

# The HISTORIAN

Newsletter of the St. Vital Historical Society  
600 St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2M 3L5  
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## Remembering the Arden 7

*George Peterson cut the ribbon July 12 to officially open the Arden 7 Memorial, a tribute to the seven young men from Arden Avenue, all members of the Winnipeg Grenadiers captured Christmas Day 1941 by the Japanese Imperial Army during the fall of Hong Kong. Peterson, 93, is flanked by Kevin Chief, provincial municipal minister, Mayor Sam Katz and Cllr. Brian Mayes. Peterson is the last survivor of*

*the Arden 7, all of whom survived the battle. Other members of the Arden 7 were: Fred Abrahams; Bill Lancaster; Morris Peterson; and the Shayler brothers Alfred, Edward and Harry. The memorial, located in Jules Mager Park at the corner of St. Michael and River roads, was the brainchild of Mayes and MLA Chris Melnick (Riel). The \$75,000 project was cost shared by the province and city. (Bob Holliday photo)*

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*Vanessa Russell applies paint to musical display.*

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## *Volunteering: a path to personal fulfilment*

**BY VANESSA RUSSELL**

What are the benefits of volunteering? There are many. I am on disability, and I needed something more to do with my time, so I went to the Volunteer Manitoba website to see what I could find. They have a detailed data base in alphabetical order of all available volunteer jobs. I found one that interested me, volunteering in a museum. I sent my resumes in and was soon at work.

At first I did simple jobs such as labelling boxes, and cleaning. Then in addition, I started writing about the different artifacts that would later be put into a digital database.

Sometimes I came across work that challenged me. Sometimes I could do it, sometimes I moved on to something else, most times I figured things out and that felt great. I have been so happy at the museum that I have been going twice a week for a few years now. The people I have met have always been kind and supportive. I feel blessed that I found this opportunity. If any of you are looking for a volunteer job Google Volunteer Manitoba.

I volunteer at the St. Vital Museum where you can see things like an old police jail cell, The Guess Who memorabilia, many displays of artifacts such as kitchen, agricultural, and Métis items, an old school room, fire truck, newspaper clippings, year books, photographs, and much more.

There are so many volunteer jobs out there and I believe that there is something for anyone who is interested. Volunteering is a great way to spend your time. You can make this world a better place, feel good about yourself, and gain experience.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: We are very happy Vanessa decided to chose to volunteer at the St. Vital Historical Society. Besides keeping the place tidy, Vanessa is a talented painter.*

Working with You in St. Vital

**Brian Mayes**  
City Councillor - St. Vital Ward



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**SHELLY GLOVER**

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Joanne Phillips, Judy Berthman and Don Berthman man the display.

# Taking history to Ag Fair gains rave reviews

The St. Vital Historical Society display at the 105th edition of the St. Vital Agricultural Society annual fair drew rave reviews for the second straight year, thanks to the hard work of Judy and Don Berthman.

The directors spent almost a week sorting through drawers etc. at the museum to put up the four-table display at the fair which ran on Aug. 13-14.

Seventy-five people took the time to sign our guest book.

The Berthmans were aided with the on-site display by Joanne Phillips.

The Berthmans are the tour guides for a Manitoba Music Tour that has attracted almost 100 visitors on four Thursday evenings. On Monday, Aug. 18, they hosted a group

of International music writers who dropped by the museum to check out the Guess Who gold records plus the band's awards and Canadian Music Hall of Fame plaques.

The artifacts were donated by bassist Jim Kale who was raised on Clonard Avenue. The Guess Who were the top-selling band of 1970, even outselling the Beatles and Rolling Stones.

The pianist of the early group, (Al and The Silvertones) which morphed into the Guess Who, was Bob Ashley, who also lived on Clonard. He played on the band's first mega-hit, *Shakin' All Over*.

A montage of the Silvertones playing at the Glenlee Teen Canteen is part of the large Guess Who display at the St. Vital Museum.



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**Bullish on Rockwood:** The figure of Rockwood Romaniuk has become weather beaten from almost 60 years hanging on the barn of the Riverbend Dairy Farm on south St. Mary's Road, but the Grand Champion bull is about to be rescued and restored. Owner Lillian Gobert has donated the cut out to the St. Vital Historical Society and Glen Rand, owner of Main Branch Tree Service has donated his services to safely remove Rockwood. As well, St. Vital resident Sue Groff, of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, has volunteered to restore Rockwood Romaniuk to his original condition.

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*Kelsey Papineau shows the Hon. Shelly Glover how to use an old fashioned water pump when the Minister of Heritage visited the museum. The pump, and other artifacts are part of the new agricultural display located in the former board room. The wall also contains posters from the E.J. Casey Shows and the bronze plaque given to the St. Vital Agricultural Society on its 100th anniversary in 2009 by MLAs Chris Melnick (Riel), Nancy Allan (St. Vital) and Theresa Oswald (Seine River). Kesley was hired through the Young Canada Works program of the Federal Government. (Bob Holliday photo)*

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*This bald eagle was a frequent visitor to the dead tree behind the St. Vital Museum this summer, but didn't stop in to sign the visitors' log. Who knows, he and his mate may drop in for a burger or a hot dog Sept.*

*6 during the annual BBQ. Thanks again to Smitty's for the loan of a grill. It all starts at 11 a.m. A burger or hot dog, soft drink and chips will cost an adult \$5, kid 12 and under is \$3. (Bob Holliday photo)*

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The St. Vital Historical Society is about to enter a historic time, as the five-month renovation of the 100-year old fire hall is about to begin.

