

The 2009 Annual Report  
The Military History Society of Manitoba Inc



March 04, 2010

# President's Annual Report for 2009

## General Remarks

2009 was a watershed year for the Military History Society of Manitoba. The Society has turned a corner concerning the work done on Camp Hughes since 1987. The Legion House Museum continues to develop and establish a higher profile among the community. The Society has received Registered Charitable Tax Status effective January 01, 2009.

## Board of Directors

The following served on the Board of Directors for 2009:

Bruce Tascona	President
Grant Tyler	Vice President and Past President
Gordon Crossley	Secretary
Pam Darling	Treasurer
Alan Parkin	Director
Paul Collins	Director
Raymond Collins	Director

## Camp Hughes

- **The Friends of Camp Hughes Partnership** has had ongoing meetings throughout the 2009 year.
- The Military History Society of Manitoba has a permanent seat on this committee with Bruce Tascona and Grant Tyler as its representatives. The Town of Carberry, The Municipality of North Cypress consist of 6 members and one member from CFB Shilo.
- Grant Tyler serves as the chair to this committee and his role is to liaise with the various departments and governments.
- In the summer of 2009 a representative from the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board contacted Bruce Tascona and Grant Tyler concerning an application seeking National Historic Site Status which the Society made in 2008. The representative was given a tour of the Site.

## **Camp Hughes Heritage Day October 04, 2009.**

- Programming was undertaken by Bruce Tascona for this event. Ms Pam Darling handled the press releases for the event.
- Volunteers-dressed in period costumes served as interpreters for this event. Mr. Jason Darling demonstrated trench clearing. Mr. Paul Tascona discussed the Medical facilities while Patrick Tascona discussed Signal Training at Camp Hughes.
- One tent shelter provided by CFB Shilo enabled MHSM member Mr. Ed James dressed in period costume to discuss the equipment used by the soldiers of the Great War. Ms Pam Darling provided interpretation of an archaeological exhibit of artefacts that were found at Hughes by the MHSM.
- Guided Tours of the trenches were provided Bruce Tascona and Mark George (CFB Shilo).
- The Town of Carberry and the RM Of North Cypress provided logistics for the day's event.
- The event was attended by 300+ visitors ranging from Regina to Thunder Bay.



**Jason Darling, Paul Tascona and Pat Tascona**



**Ed James and heritage exhibit**

## **Military History Society of Manitoba's Archives/Library**

- A total of 451 books and documents were accessioned into the collection. Some noteworthy donations include a large collection of military modeler magazines which will prove worthwhile in the research of military uniforms. The library also received a set of books on the Canadian military vehicles of the Second World War.
- Approximately 143 research requests were received from the general public.

- Conservation of the document collection continues with the ongoing use of Acid Free folders replacing the original folders.

## **Legion House Museum**

The Museum was opened 74 Days in 2009.

- Volunteer hours including Camp Hughes Heritage Day, Museum Training, Museum Hours and Museum project hours totaled: **816 hours**
- **Public awareness campaign** has become a priority for the Museum.
  - The Legion Branch had the Entrance Door refurbished with the name of the Museum printed on the door.
  - A museum brochure was produced in black and white.
  - A mail-out fundraising brochure to the various Manitoba Branches of the Royal Canadian Legion seeking donations of money as well as artefacts was done in late November.
- **Museum Programming** –volunteers have been recruited in late 2009. An interpretation program should be in place in the fall of 2010.
- **Training** for Museum volunteers has been expanded in 2009. Courses offered by the Association of Manitoba Museums have been attended by one museum volunteer. One member from the Museum attended the OMMC 2009 Conference at CFB Borden.
- **Exhibits**
  - The Museum provided the Archeological Exhibit for the Camp Hughes Heritage Day October 04, 2009. Volunteers dressed in period costumes attended this event.
  - The Museum maintains a satellite exhibit of Camp Hughes Artefacts at the Carberry Town Library. This has been established in 2007
  - A temporary Exhibit on **“Signalling in the Great War”** From September 2009 until April 2010.
  - Exhibit Cases were expanded in 2010—Korea, Hong Kong, Dieppe and the British at Lower Fort Garry in 1846 were started. An Afghanistan Exhibit Case was greatly expanded by the acquisition of Cpl Arnal’s uniform.



