June Lines The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

The Manitoba Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 42 No. 2 January / February 2010

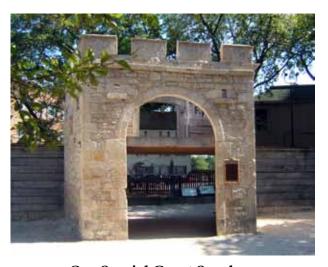


45th Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner

Saturday, 6 February 2010 Provencher Room, Fort Garry Hotel

Tickets: \$100 (members), \$110 (non-members)

A tax receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price.



Our Special Guest Speaker:

"Building a Future for Upper Fort Garry"

Dr. Jerry Gray
Chair of the Friends of Upper Fort Garry

Jim Ingebrigtsen Master of Ceremony

6:00 PM cash bar, 7:00 PM dinner

To purchase tickets, complete the order form on the back of this page and mail to the MHS office OR call 204-947-0559 and speak to Jacqueline Friesen. (If no answer, please leave a message and we will call back.) Please call before 1 February 2010.

President's Column

The City of Winnipeg has started to reconsider its approach to historic places, and something definite can now be reported. A firm of consultants, Donald Luxton Associates of Vancouver, is in the midst of preparing a new Heritage Conservation Management Plan for the city. As part of this process,



MHS President Dr. Harry Duckworth

they are evaluating the public's expectations towards the tangible aspects of Winnipeg's heritage. Their recommendations should make the approach to historic buildings more consistent, easier to understand, and much less dependent on one-time efforts aimed at particular places and sites. As many people have pointed out over the years, there is a lot of room for improvement, particularly in understanding how and why the politicians come to their final decisions.

Apart from historic buildings, in which Winnipeg is so rich, the new Management Plan will probably extend to the more nebulous concept of historic places, such as The Forks, or the cathedral precinct of St Boniface. The Forks is protected as a National Historic Site, under the mandate of Parks Canada's Historic Sites and Monuments program. Some have pointed out, however, that even here, sudden new demands, such as the Museum for Human Rights, can supersede the lower profile concerns of archaeology. The cathedral precinct is not protected at all, as we learned when the condominium tower was built adjacent to the St Boniface Museum a few years ago.

Don Luxton's firm has held two invitational workshops, with the general themes of economic,

Macdonald Auction Donations

Anyone who has items to donate for the silent auction at the Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner should contact Jackie Friesen at the MHS office, who will arrange for pickup if required.

environmental, sustainable, and social aspects of heritage. Opinions were obtained from persons involved in real estate, development, and planning; from architects; from journalists; and from some members of the wider community. Now what is needed is a public Forum, to consult all those who wish to be heard on the topic of what we want our city to do to protect and help manage historic places. This Forum, entitled "Speak Up Heritage", will be held in the Carol Shields Auditorium at the Millennium Library on Graham Avenue, on the evening of Tuesday, 19 January, starting at 7:00 PM. From 6:00 PM, heritage societies, including the Manitoba Historical Society, have been invited to occupy tables where attendees can get information about membership, activities and programs. The Forum itself will begin with brief statements from an invited panel, and the rest of the time will be devoted to general discussion involving the panel and the audience, on whatever topics those attending the Forum choose to explore. The proceedings will be tape recorded, and careful notes will be made. The Manitoba Historical Society is co-sponsoring the Forum, along with Speak Up Winnipeg, the consortium of civic employees that has been organizing public consultations on all aspects of a new Plan Winnipeg. I shall act as chair of the Forum, and I look forward to an interesting and profitable evening. Please take this as an invitation to attend the Speak Up Heritage Forum.

The year 2010 promises to be important for us. The next big event after the Speak Up Heritage Forum is the Macdonald Dinner, on Saturday, 6 February. As you already know, our speaker is Dr. Jerry Gray, who will tell us about his experiences, and the lessons learned, through his chairmanship of the Friends of Upper Fort Garry. There will be a silent auction, as usual. Anyone who has items to donate should contact Jackie Friesen at the Society office, who will arrange for pickup if required.

