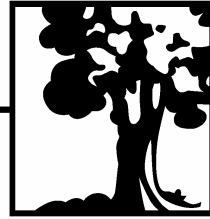


# MANITOBA MENNONITE

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY



600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 0M4  
1310 Taylor Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3Z6

## **Annual Reports**

for

**2009**

Annual General Meeting  
2010 March 20  
Winkler Senior Centre  
Winkler, Manitoba

MMHS AGM Sat March 20, 2010 Winkler Senoir Centre

9:00 - 9:45 coffee

9:45-12:00 Bill Schroeder presentation and Conrad Stoesz presentation

12-1:00 Lunch

1:00 -2:00 AGM

2:00-3:30 Leonard Doell presentation and Bishop David Wiebe presentation

AGM agenda March 20, 2010 Winkler Senior Centre

1. Welcome
2. Review of last AGM minutes
3. Approval of agenda
4. Standing Committee reports
  - 4.1 President's report
  - 4.2 Genealogy and Family History
  - 4.3 Historic Sites and Monuments
  - 4.4 Local History
  - 4.5 Membership and Publicity
  - 4.6 Publication and Marketing
5. Finance report and budget
6. Nominating committee report and election of board members.
7. Other reports
  - 7.1 Mennonite Committee for Human Rights
  - 7.2 Conscientious objector monument committee
  - 7.3
8. Associated organizations
  - 8.1 Mennonite Heritage Village
  - 8.2
9. Member concerns
  - 9.1 Alt bergthal School building
  - 9.2
10. Approval of Board actions by the membership
11. Other
12. Adjournment

## **Minutes of the MMHS Annual Meeting**

April 18, 2009, 2:45 pm.

Mennonite Heritage Village

Present: 19 members and 8 visitors.

Opening Remarks and welcome by Ken Reddig who assumed the chair in the absence of Conrad Stoesz.

Ken Reddig introduced Barry Dyck, the new CEO of MHV who welcomed everyone and gave a brief report on the MHV to those present.

### **Agenda**

**M/S/Carried**, Abe Ens, Hans Werner that the agenda be adopted as circulated.

### **Committee Reports**

The Chair explained that the minutes for the previous AGM could not be located but would be posted when they became available.

Written reports were circulated and briefly highlighted by committee chairs.

President's Report-Ken Reddig

Historic Sites and Monuments-Bert Friesen

Publication and Marketing-Jake Peters

Local History-Adolf Ens

- the committee's written report had not made it into the package.
- nine members, very active
- slightly lower attendance at the Fall meeting
- approved a project –called a monograph series
- Martha Martens and John Penner retiring

The consideration of reports was interrupted by the presentation of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada's Award of Excellence to Dave Schellenberg (deceased). Family representatives, Marlene Riediger, Gary Schellenberg, Gordon Schellenberg accepted the award presented by Royden Loewen.

Membership and Publicity-Lawrence Klippenstein

Genealogy and Family History-Alf Redekopp

EastMenn Committee-Jake Peters

**M/S/Carried**, Bert Friesen, Anna Ens. That the standing committee reports be adopted.

### **Associated Organizations**

A number of associated organization reports were noted

Mennonite Committee on Human Rights-Alf Redekop

- committee is not an advocate for rights, but about rights
- working on an art exhibit on the right to food

**M/S/Carried**, Jake E. Peters, Jake Peters that the associated organizations reports be accepted.

-

**Financial Report-Bert Friesen**

Bert presented detailed financial reports including the auditors review engagement report. He noted that the Society has started to write down book inventory values, a process that will continue over the next few years. He also presented the 2009 Society budget.

**M/S/Carried**, Bert Friesen, Ed Hoepfner, that the Financial Statements be adopted as presented.

**M/S/Carried**, Bert Friesen, Abe Enns. That Randy Wiebe be appointed as auditor

**M/S/Carried**, Bert Friesen, Adolf Ens. That the Budget for 09 be adopted.

**Bylaw Changes**

A proposed bylaw change was presented on behalf of the Executive.

M/S, Hans Werner Mary Ellen Neufeld, that Article 8 of the bylaws be amended to read as follows:

“8. The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a board of 13 members and not more than 18 members. At the board’s discretion, the board may operate with as few as 9 members. A minimum of six members shall constitute a quorum. The Board of directors shall not transact business at any meeting unless quorum of board directors is present.”

There was discussion about the implications of the reduction in the number of Board members on the minimum number of persons who could conduct the business of the Society.

**M/S/Carried**. Anna Ens, Lawrence Klippenstein, that the bylaw change be tabled.

Further discussion addressed the potential of having to operate outside the bylaws if insufficient Board members could be found to serve. Members felt the Board should revisit the question during the next year to be sure that all the implications were understood.

**M/S/Carried**. Adolf, Ed Hoepfner, that if necessary the Board be allowed to function as per the above proposed amendment until the next annual meeting.

**Nominations Committee-Lawrence Klippenstein.**

3 year terms

- Ken Reddig, Pinawa
- Hans Werner, Winnipeg
- Garry Enns, Aubigny

2 year terms

- Mary Neufeld, Winnipeg

- Ed Hoepfner, Winnipeg
- Maria Lodge, Winnipeg

1 year terms

- Adolf Ens, Winnipeg
- Loren Koehler, Steinbach

**M/S/Carried**, Lawrence Klippenstein, Jake E Peters. That the above be declared elected.

The Chair thanked the Mennonite Heritage Village for hosting the meeting.

