

# Grand re-opening BBQ

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Saturday May 28

Cllr. Brian Mayes, former MLA Nancy Allan and former city councillor Gord Steeves will cut the ribbon at 11:30 to open the addition.

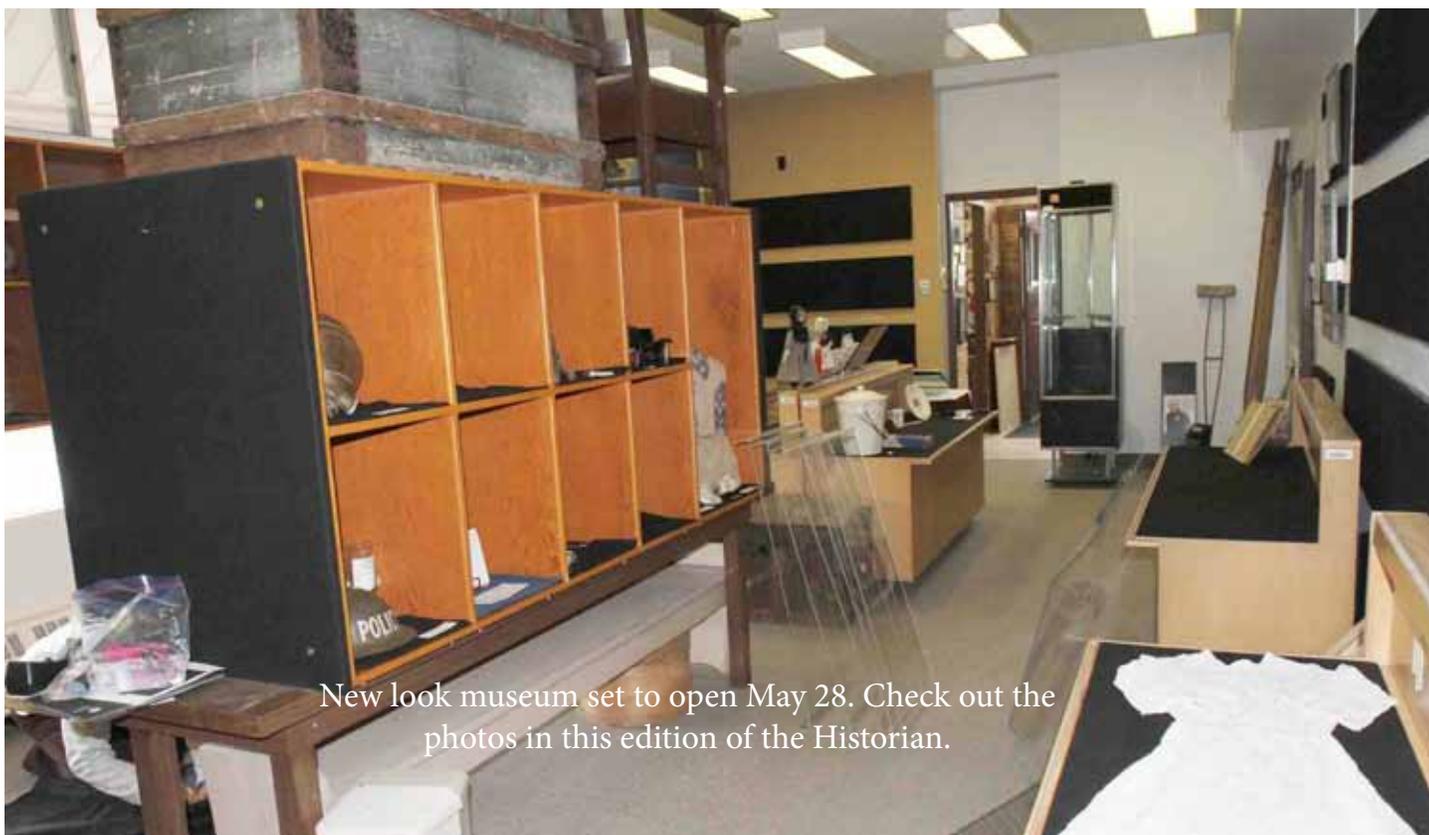
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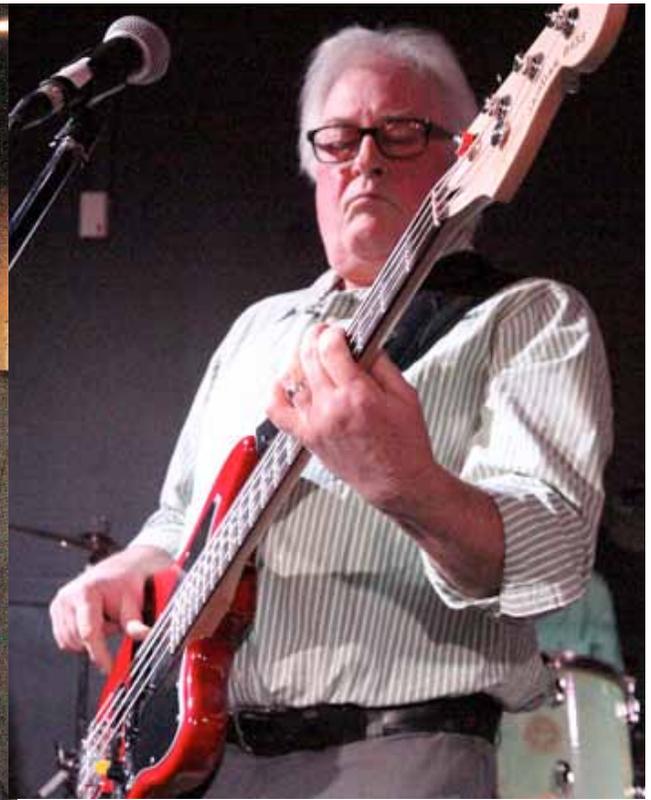
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May 2016 Volume 20 Issue 95



