

Newsletter



From The Board

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By the time you read this, there will not be many weeks of winter left. This winter so far, has seen its share of weather with some cold temperatures, some warm temperatures and of course some storms. Through all this, the Museum has been busy with office work and getting ready for the Annual Meeting to be held on March 18, 2017.

We held another successful Winter Wonderland in December with 175 people showing up on the last evening. I want to say "Thanks" to those who assisted with getting the lights ready and helping with the three weekends that the event was held in December.

In January, we were part of the Versatile display at Manitoba's Ag Days in Brandon. We had a table right in front of Big Roy, where we sold tickets on a raffle for an opportunity to drive Big Roy for 30 minutes. We sold over 170 tickets and these tickets are available on our website, at the Office and from Board members.

This year Ag Days asked people with displays/booths to bring a nostalgic item to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Ag Days Show Excellence. First place went to Versatile for bringing Big Roy.

We were surprised and happy that Versatile chose to donate their \$1,000.00 prize to the Manitoba Agricultural Museum and even more pleased that Ag Days matched the prize. The money will be going towards a new building for Big Roy sometime in the future.

Those who manned the table at Ag Days heard lots of stories about Big Roy's adventures during his early days. He is presently in Winnipeg where they have cleaned off the road salt and will be bringing him home when the weather is warm and dry.

A reminder that the Museum is always in need of volunteers for our Hands-On School Program that runs in May and June. It is a very rewarding opportunity to work with school students as they learn about our agricultural past. Thank You in advance for volunteering in this area. You can call the office at 204-637-2354 and you will be given the times and days that you can assist with this very important and rewarding program.

Have a great spring and thank-you for your support.

Robert Beamish

Manitoba Agricultural Museum
Box 10
Austin MB R0H 0C0

Phone 204-637-2354
Fax 204-637-2395
E-mail info@ag-museum.com

www.ag-museum.com

Georgette Hutlet,
Executive Director
Joan Morris, Finance
Marvin Morris,
Office Assistant

Tom Lehockey, Yard Foreman
Tanya Wiegand, Guest Curator

Do You Know where to find these? Check the June newsletter !



New Exhibit for the Centennial Building

The Centennial Building has just received a new roof and will shortly get a new main door, readying it for at least another 50 years of doing its part in preserving our agricultural heritage. However, the displays inside it are also almost 50 years old, and for 2017 something new will be on display. The previous displays on the south side of the building are being replaced by a series of modern dioramas chronicling the history of grain harvesting.

This “History of Grain Harvesting” display will take the visitor from the earliest harvesting techniques of the sickle and flail, through to the development of the combine. The first diorama will show a harvest scene at the time of Confederation, 150 years ago. Back then, modern machinery had not yet arrived in Manitoba, and all harvest work was done by hand. Mannequins and period tools will show the cutting, bundling, stooking, threshing and cleaning of wheat. This will be followed by a display featuring the replica McCormick reaper, the Museum’s horse treadmill and hand-fed threshing machine, such as would have been used up until the 1880s; with mannequins demonstrating how the machines were operated. Similarly, the progression to the self-raking swing-arm reaper, the portable steam engine, the self-tying binder and threshing machines with advanced features such as self-feeders and blowers will be illustrated. The display wraps up with the transition to the modern combine harvester-thresher as is still used today.

Along with the dioramas, there will also be a series of informative signs giving a detailed timeline of the progress of harvest technology, from Neolithic times to the modern era.

We plan to cut the ribbon for this exhibit on Manitoba Day – May 12th; so much work is yet to be done between now and then. Given the Museum’s core mandate, the preservation and interpretation of Manitoba’s agricultural history, many of the previous artifacts on display do not fit our mandate and will be placed in storage. Others will be moved to different Museum display areas. Since many of these are delicate items such as dishes and ornaments, care must be taken in packing each one, meaning that this will be a lengthy procedure.

Volunteers would be much appreciated to help complete packing the artifacts, and moving them to other display areas, or putting them into storage. Following that, the new artifacts must be moved into place and cleaned for display. Watch for the announcement of the Work Weekends when these tasks are scheduled to take place. If you could contact the Office to let us know when you would be available, and for which types of work, individual work plans could be drawn up, which will help the work move along much more smoothly.

