

# THE VILLAGE *Voice*

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*Windmills:*

*Sailing the Skies...* Page 6



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**Hours**

**May, June, and September**

Monday - Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm  
Sunday: noon to 5 pm

**July - August:**

Monday - Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Sunday: noon to 6 pm

**October- April**

Monday - Friday: 10 am - 4 pm

\*Outdoor buildings are closed.\*

**Admission Rates**

Adults	\$10.00
Seniors (65 and older)	\$8.00
Students (ages 13-22)	\$8.00
Children (ages 6-12)	\$4.00
Children (ages 5 & under)	FREE
All-Day Family* Pass	\$30.00

\*Family is defined as parents and their children under 18.

**Membership**

Annual Individual Membership** (Season-long admission)	\$40.00
Annual Family* Membership** (Season-long admission)	\$80.00
Lifetime	\$500.00

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

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Gimli, MB

**St. Boniface Museum**

Winnipeg, MB

**Western Canada Aviation Museum**

Winnipeg, MB

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 24 – September 30, 2013**

Exhibit – Forsaken Manitoba: Abandoned Life on the Prairies by Federico Buchbinder in Auditorium  
Exhibit – Windmill Perspectives by SRSS Students in Art Hall

**June 6 – October 30, 2013**

Exhibit - Windmills: Sailing the Skies in Gerhard Ens Gallery  
Exhibit opening Thursday, June 6, 2013 @ 7:00 pm

**Friday, June 14 – Saturday June 15, 2013**

Summer in the City: Enjoy fresh homemade waffles at the MHV booth on Steinbach's Main Street.

**Sunday, June 16, 2013**

Father's Day Lunch Buffet: Take dad out for a Mennonite feast at the Livery Barn Restaurant.

**Monday, July 1, 2013**

Canada Day: Canada Day opening ceremony and birthday cake. Enjoy tours and lunch in the Livery Barn Restaurant.

**Wednesday, July 17, 2013**

MHV Waffle lunch – open to public

**Friday, August 2 – Monday, August 5, 2013**

Pioneer Days: Relive our Mennonite past through pioneer activities, steam powered threshing, music, and lots of good food! Our biggest event of the year!

**Thursday, August 8 – September 1, 2013**

Exhibit: Mennonite Artifacts from the Vistula Delta in Village Centre foyer

**Thursday, August 22, 2013**

MHV Waffle lunch – open to public

**Monday, September 2, 2013**

Fall on the Farm: Experience harvest work, hearty food, corn on the cob, music, hog butchering, and pioneer demonstrations.

**Wednesday, September 11, 2013**

Heritage Classic Golf Tournament

**Sunday, September 15, 2013**

Open Farm Day: Enjoy a dinner menu of local foods served in the Livery Barn Restaurant. Tickets will be available at MHV. Watch for details.

**Tuesday, October 1, 2013**

Village grounds and Livery Barn Restaurant close for season.

**Monday, October 14, 2013**

Closed for Thanksgiving.

**Thursday, October 10, 2013**

Volunteer Appreciation: If you have volunteered at MHV this year, you are invited to attend. No formal invitations will be mailed or emailed.

**Sunday, October 27, 2013**

MHV Auxiliary Fall Turkey Dinner in auditorium.

**Friday, December 6 - Saturday, December 7, 2013**

Touch of Christmas/The Living Nativity: Experience the true meaning of Christmas as the story of old is presented nightly in the stable by an outdoor nativity with live animals. Enjoy sleigh rides, fire pit, and activities for the whole family.

**Monday, December 23, 2013 – January 6, 2014**

Closed for Christmas/New Years

# NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

**Barry Dyck**

Mennonite Heritage Village has four strategic priorities. These are the themes or causes on which we try to focus our resources and energies because we believe they are what the organization needs most at this time. Strategic priorities guide us in our planning and decision making. Any action or program being considered needs to be assessed in terms of its contribution toward one or more of these priorities.

MHV's first strategic priority is *Financial Health*. This probably needs to be a key emphasis for most not-for-profit organizations. We need to focus on both the restoration and the maintenance of long-term financial health and sta-

bility. With this in mind, our restaurant and our gift shop are developing new business opportunities. Rentals of our facilities for meetings, banquets and workshops are also providing a growing source of revenue. Fundraising events such as the Tractor Trek and the Heritage Classic Golf Tournament are contributing significantly to our income.

