

**MANITOBA
MENNONITE**
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4

1310 Taylor Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3M 3Z6

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Agenda

for the

MMHS Council Meeting

and the

MMHS Annual General Meeting

at the Mennonite Heritage Village

Steinbach, Manitoba

2019 March 16

10.00 h

Advisory Council Meeting

1. Opening
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Reports of affiliated organizations:
 - 3.1. Mennonite Heritage Village
 - 3.2. Plett Foundation
 - 3.3. Other
4. Nominations to the MMHS board
5. Other
6. Adjournment

MMHS AGM

1. Opening
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Reports: as in the distributed reports
4. Resolutions from Treasurer's report
5. Nominations and elections of the MMHS board
6. Discussion of issues raised by the advisory council
7. Future and direction of MMHS
8. Other
9. Adjournment

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Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Minutes

for the

MMHS Council Meeting

and the

MMHS Annual General Meeting

at the Mennonite Heritage Centre

600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg

July 3, 2018

1:30 p.m.

Council Meeting

Present: Conrad Stoesz, Henry Fast, Jake E. Peters, Lawrence Klippenstein, Jake Peters, Andrea Dyck, Bert Friesen, Peter Priess, Glen Klassen, Barry Dyck, Ted Barg, Larry Giesbrecht, Hans Werner (Chair)
Eleanor Chornoboy (recording secretary)

1. Meeting was called to order by Hans Werner, Chair

2. Minutes of the April 16, 2017 Council meeting were reported
Motion: Eleanor Chornoboy/Conrad Stoesz. That the minutes be adopted as circulated and reported. Carried.

3. Reports from Affiliated Organizations

Brief reports were provided. For additional details, see the reports in mmhs.org/reports

Mennonite Heritage Village

Barry Dyck provided an update of MHV 2018 activities.

- A spectacular clock exhibition is on display in the Gerhard Ens gallery.
- 2 of 3 flat roofs on the 28 year old building need replacing. The estimated cost is between \$100,000 and \$150,000.
- Attendance in the school program has been down.
- A succession committee is looking for a new Executive Director to start in 2019.
- A new program director is in place. On Canada Day MHV had over 4,000 visitors and no complaints were registered.
- Projected projects include addressing the repair of the Hochfeld house, replacing the roof on the animal barn, putting the saw mill on a new foundation, to name a few.

Mennonite Heritage Archives

Conrad Stoesz reported that this is the 40th year of the MHA building. He remembered P. W. Enns as a significant donor to the building. Conrad advised the the 3-way partnership is going well. He is currently working on a project with Andrea Dyck on Manitoba Mennonite photographers. He told the meeting that the archival world is reducing staff and is becoming more dependent on volunteers.

WestMenn Historical Committee

Lawrence Klippenstein reported that his report is in the written documentation circulated to the committee. He added the WestMenn may have three new people joining them.

EastMenn Historical Committee

Jake Peters referenced the report submitted by Ernie Braun. He indicated that the work at the cairn by the Schanzenberg sheds is taking on a life of its own. The Stone has been selected. EastMenn has started discussing a committee of care to care for the landing site on the Rat and Red Rivers, and the upcoming Schanzenberg cairn.

Chair of Mennonite Studies

On behalf of the Chair in Mennonite Studies, Andrea Dyck reported that the 2018 issue of the *Journal of Mennonite Studies* was released in the middle of June. This issue's "JMS Forum" section reports on the 2017 "Mennonite/s Writing VIII: Personal Narratives of Place and Displacement" conference, which combined explorations of the themes of "place" and "displacement" in Mennonite historical and literary texts. Looking ahead, they are also working toward this fall's Mennonite Studies conference which will be held at the University of Winnipeg, November 15-17, 2018. The conference theme is "A People of Diversity: Mennonites in Canada since 1970." The conference marks the 50th anniversary of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada. The conference program will be released on the Mennonite Studies website (<http://mennonitestudies.uwinnipeg.ca/events/>) very soon!

Plett Foundation

Hans Werner advised that Friday, June 29, 2018 was his last day of work with the Plett Foundation (and with Preservings) and with U of W. His successor is Dr. Aileen Friesen who will be working half time with the Plett Foundation and half time with the university.

He added that 4 volumes of the Low German Mennonite history books targeted towards Low German speaking children have been published.

They have been well received in Ontario and to some extent in Alberta.

Hans indicated that MMHS would do well to add additional societies to our committee and recommended that those organizations be visited with the intent of inviting them to become members of MMHS.

Heritage Posting

Glen Klassen has included the committee reports in Heritage Posting. The costs for Heritage Posting has been reduced since many readers receive their copies by email instead of hard copies which also incur postage costs. HP is considering colour prints. Costs will be researched and brought to the board.

Finances

Bert Friesen circulated a detailed budget report. He reminded the meeting that MMHS provides fiduciary services to committees.

Nomination of 2019 for the board

The current board consists of

- Hans Werner
- Bert Friesen
- Peter Priess
- Jake Peters
- Conrad Stoesz
- Andrea Dyck
- Eleanor Chornoboy

Bert Friesen, Andrea Dyck, and Eleanor Chornoboy have a year remaining in their term. The term for Conrad Stoesz, Jake Peters, Peter Priess, Hans Werner expired and they all allowed their names to stand for another term.

