



Notable People

People who contributed to the development of Morden



A Project of the City of Morden

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On the Cover

John Leslie Clubine, businessman; Ruth (Doern) Winkler, social worker;
Dr. A. F. Menzies, physician

Notable People

This booklet was developed under a program of the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage called *Our Essential Past*. This program was designed to ensure that communities collected foundational materials needed for future commemorative initiatives and to effectively communicate their history. The Notable People project is intended to highlight community pioneers.

As the Canadian Pacific Railway spread westward, it created a row of towns and villages - Morden being one of them. Morden quickly became an important trading centre for the agricultural community, growing into the fourth largest centre in Manitoba. Early residents established businesses, created educational and health care institutions and founded social and cultural organizations. They shared their enthusiasm, wisdom and energy with the community developing a tradition of service still alive today.

Everyone who has called Morden home since its founding has contributed to the development of the community. On the following pages you will learn about a few of Morden's more Notable People. Some are pioneers who helped form the community in its early years. Others are people who are contributing their time, talent and wisdom to the community today. No doubt there are many more people - past and present - that could be recognized for their efforts.

George Ashdown (1851 - 1939)

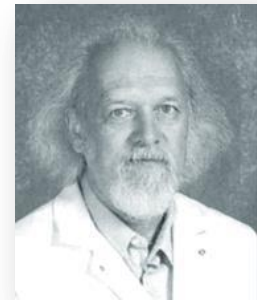


Born in Etobicoke, Ontario, George Ashdown came to Winnipeg in 1872 and worked in his brother's (James H. Ashdown) hardware store. He moved to Morden in 1891 to open his own hardware business, which he operated for 20 years. During that time he was elected to the Manitoba Legislature (1903-1907) and served as Mayor of Morden for two years. He retired from business in 1911 and, for a short time, engaged in real estate at Winnipeg before working for six years as the manager of the J. H. Ashdown retail store, stepping down in 1920.

Don Bell and Henry Isaak



Fossil discoveries made by Don Bell and Henry Isaak in the summer of 1972, led to the development of the largest collection of marine reptile fossils in Canada and creation of the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden. When they learned of fossils being unearthed by the mining activities of Pembina Mountain Clays, the two friends visited the mine sites, talked with the workers and began



collecting fossils. Henry's garage, the first storage site for the growing collection, was quickly filled to overflowing and a new location was required. The Morden and District Museum offered display space on the second floor of the old Post Office and the basement became the new storage site and fossil preparation "lab". Henry Isaak became the museum's first curator.

Reverend Hugh Jamieson Borthwick (1824 - 1916)



One of the earliest and best known missionaries in the Pembina Hills area was Reverend Hugh J. Borthwick, a Presbyterian, whose "parish" covered about 3200 square miles. Born at Midlothian, Scotland in 1824, he was educated in Midlothian and at Edinburgh University. He came to Canada in 1845 and taught school in Quebec and Ontario. Graduating in theology from Queen's University, he was ordained in the Presbyterian Church, serving as missionary to lumber camps in the Ottawa Valley. In 1876 he was appointed by the Home Missionary Committee for the

Presbyterian Church in Canada as missionary to Manitoba and came west with his son. He served the Pembina Mountain district until 1911.

He never homesteaded, being away too much throughout his parish to permit him putting in the required residence conditions. But he did purchase land south of Mountain City, where he built a house and was joined by his wife and their children.

He was the first school inspector for southern Manitoba. In 1892, he went into partnership with Neil Fox, with whom he bought the *Morden Herald* and was its editor for four years. He died at Morden on 28 July 1916.

George Herbert Bray (1877 - 1966)

George Bray was born in Almonte, Ontario and came to Morden in 1906, where he took over the dental practice of Dr. Tweed. In July 1915, he joined the Canadian Army Dental Corps, serving at Granville Hospital (Ramsgate) and at Corps Headquarters at Camblin-Abbe. On his return to Canada, he was attached to the Tuxedo Barracks Hospital in Winnipeg. In 1920, he resumed his dental practice at Morden, continuing until retirement in 1954.

Dr. Bray was active in civic and church affairs. He was a charter member of the Morden branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. He was a member of the Masons and president of the Freemasons Hospital Board and on the board of directors for a number of years. He served as president of the Board of Trade, president of the Morden branch of the Red Cross, and as a representative for the Salvation Army. He was a St. Paul's United Church Elder and member of the choir for many years. Dr. Bray was the recipient of the Kinsmen Citizen of the Year award in 1955.

