

# *Voice*

THE VILLAGE

VOLUME 8 NO. 2 • OCTOBER 2020

**KICKSTARTING PEACE**  
**#MUSEUMATHOME**



Agreement #40033605



**PUBLISHED BY**  
Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) Inc.

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**PRINTED BY**  
Derksen Printers

**DESIGNED BY**  
Chez Koop

**CHARITY NUMBER**  
10363-393-RR0001

**AGREEMENT NUMBER**  
40033605

**HOURS**  
\* October - April  
Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
May - September  
Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Thursday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
  
\* Outdoor buildings are closed

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MEMBERSHIP	
Annual Individual Membership** (Season-long admission)	\$30.00
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\*\* 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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**Le Musée De Saint-Boniface Museum**  
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# KEYWORD: INNOVATION

BY GARY DYCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Everywhere you look at the Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) there is innovation. The housebarns, the windmill, the blacksmith shop, the printery were all great innovations that served their community well. We still have a lot to learn from the ingeniousness of our foreparents.

This year our exhibit is celebrating Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) 100 year anniversary. MCC is one of the most innovative groups in the world. They empowered people like George Klassen to make a water pump that could add a second growing season for subsistence farmers in Bangladesh. They developed the Food Grains Bank, which mobilized farmers to plant a portion of their field for the world's poor. You can see that pump, see beautiful panels and almost touch some artefacts from their history in our Gehard Ens Gallery.

With COVID-19 comes more need for innovation and at the MHV we have developed a new way to do life in the village. We did not host Pioneer Days this year, but every other Saturday we had 'Demonstration Days'. Instead of 1000s of people coming, we had 100s. Both those that came and the volunteers who interacted with them said it was a more meaningful season this way. We had to restructure the flow of our stores and grounds and put hand sanitizer stands beside our heritage blacksmith shop, housebarn and windmill. Our Pioneer Day camps for kids filled up quickly, even when we added a third week.

This year I found that those who were on our grounds, enjoyed being in a beautiful setting and cherished the opportunity to be in a safe outdoor village where they know we were taking care of them and taking care of our Mennonite heritage. Enjoy this issue of Village Voice! I assure you there will be more good innovation coming to MHV next year too.



Gary Dyck



# #MUSEUMATHOME

BY ANDREA KLASSEN, SENIOR CURATOR

On March 24, I went out into the village to do my normal winter rounds, checking that all was well outside with our heritage buildings. As I stepped into the Animal Barn to feed our cats that live on the grounds year-round, I stooped down to pet Gertrude, a very friendly orange cat who has been with us for several years. It was such a routine thing, to feed and water the cats out in the village, but that day, that small act of normalcy felt like a gift and I stopped to snap a few quick pictures of Gertrude enjoying some attention, basking in the sunshine of the open barn door. Later, when I got back to my desk, I shared the photos on Mennonite Heritage Village's (MHV) social media accounts, thinking that our community, like me, could also use something cute and normal, like barn cats, at that moment.


A few days earlier, on March 19, as COVID-19 hit communities across Canada, MHV had closed its doors to the public. Many staff moved their work to their home-based offices, but I was working on



The post that started MHV's #museumathome campaign, Senior Curator Andrea Klassen's visit with Gertrude the cat on March 24.

dismantling our 2019 exhibit, The Russländer, and installing this year's exhibit, MCC 100 Years, all work that required me to be on-site as much as possible. The museum was dark and, while there were one or two other staff around our large Village Centre most days, the typical noise and bustle of visitors and colleagues was gone.

In the midst of this uncertain period, however, I started noticing how people were reaching out to each other in creative, unique, and inspiring ways. A common thread that I saw woven through some of these responses to our collective experience of being in a pandemic lockdown was that individuals and organizations simply used whatever they had, be it resources, talents, or other gifts, to make a difference: signs with encouraging, hand-written messages appeared in home windows and posted on school fences; a cartoonist and children's author that I follow on Instagram offered free colouring pages to her followers; someone dressed up like the Easter Bunny and paraded  
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# AUXILIARY NEWS

BY EVELYN FRIESEN, AUXILIARY MEMBER (OCTOBER 2020)

As always, the well-tended gardens in and around the Village have garnered countless compliments throughout the summer season. The local Garden Club includes a host of ambitious volunteers—many of which are Auxiliary members—who work many long hours to keep the grounds looking beautiful. The MHV Auxiliary was once again pleased to raise the monies for plants and shrubs and tools needed for the year.



