



THE VILLAGE *Voice*

VOLUME 9 NO.1 MAY 2021

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PUBLISHED BY
Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) Inc.

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PRINTED BY
Derksen Printers

DESIGNED BY
Brittaney Bruynooge-Kornelson

CHARITY NUMBER
10363-393-RR0001

AGREEMENT NUMBER
40033605

HOURS
May - September
Monday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
October - April
Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Outdoor buildings are closed

ADMISSION RATES	
Adults	\$12.00
Seniors (65 & Older)	\$10.00
Students (ages 13 - 22)	\$10.00
Children (ages 6 - 12)	\$6.00
Children (ages 5 & under)	Free

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St. Boniface Museum
Winnipeg, MB

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre
Morden, MB

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Winnipeg, MB

HOW TO REACH MHV

Telephone 204.326.9661
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www.mhv.ca



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

SUBMITTED BY GARY DYCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV)! A safe place to learn, discuss, work, play, relax and renew. Six words not commonly put together, but it is in their balance that we find our equilibrium to live well.

Learn and Discuss.

With our 16,000+ artifacts, building panels, bookstore, and new exhibit, 'Mennonites at War', there is a lot to learn and discuss with others. We also hope to have a Spring Gala with a banquet on May 29th, community book launch evenings and events as COVID restrictions allow. These are all great times to connect with others in your community and discuss the topic of the day.

Work and Play.

In our volunteer community, there is a lot of hobby work to be done. This year we need your help in hosting events, developing heritage skill demonstrations, restoring our pond shoreline by planting 1000's of native wetland plants, fixing up our wooden barn doors, some small painting projects, and more! Working on the museum grounds is enjoyable, even playful, which is probably one of the reasons that our Grounds Manager is returning for his tenth year! Welcome back Jared!



Relax and Renew

This year MHV plans to offer a lot of the familiar, which can be relaxing. However, we also plan to offer new ideas, a new peace garden, revamped programming that is COVID safe, and a special emphasis on well-being. Ask for our well-being handout at reception and find out how MHV can help you relax and renew your mind and body today. May your 2021 include meaningful learning, discussions, work, play, relaxation, and renewal!



REFLECTIONS

BY: JO-ANN FRIESEN

As I reflect on my years at MHV, I must say I have loved every aspect of my work. I have enjoyed the daily interaction with staff, volunteers, visitors, tour groups, customers and vendors. It is hard to list the plethora of memorable interactions I have encountered over my time here. Every person I had contact with was an important interaction.

I enjoyed conversing with travelers from far and wide, and oh, the stories they would share about their own historical background and how similar it was to the Mennonite experience. It was very satisfying to be told time and again that our Village Books & Gifts was an excellent place to shop to find that rare and unique item, perfect for their own shelf or to give as a gift.



When the breeze was just right, the windmill sails turned, and whole wheat flour was ground. I just loved it; The Chortitz House Barn, the Hochfeld and Waldheim houses, as well as the Blacksmith Shop reminded me of the ingenuity and practical creativeness of those who came before us. The Old Colony Church and the Lichtenau Church encompass the heart of the people.

The General Store, what a great feeling you get when you open the door and walk in. You are immediately filled with nostalgia as you step back in time. A store that sold everything you needed from flour to bolts of fabric to tractor parts, even a cow or two. It was an information gathering place and message center all in one. As I opened village buildings on my rounds, I was reminded of the heritage and intestinal fortitude of the early settlers.

.....CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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MENNONITES AT WAR

BY KARA SUDERMAN AND ANDREA KLASSEN

Mennonites have a long history of saying 'no' to war, but the Mennonite response to war and violence has often been much more complicated than we think. Many of us assume that all Mennonites were conscientious objectors and resisted any kind of violence. Like most things, however, the truth is more complicated. "Mennonites at War," the new exhibit at Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV), opening June 1, explores this complex history.

