

Village Review



VOL. 9 NO. 2

November 2012

“A Child’s World: From Slate to Tablet” By Anne Toews

Our 2012 theme “*A Child’s World: From Slate to Tablet*” was incorporated into each event. To highlight this, a special tent set up behind the General Store for the kids. A variety of old-fashioned games, face-painting and other activities happened there throughout the day. The kids enjoyed special entertainers Mr. Ken and Mr. Ben. Each event also featured inflatable bouncers, petting zoo, pony rides, barrel train rides and wagon rides.

Our first event of the 2012 season was *Spring on the Farm and Tractor Show* on Monday of the May long weekend. This was a joint venture with the Tractor Club. In addition to our pioneer demonstrations, there was a tractor parade, a variety of tractor games, and tractor square dancing. Live entertainment was provided by The Rock Ridge Pickers. Attendance was nearly 1500.

On June 9th we had our third annual *Tractor Trek Fundraiser* event, a joint venture between MHV and Eden Foundation. Fifty-five vintage tractors participated in a 50 kilometer ride through the countryside. The group raised more than \$50,000.00. The funds were equally divided between MHV and Eden East in Steinbach. A big thank you to all the drivers who worked diligently to collect pledges and to the sponsors and contributors who helped make this fundraiser a success.

Canada Day celebrations, Sunday, July 1st began with a church service in

the Old Colony Church organized by the EMC Conference Bicentennial Committee in celebration of their 200th anniversary. The 1:00 p.m. ceremony included speeches by MLA Kelvin Goertzen, Mayor Chris Goertzen, the Honourable Vic Toews, A flag raising by the RCMP and the national anthem, sung by Gerry Sapinsky rounded out the ceremony. After the program hundreds of people were served birthday cake and coffee.

The day continued with entertainment under the tent by 3 Mol Plaut, Reimer 6, and a beautiful Polynesian performance by Island Breeze. Pioneer demonstrations, activities for the children, and lots of good food from the restaurant, short order booth and the waffle shop added to the pioneer flavour. Attendance was just under 1000 people.

Our signature event of the season was *Pioneer Days* held on the August long weekend. Pioneer demonstrations, threshing, entertainment, and lots of good home-cooked food made this weekend a success. A horse show was held on Sunday by The Southeast Draft Horse Association. Monday we held a flea market and a gymkhana horse show. The horse shows were a huge hit and enjoyed by many. Eleven different entertainment groups performed throughout the weekend featuring a variety of music. The Johnny Cash Tribute Band, Cold Hard Cash, proved to be a big hit on Sunday afternoon. The usual favourites like The Rock Ridge Pickers, The Cracked Egg Shell, Small Town Limits, Soul Purpose, and The Cripple Creek Guys were enjoyed by many. Pioneer Days drew a crowd of over 5800 visitors.



A Touch of Christmas

The Living Nativity

November 30 & December 1

MENNONITE HERITAGE VILLAGE



2012 Highlights

By Barry Dyck

Although the year is not yet over, the bulk of our public activities at Mennonite Heritage Village were completed by the end of September. While we hope that one of the highlights of 2012 will be another year-end in the black, we have already experienced a number of other positive developments.

Our Theme

A big highlight this year has been our theme; *A Child's World, From Slate to Tablet*. This theme helped young people feel welcome at MHV and to learn more about what life was like for children 100 or more years ago. Our curators created a focused exhibit, our festival days featured a children's tent for entertainment and games, and our school program exposed children to life in a pioneer village school and community.

Our Special Events

We were very pleased to note attendance increases for both *Pioneer Days* and *Fall on the Farm* this year. Despite a day of rain during Pioneer Days, nearly 6,000 people attended this signature festival. Just over 1,700 joined us for *Fall on the Farm* on Labour Day.

On two of our festival days Steam Club '71 took their steamer

and a recently restored 6-bottom platform plow out to the field for a steam powered plowing demonstration. It proved to be a very popular attraction.

Our Exhibits and Artifacts

Together with the Evangelical Mennonite Conference, we developed and displayed an exhibit celebrating the 200th anniversary of the EMC, known as the *Kleine Gemeinde* at the time of its inception. The partnership provided MHV with a significant, well-attended exhibit in the Gerhard Ens Gallery.

