

# Time Lines

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

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MHS President  
Dr. Harry Duckworth

## President's Column

It's a pleasure to present my first President's Report, on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the MHS. The first of my two years in this office is just coming to an end, and for me it has illustrated the well-known fact, that you cannot really know how an organization works, or what it does,

until you carry some responsibility for it. During the presidencies of Gordon Goldsborough and Jack Bumsted, I served on the MHS Executive, where I gradually learned quite a bit about what the Society does, what its strengths are and where there are problems to be solved; but this past year has still been an eye-opener for me.

For many members, the Society's program events, and the Macdonald Dinner, are very important parts of the life of the Society; for it is only at events like these that the membership actually gets together in the same room. I did not attend all the events arranged by the Program Committee in 2008-2009, but I have warm memories of the visit to the Masonic library in January (where the Masonic Grand Lodge of Manitoba generously provided a crowd of MHS members with lunch, along with a tour of their historically valuable collection of archival materials), and of the Ethnic Dinner, hosted by the Polish Combatants Association, in March. Both events were well attended, and I know that many members took advantage of the other program events during the year. We are all indebted to Carl James and his Program Committee, with a particular thanks to Patricia Forsythe for organizing the Ethnic Dinner. A separate Committee, chaired by Jack Bumsted,

## MHS Annual Report 2008-09

The 2008-09 Annual Report was distributed at the Annual General Meeting held at the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre on 13 June.

It contains updates on our award programs (Centennial Business, Centennial Farm, Centennial Organization, McWilliams, Young Historians, Kemp), committees (Program, Book Club, Macdonald Dinner, and Publications), museums (Dalnavert, Ross House), and financial information for the past fiscal year.

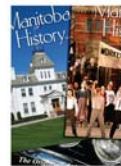
Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained by contacting the MHS office (204-947-0559, [info@mhs.mb.ca](mailto:info@mhs.mb.ca)) or by downloading from the web site ([www.mhs.mb.ca](http://www.mhs.mb.ca)).



## Annual Report 2008-09



The  
**MANITOBA  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**  
Est. 1879



was responsible for organizing the Macdonald Dinner in January, when we heard an address by Alan Latourelle, CEO of the Parks Canada Agency, in which he outlined, entertainingly and with a light touch, the important responsibilities that his Agency has for built and natural heritage across this land. I thank Jack, his Committee, and Jackie Friesen for their work in making the Dinner a success.

I repeat congratulations to one of our Past-Presidents, Gordon Goldsborough, who was presented with the Kemp Award, for unusually valuable service to the Society, at the Macdonald Dinner. As Chair of the Dalnavert Management Committee, Gordon was responsible for dealing with the construction of the Dalnavert Visitor Centre. As webmaster, the manager of the Society's website, he has turned our website into a resource of paramount importance for Manitoba history.

I also wish to note the honours that have been attracted by the latest book by our immediate Past President, Jack Bumsted. This book, *Lord Selkirk: A Life*, was published last fall, with a launch at Dalnavert, and it has won the prestigious and lucrative J. W. Dafoe Prize, plus our own Margaret McWilliams Award for professional history writing. It is likely that this book will soon be gathering further awards. This book, for which Jack has been gathering materials for much of his professional life, should be a great source of pride to our Society.

Two other members of the MHS Council completed and published books on aspects of Manitoba history, which were recognized by the Association of Manitoba Archives, during the past year. Owen Clark's book is entitled *Musical Ghosts: Manitoba's Jazz and Dance Bands*. Gordon Goldsborough's book is *With One Voice: A History of Municipal Governance in Manitoba*. Congratulations to them both.

Like almost every group, club and society today, the MHS faces continuing challenges that have to do with membership numbers and with money. Given the importance of the work we do and the issues we support, our membership is small, and many people in the province with an interest in history and heritage (and with the means and energy to promote it) are not yet members of our Society, and know little about us. We are constantly struggling with the question of how to attract these people and also young people, to become members. Last year, the Membership Committee, chaired by our Treasurer, Gwyneth Jones, obtained a grant from

the Winnipeg Foundation for a project to increase the Society's profile in Winnipeg, and to increase our membership. The Membership Committee has developed some strategies that are about to be put into play. You may look forward to more news about a membership drive and related initiatives in the next few months.