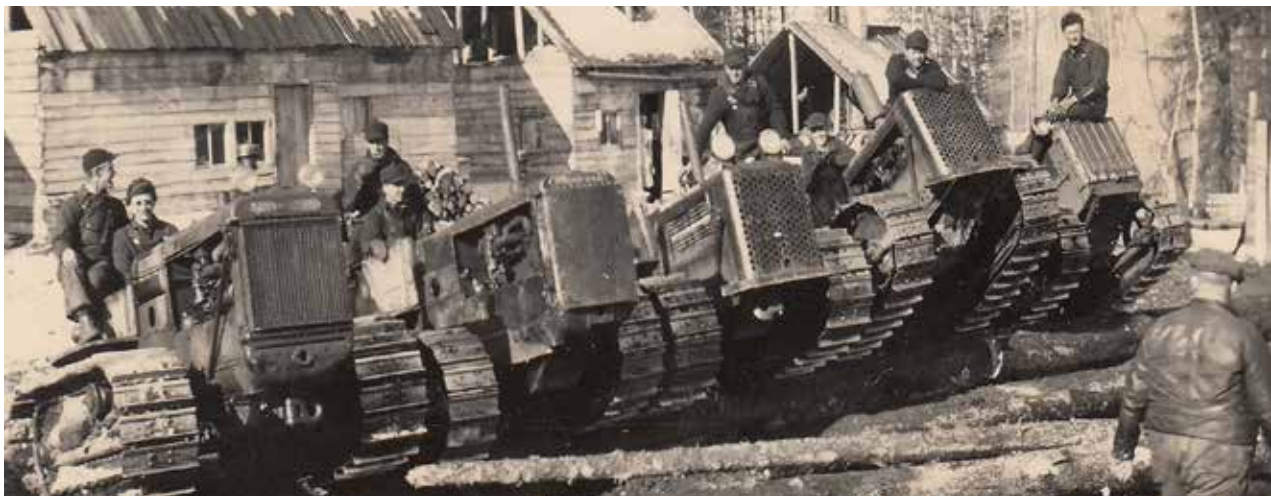
The exhibit looks at the many ways Mennonites have responded to the threat of military participation, war, and violence from the turbulent times of the Radical Reformation in the 1500s to the Second World War, when many young Mennonites were forced to examine their own beliefs on patriotism, conscientious objection, and military participation. The exhibit is divided into four main themes that highlight some of the ways Mennonites have engaged with these questions of war and violence: "Martyrs," "Migrants," "Soldiers," and "Objectors."



Caption; Peter Neufeld (1885-1954) of Rosenfeld, Manitoba, was one of the few Mennonites in Canada to enlist during the First World War. According to Glenn Penner, just over 100 Russian-descendant Mennonites joined the Canadian military during the war. Private Neufeld was featured in this article in the Winnipeg Tribune on March 27, 1916, announcing Neufeld's enlisting in the 221st Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. Photo credit: Winnipeg Tribune

Anabaptism grew out of the Reformation of the 1500s, as Protestants sought to reform the church they viewed as increasingly corrupt. As the church split into two main groups, Catholic and Protestant, many felt that the reforms were not going far enough and further splits ensued. Anabaptists, who later split into other groups, including Mennonites, were part of this "Radical Reformation." They were viewed as radical heretics for their beliefs, which included adult (rather than infant) baptism and a refusal to participate in war, take up arms, or swear oaths. These beliefs led to persecution, interrogation, torture, and martyrdom for many at the hands of both Catholics and Protestants. Still, Anabaptists held fast to their belief in non-resistance, not fighting back against this persecution.