**Adjourned** at 4:05 pm.

## **President's Report 2009**

On behalf of the Executive Committee, MMHS

What do you get when you have knowledge, ingenuity and an existing structure? In 1906 this combination spawned a telephone system. Isaac Toews and Jacob W. Isaac, supplied with knowledge gleaned from telephone inventors Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison, added some ingenuity, and took an existing wire fencing system in Kleefeld, MB and created the community's first telephone system. The two young men lived in opposite ends of the village and used the existing fencing structure. It worked so well that in a year another dozen homes had connected into the system. The only cost was the purchase of a used phone from Winnipeg and batteries. After too many phones were connected to the line, a second line was created. Henry L. Fast had a connection to both lines and served as the first switchboard. Soon Jacob T. Barkman from Chortitz connected in – bringing phone service to Chortitz and expanding the Kleefeld system .

In some ways MMHS runs much the same way. With some knowledge and ingenuity the existing MMHS structure has aided in the production of workshops, lectures, books, displays, newsletters, brochures, and radio programs. MMHS continues to be an active community. The ``wire`` structure of MMHS has served us well.... but there are signs of the structure's limitations. I am pleased that the EastMenn committee (formerly Hanover Steinbach Historical Society) has rejoined MMHS. But where does it fit in our structure? Currently it is attempting to grow into a partnership with the Local History committee. We have a Membership and Publicity Committee that has not had any members for over a year. There are many regions in the province that are not being served by MMHS. There are many other historical committees in our communities doing good work. Should they be more connected to MMHS? Some people are doing double duty to keep things running smoothly. These are some of the stresses MMHS is dealing with.

What is the best way to continue moving forward? Can we bring more ingenuity to bear on our existing structure so it can continue to serve us? Can we entice more people to become involved on our board and committees so that our efforts can continue to be focused on the energizing projects? There are many exciting things going on with MMHS. Good work continues to be done and we can be proud of what MMHS continues to do. Read through the report book and you will read about some great projects that are underway. I encourage you to consider your involvement. Are there areas that you could get involved? Consider tapping someone on the shoulder and inviting them to become involved in writing, photography, research, editing, etc. Let's see what ingenuity, knowledge and an existing structure can do today!

This year our society events have continued to be published on our newsletter Heritage Posting. In the absence of an editor and a functioning Membership and Publicity committee Adolf Ens and Lawrence Klippenstein picked up the editorship on an interim basis. Thank you to Ted Barg who continues to do layout. Lawrence has stepped aside recently and Loren Koehler has agreed to be involved. Others need to follow Loren's lead. In the past there have been suggestions to make Heritage Posting primarily an online periodical and to highlight MMHS events and activities primarily in a digital way. This will need further thought and consultation. I would welcome feedback from MMHS members on this.

At our board meetings we have discussed the review of committee job descriptions. We have discussed the role of the Memberships and Publicity committee that continues to need members. A review of this job description has placed more emphasis on membership services and away from being the primary vehicle through which committees publicize their up coming events. A history of the society, marking its 50th anniversary was begun by MMHS engaging Garry Enns to take on this project. Since then the project has been undertaken by Lawrence Klippenstein. Research and writing is on going. The board and executive have been kept abreast of the developments to find a permanent home for the former Alt Bergthal school, built in 1904. Some Board and executive members have spent much time in trying to find way of saving this building from the wrecking ball. It currently sits on the north –west edge on the town of Altona. Town council has asked that it be removed.

This year MMHS hosted the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada meetings and for the first time they were held in Steinbach. Much logistical planning was undertaken to make these meetings a success. I was pleased with the response from society members to help with the transportation of guests to Steinbach. They came from BC to Quebec. We were well hosted by the Mennonite Heritage Village. Thank you to all who were involved. Bert Friesen and I represented MMHS at these meetings. Other Members who were involved included Alf Redekopp, Abe Dueck, and Royden Loewen.

In early 2009 I was asked by our sister organization, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan (MHSS) to talk to its membership about the history of the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church in Manitoba. I was pleased with the invitation and was warmly received. The school gym in Olser was packed with over 200 people to hear presentations by people such as Leonard Doell and Bishop Buhler. Invitations such as this and events like the MHSC meetings are great ways to network with others and to learn from other societies. This year's AGM, focusing on the Sommerfelder Mennonite church and its connections in Saskatchewan is an example where MMHS is learning from MHSS.

The MMHS web site has taken much longer to redesign than anticipated. We hope to have significant progress to report very soon.

Thank you to all members for your involvement with MMHS, your financial support, and your support for the board and executive.

Conrad Stoesz  
MMHS President  
February 25, 2010

## MMHS Genealogy Committee Report for 2009

Committee members: Bob Strong, Evelyn Friesen, Marianne Janzen, Bert Friesen and Alf Redekopp

1. Henry E. Plett Award

Two winners were awarded prizes for their family history essays in 2009. First prize went to Meaghan Giesbrecht, a student at MBCI (Winnipeg), for her paper that focused on her paternal grandmother Martens' family who left Landskrone, Molotschna, South Russia for Canada in 1926. Second prize went to another MBCI student, Holly Goossen, for her paper which investigated what happened to her grandfather as a conscientious objector to war in 1942. The contest is open to any Manitoba high school student.

2. Family Roots day

This event was held in on April 18, 2009 at the Mennonite Heritage Village (Steinbach) Steinbach in cooperation with Eastmenn Local History day. In additions to the displays and presentation sponsored by the Eastmenn committee, the Society's Annual General Meeting featuring a presentation by Ralph Friesen, ended this full day of activity.

3. Danzig Flemish Church register project

This is part of a project to transliterate all the church registers extant from the Prussian Mennonite churches. This project still in its proof-reading stage. It is intended to post the results on the mennonitegenealogy.com site with links to the scanned images of each page in the original. Francis Dyck, Marianne Janzen and Bert Friesen have worked on this project.