Our other challenges have to do with money. The Society as a whole is running at a deficit, and the Executive is in the midst of assessing how to get our costs better under control. The generous Cunnings bequest in 2007 has taken some of the immediate pressure off, but the problem will not go away, and I am starting to identify areas where we may be able to save money without jeopardizing members' services. I will be asking the Publications Committee to examine their costs of production of Manitoba History and Time Lines—particularly Manitoba History, which is certainly one of the highest-quality society journals in the country, but unfortunately costs the Society significantly more to produce and mail than we recover in sales and membership subscriptions. Our other major responsibility, the Dalnavert Museum, has a balanced budget, but a significant part of its revenue is in the form of income from an MHS endowment fund (the Manitoba Heritage Trust) managed by the Winnipeg Foundation. At a special meeting called by the Foundation last December, the Trustees of our fund were warned that the worldwide financial meltdown that began last fall would have a serious impact on the capital amount of our Trust, and on the amount of income to be expected in the future. The Foundation people urged us, and the Trustees of other funds that they administer, to consider serious fundraising to increase the capital amounts, and thus keep the income payouts the same. The alternative for us would be to make do with a much lower income from the Trust, and try to cope with the consequent funding shortfall at Dalnavert in some other way. This is an important policy matter for the Society, since large-scale fundraising requires good connections in the community and much energy, and with the economy still under pressure, now is not a good moment to ask donors for money. Deciding what to do about the Manitoba Heritage Trust and the effect that its fortunes will have on Dalnavert operations will be a topic of importance for the coming year.

I have two new Society initiatives to mention, about which much more information will be coming soon.

First, the Society has decided to take the lead in establishing a program to install historical markers or plaques on buildings of historic interest, both in Winnipeg and throughout the province. The MHS Council approved this idea, and Ross Metcalfe, one of our Councillors, has taken on the job of chairing the Committee. Plans have been made, and it is hoped to make a start on the program this summer, and expand it rapidly over the course of the next year. Second, Manitoba is fast approaching the bicentenary of the arrival of the first party of Selkirk Settlers. This anniversary will be in the year 2012, and it is important for the Society to take a leading role in observing the event, while placing it in a context that will make it meaningful to all present-day Manitobans. We must also communicate effectively with the other groups who are already planning commemoration events. The Executive has appointed me to chair a Selkirk Settlers Bicentennial Committee, and I have just begun to invite a few people to join it. It should not take long for us to decide what events the Society will organize for 2012, and I expect to report on the plans early in the fall.

Each year, the Society has occasion to mourn the loss of long-time members. During the past year we lost Hartwell Bowsfield; Muriel Brokke; Jean Dupont; Babs Friesen and Dr Rhinehart F. Friesen, her husband; Denzil Gamble; James Hartman; Prof. Chris Jensen; Anton Kirk; Suzanne Lucas; Eileen Pruden; Betty Richards; and Clarke Robson. I particularly regret the passing of Gillian Covernton, formerly an officer of the Society and member of a number of important committees, at the tragically early age of 31.

Finally, some words of thanks. The Executive—Past-President Jack Bumsted, Vice-President Annabelle Mays, Treasurer Gwyneth Jones, and Secretary Francis Carroll—have been an indispensable source of advice, consultation, and hard work. The members of the MHS Council, and the Chairs and members of our various Committees have done their jobs well, and some of the Committee Chairs in particular put in efforts well beyond what most of us can ever realize. Bob Coutts, as editor of *Manitoba History*, has continued to make that magazine one of the premier society magazines in Canada. Bill Fraser, editor of *Time Lines*, has been indefatigable in identifying items of Society interest and putting them in print. Gordon Goldsborough, our webmaster, has continued to build the Society's website into a remarkably large and complete source of information

on Manitoba's history and its personalities. Lastly, I'm personally grateful for the dedication of our staff—Jackie Friesen, the Society's Manager; Linda Neyedly, Director of the Dalnavert Museum; and Victor Sawelo, Manager of the Ross House Museum. My relations with each of them have been productive and enjoyable. I must mention Jackie Friesen in particular, as she has been a valued support to me on all aspects of the Society's operations, without whose knowledge and wisdom my job would have been vastly more difficult. A heartfelt thanks to all.

### Dalnavert Museum Report

Over the past year, Dalnavert Museum continued to be a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. In addition to providing guided tours for 3,000-plus guests, we hosted events ranging from birthday parties to business meetings, Christmas parties, bridal showers and complete wedding packages (ceremony, reception and photos). Our bookings included: 34 business meetings, 22 birthday parties, ten private functions, five weddings, four bridal showers, and thirteen wedding photo sessions. We had three coach tours, six group tours and 22 educational tours. Due to the economic downturn, overall gift shop revenues were down \$3,000 from 2007/2008. Hopefully, consumer confidence will return and sales will pick up in the coming year.

Special events for the past year included a workshop presentation of a new play by Anne Nesbitt, *Grey Owl, Pilgrim of the Wild* on 13 April. Our Spring Tea, on 26 April, ghost hunts in partnership with the Shadows of the Paranormal group on 28 June and 25 October, a harpsichord concert of baroque music on 26 October, a Heritage Needle Arts Fair on 22 November, a reading for children on 7 December and the sold-out Dickens' readings by Richard Hurst from 16 to 22 December.

Dickens Village pieces from the Lobban collection were displayed in our Visitors' Centre auditorium. Other displays set up by volunteers Jane Fudge, Mary Steinhoff and Virginia Lockett were themed around costume accessories, wedding etiquette and the Margaret Scott Mission.