Elsie Kathler

Elsie Kathler is one of many who can regularly be found planting and pruning and watering the blooms—like the traditional geraniums which graced the windows of the Hochfeld House until now. Following a seasonal frost, she is pictured readying the last of the geraniums for their winter rest.

Senior curator, Andrea Klassen, expertly guided us on an interesting tour of the present MCC Exhibit in the Gerard Ens Gallery. The fascinating exhibit left us with a renewed appreciation for the 100 years of volunteer efforts that tell the story of peacemaking and providing worldwide relief in times of disaster. To help fund the ongoing needs of the curatorial department remains one of the Auxiliary's goals.



Lunch time at the Waffle Booth! Earl Wiens (right), and Richard Kihn along with the Sawmill crew are seen savouring their lunch of heart-shaped waffles smothered in Vanilla Sauce which were served by the Auxiliary one August Saturday.

Also for sale that day, we were able to offer Parsley and Summer Savoury, Sauerkraut, pickles

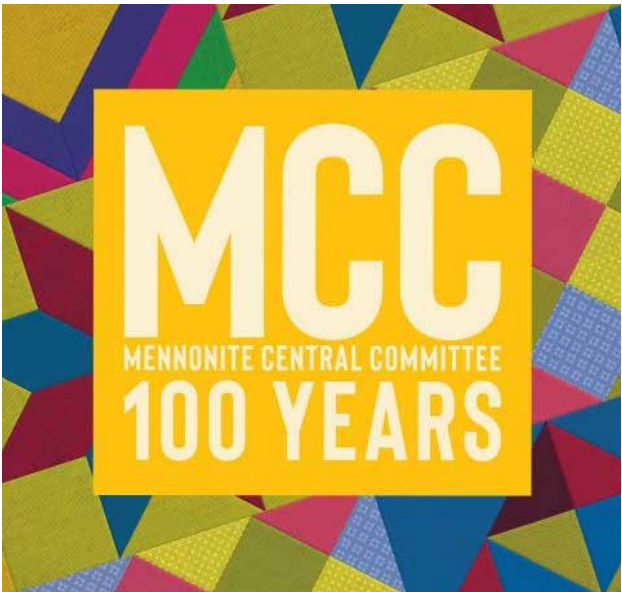
and jams and vegetables from the Village garden.

Our fundraising efforts have been somewhat hampered by the restrictions that COVID-19 has recently placed on us. But through it all, the Village Quilters have kept on stitching—an artful demonstration that is appreciated by many visitors to the Centre. At our August Quilt Raffle, Leona Carnegie of Linden MB—herself a quilter—was thrilled to learn that she had indeed won the stunning, navy/white quilt appropriately named “Counterbalance.”

## UPCOMING!

This is your invitation!!!! Join us for lunch at the annual Christmas Market in the Village. We will be providing a light lunch in the Multi-Purpose Room.

In the meantime, watch for upcoming activities and news from the Auxiliary on Facebook and the MHV website.



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# PUTTING OUR COLLECTIONS TO WORK

BY ANDREA KLASSEN, SENIOR CURATOR

...Continued from page 2

down my neighbourhood's streets from the open back of a hatch-back car, tooting the horn the whole way, on Easter Sunday morning.

At my desk that day in late March, I began to consider what I had to offer to a world struggling to cope with an unprecedented situation. I have a unique and privileged job in caring for the museum's collection of 16,500+ artefacts and two dozen heritage buildings and monuments so I decided that what I could offer was the unique access I have to this collection. I concluded that what MHV could offer our community during the uncertainty and fear of the pandemic was simple: I could put our collection to work to tell stories.

Behind each of the objects in our collection are stories that tell us something about who we are as people, where we have come from, what inspired us in the past, how we dealt with difficulties, and what we hoped and dreamed about. My role as a curator is to tell these stories and shape them into something that is relevant, interesting, educational, and captivating for people today. Usually this storytelling happens

through our exhibits, but during our pandemic closure, even as I worked on preparing the next one, there was no guarantee we would be able to open exhibits to the public this year. So I pivoted and made it my aim during our closure to bring the museum's stories home to people by joining the massive #museumathome social media campaign started by museums around the world to bring their collections to the public during a time when the public was unable to come to them.