The floor in the three bays, one of which is home to our 1939 Fargo fire truck, is about to be torn up and replaced which should ensure the building will celebrate a bi-centennial in 3014,

but that means we have to move all artifacts from the basement storage rooms, and for that we need your help for the big move which will occur over the week-end of Sept. 13-14.

Archival director Chris Zaste will oversee the packing and move. Many of the items will be able to remain in another area of the basement, but some will have to be placed in a storage area in the back of the fire bay not affected by construction.

If you are available for a couple of hours, please call the office (204-255-2864).

Aside from the floor, the renovation will see an upgrade to the heating system and greater control of the steam radiators, some of which currently do not have shut off valves.

The renovation is another highlight for the St. Vital Museum, which has set a record for the number of people taking part in museum activities. At the time

of writing, we've attracted a record 856 people to our activities, so this could be the year that 1,000 visitors sign the guest book.

The wall in the boardroom has been transformed into a display area. White plastic lattice has been strapped to the wall, which allows artifacts, photos etc. to be hung. The wall is home to agricultural photos removed from the fire bay, and posters from the E.J. Casey Shows.

The Winnipeg Police Museum has donated a corner case, which will allow the enlargement of the military display, which will include a piece of shrapnel from Vimy Ridge where Wallie Monroe was twice wounded.

The fire truck will soon be registered and insured, which will allow the 1939 pumper to be driven to various shows and festivals. A 1970 bureaucratic snafu saw the truck registered as a 1946 instead of a 1939 so we had to prove the proper vintage. Thanks to Jack Mavins, of the Manitoba Classic and Antique Auto Club, we have the necessary proof — our truck is one of 487 two-ton Fargos made in 1939.

At the August board of directors meeting, Chris Zaste was appointed as the first Director of Archives. Chris is a former summer student and a graduate of archival studies at the the University of Manitoba.

## *This 'N' That*

**Many thanks to the St. Vital Historical Society  
for preserving our history**



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**From your St. Vital team!**

### Details on our 2014-15 Budget

When we began working on the 2014-2015 budget in November 2013, we wanted to ensure ratepayers were involved in the budget development. We sought input through a public form and conducted an online survey - one we will promote more widely and make available earlier in future years. We want to hear from as many in the community as possible!

In feedback, we heard clearly that you want an education system that goes beyond the 3 R's; valuing the Arts, French Immersion, physical activity and inclusion.

At its most basic, the budget funds the operations of our division. It's in the allocation details of the budget where the School Board Members and the administration work to ensure we can meet our priorities – literacy and numeracy; engagement in learning; and active citizenship – that underpin our daily activities and allows us to go beyond the 3 R's.

Here are some facts on a budget that will provide the resources to make improvements in all three priorities:

#### School Division Budgeting Facts:

- The province provides 51.1% of the funds LRSD requires; we need to raise most of the balance through local taxation.
- 83.7% of our budget covers salaries and benefits for LRSD employees.
- A provincial increase of 2% was not provided to LRSD; we were one of 18 school divisions that received 0% increase.

#### Our Budget for 2014-2015:

- The percentage increase from last year is 2.99% (from \$156,533,605 to \$161,212,533).
- The percentage increase on taxes paid by residents is 3.25%.
  - Residents have had a 0% increase for two years in a row while the province has been in tight fiscal times.

#### Factors Affecting our Budget:

- The requirement for smaller class sizes in grades Kindergarten to grade three (20 students or fewer) by 2017 creates a need for more classrooms and more teachers, both of which directly affect our budget needs. In the last two years, we have moved from 31% of those classes having 20 students or less to 84%.
- We are committed to trying to reduce the class sizes in grades four through eight classes, ideally achieving class sizes of 25 to 26 students. This also will affect our budget as we work towards this goal. In the last two years, we have moved from 84% of those classes having 27 students or less to 90.6%.
- We have infrastructure improvements needed at many schools.
- We require extra bussing due to school changes in South St. Vital.
- We want to continue to provide opportunities for excellent professional development / professional learning for all staff.

#### Goals for our 2014 - 2015 Budget:

By the end of the 2015 school year, we expect our budget will have helped result in:

- Continued decrease in K-8 class sizes;
- No cuts to student programs;
- Shifting of resources to meet evolving school needs;
- Maintaining a reserve fund of 3.1% (Auditor General recommends 3-5%).

#### Sage Creek School Development

The Sage Creek School plans continue to develop. Number 10 Architects shared draft plans for the school at the special Board Meeting on March 11, 2014. For images of the plan and more, visit our website at [www.lrsd.net](http://www.lrsd.net).



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