Thank You to all volunteers,
Glenn Lennox
Interpretation Chairperson

Homesteaders Village

We are gradually getting the Village painted. This year we have 3 major buildings to be painted; and some trim work. What we find after the winter is over will determine what other work we have to face. This year the village has to be cleaned and set up by May 5 or 6 so everything is ready for opening day on May 12, and to display the Mother's Day Quilt Show on May 14. We can always use help with the cleaning, setting up, painting, scraping and repairs of Village buildings. If you are interested, please contact the Office. Thank you.

Lynda Campbell-Hawley
Village Chairperson

Finance Committee

The Committee has been diligently working to conclude 2016 financial business and prepare a 2017 Operating budget. The 2016 records went to the Accountant in early February and should be back in early March for review by the Finance Committee. The result of all this work will be reviewed by the membership at the AGM on March 18, 2017.

Ray Tolton
Finance Chairman

63rd Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede

July 27-30, 2017

**Manitoba Agricultural Museum
2016 Improvements, Enhancements & Upgrades
(Compiled by Board of Directors & Volunteers)**

Office / Operational

- 1 Completed 3-year Business Plan (2016-2019).
- 2 Developed 2016 Top 5 Artifacts brochure.
- 3 2 new winter displays in Pioneer Centre.
- 4 1 wedding held in 2016; 5 photo sessions.
- 5 Held annual Events and Programs – Louis Riel Day Celebration, Hands-On 673 participants, Manitoba Day Flag raising and cake cutting, Mother's Day Quilt Show, Father's Day, Sponsor's Luncheon, Seniors Day, Reunion, Open Farm Day, Winter Wonderland.
- 6 New Event: Curiosities and Collectibles Flea Market
- 7 Permanent "History of Farm Power" display in Shed 3, with extensive new interpretive signage created.
- 8 New pages on Museum website
- 9 Press Releases for 21 Museum artifacts.
- 10 Maintained major grants and sponsorships.
- 11 Maintained the "100 Key Artifacts" List
- 12 Maintained presence at Royal Manitoba Winter Fair with an interactive display.
- 13 Maintained Museum Musings on CFRY, 6 days / week in partnership with 4 sponsors.
- 14 Maintained Lions Roar for Hearing Motorcycle Rally/Bike Games in partnership with numerous MB Lions Clubs.
- 15 Maintained partnership with Sprucedale Industries for Rock the Harvest.
- 16 Winnipeg Tractor Trials video completed.
- 17 Maintained partnership with CFRY Radio – Farmer Appreciation / Win a Bin event on July 12, 2016
- 18 More complete coverage regarding the partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Harvesting Hope in general as this partnership lead to an ongoing relationship for the next several years.

Grounds Maintenance & Development

- 1 Train Station: deck painted
- 2 Arizona Church: painted, stair deck replaced.
- 3 Peddler's Wagon: painted, roof replaced.
- 4 Post Office: shingled verandah.
- 5 Muir House: replaced back steps.
- 6 Muirhead House back steps replaced.
- 7 Print Shop: painted, hand railing replaced.
- 8 Eavestroughs were cleaned out in the spring
- 9 Restorations:
- 10 Extensive threshing machine restoration.
- 11 Removal of old trees near Dining Hall and in Village.
- 12 Removal of trees to expand public campground.
- 13 Sawmill - blade was hammered to proper dish shape and blade inserts replaced.
- 14 Over 20 WI-FI relay stations installed by NETSET throughout the Museum.
- 15 New signage on Village buildings
- 16 West cook shack: painted and new metal on roof.

**Watch for the Museum booth in the
Manitoba Room at the
Royal Manitoba Winter Fair,
in Brandon
on March 27th to April 1st.**

Capital Projects

- 1 Lumber Shed: roof replaced.
- 2 Oakview: new wheel chair ramp.
- 3 Port Nelson on rail bed – work in progress.
- 4 Sawyer Massey Century Project - work in progress
- 5 Big Roy: major restoration completed by Versatile; their promotional tour with Big Roy in Saskatchewan and the United States promoted MAM.
- 6 Gates 3 and 4: new gates built.
- 7 Gate 1 to 4: new signage.