A dedicated group of "core" volunteers—supplemented by university students and recent graduates—assisted with day-to-day activities like tours, reception duties and gift shop sales, and gardening. We extend sincere thanks to all of them.



Museum staff, summer students and weekend helpers were all essential to our operations, too. Marg Kentner provided expertise in gift shop display and purchasing, while Victor Sawelo lent a hand (literally) with repairs and maintenance.

Linda Neyedly, Museum Director

### New Website on Western Landmarks, Monuments & Built Heritage

A major component of community life is the landmarks, monuments and built heritage within that community. Canadian historians have often claimed that the physical and geographical heritage of Canadians has played a key role in the development of our identity as a nation. Western Canadians, in particular, have been shaped by their landscapes and architecture. From sod huts to towering skyscrapers, the built heritage of western communities has influenced the development of the region and the people.

The University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections, along with its partners, the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg Archives, the Canadian Architectural Archives, and the Archives of Manitoba, have created a website devoted to western Canada's architectural history and the effects it has had on Canadian society. The 7000 textual documents, photographs, blueprints, films, and sound clips that comprise Landmarks, Monuments & Built Heritage of the West document this rich historical legacy.

The site includes nearly 2,000 photographs of buildings, landmarks, and monuments by famed architect and photographer, Henry Kalen; several hand-drawn original blueprints and designs of Ukrainian Catholic churches by Father Philip Ruh; a film depicting the horrific fire that destroyed one of Father Ruh's churches in Mountain Road, Manitoba; newspaper clippings from the *Winnipeg Tribune* documenting the city's turbulent relationship with its heritage buildings; plus over 100 architectural drawings of the beautiful and intricately designed Marine Building in Vancouver. In addition, an educational site with targeted content for children in Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 4 explains the value of landmarks in Manitoba communities through mapping exercises and digitized photographs.

Immerse yourself in the history of your surroundings by visiting the Landmarks, Monuments and Built Heritage of the West website at:

[http://umanitoba.ca/libraries/archives/digital/built\\_heritage](http://umanitoba.ca/libraries/archives/digital/built_heritage)

This project was made possible through the Canadian Culture Online Program of Canadian Heritage, Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Council of Archives. Contact Brett Lougheed at 204-474-8243 or [brett\\_lougheed@umanitoba.ca](mailto:brett_lougheed@umanitoba.ca) for further information.

### Jane's Walks

Almost 500 people participated in one of the eleven Jane's Walks, free walking tours through Winnipeg's historic neighbourhoods on 2 and 3 May to honour Jane Jacobs. Jane's Walk events have been held in North American cities since urban activist Jane Jacob's death in 2006. Someone who was very familiar with the history of the area led each walking tour. Point Douglas, Old St. Vital, Transcona, St. Boniface, Seven Oaks and Fort Rouge were some of the communities toured. The Point Douglas tour started from Ross House Museum.

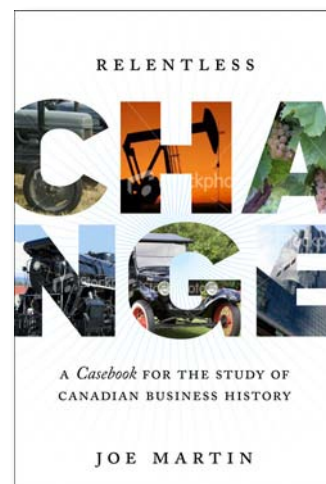


V. Sawelo

Jane's Walk Point Douglas tour begins at Ross House Museum.

### Canadian Business History

Former MHS President Joe Martin will launch his new book *Relentless Change: A Casebook for the Study of Canadian Business History* at the Fort Garry Hotel on Monday, 21 September, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.



## MHS Book Club Schedule, 2009-2010

Unless noted, meetings are 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre. Please confirm attendance with Judy 204-475-6666. L= Leader, T= Treats, WPL = Winnipeg Public Library.

**21 September:** Guest: Jack Bumsted, author of *Lord Selkirk: A Life* (2008, WPL-3 copies). T-Carol Scott.

**19 October:** Howard Adams, *Prison of Grass: Canada from the Native Point of View* (1975, WPL-3 copies) L-Joe Upton; T-Marg Kentner.

**16 November:** Mary Quayle Innis, *Mrs. Simcoe's Diary* (1965, WPL-2 copies) L-Céline Kear; T-Cathy Phillipson (there are also biographies).

**18 January:** Maggie Siggins, *Marie-Anne: the extraordinary life of Louis Riel's grandmother* (2008, WPL-12 copies) L-Neil Challis; T-Pat Challis.

**15 February:** James Raffan, *Emperor of the North: Sir George Simpson and the Remarkable Story of the Hudson's Bay Company* (2007, WPL-12 copies) L-Shirlee Anne Smith.

**15 March:** Sarah Carter, *The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation Building in Western Canada to 1915* (2008 WPL-2 copies) L & T-Judy Valenzuela.