New look museum set to open May 28. Check out the photos in this edition of the Historian.



## Another great night of St. Vital music

*It was another great night of celebrating St. Vital Musicians at the Travelodge East on April 8.*

*The crowd was entertained by two of St. Vital's landmark musicians, Ray St. Germain above left, with newly-elected Member of Parliament for St. Boniface-St. Vital, Dan Vandal and bassist Bill Wallace, above right, who fronts*

*his own band The Shoes.*

*Wallace, who grew up on Kingston Row, replaced Jim Kale in mid-1972 as the bassist for the Guess Who. He started his musical career in the 1960s, with a Winnipeg band called The Gettysbyrg Address. He later performed in bands such as Logan Avenue Comfort Station, and Dianne*

*Heatherington and the Merry-Go-Round. He eventually joined his friends Kurt Winter and Vance Masters in Brother.*

*Ray St. Germain is a member of the Canadian Country Music Hall of Honour.*

*Besides touring regularly, he is co-host of the Métis HourX2 Saturdays on NCI Radio.*

# Terry Duguid

Member of Parliament  
Winnipeg South



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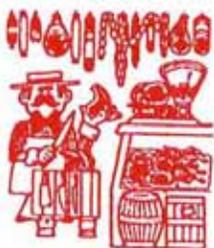


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Door from original fire hall will hang in the doorway.

## Expanded Museum set to open after long ordeal

The end of the long and frustrating road to the expanded St. Vital Museum is finally in sight with the official opening slated for 11:30 a.m.. Saturday May 28 as part of the Spring BBQ and Doors Open Winnipeg.

The ribbon cutting will be done by the three people responsible the expansion: Cllr. Brian Mayes, former Cllr. Gord Steeves, who began the process five years ago, and former St. Vital MLA, Nancy Allan.

While the new space is welcomed, the oft-delayed construction project forced the expenditure of almost \$5,000 and has placed a huge strain on the finances.

To add to the difficulties, the Canadian Museum Association has declined the application for a student under the Young Canada Works program, which is funded by the federal government. Once again, I wonder why small museums such as ours have to compete with larger establishments for funding, especially museums which

already receive funding from the City of Winnipeg.

Many of the museums receiving YCW grants from the CMA employ full-time staff responsible for writing grant applications. The practice is unfair to the St. Vital Historical Society and other small organizations in the competition for government grants.

The lack of YCW funding will force the SVHS to drastically cut back the hours of operation of the Museum. Unlike previous years, the Museum will only be open 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturdays during June, July and August with directors volunteering their time.

