

THE VILLAGE *Voice*

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GENERAL S

**CELEBRATE
WITH US** PG 2

**A GROWING COMMUNITY
COLLECTION, 50 YEARS** PG 4



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Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) Inc.

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Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

* Outdoor buildings are closed

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

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CELEBRATE WITH US

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BARRY DYCK

Most of us have attended a "Golden Wedding Anniversary" celebration at one time or another. This is a momentous event. On the occasion of my parent's 25th wedding anniversary, I remember my father suggesting that he didn't expect they would celebrate their 50th, probably because they married later in life. But the 50th was viewed as a significant milestone, and they did reach it.

In 2014 Mennonite Heritage Village is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Fifty years of sustaining and building a non-profit organization merits a party. Enormous amounts of vision, energy, passion and money have been invested to make this happen.

There are several reasons to celebrate 50 years of marriage as well as a 50 year museum venture. First, it invites us to pause and reflect on the growth and development we've seen since our beginnings. Looking back a week, a month, or even a year doesn't necessarily give us a sense of accomplishment and growth. But looking back 50 years will almost surely give us reasons to celebrate.

Secondly, much has been invested in a relationship or a venture that has lasted 50 years. While the people most directly involved have invested most, the "supporting cast," i.e. family, friends, volunteers, staff and other stakeholders have contributed significantly. On this occasion they can pause to

see and celebrate the dividends their investments have paid.

Many couples invite their "stakeholders" to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary with them. We would like to see our stakeholders Celebrate With Us in 2014.

It is with considerable sadness that we bid farewell to Dr. Roland Sawatzky, our Senior Curator. He has accepted a full-time role at the Manitoba Museum in Winnipeg, beginning in March.

Roland came to Mennonite Heritage Village in 2003 and has made significant contributions during his tenure. He has become well known for his scholarship in Mennonite history, particularly as it relates to the Mennonite buildings that populate our Village.

We offer our warm and best wishes to Roland in his new role and hope that our paths will continue to cross from time to time. A search for his replacement is underway.



Dr. Roland Sawatzky



UPCOMING EVENTS

BY NATASHIA LAPEIRE

Celebrate With Us!

July 5th, 2014 - 50th Anniversary Schmeckfest
July 6th, 2014 - 50th Anniversary Celebrations

More details at www.MHV.ca





A REFLECTION ON CHRISTMAS

BY ANNE TOEWS

A Touch of Christmas/The Living Nativity was the focus of the last event in 2013 at MHV. Unfortunately the attendance for the weekend was down considerably. We attributed this to the extremely cold temperatures. It was good to see that every night there were first time visitors in attendance who said they really had a good time in spite of the cold.

In spite of the extremely cold temperatures our actors/volunteers braved the frigid temperatures and acted out the Christmas story in the stable as they do every year. Yes, even Tanner Dueck, portraying Baby Jesus, was out there one of the nights. We, however, had to resort to using a doll for two of the coldest nights. That was the first time we had to do that since we began this live nativity tradition.

At the end of the Red Nose Christmas Show featuring Ken Sawatzky in the auditorium, the angels led the visitors down Main Street to the horse shelter, (turned into a humble stable) for The Living Nativity performance. As the crowd neared the stable, the sounds of "Silent Night" filled the cold night air. Shepherds could be seen tending their sheep near a warm fire. After the crowd had settled in front of the stable, the narrator began to tell the Christmas story. Both children and adults were in awe as the spotlight lit up the angel high above the stable. As the story continued, Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus were joined in the stable by more angels, shepherds, wise men, and live animals. The donkey seemed to enjoy her role as she posed behind Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus. The faces of young

children lit up when they saw the llamas, the goats, the sheep, and the donkeys. An addition to the animal cast this year was a baby donkey. Every night the angel above the stable braved the wind and the cold temperatures. Visitors were then invited to enjoy hot chocolate and home baked cookies in the Village Centre, as well as more sleigh rides.

We were grateful for more than thirty volunteers who participated in "The Living Nativity" in various roles. We want to extend special thanks to Tony and Linda Sawatzky who brought the animals to MHV every night to be part of the cast. Members of the Southeast Manitoba Draft Horse Association and others provided sleigh and wagon rides. Thank you to our sponsor, Century 21 Gold Key Realty.



