

THE VILLAGE *Voice*

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MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME

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LOOKING IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR

PG. 6



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Outdoor buildings are closed

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| Adults | \$6.00 |
| Seniors (65 & Older) | \$5.00 |
| Students (ages 13-22) | \$5.00 |
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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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Winnipeg, MB

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IT'S WORTH THE TRIP

BY GARY DYCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MHV TripAdvisor Profile

Isn't it great to get authentic, unbiased reviews of attractions, products, services, and restaurants? TripAdvisor is a go-to site when planning a major outing. Of the 20 things to do in the Steinbach area, Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) is #1 with 134 reviews. When the review scope is expanded to see Manitoba's top "things to do", it is wonderful to see that MHV is ranked #18 (just behind the Winnipeg Art Gallery)! Five years ago MHV was ranked #22, so we are making progress. If you look at Google reviews for MHV you will see there are a whopping 670 reviews and a 4.6 rating. The following is what we can learn from online reviews.

1. What to expect and how to enhance your experience as a visitor based on the information others have reported after attending. Comments sometimes include things the reviewer wished they had done when they were experiencing the venue, or how their experience could have been better while they were there.



TAKING STEPS TO RECONCILE HISTORY

BY NATHAN DYCK, DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

In 2022, Mennonite Heritage Village launched the "All My Relations" initiative to advance the calls for Truth and Reconciliation and tell the stories of Mennonite interactions with First Nations and Métis communities in the first decades of settlement in Canada. The stories we have been telling for generations have been of Mennonites discovering an empty land and developing thriving communities through hard work and a shared communal identity. These stories completely gloss over the significant support early Mennonite settlers received from their neighbours



Tipi on the MHV Grounds - Photo c/o SteinbachOnline, Adi Loewen

in Métis communities that surrounded the East and West Reserves, and the First Nations peoples, who for their help were being thanked with displacement to small reserve lands inadequate to their needs. "All My Relations" seeks to tell a broader account of the Mennonite story, as the initial vision document states:

The purpose of MHV's All My Relations initiative is to improve relations with and relevance as a museum

2. What to watch out for and stay away from. Some organizations see online reviews as scary due to their inability to influence the content of what people are saying about their venue online. The fear of being vulnerable, by allowing people to judge you openly isn't a comfortable feeling. However, sometimes it can be helpful for the organization to learn and change what they do based on a review. Sometimes, like the review below, there isn't much you can do.



3. Learn new perspectives and hidden secrets. You may find cool ideas or a different way to see the place that you may not have thought of before. Have you ever thought of MHV as a great rental or picnic space? Or, if you are feeling grumpy, as a place to find some friendly people and peace? Some (like the third one below) are even good for a laugh.



Be sure to check out the reviews for MHV and for other attractions in Manitoba! You will learn something new and make a long list of what to see when you come next.

for significant neighbouring people groups. We want to be more aware of how our life and communities as Mennonites affect those around us and how we are affected by them. Our starting place is with the Indigenous peoples of Canada, to address the realities of our settler colonialism and nurture equitable friendships. The Mennonite expression of life and faith is beautiful and has incredible strengths, but it is greatly influenced by colonial thinking and practices. Together, we need to re-think the impact of settlement to discover a way of living and thinking that is more faithful to Indigenous peoples and this land that we share.



A Red River Cart rests in front of the Semlin

"All My Relations" was kickstarted from a meeting between MHV and the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) in the Fall of 2021. Since the initiative's inception in early 2022, we have continued to work toward achieving its goals, and several events at MHV have contributed to strengthening Indigenous-Mennonite relationships. For National Day for Truth & Reconciliation in 2022, MHV hosted

Continued on Pg. 3



AUXILIARY NEWS

BY EVELYN FRIESEN, AUXILIARY MEMBER



Ladies Auxiliary working in the Waffle Booth during Pioneer Days

Poised for the last shift of the day in the Waffle Booth, these Volunteers were a few of many who catered to visitors from far and near during Pioneer Days. The waffles were obviously worth the wait in line as people eagerly watched the waffles being baked on the heart-shaped irons.

We were pleased to fill an order of 600 Rollkuchen. The order was delivered in September to mark a special celebration at the Winnipeg Mennonite School.



Preparing Rollkuchen for Winnipeg Mennonite School

Record Waffle sales and Rollkuchen orders made for a busy summer season. With extra fans blowing to cool us in the Short Order Booth, we managed the challenges of the past summer's record heat and humidity levels.

Elsie and Trudie tended the village vegetable garden during the summer months.

