

VOICE

THE VILLAGE

VOLUME 5 NO. 2 • AUGUST 2017



NEW AQUISITIONS ^{PG3}

2017 OVERALL SPONSORS ^{PG8}



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HOURS

May, June & September
 Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sunday: 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July & August

Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sunday: 11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

* October - April

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

* Village Centre only

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:

Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum

Brandon, MB

Manitoba Agricultural Museum

Austin, MB

New Iceland Heritage Museum

Gimli, MB

St. Boniface Museum

Winnipeg, MB

Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre

Morden, MB

Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada

Winnipeg, MB

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2017 SUMMER UPDATE

BY BARRY DYCK

One of the best things about the 2017 summer season at Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) is the fact that until very recently there were no mosquitoes. I'm not sure I can remember another summer where we've enjoyed such a long pest-free period of time in summer. I'm sure this makes our visitors' experience more comfortable.

We've enjoyed many other aspects of life at MHV this summer. The restoration of the Waldheim House, in particular the installation of the thatched roof. The opening of our new exhibits around our 2017 theme, *Storyed Places*. The completion of our new Pavilion, providing good space for both MHV and community events. A good turnout of 47 tractors registered in our Tractor Trek fundraiser. A modest but successful first attempt at our Heritage Classic Car Show. Over 5000 guests attending our Canada Day festival. Good attendance in our Education Program during the busy months of May and June, and predominantly good day-to-day attendance at the museum. That's a lot to be thankful for.

Of course there are still some things on our Wish List. We would still like to see more guests discovering our Livery Barn Restaurant and Village Books and Gifts; more individuals and organizations using

our meeting and event facilities, especially our new Pavilion; more contributions coming into our operating fund as well as our Foundations for a Strong Future campaign; and more new volunteers coming on board as existing volunteers need to scale back their service for various reasons.

We have significant challenges and opportunities here at MHV. I am thankful for good staff and a good board of directors. I think we're up to the challenges.



AUXILIARY NEWS

BY LINDA SCHROEDER

Mary Schmor graciously offered her beautiful back yard to hold a recent Executive Meeting—a delightful setting to mull over the business of the MHV Auxiliary.



Enjoying the patio luncheon are Frieda, Martha, Evelyn and Mary. As usual, Linda Schroeder, our President, is always at work behind the scenes she was managing the camera and is regretfully missing from this picture

The meeting became a preamble to upcoming events at MHV including Pioneer Days of course. Dozens of volunteers need to be recruited to help serve the steady stream of visitors that line up and wait patiently to enjoy that perfectly browned waffle smothered in vanilla sauce. Needless to say, the sweet, Texas watermelon and deep fried rollkuchen is another treat that few can resist.

Meanwhile, the quilters meet regularly to fine-stitch just one more quilt. Tina Bergen is pictured putting the final stitches on a Log Cabin quilt in lovely hues of soft blues and pinks. The quilt was designed



and pieced by someone in her late 70's and is finally being completed by the Village Quilters.

The Quilting Room is a popular stop for tourists who visit the Museum. Not only do they appreciate the fine workmanship, the stop is ever more interesting as the quilters aptly recall intriguing stories of yesteryear.

As always, the Auxiliary has a full agenda for the upcoming Fall season. We invite you to be on the lookout for details of an upcoming quilt exhibit.....as well as a special event to celebrate Canada's 150th.

Our events are generally planned to raise funds for the work of MHV. That is after all our reason for being—to help support the Education Program, to replace worn flooring, to refurbish office space, to lend financial support for special exhibits in the galleries, and, countless big and small needs at the Livery Barn Restaurant.

Should you be interested in joining our team come, visit us at any of our monthly meetingswe heartily welcome you!



NEW ACQUISITIONS

BY ALEXANDRA KROEGER



The front of the CO medal. The writing on the front reads "S.V. Elisaveta's Association."

One of our newest acquisitions is a medal that was awarded to Abram K. Friesen by the Russian Red Cross Community Hospital of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. These medals were issued to those who donated at least ten rubles to the hospital and who performed a certain amount of work as a volunteer. Friesen likely received this for serving in the Russian medical corps as a Conscientious Objector (CO) during World War I. The medal is small - 2.5 cm wide by 5 cm high - but it helps us interpret Russian-descendant Mennonite history in several ways.