Durwin Buchy (1949 -)



Durwin Buchy was born in Dauphin, Manitoba. An elementary school teacher in Morden for over 20 years, his dedication to community service is evident in the longevity and variety of his participation. He has been involved in the Morden Festival of the Arts, the Christmas Cheer Board, the Pembina Hills Arts Council and the Corn and Apple Festival. More volunteer hours have been spent with the farmers' market, 4-H Club, the seniors' centre and drama presentations. Durwin received the Morden Area Foundation's Volunteer of the Year award in 2009.

John Buhler (1931 -)



John Buhler was the recipient of the Morden Citizen of the Year Award in 1998. Active in municipal politics and a supporter of the arts, he served on several boards and committees. He has made many financial contributions to Morden, including funding for critical equipment at Boundary Trails Health Centre, development of baseball diamonds, the boardwalk at Colert Beach and the mosasaur feature at the entrance to the community in the Pembina Connections development.

In 1969 John Buhler purchased Standard Gas Engine Works, which had been established in Morden by Adolph Krushel in 1932 and renamed it Farm King Limited. It was the first step in creating a farm equipment empire that was consolidated as Buhler Industries in 1994, and which later grew to include the tractor manufacturing plant Versatile.

John Leslie “Les” Clubine (1885 - 1970)



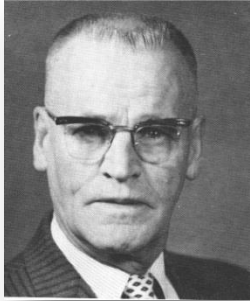
Born at Richmond Hill, Ontario, John Leslie Clubine came west in 1889 with his parents who settled in the Morden area. Always active in community affairs, he served for a number of years on Town Council and was elected Mayor in 1922. During that term he was instrumental in bringing hydro electricity to town. He was elected again in 1940, while the first dam was being constructed on Dead Horse Creek, creating Lake Minnewasta.

J. Les was an honorary life member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Curling Club and the Legion. He served as president of the Golf and Curling Clubs, as chief of the fire brigade and on the School Board. He helped form the Credit Union Society and was a director of the Morden Creamery and the Skating Rink.

At the Provincial level he was Chancellor Commander of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, vice-president of the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce and a director of the Manitoba Motor League. He was instrumental in forming the Southern Manitoba Motorcycle Club.

In 1962, J. Les Clubine celebrated the 55th anniversary of the establishment of his Real Estate and Insurance business - the oldest business in town at that point.

Harvey Alfred “Honey” Cochlan (?-1967)

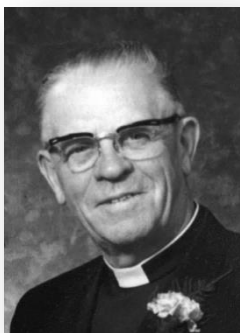


Born in Melita, Manitoba, “Honey” Cochlan arrived in Morden in 1935, opening a general store. He was elected Mayor in 1953, serving for 12 years. In 1956 he sold his business in order to devote his time to running the Town. During his tenure as mayor, the population grew, business and industry expanded and many municipal services were implemented – including an extensive road paving initiative. He received the Kinsmen Citizen of the Year Award in 1963 and a Manitoba Golden Boy Award for meritorious community service in 1964.

Dr. Walter M. Colert

Walter Colert came to Morden as a physician and surgeon in 1943. He was chair of the School Board in 1953, during the planning and construction of a 10-room school on the north side of Wardrop between 3rd and 5th Streets (now Morden Middle School). He served on the Board of Trade’s Civic Improvement Committee for the beautification of streets, parks and the cemetery and on the Town’s Advisory Committee for Water and Sewer. The opening of Colert Beach - named to honour his efforts in its development - coincided with the completion of the new dam on Lake Minnewasta in 1954. He received the Kinsmen Citizen of the Year award in 1956.

Reverend George Russell Cook (1897 - 1992)



George Russell Cook was born in Cleesthorpes, Lincolnshire, England. At age 15 he immigrated to Canada on his own, working as a farm labourer until he was accepted into the Army in 1917. At the end of the war, he married Lillian Young, with whom he had three children. Following the loss of their Saskatchewan farm during the Depression, George returned to school and was ordained into the ministry in 1940. Three years later he entered into the chaplaincy for the Canadian Army.