Other Business

Korey Dyck and Andrew Wall had contacted Conrad with a request to become a part of the committee and they wish to take advantage of the fiduciary services provided for their "Storytelling Committee" which creates Mennonite documentaries.

It was unclear as to whether their committee would fall within the mandate of MMHS and whether Bert would be able to handle the workload.

The board will explore their structure, mission and the workload involved.

The meeting was adjourned, and followed by a short break before the Annual General Meeting was called to order.

Annual General Meeting

All those present at the Council meeting remained for the AGM. They were joined by Mary Bueckert and Ernie Bueckert.

Meeting was called to order by Hans Werner, Chair

Minutes of the April 16, 2017 Annual General Meeting were reported
Motion: Eleanor Chornoboy/Bert Friesen. That the minutes be adopted as circulated and reported. Carried

Finance:

Motion: Bert Friesen/Henry Fast. That the financial statements be accepted as presented and circulated. Carried.

Motion: Conrad Stoesz/Barry Dyck. That Randy Friesen be appointed to review the financial activity of MMHS. Carried.

Motion: Bert Friesen/Jake Peters That the proposed budget for 2019 as circulated, be accepted provisionally. Carried.

Note: A question was raised about the proposal of the WestMenn Historical Committee for income for the next year. Was it realistic to think that we would have \$2,700.00 income from sale of books given that sales have been so modest in the past year? The committee chair agreed to look into this, and to notify the MMHS treasurer about his findings and recommendation so a more appropriate figure could be included in the projected budget.

Request to use Arnold Dyck's material

David Redekopp requested permission to use Arnold Dyck's material on his website.

Motion: Lawrence Klippenstein/Ted Barg: That permission be given to use the materials but the copyright must remain with MMHS. Board will discuss this further. Carried.

Reconstituting and Reappointing Membership and Publicity Committee

There was brief discussion of the term of office for members of a revamped Membership and Publicity committee. It was agreed that the length of

membership service terms would be treated the same as in other committees and the group would appoint its own chair from within its membership. Motion: Glen Klassen/Ted Barg. That a Membership and Publicity Committee be reconstituted and reappointed as a standing committee consisting of Ted Barg, Bert Friesen, Glen Klassen, and Lawrence Klippenstein. Carried.

Nominations for a board member were opened by Hans Werner

No nominations were received.

The current board consists of

- Hans Werner
- Bert Friesen
- Peter Priess
- Jake Peters
- Conrad Stoesz
- Andrea Dyck
- Eleanor Chornoboy

Bert Friesen, Andrea Dyck, and Eleanor Chornoboy have a year remaining in their term. The term for Conrad Stoesz, Jake Peters, Peter Priess, Hans Werner expired and they all allowed their names to stand for another term.

The Chair declared the four nominees elected by acclamation

Meeting adjourned.

Chair Report
MMHS Board
2018

The two regionally based subcommittees (EastMenn and WestMenn) continue to be active on the Mennonite historical front. By extension, they respectively support and promote local projects and endeavours such as the Neuberghthal Heritage sight, History Seekers, and various local publications.

Interest has been expressed in the 100th anniversary of the *Russländer* migration. At this point it is unclear as to what initiatives will be pursued.

The Board struck a new committee of Hans Werner and Conrad Stoesz to promote and coordinate media activities that are mandated by MMHS or that fit into the MMHS mandate and use the Society's resources.

MMHS entered into an agreement with David Redekopp to upload all the Low German works of Arnold Dyck and the Echo-Verlag book, "*Die Flucht Über den Amur*" on his Low German website <http://www.plautdietsch-co-pre.ca/books>

In the past few years, the number of essays entered into the Plett Family History Essay Contest has diminished dramatically. A committee is being established to re-imagine the contest in order to stimulate interest in family history among high school students.

MMHS continues to explore creative ways to welcome new and young members.

Eleanor Chornoboy, Chair

EastMenn Historical Committee - Annual Review 2018

Members: Jacob L Peters (chair), Ernest N. Braun (secretary), Glen R. Klassen, Henry N. Fast, Orlando Hiebert, Harold J. Dyck, Ben D. Funk.

EastMenn Historical Committee is a Standing Committee with two representatives on the MMHS Advisory Council, and one representative (Jacob Peters) on the MMHS Board.

The EastMenn Historical Committee hosted its third annual Local History Lecture at the Mennonite Heritage Village auditorium at 7:00 PM on October 20, 2018. The theme of the event was “Steinbach: Then and Now”. Main speaker, Ralph Friesen of B.C., presented a paper entitled, **Revive Us Again: A Brief History of Revivalism in Steinbach** exploring the various revival movements that changed Steinbach over time. Ralph is the author ***Between Earth and Sky: Steinbach, the First 50 Years***. The event also featured an annotated slide show of photographs from the Walt Barkman collection presented by Glen R. Klassen. A second lecture by Glen Klassen examined the role of Non-Profit organizations in Steinbach in a presentation entitled **Extra Cash: The Role of Nonprofits in the Life of Steinbach**. Barry Dyck of MHV welcomed the audience to the venue, and Jake Peters served as emcee. The session was well attended.

