

**125
STORIES
ABOUT
MORDEN**

GEN
F
5649
.M67
125
c.2

FORWARD

This book is a compilation of stories prepared by members of the Morden Historical Society to celebrate Morden's 125th Anniversary in 2007. A call for stories was printed in the *Morden Times* and the Town of Morden's quarterly newsletter. Two meetings were organized at the Friendship Centre to reminisce and gather stories. Ideas and information have come from many sources and individuals.

Great effort was made to check facts, but no doubt inaccuracies will be found. We invite you to submit corrections in writing to the Historical Society and they will be placed in the Morden Archive as an addendum to this book.

This was never intended as a complete history of Morden. There are many more untold stories about Morden, its residents, business community and organizations. Perhaps someone will be inspired to compile *125 Stories, Part 2!*

We sincerely thank those individuals that shared their stories with us and those who assisted with writing and editing.

Morden Historical Society
October, 2006



DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the intrepid pioneer families who first came to settle in this area, and to all those who came after and call Morden their home.



Morden took its name from Alvey Baker Morden, on whose land the townsite was developed in 1882.



Alvey and Frances Morden left Walkerton Ontario with their 5 children in 1874 and headed west, intending to file claims on government land in Manitoba. In Fort Garry (Winnipeg), Alvey met an old friend who recommended an area six days journey to the southwest, where there were very few settlers. Alvey and his two oldest sons, Frank and Wilmot, set out to look over the land. Finding what they wanted, they returned to the fort to file claims.

By 1881, the Pembina Branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway had advanced to Stevenville, three miles east of the present Town of Morden. Because a steady water supply for the locomotives was available from Cheval Creek (Dead Horse Creek), the railway chose a route across the Morden properties and built a water tower and station called Cheval Creek Station. Later the station and town came to be named for the first settler, Alvey Morden.

Once Morden was established as a stopping point for the railway, a village began to grow. By 1884, residents of Nelson and Mountain City began to move houses, schools, churches and commercial buildings to Morden, which quickly took on the physical attributes of a settled community. By 1885 Morden was considered an important trading post for 50 miles around.

The community of Nelson, situated five miles north of Alvey Morden's land, was well established by 1880.

In 1877, Adam Nelson and his family settled in the Pembina Mountain district. His sons encouraged their father to build a grist mill and saw mill on nearby Silver Creek and soon a little village sprang up. The community continued to grow and a town hall, school, churches, stores and banks were built. Doctors, lawyers, druggists and blacksmiths set up businesses. The population reached 500 and a regular stage coach route connected the town with Emerson.

The prospect of the building of a railway through the town raised high hopes among the residents of this prosperous community. Instead, the Canadian Pacific Railway chose to build its rail line south of Nelson, near Dead Horse Creek.

When the people of Nelson realized they would have no railway connection, they began to relocate to Morden. During 1884 and 1885 it was a daily sight to see a number of buildings on sledges and skids being towed to the railway line. Brick buildings were torn down and the bricks sold to build farmhouses. Houses and businesses were moved in sections and reassembled in Morden.

The village of Mountain City, located about five miles southwest of Alvey Morden's property, had its beginnings in the late 1870s.

Situated on the main overland trail between Emerson and the Turtle Mountains, most of the settlers who filed homesteads at Manitou, Crystal City and Deloraine followed this trail. The population of 300 to 400 had stores, a school, post office, saw mill, flour mill and two hotels.

The community was intended to be the county seat of south Dufferin and late in 1881 a new court house was built. Dufferin Hall was described as "superior to anything of a public kind outside of Winnipeg". The residents of Mountain City, like those of Nelson, waited for the railroad to come through their community. When that didn't happen, many residents moved their houses and businesses to Morden.

Dufferin Hall was moved to Morden and placed on Stephen Street, where it housed the community's post office. When the building was destroyed by fire around 1897, it was the last remaining building from Mountain City.

Source: Adolph Dack in *Morden's 80th Anniversary Reunion Book*.

Morden was incorporated as a village on May 1, 1895

The incorporation document that proclaims Morden as a village, hangs on the wall inside the Civic Centre.

Resident freeholders and householders of the area presented a petition to the Province to seek incorporation as a village. The boundaries of the village were described as: "Being the North, East quarter of Section 6 in the 3rd Township and 5th Range West of the Principal Meridian in the Province of Manitoba and all those portions of Sections 4, 5 and 8 in said Township and Range contained within the following limits..." and the document goes on to describe the boundaries of the community.

Just a few years later - 1903 - Morden had grown to the extent that it was incorporated as a Town. That same year, the Court House was built and the Town's first high school was organized. These events marked a transition from simple pioneer life to a more complex modern life.

CANADA PROVINCE OF MANITOBA



Victoria, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, do hereby give notice, that,

To all whom this presents shall come

GREETING

WHEREAS a Petition has been presented to us signed by not less than twenty-five resident freeholders and householders of the locality herein - after described of whom not fewer than ten hold one freehold, praying that Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the Province of Manitoba be issued incorporating the freeholders and householders of the said locality as a Village, Comprising within the provisions of the "Municipal Act"

AND WHEREAS the provisions of the said Act have been duly complied with in the premises

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said petitioners

NOW KNOW YE that by and with the advice of Our Executive Council and Our said Province and under the authority of the said Act and of any other power or authority whatsoever in us vested in that behalf We do by these our Letters Patent incorporate the inhabitants of the locality herein - after described, to wit,

Being the North, East quarter of Section 6 in the 3rd Township and 5th Range West of the Principal Meridian in the Province of Manitoba and all those portions of Sections 4, 5 and 8 in said Township and Range contained within the following limits, to-wit, commencing at the North-West angle of said Section 6, thence Easterly along the Northern boundary of said Section 6, on the production Southwily of the Western limit of Frontenac Street as shown in

Plan No 30 registered in the Morden Land Titles Office, thence Northern along and production of said the Western limit of "S" Street to the Northern limit of Winthrop Street as shown on said plan, thence Easterly along said Northern limit of Winthrop Street and the same produced in a straight line Easterly to the Eastern boundary of said Section 6, thence Southwily along the said Eastern boundary of Section 6 and the same produced to the North-East angle of said Section 5, thence Easterly on the corner of the Westerly production of the Northern boundary of said Section 4, and along the Northern boundary of said Section 4 to the Eastern limit of Bank Street as shown in registered plan No 17 of said Office, thence Southwily along said Eastern limit of Bank Street to the Northern limit of the first corner for the Right of Way of the Saskatchewan and Prairie Provinces branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, thence Westerly along said Northern limit of the said so called for Right of Way and the same produced Westerly to the Eastern boundary of said Section 5, thence Southwily along said Eastern boundary to the Southern South Railway Street as shown in registered plan No 27 of said Office, thence Westerly and along said Southern limit of South Railway Street to the North-East angle of Block 9 as shown in registered plan No 90 of said Office, thence Southwily along said Eastern boundary of Block 9 to the South-East angle thereof, thence Westerly and along the Southern boundary of said Block 9 to the South-West quarter of said Section 5, the Western boundary thereof, thence Southwily and along said Western boundary of said Section 5, to the point of commencement, and shall constitute a body corporate and politic, to first and to be by the name of

THE VILLAGE OF MORDEN

With all the powers and subject to all the restrictions conferred and imposed upon village corporations by the said Act

AND WE further direct that the meeting for the election of Mayor and Councillors to be elected to compose the first Council of said Village shall be held at Dufferin Hall in Manitoba aforesaid on Monday the sixth day of May A.D. 1895 at the hour of Twelve o'clock noon and whosoever will be required to elect the said Mayor and Councillors on any day other than said date shall be taken as the Municipal Hall in Manitoba aforesaid on Friday the Sixth Day of May A.D. 1895, between the hours of Nine o'clock in the forenoon and four

o'clock in the afternoon that the manner of voting shall be open voting. That the Returning Officer at said election and first election of said Council shall be John McCombe of Morden aforesaid, that the polling place for each election shall be the said Municipal Hall in Manitoba aforesaid. That the date and place of holding the first meeting of the first Council of the said Village in 1895 it shall not be necessary to hold a poll shall be Monday the sixth day of May A.D. 1895 at the hour of Eight o'clock in the afternoon at said Dufferin Hall in Manitoba aforesaid, and that the date and place of holding the first meeting of the first Council of the said Village in 1896 it shall be necessary to hold a poll shall be Friday the sixth day of May A.D. 1896 at the hour of Eight o'clock in the afternoon at said Dufferin Hall in Manitoba aforesaid.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF we have caused the Great Seal of Our Province of Manitoba to be hereunto affixed

WITNESS our hands and seal at the Honourable John Christian Schultz, Lieutenant Governor of our said Province of Manitoba

AT OUR GOVERNMENT HOUSE in the City of Winnipeg this first day of May in the year of Our Lord 1895, in the fifth year of Our King

BY COMMAND

Financial Secretary

5 JOHN A. MACDONALD & WILFRED LAURIER

Morden received visits from two Prime Ministers.

Howard Winkler wrote of a visit by Sir John A. Macdonald.

“Of all the historic occurrences of the past century in Morden... first is the visit of Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald in 1896. Before proceeding westward on an inspection tour of the recently completed C.P.R. to the west coast, he and his party rode over the Pembina Mountain section of the railway. At Morden they stopped at the station where a large crowd had gathered to greet them. Three year old Philip Locke, son of lawyer Corbet Locke presented the Prime Minister with a bouquet of prairie flowers.”

A visit from Sir Wilfred Laurier is documented in a postcard that is in the possession of John and Sharron Wiens. It was written by Leona W. (no last name given) on July 16, 1910 to Mr. Herbert Theal in Fulton Ontario. She wrote:

“Dear Friend Here is a card for you from Manitoba. Had the pleasure of hearing Laurier speak here yesterday and also of shaking hands with him. He was great, enjoyed it immensely.”



The Great Northern Railway served the Town of Morden in the early 20th century.

In 1909, the Manitoba Legislature passed an *Act respecting the Great Northern Railway Company of Manitoba*. It authorized the Great Northern Railway Company to purchase the assets of the Midland Rail Company of Manitoba, which included an existing line from Morden, southeasterly to the international border near Gretna. Depots were located at Haskett, Glencross and Morden.

Grain, coal, lumber, livestock and dairy products, as well as consumer goods and passengers were transported between Morden and Grand Forks. From Grand Forks, the Great Northern paralleled the United States-Canadian border just south of the 49th parallel and gave Morden access to the vast American northwest from the upper Mississippi River valley to Puget Sound. "You could almost set your clock at 2:30 every afternoon, except on Sunday, when the Great Northern Express from Walhalla passed the Experimental Farm gate". The station stood on Thornhill Street near 2nd Street. The rails ran to an area just north of the Court House, where there was a roundhouse.

However, the thriving business was short lived. During the Depression years, international trade restrictions dried up the flow of goods. The Great Northern terminated its service in the late 1930s and abandoned the line to farmers a few years later. Like Nelson and Mountain City in the 1880s, Glencross and Haskett could not survive without the railway and became absorbed by Morden and Winkler in the following decade.

Source: Morden's 80th Anniversary Re-Union Book

Early Morden Village and Town Councils had some weighty matters to consider.

1898: Boys riding bicycles at a high speed will be prosecuted and boys using catapults will be prosecuted according to the "Nuisance Act".

August 14, 1905: Mr. J. R Bush complained of boys and young men from town bathing in the creek and exposing themselves on the banks of the creek in front of his house.

May 22, 1911: A motion was made that bathing at the CPR be prohibited during daylight except in bathing suits and that notices be posted and the policeman be instructed to enforce the by-law against indecent exposure

When the community of Morden was laid out, North Railway Street was designated as the principle business street.

At the turn of the 20th century, Morden had a population of around 1500 people. Most of the stores, as well as the railway station, were on North Railway Street. Acting as the commercial centre for a flourishing agricultural district, Morden businesses provided all the goods and services that a farming family might need. There were general stores, a bowling alley and pool hall, hardware stores, implement dealers, clothing stores, a furniture store and a hotel.

Rapid growth of the community's commercial district caused places of business to overflow into Stephen Street, which originally had been intended as an elite residential street.

The northern boundary of the village was called Thornhill Avenue after the village of that name to the west. The street between Alvey Morden's property and that of his sons was called Mountain Avenue after Mountain City. The boundary between the Wilmot and Franklin Morden properties became Nelson Street.



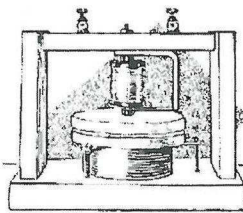
The Bell Telephone office that opened in Morden in 1890 was one of the first in rural Manitoba.

The first telephone exchange in Morden was operated by John Thomas Pound in 1890 in a building on the corner of North Railway and Nelson Streets. By 1903, the number of phones connected to this exchange totalled 118 and by 1906, twenty-four hour service was initiated.

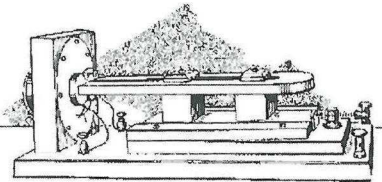
In 1935 Morden residents were canvassed to subscribe to the telephone service. They were told if they could increase the number of subscribers, service charges would be reduced.

In 1964, many citizens found the clutter of power lines and telephone poles on the main street an eyesore, so a meeting was arranged with both utility companies. It was agreed that the poles would be removed if easements could be obtained from property owners. Permission was obtained and the poles were moved off the streets and into back lanes.

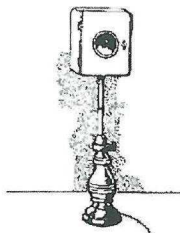
In 1987, free telephone service was implemented between Morden and the communities of Winkler, Miami, Roland and Darlingford. This was a result of market forces such as cell phones, the lower cost of electronics and competition within the communications industry.



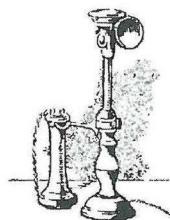
1875



1877



1879



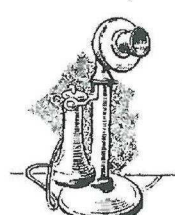
1886



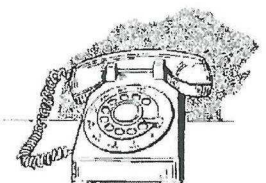
1896



1899



1914



1957

Morden was the birthplace of some of Manitoba's earliest newspapers.

J. Galbraith's *Nelson Mountaineer* was launched in 1879 and was possibly the earliest weekly printed entirely in rural Manitoba. When the residents of Nelson packed up and moved to Morden, the *Mountaineer* became part of the migration. Without missing one issue, the first Morden paper was published on October 11, 1884 under the name of the *Morden Manitoba News*.

In 1886, J.H. Smith purchased the paper and continued publication under the name of the *Morden Monitor*. It was sponsored by the Conservative Party (political parties played a large role in early Manitoba newspapers) and was edited by Rev. Hugh J. Borthwick.

In 1892, Rev. Borthwick resigned from the Monitor, apparently over a difference of opinion with the sponsoring Conservatives. Rev. Borthwick and Neil Fox then founded the *Morden Herald* with the blessing of Liberal supporters. J.H. Smith took over as editor of the *Monitor* and lively political debates between the two papers entertained Morden residents. However, the population could not support two newspapers and reluctantly, the papers eventually merged into the *Morden Chronicle*.

The *Chronicle* editor had Liberal leanings. This did not sit well with the Conservatives, as they started the *Morden Empire* in August, 1898. Again, the political war of words was on! Financial concerns won the day in 1911 when the *Morden Times* was formed as an independent newspaper.

Many young men from the Morden area joined the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II and on their return from service, some wished to continue flying as a hobby.

One of these was Ted Turner, who returned to Morden following WW II and started a small flying operation west of Morden, using pasture land as a landing strip.

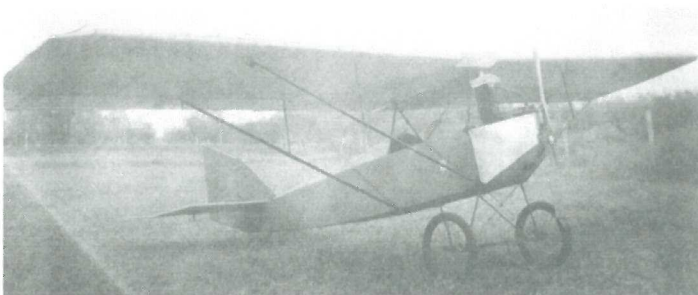
On a February evening in 1964, the Stanley Flying Club was formed. Members elected to the executive were: Rollie Lumb (president), Henry Loewen (vice), Hank Wiens (secretary-treasurer), Ben Wiebe and Ernie Krushel (grounds), Russell Burkitt (public relations) and Art Best (membership). It was a club without an airport.

Finding an ideal location just north east of Morden, members approached the R. M. of Stanley to close the road allowance for an airport. Soon after, construction of the Stanley airport began. A runway and hangars were built, lights and gas pumps were installed and a clubhouse was moved onto the site. In 1970, a pilot training school and commercial business started out of the airport under the name Pembina Air Services. With increasing traffic at the airport, additional property was purchased and negotiations began with the Provincial and Federal governments for grants to construct a 2,500 foot paved runway, which was later extended to 3,000 feet. In 1979, the Flying Club changed its name to the Morden Flying Club and in 1984, the airport became the Morden Airport.

In 2005, volunteers with the Morden Flying Club, with financial support from the Town, constructed a new 1,000-square foot terminal building. The old building was moved off the site and

burned during a Morden Fire Department practice.

Contributed by
Ben Wiebe





The Canadian Pacific Railway station that served Morden for many years was taken from its home on North Railway Street and moved to the Pembina Thresherman's Museum on July 23, 1972.

The Museum bought the station from the C.P.R. in 1971 for \$175.00. It is believed that the station was built in 1905, to replace an earlier station that had burned down.

Even before Morden was incorporated as a village, local businessmen organized the Morden Board of Trade. The Board of Trade was incorporated on March 27, 1890 and was the third in Manitoba after Selkirk and Winnipeg. It promoted activities that would bring change and progress to the community. On May 24, 1960, its name was officially changed to the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce.

In the early years, the Board of Trade brought entertainment and cultural events to Morden. Picnics were held at the Dominion Experimental Farm for large groups from Winnipeg. One annual event was the "Sociability Tour" that stopped in Morden. Car loads of Mordenites joined the tour as it travelled on to various points in North Dakota.

In the mid 1970s the Chamber organized an annual "smoosh racing" event. Four pairs of shoes were nailed to two long boards. Four people laced on the shoes and attempted to race in unison. The winning team won a trophy.

On a more serious note, Chamber of Commerce leadership has been effective in every aspect of the community from its roots in agriculture to modern day economic development, marketing and communications. Long standing networking events that owe their existence to the Chamber are the Spring Golf Tournament, All Candidates Forums and topical presentations and seminars.

Educating members on up-to-date technology and providing information and training on the latest issues from electricity and the telephone to full use of the world wide web and from railway service and grain prices to the big box invasion and employee recruitment, the Chamber has been and will continue to be a strong advocate promoting economic opportunities to sustain and develop Morden business.

Most of the trees lining the streets of Morden were planted by early residents.

In the spring of 1916 a group of interested citizens met to organize a Horticultural Society in the Town of Morden. The Society charter, the fourth in the Province, was dated April 3, 1916 and signed on March 27, 1923 by Mr. N. Cameron, Minister of Agriculture and Immigration. Although it took seven years to receive this official recognition, Society members were active from the beginning. In 1921, Morden won a trophy for the best display of vegetables at the provincial exhibition and in 1922, 1925 and 1926 they won the Richardson Cup for vegetable displays in Winnipeg.

In the early years, the Society undertook a beautification program in which boulevards were planted with flowering shrubs, yellow roses, spirea and lilacs. Two members, William Godfrey and C. C. Milne, were responsible for planting the triangular park at the west end of Stephen Street where it meets North Railway Street - this park is now known as Milne Park.