Returning to civilain life, George and Lillian were called to St. Paul’s United Church in Morden, where family life settled into a routine. Rev. Cook was an unconventional clergyman. While he capably performed the regular duties of his ministry, he most enjoyed spending time with people in everyday places - the coffee shop, curling rink, youth hockey games and, above all, the Legion.

William Archibald Cumming (1911 - 1999)

Born in Teulon, Manitoba, Bill Cumming graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1932. In 1955, he joined the Federal Department of Agriculture at Morden Research Station, where he was head of the ornamentals and fruit crops program until he retired in 1976. Dr. Cumming was a leader in the field of horticulture and developed many ornamentals, shrubs and fruit trees for the prairies, including the Kelsey Crabapple which was Manitoba's Centennial Tree. He received many honours, awards and life memberships from horticulture associations in North America and an honorary Doctor of Science in 1971 from the University of Manitoba.

Adolf Dack (1893 - 1975)

Born in Germany, the son of Christian Dack and Mary Kribe, Adolf Dack's family came to Canada in 1898 and settled at Morden where he later worked as a pharmacist. During WW I, he served for three years overseas in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, he served as president of the Pembina Hills Historical Society and the community has benefitted from his recording of local history. In 1970, he received a Manitoba Centennial Medal from the Manitoba Historical Society in recognition of his "many years of interest in the history of Manitoba and his work in founding the LaVerendrye Park and Lake Minnewasta Park."

Derward Alton Duncan (1895 - 1990)

Born at Rosebank, Manitoba, the son of John Duncan and Isabelle Patterson, Alton Duncan was educated at schools in Rosebank, Morden and Winnipeg. He established a law practice at Miami in 1921 and later practiced law at Morden until his retirement in 1976. He was appointed a police magistrate in 1941, serving in that position for nearly twenty years. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1960.

He served as Mayor of Morden from 1946-1952 and during his tenure, Morden became one of the first rural Manitoba towns to establish a waterworks and sanitary sewerage system. In 1951 he was selected as the Kinsmen Citizen of the Year.

John Alton Duncan (1932 - 2007)



Jack Duncan graduated from Morden Collegiate Institute in 1951, received a BA from United College in 1954, a law degree from the University of Manitoba and was called to the bar in 1958. He practiced law in Morden for 33 years with his father, Alton Duncan QC, Justice Ken Hanssen and Gordon Hoeschen. Jack was appointed Queen's Council in 1978, and appointed Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench (Family Division) in Brandon in 1991. He transferred to the Winnipeg Family Court Division in September of 1996 and retired as a Court of Queen's Bench Judge in April, 2006.

Jack was an active community volunteer. He was Morden Fire Chief from 1979 -1986. He served terms as chair of the Hospital Board and president of the Beach Committee, Curling Club and Flying Club. He was a member of the Elks and Kinsmen clubs, Morden Game & Fish Association, Morden Airport Commission, Trustee of Morden Cemetery Trust, president and honorary life member of the Legion, and on the Board of Stewards of St. Paul's United Church.

Catherine Evenson

Catherine Evenson's work as a journalist and as Executive Director for the Morden Area Foundation exposed her to the work of many community organizations with which she later volunteered. Citizen of the Year recipient in 1975, Catherine's generosity and community spirit is evident by the number of organizations that have benefitted from her time and talent. These include the Girl Guides, Meals on Wheels, theatre group The Company, the Recreation Complex Committee, Thrift Shop, Pembina Hills Gallery, Morden Centennial Committee, the Morden 120 Committee, Congregate Meal Program, Tabor Home, Historical Society, library book sale committee, the Manitoba Pattern Dance Jamboree, St. Thomas Anglican Church. She was chair of the South Central Regional Library and Corn and Apple Festival Boards.

James Hugh Fraser (c1827 - 1899)

James Fraser lived at New Glasgow, Nova Scotia and held several contracts with the Canadian Pacific Railway for the construction of its line along the north shore of Lake Superior. In 1880, he came to Manitoba and settled at Nelson, where he opened a flour mill. He later moved to the Fraser Flour Mill to Morden – one of the first businesses in the community - locating it on the bank of the Dead Horse Creek. He was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church, the Masons, and the Odd Fellows.

Reverend Frank Henry Friesen (1902 - 2005)



“FH” Friesen was born in the Russian Village of Wohldemfuerst, in the Kuban region. He immigrated to Canada in 1924. After a brief time in Ontario, Frank settled in Manitoba where he studied theology at the Winkler Bible School.