Following the harvest, produce of all kinds including home-made pickles and jams were a huge attraction at our annual sales table.

Once again, the Auxiliary managed the summer's rhubarb harvest. The mounds of freshly pulled rhubarb have the leaves cut from the rosy stalks before they're sent to be washed. Ernie Toews is handy at keeping the blades sharp for those who work indoors to slice and dice and bag the tender vegetables for the freezer. It takes 100's of large bags of chopped rhubarb to fill the needs at the Livery Barn Restaurant. Rhubarb Plautz is the signature dessert at the LBR!!!



Ernie Toews with a big crop of freshly harvested Rhubarb

Esther Dyck was thrilled to be the lucky ticket holder of this carefully crafted quilt at our Pioneer Day Quilt Raffle. The Village Quilters can be found stitching away year 'round at yet another project and are presently at work on the next Raffle Quilt.



Linda Schroeder presents the prize quilt to the raffle winner.

LOOKING AHEAD.....

- Lunch with us at the Village Christmas Market – Nov. 11th
- Check out our home-sewn Bib Aprons in the Gift Shop
- Watch the Village Quilters at work in the Quilting Room
- Note our special activities/events in MHV's News—online

the Auxiliary

.....working for MHV



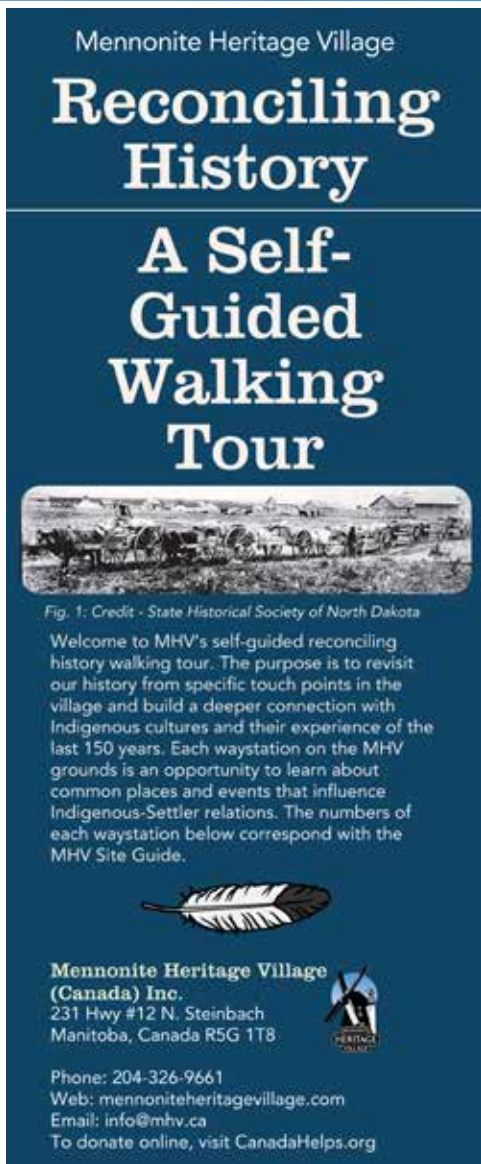
Village Quilters working during Pioneer Days

Reconciling History, Cont'd from P. 2

Josh Dueck, the Indigenous Student Advisor for Steinbach Bible College, who came to speak about how our region's history creates present-day barriers for Indigenous peoples.

In the spring of 2023, MHV partnered with the Hanover Teacher's Association to deliver a series of events promoting the telling of Indigenous stories and history. In April, Dawnis Kennedy, Yellowhead Research Fellow and law scholar, delivered a presentation on Anishinaabe Treaty making - later in the month Erica Daniel, a Cree/Ojibwe filmmaker, discussed the 'Power of Story' through a screening and discussion of her film work. In May of 2023, Reid Bouvier, a teacher at the Steinbach Regional Secondary School, brought a group of thirty students to help Tipi Joe erect a tipi on the MHV grounds and share in a day of story-telling and learning about traditional practices and food.

In an effort to provide a touchstone for visitors to reflect on the disparate experience of Indigenous peoples and Mennonites, MHV launched a self-directed tour, "Reconciling History," for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 30, 2022. At the time, this guide was just a preliminary document that presented spaces in the village in a different light. This year, we have created a self-guided tour pamphlet, that delves into early Indigenous-Mennonite relations and calls visitors to grapple with their and the museum's role in acts of reconciliation. Visitors are welcome to come pick up the guide and explore the grounds to reflect on their place in this journey.