4. MennoniteGenealogy.com

The Mennonite Historical Society of Canada at its Annual meeting in January 2010 passed a motion to create a national Mennonite genealogy committee which could oversee the development of the mennonitegenealogy.com website which has its origin with MMHS. Bert Friesen will be the Manitoba representative on this committee together with Victor Wiebe of Saskatchewan and Laureen Harder-Gissing of Ontario.

Submitted by Alf Redekopp

16 March 2010

## **Historic Sites and Monuments Committee Report**

For 2009

Members: Abe Ens, John Giesbrecht, Lawrence Giesbrecht, Peter Priess, Edwin Hoepfner, Bert Friesen (chair)

The projects that were worked on in 2009 were:

Historic sites: An inventory of historic markers, plaques in the former Mennonite Reserves, and buildings has begun. This is a joint project with the Local History Committee. A few samples have been completed. A general call will go out shortly for local people to become involved in the project. The intent is to map, photograph, and describe each site. The results will be made as widely accessible as possible.

The involvement in the Fort Dufferin project by this committee is peripheral. John Giesbrecht is meeting with the Post Road Heritage Group. Efforts are being made to restore one of the storage sheds on this site. They have put tin roofing on the Mess Hall and boarded up the widows to prevent further deterioration. Currently there is an effort to have a marker of some type installed to commemorate the site as a landing site for Mennonite immigrants in the 1870s.

There is an ongoing concern about the status of the signage on the Post Road. Of current concern is the condition of the sign at the conjunction of the Post Road with the current Highway #75.

Another project is to mark the involvement of Jacob Y. Shantz in Niverville along side the recognition of Wm. Hespeler. This may be done with another plaque or cairn at the same site.

Submitted by Bert Friesen



## Local History Committee

**Members:** Joe Braun, Altona; Mary Bueckert, Austin; Mary Dyck, Morden; Adolf Ens, Winnipeg, chair; Henry Fast, Steinbach; Dave Harms, Altona, Vice-chair; Marlene Plett, Altona, secretary; Jake Peters, Winnipeg

### Report for the Year 2009 to the Annual Meeting

We consider ourselves a “working committee” and spend our time with on-going projects. They include annual spring and fall “workshops” and several research and publication projects.

#### Workshops

Presentations at a **spring** workshop in Altona on April 4 focused on Mennonite social institutions: Mutual Aid (Royden Loewen), Waisenamt Bruce Wiebe), Fire Insurance (Hans Werner), Mennonite Charity and Beyond (Adolf Ens). A hearty thanks to all presenters at workshops during 2009.

The **fall** gathering in Winnipeg on October 31 was an encore of a workshop “Mennonite Social and Cultural Traditions,” which first held in November 2008 with very low attendance due to icy roads. Rites of passage were addressed: birthing and midwifery (Kathy Martens), courtship and marriage (Jacob Peters and Henry Fast), burial and funeral practices (Roland Sawatzky), with a general introduction to the context of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Manitoba Mennonite ethos (John J. Friesen).

#### Publications

A highlight of the year was the publication of *Settlers of the East Reserve* as volume 4 of the **East Reserve Historical Series**. About half of the papers in this volume had been collected by the late John Dyck in the in the late 1990s. An editorial team of Ernest Braun, Adolf Ens, and Henry Fast edited these papers, revising them as necessary, and added new ones. Apart from finally making these valuable primary source documents and new research work available to the public, the project itself proved to be a good working together between our committee and the EastMenn Historical Committee.

#### EastMenn Historical Committee

This body, consisting largely of members of the board of the former Hanover Steinbach Historical Society and of its successor, the Flemish Mennonite Historical Society, continues to relate to MMHS via our committee but works independently at several projects that relate primarily to the former East Reserve.

#### Current Projects

The Committee has approved a new publication series to consist of papers shorter than book length, as well as longer manuscripts, important enough to warrant publication, but with a limited market. Details of the process of publishing in this format are being negotiated with the Publication and Marketing Committee.

If the series above comes to fruition it would provide a publication outlet for the joint project between our Committee and the EastMenn Historical Committee to push forward with the goal of providing an historical account of all of the early villages founded by the immigrants of the 1870s.

Report prepared by Adolf Ens, Chair

## 2009 EastMenn Historical Committee (EHC) Annual Report

Executive: Jake Peters chair, Ernest Braun secretary, and Henry Fast, (Local History representative), and Ben Funk, Jacob Doerksen, and Orlando Hiebert as members-at-large. Jacob Doerksen has since resigned. The status of EHC is unchanged, continuing as a working committee under the auspices of the Local History Committee of MMHS.

In May EHC hosted the launch of Volume 4 of the East Reserve Historical Series, titled *Settlers of the East Reserve*, edited by Adolf Ens, Ernest N. Braun and Henry N. Fast. Copies are available at the usual outlets. Another large project undertaken by the committee is a complete compilation of the 1944-6 aerial photographs of the ER, totaling approximately 24 plates per township. To date two townships are complete, and another three have been located. The project is expected to be completed by spring 2010. This project is being funded by the Plett Foundation.

Orlando Hiebert has done some "groundbreaking" work on drainage in the ER, presenting a paper on the subject at the Family Roots Day at the museum. He has also located and catalogued the GPS coordinates of all the public district school sites in the Reserve. This is a further step towards a long-range project, namely the establishment of permanent markers for each of the schools. With the assistance of the RM of Hanover a draft map showing the locations has been created. Both this map and the aerial photo project are part of an even longer-range project: namely, the publication of a new atlas of the East Reserve.