In the spring of 2018, Orlando Hiebert negotiated the acquisition of a large granite rock from Ron Andres of Friedensfeld, and he negotiated with the owners of the property at the location of the Shantzenburg sheds to establish a cairn there. Ernest Braun then drew up a proposal for the RM of Hanover, and the Committee received permission from the RM to set up a cairn on the Road Allowance east of Road 19E, provided the line of sight was not obstructed. The committee met to excavate an 8’ x 8’ area, build a frame and fill it with fine crushed rock, and then in later September with the help of Diamond Construction, placed the rock on rebar, and set up a rebar frame work for the concrete to be poured in spring.

Although entirely not in our mandate, the Mennonite Landing site saw some action this summer as a new committee member Libby Hanna was appointed to the Mennonite Memorial Landing Association. P Orlando Hiebert ordered and placed new signs to welcome foot traffic and placed concrete barriers to discourage vehicle traffic down to the water’s edge. When that was not enough, Daycore Piling pounded in bollards to anchor the barriers. The site will now be monitored a little more closely for garbage as well.

EastMenn Historical Committee continues to have representation on the Chortitz Church Heritage Committee which over-see the restoration of the old Chortitz Church near Randolph. This year two public events were held: a program at Chortitz on June 9, featuring Bishop David Reimer of the CMC who spoke on Sola Scriptura, one of the great Lutheran “Solas”. The second event was the fifth annual German Christmas at Chortitz was held on December 8 with two services. Negotiations for transfer of ownership of the Heritage Site to the RM of Hanover via a Memorandum of Understanding were completed, providing the RM with ownership of the site for an interval of five years, after which a review will determine whether further renewals will be in the best interest of the Heritage Site. First full AGM will occur in March 2019. Construction of a shelter for signage was begun in December, and will be completed in spring of 2019.

The ***Historical Atlas of the East Reserve*** is now sold out and a decision about how to proceed from here will be made in 2019. The committee as a whole met twice this year.

Submitted by Ernest N. Braun, EHC secretary.

WestMenn Historical Committee Report (AGM)

By Lawrence Klippenstein, Chairperson

It has been rewarding for the Committee to now have together half a dozen persons who are committing to work on a new edition of a West Reserve atlas to follow up the Harms and Rempel version which set a model for doing so a number of years ago. A recent joiner of the group, Graham Schellenberg, of Winnipeg, is taking on the computerized composing of such a project and recently became a sixth member of the Atlas Committee.

Some needed improvements of sites on the Mennonite Memorial Post Road trail have been completed and other aspects of development are being considered. Self- guiding maps for exploring this twelve-point trail are available from lawklippenstein@shaw.ca

Several new info accessions re a history of the village of Altbergthal has led to designating that community the next village history project which WestMenn will be taking on in 2019. Pam Klassen of the former Schoenau is connected to this project, while Susie Fisher (Altona) and Martha Martens (Winkler) are heading into an interior decoration aspect of the renovated school building that NHF in Neubergthal has headed up in recent years. This is tied to the idea of creating a museum feature inside the building. Joe Braun, Graham Schellenberg and others have done significant recent research on the Altbergthal theme.

A Neuhoftnung-Schoenwiese study initiative is also being worked on by Albert Falk (Altona). We owe much to Henry Unger

(Morden) and Adolf Ens (Winnipeg) for giving such studies prominence in recent years. The recently-completed Rosenfeld community publication has completed a series of West Reserve railroad town histories of Gretna, Altona, Rosenfeld, Horndean, Plum Coulee, Winkler, Morden, and the extinct Haskett.

We are hoping that high school and regional libraries of the former West Reserve region are making these volumes available to the public. A dozen or more former West Reserve village histories including the most recent *Schoenau* volume by Mary Falk Neufeld, have also been published in recent years.

Complementary copies of No. 91 (November, 2018) of *Heritage Posting*, edited by Glen Klassen of Steinbach, were mailed to about 30 addresses of persons connected to the History Seekers workshop series in Altona. It is hoped that this can create closer ties with Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society in 2019. The next issue of HP is scheduled for March, 2019.

An upgraded version of Neuberghal Notes edited by Graham Schellenberg has recently come forward also. He can be reached via schellenbergg@gmail.com The History Seekers of Altona have announced a new series of lectures for the upcoming spring in the months ahead. For further info contact owltree@snet.ca (Joe Braun).

A thirty page “scrapbook/handbook” on the story of the West Reserve can be obtained from the office of WestMenn by sending a request to lawklippenstein@shaw.ca for the cost of 5.00 plus postage. It centres on the 140th anniversary (1876-2016) of the former reserve celebrated in 2016.

This year we are celebrating the 145th anniversary of the coming of the first Mennonite settlers to Manitoba (1874-2019). A WR workshop at the Jacob Y Shantz cairn in Winkler is being

considered (fall?). Several papers for possible sharing are being worked on. Further info is forthcoming.

Museum collections of the former West Reserve continue to be working on projects: at the National Historic Sites grounds of Neubergthal, a private collection in Altona, a private collection in Horndean, the Reinland House/Barn museum, the Prairieview elevator museum in Plum Coulee, the collection of the Winkler Historical Society with its neighbour, the Pembina Threshermen's Museum on Highway 3 near Winkler, and the Prehistoric Artifacts and local history museum in Morden.

The towns of Morris and St. Joseph as well as the Fort Dufferin Historic Site have founded major projects focused on the French and Metis neighbouring communities of the former West Reserve.