He and his wife Agnes moved to Morden in 1928 where he worked at a local flour mill. In 1948 he established a gas and oil business and later, with partner John Friesen, grew Morden Lumber and Fuel into a solid local enterprise. Sharing the business responsibility allowed Frank more time to do what he loved - serve his community.

“FH” had a profound commitment to his faith, family and community. For 24 years, he provided leadership to the Morden Mennonite Brethren Church. His leadership and wisdom were sought by many organizations beyond Morden’s boundaries. Mission and service were tightly bound in his mind and he led by example. The local community benefitted immeasurably from his work on projects such as the development of a senior citizen residence - Tabor Home.

Dr. John Friesen



Throughout his career, John Friesen was committed to providing quality and complete eye care in Morden and area, establishing his office of optometry in the early 1970s. He invested back into his practice with the most current and up-to-date instrumentation as well as investing in himself and staff through continuing education. He served on Town Council and was active on the Tabor Home Board, working to ensure elderly residents received the best care.

Julius Frazelle Galbraith (1854-1934)

Born in Orangeville, Ontario on January 27, 1854, Galbraith immigrated to Pennsylvania, later moving (in response to a typhoid outbreak) to Winnipeg in 1873 to take a job as a compositor with the *Manitoba Free Press* newspaper. He later accepted a position as local editor with the rival *Nor'Wester*.

In 1875, responding to the growing land fever that gripped the Canadian North West frontier, Galbraith left Winnipeg to take up a homestead near Nelson. J. F. Galbraith’s *Nelson*

Mountaineer was launched in 1879 and was possibly the earliest weekly printed entirely in rural Manitoba. When 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 31, 1884 under the name *Manitoba News*.

In late March 1887 Galbraith closed the paper and moved to Vancouver, BC. He returned to Morden in late 1896 to take a position with the *Morden Chronicle* newspaper. His homecoming was short-lived. In 1901, citing poor health, Galbraith moved back to the West Coast.

John Milton George (1887 - 1972)

Born near Miami, John Milton George was educated at Belmont School and the University of Manitoba. He taught at Shannon School then, in October 1905, articulated in law with his uncle, Judge William Patterson at Deloraine. He graduated from the Manitoba Law School in 1910 and established a law practise in 1911. He was made a King's Counsel in 1934 and appointed a judge in the County Court of the Southern Judicial District.

He served as a member of the Morden Hospital Board from 1942 to 1969 and became an Honorary Life Member in 1970. He was the first chairman of the Manitoba Health Advisory Commission and a member of the Joint Hospital Accreditation Commission from 1951 to 1956. In 1960 he received the George Findlay Stephens Memorial Award in recognition of his service to hospitals in Canada, and the Manitoba Golden Boy Award in 1968.

The Kinsmen Club's first honorary member, Judge George is credited with establishing the Meritorious Service Award (Citizen of the Year) in 1946 and received the award in 1958.

Patricia Gibson (1946 -)



Health care was Pat Gibson's vocation, as well as the focus of much of her volunteer effort. In the early 1971, Pat started her rural practice as a registered nurse in the Bethel Hospital in Winkler where she worked in surgery/obstetrics and the emergency room. Later, she began work at the Morden Hospital. In 1975, she and Dr. C. J. Unruh started a St. John Ambulance service in order to teach first aid - which was a requirement to start an ambulance service. Pat and other volunteers taught first aid in Altona, Winkler, Morden, Carmen and Manitou. The volunteer ambulance service began in 1976.

In 1984, Pat assumed the role of Director of Nursing at the Morden Hospital. Subsequently, she took a leave of absence to write the Role Statement for the planned Boundary Trails Health Centre (BTHC) and to develop design phases for construction. When construction was put on hold, she obtained the position of Director of Support Service for the Bethel and Morden Hospitals, which were in the process of amalgamation. When the building process for BTHC was restarted, Pat was again given the job of coordinating design and construction together with Keith Warnock. She served as chair of the BTHC Foundation.

Outside the medical field, Pat sat on the Red River College Board and the Morden Police Advisory Board and participated in outreach activities at St Paul's United Church. As a retired member of the community Pat continues to try to make a difference working on issues related to seniors and as chair of an action committee to expand Boundary Trails Health Centre. Pat received the Morden Area Foundation's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award in 2007.

