

Voices

THE VILLAGE

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DIT JOAH ES MEIST AWA

TRANSLATION: THIS YEAR IS ALMOST OVER.

**MENNONITE HERITAGE
WEEK PG 6**

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* Outdoor buildings are closed

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REMEMBERING PIONEER DAYS

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GARY DYCK

Here is a reflection from my first Pioneer Days as Executive Director of the Mennonite Heritage Village:

"Happy Pioneer Days!" I shouted from my truck as I drove the Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) parade float down Main Street, Steinbach. It was the kick-off of four full days for us to remember and celebrate those who went before us. We did it as a community and we did it welcoming the world. The staff, volunteers, and demonstrators did a terrific job and it was great to see all the visiting happening around our grounds.

There was a large group of students from Korea that had MHV as their last stop before flying back. There were several Chinese tourists that I was able to provide some insights for (yes, I did learn some Mandarin when I lived in China). My favourite interaction, however, was with an older Holde-man couple who sat near me in the Steamer Shelter, where our village Main Street opens up to the sawmill, windmill, and Blumenhof private school. She asked if they could eat their waffles there, as her husband was not very mobile. I answered by setting up a table for them.

For the next three to four hours they sat there taking in the sights. First it was the wheat chaff blowing out from the threshing machine, powered by the steamer; next it was the sails of the windmill gently creaking as they

turned; then the sawmill, to their left, started up and they could see and hear it slicing through large logs from the forests of Lac Du Bonnet; next was a young man making manure bricks in the lawn in front of them with a contraption hooked up by a belt to an antique tractor; horses came and hooked up to our 'merry-go-round' and firewood was sawed. This whole time there were other horses drawing wagons full of families down Main Street, a buggy with tourists, and show horses prancing back and forth. I offered the elderly couple a shuttle ride to see the grounds, but they said this vantage point provided plenty for them to see. Sometimes you need to slow down and just soak it in.

As the new Executive Director I was anxious that there would be major things I missed, that by some omission on my part the Pioneer Days festival would flop. That they would hand me the microphone to introduce our concert line-up, but no bands were there because I hadn't invited them. I know many of you also have that feeling of inadequacy when taking on a new role or challenge in life.

I wonder if the founding fathers and mothers of our communities in Canada had the same feeling when they arrived in the 1870s? "What are we doing here?" some might have asked. They made mistakes, they had crop failures, and they had personal loss.



Gary Dyck

Yet they survived so we could thrive.

Sometimes we need to take the long perspective, not of hours and days, but of generations. Your parents, your great-great-grand-parents had the same feelings as you have. They made it and so can you. It is going to work out eventually. You are not alone, nor was I alone in the Steamer Shelter that day. There is much to be thankful for and to learn from, which is a major reason why we host the Pioneer Days festival every year.

Despite two days of heat warnings, we had a total of 5070 visitors, which is up nearly 300 from 2018.

All of our events have had good numbers this year; financially and attendance-wise. Our donations, however, are down significantly. Please consider giving an extra donation to MHV this year so that we can come out on top. In the meantime, I hope to see you at the Steamer Shelter next year!

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FOSTERING A CULTURE OF APPRECIATION

BY TAMARA UNRAU

Museums exist for the purpose of preserving and sharing history, heritage and culture. Here at the Mennonite Heritage Village, we are working hard to this end. Alongside this, MHV is also actively pursuing the goal of fostering a culture of appreciation. As an organization that relies extensively on volunteers for the execution of its programming, we recognize the importance of acknowledging the efforts and talents of our volunteers. I, personally, would like to thank our many volunteers who spend countless hours of their time here at the Mennonite Heritage Village.

I have had the privilege of returning to work as a summer student here at the museum for

the past three years. As the primary contact for volunteers, I daresay I have made hundreds of phone calls and have sent countless emails to volunteers. At times, this has been a stressful and tedious task; however, I have always been amazed at how graciously and eagerly our volunteers have responded time and time again to our, sometimes desperate, pleas.

Volunteers truly are what keep this museum and its events up and running. I have come to greatly appreciate the vast knowledge and extensive skill set of our volunteer team. I have also been incredibly blessed by the opportunity to get to know many of our volunteers on a more personal level, through our many

frequent interactions over the past three years. These interactions have been one of the highlights of my position.

I want to say thank you, for the joy and enthusiasm with which you have volunteered so faithfully at the Mennonite Heritage Village. The willing and flexible attitudes of our volunteers promote an atmosphere of friendship and fun and are what make Mennonite Heritage Village an excellent place to work. I have appreciated it, and even more so, the museum also appreciates it.



LOOKING FOR RENTAL SPACE?

BY STACEY SAWATSKY

With many original historic buildings and Canada's only wind operational windmill, MHV offers numerous unique photo opportunities and special backdrops for your celebrations. We also have a variety of buildings to rent as well as multipurpose and meeting rooms for corporate use.