A number of our artifact buildings received facelifts this year, thanks to the supportive efforts of a number of community individuals and businesses, together with a grant from Community Places, a program of the Government of Manitoba. The Windmill, the Livery Barn Restaurant, the General Store, the Auditorium and the Village Centre are all looking brighter and tidier. There are still a few similar projects remaining for 2013.

This year has been filled with highlights. We are confident that our current planning efforts will again yield significant highlights in 2013.

Rental Opportunities at MHV

By Marigold Peters

2012 has been a flurry of activity with guests celebrating weddings, baby and bridal showers, anniversaries, wedding photos and birthday parties along side folks renting space for meetings, conventions, craft shows, trade shows and workshops.

Our wedding rental season started in April this year with a wedding ceremony celebrated in the Old Colony Church on Easter Weekend and the season will end with our 29th wedding booking of 2012 on December 31st! Weddings always create a buzz with the wide variety of décor, food and wedding vehicles that pass through. The phone is busy these days with wedding bookings already starting the first weekend of January, 2013.

MHV had the privilege of being the venue for the annual Bed and Breakfast Association of Manitoba's Fall Conference. It seemed a natural fit to team with an organization that also relies on tourists for part of their income. We have hosted numerous groups where guests were first time visitors. It is very gratifying when you recognize former rental clients coming back to visit the museum with their families. Not only does it help our bottom line, it carries on a tradition of hospitality that is an important part of the stories we tell at MHV and the history we continue to make.

We hope to continue the growth pattern in 2013 that we have seen in 2012. We invite anyone to come and look at what we offer for whatever occasion they are planning and

need extra space for. We also have some office space for rent for anyone looking to rent on a regular, daily or monthly basis. Contact us by phone or by email at info@mhv.ca.



Outdoor wedding at MHV

Fundraising Initiatives

By Barry Dyck

As a not-for-profit museum, Mennonite Heritage Village depends on donations for approximately 20% of its income. Therefore we are actively involved in various forms of fundraising throughout the year. While some of our fundraising includes personal approaches, we also plan and deliver a number of fundraising events.

Tractor Trek

This year, together with Eden Foundation, we hosted our third annual Tractor Trek. Tractor owners and drivers solicited sponsorship funds for driving a tractor that was at least 50 years old a distance of about 50 kilometers. This all-day event, started at MHV with a breakfast of jreeve, eggs, hash-browns, and home-made brown bread. The La Broquerie community provided a lunch of burgers, fries, watermelon and rollkuchen. At the end of the day back at MHV, all were treated to a supper of vereniki, farmer sausage and coleslaw. This year over 50 drivers participated. Despite the fact that most of the drive itself was rained out, the participants had a great time and raised slightly more than \$50,000.

Concerts

Last year, violinist Calvin Dyck, together with some local musicians, entertained supporters at several fundraising concerts. This year well-known Paraguayan harpist Eduard Klassen offered his talent to help us raise museum operating funds. Eduard's concert took place on Sunday, July 29, in the Village Centre Auditorium. We are already planning a fundraising concert by a Toronto-based women's choir for the summer of 2013. We appreciate the contributions of all these artists in support of MHV.

Heritage Classic Golf Tournament

Our second annual Heritage Classic Golf Tournament and Pig Roast was held at the Steinbach Fly In Golf Club on September 5. Eighty-seven golfers enjoyed the day and its activities. We are grateful for all the sponsors who "stepped up to the tee" with sponsorships and prizes. We encourage you to participate in our golf tournament next year.

The MHV Auxiliary

The MHV Auxiliary continues to be a significant fundraising arm of the museum with its catering services, quilt sales and raffles, waffle sales and other initiatives. Their fall turkey dinner was particularly successful, attracting 400 guests.

As usual, our fundraising efforts for the year will be capped with a letter to our constituents, updating them on the past year's activities at MHV and inviting ongoing financial support. All these and other initiatives work together to provide the overall funding MHV requires.