Mark Ki (? - 1957)

Arriving in Morden around 1918, Mark Ki worked as a grocer and became known in the community for the good deeds that characterized his residency in Morden. He was honoured with the Kinsmen Citizen of the Year Award in 1948. At the award presentation, the number of his kind acts was stressed. One example was the case of a debtor who was suffering from tuberculosis – the bill owing was forgiven and the hospital bill was paid by Mark Ki. He also loaned the hospital money to pay employees during the Great Depression. He was a member of the Freemasons Hospital board and was an honorary life member of the Masons.

John Hugh Kennedy (1867 - 1927)



Born at Martintown, Ontario in 1867, John Kennedy came west in March 1882, finding work with the Vulcan Iron Works in Winnipeg and with the C.P.R. in bridge building through the Rockies. He helped build the last connecting bridges that completed the line. He came to Morden and engaged in the hotel business, building the Arlington Hotel, which he ran for several years. He also farmed 19¼ sections near Rosenfeld. He was elected to the Manitoba legislature for the constituency of Morden and Rhineland in 1920, serving until 1927. He was a member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows (I.O.O.F.) and Knights of Pythias.

Adolf Krushel (1891 - 1984)

From the establishment of Standard Gas Engine works in 1932, Adolph Krushel designed or improved a number of farm implements and equipment. His invention, the Krushel Krusher, became a household name in Canadian farm homes in the 1940s and was superior to any competing grain crushers on the market. Other inventions followed, including augers, grain loaders, cement mixers, stoves, furnaces and hammermills.

Elizabeth (Betty) Larke (1915 - 2015)



Betty Larke (nee Longney) was born at the Freemasons Hospital in Morden and grew up on the family farm in Thornhill, MB. She attended the Marvel Hairdressing School in Winnipeg and opened her own shop – Allure Beauty Salon - in Morden in 1937. In June 1943, she married Bill Larke who served as Morden's Police Chief for many years.

Betty was an active volunteer, especially dedicated to the Legion Ladies Auxiliary from whom she received a life membership in 1982, the Jubilee Medal/Meritorious Award in 1985 and the Palm Leaf Award in 1998. As well, she spent many hours helping at the Thrift Store, Tabor Home and ladies groups at the St Paul's United and St. Thomas Anglican churches. She received the Kinsmen Citizen of the Year Award in 1994.

Ronald Joseph Laverty (1949 -)



Born in Winnipeg, Ron Laverty has participated on committees and organizations representing a broad range of interests since moving to Morden in 1973. He served as chair of the United Way, Corn and Apple Festival and the Morden Millennium Committee. He was a founding board member and chair of the Morden Area Foundation. He was a board member of the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre and the Morden Handi-Van. He was a member of the Lake Minnewasta Development Committee, Kinsmen, Morden Centennial Committee and the Come for a Walk Committee. He coached minor sports, mentored through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Ron served two terms on Town Council.

W. R. (Russ) Leslie



W. R. Leslie was Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm from 1921 to 1956. During his long tenure, the Farm became an internationally respected institution. More professionals were hired for breeding and agronomy trials and the Farm became a source of advice for crop varieties, farming methods, treatment of pests and animal husbandry. The Co-operative Fruit Breeding Project was begun in 1946 and provided thousands of apple seedlings for trials in various parts of the prairies. The Food Processing Plant was built and vegetable breeding increased, as did specialized work with cereals, corn, soybeans, sunflowers and flax. The ornamental gardens, arboretum, flower borders and several specialized gardens attracted visitors – and scientists - to the community.

Alexander W. “Alex” Livingston (1891 – 1966)

Alex Livingston was born in Morden, the son of Peter R. Livingston who was a real estate agent and handled loans and mortgages in Morden circa 1900. In 1907, Alex and J. H. Conner took over a hardware business that had been established by A. P. Brown in 1895. In 1923 Livingston took sole ownership of the business - Livingston Marshall Wells (later A. W. Livingston and Son) - and was active in the business until his passing.

Alex was a charter member and president of the Legion and a charter member of the Board of Trade and Eastern Star. He was a Master of the Masons, an honorary member of the Kinsmen and a member of the Victory Loan Drive during WWII. Alex was an active member of St. Paul’s United Church, serving on the Board of Stewards and as finance chair of the Building Committee. He served on the Town Council for a number of years. He received the Kinsmen Citizen of the Year Award in 1960.

