

Have you renewed your membership?

Well, it's a month late, but the final edition of the Historian for 2018 is finally in your hands to be read.

Unless you've renewed our membership to the St. Vital Historical Society, this will be the

final edition that you'll receive, so please renew because we'll miss you.

Your membership is important to help the SVHS keep alive the rich history of the second-oldest permanent settlement in Win-

nipeg. The oldest settlement is Seven Oaks.

The cost is \$15 for an individual card while a family membership is \$5 more.

Drop by the Museum to renew and check out the displays.

The **HISTORIAN**
Newsletter of the St. Vital Historical Society
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Cathy Cox, provincial minister of sports and heritage, holds the long play version of the gold record American Woman, the smash 1970 hit of the Guess Who. The record, along with the 45 rpm version was donated to the St. Vital Museum by bassist Jim Kale. In the past, Kale, the original Guess Who

bassist, has donated seven other of the band's platinum and gold records plus many other memorabilia pieces earned by the band.

Kale grew up on Blenheim and Clonard avenues and is an alumnus of Glenwood School and Glenlawn Collegiate.
Bob Holliday

November Historian photos trigger memories for long time member Ted Royal

Ted Royal has been a longtime member of the St. Vital Historical Society, and through the years has been a contributor of an anecdote.

"I am past my 96th birthday, but my early days of growing up in St. Vital area as if they happened yesterday. I got out my magnifying to check the price shown on the (gas) pumps in the picture on Page 2 of the Historian. It looks like 20 7/10. I am surmising that was per gallon. You wouldn't get much gas today for 20c.

The pictures of the street cars brought back memories.

My grandfather, William Keeble drove the first electric street car from Hampton



Courts to Shepherd's Lane in England. When he arrived in Winnipeg, he applied to the street railway for employment. A motorman, Tom Flood, who was also a St. Vital resident, was assigned to teach my grandfather the art of driving a street

car. They had a laugh, because my grandfather had taught Mr. Flood to drive when they lived in England. It is a small world sometime.

The picture of Glenwood

School also reminded me that my mother and her siblings attended school there as did my children for the early years. Also my dad's mother worked there for many years as a cleaner.

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Scouring through the hundreds of photos in the SVHS collection revealed this little gem, a pic of the west side of St. Mary's Road during the 1950 flood. Dodd's Drugs, located at the north end of what is now the marking lot of Miller's Meats, would later be home to Andrew's Electronics. Do you have any old photos of St. Vital? We'd love to scan them onto the collection.

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The 114-year old fire hall is the cover of the 2019 calendar.

2018: banner year for St. Vital Museum; gains National TV exposure

BOB HOLLIDAY
Historian Editor

To say 2018 was a success for the St. Vital would be an understatement. Not only did the facility attract a record 1,640 visitors, but also gained national and even international attention.

The volunteer-run Museum contributed to displays honouring St. Vital military members who served Canada during the Second World War.

Photos were supplied for the tribute to the Tod Twins — Ernie and Doug — who are buried in Medemblik, Netherlands. Their graves are tended to by the local school, which is twinned with Hasting School.

Four-story boards at the Museum chronicle the lives and deaths of the Tods while a duplicate set is on display at Hastings, which is the closest school to Tod Drive where the Twins were raised.

The Twins attended Norberry School and Glenlawn Collegiate which was located in Norberry.

As well, the Museum contributed material to the University of Chicago for its tribute to the Winnipeg Grenadiers in Hong Kong. More on Page 5.

Many of the Grenadiers were from St. Vital, seven from Arden Avenue. After running out of ammuni-

tion, the Grenadiers were forced to surrender on Christmas Day 1941 and were sent the next four years as forced labour in a Japanese coal mine as prisoners of war. Featured prominently in the display is a photo of the last remaining Grenadier, George Peterson who turns 98 this month.

Last June saw license plate placed on the 1939 Fargo fire truck for the first time since 1974. The first stop was the Family BBQ at École Varennes. In August the Fargo was part of the display at the St. Vital Agricultural Society's Fair at the St. Vital Arena.

The main attraction of the SVHS display was the Tod Twins story boards.

The greatest publicity for the St. Vital Museum came from a collection of tapes chronicling the rock 'n' roll history of Winnipeg. Included in the collection are various versions of the Guess Who; Brave Belt (BTO); Scrabaloe Caine plus several others. The find made the national news on all Canadian TV networks and wire services. The discover was even publicized in Los Angeles, CA.

The tapes will be digitized once Jesse Scanlon has finished cataloguing the find.

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Back by popular demand this May is the Pancake Breakfast on the last Saturday of May when people will be able to chow down on breakfast while overlooking the historic Red River. Bad weather, of course will force the eats inside.