In 1933, a Civic Improvement Committee, in co-operation with Town Council, the Dominion Experimental Farm and the Horticultural Society, began a beautification project with the planting of trees in Morden Park and the elms along Thornhill Street

A magnificent old tree stands in the southeast corner of Confederation Park. It is a *populus deltoides 'aurea' goldus*, commonly known as the Van Goertz cottonwood. It was grown from a cutting included in a letter sent from New York in 1891 to James Bonny, Chief Clerk of the Morden Land Titles Office. This tree is believed to be the tallest cottonwood in Manitoba.



Alexander P. Stevenson (1854-1922) was a pioneer horticulturalist who established an orchard at his farm near Nelson.

A. P. Stevenson was born in Scotland and came to Canada at about age twenty. He worked in Toronto for two years before making his way west to Winnipeg, traveling by boat to Duluth, train to Moorehead and riverboat to Winnipeg.

At the Dominion Land Office, he was told that the choice land was in the area of the Pembina Hills. He set out to the area and claimed the south half of section 2-4-6, near Nelson. In 1875, he planted his garden in a small plot and began transplanting native fruits and imported seedlings from an experimental Station in Ames, Iowa.

After his success in growing crabapple stock imported from the United States, he became known as "Crabapple Stevenson". By 1900 he was testing close to 100 varieties of apples and several other fruits. As a tree planting inspector for the dominion forestry branch for twenty years, he was known throughout the country. His advice concerning shelterbelts, landscaping, fruits and all aspects of farming was invaluable.

Stevenson's many honours include the Carter Gold Medal which was presented posthumously in 1923 by the Canadian Horticulture Council "for Advancement of Horticulture in Canada". He was also awarded the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal which was established by the Manitoba Horticultural Association to perpetuate Stevenson's memory and is awarded periodically in recognition of distinguished work in prairie horticulture.

A. P. Stevenson is a member of the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame.

The Canada Department of Agriculture established the Morden Experimental Farm in 1916.

The Pembina Escarpment provides shelter for fields and crops, producing eight to ten more frost-free days each growing season than other parts of Manitoba. The rich soil, longer growing season and A.P. Stevenson's successful fruit growing on his homestead near Nelson, prompted the Canada Department of Agriculture to establish the Morden Experimental Farm. Its purpose was to specialize in horticultural research to benefit western Canada. Land bordering the eastern end of Morden owned by Mr. J. Gibb was chosen for its proximity to the railway and town.

In 1916, under the direction of Superintendent S. A. Bjornson, 25,000 apple seedlings were planted. A Hampshire sheep flock, bee colonies and apple and plum orchards were started. Soon the orchards were enlarged to include spruce trees, strawberries and other small fruits. Field beans, corn and chickens also became part of the operation.

Under the direction of W. R. Leslie (1921-1956) the farm became known internationally. Tobacco, cereal grains, sudan grass, soybeans, field corn, raspberries, perennial flowers, ornamentals, Percheron mares and Ayrshire cattle were introduced. The arboretum started by Mr. Leslie has over 1200 varieties of trees and holds all the basic genetic material of trees developed in Western Canada.

Scientists at the Morden facility now known as the Morden Research Station - have been responsible for the development of 200 varieties of trees, grains and oilseeds and many varieties of fruits, vegetables and ornamentals suited to Prairie conditions, such as the Mantet and Goodland apples, the Starfire and Manitoba tomatoes and the Morden shrub roses.

- A) The Almey Rosybloom Crabapple, chosen by the Canadian Nurserymen's Association as Canada's Centennial tree, was developed at the Morden Research Station in 1945.
- B) The Manitoba Centennial tree (1970) was the Kelsey Crabapple, developed by Dr. W. Cumming at the Morden Research Station.
- C) In 2004 Morden was honoured when a new variety of apple tree was named for the Morden Corn and Apple Festival. The "Morden Festival" apple ripens in late summer, so that it is ready for the Corn and Apple Festival.



Dr. Wilbert Ronald warned Morden Town Council of the spread of Dutch elm disease in March, 1969.



Wilbert Ronald of the Morden Research Station met with Council to discuss the planting of trees on town boulevards. He stated that Dutch elm disease appeared to be spreading into Manitoba. Since the majority of the trees in the town were of the American elm species, he suggested that Council consider planting trees of other species. This led to a decision to plant a greater variety of trees in Morden's neighbourhoods, lessening the effect of the loss of elm trees over the years.

As a research scientist with Agriculture Canada, Dr. Ronald initiated new programs in shrub and perennial breeding that led to significant plant introductions. He advanced the study of lilies, introduced significant lily cultivars and stimulated the support of lily research in Canada and throughout the world with the activities of the Morden Research Station program and the strengthening of the North American Lily Society Research Trust Fund. The NALS voted two of Dr. Ronald's lilies among the ten most popular lilies, with one rated first place.

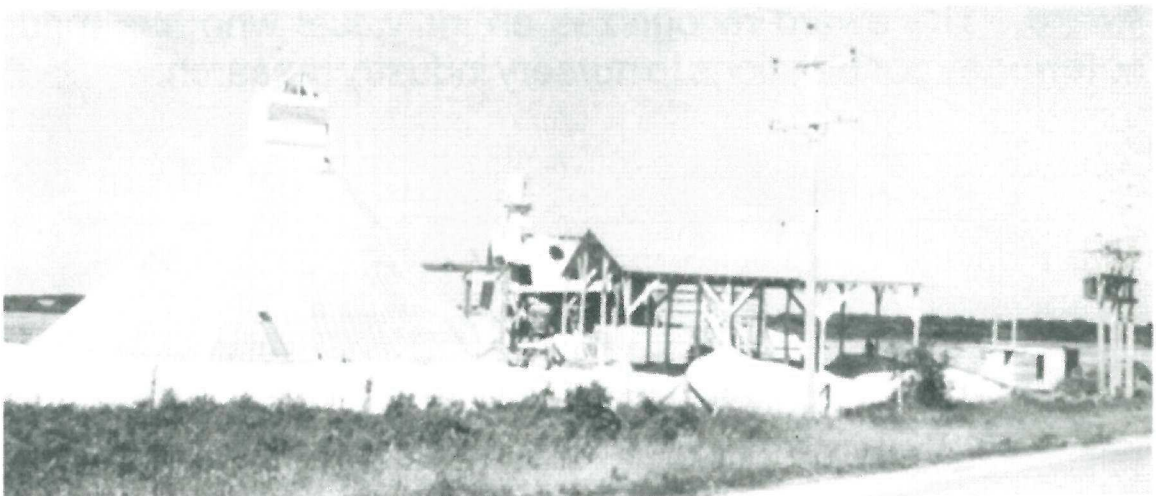
In 2003, the American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA) awarded Dr. Ronald with the Norman Jay Colman Award. The award recognizes an individual who has made noteworthy contributions to nursery industry research.

Bentonite mining in the Pembina Hills led to the discovery of the largest collection of marine vertebrates in Canada.

In the early 1930s Ernest Spencer sent clay samples away to be analyzed. It was determined that the clay was bentonite and mining in the Pembina Hills commenced.

Bentonite is a cream-coloured clay formed from decomposed volcanic ash. A processing plant was established in 1939 by Pembina Mountain Clays Inc. of Morden, the only company mining for bentonite in Manitoba at that time. The company quarried the only non-swelling calcium bentonite in Canada at twenty-one sites in the Morden-Miami area from 1939 to 1990. Twelve grades of bentonite were sold in dry powder form primarily to vegetable oil refineries in Alberta and Ontario, where it was used as a bleaching agent to decolourize the oils. It was also used to refine waste mineral oil and tallow soaps. A small amount of kitty litter was produced for local consumption.

Without the economic value of bentonite and establishment of a mining operation, the discovery of fossils in this area might not have occurred. The aid and co-operation of the Pembina Mountain Clays helped the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre acquire the abundant collection now housed in the museum - one of the greatest treasures in Canada.



The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre houses the finest collection of marine vertebrate fossils in Canada.

In 1969 a committee was formed to organize a local heritage museum to be located on the second floor of the old Post Office. The Morden and District Museum was officially incorporated and opened in 1971 during the Corn and Apple Festival.

In the summer of 1972, word spread from bentonite miners that substantial fossils were being found in the Pembina Hills. Local residents Henry Isaak and Don Bell went to explore. Henry Isaak became the museum's curator, acquiring grants for summer students and over the next two years excavated thirty mosasaur and twenty plesiosaur specimens from the ground where bentonite was being mined.

Originally the fossil finds were stored in the basement of the old Post Office, but as the paleontological collection expanded, the museum was in need of a new venue to display specimens. In 1979 the museum moved to the recreation centre with 14,000 square feet of space devoted to both local heritage and paleontological exhibits.

In 2004, the Morden and District Museum changed its name to the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in order to focus on the unique and abundant fossil collection. In the same year, the CDFC purchased 109 acres of fossil rich land on the Manitoba Escarpment to enable the continuing search for fossils.





The game of curling has a long history in Morden.

It is suspected that a curling facility was built in Morden soon after the community began. By 1888 there was enough interest among early Mordenites to seek official recognition as a bona fide curling club.

In a letter sent in 1982 to Frank Ptosnick of Morden, R. W. Welsh, Secretary Treasurer of the Royal Caledonia Club of Scotland stated, "The Morden Curling Club is one of the seven founding clubs organized in 1887, affiliated 1888, with the Royal Caledonia Curling Club of Scotland...later to be known as the Manitoba Curling Association."

The facility on 2nd Street was constructed in 1958. The Morden Curling Club has hosted several major bonspiels: the 1978 Manitoba Lassie Provincial Curling Championship, the Tankard curling play downs in 1988 and the provincial Scott Tournament of Hearts in 2003.





The Morden Turf Association was formed in about 1890.

Twenty acres of land were purchased on the north side of Wardrop Street between 1st and 3rd Streets for fair grounds. Grandstands were built and a racetrack was fenced. Another grandstand and three cattle barns were added in 1925.

The Agricultural Society held a fair, horse races and baseball games for many years. The Morden Agricultural Fair was one of the main summer events until about 1932 when drought struck the prairies.

In the 1950s the Kinsmen initiated the July 1st sports day which developed into a large, popular baseball tournament. In the early 1960s the grandstand was demolished and the racetrack torn up and leveled to make way for more baseball diamonds. In the 1970s the Elks Club took over the sports day.

In 1976, the Recreation Centre was built on the old fair grounds.

Morden hosted the 1996 Manitoba Summer Games.

The Manitoba Games are the province's largest multi-sport event. They are designed to stimulate participation and strengthen community, regional and provincial sport networks.

The strength of Morden's bid for the 1996 Games was due in part to the regional approach used by Morden, Winkler, Altona and Miami. Each of the communities participated in hosting events and contributed to making the Games a success. Morden was selected from seven communities that submitted bids. The other communities were Dauphin, Portage la Prairie, Steinbach, Teulon, The Pas and Virden

Nine sports were chosen for the 1996 games: archery, athletics, baseball, equestrian, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and triathlon. In addition there was a Special Olympics soccer meet and a swimming competition for the blind.

Winkler hosted swimming, Altona hosted track and field and Miami hosted equestrian events. Morden hosted the remaining events.

Throughout the 1990s the Morden Mohawks Senior baseball team was a force to be reckoned with.

One of two Morden Senior teams at the time, the Mohawks won the Border League Championship in ten successive years 1990 to 1999.

The team played the entire 1994 season with only one loss and bettered that record by going undefeated in Border League play in 1997. The team was also chosen as Central Region's Team of the Year and the Manitoba Baseball Association's Team of the Year in 1994. The Mohawks also won the Border League Championship in 2001 and 2002.

Contributed by Joe Wiwchar



The Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame Museum is one of only three museums in Canada specifically dedicated to baseball.

At a 1996 meeting of some prominent baseball people, it was decided to establish a Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame. A committee was struck to find a suitable site. Jim Mutcheson returned to Morden from the meeting and reported that there was only one community - Neepawa - submitting a bid for the museum. Following talks with the Recreation Director and Town Council, it was decided that Morden would make a bid to house the Museum at the Recreation Centre. On the recommendation of the site selection committee, the Hall of Fame Board of Directors chose Morden.

The Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame was incorporated and received charitable status in 1997. The first induction banquet was held at Brandon University on June 6, 1997.

The Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame Museum, located at the Morden Recreation Centre, was officially opened at the third annual banquet, held on June 5 1999.

Contributed by Joe Wiwchar



A water ski club was active in Morden in the 1950s and 1960s.

In those years, the club had the largest membership in the province. Yearly regattas were held during the first several years that the lake was open. In August 1957, the Manitoba Water Ski Championships were held at Lake Minnewasta.

A group of long-time Morden residents remembered the day that Art Hoepfner water skied while wearing a parka. A picture was published in the *Times* and was picked up by newspapers all the way to Florida. Imagine the headlines!





A six-hole sand greens golf course was developed in Morden about the same time as the town began.

The course was later expanded to nine-holes. This original course was located one-mile south of town on the east side of Mountain Street, where Huron Windows is currently located.

In 1960, a new grass greens course was laid out in the scenic valley west of town, one mile west of the old course. This was one of the few grass greens golf courses in rural Manitoba at that time.

An expanded eighteen-hole course was designed by internationally renowned golf course architect, Les Furber of Golf Design Service and officially opened July 14, 1989. It incorporated the previous nine-hole course and relocated the clubhouse off Highway #3.





Morden's Minnewasta Golf Club is a host of the annual International Golf Tournament, which is believed to be the largest international tournament in the world.

In 1970, Howie Larke, Sales Manager with Labatts and a former Mordenite, contacted Herb Dick in Winkler to discuss creating a tournament in southern Manitoba that would compare to the Grey Owl in Clear Lake and the Golden Falcon at Falcon Lake.

After several meetings that also included Weldon Ridley and Jack Borthwick of Morden, a decision was made to stage an annual two-day, thirty-six hole tournament hosted by the Morden and Winkler clubs. It would be called the International 500. The idea was to attract 250 golfers from Canada and 250 from the United States. The first tournament was played in 1971 and attracted about 300 golfers, including fifty from the U.S. In 1973, Wallhalla ND joined the International, allowing entries to climb to 520. Each golfer played nine holes at two of the courses and eighteen at the third.

A couple of years later, Cavalier ND joined the tournament and entries rose to 600. By 1995, both Morden and Winkler had eighteen-hole courses and Langdon ND had replaced Cavalier. The entry limit was increased to 720 golfers and the tournament became a three day event.

The International continues to be very popular, drawing nearly 700 golfers each year.

Contributed by Herb Dick



The Morden International Triathlon is Manitoba's oldest triathlon and the longest running Half-Ironman triathlon in North America.

In 1983, the Morden Triathlon Association was formed to host the Morden Tin Man Triathlon, with Warren McKennitt as race director. The Morden race was only the third Triathlon event ever held in Manitoba.

In 1990, the name of the event was changed to the Morden International Triathlon (MIT), with Steve Friesen as race director through 1993. During that time, the race set-up changed so that it began and ended at the beach: spectators could remain at the beach and watch athletes go through a number of transitions.

With race directors Mike and Andy Klatt, in 1994 the MIT was selected to host the Canadian Long Course Championship and was a selection race for the Canadian Long Course Team that represented Canada at the 1995 World Long Course Championships in Germany.

Hank Unrau became race director in 1995. A Kids of Steel competition was incorporated into the event in 1999. In 2000, a purse of \$2,000 for the winners of the Half Ironman event drew a larger contingent of athletes.

Deanna McMullen and Trish Murdy were race directors from 2003-2005, then Cops for Cancer (Winnipeg) took over organization of the race in 2006. MIT continues to be an international event, attracting athletes of all calibers and ages from all over Canada and the U.S.

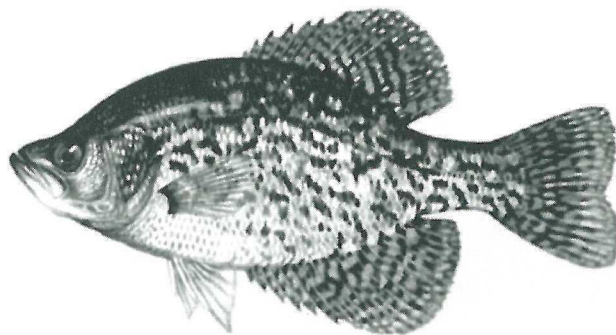
Source: Hank and Sally Unrau

Since 1991, 867 Master Angler Awards have been issued for Black Crappie caught in Lake Minnewasta.

To be recognized for a Master Angler Award, a Black Crappie must be at least twelve inches in length. Over the past several years, more and more trophy crappies have been caught in Lake Minnewasta.

Other Master Angler Award catches in Lake Minnewasta include:

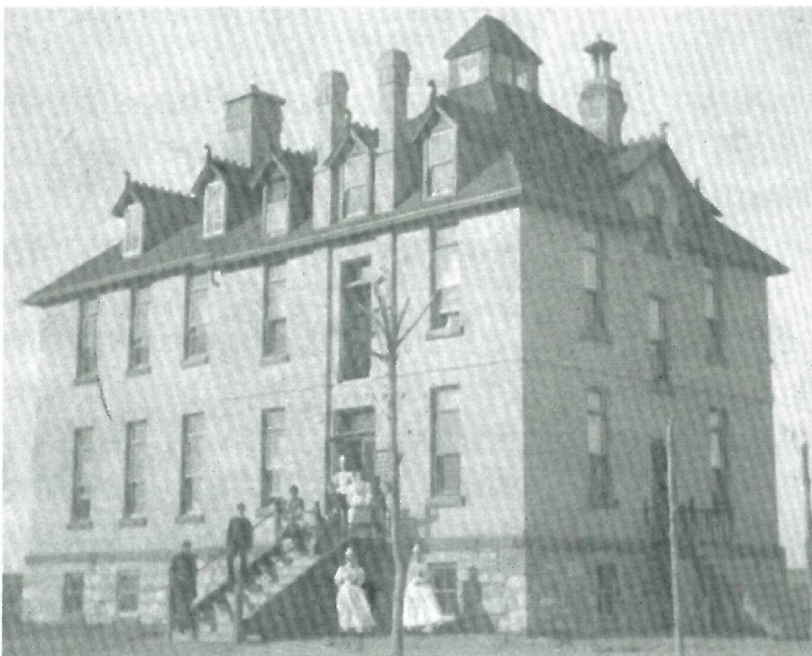
- four awards for Northern Pike, the last in 2002
- two awards for Perch, the last in 2004
- three awards for Suckers, the last in 2006
- two awards for Sunfish, the last in 2005.



Morden Masonic Lodge No.13 was originally known as the Belmont Lodge and began in Nelson in September 1880.

One of the most important events in the history of the Lodge was the construction of the first hospital in Morden the Freemasons Hospital. The cornerstone for the hospital was laid July 1, 1892, with the official opening on March 10, 1893. It was Manitoba's fourth hospital, preceded by general hospitals in Winnipeg, St. Boniface and Brandon.

The cost of the 22-bed hospital was approximately \$14,000 and the annual cost to operate it was \$2,200. Funds were raised among the Free Masons in Morden, assisted by the different lodges in other parts of the province. The hospital was incorporated by a special Act of the Manitoba Legislature. The building was fitted with electric lights, speaking tubes and all modern improvements. There was a staff of trained nurses and a matron. The town's doctors attended the patients regularly. For about thirty years, it was the only hospital in southern Manitoba, serving patients for the entire area, until a hospital was built in Deloraine in 1922 to serve the southwest. During all the years of its existence, the hospital was generously supported by citizens in the area.

