



The Military History Society of Manitoba

PO Box 131 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2G1

Military History Society of Manitoba

Annual Report 2010

March 10, 2011

General Remarks

The Society was successful in gaining new ground with many of the various heritage groups within the Province.

The Legion House Museum's exposure was also enhanced by the support given by Royal Canadian Legion Norwood St. Boniface Branch #43. The Branch enabled the Society to host a special event on Manitoba Day which resulted in the recognition of the Museum in the Manitoba Legislature.

The opening of a Website on the world-wide web will bring greater awareness of the activities of the Society.

Board of Directors

The following served on the Board of Directors for 2010:

Bruce Tascona	President
Grant Tyler	Vice President and Past President
Gordon Crossley	Secretary
Pam Darling	Treasurer
Alan Parkin	Director
Dennis Puranen	Director

Camp Hughes Project

The "Friends of Camp Hughes" met several times in 2010. Two members from the Society sit on the Board of the "Friends of Camp Hughes". Mr. Grant Tyler sits as Chairman of this Committee and Mr. Bruce Tascona sits on this Board. "The Friends of Camp Hughes" is jointly run by the Municipal of North Cypress and the Town of Carberry.

The highlight of this committee was to secure funding and negotiate a land use agreement with the Natural Resources Branch, Province of Manitoba. The Friends of Camp Hughes will have the use of the Camp Hughes Provincial Heritage site for a 10 week period from late June to early September of each year. The development of this heritage site will be ongoing with 2011 with public access occurring this year.

At the time of writing of this report the Society has not heard from the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board whether Camp Hughes will be designated a heritage site. The application for designation was started in 2009.

The Archives/Library

The Archives received 92 research requests. The Archives was able to assist 23 students from JH Bruns High in their genealogy project on members of the 44th Battalion CEF. The information provided to the school project was the use of the the CEF Sailing Lists indicating which draft, next of kin, port of departure and date of sailing.

A request from Michael Parkin on his Northwest Police Project was also received and resources provided for his heritage project.



Michael Parkin and his heritage project

The archives/library received and accession over 353 books, photographs and documents in 2010 into the collection. Special recognition to the Manitoba/Northwest Provincial Command Royal Canadian Legion for donating a large book collection.

Legion House Museum

The Legion house Museum is located on the 2nd Floor of the Norwood/St. Boniface Branch #43 of the Royal Canadian Legion, 134 Marion Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Military History Society of Manitoba is indebted to the support given by this Branch in allowing the Museum to operate.

Bruce Tascona is the Director of the Legion House Museum.

A special thanks to the following volunteers who have made all of the projects of the Museum a success: Pam Darling, Jason Darling, Alan Parkin, Myron Pociuk, Dennis Puranen, Patrick Tascona, Paul Tascona, Grant Tyler.

Museum Activities:

- The Museum was opened 89 days in 2010. Volunteer hours number over 900
- The satellite exhibit on Camp Hughes at the Carberry town library was removed in August, 2010.
- A Special Exhibit on the 125th Anniversary of the Northwest Canada Rebellion of 1885. It was opened on Manitoba Day May 12. The opening of this event had nearly 100 people in attendance, including Ms Bonnie Korzeniowski, MLA for military affairs Province of Manitoba. Below is a member statement in the Manitoba Legislature

* (14:50) June 9, 2010 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA 2855

Military History Society Legion House Museum

Ms. Bonnie Korzeniowski (St. James): Madam Deputy Speaker, preserving the history of our province is a paramount duty that will allow future generations to learn from our mistakes and successes. This duty becomes even more imperative when the history at stake is the military history of our soldiers. To ensure the deeds of our soldiers are never forgotten, the dedicated staff of the Military History Society of Manitoba diligently maintains the Legion House Museum.

Located on the second floor of the Royal Canadian Legion Norwood/St. Boniface Branch No. 43, this small-scale museum houses a great deal of history. Museum visitors can sample permanent exhibits depicting Canada's battles in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, particularly highlighting Manitobans and the participation of units from the province. The museum also houses an archives and library collection including a wide variety of military history books and the extensive embarkation lists of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which includes over 400,000 names. Anyone looking to find out about a long-lost relative who had served in the force can approach the museum for use of this data base.

The museum hosts various rotating temporary exhibits from personal collections and on loan from other museums. I was able to see a particularly sombre piece of military history during my visit to the museum: the uniform of Corporal James Hayward Arnal, who died in Afghanistan in 2008 after he was struck by an improvised explosive device. James belonged to the 2nd Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Shilo. His uniform was donated to the museum by James's mother, Wendy Hayward, who graciously agreed to share her memories of her son with the rest of us.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I encourage all members to visit the Legion House Museum and learn of Manitoba's military history. I would also like to thank the dedicated members of the Military History Society of Manitoba and, in particular, Mr. Bruce Tascona. The society is a non-profit organization that aims to collect information about military culture and history and promote the study of military history in our province. Thank you

- Visitors from France May 18 toured the Museum
- May 31-June 5, 2010, one delegate attended the Organization of Military Museum of Canada Museum Conference at Sydney Nova Scotia.
- June 12-15, The National Convention of the Royal Canadian Legion is held in Winnipeg, legion visitors from all over Canada visit the Museum.
- The Museum provides a temporary exhibit "184th Battalion CEF" for the Darlingford Memorial Service July 4, 2010. Over 125 people are in attendance and view the exhibit.



Darlingford War Memorial

The Darlingford War Memorial a unique chapel and lovely grounds designated a Provincial Heritage Site in 1992, holds the names of over 200 men and women from Darlingford and area who answered the call to arms in two World Wars. An outdoor service is held annually on the first Sunday in July. In 1920, a grand old man named Ferris Bolton donated some land close by the Darlingford School for a memorial site. He chose this site so all the children would see and memorize the words "Lest We Forget" as they walked to and from school. Ferris Bolton planted three Spruce trees to remember his three sons who died in WW1.

- July 21, visitors from France toured the Museum
- Legion Week September 20-25
- October 22/23 Presentation the Provincial Command Executive Royal Canadian Legion.
- Veterans Week November 2-November 11.

Museum Donations

The Legion House Museum would like to thank the following who have donated artefacts to the Museum in 2010:

- Mrs Maggie Smith
- Jack Templeman
- Dennis Puranen
- Martin Wenzel
- Royal Winnipeg Rifles Museum
- Royal Canadian Legion Beausejour Branch
- Provincial Command Royal Canadian Legion Manitoba/Northwest Ontario
- Mrs. Vera Sigurdson
- Troy McCann
- Myron Pociuk
- Mrs. Terry Somerset
- Stella Dreger
- Sandra Graham

Member News

Murray Burt has published the Winnipeg's Ladies from Hell"—the History of Queen's own Cameron Highlanders of Canada. Congratulations!

Gordon Crossley has managed to establish the Society's Website. Thank you

<http://www.mhsm.ca>

Fundraising

The following organizations and individuals should be recognized for donating to our Society as a result of a late 2009/10 fundraising effort. The funds were earmarked for the Manitoba Day exhibit and for the purchase of 4 digital picture frames:

- Ms. Lucille Blanchette
- Royal Canadian Legion Norwood/St. Boniface Branch
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch Russell Branch
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch Hartney Branch
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch Churchill Branch
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch Pine Falls



Rifle Regiments Exhibit of the Northwest Canadian Rebellion 1885, May 12, 2011