A #behindthescenes peak at our Artefact Storage Room, where much of MHV's collection is stored.

From March 24 to the end of April, arguably the bleakest stretch of the closure when we still did not have a sense of if or when the world would be able to re-open, I endeavoured to bring MHV to our community every day by creating a curated virtual "exhibit" of our collection. Each day of the week focused on a different theme: Monday was for #itsallinthedetails, highlighting fascinating artefact details easily missed; Tuesday was #behindthescenes, where I invited people into the areas of the museum not open to the public; Wednesday was #worryingwednesday, exploring how and why people in the past worried too; Thursday was #outinthevillage, an opportunity

to visit places and buildings in the village that were meaningful; and Friday was all about #inspiration, which featured an artefact with an inspiring story to tell.

The goal of #museumathome was not only to maintain a connection to our community of supporters while we could not welcome them at the museum. My challenge with #museumathome was to use our collection, arguably MHV's most unique resource, to reach out to others and make a difference during a challenging time. The stories I chose to focus on were often uplifting but I did not want to shy away from talking about more difficult topics either. Devoting one day a week (#worryingwednesday) to tell worrisome stories was a way of acknowledging that life is, and always has been, uncertain and that people in the past dealt with fear, anxiety, sickness, and hardship – just like we were doing in the middle of the pandemic – as well. These stories had a way of inviting viewers to take a step back, re-evaluate the circumstances we were currently in, realise that we are not unique in living through difficult times, and hopefully draw some inspiration from the fact that life does continue, even in the days of COVID-19.

I want to thank all those who followed our #museumathome campaign this spring and especially to those who took the time to send in their comments to our posts. While my goal was to reach out and inspire others with our collection, seeing our community's enthusiasm and love for the museum also inspired and encouraged us staff here at the museum to continue our work during the challenge of uncertainty.



## NEW ACQUISITIONS

BY KARA SUDERMAN, CURATORIAL ASSISTANT

When we think about Mennonite homes, many of us think about housebarns made from timber, or semlins made of sod. However, while in Russia, bricks were a much more prevalent building material. By 1908, there were thirty-eight brick factories in the Chortitza and Molotschna Colonies.<sup>1</sup> These bricks, added to Mennonite Heritage Village's (MHV) collection this year, were homemade and came from a village in Russia. The donor, Rudy Friesen, collected them while hosting a Mennonite heritage tour in Ukraine in 1994. On his day off, he went to look for his grandparents' former estate. When he eventually found the village where they had lived, many people there were familiar with his grandparents and directed him to where their house had been. One man mentioned that he had some of the bricks the estate owner, Dietrich Warkentin, had made. The bricks, each containing the initials "D W," had come, the man explained, from a recently demolished building and were set to be reused again.

Dietrich and Maria (Klassen) Warkentin, the donor's grandparents, were born in Russia in the 1860s. At this time, Mennonites in Russia experienced a so-called "golden age" as many were able to purchase large amounts of land and colonies were able to start new settlements. Mennonite estate owners, and factory and mill owners formed the upper class, although they stayed close with the Mennonite settlements, often supporting them financially. At

this time, churches became more ornate and more closely resembled basilicas rather than simple worship houses.

By the 1900s, Mennonites had become influential in Russia and were adept at dealing with the Russian government. However, the Russification movement changed things. Major reforms were put in place that threatened the special status Mennonites had enjoyed, including exemption from military service. Mennonites were able to negotiate a form of alternate service in lieu of service directly in the military. Subsequently, beginning in 1880 and lasting until 1917, many Mennonite young men were able to fulfill their military service requirement by working in forestry camps.<sup>2</sup> Dietrich was one of these men. After completing his four-year term in the forestry service, he became the manager of a wealthy Mennonite estate. He and Maria married in 1894 and rented land from several estate owners. They had twelve children in total.



In 1909, they purchased a 900-acre parcel of land for themselves and two other families. The Warkentins owned 450 acres, while the remaining land was split evenly for the Walls and Penners. The estate was constructed similarly to a traditional Mennonite village and included a schoolyard. This estate was called Novo-Nadezhdino (New Hope). The first things Dietrich built were large sheds and kilns. Over

the winter, he made bricks for all the buildings. He inscribed his initials in Cyrillic on each one.