Anyone wishing to participate and volunteer a couple of hours may call the Museum at 204-255-2864, or e-mail [info@svhs.ca](mailto:info@svhs.ca).

The lack of staff expenses will allow the SVHS to replenish the coffers and prepare for the continued work in the Fall of preserving the history of St. Vital.

Continued on Page Four



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Continued from Page 3  
 It will be difficult to say goodbye to Jenna and Laura who are finished at the end of May. We wish them well in their future endeavours. The dynamic duo has transformed the museum and has laid out a plan for the future.

The pair spearheaded cleaning the dust from the artifacts in the basement and those stored in the area at the back of the bay. Directors Jeff Whyte, Chris Zaste and John Kendle plus volunteers Mariska Maguire and Vanessa Russell did fabulous

job of dusting and sorting while Jolene Klassen made sure everyone had a healthy lunch.

One of the highlights of the past winter was the unveiling of the display honouring women's hockey in St. Vital. The photos, trophies and jackets are still on display in the former boardroom.

Another musical night was held at the Travelodge East with St. Vital's own Ray St. Germain and his trio opening the night followed by The Shoes, fronted by another former St. Vitaller, and a former member of

the Guess Who, Bill Wallace.

In closing, we'd like offer our congratulations to Colleen Mayer (St. Vital); Rochelle Squires (Riel) and Janice LeComte (Seine River) on their recent elections as Members of the Manitoba Legislature As well. congratulations to Dan Van Assembly dal (St. Boniface-St. Vital) and Terry Duguid (Winnipeg South). as Members of Parliament. We look forward to working with you to continue the preservation of the storied history of St. Vital.

— Bob Holliday, president.



*Laura needed a mask to clean the concrete dust.*

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Jeff and Mariska pitched in to clean off the concrete dust that covered the artifacts after construction finished.



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# Planning for the future tops summer agenda

The last few months have been incredibly busy! We set our goal for our grand re-opening for the Doors Open Winnipeg weekend, happening May 28 and 29 and so Laura and I, as well as our volunteers and board members, have been working hard to have everything ready for this weekend. The expansion in the last year has allowed the expansion of exhibit space and display artifacts that have been in storage for years or have been donated recently, as well as artifacts that have been enjoyed by visitors for years.

The exhibits in the main galleries follow the chronological development of St. Vital, featuring the first inhabitants, the first European settlers, including the Victor Mager family, early St. Vital businesses, the First and Second World Wars, and the musical talent which arose out of St. Vital.

The bay areas building hold exhibits based on thematic topics, such as agriculture, schools and, of course, the history of the fire hall. We are excited to unveil this new layout and showcase St. Vital's history!

Summer at the museum will be at a much slower pace than the last few months, as we review the past year and plan for the long-term. This will include review and strengthening of our policies, as well as the cringeation of a procedures manual to ensure consistency and to stay in line with our guiding principles. This summer will also see some grant writing as we plan for some big projects for this coming fall/winter season.

In addition, our volunteers will continue to move the cataloguing of our collection forward, as well as do research to complement our new exhibits. Although we will not be open full time this summer, we will continue to be open to the public on Saturdays between 10-3. Hope to see you there!

—Jenna Klassen, Collections Manager



*The school room has been moved into a room located in the new area of the Museum. Work is continuing on the main display area.*

*Bob Holliday photos*



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Among the many changes to the new and improved St. Vital Museum is the Victor Mager Room, located in the former classroom.

The room includes Mager's settee set, reading chair and period pieces such as the desk from the early 1900s once used by Tom Nichols' father. The room also includes artifacts of Jules Mager, including the corner stone and bricks from Mager House.

Memorabilia from the Second World War has been moved into larger quarters in the alcove located in the former board room where there is room for expansion of the display area.



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As the cost of postage continues to rise, the Board of Directors decided to save money and mail membership cards with the Historian. Therefore, all paid up members should have received their membership with this mailing. If you did not receive a membership card, we hope you have simply forgot to renew, and will continue to support the St. Vital Historical Society and renew your membership. Memberships go a long way in allowing the Museum to expand the displays and preserve the storied history of the second oldest settlement in Winnipeg. The membership is still \$15 and allows you to vote at the Annual General Meeting and receive four copies a year of the Historian. Send cheque, or money order to 600 St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg, R2M 3L5.

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