

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2 p.m. Saturday, November 8, 2014

604 St. Mary's Road

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

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BOB HOLLIDAY PHOTOS

Fargo is on the road again

More than a few heads were turned Monday, Sept. 30, when Leon St. Onge and Dave Reimer drove the 1939 Fargo fire truck to temporary storage in a Weston-area fire hall. The truck will return in the Spring. The full journey is on You Tube @ St. Vital Museum-1939 Fargo.

AGM sets tone for coming year

For the second straight year, the Annual General Meeting of the St. Vital Historical Society will be held in the rotunda of the former St. Vital City Hall, 604 St. Mary's Road, now home to the Old St. Vital Biz and McElhoes and Duffy.

Access from the rear parking lot is easy, and the building is equipped with a wheelchair ramp.

As usual, coffee, tea and dainties will be available for those wishing to socialize after the meeting.

Those in attendance will be able to get a first-hand look at the many display cases purchased from the Winnipeg Police Museum, which has also donated a number of cases that will change the look of the SV Museum..

The museum has expanded and improved many displays in 2014, so attendees are invited to drop by before, or after, the AGM.

As the AGM approaches, the museum attendance continues to rise and the 1,000-mark may be passed, even by the time you get to read this edition of The Historian.

(continued on Page 2)



(Continued from Page One)

The highlight of any AGM is the election of officers that will guide the SVHS for the next year.

Once again, half of the 12-person board is up for election. Nominations will be taken from the floor, but anyone contemplating running should e-mail their intention by Nov. 1.

Current board members whose terms are up are: June Bell; Gord Bell; Judy Berthman; Lea Girman; Jeff Whyte; Kerry Pedrick and Jolene Klassen.

At the first meeting, usually within two weeks, directors elect a president, vice president, secretary and finance chair.

John Dempster is the only permanent member of the board as voted by the membership at the 2013 AGM.

Museum exploring use of Internet

Jenna Klassen, no relation to Jolene, has been hired to work Saturdays at the museum. Jenna had applied for the summer student's job as the archivist/greeter under the Young Canada Works program, but unfortunately for the SVHS, she was headed to Seville, Spain on an archeology dig.

Jenna is enrolled in the history

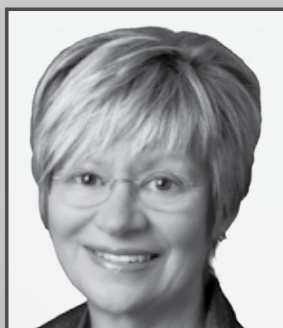
program at the University of Winnipeg, the same program that produced Chris Zaste, who had also been hired under YCW and who was our weekend staff for three years. He also acted as volunteer co-ordinator and quasi office manager. He was appointed to the board in August as the director of archives.

The SVHS will post more and more information, photos and yes, even videos on Facebook and on our website which is managed by Brenda Anderson.

If you are on Facebook, please become friends, if you're not, then please join, it's free. You can find us at Facebook/St. Vital Museum and Historical Society or on the web at www.svhs.ca

Facebook and the website are both great ways of keeping up with the news and happenings between editions of the Historian,