Sierra, Zachary and Ashley Toews



2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BY NATASHIA LAPEIRE

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 21, 2014 @ 7:00 pm
Lecture Evening
With Dr. Roland Sawatzky. Exhibit Grand Opening and Tours available. Donations accepted

MARCH

Saturday, March 22, 2014 @ 7:00 pm
Founder's Night
Honor those who have contributed significantly to MHV. Donations accepted – includes refreshments

APRIL

Friday, April 4, 2014 @ 7:00pm
MHV Story Night
Reminisce the stories that have been a part of MHV over the last 50 years. Donations accepted includes refreshments

APRIL

Sunday, May 4, 2014 @ 2:30pm
Faspa with Drama
Celebrate the Auxiliary and their role at MHV over the last 50 years. \$10

MAY

May 19, 2014
Spring on the Farm
Pioneer demonstrations and delicious Mennonite food! Standard Admission Rates Apply

JUNE

Saturday, June 28, 2014
Garden Tour and Tea
Enjoy nature as you tour some of Steinbach's most beautiful gardens. Presented by the Steinbach and Area Garden Club.

JULY

Tuesday, July 1, 2014
Canada Day
Enjoy opening ceremony, birthday cake, tours and lunch in the Livery Barn Restaurant

Saturday, July 5, 2014
50th Anniversary Schmeckfest Jubilee
Sample traditional cuisine with entertainment and dessert bar. \$100/ticket (\$50 charitable receipt)

JULY

Sunday, July 6, 2014 @ 10:00am
50th Anniversary Celebrations
Worship Service, tours, Saengerfest faspa etc. Donatation Only

AUGUST

August 1-4, 2014
Pioneer Days
Relive our Mennonite past through pioneer activities. Our biggest event of the year! Standard Admission Rates Apply

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 1, 2014
Fall on the Farm
Experience harvest work and pioneer demonstrations. Standard Admission Rates Apply

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 16, 2014
Volunteer Appreciation
Celebration of past volunteers and recognition of current volunteers.

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 2, 2014 @ 11:30-1:30pm
MHV Auxiliary Fall Turkey Dinner
Enjoy a traditional turkey meal. Admission: \$15/ticket

DECEMBER

December 5-7, 2014
Touch of Christmas
Experience the true meaning of Christmas as the story of old is presented nightly by a nativity scene. Donation only-refreshments included

www.MHV.ca

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A GROWING COMMUNITY COLLECTION

BY ROLAND SAWATZKY

A Growing Community Collection: 50 Years

Gerhard Ens Gallery

February 21 – December 15, 2014

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations, the museum has put together an exhibit showcasing our collections, which at this point include almost 16,000 artifacts. The MHV was built to house and exhibit artifacts related to Mennonite history as a way to both preserve and tell the stories of the Mennonite community. John C. Reimer, the first curator at the museum, began collecting in the 1950s and used his father's old general store building (built in 1884) as the first gallery. The Reimer Store, as it is now known, is on the museum grounds and still features a majority of this first collection. When the main Artifacts Building (now the Auditorium) was being built in the mid-1960s, there was another rush of donations, this time coming directly from the local community. Thousands of items were brought to the museum with the intent that they would be displayed in the heritage buildings.

In 1990 our current main centre was opened, and with it an environmentally controlled artifact storage area. It wasn't until the late 1990s that the museum decided it could no longer accept everything that was offered, due to considerations of space. By 2004 we were accepting between 150-300 artifacts a year, and we continue to collect rare and important artifacts that tell the Mennonite story.

What makes our artifact collection so special is the importance the objects hold for the people who donate them. In a very real way, this is not the museum's collection, but the community's collection, something we take care of for everyone. It is our collective memory, each object helping to tell a meaningful story about our past.



An inside look of the J.C. Reimer Store



The original J.C. Reimer Store (Built in 1884)



The current J.C. Reimer Store

"John C. Reimer, the first curator at the museum, began collecting in the 1950s and used his father's old general store building (built in 1884) as the first gallery. The Reimer Store, as it is now known, is on the museum grounds and still features a majority of this first collection."

The Mennonite Heritage Village at 50

Auditorium

February 21 – December 15, 2014

This exhibit outlines the development of the museum since 1964, the year of incorporation. The exhibit features early plans (and how they've changed!), the movement and renovation of historic buildings, the importance of volunteers and school programs, and recent developments.