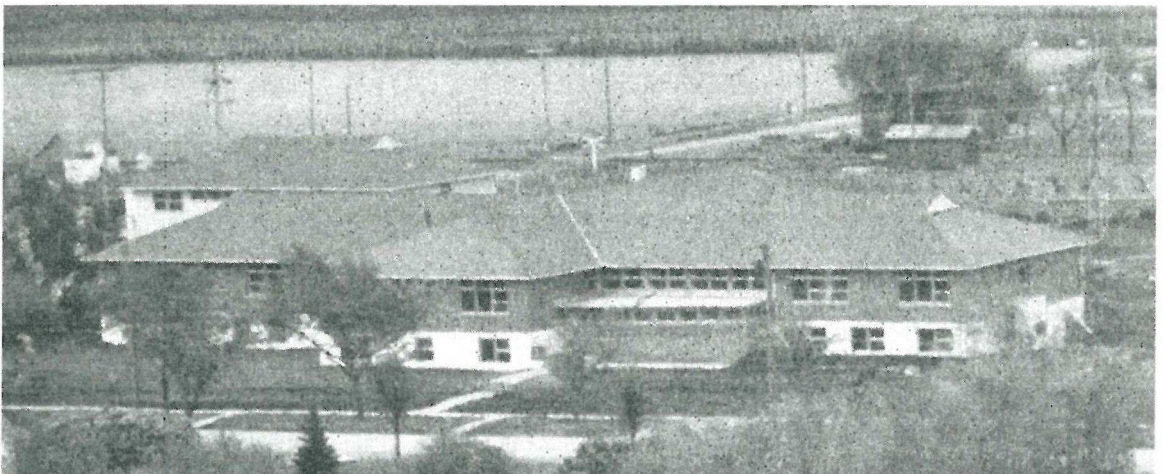


By the late 1940s, the need for a more efficient hospital was recognized.

With the passage of *The Health Services Act* by the Manitoba Legislature in 1945, the construction of new hospitals could be financed through the issue of municipal debentures. This was seen as an opportunity for securing a new hospital and nurse's residence in Morden.

A new hospital district - Morden Hospital District No. 21 - was formed from the west half of the R.M. of Stanley, all of the R.M. of Pembina, parts of the R.M.s of Louise and Thompson and the Towns of Morden and Manitou. The new "Morden District General Hospital" was officially opened on July 3, 1952. Proceeds from debentures and government grants were sufficient for the construction only. Funds to equip the hospital and nurses residence were raised through donations.

With the opening of the new General Hospital, the old Freemasons Hospital was converted into a home for the "aged and infirm" to be known as Tabor Home.



Tabor Home was founded in 1951 by a group led by Rev. Frank H. Friesen of Morden Mennonite Brethren Church, currently known as Westside Community Church.

In 1951, the Freemason's Hospital was purchased and converted into a 32-bed personal care home and was officially opened on October 12, 1952.

On November 21 1968 the board, with assistance from the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, began construction of a 60-bed personal care home which was officially opened on September 28, 1969. Manitoba Health took over the operational funding of all personal care homes in July 1973. Following government regionalization in 1997, Tabor Home signed a service purchase agreement with the Regional Health Authority - Central Manitoba Inc. and remains a contract facility.

Tabor Units and Tabor Apartments were constructed from 1958-1973.

Tabor Home provides health care and services to individuals within the community requiring long term care, and operates as a Christian faith-based organization. The facility offers a holistic approach to clients, recognizing the unique nature of individuals and promotes an environment where residents can feel trust, comfort, and a sense of well being. Tabor Home strives for excellence and innovation and provides services in a spirit of cooperation with its Manitoba partners in health.





The opening of the Boundary Trails Health Centre in May 2001 was the culmination of years of planning and the amalgamation of two community hospitals into one regional centre.

Boundary Trails Health Centre is a 94-bed acute care regional facility located mid-way between the communities of Morden and Winkler at the junction of PTH 3 and 14. The Centre replaced the older health care facilities in each of these communities and serves as the major referral hospital for all of south central Manitoba.

Amalgamation of the Morden and Winkler facilities eliminated costly duplication of equipment, enabling the Boundary Trails Health Centre to be better equipped --an important issue to residents of south central Manitoba.

The total capital cost for the project was approximately \$37.6 million. Through arrangements with the Regional Health Authority - Central Manitoba Inc., Morden, Winkler and surrounding municipalities contributed \$3 million toward the facility, plus funding other amenities.

By fall 2005, *The Morden Times* reported that “in just four short years, the state-of-the-art hospital has become one of the leading rural health care facilities in the province... the regional vision for the centre has grown far beyond its original expectations.”



Three generations of the Menzies family have practiced medicine in Morden.

After serving in World War I, Dr. A. F. Menzies moved to Morden in 1920, where he lived and practiced until his death in 1958. For a short time in the early 1940s, Dr. Menzies was the only physician in Morden. During that time his workload, combined with difficulties in obtaining nursing instructors, forced the hospital to close its Registered Nurses Training Program.

After finishing his studies, Dr. J. C. Menzies returned to Morden in 1950 to share his father's practice. In 1973, "Dr. Jim" was named Canadian Family Physician of the Year by the Canadian College of Family Physicians. This award recognizes physicians who provide exceptional care to the community and contribute greatly to its general health. In 1979, Dr. Jim was one of six Manitobans presented with the Good Citizenship Award by Lieutenant-Governor F. L. Jobin.

The third generation of Menzies physicians, Dr. R. Menzies established his family practice in Morden. Like his father before him, in 2002 "Dr. Bob" won the Canadian Family Physician of the Year Award from the Canadian College of Family Physicians.



The first Corn and Apple Festival was held in 1967 as a celebration of Canada's Centennial.

In the forty years since the Morden Corn and Apple Festival began, various people have credited Walford Vick, who was manager of the Canadian Cannery plant, as being responsible for proposing the idea.

The suggestion to host a "Corn Festival" was noted in the Morden Chamber of Commerce minutes of February 23, 1965 when the Retail Merchants Chairman, Don Livingston, "thought we should have a business promotion week, possibly a corn festival." The festival would promote the town, agriculture and the special crops of corn and apples grown in this area, and the Morden Creamery which would provide butter for the corn.

By the next Chamber meeting on March 16, 1965 a festival committee had met and designated members to perform certain duties. It was moved by Don Livingston and seconded by Ken Friesen that other organizations be invited to participate in the Corn Festival. A tentative date was set for the first weekend in September. It was moved by Fred Westwood and seconded by Ernie Krahn that \$50 be allocated as available to the special corn festival committee.

The next week Mr. Livingston reported that interest was growing and that new leads were opening up. A meeting was called for April 29, 1965 that was attended by several organizations interested in the Corn and Apple Festival.

A year later a Morden Chamber of Commerce meeting featured guest speaker Joseph Martin, Executive Secretary of the Manitoba Centennial Corporation. He addressed the question of why Canadians should celebrate the Centennial.

This prompted discussion of Morden's plans for 1967.

On September 27, 1966 Jack Dunbar suggested the idea of a "Corn and Apple Festival" be revived for 1967. It was agreed a festival would be held in 1967 and a committee be appointed to make the arrangements. Jack Dunbar was appointed the first chairman of the Morden Corn and Apple Festival.

The first festival was held over two days on two blocks along Stephen Street. Merchants encouraged their staff to dress in Centennial costumes and there was a parade featuring local organizations. The Miss Corn & Apple pageant was held in the parking lot of the Town and R. M. of Stanley offices at the corner of Nelson and Stephen Streets and about 200 cobs of corn were given away along with apple cider.

During the early years, it often rained during the Miss Corn & Apple pageant and the crowd and contestants would move into the Council chambers for the conclusion of the ceremony. As the festival audience grew, the stage was moved to 8th Street and was covered by a colourful canopy. Still, when



rain threatened, other locations were commandeered. On one occasion the high school gymnasium was used and a young Loreena McKennitt offered to perform when the professional entertainers did not follow through. Another time the entertainment, pageant and dance moved to the "Hat Factory". The contestants walked on the cutting tables used as a makeshift stage.

Contributed by Catherine Evenson

	Chair	Queen
1967	Jack Dunbar	Kathleen Friesen Hewitt
1968	Clarence Cornelson	Anne Wallace Marty
1969	Art Best	Helen-Ann Smiley Geddes
1970	Gerry Gebler	Dorne Mitchell Lindal
1971	Cam Innes	April McLeod Takacs
1972	Ed Unger	Betty Fehr Ens
1973	Pete Enns	Linda Shaventoski McGregor
1974	Max Friesen	Myra Amy McElroy
1975	Ken Hanssen	Glenda Sager Hemminger
1976	Ken Grower	Shelley Krassman
1977	Fred Krause	Cindy Hiebert Hildebrand
1978	Ron Laverty	Kim Schroeder
1979	Don Bennett	Carla McElroy Friesen
1980	Ivan Kletke	Lynda Lambert MacLean
1981	Dale Lambert	Sylvia Sigurdson D'Angelo
1982	Steve Malkowich	Candice Bergen Hoepfner
1983	Vic Falk	Caroline Goerz
1984	Wilf Warkentin	Joan Kroeker Penner
1985	Bert Appelt	Janice Titchkosky Roussel
1986	George Wright	Shelley Elias Friesen
1987	John Dickey	Rachel Plett Dyck
1988	Catherine Evenson	Anita Gebler Ariss
1989	Randy Warkentin	Heidi Peters Wiebe
1990	Brent Stewart	Kerri Mayor Torrey
1991	Dianne Lambert	Marci Enns Miller
1992	Fred Mayor	Tanis Proven Haggerty
1993	Gladys Terichow	Teresa Letkeman
1994	Hugh Lumgair	Carrie Duerkson Kroeker
1995	Hank Hildebrand	Tara Groening Wyton
1996	Barry Peters	Brooke Colvin
1997	Earl Lautenschlager	Amy Rezansoff
1998	Gordon Hoeschen	Janelle Sprung
1999	David Carr	Kadria Fayed
2000	Reg & Allison Braun	Megan Wiebe Hildebrand
2001	Reg & Allison Braun	Abby Penner
2002	Dale Stambuski	Lindsey Penner
2003	Dale Stambuski	Jocelyn Wiebe
2004	Carol Heppenstall	Kirby Penner
2005	Jocelyne Durand	Erin Riley
2006	Jocelyne Durand	Krista Hoepfner



The Back Forty Folk Festival started in 1989, with admission set at a Buck Forty.

Sitting on a porch talking about their love of the Winnipeg Folk Festival Lin Hiebert, James Friesen and Wes Hamm dreamed of how great it would be to create a Folk Festival in southern Manitoba. It was their vision that has helped keep homemade music alive for over seventeen years on the first Sunday in June.

When Dave Stobbe joined the board, his vision and enthusiasm lead to the creation of additional workshop stages, an annual Back Forty songwriter workshop and special concert events. Jeannie Nickel joined the team and created an activity area featuring children's entertainers and extreme bike demonstrations. Inspired by the "Grand Old Opry" Shows, the Back Forty staged the "That 60's Show" fundraiser in 2004. The event featured local performers paying tribute to 60s and 70s music. In earlier years the Back Forty organized monthly coffee houses in Morden and Winkler featuring local talent and special guests.

In 2005, local musician Paul Lepage brought a wealth of experience and expertise to the role of artistic director, adding his vision of eclectic music to the Festival stage.

Back Forty has grown with the support of other local groups participating including the Pembina Hills Arts Council, Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, Morden Fire Department, the Lions, Elks and the High School Drama troupe.

Contributed by Jeannie Nickel

In 2003, 2004 and 2006 WTM Productions welcomed audiences to wonderful evenings of music and comedy in a trip down memory lane with “An Evening at the Grand Old Opry”.

Written, produced and directed by Wayne Bergman and Terry Titchkosky, all eight performances of the 2006 show were sold out. In this all new production, the Grand Old Opry was, in fact, “on the road” and not in Nashville; Morden was one of the tour's stops.

These productions were made possible through the extraordinary talents of local entertainers, who dedicate themselves to the music profession and pay tribute to the stars of the Grand Old Opry. Enthusiastic audiences travelled from across southern Manitoba and from the United States border communities for shows that recreated the atmosphere of the Grand Old Opry.



The Morden branch of the Morden-Winkler Regional Library officially opened on October 20, 1965 in the municipal building at 379 Stephen Street.

The Morden-Winkler Regional Library differed from other regional libraries in that there were two libraries of equal status operating as one. The use of the library was without charge to Morden and Winkler residents. People from surrounding municipalities were welcome to join for a fee of \$3.00 per family per year. The first librarian in Morden was Mrs. Connie Lumb.

Increasing circulation in Morden necessitated a move to more spacious facilities and in 1971, the library moved into the former Post Office at 352 Stephen Street.

To reflect the wider geographic area served by the Morden-Winkler Regional Library, its name was changed in 1978 to the South Central Regional Library.

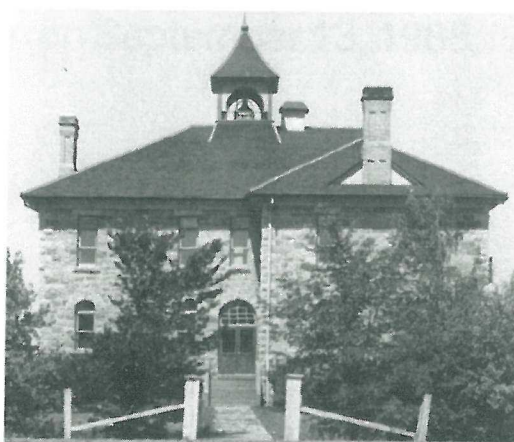
In April 1996, the South Central Regional Library - Morden Branch moved to 514 Stephen Street. In 2002, the Morden library took over the entire building, expanding by 2,500 square feet to a total of 7,000-square feet.

Maple Leaf School District, the 83rd district organized in Manitoba, was formed in February 1881.

Arra DeLong was the first chairman and Wilmot Morden acted as secretary-treasurer and trustee and Rev. Hugh J. Borthwick was the inspector. The first school was built one mile south of Thornhill Street on one acre at the NW corner of 35-2-5W. It was constructed of logs hauled in by farmers in the district who then joined in a building bee. The building was later moved to Morden and used as a court house.

The second school, consisting of two large rooms, was built in 1883 on the southwest corner of Nelson and Stephen Streets. With a rapidly growing population it became necessary to establish a graded school. In 1886 a two-storey, four-room, wooden school building was moved from the Town of Nelson to 5th Street in Morden.

In 1893 a solid six-room school - Morden Intermediate High School - was constructed at a cost of \$16,000. It was located on a three-acre lot (site of the present Maple Leaf School). It was the largest school site in the Province at that time. Granite boulders from a nearby quarry were split and shaped by local masons. Even the blackboards were manufactured locally by mixing soot and plaster. A modern one-story six room elementary school was built in 1928, adjoining the high school.



In 1953 a combined high school and elementary school was built on Wardrop and 4th Streets (now École Morden Middle School) and Morden Collegiate Institute was built in 1965.

In 1956, the name of Maple Leaf School District #83 was changed to Morden School District #83. Then in 1961, Western School Division No. 47 was created.

In 2005, Western School Division received the largest single private donation ever given to a school division in Canada.

John and Bonny Bühler donated \$5 million to the Western School Division for construction of a performing arts centre to be located adjacent to Morden Collegiate Institute.

Maple Leaf School is an excellent example of the bungalow schools developed in Manitoba after World War I.

Around the turn of the 20th century, big schools in urban areas were typically impressive brick buildings, two or three storeys in height and heavy with Victorian decoration. Concerns about evacuating children from these schools in fire emergencies eventually led to the creation of one-storey designs. This proved to be much safer, "friendlier" and more in keeping with education theories of the day. Maple Leaf School is an excellent example of this type of design. Low and scaled to the size of a child, the building is attractive, with decorative brick bands and a playful look.

Maple Leaf School stands on a site that has been continuously occupied by a school since 1894. It is the oldest school building in Morden and was designated as a Municipal Heritage Site by the Town of Morden on September 13, 1988.



Local officials believe that Mason School was the last operating mainstream, one-room public school in Canada.

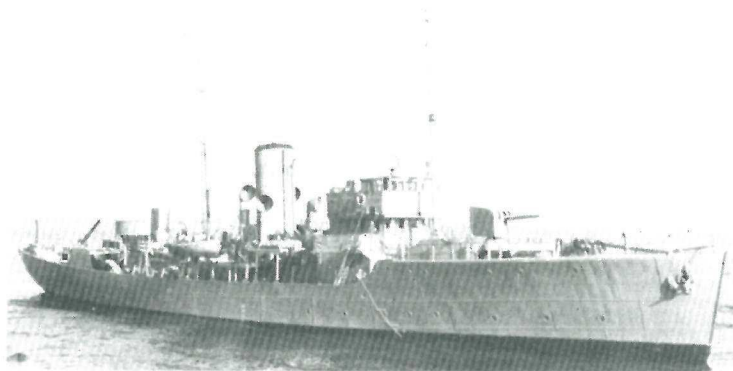
Located nine miles south of Morden, Mason School was opened in September 1926 as a result of a demand for a more convenient school for the residents in the district. The Wakeham and Glencross School districts were apparently too far apart considering the transportation of the day. These other schools eventually closed due to declining enrolments and the more central Mason School added their former students onto its roll.

Mason School survived thirty years longer than any other one-room school in Manitoba. After serving the rural community for 76 years, the school could no longer maintain sufficient enrolment to justify keeping it in operation. It was closed at the end of the school year in 2002.

On June 30, 2002, more than 500 people including the school's last 12 students, previous students and teachers, officials and dignitaries were in attendance at the unveiling of a cairn. The dedication ceremony was opened by Deborah Turner, the great-granddaughter of Alexander Mason - the school's namesake.

The HMCS Morden was launched on April 5, 1941 at Port Arthur, Ontario.

The following text was copied from a document that hangs in the Civic Centre, beside the bell and wheel from HMCS Morden:



“...Named for Morden Manitoba, this corvette was launched on April 5, 1941 at Port Arthur Ontario. She was commissioned on September 6, 1941 and paid off on June 29, 1945. During her period of service in the Royal Canadian Navy, the HMCS Morden was sponsored by Morden Manitoba through which generous contributions were made to the comfort and welfare of those who served on the gallant ship. The record of the HMCS Morden is a proud one and her bell is presented as a memento and as a token of gratitude to those who gave so willingly of their time and substance for the benefit of the Ships Company. May they share with them the satisfaction of a task well done.”

The document is signed by the Minister of National Defense.

Nearly 300 corvettes were built during World War II. Those built for the Royal Canadian Navy were named after towns and cities across Canada, many of whom adopted their namesake ships as part of their history. Residents frequently sent gifts such as sweaters and socks for the crew. When the war ended the communities received a souvenir from their ship in the form of the ship's bell or name plate or perhaps the ship's wheel.



Source: *The Corvette Years* by Edward O'Connor

At one time, there was a cannon in Confederation Park.

At a meeting on August 28, 1924, Morden Council instructed the Secretary-treasurer to procure a brass plate lettered "Captured by the 10th Battalion C.E.F. September 2, 1918" to be attached to the cannon on the Memorial Grounds. (Memorial Park was renamed Confederation Park in 1967)

The cannon sat in the park until World War II, when necessity dictated that war relics such as this be collected for their scrap metal, which was then reworked into armaments. Morden's cannon was turned in for salvage in 1941 or 1942 as part of the war effort.



Morden was one of the first communities in rural Manitoba to organize social services for World War I veterans.

Originally chartered by the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1919, the organization was known as “The Great War Veterans Association, Morden Branch #11”. In 1926, the many Veterans' Associations that had been formed across Canada amalgamated under the name “Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League”. The Morden branch became known as the Royal Canadian Legion, Morden Branch No. 11. Morden's charter, dated December 27, 1926, makes it one of Canada's oldest branches. The first eight charter members were: Dr. A.F. Menzies, McBain Dudgeon, A.J. Livingston, G. McCorquordale, W.C. Clarke, A.G. Ferris, J.E. Cross and Dr. G.H. Bray.

The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in 1928 with eight charter members: Hanna M. Spencer, Nancy Alleyn, Kate Clarke, Hazel I. McCorquadale, Annie Scott, Hazel D. McCorquadale, Isabelle Morrison and Grace E. Spencer. The ladies were there to assist the veterans who made up the legion Branch #11. One of their projects was to make up fifty ditty bags to send off to the men serving on the HMCS Morden. Several organizations made donations towards the bags and the Town contributed \$40 towards the contents. All boxes had to be wrapped with cotton material that was carefully sewn by hand so that they would arrive safely.

The official opening of the Morden Legion Hall on North Railway Street took place on January 17, 1969.

Source: Robert Bissett and Betty Larke





Morden had its own "Rosey the Riveter", a name given to women who went to work in the factories for the war effort.