Auditorium: The high vaulted ceiling and warm atmosphere of our Auditorium provides a beautiful backdrop for your celebration. It seats 200 people and boasts a built in sound system for all your A/V needs.

Summer Pavilion: The Summer Pavilion is a beautiful 3 season building with wooden ceilings and large overhead doors that allow for wonderful natural light and a view to our grounds.

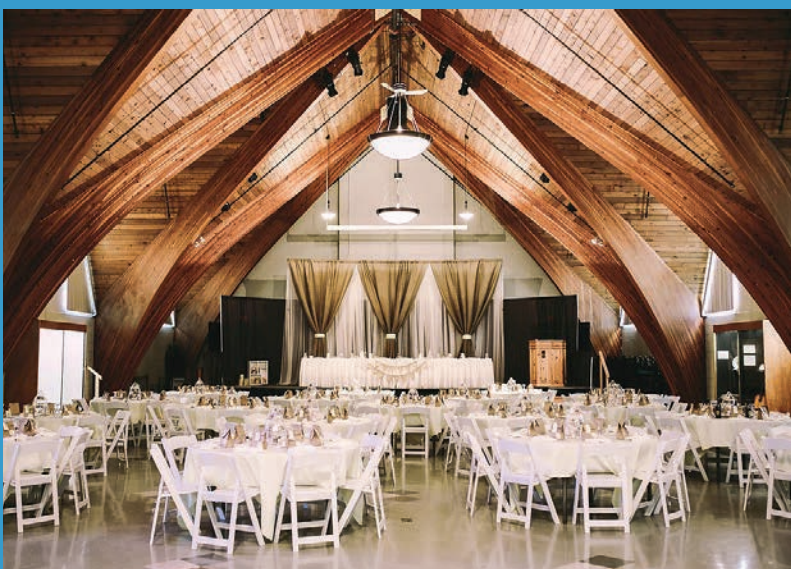
Old Colony Worship House: The Old Colony Worship House was built in 1881 and seats 180 people. Rustic timbers and simple, clean lines give it old world charm.

Lichtenau Church: The Lichtenau Church, built in 1929-1930, seats 100 guests. It's

traditional elegance and warm woods highlight its intimate atmosphere.

Corporate Rentals: MHV has its own seasonal restaurant that can cater your event. We also have excellent working relationships with local caterers.

Provided that you have the necessary permit from MLCC, alcohol may be served. We are a MLCC certified venue. We also offer coffee service, sound system and projector with screens, flip charts and full access to our grounds.



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- Auditorium seats 200 in banquet setting or 400 theatre style
- Multi-purpose room seats 40 around tables or 70 theatre style
- Classroom seats 30 around tables or 40 theatre style
- Heritage Churches seat 80 to 180



MENNONITE HERITAGE VILLAGE IS EXCELLENT!

BY JENNA KLASSEN

The Association of Manitoba Museums recently awarded Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) with two Awards of Excellence celebrating our most recent temporary exhibits. The first was for MHV's 2018 exhibit *The Art of Mennonite Clocks*, in which we partnered with the Kroeger Clocks Heritage Foundation (KCHF). The award commended this partnership, which brought the ideas and resources of two organizations together to create an exhibit that celebrates the ingenuity and artistry of Mennonite clock makers. Together, MHV and KCHF also honoured the stories and memories that these clocks hold. Not only are they beautiful timepieces, but they have also become physical markers of heritage for many Mennonites.

The second award received by MHV was the Award of Excellence for our current exhibit *The Russländer*, and the way we were able

to create connections to our community through this exhibit. Although the story of the *Russländer* (those Mennonites who migrated to Canada in the 1920s) was a unique migration experience, aspects of the migration experience are shared by people of any migration. This was the focus of our community outreach for this exhibit. We partnered with elementary, middle school, and high school students, and Eastman Immigrant Services to gather the migration experiences of newcomers in the Steinbach area and discover similarities between different cultures in the face of migration. The exhibit that resulted revealed themes of the emotions of leaving loved ones, anxiety for what the future held, uncertainty in leaving, and finally, how newcomers adapted to a new life in Manitoba. Although the *Russländer* and newcomers migrated in different time periods, from different places, and under

different circumstances, through migration experiences we can find similarities and connections within our community.



Curators Andrea Dyck and Jenna Klassen accept the Award of Excellence from the Association of Manitoba Museums.



A PEOPLE OF PEACE; PAST BUT PRESENT

BY MARILEE ARTHUR

My relocation from Toronto to Steinbach has been an interesting transition. I have at times felt as though I've been dropped into "Whoville" (*The Grinch Movie*). A place where everyone is so kind, so very generous, a community where the presence of the police is infrequent, and some of the timeless values upheld long ago are so prevalent. It was in a planning meeting earlier this fall where I began to connect the dots around why.

