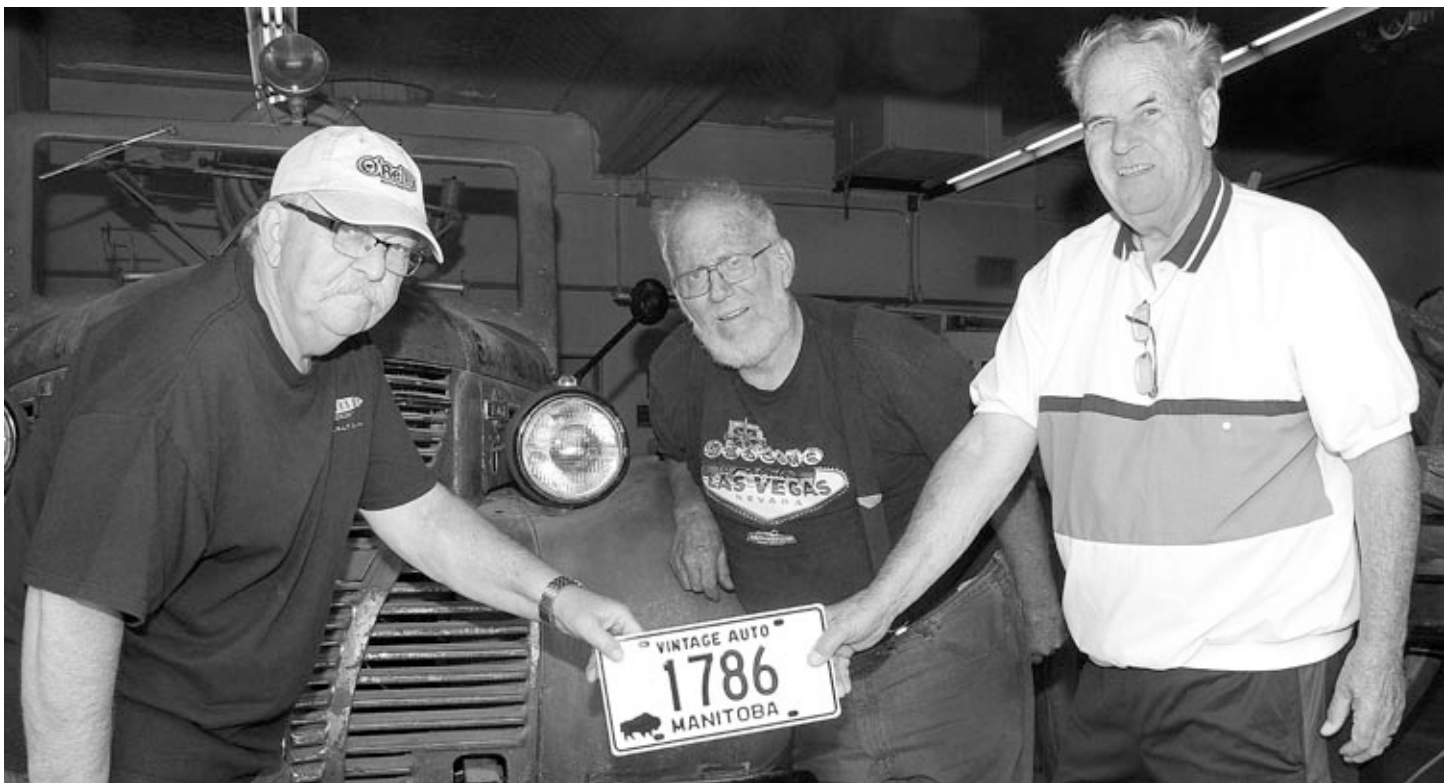




Even wildlife like to visit the Museum as seen by this beauty captured by Sam Holukoff.
For more wildlife please see Page 6

The **HISTORIAN**

Newsletter of the St. Vital Historical Society
600 St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2M 3L5
204.255.2864 e-mail: svhs@svhs.ca
July 2018 Volume 22 Issue 102



Dave Reimer, left, Leon St. Onge and Gord Bell had the honour of placing the Vintage licence plates on the 1939 Fargo fire truck. Reimer and St. Onge have spent countless hours restoring the truck to running condition, while Bell was one of the people who rescued the truck from its damp, unheated

storage building in 2005.

The plates are the first on the truck since 1974, the year it was decommissioned following the amalgamation of city services after Unicity. For more on the truck's first public appearance with Vintage plates, please see Page 3. (Bob Holliday photo)



Councillors Brian Mayes, left, and Mike Pagtakhan, flank paramedics Maxine Plett and Nayhia Dhiman prior to the Paramedic Way street sign being placed on the light standard. (Bob Holliday photo)

Renaming honours paramedics

The section of St. Mary’s Road in front of the St. Vital Museum now known as Paramedic Way that stretches from the Junction to Mager Drive on the south.

