

Voice

THE VILLAGE

VOLUME 12 NO. 1 • SUMMER 2024

MENNONITE REFLECTIONS: ARRIVING
IN MANITOBA 150 YEARS AGO

PG. 4

REFLECTING ON 60 YEARS

PG. 6



Cover Photo - Three girls in front of the MHV Windmill c. 1973. L-R: Judy Ketler, Jenine Toews, Cindy Ketler

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HOURS

May 1 - October 1

Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

October 2 - April 30

Sunday & Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Outdoor buildings are closed

SUMMER ADMISSION RATES

Adults	\$15.00
Seniors (65 & Older)	\$12.00
Students (ages 13-22)	\$12.00
Children (ages 6-12)	\$8.00
Children (ages 5 & under)	FREE
Family Day Pass	\$50.00

MEMBERSHIP

Membership entitles you to vote at our annual general meeting, and gives you FREE or reduced admission to other Signature Museums in Manitoba

Annual Individual Membership	\$40.00
Annual Family Membership	\$85.00
Lifetime Individual Membership	\$500.00

Manitoba Signature Museums

Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum
Brandon, MB

Le Musée de Saint-Boniface
Winnipeg, MB

Manitoba Agricultural Museum
Austin, MB

New Iceland Heritage Museum
Gimli, MB

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Center
Morden, MB

Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada
Winnipeg, MB

HOW TO REACH MHV

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COMMUNITY BUILDING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

BY ROBERT GOERTZEN, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Museums are important in the life of a community. Sixty years ago, a group of community and business leaders in the Steinbach area, along with some Mennonite history enthusiasts, recognized the importance of preserving our history for future generations. It was felt that the stories of the early settler experience of the 1870's in southern Manitoba were becoming more faint with each passing generation. Their efforts led to the creation of the MHV.

Over the years, our 40-acre campus has grown to more than 30 buildings and historical features, over 16,000 artefacts, 2 indoor galleries and a beautifully-developed natural environment with a pond, mature trees, green spaces, and well-manicured gardens, and has been a benefit to our community and to Manitoba. Thank you to the thousands of volunteers who have contributed hundreds of thousands of hours, thank you for the thoughtful planning by staff and community leaders, and thank you for the financial support of individuals and businesses.

Mennonite Heritage Village continues to enrich our community. We create thoughtful exhibits, we plan welcoming public events, we prepare educational programming for school groups and kids' day camps, we maintain a relaxing outdoor environment with ample green space, and we invite volunteers to share their expertise and experiences with over 50,000 visitors every year.

These visitors make a significant contribution to the local economy, bringing income to our local businesses. More than that, the museum is a meeting place for family and friends to learn about our own history, the history of our neighbours and to pass on stories from one generation to the next. Children, parents and grandparents find artefacts and buildings at MHV which connect them to their past and to each other.

Partnerships are integral to our success. We work with Manitoba school groups to create programs which support their curriculum goals. We collaborate with Eastman Immigrant Services to offer accessible programs for newcomers and encourage the sharing of stories and music among cultural groups at our various events. We provide skills development opportunities for clients of Envision, Trailblazers and other local organizations throughout the year. We promote local artisans and authors at our markets and at our author reading events. There are several other collaborative initiatives currently, and whenever we work with others, we gain a better understanding of ourselves, our neighbours and of our community. MHV sets the context for community conversations about how we started in the 1870's, how we got to where we are today as a community, and about our vision for the future.

All this activity and infrastructure requires two other kinds of partnerships. Firstly, we require a dedicated staff and many volunteers to continue to carry out our mandate to preserve the stories of our community and to encourage listening to and sharing of stories from the past and present. Staff and volunteers are partners. Together, we accomplish much.

The second partnership is between MHV and its financial supporters. Our organization has been blessed by many hundreds of individuals and dozens of businesses over the years, who have seen the value of the museum site and the programs that it creates. We thank these donors for their support and their recognition of the importance of community connections.

Our goal at Mennonite Heritage Village is to continue to cultivate collaborations, to enrich the community and to partner with supporters who see MHV as an important place where our community meets to listen, learn and understand each other.



A SUCCESSFUL SPRING GALA

BY NATHAN DYCK, DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

The MHV Spring Gala this year focused on looking back to discover where we are going. As this is the 60th anniversary of the Mennonite Heritage Village, we wanted to open up our archives to share many of the documents and plans created over the years that highlight the varied hopes and dreams for what the MHV would become. Much of the village is significantly different than the original vision from the 1960s. The windmill stands much further back on the property than the original design, which would have placed it where the General Store stands today.



Official Opening of the Windmill in 1972.

A campground and picnic area were abandoned, and a plan to have the Steinbach Fly-In Golf Course place its clubhouse and dining area at the south end of the village was met with strong opposition from the founders. In 1989, a new village center was constructed, and for the last 35 years, it has housed our exhibition halls and serves as the heart of many of our programs, events and day-to-day operations.