2020 is not only Manitoba's 150th birthday, it is also the centennial anniversary of the Mennonite Central Committee and MHV is using this celebration as the centerpiece for their exhibit next year. The creation of the MCC and why its services exist all stem back to an "old" story written by a group of pioneers who made their faith the focal point in how they did community and relationships. That first story has been a powerful influence in what we experience today and has become the essence of the Steinbach culture.

The Mennonite Heritage Village is a place that represents the past, or is it? Is the past really in the past, or are the historical roots of this region alive and persuasive today? The intention from years past seems to live strong and present. In fact, many might even suggest that this past-present culture is what keeps folks and brings folks to southern Manitoba. This undercurrent of truth, honesty, sacrifice, generosity, and peace are not a Manitoba trend, but the very foundation on which its history was built upon.

What we do know is that the culture enjoyed here in Steinbach is no accident. This community that holds record-breaking statistics tied to giving, seemingly has had the ability to make time

stand still while preserving a life model that cannot be taken for granted. In speaking with community members about this novel and treasured way of life, I sense that many Steinbach citizens don't fully grasp what they have and just how unique this way of life is.

The inclination is to see history, artifacts and the mature citizens of Steinbach as just something old and not relevant. Truth be told, the young and the mature are living out their lives with all the fringe benefits tied to a culture that was seeded with character and values many decades ago. Today we are the beneficiaries, not the creators of such and in our present world these commodities are in rare supply and hard to find.

As a non-Manitoban, new to your area, I believe you have something worth celebrating. But even greater than that, I think there is the need for an awakening. A need to inspire the young and the old to take hold and preserve this beautiful expression.. Left to its own devices it will surely erode and disappear; much like the old adage, "we didn't know what we had until it was gone."

I do truly marvel at how this cultural harvest continues to flourish in the present. Businessmen and women, artists, educators, philanthropists, are just some of the additional characters now written into the original Steinbach story, and their memoir is no less compelling. We have an obligation to keep the story going and growing because the original script becomes much more fulfilling when we can bear witness to the lasting impact of this people of peace. What we know is that everyday people, with and without a Mennonite heritage, greatly benefit from the framework this community was built upon.

The question that begs for an answer is this: Several generations later, why do the men and women of Steinbach, Mennonite and Non-Mennonite continue to uphold these values? What keeps it alive?

In 2020, the Fundraising and Promotions department will be directing the creation of a short film. A Mosaic of diverse stories, edited to perfection that clearly demonstrates what we give and receive, and why we choose to do so.

Mennonites immigrating to Canada who settled in the East Reserve, known today as the Rural Municipality of Hanover, made their decision to do so based on a letter from the Canadian Government, dated July 23, 1873. It was in this letter that fifteen conditions were met with Military sanction being at the top of the list. It was that agreement that made a people of peace possible and that peace lives on in the fabric of our Steinbach culture today.

I believe this short film will bring us together as a community and shine a necessary and bright light on the pioneers who fought for peace. In doing so we also hope to ignite a call to action, remembering our responsibility as Manitobans to preserve and protect the beauty of how we relationally connect to each other, how we give, and how we uphold these beliefs and ideals. Bringing our community together, consciously, with an appreciation of what is, and how it is tied to what was, preserves our heritage.

If you are interested in contributing to this film, or know of a story we should consider, please email details to Marileea@mhv.ca.





PIONEER DAY CAMP - LEARNING OLD SKILLS

BY ABBY TOEWS

Young people have the ability to bring life to just about anything using their endless enthusiasm. Each week of our day camps, a special energy could be felt on the grounds of the museum. The themes and activities of each day taught and provided an understanding of who the Mennonites were. The children explored the village throughout the week filled with wonder and excitement. Many of the activities taught the campers skills that were important for Mennonites and are still applicable today.

Pioneer Day Camps different themes allow campers to understand the various aspects of a Mennonite village. On Monday we talked about the story of the Mennonites, took time to explore the village, and got to know all the kids who would become friends over the week. Tuesday was pioneer women's day. On this day we took part in activities that would have been part of a Mennonite woman's daily life. The children made schnetje and butter, washed laundry, and painted using potato stamps. On Wednesday, pioneer men's day, we explored the different occupations that Mennonite men would have had. Everyone toured the print shop, windmill, blacksmith shop, and the Old Colony church. The children learned how to seed a crop and built a log house out of pretzel sticks. Pioneer children's day allowed the children to engage

in activities similar to what the Mennonite children would have done. The campers went to school, made kodda pups (rag dolls), and helped with farmyard chores. Our last day was transportation day where the children



Pioneer Day Camper in the Printing Press.

enjoyed many different forms of getting from one place to another including a horse-drawn wagon ride, tractor ride, and a ride on a firetruck. Each day provided new experiences for the children and we often heard a camper or two saying, "I don't want to go home. Can I stay here?"

