

VOICE

THE VILLAGE

VOLUME 3 NO. 1 • APRIL 2015



NEW ACQUISITION^{PG5}

2014 DONOR LIST^{PG8}



Agreement #40033605

PUBLISHED BY

Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) Inc.

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PRINTED BY

Derksen Printers

DESIGNED BYChez Koop
Patricia West**CHARITY NUMBER**

10363-393-RR0001

AGREEMENT NUMBER

40033605

HOURSMay, June & September
Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
July & August
Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday: noon - 6 p.m.
* October - April
Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
* December
Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

* Outdoor buildings are closed

ADMISSION RATES

Adults	\$10.00
Seniors (65 & older)	\$8.00
Students (ages 13-22)	\$8.00
Children (ages 6-12)	\$4.00
Young 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 Membership**	\$500.00

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

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New Iceland Heritage Museum

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St. Boniface Museum

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www.mhv.ca

2015 - THE PREVIEW

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BARRY DYCK

We have mixed feelings about seeing last year's 50th anniversary celebrations fading behind us. There is a relief in having a slightly less-crowded agenda for the new year, but we will also miss some of the very special events that came with that festive year. Right now, however, we're busy preparing for a very interesting and exciting 2015 season.

Our Curators have a number of significant projects underway. The Gerhard Ens Gallery exhibit on *Mennonite Food: Tastes in Transition* is in the research stage. Various temporary exhibits, including a photography display, are being scheduled for the smaller galleries. A project is underway to refresh a number of our outdoor interpretive signs and create some new ones. We are also pleased to announce that a new touch-screen Mennonite world map will soon be installed in our permanent gallery.

Bookings are coming in for our Spring Education Program, which will also be shaped by our *Mennonite Food* theme. Our festivals are strategically being planned to attract people of all ages. We are also processing many facility and catering bookings for weddings and other gatherings throughout the summer. The presence of the Livery Barn Restaurant and a fine catering service will also aid the development of our food theme.

As usual, there will be many volunteer opportunities with respect to caring for our yard and buildings, delivering our Education Program, and supporting our festival days. Our communication with the public will be enhanced this year by our new electronic billboard, which will provide information on all the summer's events and activities. We hope to see you at MHV this summer.



MHV AUXILIARY

BY LINDA SCHROEDER

The 50th Anniversary celebrations at MHV are now history, and even though we would like to linger on the success of the activities and fundraisers that made this past year so much fun and so much work, we are already thinking of the events for 2015.

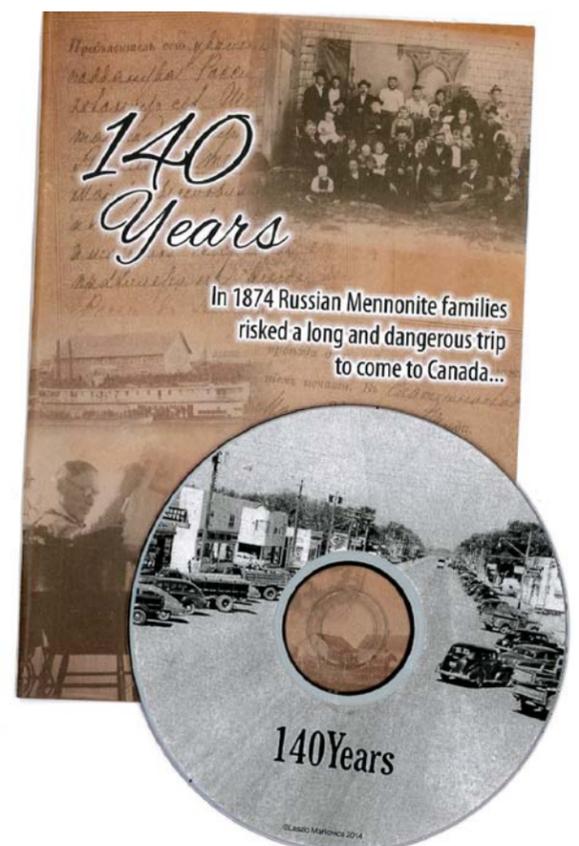
Our first fundraising event, our annual Film Night, took place on February 19, 2015. One of the mandates of the Auxiliary is to promote the history of MHV through our own history! We felt very fortunate that local filmmaker Laszlo Markovics chose to have the premiere showing of his newest film, *One Hundred Forty Years*, at MHV and partnered with us on this event. The film features the Loewen families and the Peters families who were part of the first Mennonite settlement groups to arrive in this area. There was a wonderful audience to help make this an enjoyable, nostalgic and entertaining evening. Great desserts always contribute to a wonderful evening!