The Todd Braun Rock Exhibit in the former Langevin/Kleinstadt school area near St. Joseph needs to be mentioned here also. Todd has done major research on the presence and activity of indigenous groups once settled in southern Manitoba. The new East Reserve Historical Atlas has given us an updated survey of pre-white settlements. For further info contact owltree@sdnet.ca

This report was forwarded to the MMHS AGM executive on Feb. 15, 2019.

Heritage Posting Report (MMHS 1918 AGM)

Heritage Posting, the newsletter of the MMHS, was published in three issues in 2018 for a total of 36 pages. I thank the 26 different writers who contributed articles as well as the HP team who made it happen: Lawrence Klippenstein, contributing editor, Ted Barg, photo processing and layout, Andrew Brown, subscription list maintenance and distribution of email copies, Jake E. Peters, distribution of print copies, and CP Integrated Solutions, printing.

The membership list has increased dramatically over the year, with many new members from the Steinbach area as well as about two dozen from the West Reserve, mostly from people associated with *History Seekers* in Altona. We welcome all of these new readers. The low membership fee of \$5 per year has been effective in attracting members, especially those receiving only the email version of HP.

There will be several innovations for the coming year. In addition to the news articles, feature stories, and book reviews, we will now be including an Editorial column so that members can be invited to voice opinions. There will also be space for letters to the editor. There will also be a special effort to attract articles from beyond the ER and the WR.

We hope that the members will cooperate promptly in paying the annual membership fee (see the March issue for instructions and for the reply form), recruiting new members, and giving generous donations to MMHS, which will be receipted for tax purposes.

Glen Klassen
Editor

Ad-hoc Media Committee report.

The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society's Media Committee was established in 2018 as a way to help people within our Mennonite community in garnering donations for expensive productions. In the next decade there will be numerous anniversaries for our Mennonite communities including: Reformation beginnings (1517), founding of MCC (1920), migration to Mexico (1922) and Paraguay (1926), immigration to Canada (1923), Mennonites coming to Manitoba (1874), adult baptism (1525). MMHS recognizes that in addition to print media we need to tell our stories in visual ways. The Media Committee will receive applications for projects, vet them, and if appropriate, bring them to the MMHS board for approval. Once approved as a MMHS project, donations can be given to MMHS to help fund these projects. A small administrative fee is collected.

The Media Committee's first project is a documentary produced by Refuge 31 Films chronicling the ship Volendam that brought Mennonites from war-torn Europe to Paraguay.

Genealogy Committee Report

MMHS

March 2019

Genealogy committee: Bert Friesen, Alf Redekopp

In 2018 it was decided to publish the English translation of Part 2 of B. H. Unruh's *Die niederländisch-niederdeutschen Hintergründe der mennonitischen Ostwanderungen im 16., 18. und 19. Jahrhundert*. The first print run has already sold out, and the second printing is available. This was a project begun a few years back. We are pleased it has now been completed.

The *Mennonite migration to Russia, 1788-1828* is still available.

We continue to support the national society project of having a web based access to original source material.

Submitted by
Bert Friesen



“Worth Remembering”

Mennonite Heritage Archives report to the MMMHS

2018

The Mennonite Heritage Archives is a program supported by three partners, Canadian Mennonite University, Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies, and Mennonite Church Canada. The 2017 year has been another good year for the archives. Together with the partners we continue to figure out and create our new identity. We now have a new name, our own unique logo, and are working on stationary, web site, and a direct phone number. The partners, book sales, and financial donations from our constituency are our three main sources of income and because of this support we finished last fiscal year in good shape.

Our staffing compliment has changed this year. While long-time Administrative Assistant, Connie Wiebe, is on an extended health leave, Selenna Wolfe has been hired and has picked up the job quickly. Over the past years the MHA has been nurturing its volunteer pool, slowly building the number of volunteers and their skills. This year we held a volunteer appreciation event where we highlighted the translation work of long-time volunteer Edward Enns. This summer we received a grant to hire Jordon Zimmerly who worked on finding and scanning documents related to the day schools Mennonite Pioneer Mission ran in two aboriginal communities. Copies of the documents will be donated to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and the communities of Bloodvein and Pauingassi. The second portion of Jordon’s task was to scan, upload, and describe images collected by the Conference of Mennonites in Canada’s Native Ministries office.

This September we finished a lengthy process of having the 1873 letter of invitation from the Canadian government to the Mennonites of South Russia (*Privilegium*) repaired and cleaned after many hurdles. The document had tape on it, was dirty, torn, and had unsafe levels of mould on it. Also due to the iron gall ink used to write the document, special procedures were needed to clean it.

We continue to engage with our constituency through a number of avenues including social media, geo-caching, our web site, and our magazine *Mennonite Historian* that we co-publish with the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies. We have also hosted films and lectures in our space and been part of CMU’s Face 2 Face event featuring Treaty 1 and the 1873 *Privilegium*

document. With a more formal connection to Canadian Mennonite University we have been successful in building bridges with professors and students. I have been invited to speak in several classes, some classes have come to the archives, and there is an increase in students using archival materials in their research. This summer we had a CMU practicum student, Krista Zerbin, working with us. Much of her time consisted of sorting and scanning.