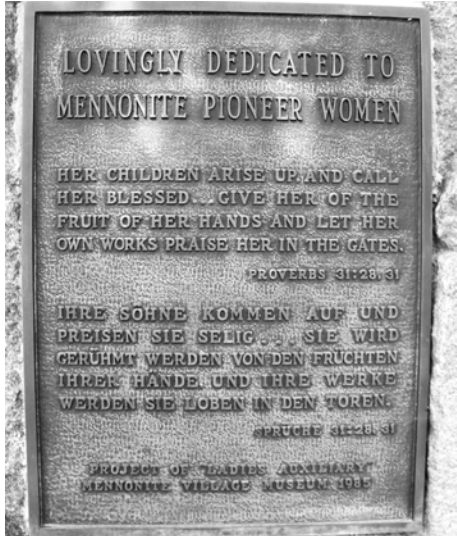
Artifacts Building Construction, 1965.

To celebrate these 60 years, we chose the theme, "It Takes a Village" for the gala, to honor the significant input of a host of individuals and organizations throughout the decades that supported, invested time and finances, and visited our village. A celebration of this sort is never complete without taking the time to reminisce, and the Right Honorable Edward Schreyer PC CC CMM OM CD was invited to share his thoughts on the early years of the MHV. In his role as Premier of Manitoba from 1969 to 1977 he was integral in providing funding and being present for the opening of many of the MHV's star attractions. While speaking of the head of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society who spearheaded the museum committee and was its first director, Schreyer stated, "J.J. Reimer and all those who worked with him on the committee deserve recognition in historical perpetuity... You deserve credit and I'm here to extend credit to you." Schreyer was keen to support the project, as he



AUXILIARY NEWS

BY EVELYN FRIESEN, AUXILIARY MEMBER



Plaque dedicated to Mennonite Pioneer Women.

A plaque on a huge stone stands at the entrance of the village grounds. It speaks of the hard work of Mennonite women in Canada. This will become the focal point as we help celebrate the museum's 60th anniversary this year.



Mixer, Doris Penner, with the help of volunteers, is an expert when it comes to such attractive arrangements.

The Auxiliary was pleased to provide a tantalizing array of charcuterie boards - a special treat for the guests at the Chamber of Commerce mixer for Steinbach Community Foundation in February.



Auxiliary Secretary, Frieda Loewen, is seen copying the minutes in preparation for our Thursday morning meeting.

Following our Annual Meeting, we are poised for a busy season ahead. Find us in the gardens, the Quilting Room, the Summer Kitchen, frying rollkuchen, sewing aprons, catering at special functions, etc.

The Executive Team that is leading us in 2024 consists of Linda Schroeder (President), Janet Ens (Vice President), Frieda Loewen (Secretary), and, Martha Friesen (Treasurer). Of course, all our members are a hard working lot who commit consistently to the work of our Auxiliary.



The 2024 Auxiliary Quilt Raffle. Tickets available at reception.

MHV AUXILIARY PRESENTS:

Celebrating 150 years
A TAPESTRY OF PIONEER WOMEN

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18th

1:30 PM
FASPA AT 5:00 PM

ENJOY PERSONAL STORIES OF PIONEERING WOMEN AS TOLD BY:

- Mary-Lou Driedger
- Eleanore Chornoboy
- Auxiliary Members

TICKETS - \$25
AVAILABLE @ MHV RECEPTION
AND FROM AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) Inc. Phone: 204-326-9661 Web: www.mhv.ca 231 PTH 12 North Steinbach, MB R5G 1T8

Poster for the upcoming Auxiliary Event in August - Celebrating 150 Years: A Tapestry of Pioneer Women.

On Sunday, August 18th, 2024 at 1:30 pm, the Auxiliary invites you to join them in the Village Centre as we remember the often untold, stories of women and their pioneer experiences following migrations from faraway places.

Costumed interpreters will be stationed throughout the village, further explaining the role of women during those times. Faspa will be served midafternoon - giving opportunity to continue sharing stories!

Tickets are available at reception or from Auxiliary members. For more information or any questions call 204-326-9661.

A Successful Spring Gala, Cont'd from P. 2



Edward Schreyer speaking at the Spring Gala.

had always been a supporter of multiculturalism and was enthusiastic about the retention and passing on of culture and language. "What could be better than to support community groups that were trying to do just that?" He notes that he was ready to support, "J.J. Reimer didn't have too much of a selling job because I was looking then for some concrete examples where we could pitch in." Quite a few of the documents on display at the gala showcased Schreyer's name, as he was a regular fixture at some of the MHV's key early events, such as the opening of the windmill and the first Pioneer Day in 1970. Shreyer's government support and personal connection to the Mennonite Heritage Village and its founding members was keenly felt and it was a delight to hear stories of where we have come from.