Our second priority is *Engaging Future Generations*. A significant number of current volunteers and visitors are retired people. They have interest in what a museum has to offer and time to spend volunteering. Clearly there needs to be a strategy in place to attract and engage the new generation of visitors and supporters who will replace these in the future. We are

exploring and developing new forms of interpretation designed to appeal to children and youth. Our newspaper column now also appears as a blog. People are directed to the blogs through Facebook and Twitter. Plans are in place for our galleries to become more interactive, allowing guests to touch and listen rather than just read.

*Tourism* is our third strategic priority. While we are first and foremost a museum, we have also become a significant tourist destination. Every year we have guests from across North America and more than 50 countries around the world. Our growing web presence makes us increasingly visible anywhere in the world where there is internet access. We have also begun to develop

relationships with related museums in other countries.

Our fourth priority is *Education*. A museum is fundamentally an educational institution. We seek to teach guests of all ages both Mennonite history and pioneer history. Our theme in 2013 is *Windmills: Sailing the Skies*. Much research has been done on the place of windmills in Mennonite history as well as Manitoba history. This research will add new content to our education program this summer and to our exhibits throughout the year.

This overview has described some of the aspects of MHV life on which we will be focusing our time and energy this year. Come and join us as we unroll our 2013 season.

## Did you know?

### Mennonite Heritage Village has an Endowment Fund

More details at: [www.MHV.ca](http://www.MHV.ca)

- Donate by:
- A Bequest in your will
  - A Commemorative Gift
  - Securities—Eliminate Capital Gains
  - A charitable remainder trust

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# HAPPENINGS AT MHV



Mr. Ken & Mr. Ben didn't disappoint with their Christmas show!

## Anne Toews

To wrap up 2012, we celebrated Touch of Christmas/The Living Nativity in early December. Mr. Ken and Mr. Ben did a great job of staging a kid's Christmas show in the auditorium. That was followed by a live nativity performance outdoors in the stable. This is usually one of the first events in the community to start off the Christmas season. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated with enthusiasm to spread the Christmas spirit. As always,

the homemade cookies, hot chocolate and sleigh rides were a hit.

2012 has gone and we are well into 2013. That means plans are developing and some are in the finalizing stage for our festivals and various programs of the summer. Once again, we have chosen a theme for the season that we will incorporate into our activities. This year's theme is Windmills: Sailing the Skies We encourage you to watch and listen for details as we unveil this theme in various forms.

Look for us at Summer

in the City June 14-15. We are looking forward to participating in this exciting event! MHV waffles will be back this year! You might even see Waffles and Sauce strolling down Main Street! If you meet them, ask for directions, or follow them to the MHV booth. Make sure you stop by our MHV booth for fresh homemade waffles and vanilla sauce. It

makes my mouth water just writing about it.

For the past few years you may have noticed and/or attended the Flea Market by the Bridge on Pioneer Days Monday. For numerous reasons we have made a decision not to host the flea market any longer. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause potential vendors and shoppers.

## The Festival Event dates for 2013 are as follows:

August 2-5	Pioneer Days
September 2	Fall on the Farm
December 6-7	Touch of Christmas/ The Living Nativity

## Jessica McKague

For a few months this year I was in charge of booking and organizing the Winter School Program, a hands-on experience for school groups that the museum offers every year from February to mid-April. It was a lot of fun for me to explore and learn about a completely different, and integral, part of the museum.

Each program is tailored to the school, the number of students, and their education goals. Since we cannot possibly relay the entire story from the Anabaptists to present-day Mennonites in a single day, the museum's core objectives are quite simple:

**1** To introduce the Manitoba Mennonites as a unique ethnic and religious group.

**2** To introduce the Mennonite lifestyle as part of the pioneering experience

These objectives are fulfilled by putting the students into the shoes of Mennonite children. As soon as they arrive, they're given costumes (black vests and aprons) and encouraged to imagine themselves "travelling back in time". Once dressed they listen to stories about life in a Semlin (sod house), use old-fashioned wood working tools, make traditional toys 'kodda pups', write on slates with slate pencils, practice Fraktur, play circle games, and enjoy a sleigh ride around the village.

A major part of the mission statement of MHV is to 'exhibit the experience and story of the Russian Mennonites'. I think one of the best ways to preserve and exhibit Mennonite life and culture is to engage so that others can experience it for themselves, tangibly, with their hands in the schnetje dough.