A descendant of J.J. Rempel, Eric Rempel, entrusted EHC with a set of 1872-3 survey maps, well preserved and in full colour, maps that had formed part of the work Rempel did on behalf of the Intercontinental Company during the 1930's. These have been digitized and lodged with the Mennonite Heritage Village Museum, which will create an exhibit around them in due time.

EHC has also undertaken to oversee the publication of Dennis Stoesz's 1987 M.A. thesis "A History of the Chortitzer Mennonite Church of Manitoba – 1874-1914". EHC representatives met with Bishop Frank Unrau and Rev. Cornie Martens of the Chortitzer church to discuss the proposal, and received clearance/permission/endorsement from the church leadership. The hard copy of the thesis has been digitized by Conrad Stoesz in preparation for final editing. Date of publication is expected to in 2010.

Members of EHC have also been part of the initiative to erect a cairn to Jacob Y. Shantz on the ER in recognition of his part in facilitating the immigration of Mennonites in the 1870's. This project is in its infancy, but may include an investigation into the exact location of the Schanzenburg cemetery as well. Several EHC members have also been in conversation with the team working on the Chortitz Cemetery Restoration Project. It is always encouraging to see a local group take initiatives to preserve their heritage.

Submitted by Ernie Braun and Jake Peters

## **Membership and Publicity committee report.**

For over a year this committee has not functioned as originally envisioned. For this reason some of the tasks of this committee have been covered in other ways. Therefore this report is being written by a non committee member.

One of the major tasks of this committee has been the oversight of the production of our society newsletter – Heritage Posting. Adolf Ens has picked up the editorship of the paper with the help of Lawrence Klippenstein and recently Loren Koehler. Ted Barg continues to faithfully do the layout of Heritage Posting for the Society. Other people are being sought to help. The paper was produced 3 times this year with an emphasis on society events and projects. Thank you to Adolf and his crew for a fine job.

The Society web site was also a project of the Membership and Publicity committee and has been looked after by Bert Friesen. We hope for a new web site any time now. Thanks to Bert for this, as well as for the maintaining of the membership list of the society, on top of his duties as treasurer.

The job description of this committee has been reviewed by the executive and the board and in essence affirmed the committee's role as has been undertaken in the past few years. Originally the committee was to provide publicity for the other society committees. This did not work well. Now each committee is responsible for the publicity of their activities. This will continue.

If you know of people who have skills in writing, editing, photography, web sites, broad connections to Manitoba Mennonite community events, I encourage you to give them a nudge to become involved with MMHS' Membership and Publicity committee.

Conrad Stoesz.

## **2009 Publication and Marketing Committee (PMC) Annual Report**

Committee Members: Jake Peters Chair, Hans Werner Vice Chair and Board Rep, Janis Thiessen Secretary.

We reviewed and signed a new fee-for-service agreement with our publication distributor, Mennonite Heritage Centre (MHC). We appreciate the excellent service the staff at MHC are providing, and the access to the Mennonite Church Canada online bookstore. Our main retailers are Mennonite Heritage Village and Die Post Bookstore in Steinbach, Friesens in Altona and Bible Bookshop in Winkler. Provincial Societies also promote our publications.

The new publication, *Settlers on the East Reserve: Moving in-Moving out-Staying* (Winnipeg: Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society 2009), 328 pages/ edited by Adolf Ens, Ernest N. Braun and Henry N. Fast, completed the work that John Dyck and Delbert Plett had started under HSHS prior to their untimely deaths. We supported the production and promotion of this research resource focused on East Reserve family history and settlement of the Hanover Municipality.

ISBN numbers for MMHS publications will now be issued by the PMC. This is now an online process, and Jake is listed as the contact person.

Quires regarding the preparation of manuscripts for publication and publication options keep coming in. We are always ready share our experience and lend support where possible. The committee is looking forward to an upgrade of the MMHS web page to improve the promotion of our Society, and our publications.

Submitted by Jake Peters

## Treasurer's Report

MMHS

FY2009

1. The revenue came out approximately as budgeted. The distortion of membership dues and donations was due to the timing of the notices. The income for the next FY2010 in memberships is not credited to the current year, even though it is received in that year. It appears in a special line item in the balance sheet statement. The donations, however, must be received in the year they are received. Over a multi-year span, it should average out to the budgeted amounts.
2. The expenditures did not come in as budgeted. The special projects were not done as planned. The printing and binding cost should not have been budgeted as such. The cost of any publication is expended as it is sold. Until then it remains an asset in the balance sheet statement.
3. The policy of writing down assets continued in FY2009. It was approximately \$2,500.
4. The review/audit has been completed. The financial activity was found to be in order. The process of record keeping is continuing to be refined. This will be reflected in the way we budget and handle asset write-downs.
5. The proposed budget reflects the ongoing plans for the various interest groups within our society.
6. The finance committee has reviewed the financial activity of the society and the statements as reviewed by our auditor.

Recommendations for the MMHS members:

- i. That the MMHS reviewed financial statements in the financial report be accepted.
- ii. That the MMHS reviewer/auditor for FY2010 be Randy Wiebe.
- iii. That the MMHS proposed budget be accepted as presented.

