

Choice

THE VILLAGE

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**MENNONITE FOOD:
TASTES IN TRANSITION** PG 3

2015 OVERALL SPONSORS PG 8



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HOURS

May, June & September
Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: noon - 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

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.

ADMISSION RATES

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum
Brandon, MB

Manitoba Agricultural Museum
Austin, MB

New Iceland Heritage Museum
Gimli, MB

St. Boniface Museum

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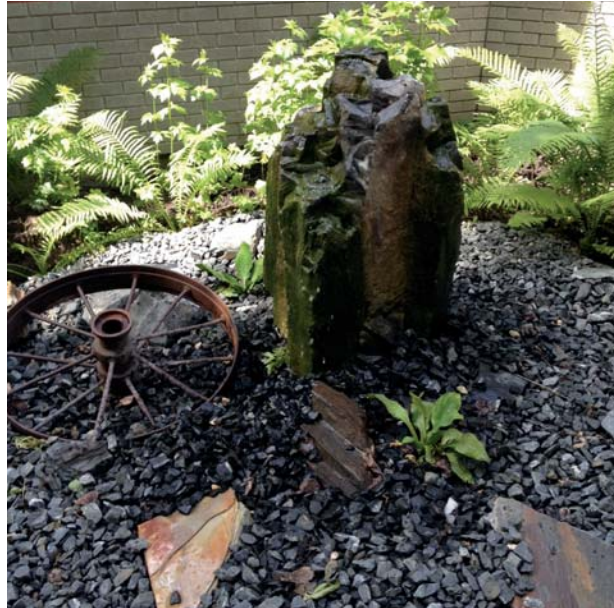
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AUXILIARY NEWS

BY LINDA SCHROEDER, AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Members of the MHV Auxiliary have many involvements with the work of MHV. I would like to highlight just a few.



1. MHV Gardens - The South East Area Garden Club and the Auxilliary, maintain and fund the flowerbeds, shrubs and vegetable gardens, at MHV. This June, we had a special ceremony and dedication at our water fountain at the back entrance to the Village. The water feature was a project envisioned by one of our members and was completed last fall to commemorate 50 years of MHV Auxiliary. The fountain has been named "Audrey's Bubbler" in memory of Audrey Toews. Another plaque acknowledges the volunteers of the Southeast Garden Club and their efforts to help beautify the Village.



2. Quilting & sewing - Every year, Auxiliary members diligently work at creating, sewing and quilting a quilt to be raffled on Pioneer Days. This year's winner was Liz Risoto from Winnipeg. The quilters spend approximately 800 hours per quilt so it is very encouraging for them to see how excited and grateful the quilt winners are when they receive their quilt!

Several of the Auxiliary members have also been involved in sewing the "Mennonite Girls Can Cook" aprons. At our June meeting, it was reported that over 500 aprons had been sewn! There were only a few left in the Village Books and Gifts Store after Pioneer Days. I believe there will be more available again for Fall on the Farm!



3. Food - The Auxiliary has always been involved in the food services area. This comes with many challenges sometimes, but also great rewards! This past July, SCU asked the Auxiliary if we would be able to provide 2500 rollkucken for their grand opening. We had never received such a large order before, but we rose to the challenge. Many volunteer hands helped us achieve this record number, and we were proud that we were able to deliver the product on time and with our usual quality!

We would be very interested in having new members join the Auxiliary and welcome guests to our monthly meetings.

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

More details at: www.MHV.ca

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MENNONITE FOOD: TASTES IN TRANSITION

BY JESSICA MCKAGUE, ASSISTANT CURATOR

The exhibit Mennonite Food: Tastes in Transition will be on display throughout 2015 as the centerpiece of Mennonite Heritage Village's annual theme on Mennonite food. Mennonite Food explores Russian Mennonite foodways, or the intersection of food in culture, traditions, and history. The history of food is the history of great historic events, such as immigration, and of daily life. Looking at Russian Mennonite history through the relatable lens of food, the exhibit will interpret significant concepts such as agrarian lifestyle, new geographies, famine, and urbanization. Mennonite food has undergone tremendous change over

foods like Verenike (cottage cheese perogies) and Paska (Easter bread).