Front page of the Reconciling History Self-Guided Tour

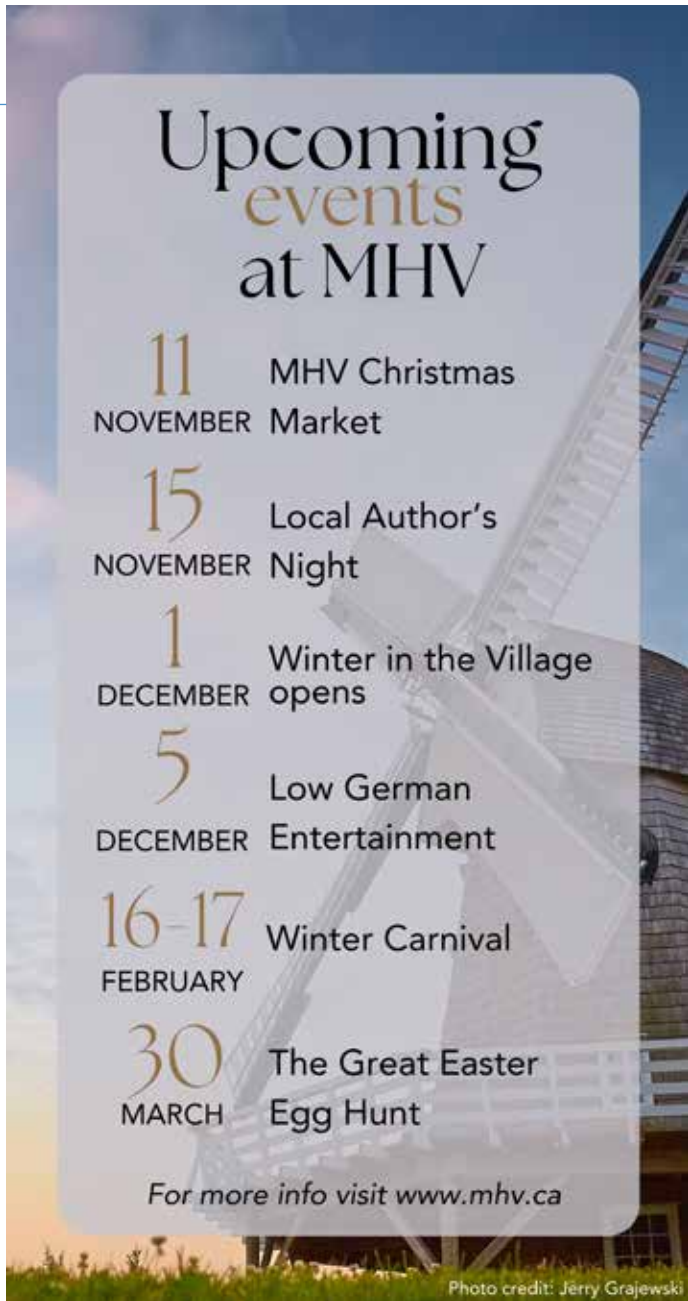


Photo credit: Jerry Grajewski



REASONS TO VOLUNTEER AT MHV

BY JAYSA PLETT, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR ASSISTANT

Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) is a remarkable place. From the 40 acres of beautifully kept grounds and heritage buildings to the wonderful museum galleries that tell the stories of Mennonite origins and advancement, MHV can be proud of all it has become. Beyond the physical facilities, however, MHV sets itself apart from other museums with its bustling events and festivals, fun-filled education program, and other events it hosts. The events, programs, and day-to-day operations



Earl Wiens and Tina Dyck volunteering during our summer events



would not be possible without the time and talent of our dedicated team of volunteers. They do everything from greeting guests as they come to explore our grounds, demonstrating wool spinning, group leading for children's day camps, restoring heritage buildings, flipping burgers in our Short Order Booth, and countless other things. With over fifty various types of volunteering opportunities that MHV offers, the volunteers truly are the lifeblood of this place. Without them, none of what we strive to do is possible.

Volunteering has many perks that entice individuals to give their time. When it comes to MHV, I believe that the

largest draw to volunteering is having the opportunity to pass down to the next generation skills that are no longer in practice. On event days such as Canada Day and Pioneer Days, we present various demonstrations of "pioneer life". These demonstrations include spinning wool, operating the forge in the blacksmith shop, printing with the turn-of-the-century printing press, churning butter, and horse-powered farm-yard activities, among various others. Many, if not all, of these demonstrations have gone by the wayside in our increasingly technological world. In a time where we have the ability to drive to the nearest grocery store and purchase a pound of butter instead of spending time churning cream into butter, the skill of butter churning is destined to slowly fade into non-existence. The same is true of most other demonstrations that are showcased here at MHV. The ever-steady march of time consistently shoves into the periphery these skills that were once so vital to everyday human life.