The Society's plans for the historic plaques program, to draw attention to historic houses and buildings throughout the province, are well advanced, and detailed information will be available in the spring. Our plans to commemorate the arrival of the first Selkirk settlers on the bicentenary in 2012 will also be announced later in the coming year.

When you think about the Manitoba Historical Society, I trust you will renew your membership as it comes due, and I also hope you will consider a donation to the work of the Society. Donations make up the difference between red ink and black ink for us. They are essential for our future.

With luck, this will reach you before the start of the holidays, and I wish you, your families and friends, all my best wishes for the holidays, and for the New Year.

Harry Duckworth

| The 45th Annual Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner Tickets | | Mail to: MHS Administration Office |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Name of person ordering ticket(s) | | 61 Carlton Street Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| Name to whom receipt should be issued | | |
| Address | | |
| City | Please make cheques payable to "Manitoba Historical Society" or pay by: Wisa MasterCard | |
| Postal code | | |
| Phone/email | | |
| No. tickets Total: \$ | Card # | Expiry |
| (Each: \$100 members, \$110 non-members) Special requirements (check as appropriate) | Signature | |
| Vegetaries Vegen Other | Name on card | |

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Young Historians Awards Reception

The 2009 MHS Young Historians Awards were presented on 15 November at the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre, as follows:

Yount Historians—Research Papers presented by MHS President Harry Duckworth

First Place: (tie) Alanna Scammell, *The Feminization of Povery in Manitoba*, St. Mary's (Deborah Nickel, teacher) and Murphy Berzish, *The Motivation of the Establishment in Quashing the Winnipeg General Strike*, St. John's Ravenscourt (Jeffrey Hull, teacher)

Second Place: Kelsey Watchman, Recognition Long Overdue: Canadian Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War, Balmoral Hall (Sarah Allentuck Secter, teacher)

Third Place: Adrienne Yeung, *The Winnipeg Free Press: Connecting Manitobans Through the Ages*, Grant Park (Marijus Timmerman, teacher)

Young Historians—Historical Fiction presented by MHS President Harry Duckworth

First Place: Alisha Sharma, Letter from the Trench from Oscar Goodman, Balmoral Hall (Sarah Allentuck Secter, teacher)

Second Place: Dylan Waterman, Nathaniel Burdeny, Valerie Magsajo, Christina Miladinovic, *The Milk of Vivacious Victors*, Sisler High (Orysya Petryshyn, teacher)

George Bryce Award*—Research Papers presented by MHS President Harry Duckworth

First Place: (tie) Alanna Scammell, *The Feminization of Poverty in Manitoba*, St. Mary's (Deborah Nickel, teacher)

First Place: (tie) Murphy Berzish, *The Motivation of the Establishment in Quashing the Winnipeg General Strike*, St. John's Ravenscourt (Jeffrey Hull, teacher)

George Bryce Award*—Historical Fiction presented by MHS President Harry Duckworth

First Place: Alisha Sharma, Letter from the Trench from Oscar Goodman, Balmoral Hall (Sarah Allentuck Secter, teacher)

* The George Bryce Award was founded and is sponsored by MHS Past President Jim Blanchard.

Edward Shaw Award** presented by his daughter, Irene Shaw

Murphy Berzish, *The Motivation of the Establishment in Quashing the Winnipeg General Strike*, St. John's Ravenscourt, Jeffrey Hull, teacher

Murphy Berzish presented a five minute talk on the winning paper.

** The Shaw Award was established in memory of MHS Past President Dr. Edward Shaw.



W. Fraser

Teachers and students at the Young Historians reception at Dalnavert (L-R): Orysya Petryshyn (teacher), Valerie Magsajo, Nathaniel Burdeny, Christina Miladinovic, Dylan Waterman, Adrienne Yeung, Kelsey Watchman, Alisha Sharma, Murphy Berzish, Alanna Scammell, Deborah Nickel (teacher), and Marijus Timmerman (teacher).