According to GRANDMA, Abraham K. Friesen (1874-1953) married Katharina Bergen (1877-1958) in 1902. They lived in Alexanderthal, probably in the Molotschna Colony, and later moved to Ebenfeld, Memrik, where Abram kept a store. He and his wife had five of their eventual seven children by 1914, so his absence during his service must have been difficult for the family. Along with 21,000 other Mennonites, the Friesens fled the aftermath of the Russian Revolution in the 1920s, arriving in Canada in 1926 and settling in Waterloo-Kitchener, ON.

This is how the medal came to Canada, but not how the medal came to MHV. Enter the Letkemmann family. John Letkemmann (ca. 1926-2015) had been born in Osterwick, Russia (now Ukraine). Unlike the Friesens, his family did not leave Russia in the 1920s, but fled the country with the retreating German Army between 1943-1945 in what is called the Great Trek. He met his future wife, Irma Vogt (b. 1926 in Deutsch Kazun, Poland, d. 2008), at the refugee camp in Gronau, Germany, after World War II. Both John and Irma were able to come to Canada on work permits, John as a lumberjack, and Irma as a domestic. When John learned that Irma was in Ontario, he moved to Kitchener to be with her. They joined the Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church and were married there around 1949.

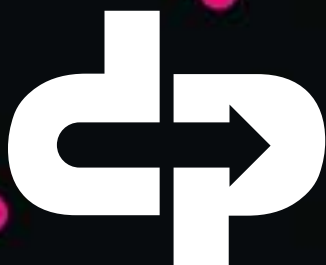
It so happened that Abram and Katharina Friesen were deacons at this church. Later, John recalled how the Friesens had invited him and Irma to their house for dinner after the very first service they attended at WKUMC. The Friesens and the Letkemmanns became good friends. Even after Abram and Katharina passed away in the 1950s, the Letkemmanns kept in touch with the Friesen children. It is unclear when the medal came into John's possession, but it was likely given to him by one of the Friesen children in remembrance of the Letkemmanns' relationship with the family.

This medal was found among John Letkemmann's possessions after his death in 2015, and donated to MHV by his and Irma's daughter, Martha Goertz. It helps MHV tell "big" stories of the Russian Mennonite CO experience and two waves of immigration, but it also helps us tell the "small," human story of how two families supported each other.

The curatorial department at MHV is honoured to be the caretakers of artefacts like this one that shed light on unique parts of the history of Russian-descendant Mennonites. If you have an artefact with a story about Mennonite history to tell, and you would like to donate it to the 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 the artefact.



The back of the CO medal. Abram K. Friesen's first two initials and last name are written in Cyrillic script, and below is the date 1914, the year World War I began.



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WALDHEIM HOUSE UPDATE

BY ALEXANDRA KROEGER

In our last edition of the Village Voice, we wrote about the renovations to the structure of the building, and the thatching that was yet to begin. Well, the roof is now thatched and everything cleaned up. Our Waldheim House restoration project is complete, and the MHV's first and oldest building is open to visitors once more!

As we wrote in our last article, the Waldheim House roof had deteriorated over the years, leading to issues with rot and mold. Walls that Speak fixed the structural issues caused by excess moisture, and a new thatched roof makes sure that these do not recur.



The Waldheim House without its sheet metal roof covered in moss.

Walls that Speak scraped off the moss and removed the old roof. Before thatching began, we had an engineer assess whether the house could take the weight of the reeds. The historic rafters had to be reinforced, but that was all; as the house was probably thatched just after it was built, it was no surprise that it is sturdy enough.



Thatching the east side of the house.

Colin McGhee from McGhee & Co. Roof Thatchers, along with apprentice Matthew Spittle, arrived on June 12th, and started thatching a couple days later. It was fascinating to watch this process: they attached a metal strip to the building and tuck bundles of reed underneath, packing everything tightly together. Once everything was up, they "dressed" the reeds so they looked nice and even. The thatchers started at the bottom of the roof and worked their way up to the ridgeline, which they did last.