**19 April:** Tom Avery, *To the End of the Earth: Our Epic Journey to the North Pole and the Legend of Peary and Henson* (2009, WPL-on order) L-Marg Kentner.

**17 May 6 pm:** Potluck, books for next year

## Heritage Fairs

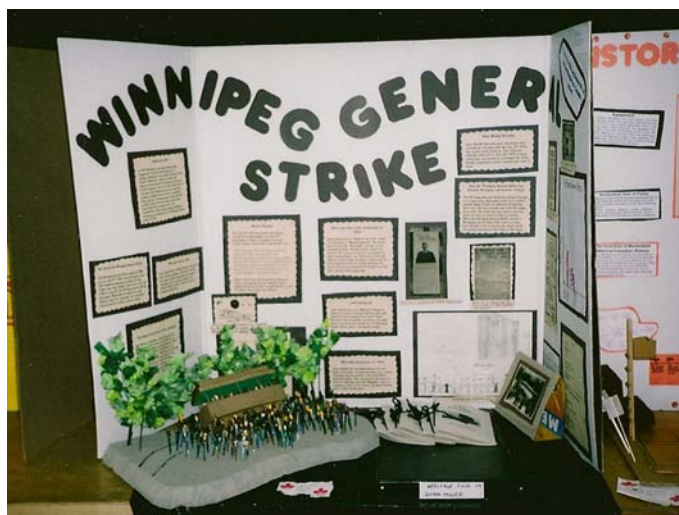
Heritage Fairs are the equivalent of Science Fair for students, only for history and heritage. Fairs are held across Canada with support of the Historical Foundation ([www.histori.ca](http://www.histori.ca)).

Manitoba Heritage Fairs were held in May for students up to grade nine. The MHS provided judges for three Fairs, St. James, Selkirk, and Red River Regional. We thank Gina German, Judith Hudson Beattie, Jane Frain, Irene Peters, Cecile Alarie-Skene and Cathy Phillipson for their interest in the Heritage Fair program and their help in selecting winners.



J. Hudson Beattie

Lower Fort Garry project by Hailee Truthwaite, grade six, Centennial School, Selkirk.



C. Phillipson

Winnipeg General Strike project by Quinn Miller, grade six, J.B. Mitchell School, Winnipeg.



J. Hudson Beattie

Kayli Hall, grade nine, John Taylor Collegiate, St. James in front of her project on the fur trade, left: Irene Peters, right: Jane Frain.



## Heritage News

Negotiations for the **Upper Fort Garry Project** are finally completed. On 1 June Dr. Jerry Gray, Chair of the Friends of Upper Fort Garry formally announced that the Friends had taken possession of the two parcels of city land near the Fort Garry Gate. Premier Garry Doer announced that the provincial government had purchased the Petro-Canada Station next to the Gate. Arrangements to purchase and eventually demolish the Grain Exchange Curling Rink were announced earlier. Demolition of the former city office building at 100 Main Street will occur this fall and some landscaping for the heritage park will begin this summer.

**Conservation Minister Stan Struthers** announced that one million dollars will be spent for the preservation the **Trappist Monastery Ruins** south of Winnipeg in St. Norbert. Construction will begin immediately on the ruins of the chapel and monastery, which were established in 1892 along the LaSalle River. In 1983, fire gutted the buildings but the ruins were preserved. The site became a popular location for special events, such as for Shakespeare in the Ruins productions and for wedding photos. In 2002, the Manitoba government declared the Trappist Monastery a provincial heritage park. Repairs totalling \$350,000 are expected to be completed as soon as May 2011 but other restoration will raise the cost to a million dollars. The first task will be to strengthen the top of the tower and the southeast corner of the chapel ruins. Preservation work on the monastic wing will follow.



W. Fraser

Workers on scaffolds inside the chapel of the Trappist Monastery Ruins.

The *Stonewall Argus* reports that a large arts component planned for the **Quarry Park Interpretive Centre** has

been scrapped because \$2 million in federal funding has not materialized. The cost of the building has been reduced from \$6 million to \$4 million and the square footage has been reduced from 12,000 to 6,500. The new interpretive centre is expected to open in June 2010. The Quarry Park Interpretative Centre in Stonewall has hired an interpretive planner to help design the museum space in the new centre. She is looking for artefacts, photos, stories and information about the quarries that operated from the 1880s to the 1960s. For more information, call the Quarry Park Manager, Catherine Precourt, at 204-467-7980 or email [stoneqp@stonewall.ca](mailto:stoneqp@stonewall.ca).

The newly renovated visitors' centre at **Lower Fort Garry** opened on 22 May. New exhibits involve touch-screen computer tables and a number of smart boards showing short videos. Over \$800,000 was invested in the revitalization project and over \$2 million is allotted for improvements to water and wastewater treatment infrastructure in the park.