Violence and war have been huge contributing factors in Mennonite migrations through the centuries. Whether they were fleeing persecution during the years of Reformation, forcibly deported by armies during the Second World War in the Soviet Union, or chose to migrate to avoid military participation, over the centuries, many Mennonites have left their homes because of these forces. One of the major reasons for one of the first Mennonite migrations from Prussia to Russia in the 1780s, for example, was because Empress Catherine II of Russia promised them a full military exemption. A similar promise was made to Mennonites from Canada about one hundred years later, when this privilege of complete military exemption was threatened in Russia, causing 7,000 Mennonites to leave Russia for Canada. Not all migrations were voluntary. In the 1920s, nearly 25,000 Mennonites fled the newly formed Soviet Union in response to war,



Caption; Almon Reimer (1923-2017) of Steinbach, Manitoba, was a C.O. during the Second World War. He worked in essential industries like Plett and Co. equipment manufacturing north of Steinbach and helping farmers with the harvest, as well as in the lumber mill at the alternative service work camp at Roblin, Manitoba, where this photo of C.O.s posing on tractors was taken. Photo credit: Private Collection

repression, dispossession, theft, violence, disease, and trauma that they experienced in the wake of the 1917 Revolution. During the Second World War, tens of thousands of Mennonites were forced to leave their homes by Soviet and German armies, or due to a lack of resources brought on by war. Some of these arrived as displaced people in Canada or South America after the end of the war; many more remained behind the so-called "Iron Curtain," migrating to Germany after the fall of the Soviet Union and then often on to Canada in a migration that continues today.

Although Russian Mennonites have believed in non-resistance throughout most of their history, this theology was contested and started to shift during the Russian Revolution and subsequent civil war. Under severe threat from anarchist groups led by Nestor Makhno, some Mennonites chose to take up arms and form self-defence units, known as the Selbstschutz, under German military authority in 1918. These highly controversial units were formed, as their name suggests, for self-defence purposes but they had strong military links and, in some cases, participated in joint offensive actions against anarchists. The idea of self-defence became a grey area for Mennonites and church and community leaders struggled with the issue. Some were opposed to violence of any kind, while others saw it as a necessary evil and still in keeping with the peace tradition. Many historians argue that the effects of this chapter of Russian Mennonite history continued to impact the Mennonite community in Canada decades later, as many sons of Mennonite men who had been involved in the Selbstschutz chose to serve in the Canadian military during the Second World War. Other factors, like the emigration of the most traditionalist Mennonites to Latin American in the 1920s, coupled with the arrival of more progressive groups and mandatory attendance at public schools, helped to create a broader acceptance of military participation, nationalism, patriotism, and the use of violence towards an enemy in the inter-war years in Canada. This shift in attitudes led to a record number of Mennonites in Canada joining the military during the Second World War. Although there is no consensus on the issue, historians have generally agreed that about 4,500 to 4,775 Mennonites in Canada enlisted during the Second World War. Put another way, between 38% and 41% of the 11,720 Mennonites who participated in the war effort were soldiers in Active Service.

Although the traditional position of non-resistance was slowly lessening during the inter-war years in Canada, the majority of eligible Mennonites still chose to be conscientious objectors (C.O.s) during the Second World War. While Russian-descendant Mennonites had been granted full military exemption before they came to Canada in 1874, it was unclear if this exemption pertained to those who came in later migrations, such as the Russländer Mennonites who immigrated in the 1920s. Many of this latter group had done alternative service work in Russia during the First World War and brought this idea with them to Canada. In comparison to Kanadier Mennonites, who arrived in the 1870s, Russländer were much more accepting of the alternative service arrangements offered by the Canadian government, beginning in 1941. Once officially granted a postponement

of their military service, C.O.s were assigned to a variety of different roles, in alternative service camps where they worked in forestry, firefighting, road construction, among other areas, in essential industries like manufacturing, agriculture, and food production, and filling in labour shortages in medical services like hospitals. As it is with calculating the total of Mennonites in Canada who joined the military, counting the number of Mennonites in Canada who became C.O.s is difficult and controversial. Historians have generally agreed that about 7,500 of the C.O.s in service at the end of the Second World War were Mennonite, although that number might be as low as 6,945. These figures suggest that between 59% and 63% of the total number of Mennonites who served Canada during the war in some capacity became C.O.s.