Andrea Dyck, Jessica McKague, and Anikó Szabó at exhibit opening July 9th
Courtesy of C. Ruth McNeill

the past few centuries, reflecting an ever-adapting culture and identity. So much of what we do at MHV revolves around food; the Livery Barn Restaurant, fully-functional windmill, vegetable garden and orchard, and a plethora of festival day work demonstrations. Baking bread in the outdoor clay oven, pickling, cream separating, hog butchering, and field work, to name a few, are significant attractions for curious tourists and a key component of interpreting Mennonite history. Food is also featured in our school programs and pioneer day camp where students learn about the Mennonite home and try schnetje (small biscuit) baking.



MHV Vegetable Garden
Courtesy of Dennis Fast

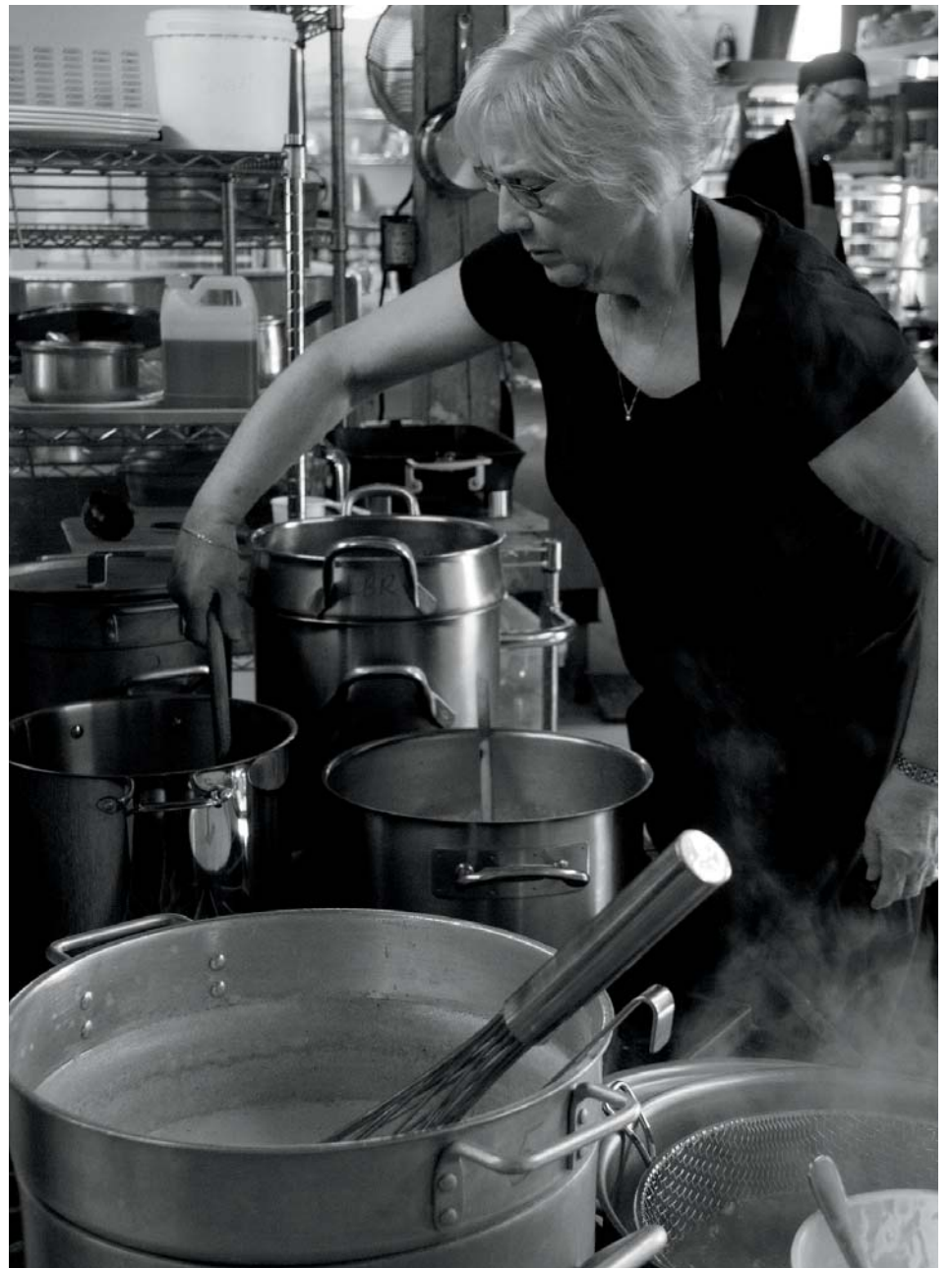
Canadian historian Franca Iacovetta states, "Food is never just something to eat. Food is a reflection of one's culture and of the social change within one's culture. It tells us who we are, where we have come from, what is important to us." Applying this question to the Russian Mennonites, the exhibit asks what our ideas about Mennonite food tells us about the Mennonites as a people, where they have come from, what is important to them, and how have they changed over the centuries. This exhibit explores themes of beliefs, scarcity, migration, and contemporary Mennonite food, discussing such topics as family and gender roles, Faspa and visiting, the Great Trek, and challenges assumptions about quintessential "Russian Mennonite"