Born and raised in Morden, Edna Burkitt travelled to Kitchener, Ontario in 1942 to work in a factory making parts for aircraft, headphones, gas masks and other war items. She continued this work through 1944.

In 2001, Mrs. Burkitt prepared a book on her experience and other stories about the "Greatest Generation".



Private Ellen Millicent Kerridge of Morden, transport driver in the Canadian Women's Army Corp during World War II, was awarded the British Empire Medal.

She drove an army ambulance through a blinding Manitoba blizzard from Portage La Prairie to Winnipeg

carrying three men suffering from the measles. She began the trip shortly after sundown and crept slowly through huge snowdrifts and over wind-blown highways until midnight, when the gasoline tank ran dry.

New supplies were obtained and she set out behind a snow plow that had been sent to her assistance. She diverted all the heat in the vehicle to the rear to keep the patients warm and as a result was forced to drive with the window open in order to see.

Shortly after 2 a.m. she checked in at the Army garage in Winnipeg after delivering her patients to hospital, where they recovered.

In 1900, when a Mordenite wished to purchase a pair of shoes, they could shop at ten different stores.

In Morden at the turn of the 20th century, there were ten stores that sold shoes. You could buy shoes at Meikles, McKenzies, Bertram's, Tobias', Acheson's, The Retail Store, Jake Korman's, Rabinovitch's, N. Korman's and Bradfords Men's Store.

There were few automobiles, but plenty of people walking and wearing out shoes.

There was once a Hudson's Bay Company store in Morden.

The Hudson's Bay Company operated a department store in Morden in the early 1900s. It was located on North Railway Street right beside the Ashdown Hardware Store. Morden's Ashdown Hardware was run by George Ashdown, a brother of James Ashdown the founder of Ashdowns Hardware Company in Winnipeg, the largest hardware store in western Canada.

Source: *I Remember Morden in 1902*, by Adolph Dack

People came to Morden from far and wide when the circus came to town.

At the turn of the 20th century, the east end of Stephen Street was prairie from what is now 1st Street to 5th Street. The prairie extended on both sides of the street from the C.P.R. (North Railway Street) to Thornhill Street. This was the place where the circuses came every year.

They were large circuses filling “50 to 60 railroad cars, with 5 to 10 elephants, lions, tigers, zebras, and all other African and Asian wild animals”.

Names such as the Pan American, Sells Floto, Robinson, and Ringling Brothers came here to Morden by special trains from Winnipeg. They would spend one night in Morden, then move on to Brandon and Regina.

Since Morden was the only circus stop in the area, people came here from as far away as Morris, Langdon, Hannah, Crystal City, Baldur, Carman and Somerset. The attendance was over 10,000, and “the whole town was overrun by ponies, buggies, democrats, sulkies and wagons”.

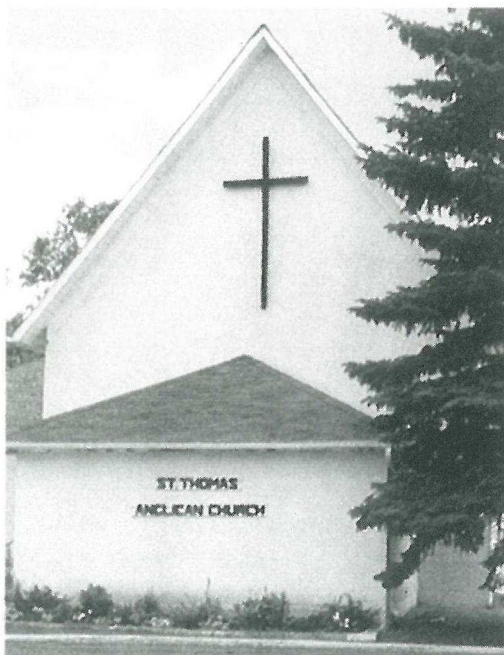
Source: *I Remember Morden in 1902*, by Adolph Dack

St. Thomas Anglican Church was moved from Nelson to Morden in 1886.

St. Thomas Anglican Church was established in the thriving pioneer community of Nelson in the 1880s. When it was decided the railway would run through Morden, rather than through Nelson, the community moved to the new hub of commerce. The churches in Nelson were no exception. At a meeting on May 18, 1885 the St. Thomas Vestry decided to move the Church to Morden and to build an addition.

The original portion of the church is the Sanctuary of the present church. As the congregation grew over the next century, it was determined that another building be moved and added to the church. The former Alexander School, located southwest of Morden, was purchased from the school district and moved to the north side of the church. A porch was added to create a vestibule.

In 1993 an addition to the church and parish hall included a Narthex and church office. A stained glass window in the east wall depicting Saint Thomas, was consecrated for the church centennial in 1995.



Lawrence Gowland was hanged for murder at the Morden Court House on December 13, 1907.

Gowland had the dubious distinction of being the only person hanged at the Morden Courthouse. The *Manitoba Free Press* reported on *October 22, 1907*: "The jury empanelled to try Lawrence Gowland, charged with the murder of Georgina Brown at Killarney, brought in a verdict of guilty. Judge Phippen sentenced the prisoner to be hanged on December 13."

Benjamin James McConnell was Morden's first medical practitioner.

McConnell was born in Renfrew County, Ontario on September 28, 1861 and studied medicine at Queen's University in Kingston. Graduating in 1881, he left immediately for Nelson. He practiced there until 1885, when he moved to Morden, becoming Morden's first medical practitioner. His clientele extended east as far as Gretna, south past Walhalla and Langdon and west past Hannah ND and Swan Lake.

McConnell was the Provincial Coroner for ten years and was president of the Manitoba College of Physicians and Surgeons. By 1905, he was the longest practicing physician in southern Manitoba.

Dr. McConnell was also involved in business and politics. For several years he owned the Morden Woollen Mill and a large farm. He served as a member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly representing Pembina constituency from 1907 to 1914. He was first elected to the Manitoba legislature in the 1907 provincial election, defeating conservative incumbent George Ashdown by 90 votes.

John Evans Adamson was the first Manitoba-born lawyer to be appointed Chief Justice of the Manitoba Court of Appeal.

John Evans Adamson was born on September 9, 1884 at Nelson, Manitoba.

He was called to the bar in 1910 and on May 1, 1922 became the first Manitoba-born lawyer to be elevated to the Court of King's Bench. After filling the post for nearly 26 years, he was appointed a justice of the Manitoba Court of Appeal on January 31, 1948.

On January 13, 1955, he was appointed Chief Justice of Manitoba and of the Appeal Court again the first Manitoban to fill the post. On his retirement in 1960 at age 76, he had sat on the bench for a record 39 years.

Justice Adamson died in December 1961.

Corbet Locke was a prominent lawyer in Nelson who, with Mayor Thomas Duncan, exhausted every possibility to induce the railroad to come to their town.

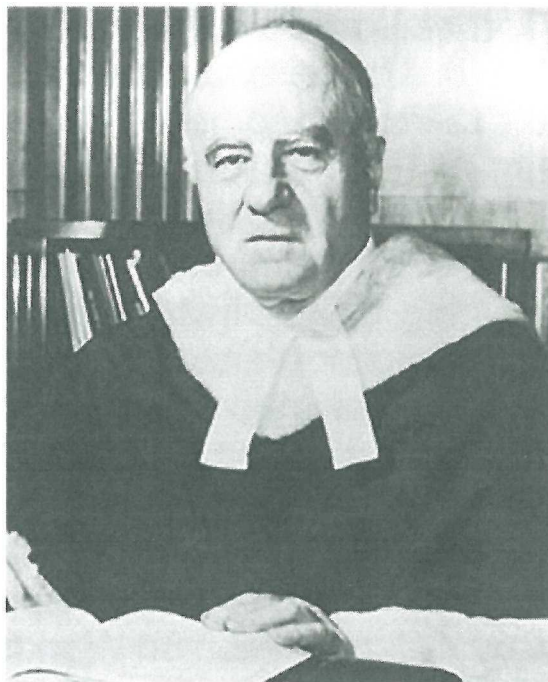
Before giving up their efforts, in 1884 they sought and obtained legislation from the Province of Manitoba authorizing the building of a railway approximately six miles in length from Nelson to Morden. However, when the community was unable to raise the necessary capital, the project fell through and residents of Nelson moved their homes and businesses to Morden.

In 1909, Premier Roblin appointed Justice Locke to head a Royal Commission on Workmen's Compensation. The *Locke Report* recommended the passage of legislation governing compensation to workers for accidental injury. This recommendation led to the passage of *The Workmen's Compensation Act of 1910*. Compensation would be paid by the employer and the workman would be obliged to give up his or her right to sue under common law when applying for compensation under the act.

The Commission paved the way for the introduction of the no-fault principle in workers' compensation. No longer would workers have to go to court to prove that their employer was negligent or that a co-worker was not responsible for the accident.

Charles Holland Locke (1887 - 1980) was a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

The son of Corbet Locke, Charles Holland Locke was born in Morden. After completing his studies at Morden public schools, he began his legal apprenticeship in a local law firm. A year later, he moved to Winnipeg to finish articling in the office of Albert Bleslock Hudson, a future Supreme Court of Canada judge.



In 1910 he was called to the bar of Manitoba and joined the Winnipeg law firm of Machray, Sharpe & Dennistoun, where he practised for several years. He enlisted in the armed forces and served overseas in the World War I and was awarded the Military Cross. On his return from service overseas, he resumed his law practice in Winnipeg.

On June 3, 1947, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada, filling the vacancy created by the death of his mentor, Justice Hudson. He served on the Supreme Court for 15 years, retiring in 1962.

Charles Holland Locke was made a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1971.

Morden's contribution to justice and law is outstanding for a small community.

The tradition begun by Corbet Locke, Charles Holland Locke, John Adamson and John MacAuley continue in the 21st century.

Born in Morden, John Menzies and Jack Duncan (retired) were appointed Judges of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench.

Mr. Justice Menzies was appointed a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench of Manitoba in Brandon on August 7, 1996. He graduated in law from the University of Manitoba in 1980 and was called to the Bar of Manitoba in 1981. Before his appointment to the Court of Queen's Bench, Mr. Justice Menzies practiced law with the firm of Johnson & Company.

Justice Jack Duncan was president of the Law Society of Manitoba (1980-81)

Mr. Justice Kenneth R. Hanssen was appointed a Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench on March 23, 1984. He articulated in Morden and practiced law here for 16 years.

Provincial Judge Brent Stewart, while not born here is a former Mayor of Morden.



Dr. David Alexander Stewart was a pioneer in the development of institutional health care in Manitoba, founding superintendent of the Manitoba Sanatorium at Ninette and a leading figure in the battle against tuberculosis in Western Canada.

Stewart was born in Upper Canada in 1874. At age seventeen, he moved with his parents to Morden. In 1892 he entered normal school and taught briefly in Morden. Two years later, he left teaching to study theology at Manitoba College. His ambition to become a Presbyterian minister was ended by a throat ailment that made public speaking impossible.

In 1902 he entered the Manitoba Medical College, with a subsequent residency at Winnipeg General Hospital. While in medical school, Stewart witnessed the ravages of typhoid fever and tuberculosis that thrived in the squalor and overcrowded conditions of Winnipeg slums. This interest was reinforced in 1909 when he was struck down with TB. In his own struggle with the disease, he went to the Trudeau Sanatorium in New York where he learned the principles of the rest cure, a regimen of fresh air, good food and complete rest.

Stewart was instrumental in the establishment of the Manitoba Sanatorium near Ninette and served as its Medical Superintendent from 1910 to 1937. He played a central role in establishing the Sanatorium as a centre of communicable disease control and prevention. His accomplishments included increased emphasis on public education, the institution of traveling TB clinics in 1926, the opening of the Central TB Clinic in Winnipeg in 1930, special TB training placements for medical students and provision of funds for sufferers of TB who could not afford treatment on their own.

The City of Winkler owes its name to a man from Morden.

The first owner of the quarter section of land on which the City of Winkler grew was owned by a Mennonite farmer, Mr. Isaac Wiens. When he obtained the land as a Crown Grant in 1883, part of the quarter section had already been given to the Canadian Pacific Railway as right of way. In 1892, the C.P.R. acquired the station grounds and a half interest in the quarter section.

The Mennonite custom was to live in villages away from the railway. When a railway siding was planned for his land in 1892, Wiens was in a quandary since he did not want to lend his name to the townsite. Valentine Winkler of Morden came to his aid. Mr. Winkler owned a quarter-section, one-half mile to the northeast. Consequently, Wiens and Winkler traded farms to their mutual benefit.

After Mr. Winkler acquired his new property, he had it surveyed into lots for a village site. Mr. Winkler was to give the C.P.R. every second block of land in the village site. In return, the C.P.R. established a station that was named "Winkler". Besides owning one-half interest in the village site, Mr. Winkler operated a lumber yard and a grain elevator. Although he resided in Morden, he paid frequent visits to Winkler.



Valentine Winkler represented the R.M. of Stanley in the Manitoba legislature from 1892-1930, serving as Minister of Agriculture for five years. His son, Howard Winkler, served four terms as Member of Parliament for Lisgar constituency.

Source: *A Town Gets Its Name* by Peter Brown
Manitoba Pageant, January 1959, Volume 4, Number 2



Howard Winkler is remembered in Morden for his persistence in securing funding to enlarge the Morden dam, made a reality with the completion of the spillway and dam in 1954. It was an example of his dedication to Morden and the surrounding area which he carried throughout his life.

Howard Winkler (1891-1970) was the son of Valentine Winkler, who was M.L.A. for Rhineland from 1892-1920.

Howard graduated from Maple Leaf School in 1908 and went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesley College, Winnipeg in 1912 and a Bachelor of Science from Manitoba Agricultural College in 1916. He served with the 11th Field Ambulance Corps from 1916-1917, during World War I.

Mr. Winkler was elected as a Liberal Member of Parliament in 1935 at the age of forty-four and was re-elected in 1940, 1945 and 1949. He was appointed to the Canadian delegation to help prepare Canada's presentation at the First United Nations' assembly. Mr. Winkler retired in 1953 and married Ruth Doern one year later.

Dead Horse Creek played a significant role in the establishment of Morden in 1882. Growth in the mid 20th century was also, in part, dependent on the Creek providing a plentiful supply of good water.

Bypassing the established settlements of Nelson and Mountain City, the Canadian Pacific Railway chose to build a water tower at the crossing of Mort Cheval Creek, which provided water for the steam locomotives. The stopping place was named "Cheval" but within a few months was changed to "Morden", after Alvey Morden, on whose land the station was built. Eventually the French "Mort Cheval" was changed to the English translation, "Dead Horse Creek".



While the water in Dead Horse Creek was indispensable to the railway and Morden residents, a negative consequence of establishing a community beside water was the potential for flooding. One of the worst floods came in 1932 in the middle of a drought. A cloudburst west of Morden caused the Creek to overflow its banks and surge through the town. A resident who lived on 2nd Street at the time recalls the water being up to his knees.

An editorial in the local paper in January 1897 suggested that a plentiful water supply could be had if a dam was constructed one mile west of Morden, creating a lake that would catch run-off. The idea persisted over the years until the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency (PFRA) constructed a dam in 1941.

On March 25, 1942, when the water flowed down the spillway, Morden had a lake that covered sixty acres and captured run-off from an area of about eighty-six square miles. Construction of the dam and creation of Lake Minnewasta alleviated flooding, provided a water supply for the town and enabled the population of Morden to expand.

Thanks in large part to the persistence of Howard Winkler, work began in 1952 to raise the dam by twelve feet to insure a sufficient water supply for agricultural and industrial uses as the town continued to grow. The enlarged dam resulted in an L-shaped lake that covered 144 acres and seventy feet at its deepest point.

The Morden Times reported: "A long cherished dream of southern Manitoba came to fruition Monday (August 2, 1954) with the official opening of the Morden dam, the largest man-made dam in the province... A triumph of cooperation between the local, provincial and federal workers, the dam promises a plentitude of water for industrial and agricultural development in the area during the future as well as a fine location for summer recreation... The total cost of the project since work began in June 1940 was about \$300,000."

Long time resident Scotch Sawatzky recalls that when the dam expansion was completed it was estimated that it would take 3-5 years to fill the reservoir. It filled just 2 months later after a cloud burst north of Thornhill.

Little advantage was taken of the recreation opportunities offered by the creation of Lake Minnewasta in 1941. As plans were developed to raise the dam, the recreation potential was explored. A Beach Committee was formed with representatives from Morden, Winkler, R. M. of Stanley, Game and Fish Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Morden Kinsmen and interested individuals.

The Committee honoured the efforts of Dr. Walter Colert, who was instrumental in the development of the lakeside recreational area, by naming the beach after him. The opening of Colert Beach coincided with the completion of the new dam and expansion of Lake Minnewasta.

Swimming holes in and around the Town of Morden were the only way a local kid could learn to swim in a town without a swimming pool!

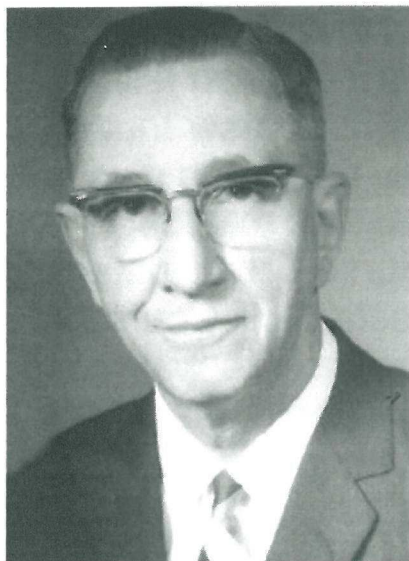
Some of my early recollections of these recreation areas include the old concrete dam on Dead Horse Creek just south of the 16th tee on the present Minnewasta Golf Course just below Connor Hill. The second swimming hole was at the C.P.R. water tower on Dead Horse Creek at the corner of North Railway and 17th Street. The third swimming hole was an old concrete dam just north of the existing Gilmour Street Bridge in the Morden Park.

All of these were abandoned when Dr. W. M. Colert developed one of his dugouts (just north of the 1st green at Minnewasta Golf Course) into an outdoor pool, by putting a sand beach at the south end of the dugout and a diving board at the northwest corner. This was a great place to swim if you didn't mind salamanders and lizards brushing your legs as you swam.

Then the Morden P.F.R.A. dam was enlarged and Colert Beach was created.

Contributed by Wayne Hosea





William Doern (1902-2003) was a pioneer in x-ray technology.

William Doern was born at Overstone MB. His family moved to Morden in 1907, where he received his formal education. His schooling ended at grade 9, when World War I created a need for men to do the work of those who had gone to war.

After the war, he set up an auto repair shop in Morden, specializing in high voltage ignition problems. He was forced to give up the shop in 1924 when he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He became a patient at the Manitoba Sanatorium at Ninette under the care of former Morden resident, Dr. David Stewart.

While Mr. Doern was still a patient, Dr. Stewart encouraged him to actively participate in the work of the radiology department. His training in high tension electricity provided him with a good foundation on which to build his career in the fledgling field of radiology. In 1929, he successfully wrote the membership exams for the American Society of Radiographers and became the chief technician at the Ninette Sanatorium.

His skill and innovative approach to radiography were quickly recognized and he was asked to become the chief radiologist at the Winnipeg General Hospital in 1932. Throughout his working life and into retirement, Mr. Doern engaged in activities that would further the contribution made by radiographers to the medical profession.

Source: mamrtNEWS (a newsletter of the Manitoba Association of Radiologists) November 2002.

Ruth Winkler (1909 - 2005) headed a Red Cross Society team that arranged hospital and recreational services in Japan and Korea for Canadian troops in the Korean War.



Ruth Winkler (nee Doern) was born in Morden in 1909. Upon completing Grade 12, she attended Success Commercial College in Winnipeg and then returned to Morden, working for Judge George and at the Experimental Farm.

She attended the University of Toronto in the mid 1930s, graduating from Social Work. In 1949, she was sent to Newfoundland to help set up veterans' services in that province and for that work was named one of twelve Winnipeg Women of the Year in 1950. She was active in the establishment of the University of Manitoba School of Social Work. In 1952, she went to Japan and Korea as head of a Red Cross Society team.

