



MAM News

The Newsletter of the Manitoba Agricultural Museum

December
2018
Edition

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some say time can move quickly and “fly by”—that certainly seems true as we head into the last month of the year and, of course, the holiday season. As we hustle to prepare for various holiday festivities, it is important to take time to pause, reflect, and celebrate our accomplishments to recharge for the year ahead.

The summer months were particularly busy at the museum. In July, we provided over 11,000 visitors at the 64th Manitoba Thresherman's Reunion and Stampede (MTRS) with amazing experiences of prairie lifestyles. The following month, we hosted the Heritage Harvest Festival with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, welcoming over 300 visitors, harvesting 4,100 bushels of wheat with antique equipment, raising \$22,000 in an effort to end global hunger, and continuing MAM's work to preserve rural Manitoba heritage.

As we shifted back into our winter hours, we said goodbye to our summer staff: Heather Biertnick (Office and MTRS Administration) and summer students Josh Campbell, Madeline Campbell, and Keenan Zander. We wish to thank them for their dedication and support for our programming and many special events throughout the summer and fall. Our yard foreman Tom Lehockey has also shifted to winter hours after a busy spring, summer, and fall.

You may not see it on the ground, but the Board of Directors and staff continue to work hard behind the scenes to move our organization forward in 2019. Many hours continue to be spent reviewing existing policies, documentation, and processes to ensure the museum's administration is up-to-date with current not-for-profit requirements. In November, six Directors attended a day-long seminar with presentations focused on risk management. Meanwhile, Director nominations are being accepted for the 2019–2022 term. If you are interested in joining the museum's Board of Directors, please contact nomination chair Diane Rourke (agmuseum-elections@mymts.net) with any questions or information requests.

One of the real joys this holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you to all our volunteers for the most precious gift you share—your time! Your volunteer efforts make our programs and events a resounding success. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our best wishes for a

wonderful holiday season and a 2019 filled with peace and happiness.

Angie Klym, MAM President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2018 has been a busy year at the museum. With limited staff at the beginning of the year, everyone pitched in to ensure a successful season for the museum and another incredible Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion & Stampede. Over the four days of this 64th edition, we welcomed over 11,000 visitors and we are ready for a new challenge next year for our 65th edition. But the MTRS is not the only event that took place in 2018. Many programming activities took place to provide amazing visitor experiences to guests of diverse backgrounds and ages. For Louis Riel Day, Manitoba Day and our Mother's Day Quilt Show we have seen visitors from all generations. Despite a rainy (and even snowy!) month of September, we held our Curiosities & Collectibles Flea Market and Open Farm Day. Our Hands-on School Programs introduced Pioneer life to over 700 students and their chaperons while custom-designed tours were offered to a diversity of groups including CNIB, German visitors or even representatives from the Canadian Farm Writers Association. We are looking forward to keep offering a variety of programming opportunities for new visitors to enjoy what the Manitoba Agricultural Museum has to offer in 2019.

The museum is also working towards financial stability with the creation of a new endowment fund through the Manitoba Heritage Trust Program. Until March 2021, donations put towards this fund will be stretched by the province of Manitoba, which means that a \$2 donation can be turned in \$3 in the endowment fund. We are currently working towards next year's budget and it is exciting to think about what is in the works for the new year.

But first things first, let's end 2018 with lots of fun, lights and smiles with Winter Wonderland. This family event is a great way to celebrate the holiday season with loved ones in a beautiful setting. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

From the staff of the Manitoba Agricultural Museum to your family, happy holidays!

Anaïs Biernat, MAM Executive Director

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

The Museum is always looking for volunteers to support its activities.

Louis Riel Day

(February 18, 2019 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm)

This is a great time to enjoy the museum, featuring craft and outdoor activities.

- Set up and clean up
- Food sales
- Craft and activities support

Hands-on School Programs (May-June 2019)

Hands-on school programs are a great way to reach younger generations visiting us with their schools! The programs immerse students in Pioneer life with engaging activities. We are always looking for new volunteer-interpreters for these programs. Training will be provided, it is a great way to learn more about Homestead skills and techniques and to develop communication skills! If you are more comfortable with “behind the scenes” we are always looking for assistants and volunteers to help set up and clean up as well!

- Set up and clean up
- Interpretation: bakers, assistant bakers, threshers, blacksmiths, storekeepers, candle makers, laundry makers, school teachers, yarn spinners and more!

History of Harvesting Display

The Interpretation Committee is looking for support to help create the future History of Harvesting display.

COLLECTIONS' WORK

As a museum, our priority is always the care, preservation, and access of our collections. To do this, we need your help. We are currently in the process of reviewing our practices and policies and would like to ask you, our members, for information and background to help us with the inventory of the museum's collections.

If you or someone you know has removed museum artifacts or property from the grounds, with or without authorization from the office, please contact me (agmuseum-curator@mymts.net). This will ensure that our records from when the museum underwent staff and volunteer transitions in the past year can be kept up-to-date. We want to review our files to identify any gaps with paperwork not yet submitted. Maintaining accurate records of the artifacts is imperative.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers who take the time to work on the restoration and care of our collections. The museum would not be what it is without the incredible work you do!