Rupert's Land Colloquium

The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies at the University of Winnipeg will host the **Rupert's Land Colloquium** on 19–22 May 2010. During the Colloquium, Aboriginal and fur trade researchers from many disciplines will share their research and interests, and take advantage of the rich history that is still being made at the Forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. The Colloquium will begin 19 May with a wine and cheese reception and registration. The 20th and 21st, will highlight paper presentations, panel discussions, and site visits to points of interest. A field trip is planned for the 22nd.

A block of rooms, at a reduced rate, has been set aside for Colloquium participants at the Holiday Inn on the corner of Colony and Portage Avenue, only one block from the University of Winnipeg and two blocks from the HBC Archives. Members can book rooms by calling the hotel directly, toll free in Canada and the US, at 866-826-4457, citing the Rupert's Land Colloquium block. *Please be sure you have a registration number when arriving!*

Heartland Travel is offering a field trip to coincide with the Colloquium, leaving at 1:00 PM on 22 May from the Holiday Inn. Participants can enjoy an historic guided tour along River Road and of Lower Fort Garry, wrapping up with a fur trade pickerel (walleye) banquet at Lower Fort Garry,

and transportation back to Winnipeg. The price for this field trip is \$100.80 per person—the cost is not included in the Colloquium registration fee. Deadline to register is 1 May. To book your place with this tour, contact:

Heartland Travel
202-3111 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB, R3K 0W4
204-989-9630 or toll-free 866-890-3377
donf@heartlandtravel.ca
www.heartlandtravel.ca/documents/RiverRoadand
HistoricLowerFortGarry-Rupertsland.pdf

Please direct any enquiries regarding the registration process, or your completed registration forms through the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies office. Registrations may be sent by regular post and must be accompanied by payment in full in cheque or money order. Please note that while every care will be taken, sometimes postal items do not arrive at their intended destination. The Rupert's Land office will inform you when your registration is received. If you do not receive confirmation from the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies office, please assume your registration has not been received, and contact the office. If you would prefer to fill this form in electronically, see their website:

www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/ic/rupert

| REGISTRATION FORM Rupert's Land Colloquium: Winnipeg, Manitoba 19 to 22 May 2010 | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Name: | | | | |
| Mailing address: | | | | |
| Affiliation: | | | | |
| Email: | | | | |
| Telephone: | | Fax: | | |
| Registration: | | Send Payment To: | | |
| Payment is no Registration inclu wine and cheese to for Thu | rd) or \$280 (After 1 April) n-refundable after 1 May. udes the Wednesday evening reception, lunches and snacks ursday and Friday, day evening banquet. | The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies The University of Winnipeg 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3B 2E9 204-786-9003 — rupert.land@uwinnipeg.ca Please make cheques or money orders payable to "The University of Winnipeg" | | |

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MHS Book Club Schedule, 2009-2010

We will be departing from our usual format for our meeting on 18 January. We will meet at Dalnavert starting at 7:00 PM, as usual. Then story tellers Mary Louise Chown and Anne Morton, accompanied by recorder player Virginia Stevens, will present "Prairie Voices: Stories from the Fur Trade." Mary Louise as Marie-Anne Lagimodiere, and Anne Morton as Peter Fidler, will bring history to life.

The program will take about 45 minutes and will be followed by discussion. Books that you can read for background, if you wish, include Maggie Siggins, Marie-Anne: The Extraordinary Life of Louis Riel's Grandmother (2008) and James G. MacGregor, Peter Fidler: Canada's Forgotten Surveyor, 1769–1822 (1966).

The meetings are at Dalnavert Visitors' Centre. For each Book Club meeting, please let Judy Valenzuela know if you are attending so enough chairs and treats can be provided jhbval@mts.net or 204-475-6666. All except the May meeting begin at 7:00 PM.

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, 6:00 PM: Potluck, books for next year L= Leader, T= Treats, WPL = Winnipeg Public Library

Welcome New Members

John Deacon Waldo & Lorna Thiessen
Bryan Gawryluk Julianna Trivers
Samuel Murry Matheson Judy Wakefield
Ken Storie Glenn Zaretski
Jack Stothard

Donations & Contributions Thank You!