In 1954, she married Howard Winkler. They spent sixteen happy years in Morden, taking an active role in the community. Ruth was instrumental in establishing the Morden Thrift Shop, volunteered for the United Way, Tabor Home and the Christmas Cheer Board and supported the formation of the Morden and District Museum. She received Morden's Citizen of the Year award in 1968 and the Manitoba Good Citizenship Award in 1983.

In 1991, she and Howard's nephew Donald Hurd, donated the Leo Mol statue "Deer with Fawn" to the town in memory of her late husband. The statue sits in the Suncatch on 8th Street in Morden.

The Morden Thrift Shop had its beginnings when Ruth Winkler opened a room in her home on 9th Street in 1968 to make used clothing available.

Today, the Thrift Shop accepts donations of clothing, housewares, toys and other items and sells them at reasonable prices. The proceeds are returned to community organizations and projects as grants. All in-store work is done by a crew of volunteers that currently numbers 100.

Thrift Shop sales, which began as a couple of dollars per week, have increased to thousands of dollars. Since the new store opened in 2001, \$356,075 has been disbursed to the community and that was only after the building had been paid off. In addition, funds are being set aside in a special fund for a new Tabor Home facility.

From the Winkler's home, the Thrift Shop moved to the second floor of the old Post Office, then to the former Solo Store at 484 Stephen Street. This building had been a school house that was moved from Nelson and served as the first Pentecostal Church in Morden in the 1930s. The Thrift Shop's move to this location was completed in May 1986 and Ruth Winkler was there to join in the opening ceremonies.

When the business outgrew itself again, the decision was made to build a new 3,810 square-foot facility at the 484 Stephen Street location. The grand opening was on Sept 11, 2001.

Contributed by Dorothy Kroeker



John Alexander MacAuley (1895-1978) was a lawyer, businessman and volunteer worker in the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Born in Morden, John MacAuley obtained his law degree from the University of Manitoba in 1918 while serving in the Canadian Medical Corps. He became a partner in the Manitoba law firm of Aikins, MacAuley & Thorvaldson and specialized in tax law.

From 1959 to 1965, he was the chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies and was chairman when the Red Cross received the 1963 Nobel Peace Prize.

He was the first Canadian to be awarded the Henry Dunant Medal by the Red Cross. This Medal, given every two years by the standing commission of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is its highest decoration.

An avid art collector, his collection is now housed in the Winnipeg Art Gallery. In 1967, he was made Companion of the Order of Canada.

In May 2005 the Morden Whiz-Bangs of 1948-1950 were inducted into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame.

The Whiz-Bangs were formed in the late 1940s by a group of high school students from Maple Leaf School. The team achieved success far beyond what might have been expected, given their level of experience and small town birthplace. The 1948-1950 seasons represented the peak of the club's success when they won 61 of 82 games and a number of tournament titles. Their story was recorded in *The Remarkable Whiz-Bangs*, a book written by Paul Sigurdson of Morden.

Members inducted into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame were: Margaret (McIntosh) Duncan, Elve (McNabb) Milligan, Joyce (Edwards) Houston, Dorothy (Whitfield) Topley, Loreen Breakey, Dorothy (Human) Andrews, Norma Zorne, Evelyn (Olafson) Holenski, Gladys (Gowling) Bergen, Ruth (Winkler) Boivin, Helen (Reimer) Pankiw, Liz (Reimer) Nagazina, Cathy (Denholm) Sinclair, Grace (Olafson) Martinot, Margaret (Keir) Williams, Eileen (Barkley) Grills, Lillian (Gibson) Hildebrand.

On the coaching staff were: Howie Larke, Donald McNaughton, Todd Thurston, Ramsay Monaghan and Basil Rampton (manager).



Paul Sigurdson (1927-1991) was born of Icelandic parents on a farm in the 1-6 district near Morden. After attending a one room school in the district, Mr. Sigurdson completed his high school education in Morden and went on to obtain a university degree in Arts and Education.



Paul was a fine athlete and talented baseball player, who also coached Morden teams. He married Ivadell Rampton in 1952 and soon after, they spent ten months in Iceland where he lectured and tutored. Back home he contracted polio and after a long convalescence he taught high school English in Morden. He held the post until he took an early retirement in 1977.

He published a number of books of poetry, was president of the Minnewasta Writer's Guild in the late 1980s and editor of the Guild's publication *Paper Rainbows*, a collection of poetry and short stories by local writers. His 1973 play, *The Icelander*, was performed at the Icelandic festival in Gimli, the Manitoba Drama Festival in Winnipeg and at the Multi-Cultural Festival in Ottawa in 1975.

Mr. Sigurdson was a driving force behind Morden's theatre group, The Company, which began in the late 1960s. By the 1970s the troupe had 50-75 members and was producing two shows a season. From 1976 into the 80s, The Company presented a children's play in Confederation Park during the Corn and Apple Festival. The Company continued to entertain Mordenites until the mid 1990s.



Western Canadians have the Morden Research Station, Dr. Henry Marshall and the *Rosa Arkansana* to thank for the hardy roses grown on the prairies today.

In the mid 1930s, Henry Marshall, an amateur gardener from Brandon, joined the Morden Research Station staff. Henry studied native hardy plants and crossed them with more tender but

showy varieties. It was this strategy that led to some dramatic advances in plant breeding.

His research with the native prairie rose, *Rosa Arkansana*, was the stepping stone to later improved cultivars such as Cuthbert Grant, Morden Cardinette and Morden Centennial. Particularly in roses, the Parkland series has been the single most important advance in quality and hardiness for the prairie region. The series includes the sturdy Winnipeg Parks Rose, the Hope for Humanity Rose (bred especially for the Canadian Red Cross), Morden Snow Beauty and Morden Sunrise.



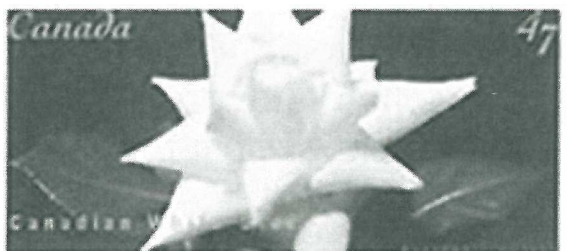
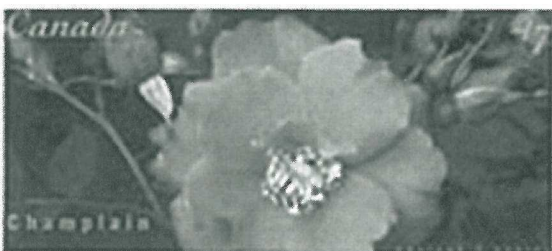
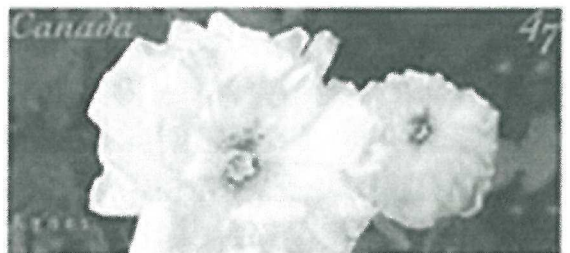
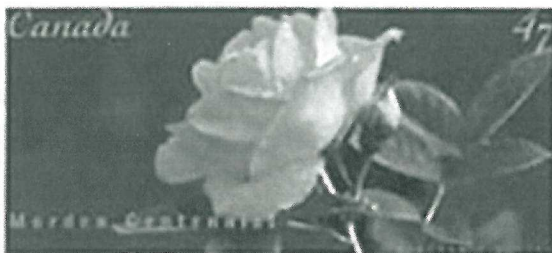
Dr. Marshall's accomplishments as a plant breeder helped to make his name well-known throughout Canada and abroad. Over forty introductions in several genera, many of which continue to be widely grown today, attest to the impact of his work.

Henry Heard Marshall D.Sc., P.Ag. (1916-1994) is a member of the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame.

On August 1, 2001, Canada Post issued four domestic rate commemorative stamps featuring Canadian roses: Morden Centennial, Agnes, Champlain and Canadian White Star.

The official launch of the stamp issue was made at the Morden Research Station. The Morden Centennial is a medium-pink rose in the *Parkland* series, which was developed at the Research Station in Morden by Dr. Henry Marshall. It was released in 1982, the year of Morden's centennial.

The Morden Centennial is a large, double, medium pink rose. Its flowers have a light sweet scent and appear alone or in clusters of up to fifteen and flowers repeatedly throughout the summer. Red rosehips are produced in the fall and persist throughout the winter.



William A. (Bill) Cumming, head of the ornamentals and fruit crops section at the Canada Department of Agriculture Research Station in Morden, became the first horticulturalist to receive the Public Service Commission of Canada Merit Award in February 1970.

The Kelsey Ornamental Crabapple was a new tree developed by Cumming. The Kelsey is the only rosybloom cultivar with semi-double flowers in the world. The profusion of flowers is followed by the appearance of small purple fruit, adding colour to the trees during fall and winter. Named after the explorer, Henry Kelsey, who was the first white man to see the vast herds of buffalo that roamed the prairies, the tree reaches a mature height of about 20 feet and is hardy.

Mr. Cumming was active in horticulture and related fields from the time he graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1932. In addition to the Kelsey Ornamental Crabapple, his section released twenty-two hardy chrysanthemums, four perennial asters, three ornamental crabapples, two mock-oranges, two shrub roses, a late-flowering hawthorn, creeping juniper, a weigela variety and the little-leaf linden.



Ramsay Cook, who has made a great contribution to historical scholarship in Canada, and continues to shape and reshape our understanding of this country's past, graduated from high school in Morden.

The Cook family moved to Morden when Ramsay's father, Reverend G. R. Cook was posted to St. Paul's United Church in 1946. During his high school years in Morden and while he attended the University of Manitoba, Ramsay worked at the Experimental Farm and at *The Morden Times*. He recalls time spent at Hughie Borthwick's pool hall and playing hockey, curling and baseball (second base) for the Morden Legionnaires.

Following graduate studies at Queen's University and the University of Toronto, Dr. Cook became a professor at York University where he has served for over 25 years. He has published widely on political and constitutional history, English-French relations, artistic and intellectual life and on Europeans' explorations and first contacts with native North Americans. He served as an historical advisor on the CBC television series *Canada: A People's History*, and is the general editor of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, the definitive biographical reference work in Canadian history.

Dr. Cook won a Governor General's Award's in 1985 for his book, *The Regenerators: Social Criticism in late Victorian English Canada* (1984) and was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1968 and an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1986.



In 2006, endocrinologist Dr. Henry Friesen was given the F.N.G. Starr Award by the Canadian Medical Association, the highest honour that can be bestowed by Canada's doctors on one of their own.

Born in Morden, Henry Friesen obtained a Bachelor of Science in medicine and a medical degree from the University of Manitoba in 1958.

Dr. Friesen's research in the 1960s and 1970s at McGill University and the University of Manitoba, led to the discovery of the hormone *prolactin*. He determined that an excessive amount of the hormone was the reason that some women could not conceive children. That observation laid the groundwork for the development of fertility drugs which reverse hormone related infertility. His research also led to the development of a drug therapy for the treatment of dwarfism in children.

An August 22, 2006 article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* stated that Dr. Friesen is considered a "living legend" by the Canadian Medical Association, for his work on prolactin.

From 1991 until 1999, he was president of the Medical Research Council of Canada and helped to transform it into the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. He was president of the National Cancer Institute of Canada and president of the Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation.

Dr. Friesen was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1987 and promoted to Companion in 2001. Also in 2001, he was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and in 2004 he was awarded the Order of Manitoba.

One of “the big three” writers of American science fiction grew up in Morden.

The *Science Fiction Encyclopedia* says that A. E. van Vogt, “along with Isaac Asimov and Robert A. Heinlein,” created “the first genuinely successful period of American SF.” Van Vogt was the author of more than 50 science-fiction novels including such titles as *Slan*, *The Weapon Shops of Isher*, *The Voyage of the Space Beagle* and *The World of Null-A*.

Born in Edenburg, Manitoba in 1912, the author spent his teenage years in Morden, where his father practiced law. The van Vogt family resided at 577 Stephen Street, the stone mansion originally built by Dr. J.B. McConnell. A. E. van Vogt later described it as a “large stone castle...the largest and most unusual house in town.”



Because this grandmaster of sci-fi spent his youth in the Stephen Street house, it is listed in John Columbo's *Canadian Literary Landmarks*. Columbo writes: “It is not difficult to imagine that the prairie vision....imparted to the youthful Alfred Elton van Vogt a sense of the 'infinite spaces' he has conveyed in the *Voyage of the Space Beagle*” (1950).

Alfred van Vogt died in 2000 at the age of 88.

Sources: *Science Fiction Encyclopedia*; Columbo's *Canadian Literary Landmarks*; *Reflections of A.E. van Vogt*, Fictioneer Books.

Loreena McKennitt, Canadian singer, harpist and pianist, was born and raised in Morden.



Ms McKennitt moved to Stratford, Ontario in 1981 and released her first album, *Elemental*, in 1985. She began to garner global attention with subsequent releases of self-produced works, including *To Drive the Cold Winter Away* (1987), *Parallel Dreams* (1989), *The Visit* (1991), *The Mask and Mirror* (1994), *A Winter Garden* (1995) and *The Book of Secrets* (1997). Her single *Mummer's Dance* was a widespread success,

receiving considerable airplay in North American markets during spring 1997. All of her work has been released under her own label, Quinlan Road.

On April 23, 2003, Loreena returned to her home town to attend an evening of dinner and entertainment organized in her honour. Later the same year, at a ceremony at the Manitoba Legislative building, Ms McKennitt was awarded the Order of Manitoba, which recognizes Manitobans whose achievements have lead to improving our social, cultural or economic well being.

In July 2004, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson made Loreena McKennitt a member of the Order of Canada, the most prestigious civilian honour in Canada.

Former residents of Morden, Jan and Nellie Kervel were the subjects of the 2002 play "A Thousand May Fall", which was performed in Morden and other southern Manitoba communities.

The Kervels have been acknowledged as "Righteous Gentiles" or "Righteous Persons", titles used to describe non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. At a time when living space, food, sanitation facilities, and medicine were at a premium, those who hid Jews from the Nazis sacrificed a great deal, as well as risking their lives.

The 2002 drama "A Thousand May Fall", produced by Steinbach Bible College under the direction of Oak Valley Production's Richard J. Klassen, followed the remarkable journey of Jan and Nellie Kervel and their experience in Holland during the World War II. It was a powerful story of their involvement in the underground resistance in Holland.

Caught up in the destruction of Rotterdam and the imminent occupation by Nazi forces in Holland, Jan and Nellie Kervel faced the horror of death and persecution for their faith. With each of their families actively involved with the underground resistance, they faced life-threatening decisions: aiding people fleeing from the war, facing the death of their leaders and loved ones, hiding Jews in their homes, dealing with the loss of home and family and facing the constant fear of being turned in by their own friends.

Contributed by Els and Jack Tessier

Two Morden residents were among a select group of talented young Canadians competing on the first Canadian Idol.

In 2003, Canadian Idol mania swept the country. Joel Nickel and Jason Nelson were among the top 140 contestants selected from approximately 13,000 who auditioned across the country for the CTV program. They each received the coveted gold card - a trip to Toronto to continue in the competition - after their auditions in Winnipeg. The card was their passport to the second round of Canadian Idol in which 140 contestants competed.

Once in Toronto, a number of contestants were sent home each day until the numbers were pared down to the top 30 finalists. Jason was eliminated on the first day of competition in Toronto. Joel made it to the last cut before reaching the magic thirty contestants and the beginning of public voting: he was one of the top forty finalists.

Source: Jeannie Nickel



During the Red River Flood of 1950, Morden received evacuees from St. Jean Baptiste.



During the flood of 1950, the Morden Board of Trade appointed a committee to work on arranging for food and shelter for a large number of evacuees from St. Jean Baptiste.

The evacuees were billeted with Morden families and stayed in the community for two to three weeks. Reverend G. R. Cook, minister of St. Paul's United, offered the church facilities to assist with food preparation. Residents of each street in Morden took a turn at cooking the dinner every day at St. Paul's.

Residents of Morden were faced with the possibility of having to pay well over \$1,000 for feeding evacuees, with no definite statement from government agencies that this amount would be repaid to the town. Meals were running about \$125 per day or 25¢ per meal. *The Morden Times*, on May 24 1950, reported that this was "made possible by the work of the ladies, the supply of many items by farm homes and others". A town and rural canvas was organized to collect funds to defray expenses, with the remainder going to the overall flood relief campaign.

Classrooms for evacuated children were opened in the basement of the Bergthaler Church. About fifty children, mostly from St. Jean, attended the school, which was taught by evacuated teachers. In addition, about twenty children were absorbed into regular classes at Morden schools.

Source: Ramsay Cook and Betty Larke

In 1992 Ron Laverty, Chair of the Morden and District United Way, began to investigate the legality of saving United Way funds in years when the campaign exceeded its goal and putting the money into interest bearing vehicles. The interest on this money would then be used in future campaigns. Ron found that what he was describing existed under Provincial law as a Community Foundation. Ron and Mrs. Annie Ariss, Secretary of the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce, met with officials from the Winnipeg Foundation about setting up a foundation in Morden. They discovered that regulations governing the establishment of community foundations had recently changed from requiring provincial legislation to simply needing a municipal resolution.

Mr. Laverty approached Morden Town Council with the idea of forming a community foundation that would benefit the citizens of Morden in perpetuity. Councillor Marilyn Skubovius was given Council approval to investigate the concept and Ivadell Sigurdson was asked to be a member of the investigation committee. As a result, the Morden Area Foundation (MAF) was established in 1993. Founding Board members were: Sam Andrew, Gordon Hoeschen, Ron Laverty, Bob Menzies, Betty Dunbar Sager, Ivadell Sigurdson, Marilyn Skubovius and Fred Westwood.

Morden was the first community in Manitoba to take advantage of a challenge grant offered by the Thomas Sill Foundation to assist in the development of community foundations. With that commitment, a fundraising campaign was initiated to build the assets of the MAF. Marilyn Skubovius is credited with making the first donation to the Foundation.

Thirteen years later, MAF assets total approximately \$740,000 which has been contributed by donors who have chosen to invest in their community and leave a legacy for the future. Donations to the Foundation are held in a perpetual endowment fund. Interest income is distributed every year as grants to local organizations, while the capital is left to continue to build interest.

The Morden Fire Department celebrated its 100th year in 2001.

Records show that an organizational meeting of the Morden Volunteer Fire brigade was held on February 14, 1905. On June 13, 1905, the alarm bell sounded for a fire at the Victoria Hall.



The following are some recollections of the fire brigade as remembered by Judge Jack Duncan at a celebration of the Fire Department's 100th anniversary.

“Our equipment in 1958 was not as good as it is today and over the years we gradually made improvements. Initially, we had no communications and responded to the fire siren which was located in about the center of the business district. This was because many of the firemen had day jobs downtown along Main Street and they were the ones most readily available.

...there was a fire which I remember well, five people died in a house fire on a cold winter night. That house was located immediately north across the lane from the Catholic Church and that fire was fought with the Ford Model A pump drawing water from a well reservoir located at the corner of Steven Street and 11th Street a long distance even on a warm night. As was often the case in those days, the pump ran out of water.

