



MAM News

February
2018

The Newsletter of the Manitoba Agricultural Museum

President's Message

Upcoming Annual AGM

The new year brings a review of the year past and a renewed sense of the year ahead. The annual general meeting will be the first membership event of the year, a chance to sit with fellow volunteers and catch up, and actively listen to and discuss the issues affecting the museum. Attendance and participation from the membership is important and valued by the directors and staff. We hope that you can find time in your busy schedules to attend and stay up to date with the museum. The AGM will be held at the Austin Hall on Saturday, March 17. Registration starts at 12:30 and the meeting will be at 1:30.

Governance & Operations

The board of directors has been working diligently over the last few months to ensure our constitutional by-law and governance model reflect current best practices of non-profits. The proposed bylaw changes will be presented to the membership at the March AGM for their input. According to museum practice, the proposed changes will not take effect until they are presented to the membership at a second members meeting and voted on. To ensure the most opportunity for member input, the second meeting will occur during the week of the Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede. We look forward to your input!

2018 Board of Directors Nominations

As per the museum by-law, four board of director positions are up for election every year. Through its call for nominations in November 2017, the Nominating Committee received four applications. As the number of nominated candidates does not exceed the number of available positions, an election will not be held. The board is pleased to welcome the following new member volunteers to the Board of Directors: Diane Rourke, Rosana Neufeld, Michel Simeons, and Robert Smith. A sincere thank you is extended to the following out-going board members for their service, dedication and contribution

over the past term: Cory Christison, Gerry Currie, Dennis Pohl, and Glenn Lennox.

IT/computer Upgrades

An assessment of the museum's computer, networking, and internet access capacity was completed in late fall 2017. As a result, the board approved the upgrade and enhancement of the computer workstations, operating system, computer networking, and storage functions.

Volunteer Campground

The campground committee co-chairs, Darin Smith and I, have been working closely with Ignite Associates to create an online portal for member volunteers. This will provide a faster, more reliable way to reserve campsites and renew memberships while decreasing administrative costs and time requirements through the office to process annual campground and membership renewals. The new portal will include these features:

- Online Memberships – a self-serve application for new and renewal memberships with payment capability.
- Online Volunteer Campground Renewal – a convenient way to renew and pay for reserved campsites in areas A to D. Members with unreserved volunteer campsites can pay annual camping fees through the online system.
- Online Public Campground Reservations – a simple and intuitive way for visitors to search, book and pay for public campsites throughout the entire season
- Electronic payment capability using credit card or PayPal
- Email confirmations for volunteers and the office
- Member engagement for volunteer opportunities and enhanced electronic volunteer communications

Watch for the public launch in early March 2018!

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome Anais Biernat as our Executive Director & Curator as of April 2018. She has educational background and experience in the museum field with organizational and administrative skills for this position. She has worked in conservation, collections, exhibitions, education and interpretation. Welcome Anais!

Angie Klym
MAM President

Manitoba Agricultural Museum

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2018 Calendar of Events

Feb 19	Louis Riel Day	Jul 26-29	64 th Annual Threshermen's Reunion & Stampede
Mar 16	Sponsor Appreciation Luncheon	Aug 11	Tractor Put-Away Day
Mar 17	Annual General Meeting (Austin Hall)	Aug 25	Heritage Harvest Festival
May 12	Manitoba Day	Sep 16	Open Farm Day
May 13	Mother's Day Quilt Show	Sep 22-23	Fall Work Weekend
May 14-Jun 22	Hands-On School Tours	Sep 23	Curiosities & Collectibles Flea Market
May 26-27	Spring Work Weekend	Sep 30	Last open day for Village in 2018
Jun 5	Seniors' Day	Dec ??	Winter Wonderland
Jul 7-8, 14-15	Summer Work Weekends		

T&E Tractor Talk: 1938 Graham Bradley

Last summer, the Museum received a 1938 Graham Bradley tractor from George and Lorna Webster of Lac du Bonnet. Not only is it a somewhat rare machine, with a unique production history, it also has a strong Manitoba connection, with full history of its past use and ownership. It is complete and running, including the often-misplaced side panels, with only a few repairs required. George writes:

“My dad George Webster Sr. bought the Graham Bradley from Consolidated Motors on Main Street in Winnipeg. He bought it in partnership with my grandpa James Webster. The Bradley was purchased during the spring/summer of 1938. The dealership had a salesperson drive out from Winnipeg to the farm at Sperling. According to my father he arrived in a little over one hour. The Bradley had a very high-speed road gear, very unusual for the era. I am not sure what was paid for the Bradley, but I think \$1,750 was the purchase price. The Bradley was used through the Second World War to farm five quarter sections of land in the immediate area of my grandpa and my father's farms in the Sperling area. My dad and his two brothers would shift work on the Bradley. One would get off the tractor, the replacement would fuel it up, get on and go back to work. The Bradley would hardly cool off. They did the seeding and all farm work with the Bradley. It was the only tractor they had. It has worn out numerous sets of tires and at some point, the rear tires were up-sized for traction and I assume better ground speed. It has had a couple of valve jobs and possibly



one re-ring. I do not believe the rod bearings have ever been changed in it. The rear differential has never been touched. Prior to going to the museum, it had not been started for 15 years. I put a battery in it and some gas and then tried to start it. It started up almost immediately. I then pressure washed the 15 years of collected crud off it. When the transport from the museum arrived, we put the ramps onto the trailer and I drove a 79-year-old tractor onto the trailer under its own power. My wife and I were very sad to see it go but we knew it was my dad's wishes that it go to the Austin museum where it would remain as a functional unit. He knew there were almost no tractors like this in Canada and only a handful in the US. We were fully in agreement for it to go to the museum.”

In 1937, Sears-Roebuck decided to add tractors to their mail order catalogue and retail stores and approached the Graham Paige automobile company to build a tractor for them. The Bradley garden tractor company assisted with the design, thus the tractor name. Rated at 25 drawbar horsepower, it used a six-cylinder 217 cubic inch Graham Paige car engine, built by Continental. The remainder of the tractor was designed by Graham Paige and, for the time, was quite advanced. It came standard with starter and lights, cushioned seat, four-speed transmission, a 20-mph road gear and steering brakes. All gauges and controls were grouped on a styled dash panel. One of the first tractors to be “streamlined,” its appearance was reminiscent of the sporty cars Graham Paige was known for. An unusual feature is that the belt pulley is driven from the transmission output shaft, and the differential is disengaged for belt work; this provided four speeds and reverse for the pulley. Unfortunately, Sears decided to stop selling tractors after only about 2,000 were built, and Graham Paige ceased production in 1939. Today, Graham Bradley's are quite rare, and this one even more so, being a “wheatland” model rather than the usual row crop; fewer than 30 may exist.