New Team Member

We at the Mennonite Heritage Village are pleased to announce the appointment of Natasha Lapeire to the newly created position of Development Coordinator. This role carries responsibilities in the areas of fundraising and public relations. The fundraising elements include the promotion of our sponsorship program and the delivery of fundraising events. The public relations accountabilities involve areas of social media, print, radio and other forms of communication.

Tashia grew up near the Haskett community, just south-west of Winkler, and now resides in the Ste. Genevieve area. Her career track and her volunteer work have taken her through a number of public-relations and fundraising roles. She brings both talent and energy to MHV. Feel free to drop in to welcome her to her new role.



Golf Tournament

By Natasha Lapeire

The second annual Heritage Classic Golf Tournament was a great success. With an increase in the number of registered golfers, a fantastic Pig Roast meal provided by the MHV Auxillary, and great Silent Auction prizes we were very pleased with the outcome. Thank-you to Peter Rempel for his hand in organizing the tournament and for all of the local businesses that stepped up to support the tournament. We are already looking forward to next year's event. Congrats to the 2012 winning golf team: John Unger, Burt Loewen, James Kroeker & Warren Kroeker.



2012 Heritage Classic Winners

Not Just A Bookstore

By Nita Wiebe

Much can be said for the art of reclamation. The mantra reduce, recycle and reuse has been used by Mennonites for eons, their artists are no exception. Some very wonderful things happen when old becomes new again.

Here at MHV, we seek to remember the past and the efforts of our forefathers. We hope to strengthen connections between the next generation and the one past. Our galleries display artifacts from our rich culture as Mennonite people. Our bookstore carries books that document the joys and agonies in our history.

Many of our stories and much of our art comes from practical considerations. Flour sacks turned into pillow cases, tea towels and aprons. A fallen branch peeled and carved into a spinning top or yoyo to entertain the children. Quilts pieced together. Even preserving the fruit and vegetables

from the gardens expressed the creativity of the Preserver. Works of art, if you will.

Marti Plett's art (*Gifts from the Heart*) comes in many forms but the common thread is that they are beautiful and practical, featuring top notch workmanship. Her children's aprons are one of a kind: double-sided, each side echoing some of the other side, colours masterfully chosen and paired. A few have whimsical motifs appliquéd to the fronts but my favourites are the ones where Marti has reclaimed embroidery and lace from vintage pillowcases and tea towels and skillfully integrated them into the aprons. Marti also has lovely book bags, fully lined with batting and a coordinating fabric. Each tote has sturdy handles and charming appliqués. Approx 30cm x 36cm. We are also fortunate to carry Marti's lovely cards: unique and dimensional cards for all occasions.

As you prepare for the upcoming Holiday season or just want a special gift with a local artist's touch, keep the MHV Book and Gift Store in mind. From local honey butter, honey and jams to wooden toys and handmade soap and hand creams, we add a personal touch to your gift giving.



From the Village Book Shop

By Roland Sawatzky

Kroeger Clocks

Author: Arthur Kroeger

Price: \$29.99

Size: 174 pp., 12"x 9"

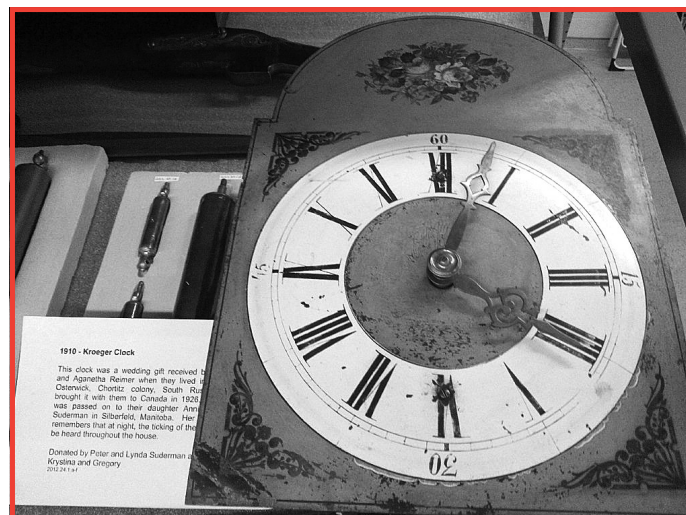
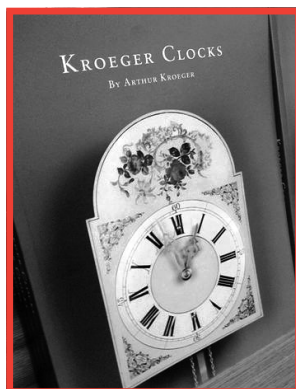
ISBN: 978-0-9783937-1-7