General Operations

Paula Achtemichuk Carol Latter
Chloe Clark J. K. Maitland
Gerald Friesen Susan Rosenberg
Carl James Shirlee Anne Smith
Gwyneth Jones

Say "Amen" to the Sisters on 30 March

Dalnavert Museum is teaming up with the Community Recreation Director at 17 Wing, Canadian Forces Base, to present a fundraising concert (with emphasis on the "fun") by the Sisters of the Holy Rock. Details are still being finalized, but be sure to save the date.

Inspired by the Sister Act movies starring Whoopi Goldberg, this flock of singing nuns has raised close to \$3 million for charitable and community organizations. None of the 80-member ensemble is actually a nun. In fact, many are not Catholic and several are not even female! The singers dress in old-school black and white habits but the group bills itself as inter-denominational.

Their high-energy act incorporates music ranging from infectious pop tunes from the 50s and 60s to gospel favourites, blended with broad comedy. Their upbeat, uplifting concerts are suitable for all ages and often invoke standing ovations. The Sisters have been entertaining audiences since 1993 and have performed more than 600 shows. All of the group members are volunteers, but they deliver a polished, professional program.

Plan to attend the 30 March concert and have a good time for a good cause! Tickets will be in the \$15-20 range, and proceeds will be divided between Dalnavert Museum and the 17 Wing Community Recreation Program. The show will be held in the theatre at the Fitness and Recreation Centre of the CFB base on Whytewold Road. The venue seats 400 guests, offers plenty of free parking and is easy to get to—just turn off Portage on to Whytewold and you can't miss it. Details will be listed on the MHS website in January.

Heritage News

The *Southern Manitoba Review* reports that the **Cartwright** area will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2010. As well as the usual Ponderosa Days held in the August long weekend residents are encouraged to plan and organize events. The Christ Church Restoration committee plans to have a grand re-opening of the little stone church during the anniversary. Another special event will be the launch of the update to *Memories Along the Badger Revisited*. The new history book will have about 390 pages. Copies may be pre-ordered with a \$50 down payment on an estimated final price of \$65 to \$70.

The *Red River Valley Echo* reports on the restoration of the century-old Eddy Schmidt Housebarn in **Neubergthal.** The village of Neubergthal is a National Historic Site, recognized for the number of intact Mennonite housebarns on the old village street. The barn remains on its original village site but has been gutted and will be refurbished as a conference or teaching centre for Mennonite history. Work began in 2007 with the stabilizing of the building. There have been at least 200 hours of volunteer labour so far. The project recently received a grant of \$50,000 from the Thomas Sill Foundation.

After three years of searching, the Brandon General Museum and Archives committee says it has found a perfect home for a proposed museum space in the former Convergys building. In its annual report to city council in December, the committee indicated that the two-storey, 60,000-square-foot building at Seventh Street and Princess Avenue—which has also housed a grocery store and the city's former library arts building in the past—had tremendous potential. Committee members were very impressed with the high ceilings, the open spaces, the board rooms that were already there and the downstairs that is halfdeveloped. The Brandon Sun reports that committee secretary-treasurer Bill McGuire told council. "It was almost as if that building had been designed from the ground up to be a museum and had only been a grocery store and a library part-time."

The historic B. J. Hales collection could have a new home in the proposed Brandon General Museum and Archives. The collection of birds and mammals native to Manitoba assembled between the late 1880s and 1932 by Brandon naturalist B. J. Hales, has been sitting in boxes in the basement of Earl Oxford School since it was moved out of Brandon University library basement this past summer. Officials with the Brandon School Division, which actually owns the collection, are hoping the collection will become part of the proposed new public museum.

A history book of **St. Claude**, *The Past at a Glance*, was launched in November at the St Claude Library. A French version, *Un Coup d'oeil sur le passé*, was launched simultaneously. The main factual information is the same in both publications but some anecdotes and reproductions of a few articles are printed in only one language. The book is organized year by year from 1892 to 2000, a collection of events and anecdotes that have shaped the community. Six main topics covered are: colonization, education,

parish and community life, industry and commerce, agriculture and health. Each of the categories notes important events in the village and important provincial, national and international events as well. The price for either version is \$18.92.