The topics of war, violence, military participation, and how a people steeped in a tradition of peace and non-resistance should respond to these situations has been significant but often controversial throughout Mennonite history. It remains so today. "Mennonites at War" explores some of the ways in which Mennonites in Canada have reacted on these issues over their history. It highlights the stories of individuals who have had to make complex decisions about how they would respond in difficult and sometimes unimaginable circumstances. In asking these questions of the past, "Mennonites at War" provides a place for visitors to reflect on their own beliefs about war, violence and consider our own responses today in the 21st century.

The grand opening of "Mennonites at War" will take place at MHV's Spring Gala Fundraiser on May 29. Buy your tickets online at www.mhv.ca or by calling 204-326-9661. The exhibit will be open to the public from June 1 to September 30, 2021.





MHV AUXILIARY NEWS

BY EVELYN FRIESEN



Vintage linens, crocheted doilies, and quilts stitched by the Village Quilters line the walls of the Quilting Room in the Village Centre. A large unfinished quilt—mounted on a wooden quilting frame—invites the curious visitor to walk in and get a closer look at this beautiful handiwork. Most of the items on display

are for sale!! Unfortunately, COVID-19 protocols have stalled the present projects. We are hopeful that the coming summer season will once again see the Quilters at work as they entertain visitors while adding the last stitches to the quilt.



Much to the delight of the sewers among us, Phyllis Toews recently donated a large stash of fabrics, including yards and yards of lovely, quality quilting materials. Some have already been cut and packaged to sell as “Fat Quarters” and “Four by Fours”—terms that have meaning for the avid quilter browsing in the Village Gift Shop. Along

with other projected patterns, some of the colourful pieces will make up the ever-popular Mennonite Girls Can Cook aprons, such as are modeled by Linda and Tina. The MHV Auxiliary owes Phyllis no less than a huge thank-you for her generous donation!!!!

The Auxiliary has missed meeting regularly during these COVID times, however, we have stayed connected and looked at new ways to raise funds and work for MHV. We provided hot dogs and chili in the Multi-Purpose Room for all who came to enjoy the February Winterfest in the Village. The Rotary Club has once again resumed their monthly meetings in the Village Centre, and we are pleased to serve them a noon lunch on those days.

Slated for April 30th, we will be sponsoring a Drive-In & Pick-up Perogy Supper by the Livery Barn Restaurant. Our plans for the upcoming season also include a Film Night with the possible showing of the award-winning film called The Volendam—a touching story written

and produced by Andrew Wall depicting thousands of Mennonites who became refugees to South America following WWII. Several of the scenes in the movie were filmed on the grounds of our Village.



The Waffle Booth has always been a popular place for many who enjoy a spot under the canopy to savour those heart-shaped waffles—baked outdoors on cast iron—smothered in Vanilla Sauce!!!

Members of the Garden Club are pictured enjoying such a treat during one of their lunch breaks.

As always, our efforts center around raising funds for our regular support of the MHV's Education Program, for the seasonal needs of the Garden Club as they keep our grounds looking beautiful, as well as the Museum's countless special projects and programs. And so, working for MHV, we keep on stitching and baking and sewing and growing something to sell!!!

We invite you to meet us here during this summer's special event days in the Village.

Advertising Works!

Showcase your business to the 50,000 visitors we host each year and support our important work at the museum.

Contact Patrick Friesen for more information.
patrickf@mhv.ca

Become a Sponsor



FUN TIMES ARE COMING

BY ROBERT GOERTZEN



Photo Credit: Jared Nickel

Everyone needs a bit of fun in their lives. In times of a pandemic, fun will not be on the top of our 'to do' list, but nevertheless, it is important to relax, unfurl our brows, and smile. At Mennonite Heritage Village, we are planning to host activities and events which will do just that by inviting everyone to participate in our community.