I wasn't the only one to find thatching interesting, not by a long shot. Here are visitors watching the thatchers put on the finishing touches during Canada Day.

Because there is nothing underneath the thatching but the roof itself, you can see the reeds from below. Visitors can now see them too; Walls that Speak installed a "skylight" in the ceiling through which visitors can see the underside of the roof.



View of the underside of the roof in the attic as thatching is in progress.

The thatchers finished up just after Canada Day. Now that we've cleaned the interior and put all of the furniture back, the Waldheim House is open for visitors once more. Come visit, and see the results of the restoration for yourself!



The west side of the house. Notice how thick the layer of reeds is.



The Waldheim House, before and after. What a difference!

The Waldheim House restoration project was generously funded by the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure program, Steinbach Credit Union, the Thomas Sill Foundation, R.M. of Hanover, and private donors.





PROJECTS UPDATE

BY BARRY DYCK

In our last edition of *Village Voice*, you saw a photo of our new Pavilion at Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) taking shape. At that time it was in its final construction phase. Today, with the exception of a few remaining tweaks, the building is complete, and we are learning how best to use it for our own programs as well as community functions.

This project was initiated with a \$1,300,000 budget, and it now appears to be coming in almost exactly on budget. We're grateful to Penn-Co Construction Inc. for their contribution of project management for this major undertaking. The Pavilion provides a new home for the summer phase of our Education Program. It also makes washrooms much more accessible to Livery Barn Restaurant guests, as the two buildings are linked by a passageway. This link also gives the restaurant access to overflow space, especially needed for highly popular days such as Mother's Day and Father's Day. Several organizations have already used the Pavilion, in combination with other of our facilities, for company picnics. Wedding parties have rented the space for receptions scheduled later this summer. The building has also served as our entertainment venue at several MHV events.

Village Voice readers are also aware of the unique Waldheim House restoration project that has been underway for the better part of two years. It was very exciting to see this initiative move to completion this summer. The logs, walls and ceiling restoration had been completed through the past fall, winter and early spring seasons. In mid-June we started work on the roof thatching, which was completed in early July. We were very pleased to have the skilled thatchers here to interact with guests during our Canada Day festival on July 1. All that's left to do at this point is to clean the entire house and move furniture back into place. When that has been completed, we will open the building for guests once again.

New heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment has been ordered for the Village Centre. This Makeup

Air Unit will be installed later in fall and will help us maintain a climate that is conducive to healthy storage of our artifacts.

We have held off on a few remaining projects because a certain government grant which we normally use for such projects has not yet been made available to us. Our *Foundations for a Strong Future* campaign has been instrumental in allowing us to undertake the projects we have completed thus far, but that campaign is not yet done. We still need to raise just under \$900,000 to meet our \$3,000,000 goal. We continue to invite supporters to consider a 2017 donation toward the campaign, over and above their normal donation to our operating fund. Contributions can be made by mail, in person, or on our website at www.mhv.ca.



The Summer Pavilion on Canada Day.



VILLAGE BOOKS & GIFTS

BY JO-ANN FRIESEN

Happy Summer Everyone! Over 5000 visitors from all over the world made their way to the museum in celebration of Canada's 150th birthday on July 1st. Guests commented on how impressed they were with the impeccable upkeep of the village. Travelers appreciated the unique selection of souvenirs and books that Village Books and Gifts had to offer as well. I quoted a visitor as saying we are one of "Steinbach's Best Kept Secrets".

MHV Reception staff and volunteers are knowledgeable and work very hard to provide excellent customer service. At this year's 150th Canada Day celebration, visitors commented how much they appreciated the friendly staff, prompt service and the clean, safe environment for their families. Just today, visitors from Switzerland, and Iran commented on how much they loved their experience at MHV. They hope to return very soon with more family and friends.