Anticipating that our vault will soon be full, we have installed mobile shelving in a portion of the lower vault thanks to a grant from Winnipeg Foundation. We continue to seek partnership opportunities such as with Refuge 31 who recently finished a documentary on the life of Winnipeg film maker Otto Klassen. The materials Klassen amassed are now at the archives and Refuge 31 is working on a new documentary that will feature more of our archival materials focusing on the story of post Second World War Mennonite refugees.

Projects coming up for the 2019 year will be a new MHA web site, moving finding aids on our current site into a database, building volunteer capacity, more events, more research, more interesting stories, more researchers.

Conrad Stoesz, Archivist

Centre Mennonite Brethren Studies, Winnipeg

2018 Report www.mbhistory.org <http://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca>

CMBS is one of four Mennonite Brethren archives in North America (Winnipeg, Abbotsford, Fresno, Hillsboro) offering research and archival services to Mennonite churches, their leaders and their people, for the mission of God that we share. CMBS produces **two “deliverables”**: archival resourcing and interpretive resourcing.

Archival resourcing includes preserving, describing, and making accessible church records and resources (photos, meeting minutes, periodicals, congregational records, reports, statistics, study papers, etc.).

Interpretative resourcing includes offering analysis on questions of Mennonite theology and history, as requested by individuals, congregations, and conference ministers.

CMBS kept busy this year cataloguing new acquisitions, writing file descriptions, presenting lectures, editing manuscripts, publishing, and responding to genealogical and historical queries from patrons.

Seven developments are especially noteworthy and capture well the current profile of CMBS in 2018.



1. Young Canada Works Heritage Grant secured. CMBS was fortunate to get a YCW grant from the Canadian government in 2017–2018. The grant made it possible to hire Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) graduate student **Andrew Klassen** (pictured at left) as a two-day-a-week archival assistant. Andrew kept busy processing the backlog of archival files from churches and conferences, describing and posting the file lists on the Centre’s website—tasks which supplement well his Mennonite Studies course work at CMU and his administrative assistant work with MC Canada.

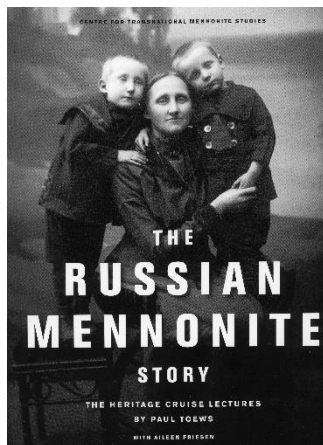
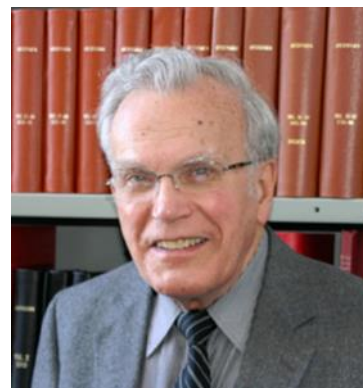
2. Supplied images for publication. Released in April 2018, *The Russian Mennonite Story: The Heritage Cruise Lectures* is a book documenting Prof. Paul Toews’s long-standing contribution to understanding better the Mennonite experience in Russia. Toews was well known for guiding Mennonite Heritage cruises to

Ukraine before his passing in 2015. **Dr. Aileen Friesen** (pictured at right) edited Paul’s cruise lectures for the book. CMBS was responsible for making high-resolution scans of over 40 photographs from its photographic collection for reproduction in this book. The book sells for \$39 and is available at

<https://www.therussianmennonitestory.com/>.

3. Publication rights transferred. On November 21, 2016, **Dr. Helmut T. Huebert** (pictured at right) passed away. In 2017, he was recognized with the Mennonite Historical Society’s Award of

Excellence for his many publications documenting Mennonite estates, families, and villages. The *Mennonite Historical Atlas* and *Molotschna Historical Atlas*



that he published under the label Springfield Publishers continue to sell well. During the 2017 summer, the family generously transferred to CMBS the publication rights for all Springfield publications.

4. Supported publication of *Flight*. On April 10, 2018, Harold Jantz launched his book at CMU (pictured at right with Neoma). Aptly called *Flight: Mennonites facing the Soviet empire in 1929/30, from the pages of the Mennonitsche Rundschau*, Harold has translated or summarized all the German letters published in the *Rundschau* during the years 1929/30. The letters were submitted and published with the hope that loved ones in North America or in Russia might learn the news of those family members who had emigrated or who had been blocked from emigration by Soviet authorities. The newspaper functioned as a “message board” for Mennonites separated from their loved ones by geographical and political barriers. *Flight* sells for \$60 and is available at: <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/2/19795?readmore=1>



5. Images uploaded to Mennonite Archival Image Database (MAID). In March 2015, MAID was launched (<http://archives.mhsc.ca>). It is a collaborative venture between Canadian and



American Mennonite archives and historical societies. At this time, CMBS has 32,426 image descriptions (metadata) uploaded to the site. Volunteers spent about 30 hours a month scanning and linking the images to the preloaded metadata. We also correct and edited the photo descriptions at the same time. On October 31, 2018, there were **8,065 images linked to those 32,426 records**; that’s another thousand digital links made in 2018. At this rate, it will take several years to complete the scanning and linking.