World War One began in 1914 and many young Mennonite men, including the Warkentin's son, took part in alternative service. The Bolsheviks took power in Russia in 1917, leading to much unrest in the country. By this time, there were many people upset about the large gap between the rich and poor in Russia. Much of the land owned by Mennonites was taken away, leaving them with a maximum of fifty acres per family.

The Warkentin's children started leaving for Canada in 1924, but Dietrich did not want to leave the estate he had worked so hard to build. Eventually, in 1926, he and Maria decided to leave. Before they left, they hired a photographer to take pictures of their estate so they could take their home with them. They packed the glass negatives into their luggage. When they arrived in Manitoba, they had few belongings besides their cherished Mennonite wall clock and Bible. The negatives of the estate had broken during the trip, leaving them with only their memories.

According to Friesen, at the time he donated the bricks to MHV's collection, all that is left of the Warkentin's estate is the summer kitchen. Yet his legacy is evidenced in the multitude of bricks still being used. There is a large village on the site of the estate that is referred to as "Khutor Warkentin" by the people who live there. They continue to reuse the bricks Dietrich made,<sup>3</sup> demonstrating the impact Mennonites had while in Russia. Although the original buildings are gone and the names of the villages have changed, the Mennonite story lives on as the bricks are reused again and again.

<sup>1</sup> GAMEO, "Industry Among Mennonites in Russia (and Prussia)," [https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Industry\\_Among\\_Mennonites\\_in\\_Russia\\_\(and\\_Prussia\)](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Industry_Among_Mennonites_in_Russia_(and_Prussia)). Site accessed September 29, 2020  
<sup>2</sup> GAMEO, "Foresteidienst," <https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Foresteidienst>. Site accessed September 29, 2020.  
<sup>3</sup> Rudy P. Friesen, *Building on the Past* (Raduga Publications, 2004), 620.







# GENERAL STORE

BY JO-ANN FRIESEN, GIFT SHOP, RECEPTION & OFFICE MANAGER

The General Store, located on Main Street in the Outdoor Village, opened to the public a little later this year. Vendors set-up their wares and had a plethora of merchandise for sale. Visitors view the General Store as a highlight of their museum visit. Artisans remarked how pleased they were to interact with guests who shared their own "General Store" stories.

The General Store houses a great collection of artefacts that reveal the ingenious ways the early pioneers were in making their homes sustainable

upon their first years in southern Manitoba. They brought few items with them that could be used in their homestead operations. In the early years, the General Store was the place to purchase the latest invention, medicinal ointment, fabric, horse powered equipment and even a tractor.

This past season, there were eleven local artisans providing quality handmade items for sale. The variety of goods ready for purchase as well as old fashioned candy, MHV's own stone milled flour (made onsite in our wind powered Windmill), and horseshoe nail rings made in the Blacksmith Shop were a very popular add-on as visitors purchase quality memorable merchandise.

We are now accepting applications for the 2021 Season in the General Store. Contact joannf@mhv.ca today.



# ADMISSIONS / VILLAGE BOOKS & GIFTS

BY JO-ANN FRIESEN GIFT SHOP, RECEPTION & OFFICE MANAGER

With the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been a very different season in at the museum. Manitobans have taken the opportunity to invest time and money in their local attractions. As folks headed out to rediscover their own province this summer, MHV was on the top of their list. The grounds were alive with laughter, the smell of waffles being cooked on an open grill, horse drawn wagon & barrel train rides, and folks sharing family stories (socially distanced apart of course).

Visitors from Winnipeg and a variety of surrounding communities have been delighted with the efforts MHV has put in place to present a safe and inclusive museum experience. Guests commented on the friendliness of staff & volunteers, the excellent safety protocols in place, the cleanliness of the buildings and grounds, as well as the open, inviting atmosphere. MHV's knowledgeable reception staff were able to enhance the visitor experience with seasoned information about the Russian Mennonite story as well as directions to their next provincial destination.

The current exhibit in the Gerhard Ens Gallery "MCC

100 Years", emphasizes the compassionate work and innovative ideas brought forth by MCC through the years. Our Senior Curator works very hard to bring each story to life in a way not soon forgotten. A must see, the exhibit will be on display until April 1, 2021.