Kroeger Clocks was published by the MHV this summer. The book, featuring over 100 colour and historical photographs, was written by Arthur Kroeger, a descendant of the famous clock makers in Russia. Part I concerns the history of the Kroeger clock makers, from the beginning of their cottage industry in 1700s Prussia to the end of their output in 1930s Soviet Russia. Part II includes wonderful details about how the clocks were made and their distinguishing features over time, from their mechanics to their intricately painted faces. Finally, Part III is a collection of stories about families who owned the clocks and their experiences migrating and settling around the world. The book is perfect for antique lovers and people interested in Mennonite history.

Kroeger Clocks was launched in Steinbach at the *Mennonite Heritage Village* and in Winnipeg at *McNally Robinson Bookstore*. The Winnipeg launch was attended by over 125 people. Their purchases put *Kroeger Clocks* on the bestseller list where it remained for several weeks.

This important Mennonite history publication was Arthur's life's work, and MHV curatorial staff worked closely with him over a year to publish it. It was funded by various private donors and a grant from the D.F. Plett Historical Research Foundation.

Available at the *Village Bookstore*, *McNally Robinson* and *Mennonite Heritage Centre* in Winnipeg.



Kroeger Clock

This Kroeger Clock was a wedding gift of Peter Jacob Reimer and Aganetha Reimer in 1910 Kronstal-Osterwick, South Russia (present day Ukraine). They immigrated to Canada in 1924. About 60 years ago it was handed down to Annie (Reimer) Suderman.

The clock always hung on the wall in the dining room of the house on the farm at Silberfeld near Landmark, Manitoba. It was the job of the children (Peter included) to rewind the clock every day so that it would keep time. At night the ticking of the clock could be heard throughout the whole house and it would also chime the hours every day, 24 hours a day. A few years prior to Annie's death in 2005, she gave the clock to her brother Peter as he was named after her father. The clock was donated to the MHV this summer by Peter and Lynda Suderman and children Krystina and Gregory.

Exhibits Highlight the Past

By Jessica McKague



Wayne Benedet
Photography: Selections
from “An Old Ride -
Classics in the Rough”
and “Voice of the Pioneer”
May 1 – June 19 2012

In spring the Gerhard Ens Gallery was filled with the vivid, charismatic works of Wayne Benedet. Combining deep saturated colours with photographic clarity, Benedet captured the character of the abandoned with such images as this 1949 Chevrolet Skyline Deluxe Sedan grown over with forest; or a kitchen window of a derelict farmhouse peering out at a prairie thunderstorm. Wayne Benedet currently lives and works in Morden, Manitoba.

The Evangelical Mennonite Church: ***200 Years of Renewal*** *June 21 – November 12, 2012*

As part of the EMC's celebration of their bicentennial an exhibit was organized to tell the story of how the Kleine Gemeinde (little church) began and changed over time. With a combination of graphic panels and artifacts drawn from the collection this exhibit gave visitors the opportunity to become better acquainted with one of the most prominent Mennonite conferences today. This exhibit was produced as a partnership between the EMC Bicentennial Committee and the MHV.



Current Exhibit in Gerhard Ens Gallery

Did you know?

Mennonite Heritage Village has an Endowment Fund

*To provide an income stream
for MHV in perpetuity*

Donate by:

A bequest in your will,
A commemorative Gift
Securities – Eliminate Capital Gains
A charitable remainder trust

For details call:

Natashia Lapeire – 204-326-9661
Art Kroeker – 204-489-5509
Barry Dyck – 204-326-9661



Through the Eyes of a Child

June 21 2012 – January 31, 2013



Kornelson School Classroom

This year we introduced the first of our annual themes, *A Child's World: From Slate to Tablet*. Each year we will focus on a different aspect of Mennonite life and history that the MHV has to offer. Through these themes new ideas can be explored by visitors every year and new school programs, exhibits, and activities will be presented.