Village Books and Gifts is excited to carry titles that embrace our history, tell our story and sometimes bring a little controversy. The book *Imagined Homes* by Hans Werner, Professor at the University of Winnipeg, imagines two migrations of similar groups of ethnic Germans from the Soviet Union during the Cold War period. One group came to Canada in the late 1940's and the other to West Germany in the early 1970's. A very interesting read, why not drop in and pick up your copy today. Another publication that sells out on a regular basis is *Woldemar Neufeld's Canada, a Mennonite Artist in the Canadian Landscape*. We have cook-books, aprons, vintage toys and games, as well as everything you need for that hard-to-buy-for someone. Our quality of books and souvenirs continue to grow. Customers have informed us they are purchasing several items for Christmas. It's never too early to shop for Christmas, (Yes - I did say Christmas).

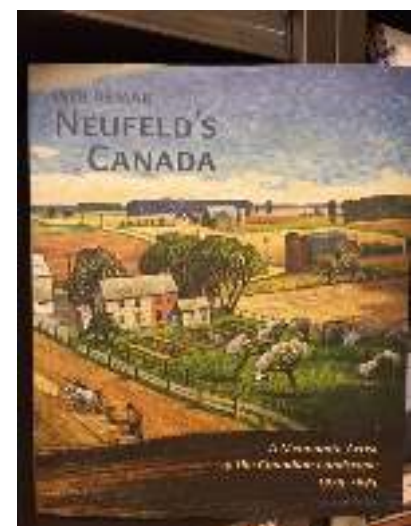
MHV had the grand-opening of the newest Exhibit *Storied Places* in the Gerhard Ens Gallery on Canada Day. Many visitors spent the day in the gallery connecting with their "story". *Storied Places* will be on display until April 2018. A historical experience of grand proportions. One you will not soon forget.

Village Books and Gifts appeals to a wide variety of folks who want to bring home something that's a little bit "Steinbach" and a little bit "Mennonite." We work hard to provide quality, unique, hard-to-find items. Get your Menno Apparel here, the only outlet in Southeastern Manitoba. A feast for the eyes that tickles the funny bone.

Village Books and Gifts is open to the general public year-round.

Store Hours are:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| July - August | Monday to Saturday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Sunday 11:30 AM – 6:00 PM |
| September | Monday to Saturday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Sunday 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM |
| October 1 – April 30 | Monday to Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM |
| May 1 - June 30 | Monday to Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sunday 11:30 AM - 5:00 PM |





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BY ANNE TOEWS

JULY



July 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018

Exhibit:

Storied Places

Storied Places will provide a basis for discussion about how everyone - immigrants and their descendants, Mennonites and non-Mennonites - relate to Canada, and what makes it 'home'.

AUGUST



August 4 - 7, 2017
9 am - 6 pm

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



August 14 - 18, 2017
Pioneer Day Camp
For ages 8-10



Wednesday, August 16, 2017
Heritage Classic Golf Tournament
10 am - 6 pm

Quarry Oaks Golf Course
Contact Patricia at 204-326-9661 to register yourself or a team.

SEPTEMBER



Monday, September 4, 2017
Fall on the Farm
9 am - 5 pm

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



Sunday, September 17, 2017
Open Farm Day
11:30 am - 5 pm

An informal day in conjunction with the provincial government.

Thursday, September 28, 2017
Volunteer Appreciation
7 pm - 8:30 pm

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

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 1, 2017
Village grounds and Livery Barn Restaurant are closed for the season. Village Centre, indoor galleries and Village Books and Gifts are open year round.

Monday, October 9, 2017
Thanksgiving
Closed for Thanksgiving

October 13 - 14, 2017
Quilt Show
9 am - 5 pm
Hosted by MHV Auxiliary and Steinbach Quilters Guild. Lunch available.

NOVEMBER



November 17 - 18, 2017
Christmas at the Village
9 am - 5 pm

Christmas market, sleigh rides, bonfire and hot chocolate.

DECEMBER

December 23, 2017 - January 8, 2018
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS

www.MHV.ca
Call today for more details!
204-326-9661



Events and dates subject to change without notice. Visit www.mhv.ca for current event information.