Jared Penner demonstrates his expertise at the printing press while sharing his knowledge with visitors.

Here at the MHV, however, these skills are alive and well! By volunteering to demonstrate these skills, we preserve the past that is quickly being forgotten. This history, when shown through the demonstrations that we offer ceases to become a lifeless page out of a dusty history textbook. Rather, it becomes alive, it adds value to our modern world, and it connects those who participate more deeply with their past.

Volunteers at MHV don't simply give 3 hours on a weekend in order to make an event happen. They partner with MHV staff in our mission to preserve the story of the Russian Mennonites for present and future generations.

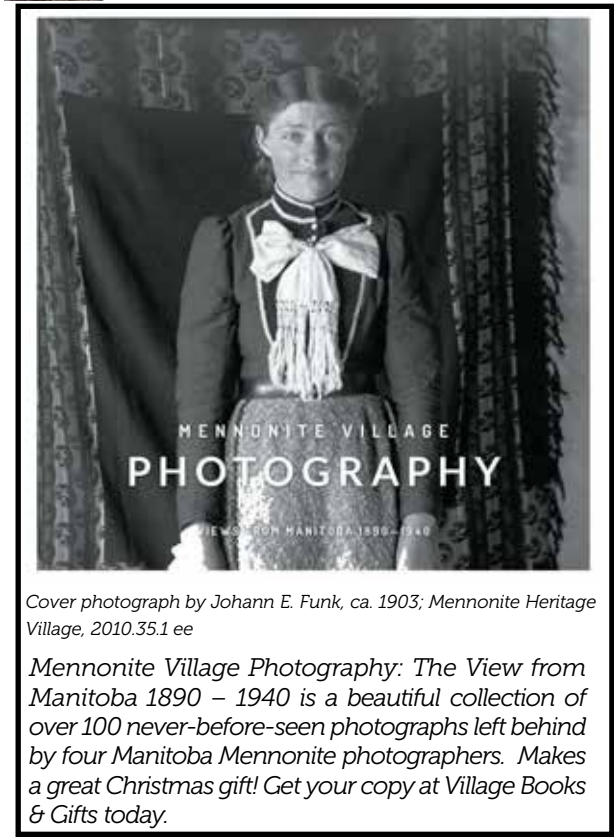


The Chortitz Garden, maintained by volunteers from the Steinbach and Area Garden Club.



MENNONITE VILLAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

BY SUSIE FISHER, EXHIBIT CREATOR, WITH ANDREA KLASSEN, SENIOR CURATOR



Cover photograph by Johann E. Funk, ca. 1903; Mennonite Heritage Village, 2010.35.1 ee

Mennonite Village Photography: The View from Manitoba 1890 – 1940 is a beautiful collection of over 100 never-before-seen photographs left behind by four Manitoba Mennonite photographers. Makes a great Christmas gift! Get your copy at Village Books & Gifts today.

The "Mennonite Village Photography" exhibit features a beautiful collection of never-before-seen photographs left behind by four Manitoba Mennonite photographers who lived and worked in the early twentieth century. Peter H. Klippenstein (1878 – 1960, Neuberghal) and Peter G. Hamm (1883 – 1965, Altberghal) lived in the former Mennonite West Reserve, while Johann E. Funk (1878 – 1968, Schoenwiese) and Heinrich D. Fast (1894 – 1978, Gruenfeld) worked in the Mennonite East Reserve. The images in the exhibit are from glass and film negatives preserved and stored in institutional archives and family collections. After being scanned and given a new life in print, the photos provide a clear view into Mennonite life and early settlement in Manitoba.



Peter H. Klippenstein, "Altberghal village road, 1930s" (Black and white photograph, Mennonite Heritage Archives)

Professional photographers at the turn of the twentieth century usually specialised in taking posed portraits against painted backdrops in studios. The Mennonite photographers mimicked that style, but they also captured a much less artificial picture of what existed around them. Though two of the photographers, Heinrich D. Fast and Johann E. Funk, were encouraged by their respective churches to give up their hobby in preparation for baptism and marriage, all four captured an array of subjects both posed and candid, and the images reveal something of how they saw their worlds. Even if the men photographed

for only a short window of time, their images freeze-frame a distinctive and fleeting period of time in the history of Mennonite village life in western Canada.

