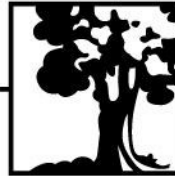


# MANITOBA MENNONITE

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY



600 Shaftesbury Boulevard, Winnipeg Manitoba R3P 0M4, [www.mmhs.org](http://www.mmhs.org)

### **President's report to MMHS Annual General Meeting**

In 1958 Gerhard Ens wrote a letter inviting people to a meeting at which the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society was born. Now, 50 years later the Society has celebrated its past years with three celebratory events. The Mennonite Heritage Village museum in Steinbach grew out of the society so it too was celebrated in this year together with MMHS.

The first celebration was held in Winnipeg as part of the annual general meeting. Papers were presented on the origins of the society and the visions of its founders. On June 22 at the Mennonite Heritage Village, a worship service was held. Choirs from a Hutterite colony and the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church mass choir sang. On November 21, a third event was held in Winkler that consisted of an evening of Mennonite circle games. These events were covered in *Heritage Posting*, *Altona Echo*, *Canadian Mennonite*, *Mennonitische Post* and *Village News*.

This year's executive included Hans Werner (secretary), Eleanor Chornoboy (member at large), Ken Reddig (vice-president) and Bert Friesen (treasurer) and Conrad Stoesz. The board members serving on your behalf include Jake E. Peters (Local History), Alf Redekopp (Genealogy), Marianne Janzen, Lawrence Klippenstein (Membership and Publicity), Evelyn Friesen, Abe Ens (Historic Sites and Monuments), Hans Werner (Publication and Marketing), Anna Ens. Lawrence Klippenstein and Abe Dueck have served as the nominating committee. Thank you for your commitment and work this past year serving MMHS and its constituency.

This past year I have encouraged committees to actively look for 1 or 2 new people to join in the work and fellowship that takes place on our MMHS committees. I encourage you to consider getting involved and volunteering on a committee. MMHS needs to increase its membership depth and so I also encourage you to promote the society and its work in your local networks.

This year the executive and board have worked at establishing a nominating committee early in the process, some by-law changes which would bring the minimum number of board members down from 12 to 9. The maximum of 18 would stay the same. We have also spent time discussing how to encourage growth in the society. A project the executive has looked at is the creation of short instructional DVDs using scripts and still images. A test theme is Mennonite immigration to Manitoba.

Our newsletter, *Heritage Posting*, was edited by Susan and Gilbert Brandt and Bert Friesen with the last two issues edited by guest editor Lawrence Klippenstein. In past years Ted Barg of Winnipeg has offered his services providing the layout of the

paper. Putting together a paper such as *Heritage Posting* is a big undertaking and I thank all those involved including editors, layout, contributors, and photographers. In 2009 *Heritage Posting* will be edited by Adolf Ens and Lawrence Klippenstein and will focus more keenly on society events and news. It will be published 3 times in 2009. Discussion has taken place about *Heritage Posting* becoming an online only newsletter, but at this time the board felt a paper publication was preferable. We are looking for an editor for 2010.

Good work continues in the committees. Local History and Genealogy being the most active. Our association with the East Menn committee, that has grown out of the Hanover Steinbach Historical Society, continues to grow. MMHS is also represented on the Human rights committee, and and MMHS' Conscientious objector's committee continues to work with the Evangelical Anabaptist Fellowship (EAF) promoting the establishment of markers to the conscientious objectors through the Power of Peace programs.

As president I have represented the society at the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada meetings held in January 2009 in Montreal and at the Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan AGM where I spoke in March.

Thank you for your support of the society and look forward to more society activities in the future.

Conrad Stoesz  
MMHS president  
March 20, 2009.