At anniversary celebrations it is also important to look forward to where we are going. Part of the work of history is reexamining the stories of the past and trying to look with fresh eyes and perspectives. Kevin Chief, who delivered our keynote address,

by sharing his perspective on his own family and upbringing, and recognizing how it drives his role in Truth and Reconciliation today. As Chief noted about the importance of being at an event like this at the MHV, "You don't invite Kevin Chief on a Friday evening to an event like this with my background, who I am or where I'm from if you don't have open hearts and open minds. I don't get to podiums like this. It's a testament, not to what I'm saying, but to your history, to the values that you live." This includes looking at the ways in which early Mennonite settlers relied on their Indigenous neighbours for survival in the first years of settlement. Chief shared his own view of our province's history, "You can't remove the history of the Mennonite people, but you also can't remove the unique relationship this province and country also has with First Nation, Métis and Inuit people. It's not Mennonite history or Indigenous history. It's our collective history."



One of two display tables at the Spring Gala, looking back at 60 years of the Mennonite Heritage Village.

It is this collected history that enriches our understanding of our Mennonite ancestors. In the past, we may have viewed rugged self-reliance and isolation favourably, but today we recognize that "It Takes a Village" to make a strong and viable community. We as Mennonites have not always recognized or supported other communities who supported us. Clearly, Chief's message struck a chord, as he received a standing ovation and there has been a lot of positive feedback.



Kevin Chief delivering the keynote address at the Spring Gala.

Our celebration of the 60th anniversary of the MHV was a wonderful event, full of great learning, conversation, food and drink, and ultimately a reflection on where we have come from and where we are going. We hope that there are at least 60 more years of celebrations where we continue to honor our past, while examining its implications for the direction we are headed.



REASONS TO VOLUNTEER AT MHV

BY JAYSA PLETT, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

The Mennonite Heritage Village holds a special place in many people's hearts around the Steinbach area. Many from around here grew up going on field trips to the museum, others had parents who were strong supporters of the museum, still for others it is the place where they first connected with their Mennonite roots. Regardless of the reasons for coming to the museum, it quickly becomes a special place for those who visit.



Jac Siemens volunteering at the Blacksmith shop and David Klassen and Tina Dick baking bread.

event days and welcome them to the museum. Food services volunteers keep our hungry visitors fed and watered. Print shop volunteers operate the turn of the century printing press, original to Steinbach's first newspaper. Interpreters dress in costume and offer history specific to certain buildings on our grounds, further telling the story of the Manitoba Mennonites. Wagon drivers deal with horses and humans on event days, giving hundreds of visitors old-fashioned wagon rides around our grounds. Butter churners display the lost art of churning cream into butter. The contributions of our volunteers truly are endless. These volunteers do not simply give up their time, they create an environment where special moments are made, and history is remembered.

Our wonderful volunteers are storytellers, actors on a stage, teachers, and friends. They tell stories about our ancestors that, if not told, will be lost to the march of time.

What we do here at the museum could not be done without our amazing group of volunteers. The field trips that are offered to schools, the events that are put on and the history that is shared on our grounds are powered by volunteers. They truly are the backbone of this special place.

The blacksmiths operate the forge, fixing and making things out of metal. Tour guides walk our guests through the various heritage buildings we have on the grounds, sharing with them the story of Manitoba Mennonites. Admissions volunteers greet visitors as they arrive on



SAGC Garden Club enjoying fasha at the Livery Barn Restaurant.



Elizabeth Dik, Elsie Kathler, and Margaret Blatz picking rhubarb.



MENNONITE REFLECTIONS: ARRIVING IN MANITOBA 150 YEARS AGO

BY GARTH DOERKSEN, ASSISTANT CURATOR



Above: Photograph of the S.S International river boat, which brought the first Russian Mennonites to Winnipeg to purchase supplies, and then to the confluence of the Red and Rat Rivers in 1874.

Below: Model of the river boat S.S International. Built by Peter A. Plett, a historian from Blumenhof, in 1985-89.

The exhibit will begin with a look back to the years the Mennonites lived in Imperial Russia, leading up to their emigration to Canada. While some Mennonites had prospered, only about half owned any land. With increasing pressure from the Russian government to assimilate, the more traditionalist Mennonites groups began to consider moving to another country.

The exhibit also highlights the development of the new province of Manitoba and the effects this had on First Nations and the Red River Metis. The Mennonites settled on the ancestral lands of First Nations and the Red River Metis.

A section of the exhibit will focus on the 15,000-kilometer journey itself, which typically took about 45 days from their villages in Russia to their new lands in Manitoba. This was an arduous journey which saw the Mennonites travelling by wagon, train, boat, ship, and oxcart. Sicknesses and death occurred throughout this journey.

