

B-B-Q Time

Saturday, September 19, 11:30 a. m.

Rain or shine Adults: \$6 Under 12: \$4

Meal includes hot dog or hamburger, chips and soft drink

The

HISTORIAN

Newsletter of the St. Vital Historical Society

600 St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2M 3L5

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The Fort Garry Historical Society has donated many artifacts from the Mager family to the St. Vital Historical Society. Among the treasures are the settee and chairs that once belonged to Victor Mager.

The artifacts will be stored next door in the old City Hall until construction is complete in the old fire hall. For more information and photos on the Mager collection, please see Page 2.



Mager collection: valuable acquisition

The Mager Collection has been on display in the houses of St. Norbert Heritage Village, located east of Pembina Highway, just north of the Red River Floodway.

Among the artifacts donated to the St. Vital Historical Society by the Fort Garry Historical Society was the settee set (Page 1), a William Morris reading chair, above left, a pewter jug, centre photo, a sharpening wheel; and a couple of trunks.

The SVHS also received several period pieces: a wooden ice box; several wagon wheels; a Quebec heater (upright stove); a seeder; and a set of crutches.

The wedding coats of Jules Mager and his wife were infested with bugs and have been stored in a freezer. Time will tell if the

garments can be saved.

The addition of the artifacts, plus other furniture, will necessitate changes in the layout of the St. Vital Museum.

One of the suggestions is moving the school room to a location in the expanded area in order that a Mager room may be set up and cordoned off from public access. After all, we do not want people sitting on the more than 100-year old furniture.

The acquisition is an important step in collecting artifacts from St. Vital's storied past. Victor Mager was the first reeve, a long-time councillor and was instrumental in opening one of the earliest schools in St. Vital. His son Jules also served as a councillor in St. Vital and helped set up the Lavallee School Division.

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

From your St. Vital team!

Nancy Allan *(left)*

MLA for St. Vital

204-237-8771

NancyAllan.ca

Theresa Oswald *(right)*

MLA for Seine River

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TheresaOswald.ca



Plenty of highs and lows over the past few months but end finally in sight

BOB HOLLIDAY

President

While the past year has been full of trials and tribulations, the end of the construction to our building is on the horizon.

First off, thanks goes to Heather at McElhoes & Duffy for her efforts in convincing our insurance providers — Impact Insurance — to cover the 1939 Fargo while off premise. The truck will leave my driveway and return to the museum on or about Sept. 14, almost a full year after leaving.

The truck left the fire hall on Sept. 29, 2014.

Thanks to Leon St. Onge and Dave Reimer for their efforts in getting the truck to and from the St. Vital Agricultural Society's fair at the St. Vital Arena.

According to Ag President, Karen Jack, the truck was the hit of the show.

Each time the truck is put on the road, a \$35 temporary permit must be purchased.

The final two sections of the floor were finally poured on September 1.

The concrete in our bay was poured almost a month ago so is strong enough to support the weight of the truck.

The floor would be complete except the City demanded the floor be demolished in sections. The process meant that crews had to return to the building several times to get the job done. A section

could not be demolished until the concrete in neighbouring section cured for 10 days.

Due to the lack of revenue due to no pancake breakfast and unexpected expenses due to construction, and some outstanding Historian invoices, loans from Jim Fuller, Lea Girman and myself were needed to cover the Aug. 15 payroll.

We have since received a \$3,150 operations' Provincial Heritage Grant, and are due \$2,200 as the final payment from Young Canada Works.

The best part of the provincial grant is the simplicity of the application and the grant not having any strings attached.

We hired two summer students, Laura and Joel, through the federal Young Canada Works program run by the Canadian Museum Association.

The pair changed the face of the museum. Items have not only been catalogued and entered into the database, they have been marked with a special pencil.

Jenna, our Saturday student, was kept on as a supervisor, which also ate into our bank account. We had planned to keep her for the summer, but she received \$3 more an hour at the Manitoba Museum where she learned about conservation, which will be a valuable asset as we expand into the new quarters.

(Continued on Page 5)



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The 1939 Fargo pumper truck was a hit attraction at the 106th St. Vital Agricultural Fair.