- 8 New grounds and Village signage.
- 9 New porcelain toilets (6) in washrooms.
- 10 New chlorinator.
- 11 New hot water tanks (6) for volunteer showers.
- 12 New Volunteer Showers (6).
- 13 Electrical upgrades at Gate 2.
- 14 Centennial Building: new roof and skylights.
- 15 Phase 1 of new metal corrals in rodeo area.
- 16 Heritage Building: new overhead door at east end.
- 17 Pump house near Dining Hall built.
- 18 New improved loading dock with three levels to load/unload equipment built.
- 19 Gate 4 road widened to accommodate two lanes.
- 20 New floor in north end of Combine Shed 2
- 21 Site preparation for east side roof extension of the Threshing Machine shed

**It's time to
RENEW your
MEMBERSHIP !**

New Community Partnerships

- 1 Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club Ham Radio students (provided with MAM passes)
- 2 Prairie Ripples Art Club – MAM participated in the annual Art Tour with 9 volunteers demonstrating heritage crafts.

2017 Calendar of Events

- March 17th - Sponsor Appreciation
- March 18th - Town Hall Meeting – Austin Hall
- March 18th - Annual General Meeting – Austin Hall
- May 12th - Manitoba Day
- May 14th - Mother's Day Quilt Show
- May to June - Hands-On School Tours
- May 27th-28th - Work Weekend
- June 6th - Seniors' Day
- June 18th - Father's Day
- July 8th-9th or 15th-16th - Work Weekend
- July 27-30th - Threshermen's Reunion & Stampede
- August 12th - Put-Away Day
- September 17th - Open Farm Day
- September 23-24th - Work Weekend
- September 24th - Curiosities & Collectibles Flea Mkt
- September 30th - Last Day Village is Open for 2017
- December 2nd - Christmas Party
- December TBA - Winter Wonderland

Newsletter

Members who currently receive the newsletter through the mail are now required to notify the Office if you wish to continue to receive the newsletter.

The next newsletter will ONLY be mailed if the Office has received your request in person, by phone or email.

Another option is to receive the newsletter by email. Please contact the Office before the June newsletter is distributed. Thank You !

2016 Volunteer Hours

If you haven't yet submitted your Volunteer Hours for 2016, please do so as soon. It's very important that Volunteer hours are documented each year.



Horsepower

The horsepower group managed to have teams at two of the three Winter Wonderland weekends; the final weekend being quite busy. We also had a team at the Louis Riel Day activities. A wagon was pulled out to accommodate the warmer weather.

Some of the guys are working at repairing horsepower equipment and/or improving existing equipment.

If anyone has any John Deere horse equipment they would like displayed at the upcoming Reunion please feel free to contact any of the horsepower people.

Heather Manns

Special Strategic Initiatives Town Hall Meeting March 18th

Over the last 18 months, the Museum has been reviewing our organization and imagining what the future could hold. This effort has resulted in an Institutional Plan to help us set goals and prioritize projects for the coming years. Conducted by Stantec Consulting, the report also includes a conceptual vision of what a new four-season visitor center could look like.

A special public town hall meeting to review and discuss the Museum's long term plans will be held in advance of the MAM AGM on March 18, 2017. Please see below for event details.

Input and participation from Museum members into the planning process is vital to ensuring the organization is prepared for the future. We look forward to hearing your feedback on how to grow the Museum!

Where: Austin Community Hall

When: Doors open 10am. Project presentation at 10:30am. Q & A session to follow.

2016 Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Agricultural Museum

Saturday, March 18, 2017 - Austin Community Hall
Registration starts at 12:30 pm - Meeting Starts at 1:30 pm