Mennonite Historic Arts Committee is comprised of a team of specialists on Mennonite history and material culture committed to the preservation, publication, and exhibition of historic Mennonite art forms. Team members include:

- Susie Fisher, Ph.D., Curator, Gallery in the Park
- Conrad Stoesz, M. A., Archivist, Mennonite Heritage Archives
- Roland Sawatzky, Ph.D., Curator of History, Manitoba Museum
- Frieda Esau Klippenstein, M. A., Historian, Parks Canada
- Andrea Klassen, M. A., Senior Curator, Mennonite Heritage Village
- Anikó Szabó, Graphic Designer / Art Director

MHV is proud to be part of this project and excited to host this unique exhibit early in the 2024. Watch our website (www.mhv.ca) for further details!



Committee members (left to right) Frieda Klippenstein, Conrad Stoesz, Susie Fisher, Anikó Szabó, Roland Sawatzky, Andrea Klassen pose in front of Peter G. Hamm's painted photography backdrop.





THE MHV GENERAL STORE

BY JO-ANN FRIESEN, GENERAL STORE COORDINATOR

In 1886, H.W. (Heinrich Willms) Reimer set up a store on Main Steet, Steinbach, across from his father Klaas Reimer's general store, selling such items as glass windows, coal oil for lamps, and tin smithing services. Hardware remained a significant store component, but gradually dry goods, shoes, men's clothing, fabric, groceries, housewares and furniture were added. Its huge plate glass show windows were unheard of outside of Winnipeg. Stores were unusual in the early Manitoba Mennonite villages. Mennonites were almost exclusively farmers and believed that making a living from the soil was desirable since it required

little contact with the outside world. Small general stores, however, began to make their appearance and often became flourishing businesses (Becky (Reimer) Kornelsen).

Built in 1976, the MHV General Store replicates the original H.W. Reimer Store. MHV added the store as a business feature to sell souvenirs on the grounds. It was initially called the "Souvenir Store" (MHV Archives). In the fall and winter of 2022, MHV received a significant grant to upgrade the store with insulation and a new heating/cooling system. This has been a tremendous improvement to the store's functionality. This summer, the

General Store continued to be a bustling destination from May to September and was usually the first stop for folks as they visited the museum grounds. The shelves burst with a delightful array of artefacts from yesteryear and feature a wide variety of candy, our very own stone ground flour, MHV products and local handmade merchandise.

As the General Store Coordinator, it has been a highlight to interact with the thousands of visitors from our local community, Canada and around the world. Guests expressed how the store reminds them of

their childhood experiences, grandparents, or homeland. They have repeatedly mentioned that they sincerely appreciate that MHV is intentionally keeping history alive.

The Candy Booth (set up on the grounds during festival events) was a favourite stop for everyone. Having so many meaningful interactions with folks about the museum's wellness benefits, history, food and just sharing our lives was a highlight. The excitement on the little ones' faces as they entered the tent was pure joy. Smiles and warm conversations abounded.

MHV profoundly appreciates the hard work of our local artisans, who were extremely hospitable and knowledgeable and brought a touch of nostalgia to our visitors. MHV would like to say a massive thank-you to the following artisans for their timely contributions as storekeepers this summer season:

Amber Hiebert - Amber's Knits
Gail Penner - Through Glass Images
Priscilla Wiebe - Angel's Aura Boutique
Shawna Unrau - Bonded Branches
Eleonore Thiessen - Designs by Eleonore
Valerie Epp - Grampa's Wormwood
Hilda Hiebert - Hilda's Closet
Bev Neufeld and Kailynne - Poppy & Mae
Mica Reimer - Prairie Desjarlias
Evelyn Hamel - Sweet Designs by Evie
Betty-Lou Toews - A Switch in Time

Your dedication and hard work helped us all to have a successful season. Thank you!



The general store is a favorite gathering place where visitors peruse the work of local artisans.



MY POINT OF VIEW

BY NITA WIEBE, GIFT SHOP & RECEPTION

Earlier this fall, I was asked what made me passionate about MHV. I thought that was a great question, so I composed an answer and shared it with my co-workers. They then encouraged me to write my story and put it out there for you! So here goes....