Traditionally, the Auxiliary hosts a Sunday afternoon *Faspa* in May to get the new season off to a great start. We will digress a little from our usual format this year. On May 24, 2015, we will host The Sisters of the Holy Rock for an afternoon concert at 2:30 pm., followed by a *Faspa*. Tickets are \$20 and will go on sale in April. Watch for posters providing details. This is a fun and entertaining concert for the whole family!

Our apron sales have been an unbelievable success, and we do have a good selection available for the upcoming season. They make wonderful shower gifts or Mother's Day gifts.

With the lovely weather this week (as I am writing this), thoughts are going to the waffle booth! Those first waffles of the season at *Spring on the Farm* are always a great hit. We are looking for volunteers to help us keep this booth up and running for all the MHV festival days. Please let us know if you could help us with this. We do provide training and promise a great time working with a great bunch of volunteers.

The Auxiliary is a group that loves to plan events, and this year will see some new events in the months to come. We thank our loyal supporters and look forward to seeing you all soon!





MENNONITE FOOD: TASTES IN TRANSITION

BY JESSICA MCKAGUE

MHV's Annual Theme for 2015 is *Mennonite Food!* Food is a central part of any village, and ours is no exception. With the Livery Barn Restaurant located on the museum grounds and abundant food-related demonstrations on event days, from pickling and gardening to milling and bread baking, we are well placed to explore this appetizing topic. Visit our website (www.mhv.ca) for upcoming events and exhibit openings celebrating Mennonite food this year.

Mennonite Food: Tastes in Transition

Curated by Andrea Dyck and Jessica McKague

May 1 - December 31, 2015

Gerhard Ens Gallery

Food is never just something to eat. Food is a reflection of one's culture; it tells us who we are, where we have come from, what is important to us. Looking at Russian Mennonite *foodways*-- the intersection of food in culture, tradition, and history-- this exhibit will explore immigration, war and famine, beliefs and values, how Mennonites have adapted what they ate in various environments, and what has remained constant about Mennonite food over time.

Mennonite Food: Tastes in Transition will challenge visitors to look at Mennonite history from a new perspective. It poses the question "What is Mennonite food?" and proves that there is more than one right answer.



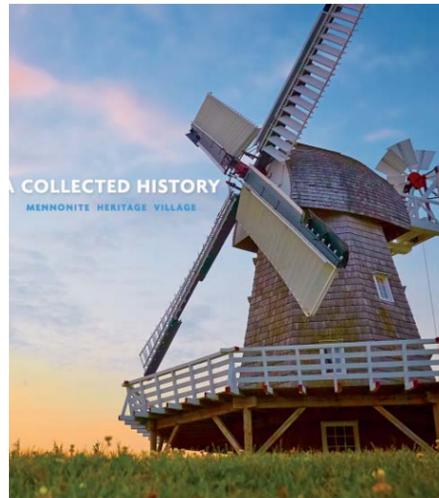
A photo from MHV's collection showing a Mennonite family enjoying a meal on a porch.



An exhibit in the making! A selection of the artifacts for the new exhibit, laid out in the curatorial lab.

SRSS Advanced Photography Class

As part of this year's theme, Paul Reimer's Advanced Photography students at the Steinbach Regional Secondary School will be exhibiting their work in the Auditorium. Their creative interpretation of our theme will add a contemporary, local focus to the museum's discussion of Mennonite food in history.



A *Collected History*, by Roland Sawatzky and Andrea Dyck, is now available at Village Books and Gifts at Mennonite Heritage Village for \$20! The book celebrates MHV's fiftieth anniversary by telling the story of the Russian Mennonites through the lens of material culture. In rich photographic detail, the book provides a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the diverse collections, activities, and architectural heritage that make the Mennonite Heritage Village unique. These artifacts, buildings, and living history serve as focal points for some of the major events that have shaped the history of this branch of Anabaptists over the last five centuries.



NEW DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

BY BARRY DYCK



Mennonite Heritage Village is pleased to announce the appointment of Patricia West as our new Development Coordinator. Patricia will be responsible for our fundraising events, sponsorship programs, and promotional materials and activities. She brings experience from a variety of administrative and volunteer roles. Patricia grew up in Southeastern Manitoba and has been involved in numerous community events over the years. We are pleased to have her skills and commitment to excellence on board at MHV.