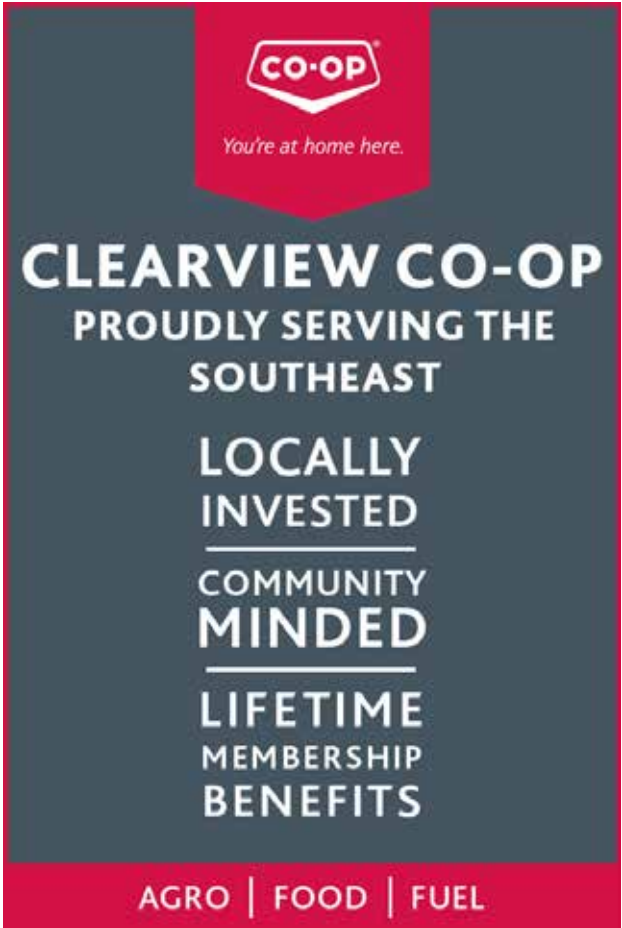
Village Books & Gifts has rearranged its floor plan to accommodate directional flow and customers have been patient with the new protocols in place. The gift shop has an array of merchandise that draws a variety of customers looking for something historical, unique, and a little bit "Steinbach". We continue to have an excellent selection of books, giftware, and souvenirs. Our very own MHV Auxiliary offer retro aprons, quilt blocks, doilies and quilts for sale.

Handmade is the name of the game. MHV's own brand of historically driven gifts and toys are made locally, includes: wood pens, bonnets, magnet kits, quilting kits, and peg doll kits continue to be favorites with visitors. Our "Menno Cards" and "Menno Apparel" continue to be our hottest sellers. We strive to find a balance by carrying heritage driven merchandise, as well as travel friendly souvenirs. The mandate of the Gift Shop is to provide souvenirs and reading material that reflect the Russian Mennonite story.

As the Gift Shop, Reception, General Store & Office

Manager, I have deeply appreciated the flexibility of staff & volunteers as we navigate through uncertain times. The team of knowledgeable, seasoned staff & volunteers made the retail environment a pleasure to be a part of. We have appreciated the community support, as each purchase in the gift shop helps preserve the Russian Mennonite Story.

Did you know the gift shop and indoor galleries are open year-round? Why not pop by today and experience the difference for yourself. Interested in upcoming Village Books & Gifts events and in-store deals? Go to our website [www.mhv.ca](http://www.mhv.ca). or check out our Facebook page.







# A COW BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE

BY ABBY TOEWS, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The vision of the sheep, chickens, and donkeys waiting to greet you is always a welcome surprise for Mennonite Heritage Village visitors of all ages. Beyond looking cute or acting funny, the MHV farm animals are a living, breathing representation of what life on a Mennonite farm may have looked, smelled, and sounded like. Our farm includes cattle, donkeys, sheep, rabbits, chickens, geese, a team of horses, and a couple of barn cats. Just like the livestock on a Mennonite farm, the animals residing at MHV all have a purpose. Our team of horses is used for wagon rides, the chickens produce eggs, and the pigs are butchered for meat and lard. Furthermore, these animals open doors for discussions about food production and the day to day life of Mennonite settlers.

While these animals have the same purpose as those on Mennonite farms, our reliance on their productivity is very low. For early settlers, livestock were critical to their survival on the prairies. Besides the daily chores, farmers also needed to cultivate crops, and build barns to keep their animals producing through the winter. The death of the family cow, a fox attack on the chickens, or a poor harvest could greatly decrease the nutrients available for a hardworking family. Many families in today's world do not have to worry about chickens not producing or a calf dying. If the fridge does not have any eggs in it, it is easy to go to the grocery store to buy another dozen or more. Children do

not have to miss school to help with harvest or go out on a cold day to feed the animals. While young people may not have these experiences, their parents or grandparents may have had to help on



the family farm growing up.