Mennonite Heritage Village is planning to host several events which feature specialized interests. On **June 12**, we will be joined by up to fifty antique tractors and their drivers who devote their free time to restoring tractors from the past and preparing them for our **Tractor Trek**. The day will be filled with stories of childhood farming memories, sharing mechanical tips, and good conversations over delicious cinnamon buns, sausage burgers, and Schnetje. This fundraiser for Eden Foundation and MHV is a wonderful way to participate, as a driver, as a financial supporter, and as a spectator along our route through the countryside.

The Heritage Classic Car Show on July 10 is another great day to enjoy the workmanship of classic car enthusiasts. With up to one hundred cars and trucks lining the village Main Street, visitors will find great

stories at each vehicle as the owners share the special features of their handiwork. We all have fond memories of getting our driving license or purchasing our first car. The flat tires and dead batteries are long forgotten, while the feeling of independence and the pride of car ownership remain vivid. There will be activities for all ages throughout the day.

We appreciate the continued involvement of the various groups who bring their specialized interests to the museum for the benefit of our visitors. On **August 14**, we will be highlighting the work of several of these groups, including the Southeast Manitoba Draft Horse Association, the Southeast Implement Collectors, the Steam Club, and the Steinbach and Area Garden Club. They will be demonstrating their skills, offering some hands-on opportunities, and inviting interested individuals to become involved in their activities and work. Mennonite Heritage Village would not be able to prepare our facilities and host our events without these volunteer groups who bring their expertise to share with all visitors.

We continue to be encouraged by community-minded people who get involved with our various programs as volunteers. The satisfaction that comes from sharing stories of the past with a grade two class, demonstrating various handicraft and trade skills, recommending books in the bookstore, and serving hearty meals, brightens the day for each one of us.

Pioneer Days on August long weekend, Canada Day on July 1, and Fall on the Farm on Labour Day, continue to be our largest festivals. We are being optimistic as well as cautious as we plan for these events, however, we know that every visit to MHV, whether for our special events, our festivals, or our relaxing environment on a weekday, will bring opportunities to encounter our dynamic outdoor environment. Smelling the flowers,

visiting the farm animals, speaking with volunteers and staff about Steinbach's past, or sitting by the pond to watch the birds are all wonderful ways to find relaxation, decrease our worries, and smile in 2021.

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GENERAL STORE

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



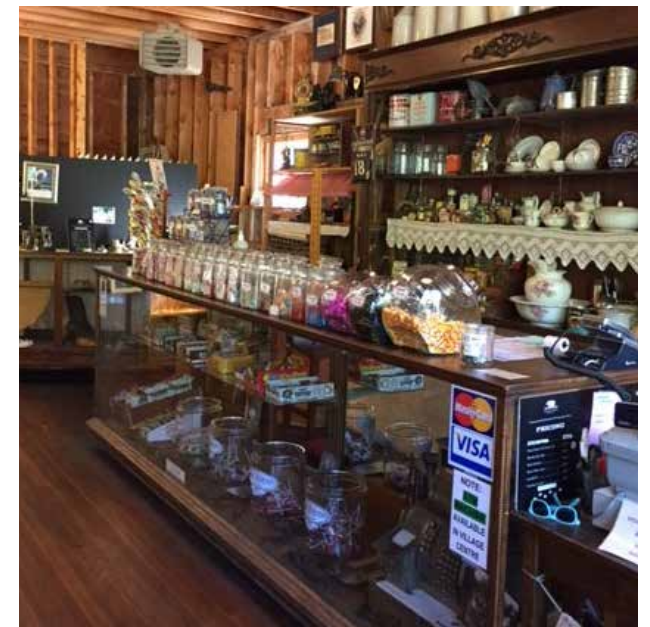
The General Store, located on Main Street in the outdoor Village, has always been one of my favourite destinations. With the wide array of artifacts on display, homemade items for sale, as well as the great selection of old-fashioned candy to choose from, folks are happy to purchase items and reminisce about days gone by. As we look forward to a new season, the possibilities are endless.

