



Military History Society of Manitoba Inc.

Annual General Meeting

March 07, 2012 1930hrs

Legion House Museum

2nd Floor

134 Marion Winnipeg

President's Report

Respectfully Submitted Bruce Tascona

General Remarks

The year 2011 was a very successful for the Military History Society of Manitoba. The major projects namely the Camp Hughes project and the Legion House Museum were very successful. Fundraising reached a high note as a result of building bridges with the Royal Canadian Legion and with the general public.

The Society's Board of Directors is as follows:

President	Bruce Tascona
Vice-President	Grant Tyler
Secretary	Gordon Crossley
Treasurer	Pam Darling
Directors	Alan Parkin
	Dennis Puranen

One major concern is the need to expand the Society's membership. Membership is critical to ensure a steady group of volunteers to serve on various committees.

Fundraising was quite successful with several branches of the Royal Canadian Legion making donations. The Norwood St. Branch #43 in particular has made a commitment to support the Museum on an annual basis. Three individuals made donations to the Society.

Below are some of the activities:

The Camp Hughes Project:

Friends of Camp Hughes Committee FOCH

Bruce Tascona and Grant Tyler sit on The Friends of Camp Hughes Committee (FOCH). They met four times with FOCH in 2011. One major achievement was to finalized details of a land use plan with the current lease holder of the site. What was achieved in 2011 was that the Trench area was fenced in with limited use—essentially preserving the trenches. The main agreement will be that the General Public will now able to visit the Site in July and August.

The General Public now can visit the site in the summer will be able to safely walk and interpret the Trenches. A self guided tour map with interpretation was developed by the Society is available on the website www.mhsm.ca

National Historic Site Designation

In July, 2011 a letter received from the National Historic and Monument Board confirming the Society's efforts that Camp Hughes is now a National Historic Site. Camp Hughes in 1994 was made a Provincial Heritage Site. (See Appendix "A")

Camp Hughes Heritage Day October 2, 2011

On October 2, 2011 Camp Hughes Heritage Day was held—approximately 300 members of the general public participated in the event.

An orientation tent was provided for static exhibits. The following Society members participated:

- The Society provided an exhibit on archaeological artefacts found at the Site.
- The Royal Winnipeg Rifles Museum provided an exhibit on that regiment's part in WWI and a Vickers 303 Machine Gun.
- Mr. Darcy Hickson provided a postmark exhibit on Sewell Camp and Camp Hughes.
- Mr. Ed James provided an exhibit on the material culture of the trench warfare.

Guided Tours were provided by Bruce Tascona, Grant Tyler and Mr Mark George of the RCA Museum. Approximately 250 took part in the tours.

Four interpretations stations were conducted by members of the Society:

- Mr. Mitchell Tyler presented the "**Bell Tent and basic rifle drill** " at Camp Hughes.
- Mr. Paul Tascona presented the "**The Regimental Aid Post and Medical conditions**" at Camp Hughes."
- Mr. Patrick Tascona presented the "**Signalling Training and the Trench Communications**" at Camp Hughes.
- Mr. Jason Darling presented "**Trench Clearing Drill at Camp Hughes**".

The Volunteers that are to be thanked are as follows: Mr. Larry Blair, Ms Lucille Blanchette, Ms. Pam Darling, Jason Darling, Mr. Ed James, Mr Darcy Hickson, Mr. Alan Parkin, Mr. Dennis Puranen, Mr. Bruce Tascona, Mr. Paul Tascona, Mr. Patrick Tascona , Mr. Grant Tyler, Mr. Mitchell Tyler, Mr. Lee Woods and Mr. Gerry Woodman.



