

Voice

THE VILLAGE

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50TH
ANNIVERSARY PG 2

WORLD CLASS
VENUE PG 6



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* October - April
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* Outdoor buildings are closed

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Adults	\$10.00
Seniors (65 & Older)	\$8.00
Students (ages 13-22)	\$8.00
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Children (ages 5 & under) FREE	
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* Family is defined as parents and their children under 18.	

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Annual Individual Membership** (Season-long admission)	\$40.00
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CELEBRATE WITH US

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BARRY DYCK

Sometimes I'm a bit envious when people talk about the "leisurely days of summer." While we at Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) enjoy contributing to the summertime leisure of our guests, those of us who work here actually find summer to be rather hectic. With the museum and the Village being open to the public seven days a week, and every long weekend from May through September involving a festival event, the pace at times feels relentless.

This year MHV is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. Quite some time ago a decision was made to celebrate in a substantial way. It was also determined that "substantial" would involve one celebratory event per month. Happily we have been able to recruit a significant number of volunteers to assist in the planning and delivery of these special celebrations.

Mennonite Heritage Village is pleased to have acquired the services of Andrea Dyck in the role of Curator. She provides lead-

ership to our curatorial functions and is an active member of the museum's management team.

The curatorial function includes care and organization of our collection of artifacts, the design of and research for temporary exhibits, and ensuring that interpretation in all activities, including the education program and Museum events is accurately done.

Andrea has a rich education in Mennonite History as well as experience in another major museum. We are looking forward to her expert assistance in our quest to continually tell new stories in ways that engage new people.



Andrea Dyck, M.A.



50TH ANNIVERSARY

BY BARRY DYCK

Earlier this year, the MHV Auxiliary took ownership of a Film Night as well as their annual Sunday afternoon Faspas. As part of the latter event, they commissioned the writing of a drama about the beginnings of the Auxiliary. Members and friends of the Auxiliary then performed the drama. In July, the Auxiliary partnered with the Steinbach and Area Garden Club to offer the public a garden tour and tea.

Our curatorial staff have produced two fine exhibits to celebrate our 50 years as a museum. The opening of these exhibits coincided with a lecture on curatorial work and its value in a museum. MHV Story Night included people telling stories about their experiences at the museum and the impact MHV has had on their lives.

Founders Night celebrated the contributions of 21 individuals who were involved in the very early stages of MHV's development. This event re-established contact

with the families of many of these founders and builders.

Our signature celebratory weekend was held in early July. Schmeckfest Jubilee, which took place on July 5, involved dinner and entertainment at various places in our Village. Sunday, July 6, included a special worship service, guided tours of the Village, an old-fashioned Saengerfest, and Faspas/Vesper to round out the day.

This year each of our usual festival events are reminding our guests of our anniversary celebrations through special entertainment and other features taking us back to the 1960s, when it all began. We are grateful to all who are supporting these events with volunteer time and those who are able to "Celebrate With Us" throughout this special anniversary year at MHV.

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EDUCATION PROGRAM A SUCCESS

BY ANNE TOEWS

We are wrapping up the season of the education program at MHV. Each year we host between 4000 – 5000 students for a day of exposure to various historical aspects of our museum. This program is designed to support the school Social Studies curriculum.

From February to April we delivered an indoor winter program. Several hundred students from Winnipeg and surrounding communities attended this program. MHV interpreters greeted them in period costume at various stations in the galleries

and locations in the Village Centre. The program included stations such as Migration, Home, Work, Play, School, Food, Spinning, Windmill, Laundry, Fraktur Art and Storytelling. Each station taught them something about the history of the Mennonites whether it was the migration from Russia to Canada, watching demonstrations of sock darning, making a wool blanket, spinning, woodworking with antique tools, lessons on the structure and functionality of the windmill, writing on slates, baking schnetje, washing clothes on an old washboard, or listening to the story

of Sush (a little girl that lived in a semlin).

The Spring and Summer program began May 1st. We had almost 1000 children attend the program in the month of May. The month of June had many more bookings and continued to be an extremely busy month for both staff and volunteers. This program could not run without the help of our dedicated volunteers who come faithfully every day to help deliver a wonderful, educational experience to the children. We have enjoyed a successful year in our education program this year.



PIONEER DAY CAMP

BY NATASHIA LAPEIRE

For several years MHV has offered a unique experience in the form of our Pioneer Day Camp. This summer camp is run for two age groups – 5-8 years and 9-12 years.

This year was no exception. Education Program Coordinator Angela Neufeld and Education Program Assistant Blayne Stobbe put together fun-filled activities for the different age groups and had overwhelming success with the program.

This unique experience offered the campers a new perspective of the museum within their own backyards. With the focus on “Pioneer Living” they were able to learn about what life would have been like for the Mennonite families that settled within this region as well as how other community groups made a life on the harsh prairies.