Mennonite Paska and Ukrainian Paska
Courtesy of Mennonite Girls Can Cook and Petrosbasblog.wordpress.com

Ukrainian Paska is a round, sweet bread with elaborate patterns suggesting religious symbolism, baked into the dough on the top. It is cake-like bread, made with fine wheat flour and many eggs. In Orthodox families, the Paska was placed in a basket along with other foods and coloured eggs and taken to the church at Easter. The priest would bless the breads while the choir sang hymns. Mennonite Paska, was decorated with icing, and eaten on Easter Sunday afternoon at Faspa. Though Mennonites adopted Ukrainian Paska and created their own variation of it, they did not adopt the blessing ceremony that was common among their Orthodox neighbours.

The exhibit includes artifacts from the MHV collection and a few interactive stations such as one where visitors can read cookbooks and write their own recipes to share with others. The Steinbach Regional Secondary School advanced photography students are showing their exhibit Food for Thought, composed of photo essays about Mennonite foods and restaurants, on display in the museum auditorium.



Dora Penner cooking in the Livery Barn Restaurant
Courtesy of SRSS student photographer Rayeil Chua



RESTORATION OF THE WALDHEIM HOUSE

BY ANDREA DYCK, CURATOR

In Winter 2014, the Village Voice carried an article outlining the needs of one of Mennonite Heritage Village's historic buildings, the Waldheim House, whose roof was in dire need of replacement and whose disrepair had contributed to moisture damage to the exterior and interior of the building over time. This summer, we were very pleased to announce that Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) was awarded \$100,000 in funding from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program for the rehabilitation of the Waldheim House. This funding represents about a 1/3 of the cost of the complete project and will be supplemented by several community organizations. Restoration work will span the next two years and be completed in 2017.

The Waldheim House was the first heritage building to be moved to Mennonite Heritage Village in the 1960s. The Waldheim House was built in 1876 and is the museum's oldest historic building. This log structure was originally constructed by Julius and Katherina Dueck (later spelled Dyck) in the former village of Waldheim, just south of Morden, Manitoba, in the former Mennonite 'West Reserve.' The house is an excellent example of continuous squared timber framing, with dovetailed corner joints, which prevented the stacked logs from slipping. It is representative of the first permanent dwellings Russian Mennonite immigrants built when they arrived in Manitoba in 1874.

Log houses like the Waldheim House have a long history among Mennonites. In the early years of Mennonite settlement in Russia, Mennonites lived in similar structures; however, by the late 1800s, around the time of the first Mennonite migration from Russia to North America, these log structures had been replaced by homes of brick construction. Mennonites in eighteenth century Prussia also built log houses, as they could be dismantled and moved to higher ground during flooding. The Waldheim House was similarly dismantled in 1877, one year after its construction, and moved out of the village of Waldheim. Prior to dismantling it, Julius Dyck labelled each log with Roman numerals in order to reconstruct it, likely on the family's new homestead.



The Waldheim House, vacant and in disrepair, at its original location in the former village of Waldheim, 1962.

When this building arrived at the museum it had been vacant and derelict and so required extensive renovation to its interior and exterior. All renovations to the interior were removed, exposing only original features. Rotten logs in the oak log exterior were replaced with new tamarack logs and the building was set on a new concrete foundation. The

interior walls were plastered with a mixture of clay, water, straw, and cow manure and a new thatched roof was constructed of hollow reeds harvested over a period of three years at Delta Beach on Lake Manitoba.



Thatching a new roof for the Waldheim House when it arrived at the museum, 1967.