Submitted by  
Bert Friesen

## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

March 16, 2010

The following MMHS Board members were elected in 2009 and have one (1) more year remaining in their term:

Garry Enns (Aubigny)	Maria Lodge (Winnipeg)
Adolf Ens (Winnipeg)	Mary Neufeld (Winnipeg)
Ed Hoepfner (Winnipeg)	Ken Reddig (Pinawa)
Lawrence Klippenstein (Steinbach)	Hans Werner (Winnipeg)
Loren Koehler (Steinbach)	

The following nominees have served terms that expired at the end of 2009 and are eligible and willing to serve another term:

Eleanor Chornoboy (Winnipeg)	Alf Redekopp (Winnipeg)
Abe Ens (Winkler)	Conrad Stoesz (Winnipeg)
Bert Friesen (Winnipeg)	

New Nominees for 2010 (2 year terms)

Ron Dueck, Winnipeg  
Paul Friesen, Winnipeg  
Judith Klassen, Winkler

Marianne Janzen (Winnipeg) has completed 3 consecutive 2 year terms on the board, thus is not eligible to continue and Evelyn Friesen (Steinbach) has declined to be nominated to serve an additional term. The Society would like to thank Marianne and Evelyn for the contributions that they have made to the MMHS Board. Your service has been appreciated!

MMHS bylaws permit a maximum number of eighteen (18) board members; 13 elected by the membership and 5 to be appointed to represent the standing committees. Based on the information provided to the Nominations Committee the standing committees will be represented as follows:

Genealogy and Family History -	Alf Redekopp
Historic Sites and Monuments -	Bert Friesen
Local History -	Adolf Ens
Membership and Publicity -	?
Publication and Marketing -	Hans Werner

If the nominees are accepted as presented above, the MMHS Board for 2010 will consist of seventeen (17) members.

In conclusion I would like to thank Abe Dueck and Jake Peters for assisting me in the work of the 2010 Nominations Committee.

Nominations Committee: Abe Dueck, Paul Friesen, Jake L. Peters  
Submitted by: Paul Friesen

## **Mennonite Committee on Human Rights (MCHR) Report** For Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, March 20, 2010

The MCHR is a group of Mennonite individuals and organizations which is committed to exploring the intersection of human rights and the Anabaptist-Mennonite faith and fostering education and action for human rights. Members and organizations they represent are:

Peter Rempel, Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba  
Willie Reimer, Mennonite Central Committee Canada  
Alf Redekopp, Mennonite Historical Society of Canada  
John J Friesen, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society  
Kirit Patel, Canadian Mennonite University  
Paul Hagerman, Canadian Foodgrains Bank  
James Kornelsen, Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Royden Loewen, Chair in Mennonite Studies, University of  
Winnipeg  
Ray Dirks, Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery  
Roland Sawatsky, Mennonite Heritage Village  
Paul Friesen, Mennonite Central Committee  
Eliakim Sibanda, member at large  
Wendy Kroeker, member at large

### Reflection on Human Rights

In order to facilitate reflection on the intersection of Anabaptist-Mennonite faith and human rights, the committee has spent much of its time this year planning and developing an art exhibit on the topic of food. *Just Food: An Exhibit on the Right to Food from a Faith Perspective* is scheduled to open at the Mennonite Heritage Village (Steinbach) on May 2 and at the MHC Gallery (Winnipeg) on November 12. Other venues in Manitoba and across Canada are being scheduled.

Eighteen artists, six from Canada, including a First Nations artist, and 12 from other countries around the world have each been commissioned to create two pieces of original artworks specifically for this exhibition. The artists have been divided into six groups of three – one Canadian, two international in each group. Each group was asked to be inspired by a different set of texts – six human rights declarative texts each paired with a different passage from the Old Testament. The contemporary art is woven together with text and photo panels and artifacts detailing and illustrating the historic and contemporary Mennonite perspective on food issues.

### Monitoring Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR)

The MCHR also continues to monitor the developments of the CMHR (scheduled to open in 2012) and offer a Mennonite perspective.

We “lost” one of committee members, Judith Dueck, after she accepted a position with the CMHR in October, as director of research, content and scholarship.

What will the museum look like? The museum is not taking an ethnic approach (i.e. Ukrainian hall, or Mennonite hall, etc.), but rather more thematic and based on the 1948 United Nations Declaration. There will be much emphasis on relating stories around various themes. For example, entering the museum you might see some sculptures followed by a Great Hall which would include the 6000 year-old footprint excavated on the site, reminding visitors that we are on aboriginal ground, where this museum began. Continuing on, the visitors would enter the Canada gallery which would feature Canadian struggles, issues, accomplishments and contributions re. human rights (ex. struggle of Quebec, aboriginal issues -- with a lot of criss-crossing, showing the complexity of human rights) then up to a terrace, followed by a darker area, where the theme would turn to events and changes that happened in the context of Second World War 2, and other crimes against humanity. This would then be followed by an area of interactive activities. Then the visitor would enter an area called “eye on the world” which would constantly be updated with what is happening in other countries (i.e. current events, news, etc.). Then there will be the commitment area, and the visitors would end up at the tower (tower of hope). Gathering the content and stories continues to be an immediate challenge for the CMHR.

A presentation was made to the MCHR Content Advisory Committee on January 27, 2010 by a sub-committee consisting of Peter Rempel, John J. Friesen and Roland Sawatzky, in which some Mennonite beliefs were articulated and suggestions were offered. The presentation encouraged the CMHR to be diligent in “remembering rightly for reconciliation” (being truthful and always setting the stage for reconciliation) and included suggested stories and themes from our Mennonite experience, that could be used.

### Website

For some additional information see our website at: [www.mennonforhumanrights.org](http://www.mennonforhumanrights.org)

Alf Redekopp, MCHR Recording Secretary

## **MMHS Conscientious Objector Monument ad-Hoc Committee**

The MMHS conscientious objector committee continues to work with the Evangelical Anabaptist Fellowship, based in Winkler. On November 21 about 75 people gathered at the Winkler Senior Friendship Centre to meet, hear stories, and see the Wall of Remembrance that has been erected. Conscientious objectors and their family members came from Winkler, Altona, Portage la Prairie, Winnipeg, and Steinbach. It was pointed out that while Manitoba had 3021 registered conscientious objectors, this does not include the men who received postponements. Postponements were granted to men whose jobs were deemed essential to a family or community. In Canada there were 4,890 men who received postponements.