Some of the children’s highlights from year to year don’t seem to change. They anticipate helping to feed the farm animals, take a wagon ride with the Museum horse team as well as touring the Windmill.

MHV would like to thank Angela and Blayne for their hard work and dedication they put in the Education Program as well as the many volunteers that helped with



Pioneer Day Camp children with miller, Al Hamm and Education Program Assitant, Blayne Stobbe

demonstrations for the Education Program.

We would also like to thank our Education Program Sponsors that provide the financial assistance to keep this program alive.

If you are aware of someone that would like to attend the 2015 season of Pioneer Day Camp please call MHV for more information.

2014 Education Program Sponsors:

- Ste. Anne Co-op
- Friesen Drillers
- MHV Auxiliary
- Hanover School Division
- Dr. Paul Peters

Photograph by Adeline Lowman

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Mennonite Heritage Village

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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



PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

BY JESSICA MCKAGUE

“A Moment at the Shore”
Art Hall
June 2nd - September 1, 2014

As you walked down the hallway of the museum main centre leading out to the village, you may have paused to take in the breathtaking photography by our exhibiting summer artist, Jeff Hildebrand. Jeff is a fine art landscape photographer from Landmark, Manitoba. Growing up on the prairie, he was drawn to the Precambrian shield in eastern Manitoba.

“I love the access to pristine rivers, lakes, and forests and have found inspiration in the solitude that is unique to this area. I have been taking photographs for nearly fifteen years now. Over this time, I have developed a portfolio of photographs that reflect my inspiration in these secluded areas.”

Jeff combines clear blue water, stony beaches, driftwood, and dramatic skies into grand, yet peaceful, compositions, while illuminating colour and detail with incredible clarity. Each photograph whisks the viewer away to a moment at the shore, shaking off a sandal to test the water.

Jeff Hildebrand Photography, Art Hall, June 2 – September 1, 2014



“I love the access to pristine rivers, lakes, and forests and have found inspiration in the solitude that is unique to this area. I have developed a portfolio of photographs that reflect my inspiration in these secluded areas.”



ARTIFACT BANNER

BY ANDREA DYCK

One of the artifacts now on display in the “A Growing Community Collection, 50 Years” exhibit in the Gerhard Ens Gallery is a banner created by the Mennonitengemeinde in der Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR). The banner came to Mennonite Heritage Village in early 2014. It was created to be a part of a larger display of banners representing the various Mennonite groups who participated in the Mennonite World Conference held in Winnipeg in July 1990. The conference took place a mere eight months after the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. This change in the German political climate meant that a few representatives of the Mennonite churches in the Soviet-occupied East, the DDR, were suddenly able to attend the conference.

The donors of this artifact, John R. and Marian Friesen, were both employed in West Berlin by the Internationale Mennonitische Organisation für Hilfswerk und andere christliche Aufgaben e. V. (International Mennonite Organization) from 1966 to 1976. Established and led by Mennonites in The Netherlands and Germany, International Mennonite Organization was patterned after the North American relief and development organization, Mennonite Central Committee. It carried out social welfare projects and delivered development aid in post-war Europe. Over this ten year period, the Friesens served in West Berlin, as well as in East Berlin and throughout East Germany more broadly, providing pastoral care, conducting church services in Mennonite churches in West Berlin and in the Soviet sectors, and training lay pastors in the East.

We are privileged to include this artifact reflecting Cold War Germany and the Mennonite World Conference to the collection at MHV and to share this very unique and significant part of Mennonite history with our visitors. The banner will be on display in the Gerhard Ens Gallery until the end of the year.





HAY WAGON RESTORATION PART II

BY JESSICA MCKAGUE



Wagon after the restoration process

With MHV's diverse and extensive collection we have no shortage of fascinating artifacts to discover and showcase. Because the number of projects here at the museum seems endless, each year we take on a few more; each one challenging us to delve into a different aspect of the Russian Mennonite story.

"Many artifacts require conservation or restoration. The hay wagon project undertaken this year is no exception."

Many artifacts require conservation or restoration. This can be an ambitious goal, however the process of researching and rebuilding can be as rewarding as showcasing the artifact, once back to its former glory.

"This project offered a fantastic opportunity for those volunteers interested in the art of wheel-making."

The hay wagon project undertaken this year is no exception. It has expanded our understanding of and appreciation for the incredible ingenuity and skill of our favourite prairie pioneers. Dick Friesen, head of the project, remarked that restoring the hay wagon was a "wonderful project with a wonderful crew". The most difficult part of the project - rebuilding the four wooden dished-out wheels - was significantly helped along by wheelwrights Dave McCallum and Al Patterson who kindly volunteered their tools and expertise. This project offered a fantastic opportunity for those volunteers interested in the art of wheel-making.