As a baby, I was adopted by a lovely young Mennonite couple living in Saskatchewan's Hague/Osler Reserve. They also adopted two other babes, so I had an older brother and a younger sister. We were raised very conservatively in the Old Colony Church until I was a young teen when more than a dozen families left the church and formed their own, loosely tied to the Chortitzer Mennonite Conference. It was a time of excitement and turmoil, with families rocked by the changes and split loyalties. By then, I was becoming conscious that I didn't feel like I fit in anywhere. I knew my family loved me deeply, but I was exceptionally sensitive and somewhat quirky, and I felt I was misunderstood. I don't think I was alone in feeling the social disconnection, as many people who have experienced adoption struggle with connecting and belonging. I hurt deeply!

Health problems came to stay in our family; my mom was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and my father had a nervous breakdown. Their illness affected me deeply, and I struggled with being the one my parents depended on at home. Once I finished high school, I made plans to go away to Bible School and get away from the impossible situation I felt I was in. I wanted it to be okay to be myself and hoped a change of scenery might help. Of course, once there, I met a lovely boy and fell head over heels in love with him. I had never really believed that someone would want to marry me, but here I was, looking at this beautiful man who wanted to start a life together. We married, settled in Saskatoon and after a few years, we started our family with two amazing kids who filled our home with silliness and laughter. Life looked perfect, but deep inside, I was haunted by the losses I had felt, such as losing my birth family, the health of my parents, my mom's premature death at 55, and, of course, never fitting in. As a young mom, I was as sensitive as I had always been, but now I fought depression and nagging feelings that I wasn't a good enough mom or wife. After my father passed, we moved to Manitoba for a job and raised our

kids here. We were deeply involved in the community, schools, and church. We made many good memories, our little family.

Then, my world came crashing down. I thought I had found a place where I belonged, but my husband wanted a divorce after 25 years. I was rocked. Devastated, I needed to find a way to support myself. I had never worked full-time outside the home, but now I had to dig deep. I was offered a summer position at MHV, and I took it! It was intense, but my bosses were caring and understanding of the trauma I was experiencing, and I found myself a little work family. As the months of my new life passed, I learned many new skills and learned from the faithful volunteers who led tours and shared their wealth of knowledge of the Mennonite story. I had light bulbs going off every few weeks as I started to understand events from my childhood in the light of what I was learning. The patriarchy and judgement I experienced were put into context, and I realized that most had nothing to do with me. I saw that I had internalized the discord and stresses I had felt as a child, and now I could release that and be free of it!

I had questioned why someone would choose a life in a village. There was a day at MHV that it dawned on me that the setup of the village was to maintain community, that it came from a place of caring about the souls in the villages, living as true Christians and how cleverly a village could foster that. It only works if self-righteousness and religiosity don't rear their ugly heads. The village ideal was genius, but the execution was flawed. I saw what the village could be and was meant to be. I had experienced the failure of it, and this discovery opened my life to a new-found freedom. I found myself wandering through the garden and orchard with a new calm and peace, recalling memories of spending time in my grandparent's villages. I sat with the brass statue of Grandmother Klassen and talked to her about life and love. I made floral fairies from hollyhocks like my mother had taught me so long ago. Somehow, MHV gave me back my peace, purpose, and belonging. It freed me to deepen my relationships with my beautiful children and friends, and I could accept who I was and where I had come from.

You can see now why my passion for this museum is very personal. Sharing the understanding and knowledge I have gained in the past 13 years here gives me great joy and satisfaction. I care about connecting with our visitors from around the globe, hearing their stories and finding so much in common. We all want peace, a place to have a family of our choosing and a way to provide for them. I care about the upgrades and changes needed to preserve Mennonite history, and I care about the team I work with! I am genuinely proud of how much I have grown at MHV and so grateful for the lessons I have learned at this beautiful place.



Sculpture of Helena Klassen, sculpted by Bill Epp

SOUTHEAST
CONCRETE PUMPING LTD.



WEDDINGS, PRIVATE EVENTS AND MORE!

BY JENNY FROESE, PRIVATE EVENTS COORDINATOR



Credit: Tessa Voth

As the leaves are turning color and the cold is entering our beautiful country, let's reflect on the unforgettable moments we've had at the Mennonite Heritage Village in 2023.

From countless weddings, banquets, family gatherings, company events and meetings held within our village, it is needless to say how honored we are to have the opportunity to create an environment where people can come together and make these memories. MHV presents a unique and fascinating ground space amongst heritage buildings that create stunning



Credit: Tessa Voth



Credit: Victoria Koehler Photography

weddings, exciting company events and so much more. The Pavilion and Auditorium are MHV's popular venue halls where significant memories have been made this past year.



As the private events coordinator at MHV, I want to reach out to all the brides and grooms who have tied the knot at our village this year and just say a big thank you for letting us host your special day. Also, to everyone that has booked with me to host their private functions and/or company celebrations. We LOVED having you here!