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HERVE COLLETTE 204.663.7712

(Continued from Page 3)

With so much work to be done during the expansion, treasurer Jeff Whyte, VP Don Berthman and myself have asked Laura to join Jenna on Saturdays.

Besides the main floor, construction will occur in the basement where the front storage room will be extended three metres, increasing the space by a third.

A wall with no connecting door will be erected, thus separating the main floor. According to Brad Erickson of the City of Winnipeg, placing a door now could trigger a code review and further construction costs of over \$600,000.

Would you believe a door would require an elevator to the second floor, even though the museum is only on the main floor. Go figure!

During a meeting with Treasurer Whyte and myself, at the Museum, Erickson said the SVHS lease is grand-fathered under the \$1 a year provision.

We also asked about placing poly over the third-floor windows to stop snow from blowing into the room, once used as council chambers.

We also talked about removing the wall blocking the south-side staircase to the third floor. Removal of the wall would allow tours during special days such as Doors Open Winnipeg.

Thanks goes to the Berthmans (Judy and Don) and Joanne Phillips for their hard work in putting on the SVHS display at the St. Vital Agricultural Fair.

The BBQ will be held on 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, a week later than usual. The timing of the BBQ was set by the lateness of the construction and having the Fargo on display.

One of the biggest highlights of the year was the official turnover of ownership of the 1939 Fargo fire truck.

Even though the truck has been in the physical possession of the St. Vital Historical Society, actual ownership was with the St. Boniface-St. Vital Community Committee, which was long ago replaced by the Riel Committee composed of St. Boniface, St. Vital and St. Norbert.

Thanks to Cllr. Brian Mayes, City Council passed a motion July 15 gifting the truck to the SVHS. The paper work has been done and ownership has been passed over.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7. In the past two years, the meeting has been held in the foyer of MacEhoses & Duffy, but this time, we may be able to hold the meeting in the expanded area in the fire hall. Time and location will be announced in the October edition of the Historian.

St. Vital Museum Annual



**Saturday, Sept. 19th
Starts 11:30 am
600 St. Mary's Rd.
(Old Fire Hall)**

(Rain or Shine)

Menu

Hamburger or Hot Dog, chips and a drink

Adults: \$6 Children: \$4 (12 + under)

**Thank you for
helping to preserve
our history!**



Christine Melnick
MLA for Riel

204-253-5162 | ChristineMelnick.ca



Old boardroom is now new display area

The conversion of the former boardroom into a display area is nearing completion. The boardroom is now in the area once used as living quarters by the paramedics. The

purchase of cases from the Winnipeg Police Museum allows the SVHS to show more artifacts to the public. The WPS Museum also donated several cases.



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Canadian Heritage Minister, the Hon. Shelly Glover, was given a tour of the Museum by Laura and Joel, students hired for the summer under the Young Canada Works program. The minister was accompanied by 11-month old granddaughter Mila, who was almost as big as the dolls in the school room. Glover is not running for re-election. She is returning to the Winnipeg Police Service.
Bob Holliday photos



Volunteers, calendars and the Johnsons Windsor Theatre

Yes Virginia, there will be a 2016 calendar.

The calendar is being laid out as you read this edition of the Historian and will be available at the Annual General Meeting on November 7.

Every paid-up member will receive a calendar with extra copies available for the relatively cheap price of \$5 each or three for \$10.

Single mailed copies will cost an extra \$2.40 while three copies will cost \$4.

The calendars make ideal stocking stuffers at Christmas time, or in extreme circumstances, as a leveller under that uneven table.

* * *

Once construction is done, volunteers will be needed to dust off display cases and artifacts, and once the basement rooms are complete, help move stuff back onto the shelves.

We are expecting the front basement room to be expanded about three metres in length.

* * *

One of the most asked questions is the first name of Mrs. Johnson of the Windsor Theatre.

While her husband ran the reels in the projection booth, Mrs. Johnson was famous for patrolling the aisles during the Saturday matinee.

She tried to quiet the rambunctious youth by whacking the back of theatre seats with a yard stick, and if she managed to hit a knee on the back swing, well too bad.

A search of a 1946 edition of the Henderson directory has revealed the Johnsons' given names were Paul and Sarah.

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