Dick Friesen and the Mennonite Heritage Village warmly thank the wagon crew volunteers for restoring this c. 1890 hay wagon for use at the museum for parades and demonstrations for years to come.

Wagon Restoration Volunteers

Dick Friesen
Dave McCallum
Henry Zacharias
Cornie Loepky

Jack Loewen
Peter Kehler
Dave Ginter
Al Peterson



Wagon before the restoration process



Wagon crew volunteers enjoying the finished product



Wagon axle assembly during the restoration process



WORLD CLASS VENUE

BY ROGER GINTER

We have known for a long time that MHV attracts tourists from all around the world. After these tourists have visited, they typically respond with amazement and compliments galore with what an amazing place we have. Recently, I was the one to hear and pass on such a compliment to the rest of our staff.

One of the organizations that reserves our facilities frequently brought in a world renowned consultant to speak to their group of 90 people for a two day seminar. Throughout the two days I had the opportunity to have a number of short conversations with this speaker. One of the recurring things in our conversation was about how pleased he was with our facility, our atmosphere

and our service. Of all the places he had been to speak, we were certainly one of the best. From someone that has conducted seminars around the world; on behalf of MHV, I'll accept that compliment with great honour.

From classroom-styled courses, to high level seminars, to the most beautifully decorated weddings, we are privileged to host such a wonderful variety.

If you or someone you know is looking to book a wedding or business meeting and wants a very unique, historical setting to make your 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.



VILLAGE BOOKS & GIFTS

BY ROXANNA MARTENS & NITA WIEBE

We are always amazed by both the frenzy and the tranquility this museum generates! With the arrival of our tourist season we enjoyed new guests and visitors, the animals settled in and the shelves in the Village Gift & Books and the General Store burst with new products. As fall approaches, we prepare for the new season, thinking of gatherings and gift giving.

For Kids: 'Melissa & Doug' provide high quality wooden toys and puzzles for both boys & girls. (Cut-apart food sets and magnetic dress up dolls...) Our tractors and our new farm animal sets are ready for hours of play. Kids' aprons, for both boys and girls, are perfect for crafting or helping in the kitchen. Reusable sticker sets and paint with water are perfect for the long family trip.

For Men: We now have Men's chef aprons! Coffee cup sleeves, straw fedoras, crokinole boards and diamond-willow walking sticks make it easy to find gifts for the men in your life. Our metal tractor weathervanes were also a popular buy for the season.

For Women: Cozy up with the softest, hand knit wraps, soothe the skin with honey based lotions, or entertain with our new windmill etched wine glasses and fitted coasters.



New arrival of Melissa & Doug toys

The frenzy of preparing for each season is worth the effort when we see our guests and visitors leave MHV satisfied and refreshed, clutching a bag of old fashioned candy and a smile on their faces.





CELEBRATION WEEKEND

BY NATASHIA LAPEIRE

A 50th Anniversary celebration is a large milestone and Mennonite Heritage Village is enjoying every moment of this celebration during the 2014 year! With monthly events planned for the entire year, a lot of work went into each one. This was especially noted during our 50th Anniversary Celebration weekend which consisted of two back to back days of celebrating.

The Schmeckfest Jubilee was held on Saturday, July 5th with an amazing evening of guests strolling through the village, enjoying delicious Mennonite themed appetizers and entertainment at several of the historical buildings within the village. To follow, a delicious dinner was served in the Livery Barn Restaurant. What made the evening so special was the entertainment and dessert that followed in the Auditorium. Guests were entertained by world-class improvisational violinist Rosemary Siemens who was accompanied on the piano by Loren Hiebert. The evening was a true testament of celebration as the guests enjoyed and celebrated MHV and the significance of these last 50 years. Thank you to Willie and Karen Peters for planning and delivering such a great event!

On Sunday, July 6th the day started off with a special worship service led by Royden and Mary Ann Loewen. As visitors gathered under the tent for the service, short stories were shared about family heritage and tied in beautifully with the theme which talked about the year of Jubilee and celebration! The rest of the day continued with Village tours, food at the Livery Barn Restaurant and a traditional Saengerfest led by Leona Hildebrand. To cap off the day, many people stayed to enjoy fasha at the Livery Barn and relaxed during the rest of the Sunday afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate with us during our 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend! On behalf of MHV, we would like to extend thanks to the staff and volunteers who helped make that weekend a success! May we continue to celebrate as we begin the next 50 years!



Rosemary Siemens and Loren Hiebert



Guests enjoying the musical entertainment by Vern & Christina Neufeld



Dessert Bar prepared by the Livery Barn Restaurant

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- Silent Auction
- Hole in One prizes
- Longest Drive Prize
- Dinner & Banquet

Wednesday,
September 10th
2014



**Mennonite
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For more details:
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