The breakfast is part of the Doors Open Winnipeg festivities which will see a rare Museum Sunday opening.

Planning will soon begin for three historic occasions in 2020: the 150th anniversary of Manitoba, 200th anniversary of the arrival of St. Vital's first permanent settlers; and the 25th anniversary of the St. Vital Historical Society.

Commemorative calendars are going fast but still available Saturday's at the Museum from 10 am-4pm. Cost is \$5 each or three for \$10. Of course, new members receive a free calendar.

Vicki Scouras
Stavros Athanasiadis

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White's Boat Yard was located along the Red River at the intersection of St. Mary's Road and Vivian Avenue. Very few photos of the boat yard exists, but a photo copy of Reg White working on a "punt" in 1945 was found in the files.

White's was at the north end of the St. Vital Swim Club.



Were Grenadiers sacrificed?

The St. Vital Historical Society sent a photo of George Peterson to Hong Kong last year to be part of a University of Chicago tribute to the defenders of Hong Kong during the Second World War.

Organizers were in possession of the red shoulder flash given to the defenders of Hong Kong, many of whom were Winnipeg Grenadiers, which included George Peterson, one of seven neighbours on Arden Avenue. The defenders ran out of ammunition and were forced to surrender to the Japanese Imperial Army on Christmas Day 1941 and spent the next four years as labourers in a coal mine.

On Dec. 19, 1941, Regimental Sgt/Major John Robert Osborn leaped on a grenade to save the lives of several Grenadiers.

For sacrificing his life, Osborn, of Guay Avenue, was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

In letters home, Osborn lamented about the lack of heavy artillery and poor training the Grenadiers received prior to leaving Canada for Hong Kong. Osborn had enlisted in the Royal Navy in the First World War, but was forced out when superiors learned he was only 15. Not to be deterred, Osborn joined the Royal Marines and was a victim of a German mustard gas attack during a three-day battle for the Belgian town of Ypres.

Osborn's uneasiness about Hong Kong proved to be true as attested to by a British Secret Service report written on July 19, 1940.

"Hong Kong is not a vital interest and the garrison could not long withstand a Japanese attack...in the event of war, Hong Kong must be regarded as an outpost and held as long as possible. We should resist the inevitably strong pressure to reinforce Hong Kong and we should certainly be unable to relieve it."

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President's Report: Bob Holliday

Exciting times ahead for SVHS

For the past 10-plus years, it has been my pleasure to serve as president of the St. Vital Historical Society. As a dyed in the wool St. Vital'ler, I have had a lot of fun guiding the development from a historical society to a full-fledged museum that features such a cross section of St. Vital history.

Thanks to Tim Happychuk, the SVHS has a great computer system that is improving as I type. The improvement in technology has allowed the SVHS to expand several programs, and install programs in the future. I am even more excited about the future following the addition of several people to the board such as John Hindle and Jeff Gosman who bring exciting new ideas and the knowledge to implement them.

Improving the membership roll is one such suggestion. Currently, memberships run from November-to-November but under the proposed system, memberships would run for one year from the time of purchase.

Technology has allowed the SVHS to lessen the cost of producing the Historian through the use of email to send each issue. Postage (stamps and envelopes) costs the SVHS about \$1 per issue. Over the past months, almost half of our members have chosen to

receive the Historian electronically. As well, politicians, and other organizations etc. also receive the Historian via email which cut the cost of each issue by \$90, or \$360 annually.

Hindle and Gosman have volunteered to take over the task of raising the membership roll and fund raising. Both bring a new dimension to the SVHS as well, their connection to the community, will attract new blood and ideas.

Over the next few months, the Museum will be holding several displays and events one of which will attempt to explain the meaning of the term "We are all Treaty People." Jesse Scanlon is in discussion with several leading members of the Indigenous community to set up a public forum at the Museum.

Over the next couple of months, we will be working on producing story boards on the 1950 Flood that will be on display during May. Over 20,000 residents were evacuated over four days without a loss of life.

Director Don Berthman will be spearheading a display of pictures by St. Vital photographers. Stay tuned for details.

Although a month late, this is the final edition of the Historian for 2018. Thanks for being patient.

You can help shape the future of the SVHS: become involved

Want to be part of the membership and fund raising team of the St. Vital Historical Society then John Hindle is waiting to hear from you?

Contact John at john@johnhindle.com to help shape the future of the SVHS.

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Changing faces of St. Mary's Road

How things have changed on St. Mary's Road. Noe Rodrigue's store circa 1945 was located on the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue which now home to Woodcock Cycle. Note the street car tracks that ran down the centre of St. Mary's.

Believe it or not, the two women, below, were at the corner of St. Vital and St. Mary's roads in this circa 1915 photo.



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