The Historic Galloway Building in **Gladstone** has returned to its former grandeur. Roper and William Galloway opened the 10,560 square foot department store in 1902. They sold it in 1909 but for many years, it continued as a department store, a hardware store and a dance hall. Four years ago, local businessman Mike Vercaigne bought the building. Over the next few years he reduced it to a shell and made a total renovation. Now in its completed form, the building houses one office and seven new apartments with a common room for tenants.

The *Neepawa Banner* on 15 May was pleased to announce that **Neepawa** will be hosting Manitoba's 140<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in May 2010. The Manitoba Homecoming 2020 Committee organized the contest and the winner was chosen by online voting between 8 April and 8 May, beating out La Broquerie, La Salle, Morden and Thompson.

Congratulations to **Teyana Neufeld** who received a Manitoba Day Award presented by the Manitoba Archives Association on 7 May. She was nominated by the Boissevain Morton Regional Library where she did extensive research for the book, *Vantage Points*, a project of the Manitoba Turtle Mountain Souris Plains Heritage Association. The book is a collection of stories exploring the heritage and history of southwestern Manitoba.

Plans in **Transcona** to upgrade Kiwanis Park and to build a protective structure around the CN 2747



W. Fraser

CN 2747 steam locomotive in Kiwanis Park, Transcona.

steam locomotive, the first one built in Western Canada, were unveiled recently. The owner of the locomotive, the Winnipeg Railway Museum, wanted to display it in its museum at the VIA Rail Union Station on Main Street where it would be protected from vandals and harsh weather. For many years, there was strong opposition expressed by Bill Briercliffe and others who opposed any suggestion the locomotive should be removed from community where it was built over 80 years ago. "We heard from people in the community that we were taking something away that belonged to Transcona, but you have to look at it from our perspective. We wanted to make sure it was protected," said Ben Van de Mosselaer, president of the railway museum. However, the museum decided that it would be too costly to move it. "We'd like to have it in the museum. It would be a nice piece and it does belong in the museum, but as long as it's protected and preserved, it can stay there," said Van de Mosselaer, adding that it is in need of major repairs.

**The Manitoba Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada** will hold its fall meeting in Neepawa on Saturday, 26 September 2009 at 11 am at the Presbyterian Church, corner of First Avenue and Mill Street. Following a brief meeting, there will be a tour of the church, the oldest church in Neepawa built in 1891 and designated in 1992 as a Provincial Heritage Site.

After a lunch provided by the women of the church there will be a tour of the Beautiful Plains Court House (built in 1884 and declared a Provincial Historic Site in 1982). It is one of only two remaining courthouses in Western Canada still being used for its original purpose. There will also be a visit to the wonderful Beautiful Plains Museum built as the CNR Station in 1902 and provincially designated in 1984.

There will be a map available marking all of the heritage buildings and sites in Neepawa including the Margaret Lawrence Home for those whose travel time permits a tour of the town. Should you wish to join us, please let one of the following know of your intent: Barb: [bjandrew@westman.wave.ca](mailto:bjandrew@westman.wave.ca) or 204-727-3054 Margaret: [jmcarter@mts.net](mailto:jmcarter@mts.net) 204-489-6954 or Lynn: 204-257-7724. The cost of the lunch will be \$15.00 per person.

The third annual "Gossip in the Graveyard" was held in **Brandon Cemetery**. Local actors portrayed well-known figures buried in the cemetery. Visitors were encouraged to talk with these figures to learn about life in a different time. Proceeds were donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation of Canada.

The *Brandon Sun Community news* reports that **Daly House Museum** in Brandon has received a \$1,000 grant from Shell Community Service Fund for the museum's Victorian Garden Project. Museum president Murray Graham said, "The Victorian Garden will provide a new green space for Brandon where people can come and enjoy the garden setting, as well as providing a suitable setting for Daly House, one of Brandon's most historic buildings. In addition it will provide a wonderful venue for conducting events and outdoor activities both by Daly House museum and other groups." Information about the Shell Community Service Fund is available at [www.shell.ca/community](http://www.shell.ca/community)

The *Virten Empire-Advance* on 13 June reports that a team of eleven archaeologists about 22 kilometres west of Virten discovered layers of artefacts along **Pipestone Creek**, which may date back to the end of the Ice Age. Weapons and tools included flint knives, which probably originated in the Black Hills in South Dakota. Senior archaeologist Rob Wondrasek of Tera Environmental Consultants in Calgary said that it is a historical fallacy that the Hudson Bay Company came to North America and introduced commerce as an idea to aboriginal people. "What really happened is that the HBC fur trade was incorporated into an existing trade network that was already thousands of years old."