Signalling in the Great War Exhibit



Entrance to LHM



Afghanistan Exhibit

## Vice President/Past President Report

Submitted by Grant Tyler

### Friends of Camp Hughes

The Friend of Camp Hughes was established as a committee of the Joint Council of the RM of North Cypress/Town of Carberry for the purpose of protecting, enhancing and promoting the Camp Hughes heritage Site. The committee is responsible for developing a 5-year action plan for Camp Hughes which is submitted annually to the joint RM/Town Council annually for review. Other responsibilities of the committee include, facilitating site access and control for heritage purposes through negotiations with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Manitoba Agricultural Crown Lands; monitoring the National Historic Site designation process; fundraising to meet priorities established in the action plan, and operational planning, directing and administration of the site.

The committee was provisionally formed in 2008 and held its first meeting in April, 2009.

The committee is comprised of the following:

- RM/Town Economic Development Officer
- two current members of the RM/Town Council--one member from CFB Shilo
- one member from the MHSM
- two member from the Town of Carberry
- two members from the RM of North Cypress.

Currently The officers are:

Chairperson-Grant Tyler, Parks Canada

Vice-Chairperson-Bran Well, Reeve, RM of North Cypress

Secretary/Treasurer-Laurie Robson, EDO, Joint Council

Bruce Tascona is the MHSM representative.

During 2009 The Committee met three times (April, August and November). Activities included: establishing terms of reference; monitoring national Historic Site designation process; assisting Parks Canada historian tasked with preparing the paper and recommendations for presentation to the NHSMBC; investigating lease or standing permit arrangements for the purpose of entry and conducting heritage activities at the Site; planning for the Camp Hughes heritage event, and initiating the strategic planning process.

The following timeline outlines the major events over the past several years leading up to the establishment of the committee and its present courses of action:

- **29 March 2006** – Complaint filed with Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism regarding lease infractions at Camp Hughes.
- **2 August 2006** – Meeting with Gary Dixon, Gord Hill and David McInnes regarding Stewardship of Camp Hughes; RCA Museum Proposals and MHSM position.
- **10 January 2007** – Position paper presented to Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, outlining MHSM priorities for the Camp Hughes Site; stewardship, and our position with reference to the lease-holder and RCA Museum proposal.
- **May 2007** – MHSM, Camp Hughes Project Strategic Plan presented to MCHT
- **May 2007** – Presentation to Joint Council-RM of North Cypress/Town of Carberry.
- **14 August 2007** – Site tour including MP, MLA, MCHT reps, MHSM reps, RCA rep and lease holder-Rod McLaren.
- **July 2007** – Display and booth, Carberry 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.
- **August 2007**– Camp Hughes exhibit installed in Carberry town library.
- **November 2007** - Winnipeg Free Press feature article on Camp Hughes.
- **February 2008** – Meeting at Shilo with representatives of MCHT, Crown lands, CFB Shilo, RM of North Cypress and Town of Carberry representatives regarding possible lease transfer, land use etc.
- **Winter 2008** –Friends of Camp Hughes formed as a committee of the joint council of the RM of North Cypress and the Town of Carberry.
- **15 August 2008** – Application to National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada( NHSMBC) for Historic site designation submitted by MHSM.
- **September 2008** – Application made to Manitoba Agricultural Crown Lands to lease on Camp Hughes transferred to RM/Town. 5-year plan also submitted.
- **10 November 2008** – Letter of support sent by Manitoba Minister of the Environment to NHSMBC with regard to national historic site designation..
- **November 2008** – Open house and exhibits at Royal Canadian Legion, Carberry.
- **March 2009** – Fencing proposed by DND for DND-owned portion of Camp Hughes.
- **July 2009** – DND fencing project postponed.
- **October 2009** – Special event at Camp Hughes Provincial Heritage Site.
- **9 December 2009** – Camp Hughes on agenda for NHSMBC meeting regarding national historic site designation.

## **Goals and Objectives for 2010**

- **Higher profile for the Legion House Museum with tours and programs for the general public at the Legion House Museum. Two major events will occur in the spring—one on Manitoba Day and the other to coincide with the National Convention of the Royal Canadian Legion in June.**
- **Continued partnership with the Friends of Camp Hughes and the Society.**
- **Establish a relationship with the Royal Canadian Legion Manitoba/NW Ontario Command.**