## FUNDRAISING UPDATE & SOCIAL MEDIA

### Natashia Lapeire

The fundraising efforts have been building momentum each year and 2013 is on track to keep the momentum going. The Tractor Trek in June 2012 had 55 drivers that participated in raising funds which were split between Eden Foundation and MHV. Although the event got rained out we were very appreciative to the participants for the dedication to the event and raising the sponsorship for their ride. The Tractor Trek planning committee is already actively planning our upcoming Tractor Trek and

we hope for a beautiful clear day. Keep posted for more information!

The 2nd Annual Heritage Classic Golf Tournament also took place in September 2012 and our numbers increased from 73 to 106 registered players. We anticipate an even larger crowd at our upcoming Tournament being held in September 2013. Contact Natashia Lapeire today to register.

A new sponsorship campaign has been created to encourage the continued involvement of the surrounding community to help run our Festival Events. The 180

Campaign is active for the 2013 year. This campaign will allow 80 local businesses the opportunity to donate \$1000 designated specifically for the operations and continuation of our Festival Events.

Our arrival on the social media scene started slowly this year, but our presence has increased significantly over the last several months. Have you 'followed' us on Twitter or 'liked' us on Facebook? I encourage you to become connected and to stay updated with what is happening at MHV. See below for the links to our social media pages:



[www.facebook.com/MHVSteinbach](http://www.facebook.com/MHVSteinbach)



[www.twitter.com/MHVSteinbach](http://www.twitter.com/MHVSteinbach)

[www.mhv.ca](http://www.mhv.ca)

## Heritage Classic Golf Tournament

**Sept. 11th, 2013**  
\$125.00  
(per golfer)

- Steinbach Fly-In Golf Club
- Texas Scramble
- Shot Gun Start
- Silent Auction
- Beat the Director
- Longest Drive Prize

Register Online at: [www.MHV.ca](http://www.MHV.ca)  
For more details call Natashia at 204-326-9661 or  
Email [natashial@mhv.ca](mailto:natashial@mhv.ca)

# THE AUXILIARY: MHV'S VOLUNTEER POWERHOUSE

## Linda Schroeder

2012 was a great year for the Auxiliary! How do we rate last year as great in comparison to other years? One of the obvious ways to measure success is by the amount of money earned at the end of the year. The other less obvious measure would be the feeling of accomplishment as items are purchased for MHV or projects are funded and completed that enhances the museum experience for guests and volunteers and staff. Another way of measuring a successful year would be the sense of pride this small group of dedicated volunteers has in the work done to promote MHV and its mandate and programs. The Auxiliary always seeks to promote the educational component to the museum and this is done through providing funds for the education program or funds for the Steinbach and area Garden Club to care for and improve the gardens and flower beds. The film nights that have

been sponsored by the Auxiliary are not only entertainment, but serve to give insight into the history of the Mennonite immigrations to Canada and thus provide another educational component.

One of the highlights this past year has been the collaboration with the Along the Road to Freedom Project. This was a yearlong project and culminated in the raffle of the quilt and the exhibit opening. The artwork and personal stories were an inspiration and tribute to the women who came to Canada with their children and without their husbands after the war.

Another very successful fundraising project for the Auxiliary has been the Apron project. With the successful sales of the Mennonite Girls Can Cook cookbook at the MHV Gift shop, the Auxiliary began sewing aprons similar to the ones depicted on the cover of the book. Sales have been going very well and continue to be strong. Thanks to several very committed seamstresses for this success-



ful project!

One of the Auxiliary's best fundraising efforts is still the Waffle sales at all MHV events! A new venture in this area was to have a waffle lunch in June that was not part of

any event. It began with the Auxiliary cooking waffles for the staff as a treat for them and continued with an invitation to the public to come for lunch. It was very successful and we will continue with

this in 2013. Watch for details!

A strategic meeting was held in January to plan for 2013 and evaluate the past year. There are still many ideas and plans that the Auxiliary

would like to implement. We would love to welcome new members to share our enthusiasm and energy as we work together to promote and preserve the story of MHV.

# RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES



## Roger Ginter

What an exciting time in the "Rental Business" at MHV! As many of you will already know, MHV offers some rooms for rent for various kinds of functions. The Auditorium has played host to a variety of functions: the weekends are booked into October with the wonderful and creative wedding displays, as well as fund-raising Galas and annual meetings for a number of organizations. During the rest of the week, the Village Centre continues to be a buzz of activity. Things are often hopping (literally at times), in our Multi-Purpose room with training sessions for all types of groups. The other Meeting room has been used for everything from lifesaving CPR courses to interviews by university professors.