The **Association of Manitoba Archives** with representation from archives in Altona, Brandon, Boissevain, Carberry, MacGregor, Minnedosa, St Claude, Winkler and Winnipeg met in the Winkler Centennial Library on 25 April, led by AMA coordinator Diane Haglund. A gallery exhibit of 25 photos from the different archives is being developed



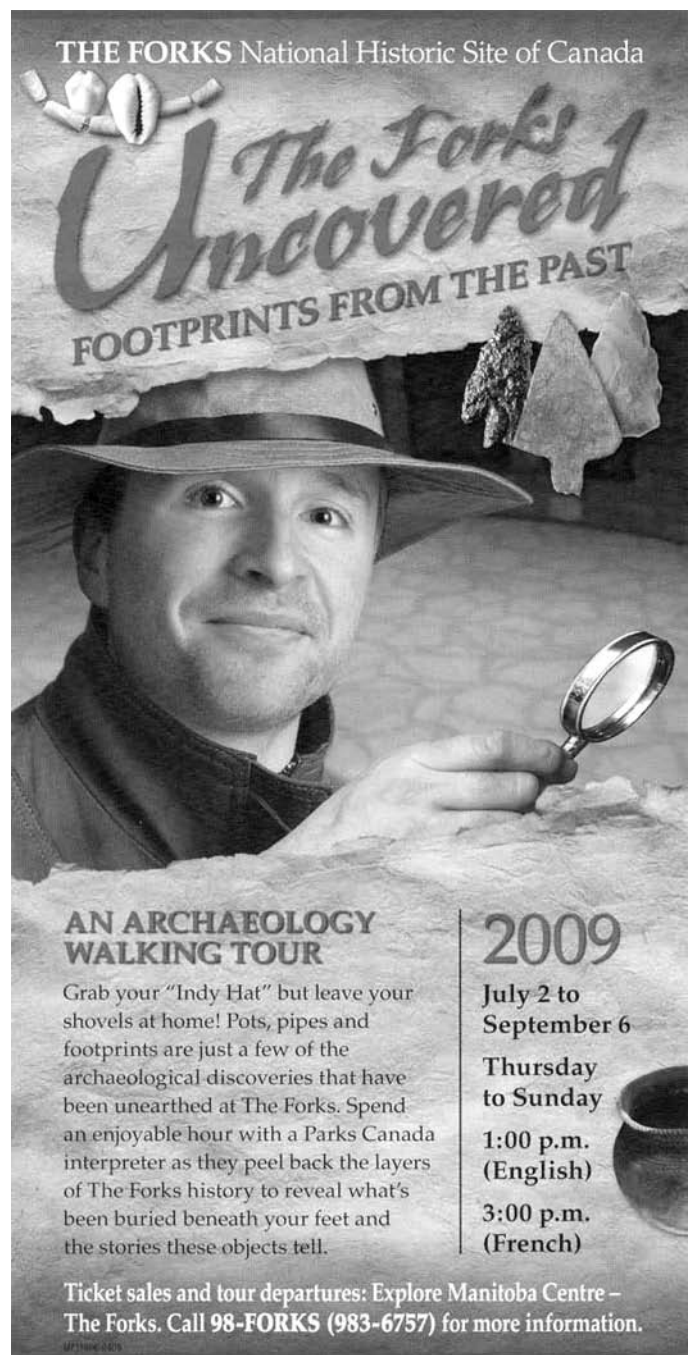
for display in the eleven rural areas. The next meeting will be held in Boissevain in September.

The Manitoba Heritage Council hosted a dedication ceremony in **Wawanesa** on 28 May to recognize the original Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company Building, which was constructed in 1901, and an addition built in 1907. It has been designated as a municipal heritage building. Today the building houses the Sipiweske Museum. Wawanesa Mutual, with branches across Canada and United States, now has its executive offices in Winnipeg but its head office is still in Wawanesa in a building that was constructed across the street from the original building in 1930.

The village of **Langruth** will celebrate its centennial from 31 July to 2 August. There will be a parade, a centennial dance and a barbecue on Saturday and Sunday. The school will be the centre for registration, and displays of historic memorabilia from organizations, families and the community. Other events include a tea in the community hall on Saturday, a non-denominational church service on Sunday, an antique machinery display, family and friend's slo-pitch and a beer garden. For more information, phone Ted Jonasson at 204-445-2254.

### Minister of Transport Called Upon to Save Winnipeg Airport Terminal

On 11 June 2009, the Heritage Canada Foundation (HCF) wrote to John Baird, federal Minister of Transport, to request his intervention on behalf of Winnipeg's James Armstrong Richardson International Airport, which is at risk of demolition. Considered one of Canada's finest examples of modern architecture, the airport terminal was included on HCF's 2009 Top Ten Endangered Places List. HCF is urging the Minister to comply with the federal government's own policies for protecting historic places owned by the government, and submit this building for heritage evaluation. "This iconic structure deserves careful consideration. It does not make economic, environmental or cultural sense to turn this landmark into landfill," said HCF executive director Natalie Bull. Opened in 1964, the Winnipeg airport terminal "was hailed as one of those most remarkable buildings in the city ... spacious, sophisticated, and modern," wrote conservation architect Bernard Flaman in "The Winnipeg Airport," his contribution to *Winnipeg Modern: Architecture, 1945-1975* (University of Manitoba Press). "It was



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**2009**  
July 2 to September 6  
Thursday to Sunday  
1:00 p.m. (English)  
3:00 p.m. (French)

Ticket sales and tour departures: Explore Manitoba Centre – The Forks. Call 98-FORKS (983-6757) for more information.

part of a network of major terminals built across the country between 1958 and 1968 by the Canadian Department of Transport."

### Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame 2009 Inductees

Nine Manitobans were inducted into the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame at the William Glesby Centre in Portage La Prairie on 16 July.

Allan and Edythe Arnott of Darlingford have been involved in many agricultural enterprises for more



than fifty years. These include extension service cooperative programs and breeder seed trials for triticale. Allan promoted the introduction of canola, and grew and marketed certified seed. Edythe was involved in managing, marketing and accounting and owned a specialized hog operation and a U-Pick raspberry business.

Mabel (McAlpin) Bell Britton (now deceased) of Killarney was a home economist. As a food specialist with the Manitoba Extension Service, she developed adult learning programs. She was charter president of the Red Cross Region One, the first Manitoba region established outside of Winnipeg.

John Murray Cormack of Winnipeg began his career as an agricultural representative in 1957. He went on to serve as assistant deputy minister and deputy minister of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in the 1960s. Later he made several career changes, all agriculture related, in both western and central Canada.

David Gislason of Arborg pioneered the use of leafcutter bees for the pollination of forage crops. He is Chair of the Manitoba Farm Products Marketing Council.

### **Ralph Connor House Named a National Historic Site**

The Board of Friends of Ralph Connor House received a letter from the Hon. Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment, on 29 April, officially designating Ralph Connor House at 54 West Gate in Winnipeg a national historic site. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada made the recommendation to the Minister. A 25 page illustrated nomination document had been prepared and submitted to Ottawa by members of the University Women's Club of Winnipeg. A 25-page illustrated nomination document was prepared and submitted to Ottawa by members of the University Women's Club who served on the Heritage House Conservation Committee, a subcommittee of Friends of Ralph Connor House. Both City and Province have already declared the House a heritage site.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board recommended the House for designation because: "built by the Reverend Charles Gordon, this large, well-appointed house reflects his very public position as the best-selling Canadian author of the early 20th century, and his prominence as one of Canada's best-known writers at that time; at least



W. Fraser

Ralph Connor House, 54 West Gate.

13 of the 22 Christian adventure novels Gordon wrote under the pen name of Ralph Connor were published while he was living in this house; it represents the public face of the Reverend Gordon, a leading Presbyterian churchman who for twenty-five years used the house as a manse from which he undertook many important activities in the area of social activism." Many descendants of Rev. Charles and Helen Gordon live in Winnipeg and carry on the Gordon tradition of service to the community.

The UWC has received several awards for its ceaseless efforts for over 70 years in preserving this beautiful 1914 Jacobethan Revival mansion on the Assiniboine River in Armstrong's Point. The FRCH formed in 2005 has the responsibility to continue the maintenance of the house and to carry out a major fundraising campaign to conserve the "house that books built." The house is available to the public for family and business events and is still the clubhouse for the University Women's Club (est. 1909). The unveiling ceremony of a bilingual plaque will take place in October 2010.

For more about Ralph Connor House see the website [www.ralphconnorhouse.com](http://www.ralphconnorhouse.com) and the book *54 West Gate: Stories of Ralph Connor House* available at McNally Robinson Booksellers.

### **Winnipeg's Ukrainian Labour Temple to be Designated as National Historic Site**

On 28 April 2009, a dinner and cultural evening was held at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on Pritchard

Avenue in Winnipeg to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its construction. A highlight of the evening was an announcement by Myron Shatulsky, a lifelong member of the Labour Temple and its historian, and Dr. Nolan Reilly, a Professor of History at the University of Winnipeg (and Associate Editor of the MHS's journal *Manitoba History*). An application they had submitted to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada three years ago, in support of designation of the Labour Temple as a National Historic Site, has been accepted. The official designation will occur in a ceremony likely to be scheduled for Autumn 2009.

### Historic House Doomed By Misspelling?

On 24 June 2009, the Winnipeg City Council voted to remove 101-year-old Dennistoun House on Roslyn Road from its list of historic buildings, clearing the way for its demolition so a condominium can be erected on the site. This was the third and final vote on the proposal, the city's Property and Development Committee and Executive Policy Committee having agreed to it earlier in the month. In a strange twist, Winnipeg mayor Sam Katz justified the decision on grounds of confusion about the correct spelling of the house's name. Known since 1984 as Dennistown House, the building's name commemorated its first owner, lawyer and judge Robert Maxwell Dennistoun (1864-1952). The misspelling was introduced by a 1984 report on the house by the Winnipeg Historical Buildings Committee. It was corrected only when the MHS reported the error to the *Winnipeg Free Press* a week before the final city council vote. Heritage Winnipeg opposed the demolition of Dennistoun House, citing its historical significance. Katz disagreed, using the fact the building has been known for 25 years by the wrong name as proof it is not historically significant.

