

The Historian

St. Vital Museum & Historical Society

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P R E S I D E N T L E T T E R :

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Unveiling Plaques on Kingston Crescent	2
From the Front Desk	3
Glenlawn Reunion	4-5
Glenlawn Reunion Trivia	6
Celebrating the St. Vital Agricultural Society	7
Doors Open Winnipeg	8
Pictures from our past	9
Yolande "Yo-Yo" Teillet	10
École Varennes School tour	10

The past couple of months have been educational as I have learned more about the museum and how everything operates.

We have been able to bring in new faster and more reliable internet, a new monitoring system, new phone system, and at the same time we have caught ourselves up to date in other administrative matters.

There were also two huge weekends for the museum...the Glenlawn 100 th Anniversary and Doors Open Winnipeg. Hundreds of visitors were introduced to our museum and the comments were heart-warming. We do indeed have a special little place down here. Make sure you take the time to stop in. New artifacts are continually coming into the museum.

I was able to attend former president, Bob Holliday's memorial service. Funds raised at the event

were donated to the museum. It was a heart-warming event and the museum which was one of Bob's loves was front and centre. Our dear Bob was quite a "character!"

We could use more volunteers at the museum. If you had any interest in helping us maintain the museum by cleaning, cataloging, archiving, or welcoming guests, please send us an email (info@svhs.ca) or give us a call. We could also use some help with social media, the web site, the Historian and much more.

The museum is open for the summer on Wednesdays from 10 – 4 to go along with our regular Saturdays.

And for sure please renew your membership and tell your friends they should support the museum as well. We need to protect this gem in St. Vital.

John Hindle, *President*



President, John Hindle, speaking at Bob 'Doc' Holliday's Celebration of Life at the St. Vital Park on June 24, 2023.

Photograph by Katherine Bell (Bob Holliday's great niece.)

PLAQUES UNVEILED ON KINGSTON CRESCENT

On June 1st, St. Vital Museum president,



Elder Robert Greene, Photography by Ivan Hughes, 2023

John Hindle, attended the official opening ceremony of the plaques which were unveiled at a park on Kingston Crescent.

The event honoured the history of the area including a plaque that honoured a young man, Lawson Ogg, who died during the 1950 flood. He was helping a local resident when the flood waters poured into the basement of the



Plaque honoring Lawson Ogg, Photography by Ivan Hughes, 2023

home he was in.

Lawson Ogg was the only fatality during that terrible flood which overwhelmed St. Vital placing much of the municipality under water. We may have had more water come down the rivers in recent floods but thanks to the floodway, St. Vital has for the most part been spared.

This project was three years

in the making and was spearheaded by the Kingston Crescent Residents' Association. It was a very moving ceremony and well orchestrated.



Elder Robert Greene, Photography by Ivan Hughes, 2023

Robert Greene, an Anishinaabe Elder, spoke to the audience and played songs, Shandra, Director of Indigenous Studies at the University of Manitoba, a representative of Welcoming Winnipeg, Reanna Merasty, and City Councillor, Brian Mayes, all spoke at the ceremony. And just down the



Kevin Kelly, artist, and the Dancing Golden Bear Photography by Ivan Hughes, 2023

road we saw the carved Dancing Golden Bear which was the vision of artist Kevin Kelly.

Recognizing events from the past and providing them with a permanent place to be remembered in our future is something we at the museum obviously support.



Members of the Kingston Crescent Resident's Association standing together with Elder Robert Greene, Shandra, and Reanna Merasty, Photography by Ivan Hughes, 2023

THOUGHTS FROM THE FRONT DESK...

During a particularly busy Saturday recently, I was asked, “Do you like having all these people talking around the museum?” I admit the question surprised me. Why wouldn’t I be happy that people are talking in the museum?

One could argue that having people talking while I am trying to work might be distracting, but I prefer to appreciate their interest and the experience they are sharing as they walk through the galleries taking in all that has been thoughtfully put out on display.

When I hear people talking in the museum, regardless if they are talking about their memories that have been triggered by an object on display, or they are commenting on one of our artifacts, it really strengthens the pillar of community that we at the St. Vital Museum are continually building. I believe that talking in the museum furthers the exchange of stories which is truly the core of what it means to be human.

For thousands of years storytelling has always been central to the human experience, regard-

less if it is considered to be good or bad. I truly believe it is the museums of the world that need to step up and bring to the light the voices of past and present that have been decidedly squandered, pushed away, ignored, and disregarded.

As long as I am here at the St. Vital Museum, I promise to make sure that our mandate remains the same...all voices will be heard, wrongs will be acknowledged, and people will be seen.