Storytellers and inquisitive patrons arrive and relate their own adventures about growing up in an industrious era that presented its own set of trying health & economic challenges. Local artisans have prepared a plethora of merchandise that truly makes the General Store come alive. Old-fashioned candy bursts from the counter and spills over into the hands of young and old alike.

Local artisans for the 2021 season: Amber's Knits Co., A Switch in Time, Night Owl Beading, Embroidery Cards & Eggery, Through Glass Images, Grandpa H.H. Epp Ointment, Sweet Designs by Evie, and Hilda's Closet. Check out the General Store Instagram and Facebook pages for more info.

The relationship with local artisans works very well as it brings in items for sale that the public would otherwise not have access to. The inviting, friendly service and excellent selection gives the General store that down home atmosphere.

With Covid 19 health & safety protocols in place, we are looking forward to a vibrant year. See you soon.



ADMISSIONS, VILLAGE BOOKS & GIFTS

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

Our Reception/Admissions team are knowledgeable & approachable. Each team member is dedicated to help each visitor have a safe visit by encouraging them to follow Covid19 protocols set in place by the Manitoba government. Social distancing and contact tracing are a regular part of admission to the museum. The staff work well under the ever-changing pressures of being a tourism concierge in a second pandemic year. I have been impressed by each team member for their ability to stay calm, professional, and caring during a time when regulations fluctuate. As Manitobans continue to make the conscious choice to visit MHV this year, travelers are delighted as they encounter the many ways the museum offers a place for peaceful reflection. We look forward as we continue to create new mental health wellness initiatives for guests to discover.

In 2021, Village Books & Gifts is introducing a new line of "funny" Obayo t-shirts. These t-shirts are a must have, and MHV is the exclusive Southeastern Manitoba retailer. The gift shop continues to offer a wide selection of merchandise that tells the Russian Mennonite Story. Our choice of books, as well as specialty items, fit the curious at heart. The mandate of Village Books & Gifts is to provide readers with historically sound information, personal stories, and works of fiction that reflect the journey of the Russian Mennonite people as well as easy to carry souvenirs. This year we will have two exhibits in the Gerhard Ens Gallery, the first "Mennonites at War" on display from May – September, and the second, "Mennonite Photography" will be on display from October – April. Hot off the press is the book "European Mennonites and the Holocaust" by Mark Jantzen and John D. Thiessen. A powerful and unflinching examination of a difficult history which uncovers a more complete picture of Mennonite life

in these years. You will want your copy today.

Whether you choose a crokinole board, a game of Dutch Blitz, or purchase a solid wood clothing rack where your clothes will catch those summer breezes, there is so much to discover in our store. Stop by to see the selection of children's books, cookbooks, and coffee table books. Our souvenir selection continues to diversify. You will want to purchase retro aprons or fabric for that sewing project or quilt you are making this year. Customers love the new merchandise the gift shop offers. Support local is part of our mandate. We continue to appeal to the wide variety of consumers who want to purchase items that have a historical feel, say "Steinbach" or are "Mennonite" in some way. Our 2021 goal is to provide quality, unique, hard-to-find items.

VBG is planning to host the sixth annual Christmas Market the second week in November. As recommended by our local health authority, MHV will follow all health and safety protocols.

I am very honored to have had the opportunity to



work with exceptional staff and volunteers. MHV Village Books & Gifts has a team that endeavors to offer quality customer service and a unique place to find that perfect gift. Stop by & find your treasure today!





RESTORING THE CHORTITZ HOUSEBARN

BY ANDREA KLASSEN

The Chortitz Housebarn at Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) was built in 1892 by Jacob and Justina Teichroeb in the village of Chortitz, south of Winkler, Manitoba, where the couple lived with their seven children. Housbarns, in which the barn and dwelling are attached to one another, were common throughout northern Europe until the twentieth century. Mennonite house barns originated in Prussia (now Poland) and by the 1850s the layout was standardized to one basic design, which could be adjusted as necessary. This heritage building is a good example of Mennonite homes as they were built in Manitoba from 1874 to the early 1900s. The Chortitz Housebarn arrived at MHV in 1967, shortly after MHV was incorporated, and quickly became one of the flagship buildings on the museum's grounds. Today, along with the fully operational windmill, the Chortitz Housebarn is a visitor favourite and plays a key role in interpreting Mennonite history in Canada to thousands of museum guests every year.