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MHV AS A VITAL RESOURCE

BY JESSICA MCKAGUE

Ask and You Shall Receive

A museum is much more than rooms full of artifacts. It functions as a place of discovery, offering up its rich resources to students, researchers, and its community. Much like a school or laboratory, a museum serves to inspire and encourage learning. In fact, making its rich resources available is an essential responsibility of every museum.

How does one benefit from these resources? Just ask! Whether you are writing a thesis, completing a school assignment, creating a work of art, or you simply wish to deepen your understanding of Mennonite history, Mennonite Heritage Village is the place for you.

Lending Library

Unbeknownst to many, MHV has a small lending library focusing on Mennonite and Manitoba history. Our library contains over 2,000 books and periodicals, most of which are part of our lending service. Rare and out-of-print books are available for on-site research. The library contains books on subjects such as: architecture, windmills, theology, church history, fiction, community histories, agriculture, machinery, Manitoba history, and Russian Mennonite history. Here you will find insightful books, like *Singing Mennonite* by Doreen Helen Klassen, and literary delights, such as the *Koop enn Bua* series by Arnold Dyck. The library may be small, but it has a great deal to offer. Approximately a third of the books in the library are in German, making it an excellent resource for reading and research opportunities.



The cover of one book in Arnold Dyck's well-known *Koop enn Bua* series.

Museum volunteer Al Hamm has worked during the past winter to organize this library, making it user-friendly for visitors. If you are looking for a specific book or simply wish to see what's here, call the museum or inquire at the front desk for assistance.

Researchers at MHV

I have had the pleasure of assisting several researchers during my

time at Mennonite Heritage Village. Each researcher comes with a focus, seeking primary sources or inspiration but also bringing fresh ideas and perspectives. Last year, accomplished artist Kandis Friesen spent several days photographing a variety of artifacts, including Russian currency and magic lanterns, as well as shadowing my work in collections management and conservation in order to better understand the inner workings of museums. (*For more information on her work, visit kandisfriesen.com*).

Most recently, Susie Fisher and Paul Bergman spent some time looking at our library, artifact collection, and past exhibit files. Susie Fisher is a Ph.D Candidate at the University of Manitoba. She describes her work as follows:

"Mennonites built their communities on the steppe-like prairie of southern Manitoba's Red River Valley in part by using the few items they brought with them from Russia. Mennonite men and women, no doubt, placed affective or emotional values on these items by way of their daily use and in their inter-generational preservation. My work on material culture and emotion looks at the ways greater attention to the historical 'feelings' present in these everyday items (such as vegetable and flower seeds, or Russian Imperial Porcelain teapots and the ways they came to represent love, longing, home, etc.) generate more nuanced understandings of Mennonite migration, rural community life, family obligations, moral expectations, gender roles, and the experiential dialects of proximity and distance. The knowledgeable staff at the Mennonite Heritage Village, and the extensive archival collection present here, have been invaluable during the research stage of my current project."

Paul Bergman, a Southern Manitoba musician, was keen to learn more about Mennonites and secular music. Of special interest, however, was our Dietrich Funk Collection, donated by Al Hamm. Dietrich Funk (1904-1966) was both a Mennonite and a modern western musician. He played guitar, sang, and wrote many sacred and secular songs. Paul remarks:

"Music, like everything, is inevitably and inextricably threaded to and from the past, and it is an endearing and moving endeavor to gaze back at words and melodies that look a lot like those left by my guitar-slinging grandfather. I have the Mennonite Heritage Village archives, along with their attentive and helpful staff, to thank for that. And also, where else would I have found out about Smiling Dick [Dietrich Funk], the Saskatchewan roamer?"

One need not be writing an M.A. thesis to access a museum's resources. We are happy to assist casual researchers by appointment. In this way MHV provides an invaluable resource not only to the academic community but also to artists, musicians, and folks who are simply curious about their heritage.



What can Mennonite Heritage Village do for you?

You can read rare or out-of-print books in our library, conduct primary research through access to our Archives and vast artifact collection, visit the galleries and outdoor village, enjoy the wonderful festivals we host, and you can apply to display your artwork in our galleries!

What can you do for Mennonite Heritage Village?

Volunteer! Each volunteer brings his or her own skillset to the table and enriches the village.

Donate! There are always new and exciting projects to which donors can contribute. The valuable and ongoing preservation of the museum's artifacts and the maintenance of the heritage buildings in the outdoor village depend on the generosity of organizations, granting agencies, and people like you!