Breanna, Curator



ST. VITAL
Agricultural Society
“More than just a Fair”

- * Community Gardening Plots available on a seasonal basis.
- * Floral arranging groups. * Handcraft groups.
- * Plant sales and community activities.


This year’s Fair: August 11th & 12th at the St. Vital Centennial Arena 580 St. Anne’s Rd.
For Fair & Society info: www.svas.ca



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City Councillor
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GLENLAWN COLLEGIATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The 100th anniversary year of Glenlawn Collegiate has been a wonderful success and by all accounts, the reunion held on May 17–20 was inspiring! Many Glenlawn grads took this opportunity to visit the St. Vital Museum.

The events brought together alumni from many different decades to celebrate both individual and community connections. The “Lion logo” representing leadership, continuity, strength, and pride was once again front and centre during the 100th celebrations. Here are a few highlights!

Centenary Landscape Garden Project:

Glenlawn students and staff took on the challenge of revitalizing the shrubs and plants along the Fermor Street side of the building.

Creating the Logo: Andy Stout, retired graphic arts instructor from Winnipeg Technical College, led the charge to create the 100th year logo.

Other events besides the reunion included...

- ◆ A non-contact hockey tournament held in December, 2022.
- ◆ A Heritage Basketball Classic including a new basketball court which was built be-

side the Boni-Vital Soccer field. It officially opened on May 11, 2023, and the court naming will take place this fall.

- ◆ A visit to Glenlawn by Dr. James Peebles who won the Nobel Peace Prize for research done on background radiation and blackholes in Physics, 2019.

The Reunion: May 17–20, 2023

The Reunion was an outstanding success and was well attended with capacity crowds at every event.

- ◆ A Classic Car Display on May 17th, featuring the 1939 Fire Truck from the St. Vital Museum, kicked off the beginning of the four-day 100th Reunion. Many attendees had connections to the former Norberry School and there were teachers who taught at Norberry in the 1960’s.
- ◆ A Celebration of the Arts was attended by 450 as 25 alumni artists performed.
- ◆ A breakfast with legendary coach, Dennis Wilson, was attended by grads from as far away as Memphis, Tennessee.



GLENWOOD COLLEGIATE 100TH REUNION

- ◆ A Choral and Jazz Band gathering was an opportunity for former members of the school's musical groups to walk down memory lane and to sing and/or play an instrument.
- ◆ 700 attendees came to a school visitation at the collegiate. The amazing decade rooms and a decorated "Café Style Gymnasium" were made possible thanks to huge contributions from present staff, students, and administration.
- ◆ Over 600 people attended the Wine/Cocktail Party and Social. The event was described as electric!
- ◆ Connected to the Glenlawn Reunion, was a visit to Varennes School. Former teacher, Ann Yanchyshyn, was present to greet the 100+ former Glenlawn feeder-school students.
- ◆ Another visit was to Windsor School taken in by 125 Windsor alumni.
- ◆ And as a lasting legacy, the alumni contributed over \$30,000 and still counting to a scholarship fund.

The St. Vital Museum would like to thank the Glenlawn Reunion Committee for allowing us to display a snapshot of your history.

The museum had the great fortune to not only have a booth setup at the Louis Riel School Division Legacy Offices where many attendees picked up their reunion packages, but to also have our 1939 Pumper Truck, driven by our own Leon St. Onge, on display at the antique car event for the evening of May 17th.

During the re-union, a large number of attendees visited our museum. Some took the time to support the museum by purchasing a membership. Perhaps more will do so in the near future. After all, history is what we are about!

The comments we received were very positive on the wonderful job the museum is doing with keeping the community's history alive!

A celebration of 100 years of school history in our own backyard! What an accomplishment! Congratulations to everyone who participated and especially Wayne Ruff and Tom McCormack who co-chaired the reunion.

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GLENLAWN REUNION TRIVIA!

If you weren't able to attend the Glenlawn Reunion the St. Vital Retired Teachers Association in collaboration with the St. Vital Museum, through Ron Koskie, to create a little trivia game!

How many of these can you answer correctly? Find out if you were correct on page 11!

Question 1: What was the name of the restaurant located NORTH of Glenlawn Collegiate in the 50's/60's known as?

- A) Ducharme
- B) 7/11
- C) Josie
- D) Marigold

Fun fact! It is still a restaurant today but now called, "Kashmir Kitchen".

Question 2: How many grade 12 students "graduated" from Norberry Highschool Department in 1923?

- A) 12
- B) 17
- C) 5
- D) 8

Question 3: Glenlawn Collegiate was originally Norberry School and the High School section was known as Norberry High School Department. In what year did Norberry High School Department have the name changed to "Glenlawn Collegiate"?