6. Collaborated with the Mennonite Heritage Archives at CMU. We continue printing/distributing the quarterly publication, *Mennonite Historian*. The collaborative project I share with Conrad Stoesz at the Mennonite Heritage Archives (CMU) remains a great source of satisfaction. I continue to look for more ways to collaborate with MHA.



7. Reduced hours. At the November 2017 Special General Meeting of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches held in Abbotsford, the 2018 budget was approved by delegates. It was a **downsizing budget** that reduced funding to conference ministries/services, including CMBS, given the declining financial support from member churches. The executive board decided to build a ministry/service budget, starting in 2018, based on anticipated income from member churches, without any supplement from conference investment interest income, ending a practice that denominational ministries have enjoyed since the 1980s. The result was that, starting in 2018, **CMBS is open three days a week** and I have become its only employee at part-time (0.60 FTE = 0.35 for CMBS and 0.25 for the bi-national MB Historical Commission).

I remain grateful to have a job serving patrons from around the world out of the last, free-standing, church-owned, Mennonite archive with paid staff in Canada.

jon.isaak@mbchurches.ca (October 31, 2018)

Peace Exhibit Committee
Planning Interpretive Centre

(Steinbach, Manitoba)- The Peace Exhibit Committee, after erecting a monument honoring Mennonite conscientious objectors and a statue of Anabaptist martyr Dirk Willems, is seeking funding for phase three of its Peace Exhibit at the Mennonite Heritage Village.

The statue of Willems, built by renowned sculptor Peter Sawatzky, was unveiled on the Mennonite Heritage Village grounds November 10, 2018. The CO monument was placed a year earlier.

Plans for an Interpretive Centre, which will tell the peace witness of Mennonites, Hutterites, Brethren in Christ and Mennonite Brethren are complete and await funding. The Centre will have video terminals and wall displays.

The cost of the Interpretive Centre is expected to run in the neighbourhood of \$200,000. Donations can be sent to: Peace Exhibit, Attention Al Hamm, Mennonite Heritage Village, 231 PTH 12N, Steinbach, Man. R5G 1T8.

Mennonite Heritage Village

2018 Annual Report

MHV is first and foremost a community museum, a centre for Mennonites and a point of dialogue with the global community. One of the highlights of our museum operations this past year was the creation of our current exhibit in the Gerhard Ens Gallery, *The Art of Mennonite Clocks*. This joint initiative between MHV and the Kroege Clocks Heritage Foundation is an outstanding display of 33 old wall clocks, along with stories about each one. A station in the gallery invites guests to leave a note with an observation about the exhibit or a sketch of a clock. We have enjoyed unprecedented participation in this aspect of the exhibit, receiving many comments and drawings.

Our museum is also an educational institution. The education programs at MHV attracted thousands of children again this past year. Normally most of this activity takes place May and June when school classrooms are doing field trips and in July and August when daycare centres do field trips. But in 2018, students continued visiting the museum in September, October and even November. We also worked on some experimental initiatives with administrators and teachers from the Hanover School Division. These activities are in keeping with our goal of being a museum that engages its constituency year-round, not just for five months in summer.

Because MHV is an impressive and professionally operated museum, we are also an international tourist destination. Each year we have guests from more than 50 countries. In 2018 we recorded 46,072 visitors, compared to 40,527 in 2017.

A new monument has become an added attraction for our tourist clientele. The Peace Exhibit Committee donated and erected the Dirk Willems monument in November. This monument is a visual expression of the value and importance of empathy and love for all people, a teaching which has applications in our homes, in our workplaces and around the world.

In addition to being a museum and a tourist destination, MHV is also a community meeting place, and thereby a community builder. Thousands of guests attended our festivals and other events in 2018. Several new events were introduced during times of the year when we normally haven't had much activity at the museum. We offered a Teen Gala for our youth, a Winter Carnival for families, and an Author's Evening for anyone who enjoys books. A downward adjustment in our membership fees resulted in a doubling of our annual membership numbers. Many of the new members are young families who see MHV as a good place to spend time.

The use of our facilities by individuals and community organizations grew substantially in 2018. Our new Summer Pavilion was in frequent use as a venue for a variety of community events such as corporate staff picnics, fundraisers, class reunions, birthday parties, and wedding receptions.

Our Livery Barn Restaurant experienced a good increase in business this past year. This restaurant addresses all three functions of MHV as described above. It serves ethnic food to help interpret Russian Mennonite culture. It provides tourists with an "experience," and it provides a venue where community members can relax and socialize around a great meal.

The board of directors appointed a Succession Committee to look after the recruitment of a new Executive Director in light of the retirement of Executive Director, Barry Dyck. As a result, the board took pleasure in appointing Gary Dyck to the position. Gary has begun his work in February of 2019.

Mennonite Heritage Village

2018 Annual Report

We believe that the many highlights MHV has experienced during 2018 have also helped improve the quality of life in our community. Our plan for 2019 is to grow our community role further, to become more relevant to more people and increase our long-term sustainability.