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

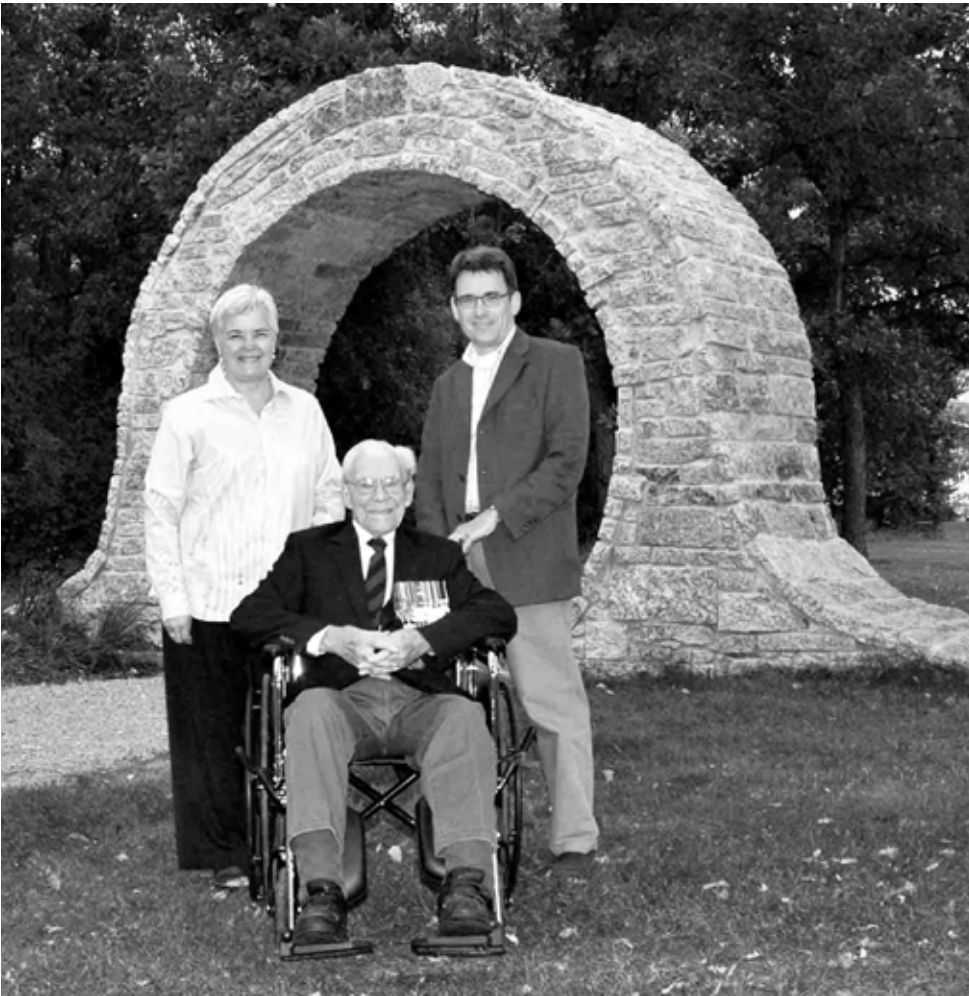


Nancy Allan
MLA for St. Vital
(204) 237-8771
NancyAllan.ca



Theresa Oswald
MLA for Seine River
(204) 255-7840
TheresaOswald.ca

From your St. Vital team!



MLA Chris Melnick (Riel), George Peterson and Counc. Brian Mayes.

Honouring St. Vital's Heroes

Meet the trio responsible for the Arden 7 Plaza

When the Arden 7 Plaza was unveiled on July 12, MLA Chris Melnick (Riel) was out of the country on government business. Needless to say, the ceremony wasn't quite right with the absence of the person who began the process to honour the seven Arden Avenue neighbours captured on Christmas Day 1941 by the Japanese Imperial Army during the fall of Hong Kong. Melnick contacted Counc. Brian Mayes (St. Vital) about honouring the Peterson twins, George and Morris, the Shayler brothers, Alfred Edward and Harry and Fred Abrahams (aka Harting) who joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers.

The men survived the battle but were sent to prison camps and spent the rest of the Second World War as forced labourers,
St.Vital Historian

mostly in mines.

Harry Shayler died in a camp when the roof of a building collapsed following a snow storm.

The \$75,000 memorial, located in Jules Mager Park at the corner of St. Michael and River roads, was cost shared by the province and the city.

Several of George Peterson's belongings are on display at the museum. Included in the display is a pair of chop sticks and a replica of the stick the men were beaten with if they did not work fast enough.

At the behest of George Peterson, who wondered why the ceremony was held without Melnick, the people responsible for the memorial gathered to be photographed by SVHS director, Don Berthman.



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Back by popular demand: SVHS calendars for 2015

Back by popular demand — The St. Vital Historical Society calendar for 2015 packed with photographs, historical data and dates important to the history of St. Vital, three of which are featured on this page: Yvonne Brill (nee Claeys) a former resident of Arden Avenue who became one of the top rocket scientists

in the world; leading market gardeners, the Henteleffs, and Edgar J. Casey who travelled across Canada with his rides and side shows. The calendar is free to members. Extra copies are \$5 or three for \$10. Out town members please add \$3 for single copy postage, \$5 for three copies.

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YVONNE BRILL

Rocket scientist Yvonne Brill (nee Claeys), a St.Vital native who was famous for her innovations in rocket propulsion. Once denied entry into the University of Manitoba's engineering faculty due to lack of accommodations for females, Brill went on to enjoy a brilliant career and is believed to have been the only woman in the U.S. actually working on rocket science in the mid-1940s.

Brill, a mother of two sons and a daughter, invented a propulsive system to help keep communications satellites from slipping out of their orbits in the early 1970s. It was launched in 1983 and is still being used today. She was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2016.

Brill, who also spent time with NASA and the International Maritime Satellite Organization, was awarded the AIAA Wyld Award, the AAES John Fritz Medal, the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal in 2001 and was awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation by President Obama in 2011.