Mitchell Tyler



Paul Tascona



Patrick Tascona



Jason Darling



Artefacts found at Camp Hughes



Mitchell and Grant Tyler



Ed James Exhibit



Darcy Hickson Post Card Exhibit



Jason Darling, Paul Tascona, Patrick and Bruce Tascona
Ed James

Legion House Museum

The total days that the Museum was opened was **72 Days** in 2011 resulting in **896 volunteers' hours.**

- Six tours were given to approximately 120 visitors.
- The Museum participated in several events linked with the Royal Canadian Legion.
- On May 29 2011, the Norwood St. Boniface Branch #43 held its Decoration Day, Over 200 visitors saw the Museum. The Memory Project from Toronto participated in this event.
- On August 7, 2011, the Branch held "Welcome the Afghan Veterans to The Royal Canadian Legion" The Museum was open and a static exhibit was placed on the main floor of the building.
- The Museum was opened for Legion Week in September and Veterans Week in November in 2011. 500 was the estimated number of visitors during those two weeks.

Major renovations to the Museum took place in the fall of 2011 with the objective of the Library and Archives are now opened to the General Public. The Archives Library had **172 research requests** and **accessioned 313 books, documents and photographs into the Collection**

The Museum and Archives/Library as a result of the growth has also undergone a major restructure. It is not a "one" person operation anymore—At present the positions of Director, Curator of Archaeological Artefacts, Curator of Historical Collection, Archivist/Librarian, Guided Tour Coordinator have been established. (See Appendix "B")

Donations to the Museum

In June, the Society was the recipient of a First World War uniform. The son of Private Stanley Dudenhoffer 10th Canadian Battalion CEF brought in a tunic and cap, medals, canteen, some

German shoulder boards and an Iron Cross. The tunic with all the memorabilia is a welcome addition to the Winnipeg Light Infantry Exhibit at the Museum. Initially the uniform was donated anonymously and a media search was undertaken to find the donor. It was publicized in the local newspaper. The donor was found and proper receipt was given.

As a result of the media attention this spawned a spate of donations. We received two dress sabres to members of the RCASC—one of whom was killed in an air show in June 1956 at RCAF Station Winnipeg. They are both unusual—they have the “EII” Cypher with King’s Crown.

We also received two Second World War RCAF uniforms. Also a donation of two Lt/Col uniforms to a member of 402 Squadron.

Another donation of note is a very interesting and unusual set of medals covering two wars and involving three Canadian Highland Regiments. The First War portion includes a Military Cross won by the recipient while attached to the 13th BN CEF. The recipient after the war moved to Winnipeg and was a member of the Queen’s own Cameron Highlanders of Canada until 1938 when he moved to Toronto. At the outbreak of the Second World War he enlisted as an other rank with the 48th Highlanders of Canada. He is the recipient of the 1939–45 Campaign Star along with his other campaign medals. He was forty five years of age far too old to Serve as an infanteer but served in France in June of 1940 explaining why he received that star.

List of Artefacts Donors:

Gregory Cox / Morden RCL Branch/ Mrs. T Davidson/ Mrs. Nellie Prysturpa/ Mr. Stowell / Mr. Duddenhoffer / Mr. Fillion / Mr. John Thyen / L Grywins / Ron Macrae / John Zuzanski / Charles William Taylor / Mrs. Desmet / Mr. Lancaster / Mrs. Silverthorne / Mrs. Rickner / W Stannard / Lou Ellen Jeanson / M Pociuk / Ms. S. Puranen / Ms. Pam Darling.

Concluding Remarks:

- The upcoming year’s focus should be on acquiring a larger membership base. It will be the members who ensure that work of MHSM succeeds.
- Fundraising should be continued for years to come. With government funding in decline it will be necessary to make up the shortfall.
- The Society has many allies in particular the Royal Canadian Legion. It is necessary to retain and foster better goodwill among all veteran organizations.



Report of the Vice-President for 2011 Submitted by Grant Tyler

Camp Hughes Project

During 2011 my main focus, as Vice President, has been the Camp Hughes Project. Currently I chair the Friends of Camp Hughes Committee, which is a committee of the joint council of the rural Municipality of North Cyprus and the Town of Carberry which is tasked with the management and planning and development of Camp Hughes National Historic Site. The following are some of the highlights of 2011:

Designation as National Historic Site

In the summer of 2011 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada informed the Military History Society of Manitoba that its application for NHS designation had been approved

Fencing at Camp Hughes

Barbed wire fencing was installed around the perimeter of the battalion trench system to provide for controlled access to the area for grazing etc. This work was carried out under the direction of Brad Wells, former Reeve of the RM of North Cyprus and member of the Friends committee.