By Barry Dyck (former Executive Director), with Gary Dyck (Executive Director)

The Plett Foundation Report

The Plett Foundation continues its work to encourage the study of the history of the 1870s Mennonites and their descendants. During 2018, the foundation awarded eight grants to applicants, including to Dr. Susie Fisher who is producing a book that explores the creative work of three photographers who lived in Manitoba Mennonite villages in the early twentieth century: Peter G. Hamm (1883–1965) of Neuberghthal (West Reserve), Peter H. Klippenstein (1878–1960) of Altbergthal (West Reserve), and Johann E. Funk (1876–1968) of Schönwiese (East Reserve). A grant was also given to Brent Wiebe who is engaged in a map georeferencing project. This project will bring a new perspective to the study of Mennonite history.

The foundation also continued to publish its annual journal, *Preservings*. This year's issue focused on the theme of family life. Articles from Hans Werner, Glenn Penner, Ralph Friesen, and many others produced an engaging read. This issue also unveiled our "new look" as we look to appeal to a new generation of readership. The next issue will explore how Mennonite communities were shaped by their encounter with railways in Russia, Canada, the United States, and Latin America.

The foundation published the fourth volume in its Mennonite History for Young People series. *Leaving Russia: The Journey to Canada* tells the story of how Mennonites left Russia in the 1870s and travelled to Canada. The volume presents stories and other information about early Mennonite settlers as they encountered new people and environments in Manitoba. All the volumes can be purchased at the Mennonite Heritage Village, the Mennonite Heritage Archives or *Die Mennonitische Post*.

Finally, after many years of outstanding service, the foundation's executive director, Hans Werner, retired. In July, Aileen Friesen became the new executive director.

Treasurer's Report

MMHS

FY2018

1. With the change in membership dues, it was expected that the revenues from donations from members would increase. The trend has been a decrease, especially in donations. The book came close to our budget. So this resulted in our revenues being slightly below our budget projection.
2. The cost of our newsletter is not increasing because the majority of the newsletter distributions are done electronically at minimal cost. However, the membership fees did not cover the costs which we did have, mostly for distributing the hard copy. On the whole the expenditures were close to our budget, with a few unexpected funds flowing through our treasury.
3. Our external consultant has reviewed the financial activity of the society. The consultant found the records to be in order and represent fairly the activities of the society.
4. The proposed budget for the FY2018 is only for the activities directly under the umbrella of the society.

Recommendations:

1. That the MMHS reviewed financial reports be accepted.
2. That the MMHS reviewer/auditor for the FY2019 be Randy Friesen.
3. That the MMHS proposed budget be accepted as presented.

Submitted by
Bert Friesen

February 28, 2019

To the Members of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

I have examined the records of the transactions of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society for the year ending December 31, 2018

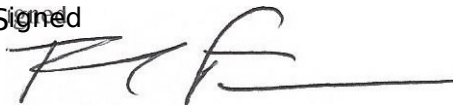
This examination consisted of:

- A review of the preliminary copies of the financial statements
- A review of bank statements and reconciliations
- A review of donations
- A review of payments made to qualified Donees
- A review of vendor payments made
- A verification that a paid up insurance policy is in place
- Discussions as appropriate with the Treasurer

The financial records were found to be ordered and clearly maintained. Based on all financial work performed these records were found to be materially accurate. It is my opinion that the financial reports provided to me for review fairly represent the activities of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society .

I do not perform the procedures required to execute a review or audit engagement. My involvement should not be viewed as an independent auditor providing assurance of the validity of the Financial Statements in accordance to Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Signed

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Randy Friesen', written over a horizontal line.

Randy Friesen

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
Financial Statement
January - December 2018

	Jan - Dec 18
Income	
Adminstration	
Investment interest	192.68
Services	600.00
Total Adminstration	792.68
Donations	790.00
Eastmenn comm.	
Book sales	225.00
Investment interest	332.98
Total Eastmenn comm.	557.98
Genealogy Committee	
Genealogy Book Series	231.50
Total Genealogy Committee	231.50
Interest	27.05
M. & P. Comm.	
US cur	7.12
Total M. & P. Comm.	7.12
Membership Dues	
2018 Dues	445.00
Total Membership Dues	445.00
MHS Canada	1,000.00
Special projects	
Landing site project	1,200.00
web redesign genealogy	500.00
Total Special projects	1,700.00
Westmenn Historical Committee	
Book sales	279.00
Total Westmenn Historical Committee	279.00
Total Income	5,830.33
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	630.03
Total COGS	630.03
Gross Profit	5,200.30
Expense	
Administration	
Cash rebate	8.00
Corporation fee	25.00
Office supplies	5.00
Storage space	100.00
Total Administration	138.00

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
Financial Statement
January - December 2018

	Jan - Dec 18
Eastmenn HC	
Admin. fee	500.00
Atlas project	750.00
Book purchases	117.34
Chortitza Church signage projec	500.00
Comm. mtg.	141.65
Lecture Series	1,971.19
School marker project	260.00
Shantz Sheds Marker project	1,248.17
Storage	100.00
Total Eastmenn HC	5,588.35
Insurance	
Liability Insurance	756.00
Total Insurance	756.00
Membership & Publicity Comm.	
HP Postage	176.90
HP Printing	669.47
WWW	109.79
Total Membership & Publicity Comm.	956.16
MHSC	
Membership dues	1,750.00
Travel	159.21
Total MHSC	1,909.21
Professional Fees	
Accounting	200.00
Total Professional Fees	200.00
Publication & Marketing Comm.	
Book sales	50.00
US exchange	14.87
Total Publication & Marketing Comm.	64.87
Special project	
Landing site project	1,200.00
Total Special project	1,200.00
Westmenn Historical Comm.	
Comm. mtg.	191.50
Publications	500.00
Total Westmenn Historical Comm.	691.50
Total Expense	11,504.09
Net Income	-6,303.79