As significant of a role that this heritage building plays at MHV today, however, it is in need of major restoration work. Visitors walking into the building in recent years will have noted the significant bulge in the wooden floor in the kitchen and eating areas, and this is one of the primary issues this restoration will be addressing. Over the years since its installation at MHV, the foundation along the building's perimeter has started to sink. At the same time, the center of the structure (in the kitchen area) has been held firmly in place by a solid concrete support beam. This tension in the foundation has resulted most visibly in the bulging kitchen floor but has also led to damage in other areas of the building.

The second area we will be addressing with this restoration project is the central brick oven, a key feature of traditional Mennonite housebarns. As the oven in the Chortitz Housebarn demonstrates, these traditional Mennonite homes were arranged around their central brick ovens, which formed the nucleus of the house around which all the other rooms were arranged. This type of oven works not only to heat the entire house through heat radiated from its surface into all the rooms around it, but it was also used for cooking, baking, and smoking meat (which was done in the upper section of the chimney, accessed through the attic). While MHV's grounds contain four residential heritage buildings, only the Chortitz Housebarn showcases this unique type of oven. This central brick oven was often used for demonstration purposes on Festival Days or during the school programs over the decades the building has been located on the museum's grounds. However, seeing how the building's shifting foundation had begun to lead to cracks throughout the oven's structure, Roland Sawatzky, my predecessor in the Senior Curator position at MHV, decided to put the oven out of service in the early 2000s. Since then, this central piece of the Chortitz Housebarn has remained cold and unused. This restoration project will see the oven repaired from the inside out, re-igniting (pun



intended) our ability to once again demonstrate how these unique heating and cooking systems worked in a traditional Mennonite housebarn.

Over my seven years at MHV, I have often enjoyed lunch in the shade of the trees in the yard at the Chortitz Housebarn, and while the building provides peace during the bustle of an eventful Festival Day or a much-needed respite from a busy workday at my desk or in the galleries, another thing has become increasingly clear while taking in the view from the yard: the exterior of the building is looking a little "down-at-heel." So, once all the foundational work has been completed on the building, the exterior of the Chortitz Housebarn will receive some tender loving care with carpentry work to address rotten or damaged siding and a complete coat of new paint to the entire building.

In 2019 MHV received funding from the Province of Manitoba's Building Sustainable Communities program to cover 50% of the costs of this restoration project that will address the primary needs of this important heritage building. In winter 2020, we anticipated carrying out the restoration that summer; however, as the first wave of COVID hit our province last spring and ushered in a year of tumultuous uncertainty, it became clear we could not move forward with this project at that time. Fortunately, the Building Sustainable Communities program granted MHV a postponement of the funding, giving us an extra year to complete this valuable restoration project. Over the next months, MHV will be working to raise about \$22,000 to cover the remaining 50% of the project. Our first event earmarked for this cause is MHV's Annual Spring Fundraising Gala on May 29. We invite you to join us and show your support for keeping this unique heritage building alive and well for future generations.