For those of you that don't know, MHV rents some of the facilities as a part of its overall financial strategy for a successful organization. The Auditorium seats 200 people comfortably in a banquet setting or 400 people in a theatre style meeting. The Multi-Purpose room, used for many meetings and training sessions, can easily accommodate 40 persons around tables or 70 persons in theatre style. A more intimate classroom setting is perfect for our Meeting room, which often holds 30 people seated at tables or 40 with chairs only. Last, but certainly not least, if a small intimate wedding ceremony is in your plans, please consider one of our lovely heritage Churches with seating for 80 to 180.

For your next corporate event or family celebration, please call Roger last name (ph # and email) at the MHV and let him book the right venue for your needs.

# VISUAL READINGS OF HISTORY



Lynda Toews "Silver and Joe" Acrylic on Canvas

## The Silent Contribution by Lynda Toews

January to May 2013

Art Hall and The Auditorium Gallery

This winter the Art Hall and Auditorium featured an art exhibit titled "The Silent Contribution" by Lynda Toews. It opened January 18th and continued through Spring on the Farm to May 22nd.

Toews has devoted this exhibit to honouring the contribution of farm animals to agriculture and, more broadly, the survival of the Mennonite pioneers as well as to our present day society.

Each painting focuses in on the character of each animal, too often too easily overlooked or underappreciated, all of which Toews observed from her travels to different farms in Manitoba.

The official reception was on the Sunday afternoon of February 3rd. Bluegrass tunes by the artist and her husband (LyndaRose & Gary) serenaded visitors while they enjoyed the charming art works and their accompanying farmyard stories.



Darlene Derksen Detail of "Fields of Community" Quilt

## 160 Acres:

*The Geography of Home; a prairie farm and community*

by Darlene Derksen

March 15 – June 1, 2013

Gerhard Ens Gallery

*"The title of my exhibit could have been "The Story of a Mennonite Farm", because indeed it is. However, the visual story of the exhibit will resonate with so many more people, as the once small mixed prairie farm of 160 acres and one room school community have now disappeared from the prairie landscape. "160 Acres: The Geography of Home" is a story of ingenuity, self-sufficiency, and remembrances of religious and cultural traditions of the family and community I grew up in."*

Darlene Derksen

An exhibition ten years in the making, "160 Acres" included over 300 pieces consisting of an array of materials including threadwork, painting, collage, mixed media, assemblage, photography, and writings.



Ray Dirks Helen Niebuhr Loewen

## Along the Road to Freedom:

*Women Refugees of the 1940s*

February 1 to March 8, 2013

Along the Road to Freedom, featuring paintings by Ray Dirks, curator at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery, explored the experiences of Mennonite women in the Great Trek of 1943. Mennonites in Ukraine at that time were caught up in World War II: their colonies were overrun by Germans, and when the Germans fled the Soviet counter attack the Mennonites fled with them rather than face Stalin's Soviet forces. Commissioned by descendents of the women who walked to Germany through incredible diversity, Ray Dirks has painted numerous pieces depicting this time of uncertainty, loss and hope. The art is supplemented by artifacts from the period loaned by the families. The exhibit opening included presentations by Ray Dirks and Roland Sawatzky, and was supported by the fundraising efforts of the MHV Auxiliary.



Kevin Blake "Storm on the Prairie" Print on Canvas

## Photography by Kevin Friesen

September, 2012 to January, 2013

Art Hall

Kevin Friesen captures the spirit of the prairie in his photographs of Manitoba and Saskatchewan forests, fields, farmsteads and snowfall.

*"While on a road trip in Saskatchewan with my wife, we came across this amazing scene. The sun was shining beautifully on the prairie grasses in the foreground and in the background a pending thunder storm. The storm was coming up fast so I stopped and took a few shots. Before long the rains were upon me. I tucked my camera under my shirt and headed back to the car. Just as quickly as the storm had hit it was over. I turned around thinking I would try a few more shots, but everything had changed. The sun was lost under grey clouds and the dark thunderheads were gone. It had been a wonderful but brief moment in time."*

Kevin Blake

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## Peter Wiebe

The Mennonite Heritage Village is currently preparing a major new exhibit, "Windmills: Sailing the Skies" which opened June 6, 2013. Peter Wiebe of Steinbach graciously agreed to build a new, sturdy working windmill model for the exhibit. He finished the model in February, and has provided a short write-up on the project. Thank you, Peter!