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Balance Sheet

As of 31 December 2018

31 Dec 18

ASSETS

Current Assets

Chequing/Savings

Chequing

9,765.70

Crosstown Share Capital

5.00

Plan 24 Account

1,763.56

Surplus Shares

30.52

Total Chequing/Savings

11,564.78

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable

681.50

Total Accounts Receivable

681.50

Other Current Assets

Inventory Asset

153.70

Undeposited Funds

-259.87

Total Other Current Assets

-106.17

Total Current Assets

12,140.11

Other Assets

Eastmenn Investment Account

15,912.89

General investment

9,206.97

Total Other Assets

25,119.86

TOTAL ASSETS

37,259.97

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

GST Payable

-5.00

Unearned Revenue

125.00

Total Other Current Liabilities

120.00

Total Current Liabilities

120.00

Total Liabilities

120.00

Equity

Opening Bal Equity

48,779.02

Retained Earnings

-5,335.26

Net Income

-6,303.79

Total Equity

37,139.97

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

37,259.97

Schedule 1 (cont'd)									
Balances are comprised of:									
Bank and investments	\$643.73	\$16,368.18	\$46.94	\$515.10	\$75.33	\$15,363.87	\$535.00	\$33,548.15	
Accounts Receivable		\$225.00	\$231.50			\$225.00		\$681.50	
Books (see schedule 2)(Note 4)		\$2,295.23	\$565.65			\$169.44		\$3,030.32	
Retained Earnings	\$643.73	\$18,888.41	\$844.09	\$515.10	\$75.33	\$15,758.31	\$535.00	\$37,259.97	
Note 1									
The special project expenditures in this fiscal year was the lecture series sponsored by the Eastmenn Historical Committee.									
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 and storage costs									
Note 4									
The asset value of the inventory will be decreased for any title five years after publication.									
Note 5									
The revenue was generated in this fiscal year for the next fiscal year.									
Note 6									
There was an adjustment made to the opening balance to reflect the actual funds in the bank.									

[illegible]

Sharing of Diversities	0	\$ -	2	\$ -				2	\$ -	\$ -	
Challenge of Nationalism	0	\$ -	22	\$ -				22	\$ -	\$ -	
3 Short Plays	0	\$ -	9	\$ -				9	\$ -	\$ -	
Mennonite Artists	0	\$ -	17	\$ -				17	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Other	0	\$ -	365	\$ -				369	\$ -	\$ -	
Mennonite Migration -Gen.	11	\$ 192.50	16	\$ 213.92		-4		9	\$ 120.33	\$ 147.09	
BH Unruh - Gen.	1	\$ 39.00	25	\$ 618.50		6		18	\$ 445.32	\$ 24.74	
Total	47	\$ 859.50	2407	\$ 3,116.11	0			1722	\$ 3,030.32	\$ 630.00	

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society Proposed Budget FY2019

	Jan - Dec 19
Income	
Adminstration	
Investment interest	180.00
Services	100.00
Total Adminstration	280.00
Donations	3,000.00
Eastmenn comm.	
Book sales	1,250.00
Investment interest	350.00
Total Eastmenn comm.	1,600.00
Genealogy Committee	
Genealogy Book Series	780.00
Total Genealogy Committee	780.00
Interest	25.00
M. & P. Comm.	
US cur	10.00
Total M. & P. Comm.	10.00
Membership Dues	
2019 dues	600.00
Total Membership Dues	600.00
MHS Canada	0.00
Special projects	
web redesign genealogy	500.00
Total Special projects	500.00
Westmenn Historical Committee	
Book sales	100.00
Comm.mtg.	130.00
Total Westmenn Historical Committee	230.00
Total Income	7,025.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	1,715.00
Total COGS	1,715.00
Gross Profit	5,310.00

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Proposed Budget FY2019

	Jan - Dec 19
Expense	
Administration	
Cash rebate	8.00
Corporation fee	25.00
Office supplies	25.00
Storage space	100.00
Total Administration	158.00
Eastmenn HC	
Admin. fee	350.00
Chortitza Church signage projec	500.00
Comm. mtg.	250.00
Lecture Series	1,500.00
Shantz Sheds Marker (design)	2,000.00
Storage	100.00
Total Eastmenn HC	4,700.00
Genealogy Comm.	
Plett award	550.00
Printing and Binding	0.00
Total Genealogy Comm.	550.00
Insurance	
Liability Insurance	250.00
Total Insurance	250.00
Membership & Publicity Comm.	
HP Postage	175.00
HP Printing	750.00
WWW	125.00
Total Membership & Publicity Comm.	1,050.00
MHSC	
GAMEO	1,500.00
Membership dues	750.00
Travel	500.00
Total MHSC	2,750.00
Professional Fees	
Accounting	200.00
Total Professional Fees	200.00

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Proposed Budget FY2019

	Jan - Dec 19
Westmenn Historical Comm.	
Comm. mtg.	250.00
Total Westmenn Historical Comm.	250.00
Total Expense	9,908.00
Net Income	<u>-4,598.00</u>