Upcoming Events

May 29

Spring Gala
Mennonites at War

June 12

12th Annual
Tractor Trek

July 1

Canada Day
Celebration

July 10

Heritage Classic
Car Show

Jul. 30
- Aug. 2

Pioneer Days

Aug. 14

MHV Club Day
Demonstrations

Sept. 6

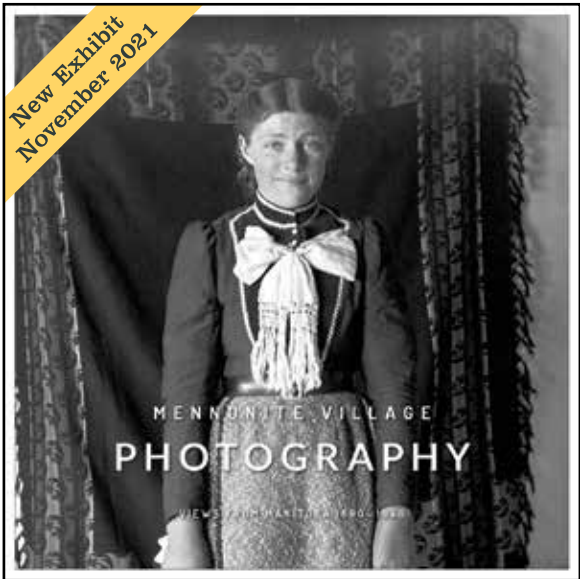
Fall on the Farm



Cover Photo

Caption: John M. Schmidt took this photo of his fellow soldiers lining up to receive their pay cheques. The men in the photo were, like John, part of the restricted enlistment in the Royal Canadian Medical Corps, which meant that they served in the military but did not undergo weapons training or need to carry a rifle.

Credit: Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, MAID NP191-01-26





REFLECTIONS COUNTINE FROM PAGE 2

BY: JO-ANN FRIESEN

In my time here, my goal has been to help the overall team be successful. Fun collaboration creates a balanced and effective workplace environment. When we work together, the benefits go beyond our doors, it affects the greater community. I have gleaned from multiple opportunities to work alongside such a wide variety of gifted professionals and talented individuals. These experiences are permanently etched into my life.

Everything from a local book launch to our yearly Christmas Market were opportunities to engage with the public, hear their heart, and work toward offering items that would fill their need. I had the pleasure of chatting with a guest not long ago about family history and why it matters. MHV is seen as a place to find those lost roots. We shared a few laughs and then filled her shopping list with heritage connections and something to tickle the funny bone. It was very satisfying to regularly watch our Reception team deliver exceptional customer service. Our volunteers acted as a concierge to each visitor that came through the doors. My desk is placed within a few feet of the Reception counter, and I have watched as this team made each interaction a priority. They are inviting, friendly and knowledgeable. My Gift Shop Assistant, Nita Wiebe, needs a cape (Super Neets), for she is a steadfast, loyal team member, who excels in customer service, merchandising& allocation of relevant stock, and she is an incredible super sleuth (if you need it, she will find it). As the main storekeeper, she makes it her goal to deliver “above and beyond” customer satisfaction. I have been blessed to work with such a talented individual.



Photo Credit: Nik Rave

We had a gentleman come in looking for an obscure graveyard from long ago, and with steady determination and super-sleuthing, the old graveyard was located, and the gentleman could not believe it. He was ecstatic. I guess I am a little biased, but I believe MHV has the best Reception & volunteer staff in the country. They endeavor to provide excellent customer service and brainstorm to source unique, quality merchandise, relevant books, and locally made handiwork. The current pandemic brought its own set of challenges that tested our inner mettle, but hats off to an overall amazing MHV team.

The areas in my portfolio were Admissions/ Reception, Adult Tours, Retail: Village Books & Gifts, and the General Store, as well as Office Management & Management Team participation. Each deliverable had its own unique set of expectations, and over the past five years, I have endeavored to execute each deliverable in a timely & efficient manner. It is the little things that illustrate a person’s character, but it’s also the little things that are character building. I appreciated how the management & staff worked together, I will deeply miss this camaraderie.

We (my husband & I) will be making a huge change in our lives and step out of the boat so to speak. We are moving to another province, where we will be closer to our children and grandchildren. There are a variety of opportunities ahead. We do not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future.

We are looking forward to helping others where it is needed. As we step out in a time of uncertainty, just like the robins, who are returning from their long vacation (they unpack their bags in a new home, pull out their nesting plans, settle in for a new season, and get to work) we will adjust to new surroundings.

Thank you, everyone, for making my time at the museum one I will never forget.



ANNUAL 2020 DONOR LIST

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