The honorary designation ceremony occurred July 9 in front of St. Vital’s original fire hall, 600 St. Mary’s Road, now home to the Museum. Paramedics have played a vital role in saving the lives of Winnipeg residents, and I am proud to champion the honorary naming Paramedic Way to ensure their important contributions are highlighted,” said Cllr. Brian Mayes,

St. Vital. “Having the naming in front of the former St. Vital Fire Hall adds to the significance of the honour.” Mayes, along with his predecessor Gord Steeves and former St. Vital MLA, Nancy Allan, were responsible for the replacement of the concrete floors in the bays that originally held fire trucks before the building housed the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service.

With the departure of the WFPS in 2014, the Museum expanded into the bay area and the Paramedic quarters. The area now holds several SVHS computers.



Kieran and Emma
 would like to show you around the Museum
 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.
 No appointment needed.





Vareennes BBQ first trip for Fargo

History was made June 5 when the 1939 Fargo was back on the road with licence plates, and the first stop was the BBQ at Ecole Vareennes where it was an instant hit with the students and adults.

Dave Reimer, bottom left, keeps an eye on the children playing on the truck, while Fargo driver, Leon St. Onge was in charge of talking about the truck.

Prior to the BBQ, a special permit was needed each time the Fargo left the St. Vital Museum.

The cost of each permit was \$35, and could only be issued three times a year. With the Vintage plates, the truck can be taken to events as long as notification is sent to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

The Fargo is available for ap-

pearances for free at all community events.

Since there are very few people capable of driving the 79-year-old Fargo, the museum needs at least a week's notice.

To arrange for the Fargo to make an appearance at your event email info@svhs.ca or calling 204-255-2864.

—Bob Holliday photos



Longer hours for the St. Vital Museum thanks to MP Dan Vandal

BOB HOLLIDAY
SVHS President

I apologize for the lateness of the first 2018 issue of the Historian issue, but I was hit with a number of health issues that have been rectified.

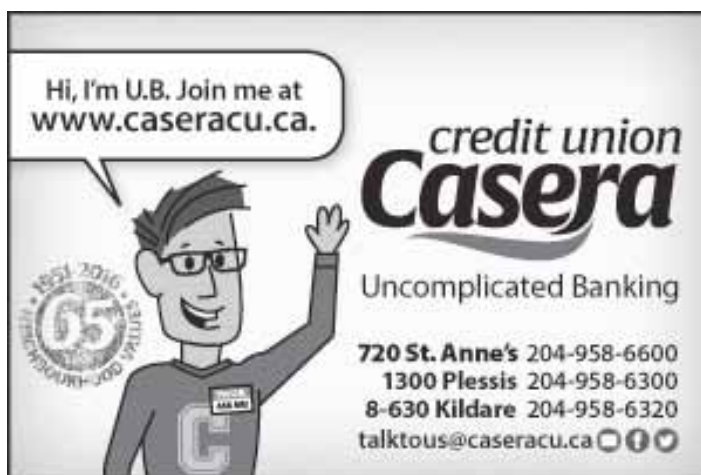
A lot has transpired since the December issue as the Society plods along as the volunteers continue to catalogue the many artifacts and papers. So far, almost 13,000 entries have been made into the data base.

The Museum is open 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday thanks to Canada Summer Jobs program of the Federal Government. We thank Dan Vandal MP, St. Boniface-St. Vital, for the aid lent by his office.

Emma and Kieran are University of Winnipeg students who are lending their expertise to progress and continue the Museum's growth. Drop by and say hello while checking out the history of St. Vital.

The downside of the past year is the lack of people willing to become a SVHS director. At present there are seven on the board, but a compliment of 10 would be great. Interested, please email me at svsholliday@icloud.com.

The board only meets as required, which is about four times yearly, as most business is conducted via email and the day-to-day business is conducted by the executive committee, which is myself, vice-president Maurice Allard and treasurer Jeff Whyte. Sarah Watkins is the volunteer co-ordinator and in charge of incoming artifacts so that end is running smoothly.



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The next big endeavour is the 200th anniversary of the first settlers arriving in St. Vital from North Dakota in 2020.

Some of the ideas out forward are a parade featuring Red River carts coupled with a canoe trip along the Seine River from the Windsor Golf Course before a portage west of Blenheim Avenue to the Museum.

We hope to partner with the Old St. Vital Biz, other community organizations, and individuals to make it a great celebration.

On other pages of the Historian, you can read about the progress of the 1939 Fargo pumper truck and of the face lift to the 104-year-old fire hall that is home to the SVHS.

People have been asking about the lack of a Spring BBQ. I can tell you that the Fall event is planned for Saturday, Sept 8 beginning at Noon until we run out of food. Check out the Lance for all the details as the date approaches.

Another date to circle on your calendar is the Annual General Meeting set for 1:30, Saturday, Nov. 10. As has been the case for the past few years, the AGM will be held in one of the bays.