At the annual meeting of the Manitoba Archaeological Society in **Swan River** Gary Wowchuk, vice president of the AMA presented a paper discussing findings at six Craigsford archaeological sites from 1965 to 2009. In Craigsford, in the middle of the Swan River Valley a unique type of pottery was discovered that was associated with a fishing station. From these findings we can see that there were fishing stations used by a group of people between 1350 and 1600 AD that have yet not been identified. Other archaeological sites have also been discovered in the Swan River area. Of about 7000 sites in Manitoba and about 1000 Swan River sites were recorded.

Cox House in St. Clements, designated as a provincial heritage site, was built by Robert and Mary Cox (Sanderson) in 1862. It is one of the few known Red River frame houses that is still privately owned. The Selkirk Journal notes that the present owners, the Perchotte family, wanted to restore the home about 15 years ago with the intent of opening it as a bed and breakfast or museum but could not get permission from municipal authorities because of opposition from neighbouring home owners. Now the St. Clements council and residents support the Perchottes' application and the family has started restoration. They are looking for input on how the house can best be restored to promote the area's history and heighten awareness of pioneer living. Contact them at perchotte@yahoo.ca or 204-228-2324.

The restoration of the Inglis Elevators National Historic Site is complete. Now the Inglisarea Heritage Committee is working towards a sustainable future to ensure that these Prairie Sentinels will be enjoyed by future generations for many years to come. The Inglis Heritage Committee has joined forces with the Living Legacy Community Foundation to create an Inglis Elevator Endowment Fund. Gifts will be held in the foundation endowment forever and the interest will assist with annual operating costs, the further development of interpretive programs and ongoing maintenance. Cheques payable to The Living Legacy Community Foundation may be mailed to Box 1343, Russell MB, R0J 1W0. All who make endowment donations over \$20 will be issued a receipt for income tax purposes.

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Macdonald Dinner Tickets

Contact the MHS office at 204-947-0559 or info@ mhs.mb.ca. Visa, Mastercard, cheques, and cash are accepted. Tickets are \$100 each for MHS members, and \$110 each for non-members. Please call before 1 February 2010.

The **Pembina Thresherman's Museum** is taking on a three-year project to refurbish the former Morden Train Station which was moved to the museum's grounds in 1972. Work will begin in 2010 with roof repairs. Second and third years will focus on walls, windows, and other issues. The station is one of five buildings the museum has asked be designated a municipal heritage site.

There will be a major upgrade at the Manitoba Children's Museum at the Forks in Winnipeg with a \$9.5 million dollar capital renewal beginning in 2010. Improvements include a new 3,500 square-foot entrance or welcome centre and changes to update the current gallery. The number of hands-on displays will be doubled to twelve and will include an interactive art and exhibition centre and new sound and lighting equipment. The passenger train exhibit will stay but other displays will be replaced by new displays. The Canadian and Manitoba governments have contributed a total of \$5 million. The museum has already raised \$2 million and will raise another \$2.5 to reach its goal. The museum will be closed next fall during construction and renovations and will re-open in the spring of 2011.

Winnipeg now has a street named after Sir William Stephenson (1897–1989), one of Winnipeg's most famous citizens, with the renaming of Water Avenue in the downtown area to William Stephenson Way. He was earlier commemorated by a statue by Leo Mol in Memorial Park, a public library branch, and a monument in Point Douglas, near Ross House, where he grew up. After serving as a pilot in the First World War he moved to Britain in 1921. He became a wealthy man from his invention of the wireless photo transmission system. He is credited with masterminding British counter-intelligence for Winston Churchill's government during the Second World War where he acquired the code name "Intrepid." He also assisted in organizing American wartime intelligence operations. The Intrepid Society of Winnipeg honours his life and achievements on its website (ww.intrepid-society.org).