The Mennonites' arrival and consequent settlement will also be highlighted in the exhibit. From meagre beginnings, small homesteads and villages were established.

The exhibit also looks at the Mennonites' neighbours including First Nations and Métis, as well as English and French settlers. It was often with the help of these neighbours that the Mennonites were able to adapt quickly to Manitoba's harsh climate.

Finally, the exhibit will look to the years of growth and change following the establishment of villages, farms, and businesses. From difficult beginnings, progress was achieved.



Fraktur art written by Peter Rogalsky in the early 1800s, brought to Manitoba from Russia in 1875.

The year 2024 marks the 150th anniversary of the first immigration of Mennonites to Manitoba. In 1873, a group of delegates from the Mennonite villages in Imperial Russia came to see lands in Manitoba, offered to them for settlement. Then, between 1874 and 1880, a third of all Mennonites in Imperial Russia left to settle in North America. About 7000 of them, the Kleine Gemeinde, Bergthalers, and Old Colony, settled in Manitoba between 1874 and 1876. The Mennonite Heritage Village will commemorate this anniversary with an exhibit in the Gerhard Ens Gallery.



Clock brought to Manitoba in 1875 by the Johann Wall family.

With the Mennonite Heritage Village turning 60 years this year as well, it's a good opportunity to reflect on the stories of hardship and hope our forebearers experienced over the past 150 years as well as the legacy they have left for us. MHV is here to represent and narrate these stories through its many artefacts and experiences. The 150th anniversary exhibit opens in the Gerhard Ens Gallery for Pioneer Days in August 2024.





THE MHV GENERAL STORE

BY JO-ANN FRIESEN, GENERAL STORE COORDINATOR



The general store is a favourite gathering place where visitors peruse the work of local artisans.

Candy is always a favourite draw and with the wide variety of old-fashioned candy, we are pleased to see the popularity of the available options only increase. As in years past, the General Store houses a plethora of artefacts, as well as eleven local artisans. This relationship works very well as it brings in items for sale that we would otherwise not have access to, giving guests an even wider selection of unique local wares as well as a good variety of candy. This season, MHV has increased the sugar free options as well.

The General Store is open seven days per week, May to September. You are welcome to drop by during visiting hours to find that one of a kind item for your special occasion. As always, shopping at the General Store is an amazing experience. The artisans are knowledgeable and welcoming. When you step into the store, it is literally like a page from the past. To the delight of young and old alike, I continue to have great conversations with folks who express their experiences from long ago, and how "at home" they feel here. They tell me how pleased they are with how we have kept history alive. Guests commented on how impressed they were with the impeccable upkeep of the whole outdoor village and the unique selection of vendor products, souvenirs, and candy available in the General Store. Working along side seasoned staff and volunteers is a true highlight for me.

MHV Spring Market:

We held our second annual Spring Market on April 27th of this year. MHV decided it was a great way to kick off a new season with a fun event.

There were 27 vendors who made the day very special by providing a variety of homemade baking, preserves, spring signage, macramé, power granola, bannock, meat buns, perisky, woodworking, candles, jewelry, and so much more. There was plenty of activity in a warm, friendly atmosphere. Overall, vendors were pleased with the results of their sales even though the day was a bit cool and rainy. We had a great time.

Look for us on August 3-5 - Pioneer Days, and September 3 - Fall on the Farm, as we will have specials to celebrate MHV's 60th Anniversary, and the 150th Anniversary of Mennonite immigration to Canada. Do stop by and check us out!



Locally made, fresh jam, available at the General Store.

Mark Your Calendars:

MHV's Christmas Market Extravaganza:

SAVE THE DATE: for MHV's Christmas Market Extravaganza being held on Saturday, November 9th from 10:00am - 4:00pm.

We will have 30+ vendors, a Christmas Café, a children's Christmas Craft Corner, as well as wagon/sleigh rides. Admission is a tin for the bin for Southeast Helping Hands, or a cash donation to help families in our community. You do not want to miss this event!



BEING THOUGHTFUL

BY NITA WIEBE, GIFT SHOP & RECEPTION

I believe that we can all make a difference in the world. Granted, most of us will not bring about global changes, but what we do does matter. Even when travelling this summer, be it visiting family in the next province or driving across Canada, there are things to consider.



Vintage tea pots for sale at the Village Gift Shop.

I think about our visitors who sometimes travel great distances to join us at MHV. What is it that we can offer to them to make their experiences memorable? How can we reduce plastics and waste? How can we support the local economy? How can we encourage tolerance, empathy and respect for our fellow human beings? Big questions for a little gift shop. Do I really think that what we do here makes a difference? Yes I do, and there are a few reasons why I think so:

Shop Local - many of the items we offer for sale are locally made. I look for products that use quality ingredients and local talent. For example, we carry handmade candles in a variety of 'flavours' in reusable glass containers. Salves and balms, some with recipes dating back a century, sooth and comfort with local ingredients and knowledge. We skip the mass production and complex shipping issues, which is good for our planet.