The Wall of Remembrance, in Winkler's Heritage Park was constructed with 3021 bricks, representing the 3021 Manitoba conscientious objectors. Currently wording is being considered for the plaque inscription and unveiled in Spring 2010.

Members of the EAF meet with Altona Town Council in early 2010 to seek permission for a memorial to COs in that town. Town council approved the proposal in principle and are deliberating about the best location for it. More fundraising will need to be done for this to become a reality. Thank you to MMHS' treasurer, Bert Friesen who has carried the extra load of receiving and receipting donations for these projects.

Plans to erect memorials in Steinbach and Clear Lake need further attention in the months to come.

Conrad Stoesz, chair.



## **Executive Director's Report**

**Barry Dyck**

**April, 2010**

On February 9, 2010, I celebrated my one-year anniversary of employment at the Mennonite Heritage Village. While the celebration aspect was somewhat dispassionate, my sense of satisfaction with a good first year was real and enjoyable. I am deeply grateful to God for His generous provisions for MHV this last year; to the staff for leaning into the harness together as an effective team; to the Board for considerable guidance, support and encouragement; to the volunteers for substantial contributions of time and talent; and to the MHV community for coming on board with donations and goodwill to help us tell our story.

2009 has been a very good year at MHV. Our collection of artifacts has grown, we have displayed a number of new exhibits in our galleries, our education program has been very well received by students and teachers, our attendance numbers at special events were up from last year, our sales in the restaurant and in the gift store were up and our rental revenues have increased. All these success factors have combined to improve the bottom line of our operating fund from a loss of \$49,195 in 2008 to a profit of \$63,470 in 2009. We are grateful for all these positive indicators.

There are a number of reasons for the good fortunes we experienced. The good Lord gave us very favourable weather on most of our event days, including the *Touch of Christmas* event. Donations were up by 45% over 2008, indicating that our investment in creating the position of Fundraising Manager was positive and that our community is supporting us. Increases in the number of people attending various functions and events translated into more sales in both the restaurant and the gift store. We have focused on making our special events family friendly by providing a lot of children's entertainment such as a petting zoo, barrel-train rides, horse-drawn wagon rides, face painting and inflatable play structures. Lastly, our rental revenues for meetings, banquets, wedding receptions and other functions increased substantially. The fact that our growth is coming from a number of areas leads us to believe that it's sustainable growth and not just a "flash in the pan."

Having looked back at the successes of the past year, we should now also look forward to the plans for the coming season. Again we are planning a number of new and exciting exhibits in our galleries. Our visitors will have new things to see and experience throughout the season. Bookings for the education program look strong at this time. We will be doing some exploration for ways to expand and enhance the program. Our focus will continue to be on creating new ways to tell our story and on providing a first-class, family-friendly environment at MHV. These initiatives will support a number of our strategic priorities, which are:

1. Tourism
2. Education
3. Conference Center Development
4. Financial Health
5. Engaging Future Generations.

Facility rentals are a growing part of our business which we plan to continue to encourage and develop. The auditorium in the Village Centre is already booked for wedding receptions for

every weekend in August. June, July and September are beginning to fill up. This increase in rental activity will necessitate the hiring of additional help.

Our vision for special events again includes entertainment on the stage under the tent. Because our tent needs replacing, we are looking at some more permanent options. A structurally sound and functional facility of this nature, whether a tent or a building, will also provide additional opportunities for rental income. Sadly the cost of a permanent structure is very high, so it may take some time to raise the necessary funds to begin construction.

Our new vision statement is, "MHV will be the premier international interpretive centre for the Russian Mennonite story." This means we will continue to improve our collections of artifacts, our exhibits and our displays. We will continue to improve our ability to tell the story through our education programs and through our various events. We will continue to develop and improve our facilities and our customer service so that both the story and the experience will be second to none. No doubt we've all heard the African proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child." There is no doubt in my mind that it will take not only a village, but a community, the MHV community, to achieve our Vision. We invite you to join us.

Schedule 1 - Financial Report FY2009

<b>Schedule 1</b>										
	<b>General</b>	<b>Local history</b>	<b>Genealogy</b>	<b>Pub. &amp; Mark.</b>	<b>M. &amp; P.</b>	<b>H. S. &amp; M.</b>	<b>Eastmenn</b>	<b>Special Prj.</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Opening balance 2009 Jan 1</b>	<b>3,486.78</b>	<b>28,495.08</b>	<b>3,514.80</b>	<b>284.96</b>	<b>551.47</b>	<b>-714.76</b>	<b>33,459.77</b>	<b>2,187.28</b>	<b>71,265.38</b>	<b>71,265.38</b>
<b>Income</b>										
Donations	3,115.00								3,115.00	2,000.00
Membership dues (Note 2)	434.54				2,430.46				2,865.00	4,000.00
Interest	38.02						917.17		955.19	1,000.00
Workshops		1,070.00							1,070.00	400.00
Book sales		435.00	87.50	30.00			2,337.50		2,890.00	2,600.00
Other income	255.00		1,362.50		127.16		2,000.00	500.00	4,244.66	7,850.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,842.56</b>	<b>1,505.00</b>	<b>1,450.00</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>2,557.62</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,254.67</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>15,139.85</b>	<b>17,850.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>										
AGM & comm. mtgs.	407.23	132.24				22.46	65.04		626.97	1,350.00
Dues & Subscriptions	1,770.00								1,770.00	1,770.00
Plett award			550.00						550.00	550.00
Cost of book sales		2,882.68	64.13				2,193.45		5,140.26	3,125.00
Other printing and shipping					1858.46				1,858.46	18,500.00
Liability insurance	650.00								650.00	
Professional fees	500.00								500.00	
Special projects (Note 1)							606.73		606.73	8,250.00
Websites	1,200.00				666.80				1,866.80	1,700.00
Workshops		970.00							970.00	400.00
Office and storage (Note 3)	340.14			150.00	32.36		421.04		943.54	1,300.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>4,867.37</b>	<b>3,984.92</b>	<b>614.13</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>2,557.62</b>	<b>22.46</b>	<b>3,286.26</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>15,482.76</b>	<b>36,945.00</b>
Surplus <deficit>	-1,024.81	-2,479.92	835.87	-120.00	0.00	-22.46	1,968.41	500.00	-342.91	-19,095.00
<b>Ending balance - 2009 December 31</b>	<b>2,461.97</b>	<b>26,015.16</b>	<b>4,350.67</b>	<b>164.96</b>	<b>551.47</b>	<b>-737.22</b>	<b>35,428.18</b>	<b>2,687.28</b>	<b>70,922.47</b>	<b>52,170.38</b>