The new corresponding exhibit was entitled *Through the Eyes of a Child* so called because its curator, Jocelyn Lehotsky, sought to explore Mennonite family life and the Mennonite world view from the perspective of Mennonite children. Using thematic display cases, life in the home, church, and school was explored as well as a child's role in the community and the effects of war on children.

Photographs by Marielle Giesbrecht (July and August) and Kevin Friesen (Autumn) were featured in our Art Hall.

In addition, 23 new artifacts are featured in our Permanent Gallery, with more on the way!

Recent Donations

By Jessica McKague

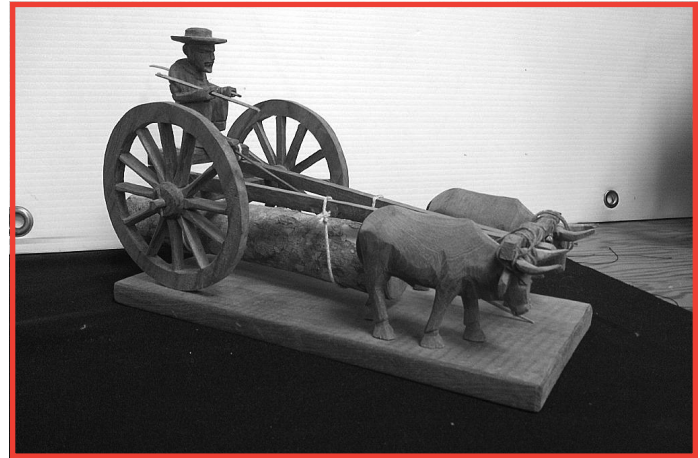
The core of the museum is its collections and they are made possible by the generosity of our donors. Since the last village review the museum has accepted 138 artifacts from 22 separate donors. There was a wide variety this summer with historical artifacts ranging from a collection of assorted ink wells to a beautiful silk hand-stitched wedding gown.

Model Ox Cart

Henry Falk donated this model ox cart in June. His parents, Aaron (Sept. 13 1901 - Fall of 1885) and Helena (Hiebert) Falk (June 27 1899 - 1991) moved from Canada to Paraguay in 1948. They moved back to Canada in 1949. This cart was made in Paraguay in the late 1960s.

Home Made Wheelbarrow

This wooden wheelbarrow was built by Peter Klassen Hiebert (1916 - 1971). He used it to haul milk cans to the road for transport pick-up. He was a mixed farmer and lived 1/2 mile north of the Tourond gas station "Superette".



Model Ox Cart

Village Review

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Photographs by MHV Staff

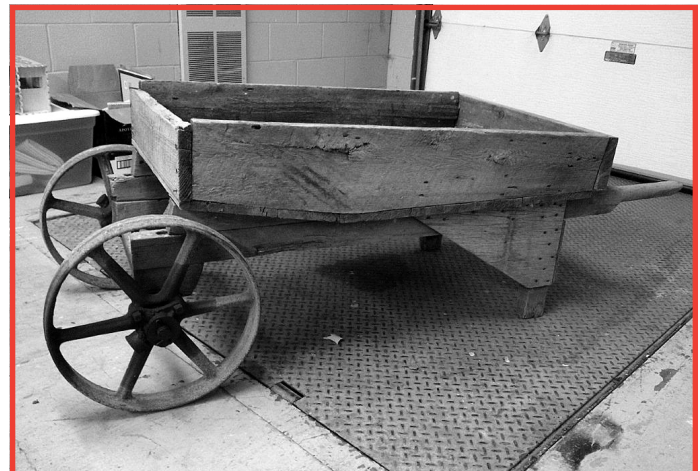
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Wheelbarrow