CONTRIBUTE TO MAM'S FINANCIAL STABILITY

The Museum has partnered with North Norfolk Foundation to establish a permanently-endowed Manitoba Heritage Trust Fund to support our work. Until March 31, 2021, the Province of Manitoba will stretch all gifts to this fund. Every \$2 given during this period has the potential to be stretched by an additional \$1. This means a gift of \$2 becomes \$3.

You can give online and get more information on how the provincial stretch works by following this link:

https://wpgfdn.mycharitytools.com/?pageId=d_fund&fundId=906

MTRS REPORT

What a great year! A hug “Thank you” to all the volunteers for your continued time and effort! Overall net profit to date is \$140,711 with 11,400 visitors and participants.

The MTRS Committee is excited about the upcoming 65th celebration of the Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede. It is truly the commitment of the volunteers that bring the museum to life during the event. We would like to highlight our volunteers both in the visitor guide and during the daily parade. If you or your family would like to participate, please submit a short story and or photo (approximately 100 words) to the office.

Plans are on the way to maintain the high level of visitor experience and enhance many of the area activities. Booking of vendors and entertainment are in process and plans for special daily activities are being developed.

The theme of next year's MTRS will be “Farming in 1954”. The Expo area will serve as host to three main equipment lines, targeting 1954 John Deere, Case, and International. A fourth area will be set up to incorporate all other pieces of equipment from that era. Please contact Darin Smith (204-781-7905 or darin204@hotmail.ca) for further information.

Please mark your calendar July 25-28, 2019 – the 65th Anniversary of MTRS.

Hope to see everyone there!

Gerry Currie
Chair, MTRS Committee

STATIONARY ENGINE SCHOOL SPRING 2019

In order to help those looking to get into the hobby of restoring antique stationary engines, the Museum will be hosting the first annual Stationary Engine School this spring! The event, which is slated to happen in June in

conjunction with Steam School, will cover a lot of important topics related to the theory, repair and operation of stationary gas engines, including:

- valve, ignition, and combustion theory
- carburetor, mixer, and fuel pump theory
- safety and maintenance practices
- hands-on engine teardowns, with tips and tricks along the way

In addition, entrance fees include meals and camping on the museum grounds for Friday and Saturday nights. The course is open to museum members and non-members alike.

If you are interested in getting to know a bit more about these unique machines (and the tractors they led to), please contact the museum office or Erron Leafloor (erron.leafloor@gmail.com), and we will provide more information on date, agenda and cost as it comes available.

65TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO UPDATE

As most of you know, Ron and Brenda Samchuk (Samtronics Video) have volunteered their time and energy for nearly 30 years to produce over two dozen videos that are for sale at the Museum. This has resulted in thousands of dollars of revenue for the Museum.

Next year, 2019 will be the 65th anniversary for the Museum, and plans are being made to produce a video to commemorate this special occasion. In the meantime, it would be great to be able to include vintage photographs and possibly old movie films that may have been taken years ago at the Thresherman's Reunion. If you or someone you know has any of that kind of material, please contact the Samchuks so that it can become part of the commemorative video. Photos would be scanned and movies copied, and all would be returned to the rightful owner. In addition, credit would be given on screen to indicate the source.

During the 2019 reunion, Ron and Brenda would like to interview anyone willing to talk about the background and history surrounding the Museum. It would also be nice to hear from family members who have had a long time association with the Museum. We ask you to think about or recommend persons who could contribute in that way towards the production of the 65th anniversary video. Fond memories and personal stories from the past are the kind of things that add so much interest to a video of this nature.

Because most of the interviews would likely be done during the 2019 Reunion in late July, the video itself would not be completed until a later date. Photographs and movies could also be handed over to the Samchuks

at the Reunion, but it would help greatly to receive the material prior to that time. So the call is out to anyone and everyone who can assist Ron and Brenda in any way towards completing this project.

Contact information is as follows:

Ron and Brenda Samchuk
Samtronics Video
Box 454, Birtle, Manitoba, R0M 0C0
Phone (204) 842-5342
Email: samvideo@mynetset.ca.

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Manitoba Agricultural Museum is presently calling for Nominations for Board Directors for the three year term of March 2019 to March 2022. There are four board positions to be filled.

Members interested in serving on the Board of Directors may contact the board's Nominating Committee by emailing agmuseum-elections@mymts.net with any questions or information requests on the roles and responsibilities of board members. Members of the 2018 Nominating Committee are Diane Rourke, Rosana Neufeld, Michel Simmons and Robert Smith.

Nominations must include a resume or 400-word biography, picture, and a completed nomination form, which members can request by emailing agmuseum-elections@mymts.net.

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 18 Louis Riel Day - Outdoor activities held between 10:00 – 4:00 pm. Spend Louis Riel Day at the Museum ... we'll be turning on the light show in the Homesteaders' Village; travel through the Village on a horse-drawn sleigh (weather permitting)! We will have hot dogs and hot chocolate available; and for a cultural treat, we will be serving our special Museum bannock with jams and jellies made from produce grown on the Museum grounds. It will be a fun family day – Everyone Welcome!

May 12 Manitoba Day AND Mother's Day Quilt Show

May 13-June Hands-On School Tours

June 4 Senior's Day

June 16 Father's Day

June ?? Stationary Engine School

July 25-28 65th Annual Threshermen's Reunion & Stampede

September 15 Open Farm Day

September 27-29 Culture Days

December 13-15, 20-22 Winter Wonderland