Day camps are a great source of new experiences for kids of all backgrounds. The ac-

tivities are interactive and exploring who the Mennonites were allows for a broadening of historical knowledge. Many projects, while fun for the campers, taught skills that the Mennonites would have used when they first came to Canada. These skills were not only valuable to our ancestors, but are still useful today. Farmyard chores teach children where our food comes from. Baking schnetje helps kids explore the connection between cooking and community, encourages confidence in the kitchen, and teaches patience. Volunteers were helpful in explaining what the different buildings are and showed campers how certain tasks were done. Children were able to pose questions to the volunteers which encouraged intergenerational connections. The projects accomplished during the two weeks of day camps placed value on the knowledge of the Mennonites who came before us.

The Mennonites relied on these skills to provide food, warmth, shelter, and even entertainment for their families. While the campers did not have to worry about these issues, they still gained valuable experiences. In a time where life is fast paced, it is a good idea to slow things down and get back to our roots. While the children enjoyed their fun filled days, they also grew in their understanding of the Mennonites and the skills they possessed.



GENERAL STORE

BY JO-ANN FRIESEN

The General Store, located on Main Street in the Outdoor Village, experienced one of its busiest seasons in 2019. The vendors remarked how pleased they were to interact with guests from all over the world. So many visitors shared their own "General Store" stories. Visitors were fascinated with the artefacts, and remarked how their families used just about everything on display. I must say

we have a great collection of artefacts on display. The General store housed fourteen local crafters during the 2019 season. The variety of goods ready for purchase as well as the old fashioned candy, MHV's own stone ground flour (made onsite in our Windmill), and horseshoe rings made in the Blacksmith Shop were an added bonus as travellers purchased quality handmade merchandise. Visitor's not-

ed the similarities in the traditions of the Mennonites with their own traditions. They often felt like they had come home. They expressed their appreciation for the well-kept buildings, grounds, the inclusive friendly atmosphere, and excellent traditional cuisine, as well as the great job that MHV is doing to preserve the Russian Mennonite Story for future generations. Folks went away stating they were very



General Store Artisans

Amber Knits Co. Amber Hiebert	Relax with Flax & Folk Heart Treasures Lorna Harms
Amish Pot Pads Adelina Wiebe	Hilda's Closet Hilda Hiebert
A Switch In Time Betty-Lou Toews	Night Owl Beading Nancy Neufeld
Embroidery Cards & Egger Eleonore Thiessen	K & RP Ron & Kim Polten
Wood-n-Accents Elmer & Doris Barkman	Grampa's Wormwood Ointment Valerie Epp
Through Glass Images - Silver Jewelry & Photos Gall Penner	Becky's Treasures Rebecca Kornelsen
Sweet Designs by Evy Evelyn Hamel	Ellie's Treasures Kristine Renz



MENNONITE HERITAGE WEEK

BY JENNA KLASSEN

This year marked the first Mennonite Heritage Week in Canada, as passed by the Canadian House of Commons this past May. The House voted on the proposal of B.C. Conservative Member of Parliament Ed Fast that the second week of September be dedicated to acknowledging the contributions of Mennonites in the building of Canadian society, their history and culture, their faith and perseverance, and their role in promoting peace and justice. Although Mennonite Heritage Week has been met with some contention, this has become an important event for those of us who study and preserve the history of Mennonites in Canada.

We recently acquired the "Historic Speech of Friendship & Reconciliation Given in Cree by the Member of Parliament Robert-Falcon Ouellette in the House of Commons Commemorating Mennonite Heritage Week." In the speech, Ouellette notes the differences but emphasizes the similarities between Mennonites and Metis and Cree. Ouellette states: "I guess indigenous peoples, both Metis and Cree, are not too different from the Mennonite peoples. Mennonites fled countries to find freedom and indigenous peoples still fight for their freedom today because they cannot flee anywhere. There is nowhere to go." He finishes his speech on a hopeful note for reconciliation: "I would

like to end on a positive note and thank the work of people in the Mennonite community of Manitoba, who have been helpful in building reconciliation. They have done so in a way which is about relationships. 'Reconciliation' is not a simple word. It is the bringing back of friendly relations and, in essence, making our

Although most of the objects in MHV's artifact collection are "old," we do collect objects that speak to the contemporary Mennonite experience in Manitoba as well. This speech is an excellent example of this type of collecting. Although history is made of the past, it is objects like this speech that play a role in creating history. Just as objects from the past divulge something of their own period, current events, such as the creation of a Mennonite Heritage Week, reveal the Mennonite experience in Manitoba and Canada today. Similarly, Ouellette's discussion of reconciliation also demonstrates the values and the conversations occurring within Canadian society and within the Mennonite community at this time. Years from now future historians and museum visitors might look at this speech to understand events involving Mennonites in Manitoba, and events within Canadian society at large, in 2019, much like how historians today study government policies from the 1870s in order to understand the conditions of migration for the first Mennonites arriving in Manitoba. At MHV we preserve the history and the experiences of Mennonites in Manitoba, whether it is the experiences of those who arrived in 1874, or those who live here today.