"A lot of thought and consideration went into the making of this 12th scale windmill. I was given a number of copies of the Mennonite Heritage Village windmill blue print by Gary Snider of Cornerstone Timberframes. Along with a number of site visits (with Al Hamm) to take measurements of the big windmill, it gave me an opportunity to see the gear system up close, (which is awesome to see and gave me a new appreciation of the windmill). Gary Snider helped me convert the Dutch measurements to 1/12 scale. The entire project took approximately 275

hours to put together. The main structure is made of 3/4 inch fir plywood, Baltic birch, and British Columbia fir (left over from the big windmill). The roughly 1600 cedar shingles are cut from a 2x6 x12' cedar board supplied by Mike Bergen. The crown gear teeth are made of hardwood, as is the pinion gear. The crucial part of the project was in the making of the wind gear and pinion gear along with the main shaft. The main shaft had to be put back on the lathe to balance the wind gear. Some ideas were conceived in the coffee shop, as some suggested that the stone should not be made of wood but rather of concrete: I knew I had a friend at Barkman Concrete who would make that for me, and George Funk Made it happen. I have had a lot of fun doing this project, I have learnt a lot, especially about diameter and circumference. I hope it will serve its intended purpose at the museum, and as my Dutch friend (Lucas) suggested, it does feel good to have succeeded."



The windmill model in progress.

# WINDMILLS: SAILING THE SKIES



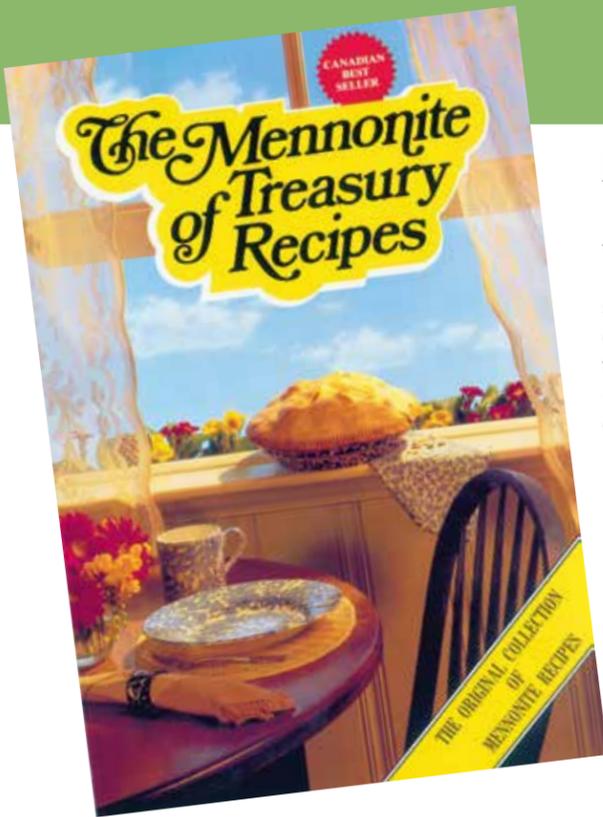
**Windmills:**  
*Sailing the Skies*  
 Curated by Dr. Roland Sawatzky and Jessica McKague  
 June 6 to October 30, 2013  
 Gerhard Ens Gallery

The Windmill – more than our logo and main attraction (it is the only working smock mill in Canada) the windmill represents the ingenuity and skill not only of the Mennonite pioneers in Southern Manitoba, but their ancestors in Russia, Poland/Prussia, and Holland. Wherever the Mennonites migrated to, windmill technology has been central to their settlement experience. This exceptionally significant exhibit will go beyond the Mennonite story to explore the windmill from its origins in Iran and spread across the world, to its development in Western Europe, the wind-powered pumps found on farms across North America and to its renewed relevance as a solution to present-day energy concerns in the form of Wind Turbine technology.



Visitors enjoying refreshments on the deck of the Windmill at the Exhibit Grand Opening on June 6th.