I am more than excited to announce that 2024 is going to be another busy year with weddings and other private functions. I am looking forward to working with you on preparing for your special day!

If you are still seeking a space or venue, please reach out to me at jennyf@mhv.ca to get a free tour of our grounds. We would love to be a part of your memorable day!



Credit: Kevin Sawatzky



Credit: Victoria Koehler



Credit: Kevin Sawatzky



Credit: Victoria Koehler Photography



LOOKING IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR

BY ANDREA KLASSEN, SENIOR CURATOR

Although it seems still much too soon for the end-of-the-year reflections more common in late December than early November, at MHV the coming of fall naturally brings with it reflections on the year that was. In the curatorial department, 2023 was one of our busiest years, with two exhibits on display at the museum, one exhibit on display at Gallery in the Park in Altona, Manitoba in summer and again at the Manitoba Museum in fall, another that hit the road for a two-year travelling schedule beginning in March 2023, and major renovations happening throughout the village over the summer. Here's a quick snapshot of some of the activities that kept Curatorial Assistant Kara Suderman and I very busy over this last year...



credit: Jerry Grajewski

Although the works on display were not artefacts themselves, they were all based on historical Mennonite floor patterns discovered by Krahn in her research in Mennonite housebarns throughout southern Manitoba.

"Leaving Canada: The Mennonite Migration to Mexico" Travelling Exhibit

In spring "Leaving Canada: The Mennonite Migration to Mexico" hit the road, starting off a two-year travelling schedule that will take it through every province from Ontario west to British Columbia. This travelling exhibit is based on our original exhibit from 2022 of the same name, which marked the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the

Mennonite migration from Canada to Mexico. The exhibit is a partnership of Mennonite Heritage Village, Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, and the Plett Foundation. Its first stop was at Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery in Winnipeg and from there it toured through Saskatchewan (Hague and Waldheim), Alberta (La Crete), British Columbia (Abbotsford), and back through Alberta (Taber). It will be on display in southern Ontario for the winter, before heading back west for



"Leaving Canada" on display at the Mennonite Heritage Museum in Abbotsford, British Columbia in October, 2023. Credit: Menn.

"The Russländer"

This year marked the 100th anniversary of the start of the migration of the so-called "Russländer" Mennonites from the Soviet Union to Canada in 1923. We marked the occasion by participating in the centennial celebrations held in Manitoba in July, hosting a commemorative worship service and presenting an original, award-winning exhibit, "The Russländer," featuring artefacts from MHV's extensive collection of items brought by the Russländer migrants to Canada.

Village Street Renewal

Visitors to the museum over the summer will have witnessed a lot of activity happening on the village street this year, due to several large renovations happening in the heritage buildings. The General Store, Livery

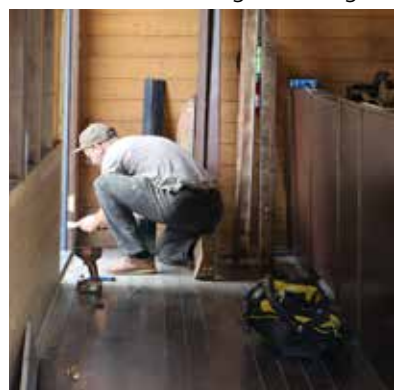


ThriveAll Projects painting the General Store.

Communities grant program from the Province of Manitoba and the generous donations from our community.

Observant guests will have seen the much-loved Livery Barn Restaurant turning from barn red to a pale shade of sickly pink over the last several years. We are happy to report that, thanks to the great work from ThriveAll Projects, the restaurant is once again sporting an appropriate coat of bright, barn-red paint. The General Store also received a much-needed new coat of paint to spruce up the exterior. Visitors to the General Store will have seen a major transformation of that building over the last two years. This summer's work brings the quality of the exterior appearance in line with the beautiful interior renovations completed in spring.

Although it is one of the smallest heritage buildings on the museum campus, the Printery posed perhaps the biggest challenge in this summer's project list. This building houses several pieces of heavy printing equipment, including a large, century-old cast iron platen press



Walls That Speak renovating the Printery.

Continued on Pg. 7





MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME

BY MEAGAN PEDNEAULT, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The goal of the Mennonite Heritage Village is to share and showcase the story and history of the Russian Mennonites and how they have continued to contribute to Manitoba. When people walk through the front doors of the museum, they are met with an immersive experience and make memories that last a lifetime, while simultaneously learning about the rich and diverse history of the Mennonites.