Historic Speech of Friendship & Reconciliation Given in Cree by the Member of Parliament Robert-Falcon Ouellette in the House of Commons commemorating Mennonite Heritage Week - Motion-111



Madame la Présidente et toutes mes relations, je tiens à remercier mon collègue le député d'Alton Towers ainsi que le jeune député dynamique de la région de Kitchener-Waterloo d'avoir souligné le travail que nous accomplissons pour bâtir un Canada plus inclusif et la contribution des mennonites.

La semaine de patrimoine mennonite est importante. Voici la motion:

Que, de l'avis de la Chambre, le gouvernement devrait reconnaître l'apport des mennonites canadiens à l'éducation, à la culture, à la société, à la paix et à la justice tant au pays qu'à l'étranger, ainsi que l'importance de sensibiliser les générations futures au patrimoine mennonite, en déclarant la deuxième semaine de septembre, Semaine de patrimoine mennonite.

Les tout premiers mennonites canadiens sont arrivés à la fin du XVIIIe siècle et ils se sont d'abord installés en Ontario. Aujourd'hui, près de 200 000 mennonites peuvent considérer le Canada comme leur pays. Plus de la moitié d'entre eux vivent en ville, et la plus grande communauté mennonite au monde se trouve dans la magnifique ville de Winnipeg, ma ville, où elle est très heureuse.

À la fin des années 1870, la modification — les politiques d'assimilation du gouvernement russe — a poussé 18 000 mennonites allemands, soit le tiers de tous les mennonites se trouvant en Russie, à émigrer en Amérique du Nord. Au lieu de travailler les terres, une autonomie en matière de culture et d'éducation et une garantie d'exemption du service militaire. Plus de 7 000 mennonites sont venus dans le Sud du Manitoba. Le mot « assimilation » est important. Les mennonites le connaissent, mais d'autres personnes au Canada comprennent mal ce mot. Les gens sont si différents, et pourtant, tout le monde peut comprendre ce mot.

À peu près à cette date en 1869, deux jeunes vivaient aussi dans les Prairies. Joseph Ouellette et Meise Ouellette, son fils, cultivaient les terres et chassaient le bœuf dans la région de la Rivière Rouge. Ils collaboraient aussi avec Louis Riel pour défendre les droits et les libertés de tous ceux qui vivaient dans la région de la Rivière Rouge. Ils étaient de fiers Métis. Ils voulaient créer une société libre avec une charte des droits, où notre religion imposait peu et où on était simplement libre de vivre en paix.

Le gouvernement du Canada voulait coloniser l'Ouest. De 1890 jusqu'à la Première Guerre mondiale, les mennonites de la Prusse, de la Russie et des États-Unis ont été attirés par les terres riches offertes presque gratuitement dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Nombre de nouveaux immigrants se sont installés au Manitoba et dans les provinces des Prairies, tandis que d'autres ont fondé des communautés mennonites en Saskatchewan et des congrégations en Ontario.

À ces moments de 1885, les Métis se sont alliés aux peuples criés pour lutter contre le gouvernement et l'armée du Canada. Plus tard, les Métis ont été chassés de leurs terres. Comme l'a écrit Maria Campbell, ils sont alors devenus le peuple des réserves résignées et de simples ouvriers agricoles qu'ils ont hérités comme terres agricoles dans l'Ouest.

C'était aussi une époque difficile pour les mennonites. Dans les colonies lointaines de la Russie, on les forçait à travailler, et leurs fermes étaient saisies. Ils ont souffert pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale. La plus grande vague d'immigration a eu lieu dans les années 1920, lorsque 20 000 mennonites ont fui la famine et les conséquences de la révolution communiste bolchévique. Pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, plus de 12 000 personnes déplacées ou réfugiées « mennonites ont quitté l'URSS et l'Allemagne pour s'établir au Canada, le plus souvent dans des régions urbaines.

Je suppose que les mennonites ne sont pas si différents des peuples autochtones comme les Métis et les Cris. Les mennonites ont fui leur pays pour trouver la liberté, tandis que les peuples autochtones se battent encore pour leur liberté, puisqu'ils ne peuvent s'en aller nulle part.