EXHIBIT: STORIED PLACES

BY ALEXANDRA KROEGER



Storied Places Curated by Andrea Dyck and Alexandra Kroeger
July 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018
Gerhard Ens Gallery

The places we live are shaped by the stories we tell. From our homes to our cities, we use objects and stories to make the unfamiliar familiar. These stories about place shape who we are as people.

Using artifacts from MHV's collection as well as original art in partnership with Steinbach Arts Council, *Storied Places* will provide a basis for discussion about how everyone - immigrants and their descendants, Mennonites and non-Mennonites - relate to Canada, and what makes it 'home.'



Landmark Collegiate Presents: Storied Places
Spring 2017 to April 30, 2018
Auditorium

Storied Places by the SRSS Advanced Photography Class
July 18, 2017 to April 30, 2018
Art Hall

Storied Places by Landmark Elementary
June 26, 2017 to April 30, 2018
Auditorium



What is a place in Steinbach that is important to you? Mark it on a postcard (found in the Gerhard Ens Gallery) and become a part of our exhibit!



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT 2017

BY KAYLA BERG



Alana and I have been busy in the Education Department since we started in late April. We had over 2000 kids come through with school field trips. These field trips come from private schools, public schools, and home schools. The children love being brought back into the olden days and experiencing a little bit of what life was like in the early Mennonite settlements in Manitoba. June was especially busy with a school group coming in every single day Monday to Friday. We send out a big thank you to our volunteers who were here day in and day out making sure the kids had a wonderful experience.

We just wrapped up our first Pioneer Day Camp of the summer. We had seven kids spend the week with us and learn about life in a Mennonite settlement a bit more in depth. They got to bake schnetje, learn about the windmill, work in the Blacksmith shop, and spend some time doing chores. Even though it sounds like a lot of work, they had a great time! We might have had some Mennonite snacks like 'Pepsi and Revels' and Mennonite sundaes to make the week a bit sweeter. We are looking forward to our next Pioneer Day Camp with our group ages 8-10 August 14-18!



FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

BY PATRICIA WEST



This Spring/Summer season is going by so quickly, I haven't even had a chance to stop and smell the roses so to speak. Anyway, despite the chaos I've definitely had a lot of fun. I have seen my fair share of beautiful vehicles, sold many waffles as well as eaten a few, took many pictures, and led a giant waffle through Main Street Steinbach for an entire weekend. Although it was very tiring, it was well worth it, the smiles on kids' faces, well most kids' faces, as they ran to hug Waldheim Waffle, made it worthwhile.

Summer in the City, what can you say about it really, its incredible. So many people and things going on throughout the weekend. We had an amazing time. Besides spending a lot of time making and serving waffles, we also saw a bit of the dance competition, the burnout competition, the car show, a skate competition and of course heard the live music and sampled some food. (The hot chocolate at Subway was a must, it might've been the only thing, besides my hoodie from the Business Boardshop, that kept me warm).

Canada Day, although not a fundraiser, was awesome, so many of you came out to help us celebrate 150 years. Over 5000 visitors came through our gates that day to enjoy the many activities and of course the birthday cake, I may have even photographed a few of you. Thank you so much to all of you who signed waivers allowing me to take your pictures, they all turned out so amazing. I love capturing the moments, and I think we found some pretty awesome moments that day that are now a part of our story. Thank you to our amazing sponsors for helping us to put on the events we have had so far this season and all of the ones yet to come. Your continued support is greatly appreciated, we could not do this without you.

As sad as finding out that the car show after 30+ years, was not going to happen this year, being able to take it on through the museum was definitely a highlight for me. I do have a love of great vehicles as do some of my coworkers and together, we were able to pull it together. We could have used so much more planning time, given that we will be going forward with the show, know that 2018 will be an entirely different show. So I really hope you can all make it.

Tractor Trek followed and as usual it went off without issue, I even made the turn, that I previously led us past, this year. Regardless, it is a great fundraising event in partnership with Eden Foundation and one which we would love to continue.





2017 OVERALL SPONSORS



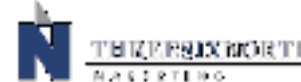
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The Carillon
News that matters to people in southeastern Manitoba



MHV WISHES TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE 2017 OVERALL SPONSORS