Excavations at the Unger Site, Blumenhof June to August, 2012

This summer was our fourth season of excavations at the abandoned Mennonite village of Blumenhof, 3 miles north of Steinbach. This year was a joint archaeological field school program including 16 students from the University of Winnipeg and University of Manitoba, taught by MHV curator Roland Sawatzky. Three students and teacher Katie Cook from SRSS also joined the crew for a week. Over a six week period at the site, the students excavated over 50 square meters of a household once inhabited by the Peter Unger family. This was a family of modest means with 10 children who lived at the east end of the village. Peter was a farmer, teacher and odd jobs man, and his family lived in the house from 1875 to 1889, when the village was dissolved and farmers moved onto their granted quarter sections to live and farm outside of the village setting.

The students were able to find a large portion of the dirt floor of the dwelling, as well as hundreds of artifacts, including wood timbers, unique ceramics and glass fragments, and even an 1860s Russian 2-kopek piece (a kopeck was similar to a Canadian penny at the time). The excavation has provided material culture useful for comparison with objects excavated in previous seasons from the Cornelius S. Plett household. The Pletts were wealthy compared to the Ungers, and comparing their material objects may give us insights into status differences within traditionalist Mennonite villages.



Ceramic piece found at excavation site.

Senior Curator Roland Sawatzky presented lectures this year at various venues:

The Quiet in the Land? Field School in a Mennonite Context

May 6,

Canadian Archaeological Association conference, Montreal

Community Exhibit Collaborations: A Museum Perspective

October 13

Association of Manitoba Museums conference, Winnipeg

Power, Identity and Community in Mennonite Landscapes

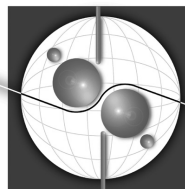
October 26

U of W, Department of Anthropology Visiting Lecturer Series.

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Upcoming Events and Exhibits

April 14, 2012 – January, 2013

The Lives of Mennonite Children

June 21 – December, 2012

The Evangelical Mennonite Church: 200 Years of Renewal

January – May 21, 2013

Animal Portraits - by Linda Toews

Feb 1 – March 8, 2013

Along the Road to Freedom: Women Refugees of the 1940s

March 15 – June 1, 2013

160 Acres: The Geography of Home

(Reception: Sunday April 14, 2013, 2 – 4:30pm)

May 24 – September 2013

There is life beyond death

Federico Buchbinder - Photography

June 6 – October 30, 2013

Windmills! Sailing the Skies

MHV Mission Statement

To preserve and exhibit for present and future generations the experience and story of the Russian Mennonites and their contributions to Manitoba

MHV Vision Statement

MHV will be the premier international interpretive centre for the Russian Mennonite story



Benefits and Privileges of a Membership

- * Free subscription to the *Village Review*, MHV's newsletter (several times a year) to keep you in touch with events and friends of the museum
- * A vote at the annual meeting of Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) if membership - has been in place 60 days prior to the meeting.
- * Two extra complimentary tickets to allow you to bring friends or relatives to the museum (to be used in the year of your membership).
- * 10 percent discount on gift store items (some restrictions apply)
- * Invitation to special membership events
- * Free admission to MHV and special museum days:
 - Spring on the Farm
 - Canada Day
 - Pioneer Days
 - Fall on the Farm
 - A Touch of Christmas
- * Free or reduced admission to the following museums:
 - Manitoba Agricultural Museum (Austin)
 - New Iceland Heritage Museum (Gimli)
 - Western Canada Aviation Museum (Winnipeg)
 - Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum (Brandon)
 - Le Musée De Saint - Boniface Museum (Winnipeg)

Yes, I reviewed the membership categories. Please enroll me as a member and supporter of the Mennonite Heritage Village in the following category:

- \$80 Annual Family Membership (includes children 17 and under)
 \$40 Annual Single Membership \$500 Life Membership (\$300 is tax deductible)

I would also like to make a special donation. (tax deductible)

- \$1000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

I am enclosing a cheque or money order for a total of \$ _____

Please charge my membership and/or donation to my

Visa Mastercard in the amount of \$ _____

Account # _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please make cheques payable to Mennonite Heritage Village Registered Charitable Number 10363-393-RR0001



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