Quality and Purpose - care is taken when we bring items in for sale. Is it a quality product that will withstand use? Is it practical? Is it something that someone would welcome as a gift? All of our magnets are wood and made in Canada, several featuring local landmarks and reflect the Manitoba experience. We hope the items chosen will carry good memories made at the museum.

Sustainability - Some of the books and gifts we carry in the store are pre-loved. The quirky teapots from Aunt Mary will bring a smile to a few new homes. Grandpa is downsizing and no longer needs the reference books he used to trace family roots, we welcome a selection of them for resale to be utilized and cherished by a new generation. There is great satisfaction in matching up hard-to-find resources with people searching for them! The bonus is less waste in the landfills. We use paper bags to package gifts, when bags are requested. Small gestures in the global scale but contributing to a pattern of sustainability.

Life is more than ease and convenience. It is about being thoughtful about the choices we make on a daily basis, choosing for more than just ourselves but for those who we share this awesome planet with. Village Books & Gifts is trying to do their small



The Spring Candle Collection from Farmer's Daughter Co.

Summer Hours (May 1 - October 1):

Monday - Saturday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sundays: 11:30 am - 5:00 pm



REFLECTIONS ON 60 YEARS

BY NATHAN DYCK, DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

On May 24th, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Mennonite Heritage Village with our annual Spring Gala. This year, we titled the event, "It Takes a Village," in recognition of the large community of donors, sponsors, volunteers and staff that have, throughout the last 6 decades, contributed to making the Mennonite Heritage Village what it is today. Sixty years is quite an accomplishment for any organization to achieve, and this diamond jubilee is a testament to generations of individuals who have believed and continue to believe in the mission and vision of our organization.



New billboard on the Trans Canada highway in 1977.
Left-Right: Dave Reimer and Ed Krahn

The story of how the Mennonite Heritage Village came to be is an interesting tale unto itself. In the late 1950s, the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society began the discussion to create a Mennonite Museum somewhere in the province. Several suggestions were made, one to preserve an entire Mennonite village in the West Reserve, and another to outfit an original Mennonite farm. A group of businessmen from South-

east Manitoba seized this opportunity and John C. Reimer indicated an ideal site on Hwy 12 just north of Steinbach. Local money was pledged and a site was purchased for \$3,000, allocating what is now the Mennonite Heritage Village.

By 1963, the project had all but stagnated as the small volunteer committee was struggling to fill the positions needed to fundraise and promote the building, collecting artefacts and attracting members to support the endeavor. On August 26, 1963, Eugene Derksen (founder of the Carillon News) presented a heartfelt appeal to the Steinbach Chamber of Commerce to support the project as an outstanding attraction to draw visitors to Steinbach. He pressured the Chamber, "If we feel that this is a project worthy of our consideration, then we must face the situation and put our shoulders to the wheel." The motivation was to seek funding during Canada's upcoming centennial: "The museum project must be made a centennial project, which would then be eligible for some government aid. However, no aid will be forthcoming until we ourselves get the project going on our own. It's entirely up to us."

John C. Reimer, a retired schoolteacher, had already been amassing artefacts and held a sizeable collection, much of it from his grandfather Klaas Reimer, a member of one of the first Mennonite families in the area. His collection would provide the backbone of the museum's presentation, but a suitable building was needed to house and preserve this important history. J.J. Reimer, president of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, turned the first sod on the building project on July 23, 1965, and Rev. H.A. Berg preached to the crowd, "[The-Mennonite Village Museum] will be a sacred reminder of the accomplishments of the past, it will under-

score the distinctive traits of the Mennonite people, and it will serve as a reminder to give thanks for the work of our forefathers." Two years later, on Sept. 7, 1967, the museum officially opened to the public with a large crowd attending the event, evaporating any doubts about the organization's success.



John C. Reimer in front of the Reimer General Store, 1970s.

The journey from the 1960s to today has not been entirely smooth. Staff, volunteers and funding have come and gone, and the village itself has seen major building projects, design changes and updates, and shifts in its mission and vision. Many of the documents that chronicle these developments were on display at the Gala evening. At its core though, the MHV remains a premier site to experience not only the Russian Mennonite story, but to inhabit an historic village and feel the peace and tranquility of our grounds. We offer our thanks to the whole village of people that support us allow your village experience to be everything that it is.

References:

- ¹ Eugene Derksen's Report to the Steinbach Chamber of Commerce, August 26, 1963.
- ² Carillon News, July 23, 1965.