(Don Berthman Montage)



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The Henteleff Family

In 1924 the Henteleff family bought 40 acres of riverfront land and started a thriving market garden operation in St.Vital. Nathan and Rose and their family were one of the first Jewish market gardeners in western Canada. The family initially sold their produce from a roadside stand on St.Mary's Rd. and later at the "farmers" market on Main St. as well as small grocery stores in Winnipeg.

Nathan and Rose lived and worked their land until their retirement in 1967, when the City of Winnipeg expropriated their land. In 2002 the City designated the land a public park in honour of Nathan, Rose and their family.




(Don Berthman Montage)

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E.J. CASEY
Western Canada's Carnival King

Starting with a one-truck "hanky-pank" operation E.J. developed his outfit into a 20 truck glamour show in 1932 with three complete units that travelled around to 125 Class "C" fairs and celebrations each season from the foothills of the Rockies to Quebec.

During the War years, the units played the western Canada "B" fair circuit. At this time besides rides, there were side-shows such as the 625 pound Happy Dot, the fattest woman in the World.

Up until his retirement in 1965 at the age of 71, E.J. owned and operated Rendezvous Park in Lockport, Manitoba from his offices in the Casey Bldg. at 567 St. Mary's Rd. St.Vital.



(Don Berthman Montage)

Source: Winnipeg Free Press 1985



In preparation for construction to replace the concrete floors in the fire bays, the basement and fire bay were emptied Sept. 13 by: Vanessa Russell; Chris Zaste; Jeff Whyte; Corey Schreyer; Judy and Don Berthman plus Bob Holliday. The fire display is temporarily attached to the wall in the front hall-

way. The top photo shows the cases etc. stored in the back of the bay where the floor is intact. The middle photo shows the empty shelves and the teleposts supporting the floor, while the bottom photo shows the boxes, etc. that are stored in the front basement room.



Construction was due to start Sept. 2, but at the time of printing The Historian, the contract had not been awarded so the completion date is up in the air.



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Fred Fraser saw Normandy seven times on D-Day

Stranded four days on the beach

St. Vital resident Fred Fraser saw the beach at Normandy seven times on D-Day. "Scared, I was never more scared in my life," the 20-year-old Fraser told reporter James C. Anderson as he recalled shuttling soldiers to shore on June 6, 1944.

"I thought a lot. I can't remember very well what it was, but lots of thoughts went through my head," said Fraser from the comfort of his family's home at 141 Sadler Ave while on leave from his naval duties after the Second World War.

An Able Seaman, Fraser was assigned to a LCIL (landing craft, infantry, large) so was right up front went the soldiers waded through the water of the English Channel to Canada's objective, Juno Beach.

"My job was to give the orders to let the ramps down. There are two, one on each side of the boat.

"The soldiers go down them when we hit shore. Before they leave the boat there is a five-foot bulkhead for protection.

"Once they set foot on the ramps they were in the open—on their own. I didn't see any of our fel-

lows get hit. We carried about 200. It was funny. They never said anything. They just went ahead, down the ramps and to shore.

"There were mines, plenty, big black mines with three horns...touch those horns and poof. A LAC (landing craft artillery) went in ahead of us once. It really got banged up.

"We hit one mine. We had to close our watertight doors....We were ashore once for four days. We couldn't get off. That was the only time I actually set foot ashore.

"I don't know how strong the Germans were on the beach. I don't really know if there were any... our ships were blasting the daylights out of the place. There were plenty of our planes overhead. There were no German planes during the day. They came in at night.

"... there was smoke and noise. You couldn't see very much..." said Fraser who joined the Navy in June 1943 and took his basic

training at HMCS Chippawa on Smith Street before heading overseas..



Fred Fraser

Working with You in St. Vital



Brian Mayes
City Councillor - St. Vital Ward

204.986.5088 | BMayes@winnipeg.ca

Christine Melnick
MLA for Riel



Unit 4-1549 St. Mary's Rd.
Winnipeg, MB. R2M 5G9

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Fax: 204-253-0222



Bob Holliday Photo

Final fire department

Murray Davidson, the last man to drive the 1939 Fargo fire truck to a fire holds a framed 1973 photo of the last St. Vital Fire Department.

The frame, which includes Davidson's St. Vital cap badge and his badges when the department unified with Winnipeg, contains the name of every fire fighter on the roster.

Davidson said the Fargo suffered a flat on the right-rear tire as he sped south on St. Mary's Road to a fire on Sunset Boulevard.

With amalgamation, as with most suburban officers, Davidson lost his rank of captain.

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Highlight on Learning

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.



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