For young visitors of the museum, seeing the farm animals is a highlight and, while the baby animals are cute and the chickens are amusing,

these animals open the door for conversations about what livestock meant to the Mennonites. The Mennonite Heritage Village farm smells and sounds bring many visitors back to a simpler time of life. Older generations may have personal experiences of stepping into a warm barn full of cows on a cold winter morning to get milk for the family or helping their parents harvest crops in early fall. My grandmother's face always lit up when she talked about her best friends being the animals on her family farm. The memories of watching a calf being born or collecting eggs are uncommon experiences for today's youth, so when stories from the older generation are told, it gives a glimpse into what life would have been on a family farm.

Animals, no matter the species, breed, or size, have the ability to bring people together no matter their age, background, or culture. In addition to connecting visitors from diverse backgrounds and ages, the livestock that spend the summer at the Mennonite Heritage Village are an essential part of recreating the historical Mennonite experience.

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.*

- Cecil Frances Alexander



# KICKSTARTING PEACE

BY PATRICK FRIESEN, DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

My employment began with two fundraising initiatives already underway. The first one was the Farm to You Fundraiser, an innovative twist on a traditional fall supper. With capacity to host 50 people safely in our auditorium, we decided to expand our reach by offering meal kits delivered to your door. Those who participated at home were able to join the livestream on the night of the program.

The evening entertainment was provided by Daily Bonnet author Andrew Unger and the program wrapped up with a video thanksgiving message from the staff at MHV.

The experience required figuring out logistics in packaging and delivering of the meal kits, learning the technical skills to livestream a program, as well as making sure that precautions were set in place to help minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

While we learned a few good lessons on how to host a virtual event, we were excited to raise over \$15,000 toward our operating budget.

The second fundraising initiative that was in the works is the Kickstarter campaign to complete the construction of the Dirk Willems Peace Garden. The

Kickstarter platform is an online funding site which helps individuals, corporations and non-profit organizations raise funds for a variety of projects.

Using Kickstarter to raise funds is another example of innovation at work within the walls of MHV. Utilizing an online platform opens up engagement with people from around the world who are interested in promoting peace.

The Dirk Willems Peace Garden stands as the only commemorative site dedicated to telling the story of Dirk Willems and his commitment to living a life of peace. His rescue of a pursuing captor is often held up as a model for the necessary selflessness that the life of peace requires.



The purpose of this installment is to provide visitors a space to consider what it means to live a peaceful life. As the Dirk Willems' story bears witness, a life of peace is not passive and free of conflict. It means that we place the value of even those who oppose our values and beliefs with the same dignity as we do ourselves.

Art serves as a catalyst to critical thinking and contemplation and this project creates a space to remember a story from the past and consider how that might inspire living in the future.

For more information on this project visit [Kickstarter.com](https://www.kickstarter.com) and search for Mennonite in order to find the project.





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# DAY-CAMP OFFERS UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

BY BETH PETERS, ASSISTANT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Our Pioneer Day Camps offer more than just fun activities for children. The Pioneer Day Camps use a variety of learning experiences to engage kids with Pioneer Life. These experiences include hands on learning, demonstrations, and exploration. Ultimately our Day Camps encourage children to take pride in their community and heritage.

Our hands-on learning activities are just one of the ways children can learn about Pioneer life while still having fun. For example, every year campers have the opportunity to learn how to bake a classic

one of the best ways to experience pioneer culture and is one of the ways we provide a good experience for campers.

Another hands-on activity that has been a hit from this year and previous years is making rings at the blacksmith shop. Children are encouraged to hammer a nail into a ring (under close supervision) and take the ring home with them. Not only is it a great souvenir for the kid to have but it also teaches the child the importance of blacksmithing back in the pioneer era.



Mennonite biscuit called Schnetja. From the feedback we have received from parents the kids loved the process and the fact that they got to eat it afterwards and take the leftovers home to their parents. Food is

Something new we did this year was teaching the campers how to weave a cup coaster using string and a plate. This hands-on experience was a blast for the kids because it was a creative craft that required a lot of focus. For children who are particularly artsy the craft was a great way to help them experience pioneer life. Some continued to weave through lunch and snack time!