PIONEER DAY CAMPS

BY HANNAH KLASSEN, EDUCATION ASSISTANT

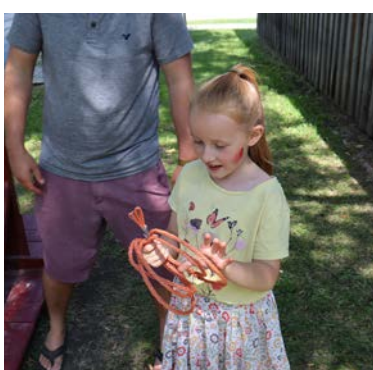
Summer is winding down, and we had an amazing time with Day Camps here at MHV! Day camps are a fun, learning-filled week, full of crafts, outside activities, heritage skills, and new memories. Day camps are available for kids from age 5-14 running from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday and offer a unique week of activities and skills that are exciting, educational, and fun.

What makes day camps at the Mennonite Heritage Village different than others is that campers get to come and learn specific heritage skills during their week at camp. Some possible skills campers develop are assisting in making projects in the blacksmith shop, soap-making, baking Schmetje (biscuits), learning about the windmill, butter churning, or assisting in the print shop. The week often also includes a variety of crafts, water games, and activities such as rhubarb picking, barrel train rides, horse drawn wagon rides, and special events in the summer kitchen. The kids get to spend time learning from volunteers who are experts in different heritage skills and have many of their own stories to share with the campers. The campers will also have time to explore the different heritage buildings and galleries at the Mennonite Heritage Village.

A special week to note is apprenticeship week. Apprenticeship week at MHV is like other weeks of day camp in many ways, however it offers even greater opportunity for campers to learn heritage skills and explore different pioneer skills that would have been essential in the early Mennonite way of life.

Some of these skills include things such as embroidery, making a dinner bell in the blacksmith shop, learning how to harness a horse, grinding flour in the windmill, crafting and printing something in the printshop, making homemade bread, practicing calligraphy, butter churning, or soap making.

Stay tuned for information about signing up for next summer, and for our winter camp in January. Come to the Mennonite Heritage Village for a week of day camp and experience a "day in the life" of the first



Learning to tie knots at Summer Day Camp.

Mennonites when they settled in southern Manitoba. For any questions regarding day camps, check out the website, or call the museum to speak to one of our education department staff, who would love to answer any questions you might have.



Painting birdhouses on a beautiful Summer day.



KIDS 2024 SUMMER CAMP

DAY CAMPS:

JULY 8-12:	AGES 5 TO 7
JULY 15-19:	AGES 8 TO 10
JULY 22-26:	AGES 11 TO 14

(APPRENTICESHIP CAMP: EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE AND DEVELOP HERITAGE SKILLS)

AUGUST 12-16:	AGES 7-11
AUGUST 19-23:	AGES 7-11

Register early to reserve your spot!

Non-membership holders:
\$165.00/camper

Membership holders:
\$148.50/camper

Visit www.mhv.ca to register

2024 Summer Day Camp Dates:

July 8-12: Ages 5-7

July 15-19: Ages 8-10

July 22-26: Ages 11-14 - Apprenticeship Week

August 12-16: Ages 7-11

August 19-23: Ages 7-11





SCHOOL PROGRAMS

BY HANNAH KLASSEN, EDUCATION ASSISTANT

May and June were busy at the museum, bustling with school groups and visitors. For the Education Department in the spring months, schools book field trips and tours at the museum to learn more about the rich Mennonite history of the early Mennonites in the Steinbach area.

During the months of May and June this year, we have seen school groups from early elementary ages all the way up into post-secondary from across Southern Manitoba. During these tours, volunteers fill the heritage buildings and provide historical interpretations and demonstrations of the way of life of the early Mennonites and the significance of these buildings.



Learning how to make maple syrup suckers.



George Klassen taking a group to see the windmill.

Many of the volunteers have their own stories to share as well from their own upbringing and family history. Throughout their visit, students have the opportunity to interact with the volunteers, ask questions, and even try their hand at blacksmithing, making their own dolls, helping the millers in the windmill or having a ride in a wagon pulled by horses or an antique tractor. There is time provided for groups to wander down main street, explore the buildings and the grounds, see old artifacts and reflect on the day-to-day life of the early Mennonites.

There are several tours options available for school groups. An interpretive tour, where the groups visit several different buildings where a volunteer dressed for the time period interprets the building, giving a brief picture what life would have been like for the early Mennonites who made the Steinbach area their home. There is also a hands-on tour would include building interpretations from volunteers as well, as well as a more hands-on experience for the students.

During these tours, students may get to do some activities such as making rings in the blacksmith shop, helping mill grain in the windmill, crafting a doll, baking Schmetje (biscuits) or practicing writing on slates in the private school. Both tours provide a wonderful learning experience for the school groups that visit. Other tours that are offered are guided tours, where one of our lovely volunteers would lead a group through the buildings, providing more information about each of them, including more detailed information about how it is that the Mennonites ended up here and what that journey would have been like.