Construction of the main Artifacts Building in 1965



A past display in the Permanent Gallery





HAY WAGON RESTORATION

BY JESSICA MCKAGUE



Wagon before the restoration process

Mennonite Heritage Village is turning fifty, and we invite visitors to “Celebrate with Us” by joining in our events, projects, and festivities. Last year our Windmills: Sailing the Skies theme generated several large-scale projects, and the momentum has only ramped up this year. Take a trip down memory lane in our auditorium exhibit MHV at 50; our grand, jam-packed Gerhard Ens Gallery exhibit A Growing Community Collection, 50 Years; our monthly events throughout this year. . . and our featured project to restore one of the museum’s hidden treasures – our handmade 19th century long hay wagon.

“This time-worn wagon still retained its beautiful design: dished-out wheels, antique iron, and hand-carved spokes.”

Even as it sat drowning in grass and spare parts in a far corner of our property, this time-worn wagon still retained its beautiful design: dished-out wheels, antique iron, and hand-carved spokes. Homemade circa 1890 or prior, with its hand-carved and welded features, this is no ordinary wagon.

“The wheels have presented a major challenge in the project, but Dick is confident they will be able to either fashion or salvage the needed components.”

Dick Friesen, one of our museum’s dedicated volunteers, is spearheading the restoration project along with his team: Dave Ginter, Jack Loewen, Peter Giesbrecht and Bob Schmor. As much of the original nineteen-foot-long wagon will be kept as possible. Using whole pine tree trunks, ash logs, and salvaged parts, rotten pieces will be replaced. The wheels have presented a major challenge in the project, but Dick is confident they will be able to either fashion or salvage the needed components. The wood of the wagon will remain unpainted, staying true to its original design.

“Mennonite Heritage Village is turning fifty, and we invite visitors to “Celebrate with Us” joining in our events, projects, and festivities.”

The project is tentatively expected to be completed by May 1st so that it can be on display for the 50th anniversary summer season.



Pine trunks and posts, some salvaged from original and some freshly carved bunks that swivel when the wagon turns (Front of Wagon)



Dick Friesen holding up original wagon component



Original axle and ash wood



YOUR MOMENT SET IN HISTORY

BY ROGER GINTER

The Facility Rental department at MHV is an exciting place to be. The number of wonderful people that we get to meet because of our rental program is definitely a highlight. Various groups that hold meetings in our facility from week to week bring a wonderful diversity to MHV. Wedding couples, in all their excitement are coming in and booking their celebrations, making the upcoming spring and summer a busy yet thrilling time for us

We have worked hard over the last while to design and develop a new, high gloss, highly attractive wedding brochure. We are very excited to offer this brochure which provides pricing details and answers some of the most frequently asked questions. If you or someone you know is looking to book a wedding or business meeting and wants a very unique, historical setting to make that event very special, please contact Roger at 204-326-9661 ext. 227 or rogerg@mhv.ca.

Benefits of renting MHV:

1. The warm atmosphere in the Auditorium, with its vaulted wooden ceiling, is commented on by our business community as well as our wedding parties. Banquets and wedding receptions alike are always a hit in this room.
2. Our Multi-Purpose Room regularly hosts business training sessions and smaller dinner parties and always seems to be

just the right size for the occasion.

3. Our Village and Grounds are very well known for diverse beauty and cultural significance.
4. Wedding couples love the heritage churches, other heritage buildings and picturesque grounds for ceremonies and some of the most beautiful, unique places to take their wedding pictures. The Heritage Churches provide a wonderful connection to the spiritual places of the past.
5. For some couples though, they are looking for a "different" setting altogether. There have been wedding ceremonies taking place on the veranda of the Windmill, in front of the Private School and one couple even choose the Housebarn as the setting for their ideal wedding.

Check out our new Wedding Brochure today!



A GREAT START TO THE CELEBRATIONS

BY NATASHIA LAPEIRE



Film Night - January 21, 2014

All of the planning during the last year has led up to what has started out to be a fantastic 2014 year! Our 50th Anniversary Celebrations have kicked off with an amazing Film Night hosted by the MHV Auxiliary.

What a celebration it was! With standing room only, guests enjoyed two local films. The first was "Men Made It, Men Can Fix It" – the story of the Friesen Machine Shop. Based around a local family the film really touched a lot of people and helped celebrate the rich heritage we have in our own backyard. Thank you to each member of the Friesen family that was able to attend the film debut at MHV. We appreciate your story and have heard many positive comments and excitement around the film.