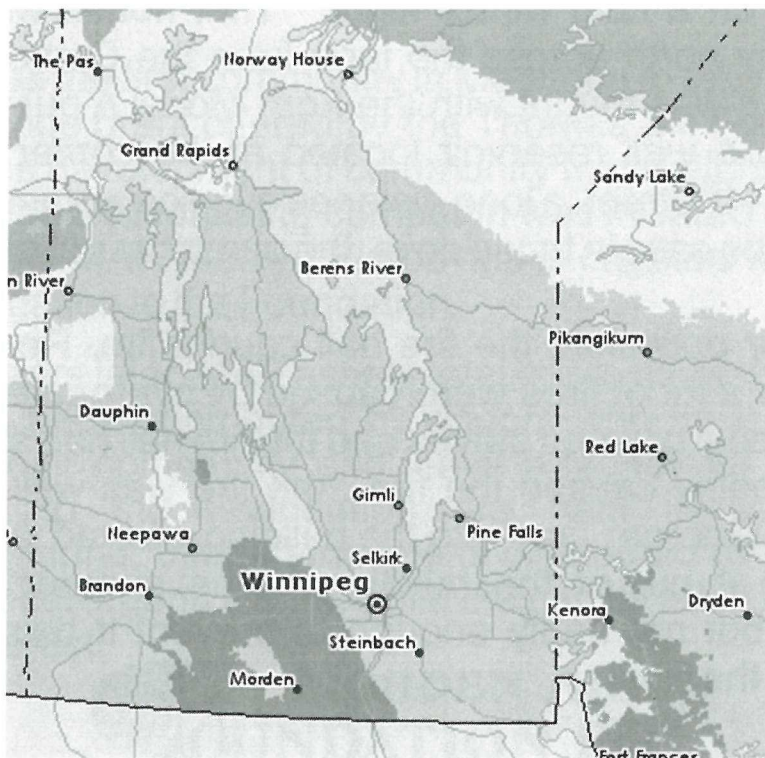
On another occasion, the fire hall caught fire. Remember in those days a lot of fires were caused by overheated chimney pipes and coal or wood stoves and the fire hall had a coal stove which probably caused the fire...the fire was well underway when Ron George.. ran into the building, started the fire truck and drove it out of the building. The pumper had been damaged but not badly enough to prevent it being used to extinguish the fire.”

Morden is in a zone of its own - a plant hardiness zone that is.

On the Plant Hardiness Zones map, Morden is in zone 3b, while the rest of southern Manitoba is zone 3. It is the only 3b zone in Manitoba. Consequently, gardeners in Morden can successfully grow some plants that may not survive in the rest of Manitoba.

The Plant Hardiness Zones map outlines the different zones in Canada where various types of trees, shrubs and flowers will most likely survive. It is based on the average climatic conditions of each area.

The first such map for North America, released by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1960, was based only on minimum winter temperatures. In 1967, Agriculture Canada scientists created a plant hardiness map using Canadian plant survival data and a wider range of climatic variables, including minimum winter temperatures, length of the frost-free period, summer rainfall, maximum temperatures, snow cover, January rainfall and maximum wind speed.



Morden has its very own election scandal.

In one early civic election, a voting machine, which was described as “the coming thing” was used. On this occasion, Bryon Fraser was one of the nominees for councilor. He was the son of one of Morden's most prominent citizens, J.H. Fraser the mill owner, but had not been too successful on his own account. So there was much eye-brow raising over the news of his candidacy.

When announced, the machine returns gave the victory to Bryon Fraser, causing general amazement until it was discovered that the count exceeded the names on the Morden voters list. An examination of the machine revealed that every time a ball was dropped in Fraser's slot it registered as ten votes.

Result: no more voting machines.

Source: *Some Notes about the History of the Area Around Morden in the 19th Century*, by Howard Winkler

The first electric light plant in Morden was started by Mr. Garret in a shop across the street from the Arlington Hotel in about 1895.

The only other towns in Manitoba that had electricity that early were Winnipeg, Portage and Brandon.

One of the most prominent businesses to have operated from the Arlington Hotel was Grey Goose Bus Lines.

The bus service started in the spring of 1927, when two brothers, D. Brown and J. W. Brown operated two seven-passenger cars from Winnipeg to Carman.

Mr. Garry M. Lewis bought D. Brown's share of the business later that year. In 1928, Mr. Elmer Clay of Morden bought the other share and service was extended to Morden.

The name of the company is said to have originated from "the wild goose hunters who decided to share their bag at a banquet at the Arlington Hotel. A total of 175 guests and some dignitaries enjoyed an evening of fun and wild goose and the unveiling of the name "Grey Goose" for the bus route."

Source: ___ and Walter Bradley, "A History of Transportation in Winnipeg," *Manitoba Historical Society Transaction Series 3*, 1958-59 Season.



The Krushel family emigrated from Poland to the Morden area in 1894.

Sons Adolph and Louis were both expert machinists. They started separate businesses and by the end of the 1930s, their manufacturing plants were thriving.

Louis Krushel & Son manufactured farm and welding equipment.

Adolph established Standard Gas Engine Works in 1932, to manufacture grain grinders, hammer mills and other farm implements. His invention, the Krushel Krusher, became a household word in Canadian farm homes in the 1940s.

MORDEN DIVISION

It is a little known fact is that the Morden Division of Bühler Manufacturing has a multi-year contract to build certain attachments to fit John Deere combines.

This factory supplies all North American John Deere requirements of Straw Choppers, Straw Spreaders and Chaff Spreaders directly to the Deere factory in Moline, Illinois. In addition, it also supplied similar products to the Deere facility in Zweibrucken, Germany. These kits must be supplied just in time and in perfect cosmetic condition. John Deere has very high standards for fit and finish of the manufactured parts and has a very tough supplier rating system based on delivery and quality.

Bühler Manufacturing, Morden Division has attained the top supplier level for six consecutive years and remains in the top 10% of all Deere combine suppliers. This has been quite a feat to maintain. The spin off has been continuous improvement to Farm King brand products, as the company applies the same rigorous standards to its products as those used for John Deere.



Canadian Cannery opened a plant on South Railway Street in Morden in 1952, part of a chain of about thirty plants across Canada.

Canadian Cannery sold products under the labels Aylmer, Lynn Valley and Franklin. In Morden, the company processed mostly peas, green and yellow beans and cream style corn. California Packing Corporation (Del Monte) acquired a large share of Canadian Cannery in the early 1960s and began to downsize, leading to the closure of many of the smaller plants. The Morden plant was closed in 1970.

It re-opened in 1971 under the ownership of the Provincial Government, canning fruit juice and other products under the name of Morden Fine Foods. From its opening in 1952 to about 1976, the plant employed nearly 200 people in the peak season and 15 - 20 in year-round positions.

In 1978, Morden Fine Foods was sold to Mr. John Bühler and the plant continued to process a variety of vegetables, pork and beans, and juices. In 1980, drought cut into production and only beans and juices were processed by a staff of twenty. The following year, the company became a division of Farm King and operated under the name Bestpac Ltd. The plant went into year-round production, processing juices from concentrates shipped from Toronto, Arizona and Brazil.

Tupperware Company opened a 143,000-square foot plant in Morden on October 13, 1979.

“It was October 13, 1979, a sunny autumn day when the crops had already been taken off the bountiful prairie landscape of southern Manitoba. Along Highway 3 that stretches between Winnipeg and Morden seventy-five miles southwest, a line of traffic extended from the remote vanishing point to the eastern outskirts of Morden. Roadway shoulders were transformed into packed parking lots by 6,000 interested people who had come to confirm the news first hand: Tupperware Company had chosen Morden as the site for its 21st world class manufacturing plant... The 143,000-square foot operation employs about 120, working three shifts to produce plastic housewares shipped to distributors from Thunder Bay to Vancouver.”



Tupperware closed its Morden plant in 1991.

Source: *Trade and Commerce*, June 1982

In 1982, 3M Company Canada opened a 40,000-square foot facility in Morden to manufacture 3M™ Scotchkote™ Fusion Bonded Epoxy Coating, which is used to protect oil and gas pipelines from rust and corrosion.

Eight people were employed when the plant opened its doors. Since then, 3M has steadily grown. Expansion began with the 1985 addition of Health Care operations which produces heart monitoring electrodes, surgical masks, knee braces and Tegaderm™ Transparent dressings.

In 1993, a 40,000-square foot addition accommodated a second Scotchkote manufacturing line. Then in 1999, when heart monitoring electrode manufacturing capacity was increased, a second expansion included a 20,000-square foot addition to accommodate a new generation of electrode production equipment.

The arrival of 3M in Morden provided new opportunities for local high school graduates to remain in Morden and obtain positions with a major company. The company and its employees have supported the community by providing their time to organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, the MS Society and financial assistance to projects including Boundary Trails Health Centre, scholarships for Morden Collegiate graduates and an outdoor classroom on the Recreation Centre grounds.



In 2003, Morden became the first Manitoba community outside of the City of Winnipeg to hold a SuperWalk for Parkinson's.

That first year, about eighty participants from Morden, Altona, Manitou, Darlingford, Carman and Winnipeg raised over \$12,500. This sum equaled one-third the total raised by the City of Winnipeg SuperWalk.

Morden's results provided the inspiration for other rural communities to organize walks. The SuperWalk continues on an annual basis in Morden.



The murder trial of one of the West's most infamous criminals, Black Jack Krafchenko, was held in Morden in 1914.

The Krafchenko family immigrated to Canada from Romania in 1888 and settled in Plum Coulee. As a youth, John Larry Krafchenko exhibited a violent streak and by age 15 had been arrested for theft and sentenced to jail.

For a time, he lived in Australia where he trained to be a professional wrestler. By 1902, he had returned home to southern Manitoba, where his life of crime began to unfold. For the next eleven years, Krafchenko was in and out of jail.

In November 1913, he decided that the Bank of Montreal in Plum Coulee was the perfect target for a robbery. On December 3, 1913, Krafchenko entered the bank and robbed manager Henry Arnold at gun point. As he fled from the bank to a waiting taxi, Krafchenko turned and fired one shot at Mr. Arnold, killing him instantly. Krafchenko was arrested in Winnipeg on December 10. He escaped from custody but was recaptured a few days later.

Krafchenko was tried in Morden before a jury and Justice J.C. Mathers. The trial started on March 18, 1914 and was completed on April 9, with the jury finding him guilty of murder. He was hanged in Winnipeg on July 9, 1914 at the Vaughan Street jail and buried at Brookside Cemetery.

At the turn of the 20th century, Jewish families in the Morden area converted a store on North Railway and 9th Streets into a synagogue.

The Children of Israel Synagogue was formed around 1896 to serve about 100 people from Morden, Winkler and Plum Coulee. A menorah, made for the synagogue by local tinsmith Bill Templeton, is on display at the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada in Winnipeg.

Fleeing persecution of Jews in Russia, David Rabinovitch arrived in Morden in the fall of 1890.

David left his wife and two daughters behind, with the promise that he would send for them. In the spring of 1891, he started a general store in Morden, a business that his son Milton would later take over and operate until 1990. Popular in the community, David acquired the nickname "Doc", perhaps due to the patent medicines he sold in the store.

David worked for five years to save enough money to send for his family. Finally, the happy day arrived. In 1896 Doc took the train to Winnipeg to meet his wife and family. Eager to see their new home, they returned to Morden the next morning to find that tragedy had struck: Doc's store had burned to the ground.

The people of Morden came together to help Doc rebuild, pledging funds and pitching in. By 1897, the store was rebuilt in a prime location opposite the railway station. Doc maintained records of all the funds given to him to rebuild the store and repaid every dollar.

Following the death of his wife, a marriage was arranged for David in the old country tradition. Sonia Kluner, just seventeen, arrived in Morden by train from New York and they were married. Doc and Sonia raised seven children Milton, Archie, Anne, Ruby, Bill, Leon and Beryl .

Note: this story was contributed by Doc's grandson, David Rabinovitch, who is a documentary film producer and director. He was born in Morden and began his education here. Now living and working in the U.S., David's career began as a producer/director at the CBC in Toronto. His work has received numerous honours including two EMMY Awards and a Gemini Award.

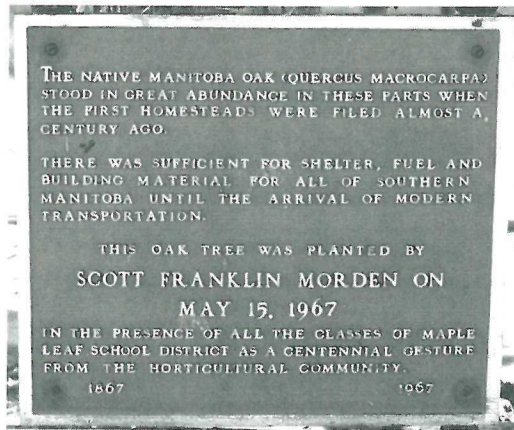
Pioneers found two plentiful building materials when they settled in this area - wood and stone.

The native Manitoba oak was abundant in this area, providing sufficient fuel and building material for the early homesteaders. Most of the original structures built in Morden were of wood. However, one of the problems facing prairie communities was a lack of water and means to get what little there was to the site of a fire. So, following several disastrous fires in Morden, early wooden buildings were replaced by brick and stone structures

During the last ice age, as the continental glaciers retreated, great quantities of rocks and boulders were deposited along the edge of the Manitoba Escarpment. Many of the original settlers in this area came from the British Isles, where stone was used extensively for building. Stonemasons applied their skills in Morden, shaping the large prairie rocks into building blocks for the fieldstone structures that can be seen throughout Morden.

MacGregor's brickyard was established south of the townsite and its products were used to erect several substantial brick buildings, including the Dominion Post Office which stands at the corner of 8th and Stephen Streets.

A Centennial Oak was planted to commemorate Canada's Centennial. Planted by Scott Morden, a great, great grandson of Alvey Baker Morden, it stands in Confederation Park.



In keeping with its tradition of progress, Morden was one of the first rural towns in Manitoba to install its own water and sewerage system.

Lack of water had always been the firefighter's bane. In an effort to solve this problem the Town had constructed wells with reservoirs at strategic points throughout the community. However, these were really not the answer and the problem was not solved until the installation of water works in the 1950s.

In those days government funding was not available and to fund the project, the town, on its own initiative, floated debentures on a local improvement district in the central part of town. The debentures, many of them sold locally, raised \$300,000 to cover the cost for that initial small area and went a long way to ridding the town of the curse of lack of water.

One of Morden's most impressive assets is its ten-acre civic park, which was developed in the late 1800s.

In the early years, the park was known as the Morden Tourist Park.

As part of the community's celebration of the Manitoba Centennial the Morden Tourist Park was renamed. On July 20, 1970, Mayor Bert Morden, assisted by Adolph Dack, cut the ribbon to officially open the Alvey Baker Morden Park. A rustic sign featuring a log slab background with the name "Morden Park" spelled out in birchbark branches was placed at the park entrance. A number of provincial and local dignitaries were on hand to participate in the ceremony.



The Stanley Flying Club Centennial Air Show was the most successful air show ever held in this region up to that point.

There was an estimated crowd of 3,000 at the air show in the summer of 1970 and nearly 100 planes flew in from Canada and the U.S. The air show was spectacular with four T-33 jets and a Search and Rescue helicopter from the Canadian Forces putting on a good show which included a parachute jump and recovery.

A fantastic display of stunt flying was put on by Al Pietch of Minot in his Starduster Bi-plane and by Carman's Bob Diemert in his Harvard. Also on hand was a restored Tiger Moth which put on a flying demonstration. Diemert also displayed his VAL Japanese dive bomber, the only plane of its type left in the world.

The third "live" chess game played in the world, and the first in North American, was played in Morden Park on July 20th, 1970.

Internationally renowned chess master D.A. Yanofsky was challenged by Mark Shulman, who had been Manitoba's champion for four successive years and was a member of the Canadian Olympic chess team.

The game was timed to last no more than an hour and a half. The two players worked out their strategy on a small board, as the human chess pieces duplicated the moves on a giant chess board that was laid out in a shaded hollow in Morden Park.

Even those who had never played chess found the game colourful and dramatic. In a tribute to Manitoba's Centennial, the game pitted the Old World against the New. Old World pieces were costumed to represent Queen Victoria, Louis the XIV, Lord Nelson, Napoleon and other famous historic figures. The Queen of the New World was a pioneer mother and the King was the first leader of Manitoba's Legislature, John McKay. They were defended by Lord Selkirk, Louis Riel, Aboriginal braves and princesses, voyageurs and settlers in ethnic dress.

The final result: Old World triumphs over the New.

After the game, the cast and visiting chess masters were entertained at a buffet supper in Helen Latter's studio. Adolph Dack, chair of Morden's Centennial Committee and Paul Sigurdson, who with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Latter organized the event, also attended.

Catherine Evenson and Margaret Chubb, as representatives of the Centennial Committee, assisted Mrs. Latter.

Contributed by
Carol Wilkinson



OLD WORLD

PIECE	CHARACTER	MORDEN CITIZEN
Queen	Queen Victoria	Sybil Hamm
King	Louis XIV of France	Fred Ollinik
Bishop	Cardinal Richelieu	John Hoes
Bishop	Martin Luther	Henry Bergman
Knight	British Red Coat	Anthony Ahle
Knight	Medieval Knight	Richard Pauls
Castle	Napoleon	John Bühler
Castle	Lord Nelson	Roger Hamm
Pawn	Can-Can Girl	Carol Peters
Pawn	Governess	Ann Chamberlin
Pawn	Peasant Girl	Debbie Andrew
Pawn	Troubadour	Larry Schindel
Pawn	Merchant	Ken Hanssen
Pawn	Courtier	Ed Young
Pawn	Court Lady	Dell Chamberlain
Pawn	Page Boy	Michael Miciak

NEW WORLD

PIECE	CHARACTER	MORDEN CITIZEN
Queen	Pioneer Woman	Marilyn Janzen
King	Hon. James McKay	Jim Baker
Bishop	Mennonite Minister	Elmo Shareski
Bishop	Indian Medicine Man	Barry Allen
Knight	N.W.M.P.	Jim Hartry
Knight	Louis Riel	Corney Hoepfner
Castle	Lord Selkirk	Arron Penner
Castle	Eskimo	Jim Kutchera
Pawn	Indian Maiden	Pam Walker
Pawn	Voyageur	Abe Thiessen
Pawn	Scottish Settler	Doug Lumgair
Pawn	German Settler	Ken Toews
Pawn	Ukrainian Girl	Sally Chubey
Pawn	Icelandic Maid	Jocelyn Fournier
Pawn	Irish Colleen	Loreena McKennitt
Pawn	Dutch Girl	Jackie Hoes

The teaching license of a Morden man was cancelled because of his pro-Hitler views.

Morden community members were “shocked and disgusted” to learn that John P. Dyck, who taught school “three or four miles south of town,” openly declared his allegiance to Hitler. “I am a German National Socialist and I acknowledge Adolf Hitler, chancellor of the German empire, as my personal leader since the world knows no greater leader at the present time,” Dyck asserted in an article written before World War II.

As a Morden teacher, he continued to hold that view. Ivan Schultz, Manitoba's Minister of Education, revoked Mr. Dyck's teaching license in June 1940, saying it was the intention of the education department “to keep schools free from any subversive propaganda.”

Mr. Schultz subsequently sent letters to all Manitoba teachers, “asking their opinion on various patriotic subjects.” Responding to Mr. Dyck's dismissal, local teachers issued a statement voicing their “wholehearted approval of the action of the government” and expressing their “readiness to endorse similar action by the department...”

Source: *The Morden Times*, June 5, 1940, p. 1; June 26, 1940, pp. 1 & 5

Contributed by Larry Danielson

It was common for Morden families to keep chickens and a cow in small barns on their property.

Each morning on their way to school, a number of children would drive the cows to the community pasture and each evening they herded them back home. The pasture was south of Thornhill Street, just past Hillside cemetery.

John M. Wiens was one of the young herdsman, as were Larke family children and many others. John Wiens recalls that he had twelve cows to look after and was paid 50¢ per cow, per month for his work. And he considered himself well paid!

This practice continued until at least 1952.

Contributed by Jim Menzies

Quilting is a social activity that has been long enjoyed by women of the Morden area.

In 2005, while sorting through blankets at the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) warehouse in Plum Coulee, Betty Klassen of Winkler came across a number of hand embroidered quilt blocks. Each block had either a name or initials and the date 1932 embroidered on it. The blocks had been donated to the MCC to be made into a quilt to be sent overseas.

Betty felt these blocks were too precious to be sent to someone for whom they would have little meaning. So she remade the quilt and it was presented to the Boundary Trails Health Center Winkler Auxiliary on April 5th, 2005.



Marie Peters of Morden attended the presentation. Marie is the last living member of the group of young women from the Glencross area who, as far back as 1932, got together each week to stitch and visit. This quilt reveals how each woman made her own block with its own individual characteristics. Some blocks featured tiny, detailed stitching while others were bold and very colourful.