Exploration of the Village is a huge reason that our Day Camps are a good experience for the children. The introduction

of the camp always begins with a scavenger hunt across the museum grounds. It is a great way to teach the kids about Pioneer life in a fun and engaging way. Additionally, children get free rein

to explore the barn and pet the animals as long as they follow safety rules. By the end the of the week campers have already named the animals and grown attached to them.

Finally, 'hide and go seek' is a great way for kids to explore the ins and outs of specific heritage buildings. For children with a lot of energy, 'hide and go seek' is a great way to burn some of it off as well as interacting with the village around them. One parent wrote in week two's feedback form, "the stories they had were fantastic... now they feel a sense of ownership and pride when we bring friends to visit [the village]".

One of the most unique experiences of the Pioneer Day Camps is the interactive demonstrations we offer at the Mennonite Heritage Village. One of the highlights for the kids is getting a demonstration of grinding flour at the windmill. The campers are mesmerized by the moving levers and gears inside the windmill, and Pioneer history comes to life as the kids watch the miller grind flour using the grinding stone. Another fun experience is the demonstration of our working printing press. Once campers learn how the printing press work, they have the opportunity to work it themselves. Horse care demonstrations are also another excellent way to teach kids the importance of animals during pioneer life and ties in well with the wagon rides.

The Pioneer Day Camps is a great experience for children of all ages because it uses a variety of learning methods to teach kids about pioneer life in a meaningful and fun way! Kids come out of the day camps feeling more connected with the community around them and take pride in the things they have created and learned.



# INTERTWINING OUR STORIES

BY RAELYN DICK, PROGRAM MANAGER

Many Mennonites in the Steinbach area can come to the Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) and point out an artifact, building, or even picture that connects to their family story. The numerous connections individuals have with the museum show that the tapestry of the museum is composed of many threads, each carrying their own unique story. Although the museum explores the story of early Mennonite immigrants, this story can also be truly meaningful for recent immigrants all around the world too, regardless of whether they are Mennonite. It is important to remember that in Canada, almost all of us are immigrants whether we are first, second, or third (etc.) generation immigrants. The museum acknowledges the hardship of moving to a new country, celebrates creating a new life and expresses the importance of preserving one's heritage.

The experiences of early Mennonites coming to Canada differed greatly based on many factors such as wealth, the year they arrived, and the season they arrived. Children who visit the museum are always shocked to hear that many early Mennonite settlers lived in a Semlin over one or more winters with their families and animals. However, as you follow the buildings in chronological order at the museum, the buildings show an increased quality of life as well as a group of people who have created a new life for themselves, overcoming adversity and hardship. Like early Mennonite settlers, the experiences of recent immigrants coming to Manitoba are all vastly different. However, the museum's story of hope and perseverance continues to be relevant today and can serve as a message of hope for those starting a new life in Manitoba.

Intergenerational learning is one of the most effective ways of preserving heritage. This mindset is woven into all the programming at MHV, especially the Education Program, where children learn about the museum's history through interpreters of all ages. Our Pioneer Day Camps are a great example of this, as the campers glean information from many different generations. From making schnetje (biscuits) to watching the windmill at work, children are given the opportunity to step into the past through many hands-on activities. In preserving one's heritage, it is so important to pass along recipes, stories, and traditions to the younger generation to keep them alive. MHV's preservation of early Mennonite settler traditions and knowledge through the generations can be inspiring for recent immigrants because it shows children playing an active role in preserving their heritage.

The many ways the Mennonite Heritage Museum continues to offer wisdom and inspiration show that the stories it shares transcend time. MHV acknowledges the hardship of moving to a new country and starting a new life, while also sharing stories of joy and hope. It also

shows the importance of preserving one's heritage, especially intergenerational learning. Children will be the ones to carry on family stories, knowledge, and traditions, and the mindset of children being the future is echoed in many cultures. The stories the Mennonite Heritage Village shares are powerful and can connect with many other stories as well, especially those who have left their home country behind to start a new life.



Sixty-five people become Canadian citizens at a citizenship ceremony held at Mennonite Heritage Village in December, 2018. [Photo credit: steinbachonline.com]





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Thank-you to the many businesses and individuals who support us as we seek to be the premier interpretive centre for the Russian Mennonite story. Please support these local businesses who partner with us.

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