NEW ACQUISITION

BY ANDREA DYCK

Over the last year, MHV has received a number of interesting additions to its artifact collection. One new collection consists of three World War II maps, donated to the museum by long-time volunteer and Head Miller, Al Hamm. Each item is a full-colour map, illustrating the shifting geo-political boundaries of countries as battles were won and lost in the war raging across Europe. One of the maps contains handwritten notations, marking numerous short-wave radio frequencies by which news from Europe could be heard in Canada.



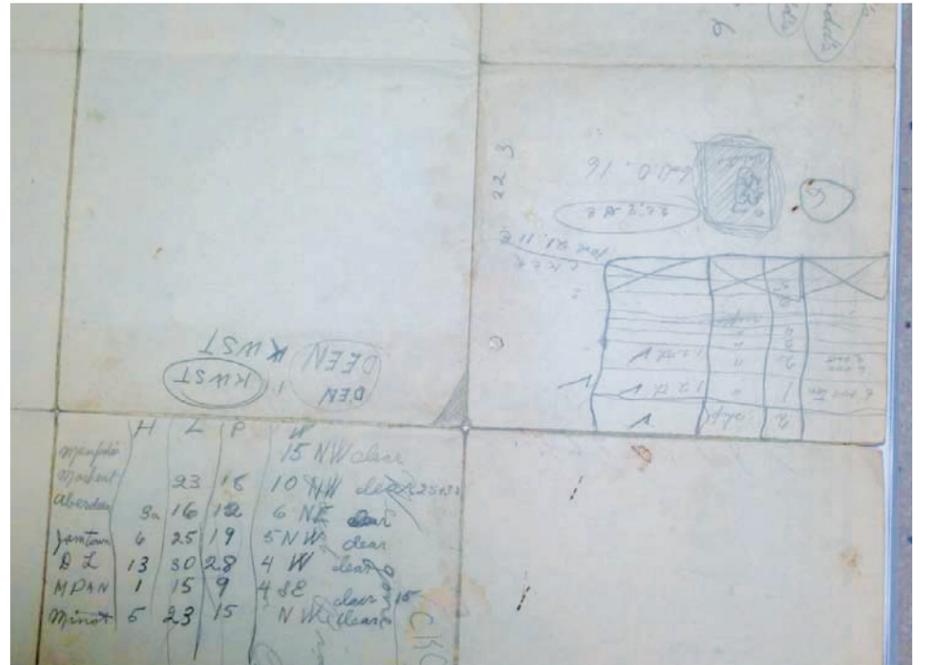
Otto Hamm's map (2015.2.1), produced by RCA Victor Radio.

Sometimes the value of an artifact is not in monetary worth but in the story it can tell. In this case, the notes and radio frequencies on one of these maps shed light on one of the ways World War II impacted Mennonites in Canada and abroad. This collection of maps belonged to the donor's father, Otto Hamm. Superficially, the notes would indicate that the owner of these maps was keenly interested in, and aware of, the events taking place in Europe. While this is true, there is more to the story than a simple interest in world events.

Otto's father, Bruno Hamm, left Canada for Germany to visit his parents in July 1939. While in retrospect we are acutely aware of what was about to happen in Europe at that time, Bruno of course would not have been able to predict that war would break out two months later, after the German invasion of Poland. Indeed, when England and France declared war on Germany in September 1939, Bruno was not allowed to leave Germany and was forced to work for the Kaiser Motor Company.

He managed only brief correspondence with his family back in Canada, and then only by telegram, which was censored. In January 1945, Soviet troops took Warsaw, Poland.

As they continued their eastern offensive, the German army retreated. Bruno's parents, sensing the German retreat would put them in an unsafe position in Germany, told Bruno to flee without them, as they were in their 80's. They were both murdered by Soviet soldiers the next day, on February 10, 1945.



Otto Hamm's handwritten notes on the back of the map, which record the various short-wave radio frequencies he used to hear news about the war from Europe.

With his father unable to leave Germany for the duration of the war, Otto used the maps to keep track of the geographic shifts occurring in Europe because of the war and also to keep a legend of short-wave radio frequencies by which he could hear the latest news. His father, Bruno, was finally able to return to Winnipeg in April 1946.

The curatorial department at MHV is honoured to be the caretaker of artifacts like this one that have been a significant part of the history of one particular family and also shed light on unique parts of the broader history of Russian-descendant Mennonites. If you own an artifact with a story about Mennonite history to tell, if you would like to donate it to our museum's collection, please contact the main office at 204-326-9661. Someone from the curatorial department would be happy to meet with you to discuss your artifact.