The second film, "Prairie Pioneers – The Mennonites of Manitoba" was also another hit with the audience. As we watched and reflected on the film made by Otto Klassen in the 1970's there was laughter, admiration, and excitement as the audience pointed out the faces they recognized from years gone by.

Young and old attended our first 50th Anniversary Celebration event. We were thrilled to see so many in attendance. Thank you to the MHV Auxiliary for bringing all the delicious pie and ice cream!

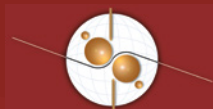
If you missed this event you are in luck – see page 3 for a list of all the upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration events planned for 2014!

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VILLAGE BOOKS & GIFTS

BY ROXANNA MARTENS & NITA WIEBE

The rush of the Christmas season has come & gone. Shoppers coming through our book & gift shop were excited to stroke a few names off their lists, having found unique or hard-to-find presents for loved ones! Aprons and perogy makers; candy & pappenate (peppernuts); games and books...we even shipped out a package of "Tjlatz" (wooden playing pieces) for someone's "Tjnipsbrat" (crokinole) game!

And then there were the cookies...oh those yummy, chewy molasses cookies! And those chocolate raspberry-filled cookies drizzled in white chocolate?! Our old fashioned cookies, pappenate, stick candy and ribbon candy brought back nostalgic memories of childhood Christmases. How fun it was to see people bring these treats home to share with their families! If you missed them, you're in luck! We can't wait to bring those Christmas favorites back next Holiday Season!

In the wake of the holiday season, as we are writing this, we are left with cold temperatures that make us ready for the winter Olympics! Stay warm and in the spirit of things with our toasty Canada clothing. From toques and mittens to sweatshirts and T-shirts, we have plenty of warm and inspiring winter wear to keep you cosy and warm.

We are now gearing up for a new season of shoppers! As part of the celebrations surrounding the Village's 50th anniversary, we thought it fitting to give our store a new name. Don't you think it's about time? We thought so too and soon a new sign hanging over our shop will call us "Village Books & Gifts." We are always looking for ways to add to and improve our already fabulous selection of books and gifts. More secrets and surprises will be unveiled this spring and we can't wait to see you here soon!



Village Books & Gifts Store Display



WINTER AT THE VILLAGE

BY JARED NICKEL

They say the third time is a charm. I don't know who they are, and I also don't know what the proverbial charm would look like exactly, but I do know that I am looking forward to a third season as facilities manager at the MHV.

There is always somewhat of a bittersweet feeling for me as the seasons wind down here at the museum. While there is a sense of relief to have all of the responsibilities set down after a bustling summer, there is also that quietness that leaves one feeling just a tad lonely. The party is over. Every year these things are foreshadowed as the gardeners come and put in the most beautiful plants and flowers, which bloom into a fabulous cornucopia.

Then, as summer passes its prime, the petals and fruit begin to fall, and we see the sobering earthiness of the leafless trees and vacant beds of dirt that we had called gardens. In my ursine manner, I mosey on back to my den and hibernate for the remainder of the winter season.

Well actually, it isn't quite like that, but often I wish it could be. Needless to say, all I need to do is think about the next spring coming around and that with age time passes more quickly (a good thing in this case), and I am brought out of the winter doldrums. There are a number of good things to look forward

to this season.

For one, we are celebrating our 50th birthday at the MHV! This is a great time to be involved with the museum. I am looking forward to the great celebrations and exhibits that we will be having this summer. It will almost be like a museum of the museum.

There will be a lot of reminiscing about the times we spent here as kids, volunteers and workers of the past, who helped make the museum what it is today. During this time the tasting, smelling, seeing and hearing and even feeling things all bring back great memories.

As well as looking back, I look forward to what's ahead. Because MHV always has all sorts of projects that need to be done I am eager to work on them once again--getting buildings open, tractors running, animals fed.

But of course doing all of this would still feel a little weird if it weren't for the visitors and volunteers that grace our site every year. Come on down and see if there isn't some place here where you can fit in and be part of the good things happening. I look forward to celebrating with everyone and having another great summer!

Did you know?

Mennonite Heritage Village has an Endowment Fund.

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Contact us at:

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More details at: www.MHV.ca

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