Entry Agreement

A letter prepared by Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship and Provincial Crown Lands confirming access to the site was distributed to all parties. It emphasizes use of the site as a multi activity area, i.e. Heritage, grazing etc. While adequate for the time being, a formal document specifying duration is required by us to secure certain government grant funding.

Official designation and HSMBC plaque

Notification has not yet been received as to when an official announcement regarding the designation of Camp Hughes and when the plaque unveiling will take place. The Plaque text has been prepared and approved. Coordinating the plaque unveiling with the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Great War (2014) would seem sensible, however it may occur prior to that date.

Development of Interpretive Panels for Camp Hughes NHSC

We have been informed that there is a strong possibility that government funding may be available to aid in the interpretation of Camp Hughes, this in addition to the official plaque, and due to the vastness of the site. We will therefore begin development of interpretive text and

the gathering of photographs, etc for the production of these panels. The team for this project will consist of Bruce Tascona, Marc George and Grant Tyler.

Self-Guided Tours of Trench System

Posts with numbers corresponding with the stops on the self-guided tour brochure, which was prepared by Bruce Tascona, have been installed through the trench system. Committee member Graham Somers will be constructing a World War One-style sentry-box which will hold a distribution box for the brochures. This will be located on Cemetery Hill.

Camp Hughes Heritage Day 2 October 2011

The present has already provided a detailed report on the special event. I only wish to add my thanks to all who helped out and participated. It was an excellent, and well attended, event.

Next Steps

1. Begin interpretive plaque project
2. Negotiate an improved access agreement
3. Begin planning for kiosk/viewing area

Report by Alan Parkin Director

On February 17, 2011 the Military History Society of Manitoba and the Legion House Museum hosted a talk by local best-selling author Jim Blanchard on his latest book **Winnipeg's Great War: A City Comes of Age**. The book chronicles the life of Winnipeg's citizens during the First World War and is the sequel to his local best-selling history book, **Winnipeg 1912**.

Jim's talk, which was accompanied by a slide presentation, focused on a number of aspects, including his motivation for writing the book, some of the research he conducted, how the book ultimately took shape and comments on the social conditions and attitudes of the time as well as on some of the personalities portrayed in the book.. After his talk, he offered to answer questions relating to the book.

The original book launch had taken place several weeks earlier at McNally Robinson Booksellers and Jim's presentation at that time was made to a standing-room-only audience. His previous book, **Winnipeg 1912**, had a similarly enthusiastic reception.