Kids enjoy visiting the hens and other farm animals.

These tours provide an opportunity for students and teachers to learn more about the historical influence of the Mennonites and the critical role that they played in development of Southern Manitoba. This provides an opportunity for some to learn more about their own Mennonite roots. These visits are always busy, fun, educational, and exciting days, as we continue to tell the stories of the experiences of the early Mennonites that have shaped Steinbach and Mennonite history into what it is today.



PRIVATE EVENTS

BY ELISE PLESSIS, PRIVATE EVENTS COORDINATOR



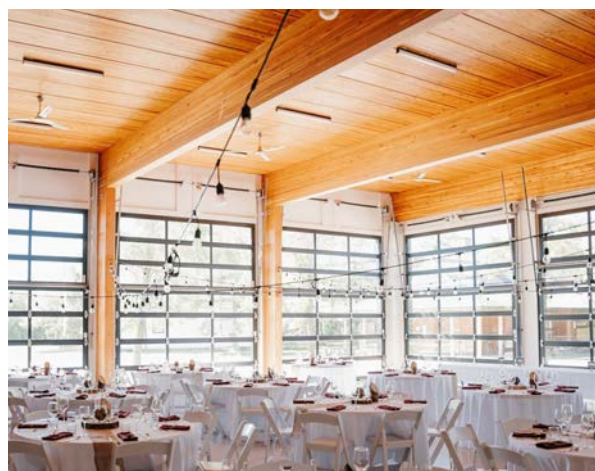
Couple by windmill.

We are still in the midst of a full blown wedding season here at MHV. We are excited to host a multitude of events happening this summer, such as birthdays, anniversaries, company picnics, corporate events, training sessions and of course beautiful weddings!

Our clients enjoy our friendly, helpful and professional staff, our unique heritage buildings and rich history of the Mennonite journey.

Our venues attract clients from all over Manitoba and have even been scouted for movie sets. The buzz around the Mennonite Heritage Village is growing. It is a perfect backdrop for joyous occasions and fun events.

The month of June has seen a church picnic, a lucky contest winner who got to enjoy a playful truck bed movie date night, a family gathering, a gymnastics windup, a 60th anniversary and a gorgeous wedding in one of our historic churches with a reception in our shining gem, The Peter Barkman Summer Pavilion.



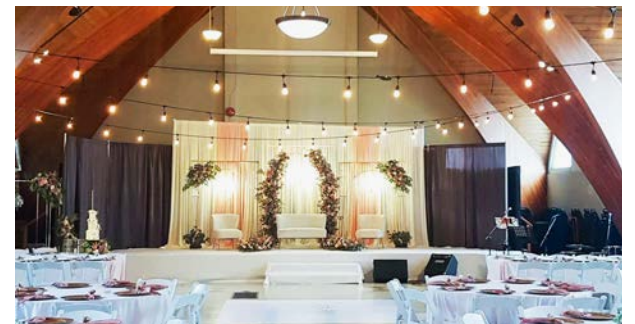
Credit: Longpine Photography (Instagram: @longpinephotography)

We host plenty of repeat customers and we are looking forward to hosting many more.

As the Private Events Coordinator I would love to hear from you and give you a free tour of our event spaces and grounds. Feel free to email me at elisep@mhv.ca for more information or to set up an appointment for a tour.

2024 has started off as one of the busiest seasons in recent years and I'm confident the MHV will continue to impress!

You can find us on Instagram @mhvweddings and find more information on booking rentals @ www.mhv.ca



Credit: Kristie Brandt



White horse drawn carriage along main street.



Credit: Kevin Sawatsky



2024 EVENTS!

PUBLIC EVENTS:

MENNONITE HERITAGE VILLAGE PRESENTS

HERITAGE Classic

20TH JULY 2024



CAR Show

ADMISSION:
ADULTS - \$15
SENIORS/
STUDENTS - \$12
CHILDREN - \$8
5 & UNDER - FREE

CALLING ALL CAR ENTHUSIASTS!
Join us at the Mennonite Heritage Village for a showstopping event that you do not want to miss! View stunning classic cars lined up and down our village's main street.

MENNONITE HERITAGE VILLAGE
231 HWY 12 N, Steinbach, MB
204-326-9661
www.mhv.ca

Saturday, July 20 - Heritage Classic Car Show:
- Come walk along the Village Main Street to enjoy classic cars and speak with their owners. Enjoy food, music and more.

Saturday, August 3 - Monday, August 5 - Pioneer Days:
- Relive our Mennonite past through pioneer activities, music, and delicious food. Our biggest event of the year!

August 17 - Peace Trek:
- 3rd annual MHV peer-to-peer fundraiser with cyclists riding a 56km route along the historic Peace Trail.