Je tiens à terminer sur une note positive et remercier les gens de la communauté mennonite du Manitoba, dont le travail a contribué à faire avancer la réconciliation. Ils l'ont fait en mettant l'accent sur les relations. Le terme « réconciliation » n'est pas qu'un simple mot. Il s'agit du rétablissement de relations amicales et, essentiellement, de la création de points de vue compatibles. Il s'agit d'une tâche très complexe qui nécessite l'apport des deux côtés.

L'histoire du Canada est une œuvre de médiation. À mesure que nos enfants vivent, travaillent et se marient ensemble, ils bâtissent une société qui reflète la vision du président Louis Riel, du chef Poundmaker et du chef Wuttunee. Cet avenir doit être prometteur.

Madam Speaker, and all my relations, I would like to thank the member of Parliament and colleague from Alton Towers and also the dynamic young MP from Kitchener-Waterloo for highlighting the work we do to build a more inclusive Canada and highlight the contribution of the Mennonite peoples.

Mennonite heritage week is important. Here is the motion:

That, in the opinion of the House, the government should recognize the contributions that Canadian Mennonites have made to building Canadian society, their history of hope and perseverance, their role in promoting peace and justice both at home and abroad, and the importance of educating and reflecting upon Mennonite heritage for future generations, by declaring the second week of September as Mennonite Heritage Week.

The very first Canadian Mennonites arrived in the late 18th century, settling initially in Ontario. Today, almost 200,000 Mennonites can call Canada home. More than half live in cities and the largest number in the world live very happily in the beautiful city of Winnipeg, my Winnipeg.

In the 1870s, the Russification or assimilation policies of the Russian government caused 18,000 Dutch Mennonites, one-third of the total in Russia, to leave for North America. There was a promise of land, cultural and educational autonomy, and guaranteed exemption from military service. Almost 7,000 Mennonites came to southern Manitoba. Assimilation is an important word. Mennonites know this word, but others in Canada also have an understanding of this word. Peoples are so different, yet all can understand this word.

Around this time in 1869, my people were also living on the Prairies. Joseph Ouellette and Meise Ouellette, his son, were farming and hunting bison in the Red River. They were also working with Louis Riel to secure the rights and freedoms of all people living in the Red River. They were proud Métis. They wanted to create a free society with a bill of rights, where it did not matter what religion you were, but you were simply free to live in peace.

The Canadian government wanted to settle the west. The almost free lands in the Northwest Territories attracted Mennonites from Prussia, Russia and the U.S. between 1890 and the First World War. Many of the new immigrants moved to Manitoba and the prairie provinces, and other created Mennonite communities in Saskatchewan and established congregations in Ontario.

Around this time in 1885, the Métis fought together in alliance with the Cree peoples. They battled against the Canadian government and the Canadian Army. Later, the Métis were forced off lands and, as Maria Campbell said, became road allowance people, simple day labourers working on leased lands on local farms throughout the west.

This was also a painful time for Mennonites. They were being forced into assimilation, having their farms seized a world away in Russia. They suffered during World War II. The largest immigration wave occurred in the 1920s when 20,000 Mennonites escaped famine and the effects of the Bolshevik Communist revolution. During the Second World War, more than 12,000 Mennonite "displaced persons or refugees" migrated to Canada from the U.S.S.R. and Germany, and most settled in urban areas.

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I would like to end on a positive note and thank the work of people in the Mennonite community of Manitoba, who have been helpful in building reconciliation. They have done so in a way which is about relationships. "Reconciliation" is not a simple word. It is the bringing back of friendly relations and, in essence, making our views compatible together. This is very difficult and will require work on both sides.

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The history of Canada is about a meeting between people. As our children live, work and marry together, they build a society, a vision of president Louis Riel, of Chief Poundmaker, of old Chief Wuttunee. It must be a positive future.

Robert-Falcon Ouellette, P.M.D., C.D., M.P.
Onnapiimishkew Member of Parliament/Député Winnipeg Centre Heart of Canada
Published in the Hansard on May 28th 2019

Robert-Falcon Ouellette's speech to the House of Commons

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MHV UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

- Dec 7** Win A Trip Raffle Draw
We will be drawing the lucky ticket at 12 pm!
- Dec 21** MHV Closed
The Village will be closed from Dec 21/19 to Jan 5/20.
- Feb 6** An Evening With The Authors
www.mhv.ca
- Feb 15** Winterfest@MHV
www.mhv.ca
- May 1-2** Southeast Authors Festival
www.mhv.ca

Visit our website for more upcoming events
www.mhv.ca

Mennonite Heritage Village's outdoor property is closed until May 1, 2020. The Village, however, is still busy with activities, events, and the Village Books & Gifts remain open for your shopping pleasure.