As the Education Coordinator, I have interacted with many students and teachers and have heard that visiting the Mennonite Heritage Village is the highlight of their school year. Many classes come back year after year because there is a good mix of activities from the past that keep people coming back, as well as excitement about something new to learn and discover. Many teachers and educational assistants come to the museum with their students



Learning how to make a ring with the Jac Siemens the blacksmith.

and reminisce on the activities that they experienced as children and now get to re-experience with the next generation. Students who engage with our volunteers and learn about Mennonite history remember it forever because our museum is so interactive and hands-on. Children remember the experience, and create memories that stick with them forever.

Some of the biggest highlights for students and adults are the activities that have been around for generations. Teachers often ask for activities that they engaged in as students, such as making schnetje, kodda pup dolls, and rings in the blacksmith shop. We aim to provide high-quality and engaging activities for students so that they can take something home with them that they made and can look back on

for years to come. I remember making schnetje, dolls, and rings as a student back in the day, and it has been very exciting for me as the Education Coordinator to continue to engage students in these activities and return to some of the activities from the past as well. It has also been incredible to reconnect with the volunteers who taught me about Mennonite history as a child.

No matter who comes to explore the Mennonite Heritage Village, whether children or adults, they will experience Mennonite culture in a way that is meaningful, impactful, and memorable. Our museum is unique in that we can showcase and commemorate our history through demonstrations and hands-on activities that connect people to the museum and the Mennonite story.



Painting birdhouses during Children's Day Camps.



Menno Barkman showing how to greet the horses during a wagon ride.

Looking in the Rearview Mirror, Cont'd from Pg. 6

and a granite-topped drafting table. Unfortunately, the building's foundation was not up to the task of holding all this weight and over the last years had started to cave in along the west wall. With the help of several dedicated volunteers, all the equipment and furniture was removed from the building and local company Walls That Speak took on the challenge of re-building the foundation to once again set the building on stable footing. Once the foundation and floor were finished, everything was returned to the building, which will be ready to welcome the public again in spring. I am so thankful for our volunteers, who enabled us to carry out this challenging project!

"Keeping Time: The Art and Heritage of Mennonite Clocks"

In 2018 MHV partnered with the Kroeger Clock Heritage Foundation (KCHF) to create an original exhibit showcasing Mennonite wall clocks. This year, KCHF approached MHV for another partnership to create an exhibit called "Keeping Time: The Art and Heritage of Mennonite Clocks," which was on display at Gallery in the Park in Altona, Manitoba from May to July 2023. In October, KCHF and MHV were delighted to open "Keeping Time" at the Manitoba Museum, where it will be on display until February 25, 2024. If you haven't yet seen the exhibit, I hope you take the opportunity to stop by the Manitoba Museum to take it in!



We Need You!

The Windmill Maintenance Team is a group of volunteers dedicated to ensuring the museum's windmill operates safely and is kept in good condition for the future. If you have skills and experience in any of the following areas and would like to be involved in caring for this unique machine, MHV is looking for you!

Opportunities:

- Sails, Windshaft & Brake Gear
 - required skills: mechanical, carpentry
- Running Gear & Stones
 - required skills: carpentry, engineering
- Fantail & Cap Turning
 - required skills: mechanical, steel fabrication
- Finishes & Treatments
 - required skills: painting, working at height
- Envelope, Structure & Safety
 - required skills: construction, engineering

Please contact Andrea Klassen, Senior Curator (andreak@mhv.ca, 204-326-9661) for more information.

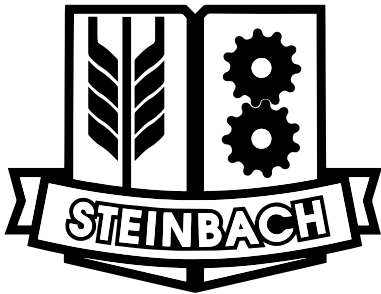


Credit: Anikó Szabó

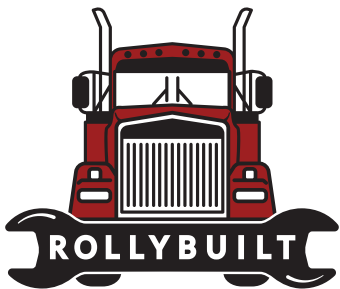




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Thank you to the many businesses and individuals who support us as we seek to be the premier interpretive centre for the Russian Mennonite story. Please support these local businesses who partner with us.

For more information on sponsorship packages contact:
Nathan Dyck, Development Coordinator - nathand@mhv.ca



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