- A) 1930
- B) 1937
- C) 1950
- D) 1942

Question 4: In what year did a "devastating fire" at Glenlawn Collegiate destroy the old north/east wing?

- A) January, 1962
- B) October, 1993
- C) July, 2010
- D) April, 1987

Question 5: What were the school colours of Glenlawn Collegiate "before" it was changed in 1948 to the "Red & Grey"?

- A) Green & Yellow
- B) Black & Gold
- C) Blue & Gold
- D) Purple & Grey

Question 6: What is the name of the Glenlawn Collegiate mascot?

- A) George
- B) Zak
- C) Leon
- D) Arthur

Question 7: True or False, does the St. Vital Museum have a brick in its collection from the Glenlawn Collegiate fire?



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CELEBRATING THE ST. VITAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S 112TH FAIR

The St. Vital Agricultural Society and its Annual Fair has a long history and its story is still unfolding. Its roots start in 1909 when a group of men formed the Pastime Club. At the time, St. Vital was an agricultural and market garden area, utilizing the rich farmland of the region. As St. Vital grew and evolved to become an urban community, so has the annual Fair and Display.

The St. Vital Agricultural Society (SVAS) values the fellowship and friendly competition that has been associated with all of the past Fairs, and which continues today.

The Society mission statement is:

- ◆ To encourage excellence in horticulture, baking, handicrafts, graphic arts.
- ◆ To instill a love of gardening, especially among our youth.
- ◆ To promote beautification of our homes and environment.
- ◆ To maintain an awareness of St. Vital's agricultural traditions.

The SVAS is more than just a summer fair; with a number of activities and events held year-round.

- ◆ The SVAS sponsors a community garden located on the north side of Bishop Grandin just West of St. Mary's Rd...an area that is welcomed by many apartment dwellers.
- ◆ The "Gardeners Evening" is a yearly fundraising event held in early May which features "Top Hat Florist" owner and expert floral arranger, Jim Fuller.
- ◆ Floral arranging group that meets regularly during our colder months.

A great way to participate at the Fair is to enter exhibits. Check out the Fair Book online at svas.ca and see how many opportunities there are for "friendly competition".

To give a small taste of what to expect at this year's agricultural fair:

- ◆ Admire the many judged entries and appreciate the varied displays
- ◆ Say hello and ask questions of the many demonstrators and vendors as they share their expertise and talents.
- ◆ Enjoy seniors's afternoon; the annual BBQ; Winnipeg South Lions Club pancake breakfast and hot dog lunch;
- ◆ The Farmers'/Crafters' Market; kids' activities and much more.

Bring your family and friends to have fun and get your picture taken at the fun photo prop.

The 112th Annual Fair and Display
August 11 & 12, 2023 with the theme
"The Great Outdoors"

Together let's celebrate the joy of spring, the blooms of summer, a harvest moon in the fall, a walk in the woods in winter!

St. Vital Centennial Arena 580 St Anne's Rd.

Admission: 1-Day - \$2.00

Don Berthman, St. Vital Historical Society and St. Vital Agricultural Society Board Member

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DOORS OPEN WINNIPEG

Wow! Doors Open Winnipeg on May 27th and 28th was absolutely amazing!

Many new faces were introduced to our museum and embraced the history of St. Vital. It was awesome to see such positive energy in the museum.

We opened the doors to the garage so the fire-trucks got to peek out and greet those who entered through the front of the building. Even a furry friend joined the party and had a sip of water at our newly installed doggy water station!

It was a great pleasure to share the history of St. Vital with people who travelled from other parts of the city. Huge thank you to all the volunteers who came to help set up and be St. Vital Museum ambassadors for the weekend. We couldn't have done this without you!

And thank you to Heritage Winnipeg for giving the St. Vital Museum the opportunity to open our doors (including the garage ones!) to such a large number of visitors on such a gorgeous weekend.

We can't wait for next year's event!



2023 Doors Open Winnipeg banner from the Doors Open Winnipeg Facebook page; produced by Heritage Winnipeg.

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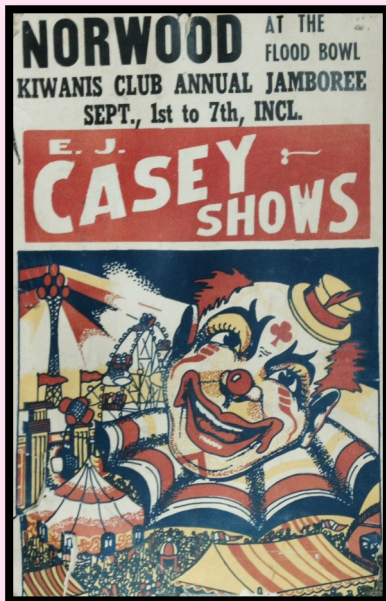
PICTURES FROM OUR PAST



As a child one of the most exciting parts of the year is when the circus comes to town!