The building received a new roof in the late 1980s, this time of tin with an imitation thatch installed on top. Visitors to the museum in recent years have seen that this roof has now reached the end of its life and is in need of total replacement.



The Waldheim House in 2014 showing the deterioration of the roof and moisture damage of the log structure, particularly at the eaves.

This exciting restoration project will begin in the summer of 2016. An expert in heritage log structures will repair the exterior log structure, replacing rotten logs, replacing old chinking between the logs, and restoring the plaster that has been damaged by moisture on the interior walls. The following summer, in 2017, a master thatcher will be on site to repair the roof structure of the building and to thatch a new roof authentic to this type of building and its historic period.

We are looking forward to this restoration project with great anticipation, as it will enable us to conserve this historic building and to continue to share the story of Russian Mennonite settlement in Manitoba for many years to come. Mennonite Heritage Village is grateful for the funding that has been raised for this project to date and would like to thank the community for its support of this very important initiative in preserving this heritage structure.



2015 – THE UPDATE

BY BARRY DYCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To this point in the year, 2015 has had a normal mix of "ups" and "downs." General attendance has been strong, while Education Program enrollment has been light. Although our first festival of the season, Spring on the Farm, was cancelled due to snow, rain and wind, both Canada Day and Pioneer Days experienced very fine weather and exceptionally strong attendance.

We are delighted with our new exhibit in the Gerhard Ens Gallery. Mennonite Food: Tastes in Transition opened on July 9, a little later than we had hoped, but it does a wonderful job of explor-

ing various aspects of the food elements in Mennonite culture.

The Livery Barn Restaurant has enjoyed good growth in business this year, but our facility rentals and catering business have not been meeting budget. Our sponsorship program has shown particular strength this year, with a large number of local organizations coming on board.

When all the accounting is done, our net income is currently on budget, putting us on a trajectory to break even with our operations this year. We are grateful to our supporting constituency.



2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BY ANNE TOEWS, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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.

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Supper from the Field

This fundraising event is in conjunction with Open Farm Day.

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.



REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

BY ANNE TOEWS, PROGRAM DIRECTOR



The 2015 events started out with a cancellation of Spring on the Farm due to adverse cold and wintry weather conditions. This was probably a first in the history of Mennonite Heritage Village.

On June 13th we had our 6th annual Tractor Trek, a joint venture between Mennonite Heritage Village and Eden Foundation. Forty-six drivers enjoyed a trek of approximately 50 kilometers through the countryside on a warm sunny day. The group raised just over \$36,000.00. The funds will be equally divided between MHV and Eden Foundation. A big thank you to all the drivers who worked diligently to raise pledges and to the sponsors and contributors who helped make this fundraiser a success.

Summer in the City is an annual event in downtown Steinbach. June 19-21 we set up a Waffle Booth on Main Street where we sold close to 1000 waffles. Waffles with vanilla sauce and strawberries are always a hit. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this a successful fundraiser for Mennonite Heritage Village again this year.

The weather remained warm and on Canada Day we experienced a beautiful sunny summer day with temperatures in the mid twenties. This brought out 5100 people to enjoy the day at the village. There were many children's activities throughout the day, guided tours of the galleries and village,



lots of food and entertainment and, of course, the official Canada Day ceremony followed by cake and coffee.

Since our events are so dependent on good weather, Pioneer Days turned out to be another successful event. The weather was beautiful all weekend and to say the least, our Executive Director, Barry Dyck was smiling.

Around 6900 people attended the weekend. Pioneer demonstrations brought back memories for many of our visitors. For others this was perhaps the first time they had experienced these kinds of demonstrations. In addition to the outdoor demonstrations, we were able to present music from a restored player piano which was donated by Lydia Dyck of Steinbach and restored by Gerry Neufeld also of Steinbach. This piano had been in Lydia's family for 75 years and now we are delighted to have this wonderful piano as part of our artifacts collection.



NEW DONATION

BY JESSICA MCKAGUE, ASSISTANT CURATOR

To all of our donors - without you, this museum wouldn't be possible. Thank you!! Since the last issue of Village Voice we have received 70 donations from 22 separate donors, including such objects as an 1879 Burial Frock donated by Mary Loewen and Helena Hiebert's 1913 Normal School Diploma donated by Leona Rempel.