Schedule 1 - Financial Report FY2009

Schedule 1 (cont'd)										
<b>Balances are comprised of:</b>										
Bank and investments	2,461.97	14,031.57	4,209.58	164.96	551.47	-737.22	29,230.12	2,687.28	52,599.73	
Accounts Receivable										
Books (see schedule 2)		11,983.59	141.09				6,198.06		18,322.74	Sch 2 & Note 4
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>2,461.97</b>	<b>26,015.16</b>	<b>4,350.67</b>	<b>164.96</b>	<b>551.47</b>	<b>-737.22</b>	<b>35,428.18</b>	<b>2,687.28</b>	<b>70,922.47</b>	

Note 1

Special Projects expenditures consist of: CO cairn project  
Genealogy comm. other income includes Plett Foundation and web genealogy project.

Note 2

Membership dues are first credited to Membership and Publicity to cover the regular costs of maintaining members.

Note 3

Office and storage costs consist of: office supplies

Note 4

The asset value of the inventory will be decreased for three titles, one for each of the following three years, beginning in 2008.

Schedule 2 - Inventory Report

Schedule 2 - FYE 2009	unit		unit		unit		Total		unit		unit		unit		unit		unit		unit		Total			
	price	\$12	price	\$30	price	\$30			price	\$35.00	price	\$10	price	\$30	price	\$15	price	\$10	price	\$15		\$10		
	Church	village	SGB		RGBII		Local	History	Migration	Rempel	Vol.4-CD		Settlers		Sketches	Vill-his		Warke	tin		Other			
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
<b>Book Sales</b>																								
Sales	0	0.00	15	225.00	14	210.00	29	435.00	5	87.50	46	230.00	126	2,107.50	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	30.00	40	2,890.00
<b>Total books 'sold'</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>225.00</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>210.00</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>435.00</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>87.50</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>230.00</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>2,107.50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>552.50</b>
Unit Price	unit		unit		unit				unit															
	cost	11.15	cost	7.81	cost	12.77			cost	12.83		0.56		17.20		0.00		0.00		0.00		0		
<b>Opening inventory</b>	232	2,586.80	1043	8,142.04	324	4,137.43	1599	14,866.26	16	205.22	300	168.00	478	8,223.53	363	0.00	61	0.00	180	0.00	356	0	1971	23,463.01
Adjustment to inventory							0	0.00		0													0	0.00
Adjusted opening inventory	232	2,586.80	1043	8,142.04	324	4,137.43	1599	14,866.26	16	205.22	300	168.00	478	8,223.53	363	0.00	61	0.00	180	0.00	356	0.00	1971	23,463.01
Add: Printing costs																								
Deduct: Adjust. to inventory		-2,586.80																						
<b>Closing inventory</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1028</b>	<b>8,024.94</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>3,958.65</b>	<b>1570</b>	<b>11,983.59</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>141.09</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>142.24</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>6,055.82</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1931</b>	<b>18,322.74</b>
Cost of Books sold	0	0.00	15	117.10	14	178.78	29	295.87	5	64.13	46	25.76	126	2,167.71	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00		0	34	2,553.47
Cost of Sales	0	0.00	15	117.10	14	178.78	29	295.87	5	64.13	46	25.76	126	2,167.71	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00		0	34	2,553.47
<b>Net Profit</b>		<b>0.00</b>		<b>107.90</b>		<b>31.22</b>		<b>139.13</b>		<b>23.37</b>		<b>204.24</b>		<b>-60.21</b>		<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>		<b>30.00</b>		<b>336.53</b>

**Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**FY2009**

	<u>Dec 31, 09</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Chequing/Savings</b>	
Chequing	13,383.97
GIC #1	7,079.43
Plan 24 Account	1,747.34
Crosstown Share Capital	5.00
Surplus Shares	97.43
<b>Total Chequing/Savings</b>	<u>22,313.17</u>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Inventory Asset	18,322.74
Undeposited Funds	137.50
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>18,460.24</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	40,773.41
<b>Other Assets</b>	
Eastmenn Investment Account	32,325.10
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>32,325.10</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>73,098.51</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Other Current Liabilities	
Unearned Revenue	2,176.04
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>2,176.04</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>2,176.04</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	2,176.04
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening Bal Equity	52,279.02
Retained Earnings	18,986.36
Net Income	-342.91
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>70,922.47</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>73,098.51</u></b>

**Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society**  
**Proposed Budget**  
**FY2010**

	Jan - Dec 10
<b>Income</b>	
Donations	2,000.00
Eastmenn comm.	
Workshop	650.00
Book sales	1,000.00
Total Eastmenn comm.	1,650.00
Genealogy Committee	
Genealogy Book Series	105.00
Genealogy Contest Interest	500.00
Plett awards	550.00
Total Genealogy Committee	1,155.00
Interest	75.00
Local History Committee	
Book Sales	420.00
Workshop	250.00
Total Local History Committee	670.00
M. & P. Comm.	
US cur	25.00
WWW-ads	100.00
Total M. & P. Comm.	125.00
Membership Dues	
2010 Dues	3,500.00
Total Membership Dues	3,500.00
Miscellaneous Income	250.00
Publication & Marketing Committ	
Book sales	25.00
Royalties	175.00
Total Publication & Marketing Committ	200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,625.00</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Cost of Goods Sold	1,141.08
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>1,141.08</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>8,483.92</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Administration	
AGM	250.00
Bd. mtg.	150.00
Corporation fee	20.00
Photocopies	200.00
Postage & Delivery	100.00
Storage space	650.00
Total Administration	1,370.00
Eastmenn HC	
Stoesz Manuscript Publication	3,000.00
Cemetery project	500.00
Workshop	650.00
GPS project	500.00
Aerial photo project	4,000.00
Comm. mtg.	150.00
Printing and binding	200.00
Total Eastmenn HC	9,000.00
Genealogy Comm.	
Plett award	550.00
web project	500.00
Total Genealogy Comm.	1,050.00

**Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society**  
**Proposed Budget**  
**FY2010**

	<b>Jan - Dec 10</b>
<b>Historic Sites &amp; Monuments Comm</b>	
Historic identification	500.00
Comm. mtg.	100.00
<b>Total Historic Sites &amp; Monuments Comm</b>	600.00
<b>Insurance</b>	
Liability Insurance	650.00
<b>Total Insurance</b>	650.00
<b>Local History Comm.</b>	
Comm. mtg.	150.00
Workshop	1,000.00
Inventory write off	8,000.00
<b>Total Local History Comm.</b>	9,150.00
<b>Membership &amp; Publicity Comm.</b>	
HP Postage	800.00
HP Printing	1,750.00
USD	30.00
WWW	200.00
<b>Total Membership &amp; Publicity Comm.</b>	2,780.00
<b>MHSC</b>	
GAMEO	1,000.00
Membership dues	750.00
Travel	500.00
<b>Total MHSC</b>	2,250.00
<b>Professional Fees</b>	
Accounting	500.00
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	500.00
<b>Publication &amp; Marketing Comm.</b>	
Marketing	200.00
<b>Total Publication &amp; Marketing Comm.</b>	200.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	27,550.00
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-19,066.08</b>



**Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society**  
**Financial Statement**  
 January - December 2009

	Jan - Dec 09
<b>Income</b>	
Donations	3,115.00
Eastmenn comm.	
Aerial project	2,000.00
Book sales	2,337.50
Investment interest	917.17
Total Eastmenn comm.	5,254.67
Genealogy Committee	
Genealogy Book Series	87.50
Plett awards	550.00
Total Genealogy Committee	637.50
Interest	38.02
Local History Committee	
Book Sales	435.00
Workshop	1,070.00
Total Local History Committee	1,505.00
M. & P. Comm.	
US cur	21.71
WWW-ads	105.45
Total M. & P. Comm.	127.16
Membership Dues	
2009 Dues	2,525.00
2010 Dues	340.00
Membership Dues - Other	0.00
Total Membership Dues	2,865.00
Miscellaneous Income	255.00
Publication & Marketing Committ	
Book sales	30.00
Total Publication & Marketing Committ	30.00
Special projects	
CO Cairn project	500.00
web redesign genealogy	812.50
Total Special projects	1,312.50
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15,139.85</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Cost of Goods Sold	2,553.46
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>2,553.46</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>12,586.39</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Administration	
Banking charges	19.00
Bd. mtg.	76.20
Corporation fee	20.00
Photocopies	198.70
Postage & Delivery	46.24
web project	1,200.00
Total Administration	1,560.14
Eastmenn HC	
Aerial photo project	606.73
Advertising	421.04
Comm. mtg.	65.04
Total Eastmenn HC	1,092.81
Genealogy Comm.	
Plett award	550.00
Total Genealogy Comm.	550.00

**Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society**  
**Financial Statement**  
 January - December 2009

	<b>Jan - Dec 09</b>
<b>Historic Sites &amp; Monuments Comm</b>	
Comm. mtg.	22.46
<b>Total Historic Sites &amp; Monuments Comm</b>	22.46
<b>Insurance</b>	
Liability Insurance	650.00
<b>Total Insurance</b>	650.00
<b>Local History Comm.</b>	
Comm. mtg.	132.24
Workshop	970.00
Inventory write off	2,586.80
<b>Total Local History Comm.</b>	3,689.04
<b>Membership &amp; Publicity Comm.</b>	
HP Postage	788.38
HP Printing	1,070.08
USD	32.36
web project	500.00
WWW	166.80
<b>Total Membership &amp; Publicity Comm.</b>	2,557.62
<b>MHSC</b>	
GAMEO	1,000.00
Membership dues	750.00
Travel	407.23
<b>Total MHSC</b>	2,157.23
<b>Professional Fees</b>	
Accounting	500.00
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	500.00
<b>Publication &amp; Marketing Comm.</b>	
Marketing	150.00
<b>Total Publication &amp; Marketing Comm.</b>	150.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	12,929.30
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-342.91</b>