s and 1930s, although Twohearts benefited only modestly for the discovery. The San Antonio, which opened in 1941, still operates today as the Rice Lake Gold Mine. Aboriginal people are still benefiting today from the more than 150 jobs they hold at the San Corporation gold mine.

In London, England on 19 July 2008, His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex took part in a ceremony to repatriate the **Sir Samuel Steele** Collection. The colourful ceremony took place on the steps of Canada House and featured a Mounted Ceremonial Contingent including a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and two members from the Household Cavalry. The Collection was accepted by the High Commissioner, and will be returned to Canada. Following the ceremony, enthusiastic guests were treated to a preview of collection items and brief remarks by HRH The Earl of Wessex, Canadian High Commissioner James Wright and University of Alberta Chancellor Dr. Eric Newell. Steele (1849–1919) was a celebrated member of the North-West Mounted Police, the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), and a major factor in the military and policing history of Western Canada. The University of Alberta together with Glenbow Museum will preserve the contents of this historically important collection. When made available publicly for research and scholarship, these materials are expected to revitalize the history of early settlement, policing and Canada's major military campaigns. It will also significantly supplement works already published.

Testaments of Faith Manitoba's Pioneer Churches, an exhibition of photographs by Tyrrell Mendis, was displayed from 3 July to 31 July at CP Station Galleries, 425 Sixth Avenue South, in **Virden**.

Important Reminders

- Renewal invoices are sent to members, and are payable on receipt. Members are encouraged to help us reduce costs by checking their labels and sending in renewals when due. Renewal can be done by mail, phone, or visiting the MHS office (Wednesdays, Thursdays, 1:00 to 5:00 pm). Cash (in person), cheque, Visa or MasterCard are accepted.
- Your donations are needed to support ongoing work of the Manitoba Historical Society. Tax receipts are issued for donations over \$10.



V. Sawelo

Todd and Daniel Schulz ploughed the Ross House garden before spring planting.

Ross House Museum

Ross House is more than a museum. It also has a strong community focus. Jane's Walk, a walking tour held in many Canadian cities, was a major event on 3 May. The walks commemorate Jane Jacobs, the Toronto-based urbanist and activist who championed in her writing a fresh community-based approach to city building. Carl James and Todd Schulz led the Jane's Walk tour of 85 participants through North Point Douglas. When Victor Sawelo, the Ross House manager, attended the AGM of the Point Douglas Residents' Committee, he provided a display promoting the Manitoba Historical Society. Ross House Museum attracted 138 visitors on 24 and 25 May as part of Heritage Winnipeg's Open Doors event. Summerfest, held every Saturday afternoon from 18 May to 30 August, is organized by the Point Douglas Residents' Committee and managed by the North Point Douglas Women's Association and MHS Ross House Museum. Summerfest activities, including various forms

of entertainment and cultural celebrations, take place in Joe Zuken Park at the amphitheatre.

The annual Canada Day celebrations took place at Ross House on 1 July. We are thankful to Member of Parliament for Winnipeg North, Judy Wasylycia-Leis, for launching the Canadian Flag at this event as she has for many years. Visitors, mostly from the Point Douglas area, enjoyed a healthy variety of food: bannock, apples, bananas, fruit juice, cake and iced tea.

Ross House Museum is staffed by Victor Sawelo, Daniel Schulz and Todd Schulz. It is open from Wednesday to Sunday. There is no charge for admission. The museum closes for the year on 31 August. For more information, please phone 204-943-3958.



V. Sawelo

Entertainers performed at Summerfest in the outdoor amphitheatre at Joe Zuken Park.



W. Fraser

An array of healthy food was served to Ross House visitors on Canada Day.

Centennial Farms

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

Fannystelle	Emile & Doreen Arnal	S 34-9-3 NW27-9-3 WPM 1907
Ladywood	Ernest & Carol Weselak	NE 14-14-7 WPM 1898
Portage la Prairie	Allen & Yvette Cuthbert	S 13-7-7 ESW13-7-7 WPM 1904
Vogar	John & Vera Johnson	NW 23-22-10 WPM 1908

The Manitoba Historical Society est 1879

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☐ Awards ☐ Programming ☐ Other: _____



Calendar of Events

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

- 31 August** Ross House Museum closes for the season
- 5-7 September** Manitoba Living History Society, Fall Gathering at Fort Gibraltar
- 8 September** Switzer-Cooperstock Lecture, *Jewish Pioneers on the Canadian Prairies ...*, Asper Jewish Community Campus
- 15 September** Book Club guest Marjorie Anderson speaking on her book *Blessed: Portrait of Asdis Sigrun Anderson*

- 20 September** MHS walking tour of historic Point Douglas from Ross House Museum
- 24-27 September** Northern Great Plains History Conference, Brandon
- 20 October** Dodie Metcalfe & Pat Challis lead discussion on Charlotte Gray's *Nellie McClung*
- 17 November** Judy Valenzuela leads discussion on Judith Hudson Beattie & Helen M. Buss, *Undelivered Letters...*

Time Lines, Vol. 40, No. 5, 2008

ISSN 1715-8567

Time Lines is the newsletter of the Manitoba Historical Society, © 2008. 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. See the MHS web site for details.

Manitoba Historical Society, est 1879

www.mhs.mb.ca

President: Dr. Harry Duckworth

Office Manager: Jacqueline Friesen

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

Time Lines Layout: Salix Consulting

Office & Dalnavert

61 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 1N7
Office: 204-947-0559, info@mhs.mb.ca
Dalnavert: 204-943-2835, dalnavert@mhs.mb.ca

Ross House

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