J.J. Janzen Safe, 1940s
22 x 23 x 33"

This 400 lb. safe on steel wheels belonged to J.J. Janzen. He worked for Minneapolis Moline, a large tractor and machinery producer, as a service rep for twenty-two years. In 1945 he started his own Minneapolis Moline dealership in Altona. The safe was used early on in the business and was kept in the family some seventy years before Norman Wiebe donated it to MHV.



J.J. Janzen Safe, 22 x 23 x 33"
Courtesy of Jessica McKague





JULY PIONEER DAY CAMP - AGES 5-8

BY ABIGAIL CROSS, EDUCATION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Eleven lucky campers spent their days at Mennonite Heritage Village in July, learning all about Mennonite history. Each day was packed with activities that allowed them to explore the museum in a deeper way than is possible during a regular visit. They participated in a mini archaeological dig, where they learned techniques that curators use to unearth artifacts. They viewed some of the artifacts behind the scenes, and while doing so, became the first visitors to hear the restored player piano!

With a focus on food this year in the temporary gallery, care was given to make sure the campers experienced food in a Mennonite pioneer garden by helping to identify, pick (and of course eat!) some of the delicious veggies. They received a lesson on pioneer baking and made schnetje to share with the group.

One of the most popular stations was feeding the animals in the afternoon, and the campers were even allowed to enter the chick-

en and rabbit pens to assist with feeding. They visited each building throughout the week, often meeting friendly volunteers who shared their wealth of knowledge with the campers, and demonstrated how many items worked in the buildings. The campers even took a ride throughout the village on an antique fire engine!



FOUNDATIONS FOR A STRONG FUTURE

BY BARRY DYCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2014 Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) experienced a highly successful campaign to reduce our debt. Freedom 15 raised \$200,000 in December as the result of significant donor generosity. As other critical needs at MHV have been identified in 2015, we have decided to roll Freedom 15 into a new and exciting campaign we are calling Foundations for a Strong Future: Faith, Family and Community.

Foundations for a Strong Future is intended to keep MHV healthy and effective in the coming years. It is supported by the MHV Board of Directors, staff and a strong core group of constituency members. The campaign will invite participation from governments, foundations, corporations and individuals.

Multiple components of this campaign include the restoration of the Waldheim House, construction of a Summer Pavilion to replace our tent,

replacement of failing heating and cooling equipment in the Village Centre, elimination of remaining debt, strengthening of our endowment fund, and the ongoing care of buildings and equipment that are at the heart of our museum. The campaign will seek donations and grants totaling \$3,000,000.

The Anabaptist movement in the sixteenth century was based on faith, a faith that for some Mennonites has been severely tested over the generations. Family structures have been foundational in Mennonite culture, as evidenced by private education and family farms and businesses. Mennonite villages and churches have provided rich community life for centuries. MHV is committed to preserving and telling stories of faith, providing meaningful education and entertainment to families, and nurturing community values through its preservation and exhibition of significant artifacts. We invite all to join us in creating Foundations for a Strong Future.



PROJECTS UPDATE

BY BARRY DYCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In our last edition of Village Voice we provided some information on projects that were on the horizon, some more urgent than others. We are happy to report that the Livery Barn Restaurant has a new roof, and that the humidifiers that failed to provide sufficient humidity for healthy artifact preservation last winter have been replaced. We are still waiting to hear whether our grant application for improvements to our wheelchair ramps has been approved.

Our project to erect new highway signs has progressed. We have a new 40-foot billboard at our north entrance welcoming guests to our property. We have also secured a space to erect another 40-foot billboard along the Trans-Canada Highway and expect to see it go up after the crops have been harvested in that area.

The MHV Board of Directors recently approved a plan to build a three-season building to replace our big white tent. This building will

provide a significantly improved venue for our Education Program, staff and family picnics, wedding receptions, overflow seating for the Livery Barn Restaurant, and festival entertainment. It will also provide much needed washroom facilities for the Livery Barn Restaurant.

Under the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, the Government of Canada has recently awarded MHV a portion of the funding needed for rehabilitation of the Waldheim House, our oldest building and the first to be moved to our site. Additional funding will be required to complete the project. This rehabilitation will involve repair of the log structure and the interior walls and the installation of a new thatched roof. The project will be done over a two-year time frame spanning 2016 and 2017.

The goal of these and other projects is to maintain a healthy museum that helps future generations understand and value their history.



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