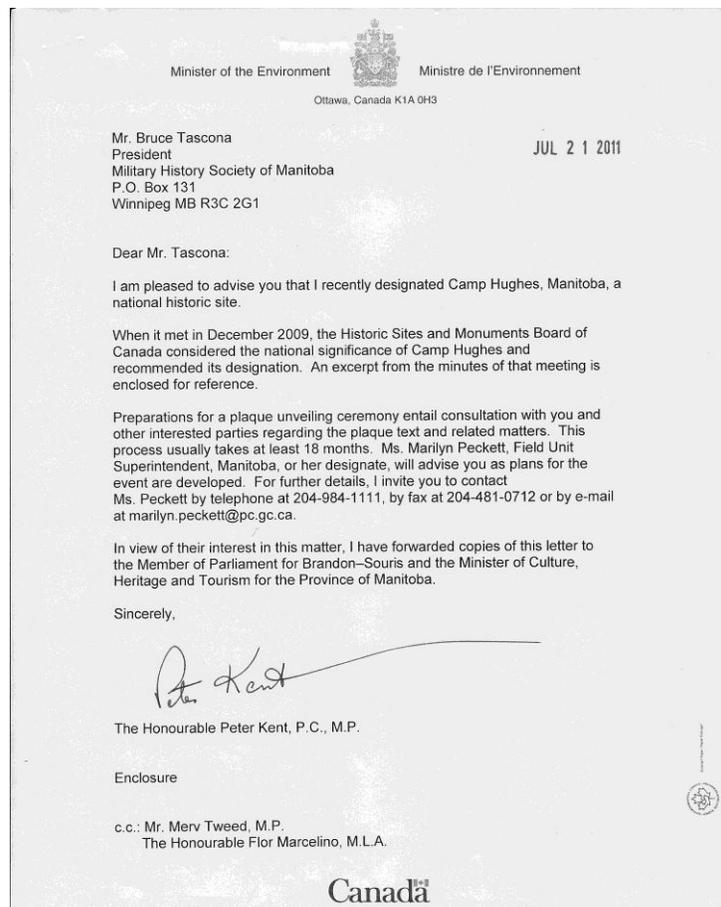
Originally just over forty people had confirmed their plans to attend Jim's talk at the MHSM, however due to a freak and, as it ultimately proved, short-lived storm, only approximately twenty people were actually on hand for his presentation. As Jim noted, he is pleased to present to any size of audience and was not deterred. Neither he nor the audience were ultimately disappointed.

Jim Blanchard resides in Winnipeg and is Head of Reference Services at the U. of M. Dafoe Library and is a Past-President of the Manitoba Historical Society. He is also the editor of the award-winning book **A Thousand Miles of Prairie**.

Thank you to the Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society for the loan of its projector for the presentation.

Thank you to Mr. Alan Parkin who facilitated this event along with Ms. Pam Darling who ensured a fine reception after the event.

Appendix "A"



Appendix “B”

Legion House Museum Structure

Director of Museum (duties and responsibilities): Bruce Tascona

- Must be a member of the MHSM Board
- Should be a signing member of the Board(may require Annual Meeting Change)
- Prepares reports for Board Meeting,
- Administers and files applications pertaining to Community Museum Grants and Heritage Grants,
- Prepares Museum Budgets for Annual General Meeting.

Curator of the Historical Collection (Duties and Responsibilities): Vacant

- Maintains the Museum Collection from a curatorial aspect, which includes conservation and presentation of the Exhibits as well as the study collection
- Keeps records from accessioning to registration of the Museum Collection.
- Will provide a budget of needs for fiscal year

Curator of the Hughes Archaeological Collection (Duties and Responsibilities): Grant Tyler

- Maintains the Museum Collection from a curatorial aspect, which includes conservation and presentation of the Exhibits as well as the study collection,
- Keeps records from accessioning to registration of the Collection.
- Will provide a budget of needs for fiscal year

Archivist/Librarian Manager (Duties and Responsibilities): Norman Malayney

- Maintains the Archives which include all photographs, documents.
- Keeps the records of this collection
- Maintains the library in good order
- Keeps the records of the Library.
- Will be providing a budget of needs for the fiscal year.

Interpreter Coordinator (Duties and Responsibilities): Dennis Puranen

- In Charge of Special Events and its promotion
- Ensuring that the Museum is staffed with interpreters and guides,
- Will provide a budget of programming needs for the fiscal year,

Committees:

The above positions are members of the following committees; they will be called as the need requires:

Exhibit Committee:

- Will meet to determine on new exhibits or major revision of existing exhibits.
- Consensus or 2/3 vote will be required to effect change.
- Will provide budgetary requirements on Exhibits.

Accession Committee:

- Will meet to determine what will be acquired into the museum Collection that matches the museum's mandate,
- Will meet to determine artefacts that will be loaned to the Museum,
- Consensus or 2/3 vote will be required to effect change.

De-Accession Committee:

- Will meet to determine what will be de-accessioned from the collection,
- Will meet to determine what will be loaned from the collection to other museums and institutions.
- Consensus or 2/3 vote will be required to effect change