### Centennial Farms

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

<b>Minnedosa</b>	Herbert & Elma Sharpley	SE 35-12-18 WPM 1909
<b>Oak River</b>	Brian & Margaret Burt and Brent & Wendi Burt	SE 35-12-22 WPM 1904 SW 35-12-22 WPM 1905



G. Goldsborough

Edward S. Kennedy, President and CEO of the North West Company, was the speaker at a luncheon following the 2009 MHS Annual General Meeting. Although established in 1987, his Winnipeg-based company's legacy goes back much farther to the early days of the Hudson's Bay Company. Starting with 178 stores of the HBC's Northern Stores Department, which the HBC spun off to concentrate on its urban department stores, Kennedy contends that the North West Company inherited the HBC's adventuring spirit. It now operates stores in Alaska, southern Canada (through the Giant Tiger chain) and even in tropical locales—in the Caribbean and the South Pacific.



G. Goldsborough

MHS members attending the 2009 Annual General Meeting in the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre browse the annual report.

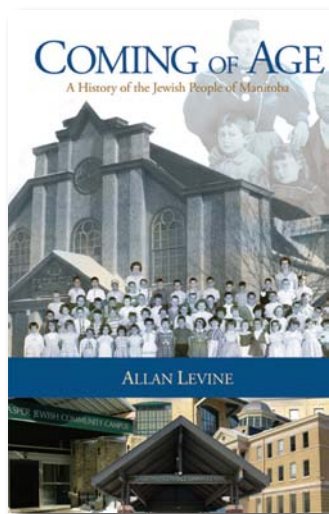


## Obituary

**Dorothy Catherine Cameron Menzies Lynch**, a former member of the MHS, died on 4 May 2009, in Winnipeg. Dorothy was born on 30 August 1915 and received her BA from the University of Manitoba, pursuing her business career with the Marine Insurance and British American Insurance Company. She was a published author, writing in *Winnipeg Real Estate News* particularly about historic Winnipeg sites and biographical vignettes. She published an instructional manual *How to Become a Second-Wind Writer*, a guide to assist seniors to record their life histories. Dorothy's interests and pastimes included bridge, photography and worldwide travel by automobile, rail, air and cruise ships.

## New Jewish History

In April, the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada announced its publication of author and historian Allan Levine's *Coming of Age: A History of the Jewish People of Manitoba*. This 500-page history of the Jews of Manitoba includes hundreds of illustrations found in the JHC archives. It casts an eye at the 125-year history of Jews in Manitoba from the earliest days of settlement in 1885 up to the present. *Coming of Age* is a major expression of the mandate of the JHC to preserve, interpret, and present the culture and history of the Jews of Western Canada.



Copies are available for \$42.95 plus GST from the Jewish Heritage Centre (204-477-7460, [jhc@jhcwc.org](mailto:jhc@jhcwc.org)) or from the Polo Park and Grant Park stores of McNally-Robinson Booksellers.



## History of Armstrong's Point

Heritage Winnipeg recently published its first book, written by Randy Rostecki, a history of the Armstrong's Point area of Winnipeg. Known for his encyclopedic knowledge of the city and its buildings, Rostecki examines homes of "The Point" and the prominent Winnipeggers who have occupied them through the years.

Copies are available for \$39.95 (cash or cheque) through the Heritage Winnipeg office (204-942-2663, [info@heritagewinnipeg.com](mailto:info@heritagewinnipeg.com)) or from the Polo Park and Grant Park stores of McNally-Robinson Booksellers.

## Campbell Home Dedication

The home of former Manitoba premier Douglas L. Campbell (1895-1995) was moved a few years ago to the Fort La Reine Museum in Portage la Prairie. The house was renovated and will reopen in a ceremony on 26 July at 2:00 pm. Members of the Campbell family will attend. The house features a display of Masonic paraphernalia and profiles on two other provincial premiers—in addition to Campbell—who hail from the Portage area, Walter C. Weir (1929-1985) and Sterling Lyon.

## 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 (Wed., Thur, 1:00 to 5:00 pm). Cash, 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.

# The Manitoba Historical Society est 1879

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

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## Calendar of Events

For updates and more information, see [www.mhs.mb.ca/news/events.shtml](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/news/events.shtml)

**21 September** MHS Book Club Guest: Jack Bumsted, author of *Lord Selkirk: A Life*, at Dalnavert Visitors' Centre, 7:00 pm

**26 September** Mini Field Trip to St. Francois Xavier - Poplar Point area. Watch for details in upcoming *Time Lines* and on MHS website

**19 October** MHS Book Club: Howard Adams, *Prison of Grass: Canada from the Native Point of View*, 7:00 pm.

**18 November** MHS Film Night: watch for details in upcoming *Time Lines* and on MHS website

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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

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