August 18 - MHV Auxiliary presents, "Celebrating 150 Years: A Tapestry of Pioneer Women"
- Enjoy demonstrations, fasha, and stories of Pioneer women as told by members of the Auxiliary.

Monday, September 2 - Fall on the Farm:
- Experience harvest work, corn on the cob, music, hog butchering, and pioneer demonstrations.

September 22 - Secret Treaty Book Launch
- Join MHV and Mennonite Church Manitoba in celebrating the book launch of Dave Scott and Jonathan Dyck's new graphic novel

September 24 - Exhibit Grand Opening, "Mennonite Reflections: Arriving in Manitoba 150 Years Ago"
- Join the 150th exhibit committee in learning about the first Mennonite migration to Manitoba in 1874.

September 29 - Final Sunday Buffet at the Livery Barn Restuarant
- Enjoy one last all you can eat meal of vereniki and foama worscht

September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Free Admission to the MHV to come

contemplate the 150 year history of Mennonite and Indigenous relations, and take our self-guided "Reconciling History" tour.

October 2 - Volunteer Appreciation Evening
- Volunteers are welcome to come be celebrated with an evening of fellowship, stories, thanks, and viewing images of this year's events

October 4 - Ralph Friesen book launch
- Hear from author Ralph Friesen about his new book on Steinbach history.

Saturday, November 9 - Christmas Market
- Stock up on gifts for the whole family at the MHV. Meet many local artisans and support their work.

December -February - Winter in the Village
- Visit the village this winter and enjoy sleigh rides, skating, snowshoeing, kick-sleds, hot drinks & more! The entire village is lit to create a truly magical atmosphere. Winter Admission is half-price, or get a membership and come as often as you like! Stay tuned for more entertainment and special activites on our website - www.mhv.ca

Saturday, February 15 - Winter Carnival
- Fun for the whole family! Enjoy snow sculpting, kicksleds, indoor children's entertainment and so much more in our celebration of Winter.

MENNONITE HERITAGE VILLAGE

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 20
Heritage Car Show

AUGUST 3 - 5
Pioneer Days

AUGUST 17
Peace Trek

AUGUST 18
150 Years: A Tapestry Of Pioneer Women

SEPTEMBER 2
Fall On The Farm



BOOK WEDDINGS, BIRTHDAYS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS!



Credit: Longpine Photography (Instagram: @longpinephotography)



Mennonite Heritage Village Auditorium.



Credit: Kevin Sawatzky



Credit: Kristie Brandt

Phone: 204-326-9661
Website: www.mhv.ca
Instagram: @mhvweddings

As we celebrate our 60th anniversary this year, we offer our heartfelt congratulations to every couple celebrating an amazing anniversary.

Contact us to discover how we can host and cater your special day.





THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 DONORS!

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MHV VILLAGE BOOKS & GIFTS PRESENTS:
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Christmas Market 2024
Sat. Nov. 9, 10am - 4 pm
Admission: Tin for the bin, new Toys, or Cash donations for the Southeast Helping Hands
Mennonite Heritage Village
231 Highway 12 North, Steinbach, MB

FALL ON THE FARM
Monday, Sept. 2, 2024
9 AM - 5 PM
Mennonite Heritage Village
www.mhv.ca

Mennonite Heritage Village
www.mhv.ca
PIONEER DAYS
AUGUST LONG WEEKEND: AUGUST 3-5, 2024
PIONEER DEMONSTRATIONS
STEAM-POWERED ACTIVITIES
CANDY BOOTH
NEW EXHIBIT:
MENNONITE REFLECTIONS - ARRIVING
IN MANITOBA 150 YEARS AGO

Mennonite Heritage Village
PEACE TREK 2024
August 17th
Celebrate 150 years since Mennonite Arrival in Manitoba
Join us in a cyclathon in support of MHV and the Peace Trail
Register at:
www.mhv.ca/peace-trek
Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) Inc.
231 PTH 12 N, Steinbach, MB
Phone: 204-326-9661

Mennonite Reflections
Arriving In Manitoba 150 Years Ago
This exhibit at MHV explores how Mennonites first settled in Manitoba.
Exhibition Opening on Pioneer Days August 3-5, 2024
Mennonite Heritage Village
231 PTH 12 N, Steinbach, MB
Phone: 1-204-326-9661
mennoniteheritagevillage.com
Hours: May - September
Monday - Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday 11:30 AM - 3 PM
Hours: October - April
Sunday and Monday closed
Tuesday - Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM
PLETT FOUNDATION
A project supported by the Plett Foundation's Grants Program

Thank you to the many donors who support us as we seek to be the premier interpretive centre for the Russian Mennonite story.

For more information on how to donate visit www.mhv.ca/donate or contact: Nathan Dyck, Development Coordinator - nathand@mhv.ca



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