Obituary

Irene Elizabeth Grant, a former MHS member, died in Winnipeg on 12 November, 2009 at 95 years of age. After graduating from Normal School she taught school in rural Manitoba until 1939 when she began teaching in Winnipeg. In 1942 she joined the WRENS (Women's Royal Naval Service). She returned to teaching in Winnipeg in 1945, but her career was interrupted during the next seven years when her three children were born. She returned to teaching in 1952 and retired as teacher librarian of R. B. Russell School in 1976. She actively worked for equal rights for women teachers and other women in the workplace. She maintained an active membership in many organizations and committees. The Business and Professional Women's clubs of Canada and the Associated Country Women of the World (Women's Institute) honoured her with life memberships. She also had a life membership in the Dugald Costume Museum and a membership in many other organizations including MHS. From 1972 to 1982 she was a citizen advisor to Legal Aid Manitoba. Her work with the Provincial Family Law reform committee led to the passage of the Family Maintenance Act. She chaired the environmental committee of the Provincial Council of Women for three years. In 1990 the Government of Canada gave her the Order of the Persons Award. In 2005 the Manitoba Government named her to the Order of Manitoba.

Coming MHS Events

24 March — *Diaries of a Mapmaker* — We are pleased to announce that painter, Don McMaster has agreed to speak about and display his large paintings illustrating episodes in the career of David Thompson. Don has been involved in the research of David Thompson, Canada's best known fur trader, surveyor and map maker. The event will be held at the Dalnavert Visitors' Centre at 7:00 pm.

21 April — The annual MHS multi-cultural dinner will be held on Wednesday, 21 April, 2010 at The Belgian Club, 407 Provencher Boulevard with a buffet dinner at 6:30 followed by dance entertainment and a guest speaker.

Watch for complete details for these events in next *Time Lines* and on the MHS website.

| The Manitoba Historical Society I want to renew or join* the MHS as a: Regular Member (\$40) Youth/Student Member (\$20) Family Member (\$45) Life Member (\$575) | | | Mail to: Manitoba Historical Society 61 Carlton Street Winnipeg, MB R3C 1N7 Telephone: 204-947-0559 Email: info@mhs.mb.ca |
|--|---|--|--|
| I want | to support the MHS with the following donation: \$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c | \$ | * See our web site (www.mhs.mb.ca) for annual membership rates in the USA and other countries, and for two- and three-year memberships. |
| Addres | | or pay by: | eques payable to "Manitoba Historical Society" Visa MasterCard |
| Postal | code Phone | Card # | Expiry |
| Please t | Where the need is greatest Museums | Other: | Charitable Tax Registration BN 12281 4601 RR0001. |
| | Calendar For updates and more information, se | | b.ca/news/events.shtml |
| 18 January Book Club special program: "Prairie Voices: Stories from the Fur Trade—Marie-Anne | | large paintings of episodes in the career of David Thompson. | |
| 6 February | Lagimodiere, and Peter Fidler," Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner with speaker | 30 March | Sisters of the Holy Rock—Dalnavert Fundraiser |
| 15 February | Dr. Jerry Gray February Book Club: James Raffan, Emperor of the North: Sir George Simpson and the remarkable story of | 19 April | Book Club: Tom Avery, To the End of the Earth: Our Epic Journey to the North Pole and the Legend of Peary and Henson |
| | the Hudson's Bay Company | 21 April | MHS Multicultural Dinner at the Belgian Club |
| 15 March Book Club: Sarah Carter, The Importance of Being Monogamous: Marriage and Nation | | 12 April | Manitoba Day |
| | Building in Western Canada to 1915 | 12 April | Deadline for entries for Young Historians competition |
| 24 March | "Diaries of a Mapmaker" Artist Don McMaster will speak about and display his | | |
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| Individua Institution | hip fees for the Manitoba Historical Society are: al \$40, Family \$45, Youth/Student \$20, Non-profit an \$50, Corporations \$275 and Life \$575. Rates to | Dalnavert | Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 1N7 Office: 204-947-0559, info@mhs.mb.ca Dalnavert: 204-943-2835, dalnavert@mhs.mb.ca |
| 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. | | Ross House | 140 Meade Street N, Winnipeg, Manitoba 204-943-3958, rosshouse@mhs.mb.ca |