The quilt is displayed at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

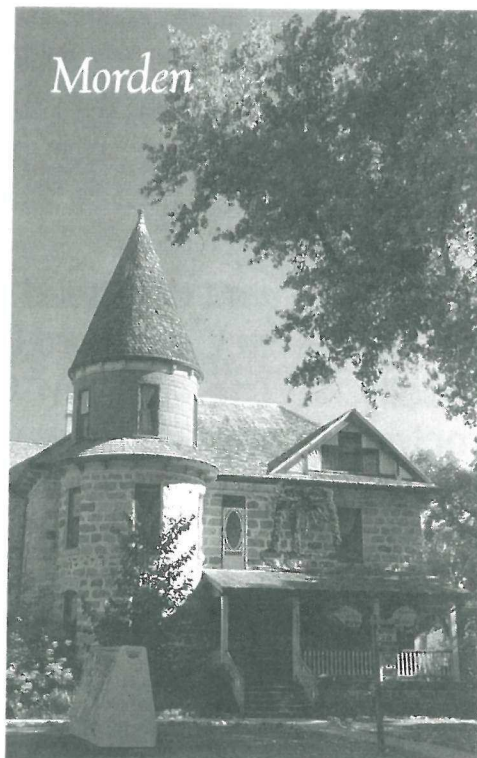
Contributed by Carol Wilkinson



The April 2004 issue of the Harrowsmith Country Life magazine named the Town of Morden as one of the ten "Best in Country Living" places in Canada.

Among Morden's assets, the magazine identified real estate, health services, business diversity and downtown shopping.

The other nine picks that year were the Annapolis Valley, Watrous, Ottawa Valley, Ile d'Orléans, Cowichan Valley, Wolfe Island, The Klondike, Lake Erie Ports and the Gatineau Hills.



Morden

the old post office, typical of small town Canada, has been converted into an art gallery. But Morden's most attractive asset is its old houses, many just past the century mark, whose ornate and Victorian charm are still intact. Quality enough for the Prairie, many are built of stone.

It is a nice new feature. Monday would be a picnic with bonfires and summer dances, in quantities spanning a whole industry. But in rural Manitoba, a little respect from the Winnipeg commerce belt, it remains the quintessential rural town and a service centre for local farmers. "I like to think of it as ordinary in an extraordinary way," the booster continues, referring to the mom-and-pop shops that still line the main drag and the little Roman Catholic church that nestles into downtown.

Every town used to look like this, but with pride and community, so many have suffered Morden's decline. "A visitor taking the scenic route from Winnipeg to the Rockies, you'll miss Morden. It's like a scene out of *East is West*," he said, "and I know that's not the way."

By Bill ...

Founded 1882, in the CPR to add and
Access line southwest of Winnipeg, along Highway 1
Principal towns Morden, population 2,350, 50 per-
cent of urban claim Metropolitan Lethbridge
Urban Escape Winnipeg 100 km

Climate: typically Prairie, although marginally drier
than points east. Only 13 inches of rain a year.

Garden Zone 3B, the hot spot of Manitoba.

Farmstead: Some of the best agricultural land in Man-
itoba. Most of it is in big parcels, and still worked, so
small hobby farms are hard to come by.

Real Estate: In town, a new 2,500-square-foot house
is up to run about \$175,000 tops.

Health Services: Seven dentists, nine doctors and a
panoply of other health professionals. Nearest
hospital is shared with Winkler, the next town east.

Business Directory: Quite a diversified economy, es-
pecially considering the size of some other Prairie lo-
cations. 3M and Oscar Cartmets are the largest
employers in town. Agriculture still rules beyond the
town limits.

Shopping: Three strip plazas have made their mark,
but the downtown remains remarkably healthy. Am-
ple shade trees on Seventh Street make shopping a
pleasure.

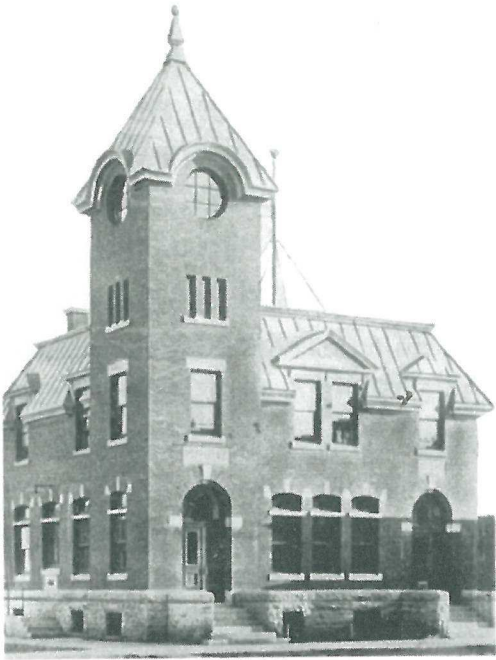
Claims to Fame: The Explorer roses, which single-
handedly made Canadians enthusiastic about roses
again, were developed here.

Last Word: The Prairie town that could...and still
does.

The countryside around Morden is your typical Prairie landscape, and yet it isn't, says a hometown booster who made for the big city years ago, but is currently reconsidering her move. The terrain is flat as right, but still in the distance, as if to defy the notion that all of Manitoba is unbroken plains, the horizon is broken by a ridge of hills. And likewise, "Morden is your typical Prairie town, and yet it isn't either." Thanks to a couple of local industries and the com-

and presence of Agriculture Canada's famed research station, its economy is more diversified than some, which lends the area a certain, rather sometimes mis-
ing in other locales.

Morden also has history and ambience on its side. Indeed, if that hometown booster were to move back, remember the fact that little has changed. Remark-
ably well preserved, the town's Victorian character has not been lost to its gran-
plexions still stand beside the CPR, and



Morden's Dominion Post Office building recalls the image of progress, prosperity and stability that the federal government instilled in the buildings it constructed in select rural communities around the turn of the 20th century.

The postal service was the responsibility of the federal government in Ottawa and the buildings erected to provide this service brought high quality architecture into the communities they served. What are usually identified as Dominion Post Offices were actually multi-purpose buildings that combined a number of federal functions. In the Morden facility, the post office was housed on the main floor and the Customs and Inland Revenue offices were on the second floor, making it one of the busiest destinations in town.

The Morden Dominion Post Office was designed by the Chief Architect's Office in Ottawa. Architect W. D. Ford Blankenstein supervised the work locally. The Brown Construction Company of Winnipeg erected the building between 1913 and 1915.

While the Chief Architect's Office ensured that each post office building was unique, there were definite similarities in design. A tall corner tower, inset with a clock, was a familiar feature on many post offices and the one created for Morden is a fine example. Morden's hand wound clock is believed to be among only a few remaining in Manitoba.

The building was designated as a historic site on June 14, 1988 by the Town of Morden.

Morden is the smallest community in Canada that hosts an annual United Way Day of Caring.

The Morden and District United Way was incorporated in 1967 to create a fundraising umbrella for community social service organizations. Its first Day of Caring was held in 2002 and now occurs in May each year.

Contributed by Cindy Kowalski



The Morden Friendship Centre was formed in 1975 with a mandate to provide recreational and social activities for seniors.

In 1988 the Board began planning for a community based support service agency to help seniors live independently and stay longer in their own homes. In March of that year, Esther Zacharias was hired as Resource Coordinator for Services for Seniors.

By 1992 the Morden Friendship Centre had renovated the old Egg Grading Station into a very comfortable 1,000-square foot Senior Centre. But the Board and members saw the need for a larger facility. Fundraising began in the fall of 1992. In May 1993, the 105 members of the Morden Friendship Centre and Morden Services for Seniors amalgamated their assets and purchased a vacant, 10,000-square foot Tomboy store.

A great deal of sweat equity and cash have gone into the Centre since then. The total cost of almost \$800,000 was paid off by July 2004. A mortgage burning took place Oct 8th, 2004.

The Morden Friendship Centre has grown to a membership of over 350 people, with a wide variety of programs and partnerships with the Pembina Hills Arts Council, schools and the Town of Morden.

Contributed by Basil Agnew and Pat Plett



Mordenites have enjoyed up-to-date entertainment facilities.

Howard Winkler wrote that with the construction of Victoria Hall in 1898, traveling stock companies and entertainers came to Morden regularly. Morden had “arrived”.



Victoria Hall was a large dance and concert hall above T. T. Thompson Co. Ltd. a hardware and farm implements store on the north side of Stephen Street, across from the Arlington Hotel. Until it was destroyed by fire in 1938, Victoria Hall was a centre of community activity hosting concerts, dances, graduations and

horticultural exhibitions. Mordenites saw their first movie in Victoria Hall - *The Great Train Robbery*.

The Starland Theatre was located at 321 Stephen Street. Owned and operated by Jake Kendall, the theatre showed movies as early as 1914. Jake's son Ernie took over the business in 1938 and then, in 1951 started construction of the Kenmor, an “up-to-date” theatre where he intended to host live performances.

The third generation, Ernest W. Kendall (Jr.) took over the business following his father's death, completing the Kenmor in 1952 and operating it as a movie theatre. An article in the Morden Times in 1952 stated: “Film entertainment for Mordenites is now found in one of the finest theatres in rural Manitoba - the Kenmor Theatre.”

The facility was used as a movie theatre until 2000. Since then it has been used as a venue for live entertainment. With its historical charm and natural acoustics, the Kenmor is fulfilling the vision of its builder.



Morden hosted a Chautauqua during the summer of 1919.

The Chautauqua consisted of travelling troupes of entertainers who went from town to town, bringing residents a taste of culture. There were lectures, readings, singing, drama and various other acts.

Morden's Chautauqua took place between September 28 and October 2, 1919. Many events were held in tents that were set up in Morden Park. Reservations for the entire program cost 50¢ and 25¢ for single performances. A Chautauqua poster proclaimed "Save money by buying a season ticket. Note the prices and see the saving you make by buying a season ticket."

Evening and afternoon events were also held in Victoria Hall.

Chautauqua

In Victoria Theatre, Morden
3.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.

Sept. 28-29, Oct. 1-2

PRESIDENT—C. C. MILNE. TICKETS—F. A. COWIE.
RESERVATIONS—W. COLLINS.

FIRST DAY—FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

EVENING—Play: "Let's Go Somewhere"—A rare and inimitable comedy of modern home life in which laughter and tears intermingle. Admission \$1.00.

SECOND DAY—SATURDAY, SEPT. 29

AFTERNOON—Carlile Novelty Trio—Music, readings, solos, trios, by three charming personalities. Admission 50c.

EVENING—Prelude: Carlile Novelty Trio. Lecture: Dr. Charles H. Plattenburg—"A Modern Tale of Two Cities." Editor, world traveller and community expert in brilliant lecture. Admission 75c

THIRD DAY—MONDAY, OCT. 1

AFTERNOON—"How to Dress Well on a Moderate Income"—A timely, helpful, unique demonstrated lecture. Admission 75c

EVENING—Play: "Peg O' My Heart"—Opinion is altogether unanimous in proclaiming this the best Irish comedy ever staged. Admission \$1.00.

FOURTH DAY—TUESDAY, OCT. 2.

EVENING—The Massey Five—A remarkably varied and popular program by a family of musicians and entertainers who have won signal triumphs throughout the entire continent. Admission \$1.00.

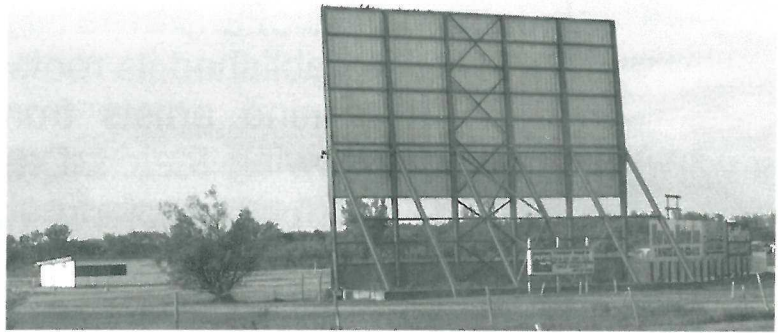
TICKETS FOR SALE by W. Collins, Ven. Allen, F. Buchholz, F. A. Cowie, Arlington Hotel, Manitoba Hotel.

Many of the reserved seats have already been sold. Secure yours at once at Collin's Drug Store and avoid disappointment.

Reservations—Entire program, 50c. For single performance, 25c.

SAVE MONEY BY BUYING A SEASON TICKET. NOTE THE PRICES AND SEE THE SAVING YOU MAKE BY BUYING A SEASON TICKET

The Stardust Drive-In is one of three drive-in theatres operating in Manitoba in 2006.



Morden's first drive-in was the Blue Moon, which

opened in June 1958 on the north side of Highway 3, across from the Colert Beach Road. Not long after it opened, the screen blew down in a windstorm. In June 1961, a gala opening of the new Star Dust Drive-In was held. Owners Mr. and Mrs. Gibson lived in Killarney and also owned the Shamrock Drive-in there. Mr. Gibson would fly to Morden, land on Dr. Colert's runway, operate the projector at the Stardust and fly home.

In the mid 1980s, when the Stardust was owned by June and Jerry Letkeman, the screen again blew down in a small tornado and was rebuilt again.

Through the 1990s attendance at drive-ins across North America began to decline and many closed. In fact, the Stardust Drive-in was included in a documentary on the fading fortunes of drive-ins that aired on a Canadian cable channel. The Stardust was described as one of the big screens that are still defying the odds.

Marlene and Terry Nelson, Larry Freund and Ken and Robin Freund took over the Stardust in May 2002. Marlene would like to think that they are making a night at the drive-in more than just a movie night, but that they are helping to recreate memories. Growing up next door to the Stardust, Marlene has fond memories of family evenings at the Drive-in, of working there as a youngster and of deep fried pizza pops. Apparently lots of people share the pizza pop memory, as many come looking for - and get them - today.

Source: Marlene Nelson



The Pembina Hills Arts Council established its roots in 1988 with a group of nine artists from the Morden area showing their art as part of the Morden Corn and Apple Festival.

They continued to exhibit their work three times a year, finding display space in a variety of empty buildings in Morden. In

March 1992, the group became incorporated as Pembina Hills Artists Inc. With generous support from the Town of Morden, they moved into the former Post Office at the corner of 8th and Stephen Streets.

The goal was to draw together regional artists and provide display space for their work. Exhibitions each month display the work of regional and Manitoba Artists. Unique items made by crafters are sold in the Gift Shop.

The Arts Council coordinates a variety of art classes for all ages that include watercolour, mosaics pottery and children's summer camps. Off site activities include movies, cello lessons, regional string ensemble, craft sales at the Back 40 and Corn and Apple Festivals and the Christmas Craft Show at the Morden Recreation Centre.

The Morden Arts and Craft Show will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2007.

The Morden Arts and Crafts Show was initiated in 1987 by a committee headed by Marjorie Godkin. The first event was held in November in the recreation centre with sixty tables. Response was so good that within a short time the event had expanded to 100 tables. Crafters came from surrounding communities and as far away as Brandon, Winnipeg and Ontario.

After fifteen years of chairing the event, Marjorie retired. The Craft Show is now a program of the Pembina Hills Arts Council. It continues to draw visitors and shoppers and gives crafters the opportunity to sell their creations.

Contributed by Marjorie Godkin

Established in 1975, the Morden Festival of the Arts is one of the largest rural arts festivals in Manitoba. It is a volunteer, non-profit organization.

The 2006 Festival included band, English and French speech arts, piano, strings, visual arts and vocal. Most of the classes take place in churches within Morden. The visual arts section is held in the Recreation Centre hall.

Awards are given at the Highlights Concert and outstanding performers are recommended by adjudicators to advance to the Provincial Finals.

The careers of many successful teachers and performers have been launched at this Festival. The Festival's best known performer is Loreena McKennitt.

In 2005, the Festival welcomed former Mordenites back as festival adjudicators.



During its thirty year history, the Morden Men's Choir recorded seven albums, CDs and tapes. Proceeds were directed to charity and mission projects.

The Morden Men's Choir originated in 1967, with an affiliation with the Bergthaler Mennonite Church (now the Morden Mennonite Church). Choir membership was not limited to this church, but came from across southern Manitoba. Between 1967 and 1997, eighty-one men were part of the choir.

The Choir's repertoire consisted mainly of sacred music which they sang in local churches, personal care homes and hospitals. The Choir performed in Western Canada and parts of the northern United States. In 1997, the choristers and their wives visited the Usiedler churches in Germany, behind the Berlin Wall.

Jake G. Zacharias was a founding member and choir conductor. Pianists included Leona Thiessen, Cheryl Penner and Helen Zacharias. Although not professional singers, the men loved to sing, serve God and bring joy to those listening.



Like most Manitobans, Mordenites can always talk about the weather.

March 5-10, 1916: 121.9 cm (48 inches) of snow bury town over five-day period.

March 3, 1966: What was termed the “blizzard of the century” hit Morden on March 3 - 4, 1966. A foot and a half of snow, driven by winds up to 50-60 miles per hour piled up mountainous drifts throughout southern Manitoba and the U.S. The storm finally blew itself out on Saturday as the sun made its appearance after some thirty-six hours of zero visibility.

May 11, 1986: A tornado struck south of town, destroying farm buildings and ripping off tree tops. Beams from one shed roof were blown 100 m (330 ft) and driven 30 cm (12 inches) into the ground.

April 12, 1996: Near-record winter snowfalls began to melt under abnormally warm weather across Manitoba. Clogged drainage ditches and river-ice jams added to the danger. Near Morden and Winkler, crews worked feverishly using backhoes, front end loaders and bulldozers to clear channels in snow clogged drainage ditches and to break up ice jams at culverts and bridges. Six cattle were swept down the river.

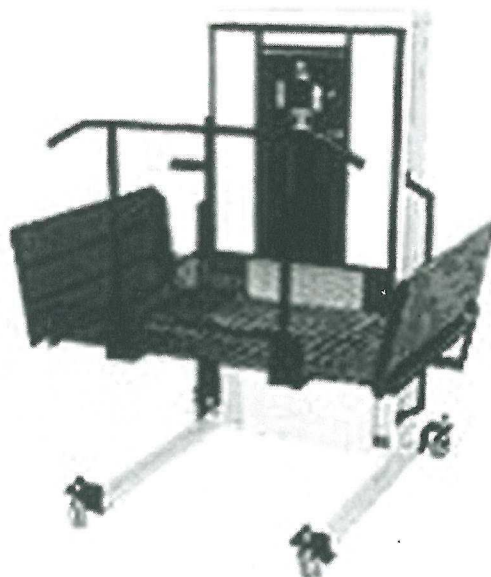
Source: *The Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar* and the *Morden Times*

In the spirit of cooperation, local businesses, the Morden Area Foundation and the Town of Morden contributed to the purchase of a portable wheelchair lift for the use of Morden residents.

The issue of providing a portable wheelchair lift was brought to Town Council in spring 2005 by concerned residents.

A proposal to purchase a portable lift was developed and fundraising began. Response was immediate and the following organizations sponsored this worthwhile project: Morden Area Foundation, Agassiz Credit Union, CIBC, 3M Canada Company, Morden Thrift Shop, Royal Bank of Canada, Fehr Glass & Aluminum, Huron Windows, Image Promotions, Morden Lions Club, Morden Co-op, Morden Realty and Rana Medical. The Town agreed to be responsible for storage, maintenance, insurance and booking of the lift.

On June 2, 2005, the portable wheelchair lift was delivered to the Recreation Centre and immediately put to use at the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame Banquet on June 4. The lift was also booked for use at the 2005 Morden Collegiate Graduation Ceremonies later that month.



The Morden Creamery is remembered by some people for more than the taste of its dairy products.

The Morden Creamery Association was organized in 1912 as a joint stock company owned and operated by local business men and farmers of the area. In 1928, the company was purchased by Mr. A.C. Anderson and Mr. R.B. "Bay" McKennitt and the name was changed to the Morden Creamery Company. When fire destroyed the building in 1940, it was immediately rebuilt. The business was sold in 1954 to Standard Dairies Limited of Winnipeg. The Creamery was well known for its top quality butter Golden Edge.