Who can blame them?

For many summers the children, of all ages, of the City of St. Vital would swarm the E.J. Casey Shows to enjoy the sights and sounds of the traveling show.



Both during the day and at night!

Some years the show would be hosted at the St. Vital Agricultural Society's Riel Park. Other times the show was held at the Norwood Community Club.



All historical images shown here are from the St. Vital Museum E.J. Casey archival collections.


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YOLANDE "YO-YO" TEILLET: TRAILBLAZER IN WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

Yolande "Yo-Yo" Teillet was born in St. Vital, and was one of the first Metis women to play professional baseball in the United States.

While playing the position of catcher for the St. Vital Tigerettes, she was recruited for the Fort Wayne Daisies of the All-American Girls Baseball League in 1945 and played in the league from 1945-47. (The Grand Rapids Chicks, 1946 and

the Kenosha Comets, 1947).

Yolande is also the daughter of Camille Teillet and Sarah Riel, and her grandfather was Joseph Riel, the younger brother of Louis Riel.

She is a member of the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, and her name appears in the US National Baseball Hall of

Fame.

In 1945, her team, the Fort Wayne Daisies, finished second (62-47 record) to the league champion Rockford Peaches. The Rockford Peaches have been immortalized in the movie "A League of Their Own" starring Tom Hanks and Geena Davis.

Darryl Resch, St. Vital Museum Volunteer and Community Historian.



ÉCOLE VARENNES SCHOOL TOUR

As the school year came to a close, the St. Vital Museum was pleased to open the garage doors for a lovely group of grade four students from École Varennes for a tour!

Of course all the children thoroughly enjoyed taking pictures at both the jail cell and fire-

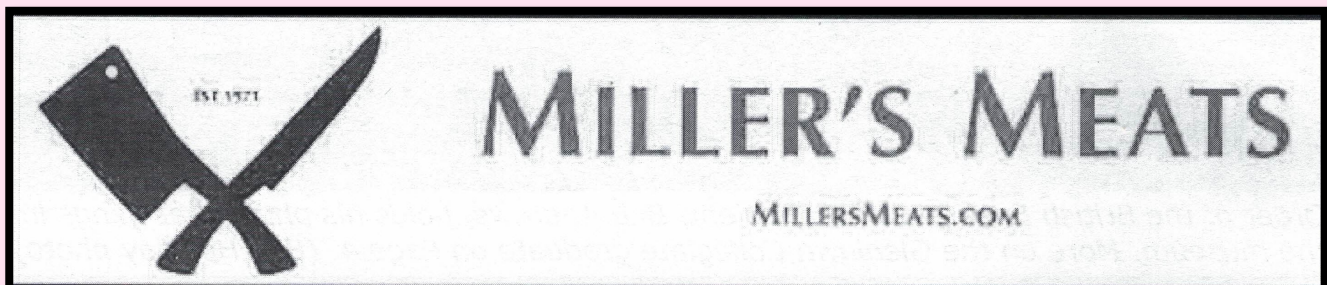
trucks!

One of the awesome things to see was the enthusiastic questions and genuine curiosity that followed in their wake as they walked through the galleries.

There was a surprising amount of questions from the children about the connection between

the St. Vital Firehall and the great fire at the St. Boniface Cathedral (1968). Apparently the picture we have of the structure fire near the fire trucks inspired it!

Breanna, Curator





**James & Minnie Peebles in cart with son Andrew and daughter Dora c.1910 – they lived just north of Guay Park
Photographer unknown.**



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DON'T FORGET!

Please renew or sign-up for an annual membership and ask your friends!

- Individual...\$20.00
- Family (one per household)...\$30.00
- Friends of the St. Vital Museum...\$400.00
- Corporate partnerships & advertising are also welcome.

Payments for memberships and donations can be made online, on the St. Vital Museum website, or through e-transfer payment@svhs.ca

GLENLAWN REUNION TRIVIA ANSWERS!

- Question 1: Josie
- Question 2: 5
- Question 3: 1930
- Question 4: 1993
- Question 5: Blue and Gold
- Question 6: Arthur
- Question 7: True

**If you got less than 5 correct
 maybe you need to come down
 the St. Vital Museum for a visit!**

Thriving Learners ∞ Flourishing Communities

At the Louis Riel School Division, our vision is simple, yet powerful: we want all members of our community to excel as caring, confident, capable, and resilient life-long learners who contribute to a democratic and sustainable world.

Our division is more than just a school system - we're a community of learners, teachers, parents, and partners who are all dedicated to creating a better future for ourselves and for generations to come.



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