Since my last report, I am happy to say that the parking lot situation has been resolved and no vehicles have been towed from our parking spots.

This was accomplished through the great cooperation between the AA group, the radio club and the SVHS to divide the lot to meet the needs of all organizations. So far, so good.

Postage is the largest expense in producing the Historian, so once again we are asking members to receive the online version. There's no cost to you or the SVHS, and you'll receive the Historian days earlier. All we need is your email address.

Once again, the SVHS owe a big debt to computer guru Tim Happychuk for all his time getting our old computers running smoothly. Tim has rebuilt several of our commuturs and has even installed a server to connect the machines.

Ten years ago, Candice Lion was the first summer student hired to help get the Museum up and running. She follows the Museum on Facebook, but on a recent visit she wrote:

"So proud of all the work that has been put in. I love everything that has been done. Keep up the good work."

The St. Vital Museum has a great eclectic collection that covers many ages. Here are a few comments from our visitor's book.

"My history," wrote Robert Nault.

"Great museum," wrote David Wyatt.

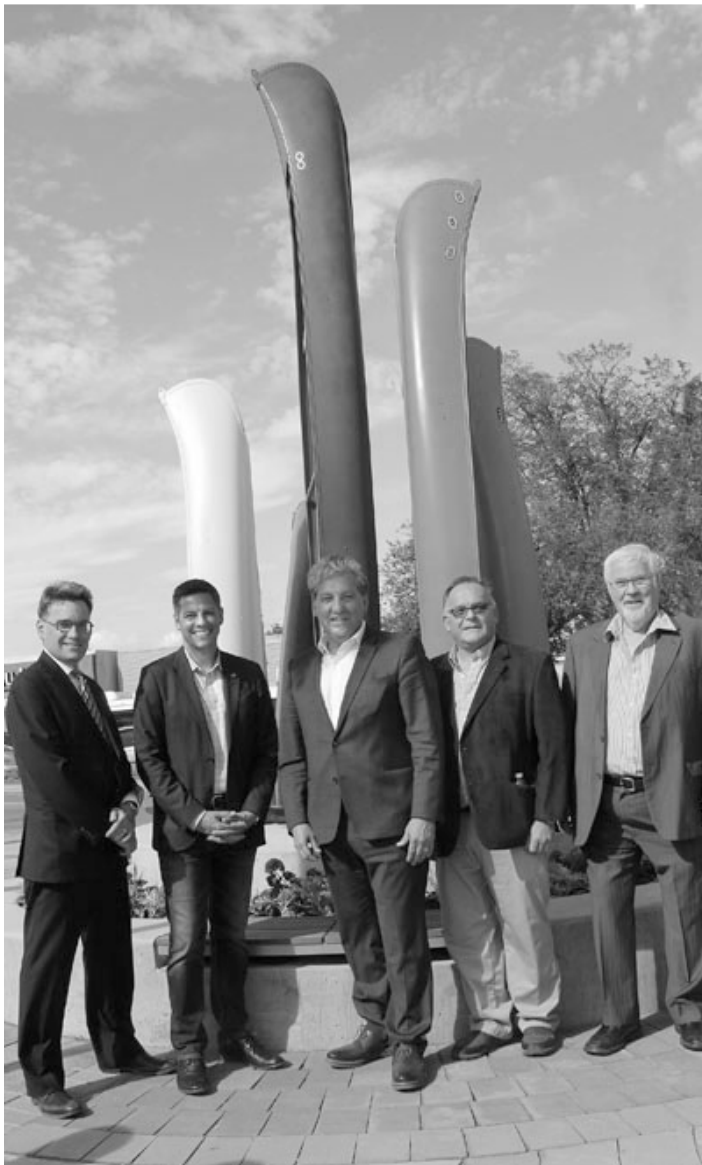
"Fascinating collection. Cool!" wrote Sunny from Toronto. Are they right? Drop by and take a look for yourself.



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Watershed moment at Junction

Following the unveiling of the Watershed June 26 in the plaza at the Junction, the Museum hosted an Old St. Vital BIZ reception that included Cllr. Brian Mayes, left, Mayor Brian Bowman, MP Dan Vandal, Maurice Allard, BIZ executive director and Jim Fuller, BIZ president. The artwork, by Colin Zipp, celebrates the history of St. Vital. The Winnipeg Arts Council was commissioned by the Biz as part of the Canada 150 celebration.

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The eagle has landed again behind the St. Vital Museum and has reclaimed his perch despite the objection of one of many crows who believe the tree is their property. (Bob Holliday photo)

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Thanks to the Old St. Vital BIZ, the 104-year-old home of the St. Vital Museum has received a face lift.

The building is more than a former fire hall to St. Vital as it not only housed fire fighters, the building was also the police station, magistrate's court, health unit and the municipal offices.

When the third floor wasn't being used for council meetings, the room was a meeting place for Brownies and Girl Guides.

During the 1950 flood, almost 20,000 people were registered and evacuated through the fire hall.



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