FREEDOM 15 UPDATE

BY BARRY DYCK

The December issue of *Village Voice* introduced our audience to a very exciting fundraising campaign designed to reduce, and hopefully eliminate, our current debt. A supporter of Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) had offered to match every donated dollar earmarked for debt repayment with another dollar, up to a maximum of \$100,000. The response of our constituency was remarkable. By the end of December, we had received just under \$100,000 toward debt retirement, as well as commitments for additional contributions in the new year. Our friend who had initiated the campaign quickly came through with his promised matching component and sent us a cheque for \$100,000. We are incredibly grateful.

Given the interest demonstrated in December, we would ideally like to continue this debt-clearing campaign. At this point we are looking for individuals who would put up a matching sum of anywhere between \$25,000 and \$100,000 to provide new incentive for the public to donate to this cause.

One individual has offered a matching amount of \$25,000 on the condition that three others would do the same.

Museums typically rely significantly on the generosity of their constituency. MHV is no different and is fortunate to have such a supportive constituency.

Did you know?

Mennonite Heritage Village has an Endowment Fund

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

Contact us at:
Patricia West
 204-326-9661 ext. 228
Barry Dyck
 204-326-9661 ext. 222
Art Kroeker
 204-489-5509



More details at: www.MHV.ca



2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BY ANNE TOEWS

APRIL

Thursday, April 23, 2015 @ 7:00 pm
Volunteer Orientation

An informational evening for new and current volunteers.
Refreshments available.

MAY

Friday, May 1, 2015
Outdoor Village and Livery Barn Restaurant open for the season.

Sunday, May 10, 2015
Mother's Day Lunch Buffet
Take mom out for a Mennonite feast at the Livery Barn Restaurant.

Monday, May 18, 2015
Spring on the Farm and Tractor Show
Celebrate spring with us at the village with a tractor parade, tractor games, pioneer demonstrations and delicious Mennonite food!

Sunday, May 24, 2015 @ 2:30 pm
MHV Auxiliary Faspá
Featuring The Sisters of the Holy Rock

JUNE

Sunday, June 7, 2015
Lions Car Show

Come see antique and restored show vehicles displayed on our village streets. The day is organized by the Steinbach Lions Club.

JUNE

Saturday, June 13, 2015
Tractor Trek

5th Annual MHV / Eden Foundation fundraising event.

Friday, June 19 - Saturday, June 20, 2015
Summer In The City
Enjoy fresh homemade waffles at the MHV booth on Steinbach's Main Street.

Sunday, June 21, 2015
Father's Day Lunch Buffet
Take dad out for a Mennonite feast at the Livery Barn Restaurant.

JULY

Wednesday, July 1, 2015
Canada Day

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

July 13 - 17, 2015
Pioneer Day Camp for children ages 5 - 8
Register early. Limited space available.

Friday, July 31, 2015
Pioneer Days
Relive our Mennonite past through pioneer activities, steam-powered threshing, music and lots of good food! Our biggest event of the year!

AUGUST

Saturday, August 1 - Monday, August 3, 2015
Pioneer Days

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

August 10 - 14, 2015
Pioneer Day Camp for children ages 9 - 12
Register early. Limited space available.

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 7, 2015
Fall on the Farm

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2015
Heritage Classic Golf Tournament
Register early as an individual or as a team.

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 1, 2015
Outdoor Village and Livery Barn Restaurant closed for the season.

Monday, October 12, 2015
Thanksgiving
Closed for the holiday.

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 15, 2015
Volunteer Appreciation
If you have volunteered at MHV this year, you are invited to attend. No formal invitations will be mailed or emailed.

DECEMBER

December 25, 2015 - January 11, 2016
Christmas / New Year's
Closed for the holidays.

www.MHV.ca

Call today for more details!

204-326-9661 ext. 223



PIONEER DAY CAMPS

BY PATRICIA WEST



Pioneer Day Camp group learning about the printing press.

Two weeks each summer, Mennonite Heritage Village runs adventure-filled Pioneer Day Camps, which teach children the fundamentals and challenges that were faced day to day by our ancestors when they were children. Through fun activities and crafts, this program shows them in a hands-on way what life was like many years ago, hopefully creating a lasting impression. While showing the children how far we have come since that time, this experience may also help them appreciate all that they now have.