If you have not purchased your raffle ticket, time is running out. December 7th at 12 pm we will be drawing the lucky ticket. We thank Steinbach and surrounding areas, The Country Perogy Shop and Rocco's Pizzeria for all of their support in helping us to raise funds for the replacement of our roof.

2020 will bring to life many new events and opportunities for our local community and those who travel from afar.

For more information on each event, please visit our website at www.mhv.ca.



ADMISSIONS, VILLAGE BOOKS & GIFTS

BY JO-ANN FRIESEN

The summer season saw a flurry of activity on a daily basis. Travellers arrived in planes (airport right beside the museum), RV trains, and a plethora of automobiles. Our Main Gallery & the Gerhard Ens Gallery continued to be an extremely popular destination as visitors cited MHV as their highlight of their Canadian tour. Folks travelled to MHV from far and wide just to visit "The Russlander" exhibit. MHV was presented the "Award of Excellence" for this exhibit in September from the Association of Manitoba Museums. A true honor indeed. Our Curators worked very hard to bring the immigration story to life in a way you will not soon forget. A must see. You will want to pop by the museum to check out this exhibit, it will be on display until April 2020. MHV hosted guests who arrived by bus, in school groups, for weddings, birthday parties, anniversaries, meetings and more.

MHV Receptionists offered a welcoming smile; a few kind gestures as well as pertinent information which helped travelers enjoy their visit to the museum. On a regular basis this impeccable team takes on a role of concierge, guiding our guests to their next destination, whether onsite or elsewhere in Manitoba. MHV is rated the number one tourist stop in Steinbach and Blue Planet's #1 stop in Manitoba. MHV is Travel Manitoba's Visitor Information Centre for the area. Time and again visitors expressed how fabulous and memorable their experience was and wanted to return with family and friends. MHV hosts adult tour groups from Personal Care Homes, family reunions, university groups, tour companies, and more from all over Manitoba and upper North Dakota, US. This season two first time tour groups, one from the Master Gardener's Association of Winnipeg and the other from University of Manitoba expressed how they were awe struck by our excellent gardens and

facilities and Mennonite Cuisine. They will visit again. MHV invites tour groups of all sizes to contact the museum for more information. The quality of books and giftware on our store shelves continue to draw historians, shoppers and bookworms alike. We continue to have an excellent selection of novelists, genealogists, historians, biographers, local photography enthusiasts, and cookbooks. The mandate of Village Books and Gifts is to provide readers with historically sound information, personal stories and works of fiction that reflect the journey of the Russian Mennonites. We carry a wide selection of children's books, coffee table books, as well as gifts and souvenirs. Village Books and Gifts, located in the Village Center, is open year-round for your shopping convenience.

Village Books & Gifts continued to be the place for local authors to promote their books. VBG was pleased to present "An Evening with the Authors" on Oct. 1 and Oct. 29th. These evenings were both very well received and local author's enjoyed the great exposure of their books. Three of the newest books on our shelves are the "How Do I Turn on MY Oven, A Journey Through My Mother's Dementia" by Beverly Kornelsen, the "The day You Went Away" by Sharon Kehler. Stop by to get your copies today.

MHV and the Eastman Historical Society hosted "Abandoned Manitoba", an evening with historian Gordon Goldsborough on October 19. Gordon is the past Director of the Delta Marsh Field Station, an active member of the Manitoba Historical Society and a regular guest on CBC. He shared his vast knowledge of abandoned Manitoba and signed copies of his books "Abandoned Manitoba, Residential Schools to Bank Vaults to Grain Elevators", as well as "More Abandoned Manitoba – Rivers,

Rails and Ruins", both books are available in Village Books and Gifts.

Our souvenir selection continues to diversify. We continue to receive new items on a regular basis. Village Books & Gifts introduced our very own brand of historical gifts and toys including wood pens, bonnets, magnet kits, quilting kits, peg doll kits and more. Our "Menno Cards" and "Menno Apparel" continue to be our hottest sellers. Village Books & Gifts is the exclusive retailer for the Menno t-shirts in Canada. We strive to find a balance in our store by carrying heritage driven merchandise, as well as travel friendly souvenirs.

Village Books & Gifts hosted our fifth annual "Christmas in the Village Christmas Market" on Saturday, November 9th. The museum was definitely abuzz as well over 700 visitors travelled from far and wide to shop for that perfect gift. MHV housed 40 vendors who were very pleased with the great attendance. Admission to the event was a "tin for the bin", an unwrapped toy and cash donations in support of the Steinbach & Area Community Christmas. This was a tremendously huge success.