# BOOKSTORE



## Marigold Peters

In spite of hurried lifestyles and the fast food trends that tend to be a part of the lifestyle, cookbook sales would point towards a steady counter culture that happily cooks food that requires thought and time - food from scratch!! It is always great to see that manifested in cookbook sales in our Book Shop. One of our best sellers is still *The Mennonite Treasury*, the old tried and true cookbook which started as a project responding to inquiries regarding food preparation for large groups hence the chapter on Quantity Servings which includes some classics - for example, coleslaw and potato salad for 100 people. The decision was

subsequently made to add a chapter of Mennonite recipes, many of which originate from times of austerity and want and may not be in use any more but may be of interest to avid cooks and food historians. The addition of the rest of the favorite family recipes was a natural progression. The cover of the book has gone through some changes over the years, often eliciting skepticism about the content remaining the same. Indeed, the pictures that appear as section dividers and the recipes remain the same!! The only thing missing from any new copy are the coffee, sugar, lard and other stains that threatened to stick pages together the longer the book got used and the more hands that used the book and then of course the more food that was enjoyed by

families large and small. My guess is that there are collectable copies (many without covers?) out there that have additional hand written recipes handed down from generation to generation, recipes made famous around the table, becoming part of family lore for many. Maybe another chapter should be added to the book - ah, but that would mean a change, so maybe another Treasury could become an option!

We have great news for all avid cookbook readers! For those familiar with the cookbook *Mennonite Girls Can Cook*, there is a sequel. Stop by today to purchase your copy for \$29.99. Book signings/readings are also planned so watch for further details as you anticipate another great addition to your cookbook collection.

# THE VILLAGE FARM & FACILITIES

## Jared Nickel

Hello Everybody! My name is Jared Nickel. I grew up in Steinbach and still live here with my wife and two sons. Last year I had the pleasure being the facilities manager at the MHV and I am pleased to say that I am back for a second season.

Getting back to the museum after the winter makes me feel like I am waking up a sleeping giant. There is a thick lumpy blanket of snow covering all of the sleeping artifacts. I feel like I am visiting each one and saying "Wake up!" as I make my rounds. It's excit-

ing to be getting everything ready for another season of festivities.

Aside from getting the grounds up and running again, there are some projects that we are doing. In keeping with our theme for this year, *Windmills: Sailing The Skies* we have a few restoration projects happening. We have a portable windmill that was built in Steinbach in the 1880's that we are hoping to present as well as a more modern windmill from a barn that dates back to the 1920's that is being refurbished.

There are many other projects happening as well.

Everyone is excited about the government grant we received that enabled us to install air conditioning in our auditorium. This will keep things nice and cool for the summer. Around the grounds, our Livery Barn Restaurant, General Store, and windmill all received a fresh coat of paint last summer. We hope to continue repainting some structures this year. There are new trees that we hope to plant around the yard that are direct descendants of the famous Chortitza Oak in south Russia. We have plans to set up more of a children's play area as well. All of these projects are in

addition to the upkeep and restoration of buildings and antique vehicles that are ongoing here.

And let's not forget the farm! We plan on having our usual furry and feathered friends staying for the season. They are always fun to visit.

All of this adds up a really great place to spend time at in the summer. It also means there are plenty of opportunities for volunteers in all sorts of different roles here. Why not come down and see what there might be for you?

I look forward to seeing everyone this year at the MHV!



# NEW NAME, NEW DESIGN

## By Barry Dyck

Mennonite Heritage Village has often been accused of being a static organization. That is to say, "nothing changes at MHV." Those who spend time at, and follow the activities of MHV under-

stand this is not the case. Change happens regularly and frequently at this museum.

With this edition of our newsletter we announce both a new name and a new design for the publication. What formerly was *Village Review* is

now *The Village Voice*. And what formerly was a glossy, black & White, 8½ x 11 design is now a full colour newspaper format.

The new name, *The Village Voice*, is intended to reflect the fact that we are reporting news and

happenings at all levels. *Village Review* suggested a reflection on the past. *The Village Voice* will look to the future as well as the past.

The new design is intended to bring colour, energy and new life to the publication.

We are grateful to Derksen Printers for bringing new ideas to the table and for sharing their expertise with our staff. We are also thankful for their substantial sponsorship of *The Village Voice*. This is another partnership which enables MHV

to fulfill its mission.

We would like your feedback on both the new name and the new design. Do they appeal to you? Will they appeal to people we need to attract to MHV? How can we further improve this instrument?



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