Mary Toews (nee Hiebert) remembers Morden Creamery for a very different reason than its excellent butter.

Mary grew up on 5th Street, across from where the high school now stands. Each day, staff would drive from the Creamery on 5th and Thornhill, up to the vacant lot across from Mary's home, where they would dump whey. In the winter it would freeze, creating a little "pond". Mary recalls borrowing her brother's skates, donning three or four pairs of socks to make them fit and heading across the street, where she learned to skate on a pond of butter.



Source: Mary Toews



Kim Penner was awarded the "Best New Artist" at the 1997 Calgary Exhibition & Stampede Western Art Auction. This was followed by the "Best of Show" in 2003 for "Spirit of the West", again at the Calgary Exhibition & Stampede Western Art

Auction. Kim received the "Peoples Choice Award" for "Fall Flowers" at "The Manitoba Art Expo 2005" and "Best of Show Artist Sales Salon" award at the Calgary Stampede 2006.

This accomplished artist was raised in Morden and graduated from the University of Manitoba with degrees in Fine Arts & Education. The road to her artistic career began early in life, with a great deal of support from her parents, who would enter her renderings in local fairs and art festivals. Further encouragement from teachers and peers, along with a passion for both horses and painting all contributed to Kim's career choice.

Penner is passionate about portraying the natural beauty of horses and the landscapes that they occupy. Kim Penner's work has been enthusiastically received by collectors from around the world and her paintings have been featured in publications such as *Horse & Rider*, *The Paint Horse Journal*, *US Art* and the Collector Edition of *New York*.



Morden residents were interviewed by filmmaker David Neufeld for his documentary film "*The Pacifist Who Went to War*".

In 1939, as Canada joined World War II, a social crisis pulled apart the Mennonite communities of southern Manitoba. Young Mennonite men were forced to decide, in the face of 400 years of pacifist tradition, if they should go to war.

About 7,000 Mennonites of enlistment age stayed in Canada as conscientious objectors, providing alternative service. About 8,000 went to war. Those who enlisted found themselves profoundly changed by the experience and their communities found it difficult to welcome them home.

The 2002 film *The Pacifist Who Went to War* shed light on the courage and conviction of both sides. Included in the film were extensive interviews with Morden residents Henry Bergman and Clara Schroeder who served in World War II.

The film also incorporated footage from "In the Mood", a 2001 dinner and dance organized to honour the men and women in the Morden area who served their country during World War II. All profits from this "salute to the greatest generation" were donated to the Morden Branch #11 Royal Canadian Legion for capital projects.

Contributed by Pat Plett and Wayne Bergman

Many things change in a growing community over a ten year period.

On July 4, 1962 in its 80th Anniversary and Re-Union Edition, the *Morden Times* ran an article titled "Morden in Progress: What's New Since '52". It highlighted events in Morden between autumn, 1952 and July, 1962. The following are excerpts from that article.

1952: Construction began on the new \$150,000 collegiate on Wardrop Street in September; on October 12, Tabor Senior Citizens' Home was officially dedicated; a new type of enterprise was opened in the summer - Morden Dry Cleaners; fifty-one new homes were built.

1953: The Town began weekly garbage collection service to householders and a twice weekly service to business establishments; in summer, the hard surfacing of Town streets began; on July 23, the first boat regatta was held on Lake Minnewasta, with 3000 attendees; mercury-vapor lights were installed on Stephen Street.

1954: The Town of Morden purchased asphaltting and grading equipment in order that hard surfacing of the town's streets could be speeded up; the newly enlarged PFRA dam was officially opened.

1955: A large poultry processing plant opened when Pembina Poultry Packers began operations.

1956: From April 16 to July 18, permits were issued for 19 dwellings amounting to \$89,000; the Town's new \$30,000 water filtration plant opened.

1957: The new St. Paul's United Church was dedicated on June 23; the new fully modern food center, Morden's Red and White Store opened, incorporating the principles of "super-market" design; on October 30, the cornerstone was laid for the Christ Lutheran Church; the Star Motel opened for business.

1958: The Manitoba Liquor Control Commission opened a store on Stephen Street; the Blue Moon Drive-In opened in June on the north side of Highway 3, across from the Colert Beach Road; the Bergthaler Mennonite Church held dedication services; dedication of the Ruderweider Church took place in December.

1959: The Morden Curling Club officially opened on January 19; Simpsons-Sears opened a catalogue sales store; Morden Animal Foods plant opened in September to produce mink feed; Morden Pentacostal Church was dedicated on October 11; Howard Smith Paper Mills commenced operation west of Morden.

1960: The Minaki Boat Company of Morden announced an all new line of fiberglass plastic boats; Dressler Headwear Ltd opened; the Hillcrest potato chip plant went into production in November.

1961: Eatons opened a mail order and display store; the gala opening of the Star Dust Drive-In occurred in June; Minnewasta Golf and Country Club opened on the east side of Lake Minnewasta; telephone and hydro poles were removed from the Town's streets and buried underground or removed to the back lanes; dedication of the Sommerfelder Church took place on December 3rd; Standard Gas Engine Works was almost totally destroyed by fire on December 10th.

1962: The Morden-Thornhill Co-op Shopping Center opened on Stephen Street; Dairy Queen opened to serve the hungry and thirsty; Morden had a total of 7.4 miles of asphalt pavement; the Plains Western Company planned to supply the community with natural gas.

Morden Caring and Sharing received a 2006 Premier's Volunteer Service Award in the community group category. Caring and Sharing operates as a network food bank, providing short term assistance for families or individuals experiencing financial difficulties.

After a successful 1996 Christmas Cheer fundraising campaign resulted in a financial surplus, a special committee looked into ways of providing assistance to families throughout the year. They looked into establishing a food bank and raised \$10,000 towards purchasing a building. But after a funding application was turned down, they realized that maintenance, staffing and operating costs would always be a big issue. Seeking other options, they found a group in Ontario that had no building but worked with a network of local churches to supply hampers to needy persons.

So the \$10,000 went toward the creation of a Caring and Sharing fund within the Morden Area Foundation. The interest from the fund provides Caring and Sharing with operating money every year. Local churches came on board as suppliers of hampers. The program only needs a phone and answering machine to take requests for food. A co-ordinator then contacts one of the participating churches to provide a hamper. An average of 80 families is assisted annually.

In recent years Caring and Sharing has held "invitation only" garage sales for families needing assistance with items such as school supplies and clothing. A children's program deals with requests from schools to help meet expenses for field trips, a band instrument, sports clothing or dental and eye care needs.

In October 2006, Caring and Sharing was awarded an Outstanding Volunteer Award by the Morden Area Foundation.

Source: Lorne Stelmach. *Morden Times*, Friday April 21

Morden joined a national network of over ninety communities participating in the *Our Millennium* initiative which invited Canadians to celebrate the new millennium by making lasting gifts to their communities.

The Morden Millennium Committee was comprised of representatives from the Morden Area Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Town Council and the community at large. It was formed in 1998 to find meaningful ways to mark the passage through the year 2000. The concept of a Community Pathway arose from several public meetings. From that idea, the Millennium Committee's focus became the development of "nodes" such as recreation activity areas, gardens, rest areas and interpretive sites along existing sidewalks and pathways.

Several Millennium projects were accomplished: construction of the 3M outdoor classroom at the Recreation Centre; redevelopment of Milne Park (a gift from Drs. John Friesen and Earl Lautenschlager); development of a sidewalk on Mountain Street; the installation of heritage signs throughout the community and on buildings along Stephen Street, and development of a nature park along Dead Horse Creek, (gifts from Décor Cabinets, CIBC, Lions Club, Monsanto, Morden Area Foundation, Ken Bergman and the K-ette Club).

In 2004, the Town of Morden honoured long time residents Don and Shirley Livingston when it announced the name of the nature park as the "Livingston Nature Park". An 1,800 kilogram boulder placed at park the entrance was sculpted to form a bench and engraved with the new name.

Contributed by Lenore Laverty

Morden has one of Manitoba's finest collections of late nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture.

The variety of building types, notable architectural styles, interesting building materials and details all combine to make Morden a textbook example of the trends that defined how many Manitoba communities developed. The town's exquisite Queen Anne style houses - of wood and more impressively those of stone, with their romantic towers, dainty details, and lively colours - have become Morden's heritage trademark. But the community also has fine examples of other residential styles from the turn of the century - Italianate, Second Empire and Gothic Revival.

Major buildings of brick and stone, including the Court House, Post Office and Land Titles Building are reminders of Morden's early success in promoting itself. The community's main commercial thoroughfare, Stephen Street, is crowned with a host of important masonry buildings, many in the Romanesque Revival style that was defined by the use of interesting details in brick.



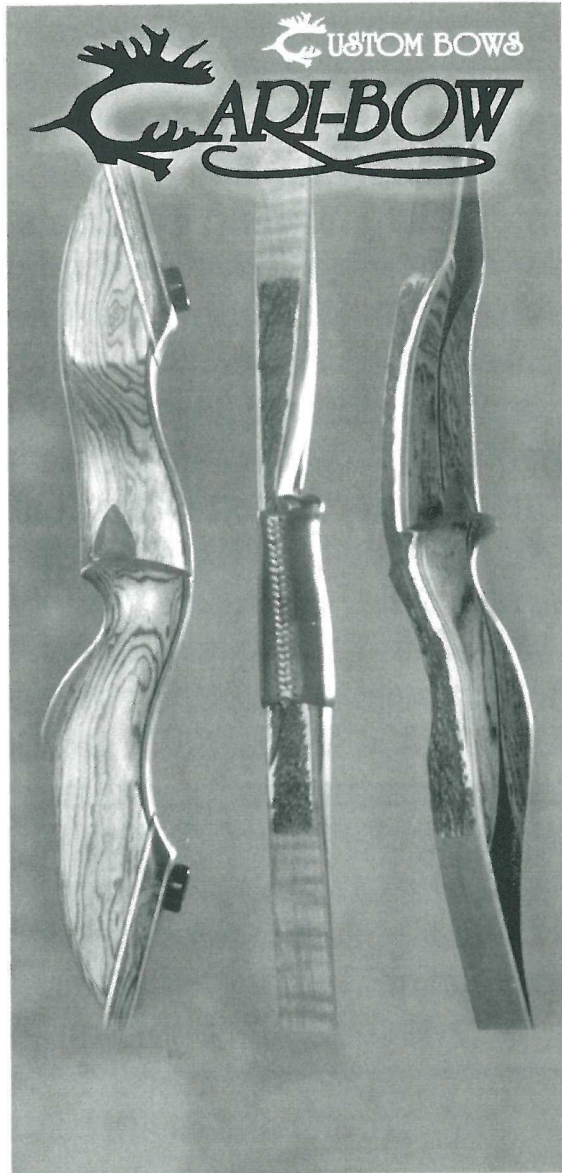
Abe and Tina Penner sell their custom archery bows worldwide.

Abe Penner grew up in the Zion School District east of Morden and now lives up the hill just west of town. In a small workshop beside their home, Abe and his wife Tina produce custom bows under the name of Cari-bow Custom Archery.

Abe started making bows for himself and friends in the 1980s. In 1995 he was encouraged by one of his friends to take some of his inventory to a trade show in Hastings, Michigan. He received enough orders to get into business on a half time basis and within three years he was making bows full time.

The Penners build sixty to seventy bows a year. They have five models of long bows and three models of re-curve bows. Cari-bow Custom Archery sells bows worldwide and can be reached online at www.cari-bow.com.

Contributed by Ron Laverty



Two time capsules sit in the R.M. of Stanley and the Town of Morden offices, waiting to be opened by future residents.

As part of Manitoba Centennial celebrations in 1970, Morden residents prepared a time capsule. It was filled at an outdoor gathering in front of the R.M. of Stanley/ Town of Morden office at 4:30 p.m. December 31, 1970.

The agenda for the "Second Century Ceremony" proceedings were tape recorded and placed in the capsule along with the Centennial flag, the flags of Manitoba and Canada, a history, souvenirs, a letter from the Mayor, a copy of the newspaper, coins and other artifacts the committee headed by Adolf Dack thought should be included. "Auld Lang Syne" was sung and the bell in the clock tower chimed at the conclusion of the ceremony at 5:00 p.m. when the capsule was sealed. The capsule is to be opened in 2070

Similarly, a time capsule was prepared for Morden's Centennial in 1982 and stashed in a secret location at the Civic Centre. It is to be opened in 2082.

What does Morden's Centennial time capsule contain? You'll have to wait until 2082 to find out!

INDEX

- Story
- 90 3M
- 75 A. E. Van Vogt
- 15 Alexander P. Stevenson
- 1 Alvey and Frances Morden
- 98 Alvey Baker Morden Park
- 123 Architecture
- 112 Arts and Craft Show
- 37 Back Forty Folk Festival
- 54 Benjamin James McConnell
- 19 Bentonite
- 104 Best In Country Living
- 30 Black Crappie
- 92 Black Jack Krafchenko
- 13 Board of Trade
- 34 Boundary Trails Health Centre
- 87 Buhler Manufacturing - Morden Division
- 88 Canadian Cannery
- 20 Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre
- 78 Canadian Idol
- 45 Cannon
- 124 Cari-bow Custom Archery
- 121 Caring and Sharing
- 99 Centennial Air Show
- 96 Centennial Oak
- 57 Charles Holland Locke
- 109 Chautauqua
- 102 Chickens and Cows
- 93 Children of Israel Synagogue
- 51 Circus
- 56 Corbet Locke
- 36 Corn and Apple Festival

INDEX

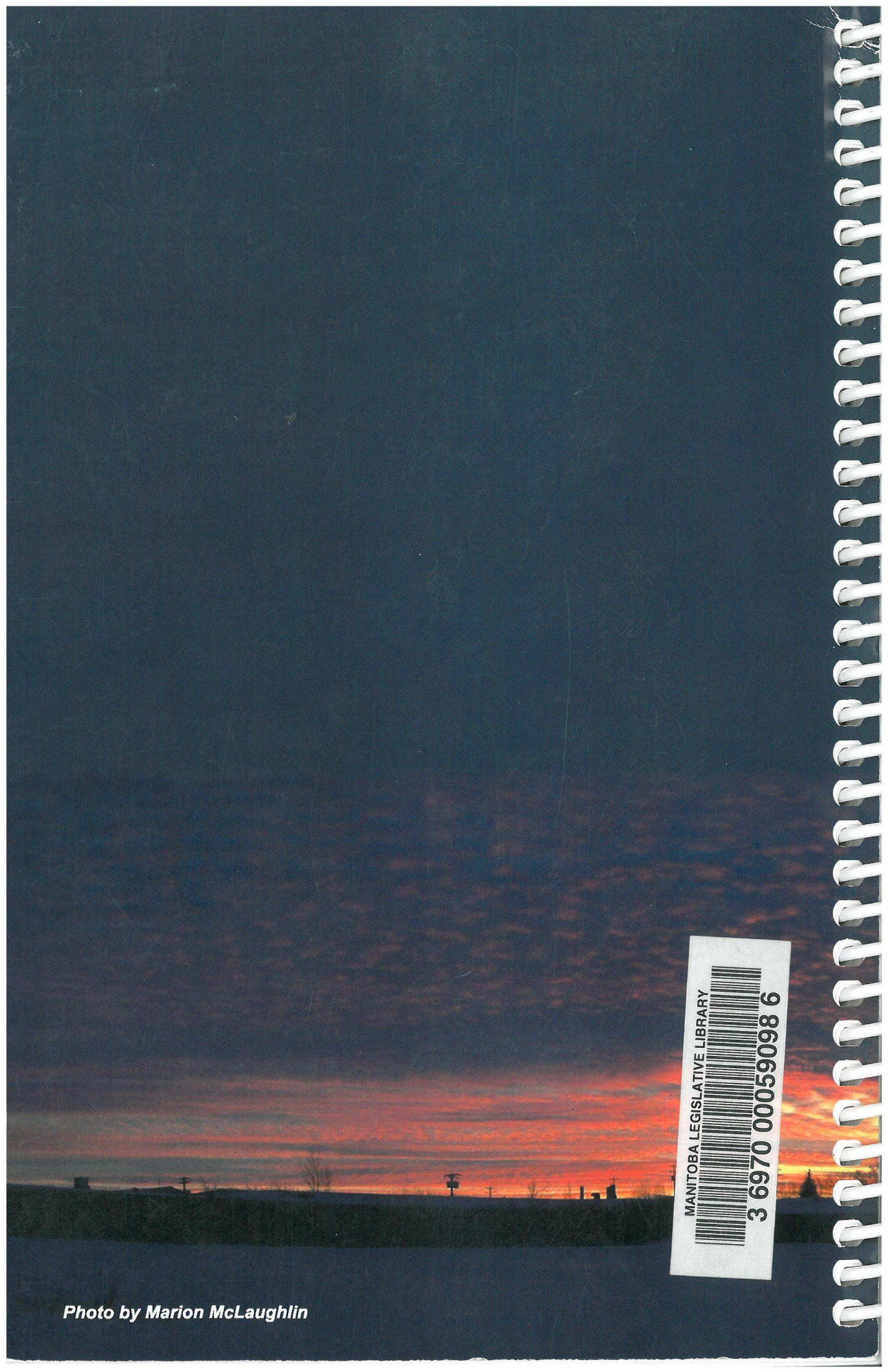
- 7 Council Matters
- 12 CPR Station
- 21 Curling
- 94 David "Doc" Rabinovitch
- 62 Dead Horse Creek
- 105 Dominion Post Office
- 59 Dr. David Alexander Stewart
- 18 Dutch Elm Disease
- 47 Edna Burkitt
- 83 Election Scandal
- 84 Electric Light
- 48 Ellen Millicent Kerridge
- 108 Entertainment
- 41 Five Million Dollar Donation
- 11 Flying Club
- 31 Freemasons Hospital
- 107 Friendship Centre
- 27 Golf Course
- 38 Grand Old Opry
- 85 Grey Goose Bus Line
- 74 Henry Friesen
- 70 Henry Marshall
- 44 HMCS Morden
- 14 Horticultural Society
- 61 Howard Winkler
- 50 Hudson's Bay Company
- 4 Incorporation
- 28 International Golf Tournament
- 77 Jan and Nellie Kervel
- 5 John A. Macdonald and Wilfred Laurier
- 67 John Alexander Macauley
- 55 John Evans Adamson

Index

101	John P. Dyck
118	Kim Penner
53	Lawrence Gowland
58	Legal Community
46	Legion
100	Live Chess Game
95	Local Building Materials
76	Loreena McKennitt
25	Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame
23	Manitoba Summer Games
42	Maple Leaf School
40	Maple Leaf School District
103	Marie Peters
43	Mason School
35	Menzies Family
29	Manitoba International Triathlon
80	Morden Area Foundation
71	Morden Centennial Rose Stamp
117	Morden Creamery
32	Morden District General Hospital
16	Morden Experimental Farm
113	Morden Festival of the Arts
81	Morden Fire Department
114	Morden Men's Choir
24	Morden Mohawks
22	Morden Turf Association
68	Morden Whiz-bangs
39	Morden-Winkler Regional Library
3	Mountain City
2	Nelson
10	Newspapers
8	North Railway Street

INDEX

- 122 Our Millennium
- 69 Paul Sigurdson
- 111 Pembina Hills Arts Council
- 82 Plant Hardiness Zone
- 73 Ramsay Cook
- 79 Red River Flood
- 65 Ruth Winkler
- 49 Shoes
- 52 St. Thomas Anglican Church
- 86 Standard Gas Engine Works
- 110 Stardust Drive-in
- 91 Superwalk for Parkinson's
- 63 Swimming Holes
- 33 Tabor Home
- 9 Telephones
- 6 The Great Northern Railway
- 119 The Pacifist Who Went To War
- 66 Thrift Shop
- 125 Time Capsules
- 17 Trees
- 89 Tupperware
- 106 United Way Day of Caring
- 60 Valentine Winkler
- 97 Water and Sewer
- 26 Water Ski Club
- 115 Weather
- 120 What's New Since '52
- 116 Wheelchair Lift
- 72 William Cumming
- 64 William Doern



MANTOBA LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY



3 6970 00059098 6

Photo by Marion McLaughlin