As the Gift Shop, Reception, Admissions, and General Store Manager, I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside fun, knowledgeable, seasoned staff & volunteers. Co-workers who stay committed to giving each guest a "WOW" experience during their visit to the museum. A group of people who are resourceful and very dedicated to those we host from all over the world. Village Books & Gifts endeavors to provide customer service excellence, unique books, those hard to find gifts and souvenirs. Experience the difference today. Interested in upcoming Village Books & Gifts events and in-store deals? Go to our website www.mhv.ca





NEW ACQUISITIONS

BY JENNA KLASSEN

Naturschutzverein Pin

A new addition to our artifact collection is a pin which was worn by members of the Naturschutzverein, or the Society for the Protection of Nature. The Society was established in the Chortitza Colony of New Russia (today Ukraine) in 1910. The Society was focused on the conservation of nature. In an article written by H. H. Epp, principal of the Teacher's College and member of the Society, he argues that nature must be maintained at a balance and that humanity and its "culture" has devastated nature through agriculture. He notes: "Nature itself takes care of keeping a certain balance between different animal and plant species by maintaining reasonable connections between them. Man's culture, however, changes the life cycles of nature quite radically and in direct consequences can bring about the destruction of many animals and plants" (First Mennonite Villages in Russia by N. J. Kroeker, p. 142).

The Society's objectives were to 1) publicize the impacts of industrial development; 2) oppose heavy deforestation; 3) call for better regulations of fishing in the Dnieper; 4) protect animals from cruel treatment; and 5) promote the control of erosion. From its beginning the Society was well supported. The village of Rosenthal gave the Society one Dessiatine (hectare) on which to grow an evergreen forest. The Society purchased an additional two hectares the following year to "supply the population with young fruit trees, shrubs for berries and decorative purposes,



Naturschutzverein pin, donated by Val Siemens.

selling seedlings at a low price, giving them for free to the poorest people" (Hard Passage by Arthur Kroeger, p.23). Just three years after the Society was created, membership was up to 238 members, who were not just Mennonite but came from other cultures and regions of Russia, including members from Moscow and St. Petersburg. The Society even had a delegate attend the 50 year Jubilee of the Moscow Hunting Society. At the outbreak of the First World War, however, the Society was considered a threat because of its German-speaking members and was forced to disband. In just those few years of its existence, the Society became successful in initiating conservation efforts. In an attempt to protect songbirds, particularly the Chickadee, the Society ordered artificial nests from Germany which were made to the natural pattern of their nests, and saw an increase in Chickadees in that area.

They encouraged elementary school teachers to promote respect and love for nature to their students. The Society asked farmers not to take their dogs into the fields, to avoid them chasing game and the destruction of birds' nests. The Society also wrote a report entitled "A Fight Against the Abuse of Hunting," which hoped to change hunting seasons to align with the life cycles of waterfowl and other birds in different regions, as some were hunted too early in their cycle. Rules for hunting were implemented on Chortitza Island; there was to be no hunting within the gardens, which was established as a refuge for animals. Some birds, such as owls and songbirds, were off limits to hunters and hunting with greyhounds was not permitted.

Although the Society was only in existence for four short years, their activities demonstrate an interesting, and perhaps unique, attitude toward nature for Mennonites in New Russia. It was during this same time when the Mennonite colonies were at the height of agriculture and industry, and no doubt contributed to the damage to nature that the Society was fighting against. However, natural resource management was not unique in this period on an international level. This was the same time period that Theodore Roosevelt championed the protection of wildlife and public lands, establishing national forests, parks, reserves, and game preserves in the United States. It is difficult to know what other Mennonites thought of these movements, but this pin and the Society it represents does demonstrate an understanding and concern for the protection of nature in New Russia.



THE AUXILIARY

BY EVELYN FRIESEN

It has been a busy summer season for the MHV Auxiliary! Along with our usual efforts to raise some much-needed funds for the museum, the Village auditorium was filled to capacity for our recent Perogy Supper in September. Without question, it was the Low German telephone conversation with Anne Funk and Hildegard Toews that drew roars of laughter that evening. To learn more about our events or to join the Auxiliary, please go to our events page at www.mhv.ca. We are always looking for new recruits.



Long-time volunteers Erna Friesen and Dave Plett appear to be just waiting for the Rollkuchen to fry to a golden brown before they turn them over. Mr. Plett, who usually teams up with his wife, Betty, has been a faithful volunteer at MHV for well over thirty years.



Bonnie Hildebrand, accompanied by several excited members of her quilting circle from Stead, Manitoba, was delighted to claim the lovely piecework which had been quilted by the MHV Village Quilters. She tells us that it was one of her friends who had strongly encouraged her to buy the winning ticket during our annual quilt raffle. While showing off the colorful quilt, appropriately named "Navajo Carouself," she is pictured here with her mother, Hattie (left), and Mary Friesen (far right), our quilting committee coordinator.



Frieda Loewen manages her crew of volunteers on July 1st, 2019. Pictured here, they are pampering the Rollkuchen dough before they roll it out, cut it, and place it into the hot oil to be deep fried.