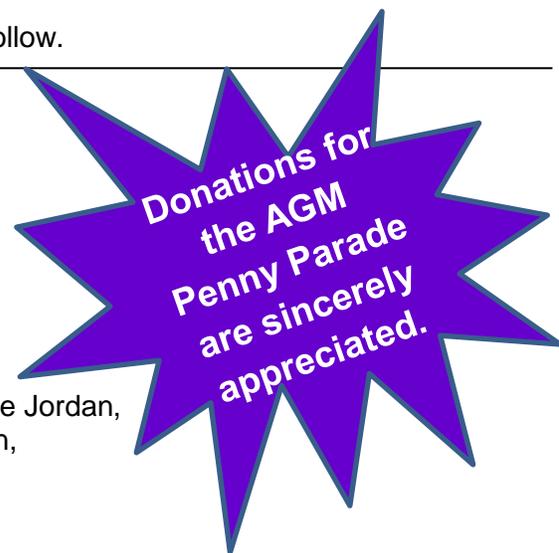
Current Board Members

Robert Beamish, Alex Campbell, Bruce Black, Cory Christison, Bill Fleury, Dave Jordan, Glenn Lennox, Brad Moorehead, Dwayne Moorehead, Dennis Pohl, Ray Tolton, Brent Wilcox, Alternate – Sara Oakley.

Terms Expiring

Alex Campbell, Bruce Black, Dave Jordan, Glenn Lennox, Sara Oakley.

MAM requires individuals for four 3-year terms, and one Alternate position. If you require more information regarding a Board position, please contact any of the current Board members or the Office at 204-637-2354.



Threshermen's Reunion & Stampede

I hope everyone is enjoying the last days of winter; plans for this year's Reunion and John Deere Expo are well underway – it is going to be another amazing show !

Live entertainment, the Corn & Barley Corral, Clyde show, Village happenings, Reunion Ladies Activities, Petting Zoo, daily Parade, Rodeo

and many other activities are among the many reasons our visitors attend Reunion each year ! Add in fantastic food and good friends, and you'll create memories that will last forever.

We'll celebrate Canada's 150th birthday on Sunday; join us on the last day of Reunion to make it a party everyone will remember ! By the way, if you have a great idea for an activity to commemorate Canada's 150th on July 30th, contact the office.

Check out the Reunion website www.mtrs.ca periodically; more details will be added as they become available. In the meantime, see photos from past Reunions. It's about 150 days until Reunion – July will be here before we know it !

Dwayne Moorehead
Reunion Chairman

BIG ROY Update

At the 2017 Ag Days held in Brandon on January 17-19, 2017, exhibitors were encouraged to bring a nostalgic item and have it on display in their booth to commemorate 40 years of Ag Days Show Excellence. 1st Place went to Versatile for bringing Big Roy to the Show. The Museum was thrilled that Versatile chose to donate their \$1,000 prize to the Manitoba Agricultural Museum – and Ag Days matched it – so the Museum received \$2,000 towards Big Roy's new Home Building. THANK YOU Versatile and Ag Days !



A promotional photo of Big Roy taken after the Versatile Company returned the tractor to its "as built" condition during the winter of 2015 / 2016. The Versatile Company approached the Manitoba Agricultural Museum with an offer to restore the tractor and the Museum agreed. In the fall of 2015, Versatile transported the tractor to its Winnipeg plant where the tractor was originally built. Over the winter of 2015 / 2016 the tractor was disassembled, various components repaired, reassembled and the tractor repainted to the factory paint scheme that it originally possessed. The Manitoba Agricultural Museum deeply appreciates the effort, work and dedication Versatile and its employees displayed in returning Big Roy to pristine condition. Big Roy – a true Manitoba treasure!

Photo credit: Versatile Company

**DEADLINE for June 2017 Newsletter
submissions is Friday, June 2, 2017**

The Last Word

With the first two months of 2017 almost behind us, we look forward to an exciting year at the Museum ! Our first event for the year, Louis Riel Day Celebration was held this week with very warm weather, lights in the Village, horse-drawn wagon rides and the scent of bannock cooking over the fire ! Thanks to our volunteers who helped with the event !

Our calendar will be a busy one this year with many events and activities occurring. We're partnering with the community of Austin for their Canada 150 Celebration weekend; with a number of activities planned at the Museum on Monday, July 3rd. Come help us pitch a few sheaves !

Can you knit a mitten? Darn a sock? Braid a rug? Spin wool? Make jam? We'll be offering lessons for these and other heritage crafts – deemed "women's work" in 1867 – over the next few months. Contact the Office if you're interested, or to inquire about other heritage crafts and activities.

The Museum is a great place to be! We look forward to welcoming our volunteers and visitors for another great year!

Georgette Hutlet, Executive Director