Pioneer Day Camp activities consist of baking *Shnetje* (biscuits), working with tools in the Blacksmith Shop, grinding wheat at the Windmill with our Miller, and playing traditional Mennonite games. This is a wonderful opportunity for all kids to come out to MHV and explore their roots while having fun with their peers.

Camps are scheduled by age group, and space is limited. For children ages 5-8, Pioneer Day Camp will be run July 13-17. For ages 9-12, the program will be run August 10-14. If you are looking for a fun and creative environment for your child to get involved in, this program is for you. Contact Mennonite Heritage Village by phone (204-326-9661), website (www.mhv.ca) or email (education@mhv.ca). We look forward to seeing your children there.



Pioneer Day Camp group photo.



Pioneer Day Camp barrel-train ride.





PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON

BY BARRY DYCK

Specific projects are often easier to generate funding for than day-to-day operations. Nobody is likely to get very enthused about providing money for staff salaries, insurance, taxes, energy, and day-to-day maintenance and upkeep of a facility. A new building, shiny equipment, or even a new paint job or roof on a building seems to be much more interesting. And yet, both are essential to the success of an organization.

Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) has a number of projects currently getting attention and even more of them needing attention. Our debt-retirement project is outlined in a separate article. We also have a couple of billboards to erect as part of our sign project sponsored by the Steinbach Credit Union. Two of the most urgent projects awaiting attention are the replacement of our four humidifiers in the Village Centre and the replacement of the cedar roof on the Livery Barn Restaurant. Each project will cost about \$20,000. We have applied for Community Places grant funding for both but still require partnership investment from our constituency, as defined by the terms of the grant.

We are hoping to paint the Old Colony Worship House and upgrade handicapped access to a number of our heritage buildings by improving some of our ramps. The Peters Barn needs restoration inside to make it fully functional. Our functioning barn in the farmyard is in need of fresh paint, as are the fences, picnic tables and other outdoor furnishings. At this time we don't have funds for any of these projects.

There are two particularly large projects that also need attention. We need to replace the large white tent that we put up every summer as an entertainment venue on festival days and as a picnic shelter throughout the season. Plans are currently being developed to replace this tent with a three-season building which will also function as a very nice picnic shelter. As well, the Waldheim House needs to have its thatched roof completely redone. This is a particularly costly project because roof-thatching materials and skills are not readily available in this part of the country.

We appreciate the generosity of our constituency and will continue to invite your involvement in these and other initiatives.



A VERY INTERESTING TASK

BY BARRY DYCK

Every now and then the Board of Directors of Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) tries to figure out why we do something the way we do it or why a policy is written as it is. More than likely there is an answer, and it is equally likely that the answer is recorded in past minutes of our board meetings. So it seems it would be useful to have a register of decisions made by our board over the years, so that these decisions would be accessible to the current board to enhance its own decision-making.

As it happens, Reg Toews is a volunteer who enjoys reading meeting minutes, and he is available to create such a register for us. Maybe he enjoys learning about the organization more than

he actually enjoys reading the minutes. Regardless, he's having a good time and is providing useful information to our board.

It's intriguing to note the different styles of leadership and decision-making that were prevalent at various times over the years. It's also interesting to see the reoccurring issues that made their way back to the agenda again and again.

A great variety of skills and interests are needed to make an organization like MHV thrive. We are grateful for volunteers who bring their unique interests to our workplace for our mutual benefit.



VILLAGE BOOKS & GIFTS

BY NITA WIEBE

We expect it every year. We often long for it long before it arrives, and we prepare for it inside and out. Every year it does arrive, sometimes with exuberance, sometimes reluctantly. But spring always comes, and the geese return, crocuses and tulips poke through thatch, and warm summer days seem possible. Fresh green shows up on branches that have appeared dead for many months. The old is giving way to the new, and so it is at Mennonite Heritage Village!

We consider ourselves storytellers, bridging the gap between the past and the present, between old and new, locals and newcomers. We are very excited to announce some "new growth" at our General Store here in the Village! We have invited many local artisans to join

us for the upcoming season (opening May 1!) to display and sell their wares. We welcome back our returning General Store folks and look forward to seeing the changes the newcomers will bring! Fresh ideas and more vendors and merchandise are exciting new "buds" on the wakening Village "tree"! Hand-painted silk scarves, clever Mennonite wall art, local dinosaur teeth, hand-knit baby blankets, up-cycled jewelry, wooden toys, and delectable jams are only a small cross-section of the variety we will be offering this spring and summer.

Join us in exploring the new tucked in amongst the old this season at the Village!



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