Donald Alexander Livingston (1925 - 2011)



Don Livingston was born in Morden and was a well-known businessman, Kinsmen and community contributor until 2004, when he moved to British Columbia.

He served in the RCAF during the Second World War and returned home to join the family firm of A. W. Livingston and Son. He went on to work in the steel building business, property

development and many other business ventures. He served on Town Council for many years. He was on the board of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. He received many commendations including the Golden Jubilee Medal and the Commemorative Medal for the 125th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada. Livingston Nature Park in Morden was named after Don and his wife, Shirley, in gratitude for their many years of service to the community.

The Morden Chamber's Community Influence Award is given to members of the community who have led a lifetime committed to growth in Morden. In 2011 it was awarded to Don Livingston who was cited as a person who understood that business growth goes hand-in-hand with volunteering.

Corbet Locke (1854 - 1932)



Born at Barrie, Ontario, 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, including Corbet Locke, moved their homes and businesses to Morden. He remained active in legal matters in Morden for the remainder of his career. He was made a Queen's Counsel in 1893 and appointed to the County Court Bench of Manitoba in 1894. He was president of the Morden Liberal-Conservative Association for 13 years.

He served on the Board of the Freemasons Hospital from its inception in 1893 until 1930 and played an important role in maintaining interest in and securing finances for the Hospital. He was responsible for building the west wing of the Hospital in 1930, afterwards known as "The Locke Wing". He is also credited with the vision to secure a three acre lot for the new Maple Leaf School in 1893 – the largest school site in the Province at that time.

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.

Henry Heard Marshall (1916 - 1994)



In the mid 1930s, Henry Marshall, an amateur gardener from Brandon, joined the Morden Research Station staff. As a self-taught scientist, Henry's research was not restricted to a field of specialized interest, but rather expanded as he studied the problems of different crops. Whether it was vegetable, fruit, ornamental flower or shrub, he approached it as a challenge. His depth of interest was broad, ranging from chemistry to genetics.

He 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. Henry's accomplishments as a plant breeder helped to make his name – and the Morden roses - 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. Mr. Marshall made a botanical study of the flora of the Pembina Hills. He was inducted into the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1995.

Henry Marshall was a contributor in other fields as well, serving as president of the Morden and District Museum, a director for the Central Region of the Manitoba Museums Association and a board member of the Manitoba Heritage Federation.

Dr. Benjamin James McConnell (1861 - 1923)



Benjamin James McConnell was born in Renfrew County, Ontario and studied medicine at Queen's University in Kingston. Graduating in 1881, he left immediately for Nelsonville. He practiced there until 1885, when he moved to Morden, becoming Morden's first medical practitioner. He was president of the Manitoba College of Physicians and Surgeons and president of the Southern Manitoba Medical Association. By 1905, he was the longest practicing physician in southern Manitoba. He was largely responsible for the establishment

of Morden's Freemasons Hospital and was made a life governor of the institution.

Dr. McConnell was also involved in business and politics. For several years he owned the Morden Woollen Mill and a large farm. In the 1907 general election, he was elected to the Manitoba Legislature for the Morden constituency, serving two terms. He moved to Winnipeg in 1913 and two years later, he was appointed provincial coroner and federal administrator for the Narcotics Act.

Colin York Campbell McCorquodale (1850 - 1920)

Born in Scotland circa 1850, Colin McCorquodale immigrated to Canada with his family in 1854. They farmed in Ontario until 1877 when they moved to Manitoba and settled in the Pembina Mountain area. McCorquodale was the first teacher when Morden's school opened in 1881. He taught for three terms and then farmed in the Morden area. He served for 16 years as secretary-treasurer for the Rural Municipality of Stanley and the Town of Morden, and for 12 years as justice and magistrate, issuer of marriage licenses and commissioner of affidavits. He was a member of the Oddfellows Lodge.

Dr. Adam Fisher Menzies (1888 - 1958)



Born at Listowell, Ontario, A. F. Menzies graduated from medicine at the University of Manitoba in 1914 (Gold Medalist) and for a time practiced at the Winnipeg General Hospital. In 1915, he joined the British Expeditionary Force and served in France with the 64th Field Ambulance, 21st Division at Loos, and the Somme (awarded the Military Cross). He transferred to the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1917 and served as Headquarters Staff at London and at the Omsk Hospital, Siberia until September 1918. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre by Czechoslovakia for his work on cholera control. He returned to Canada in June 1919 and worked at the Winnipeg General Hospital. He moved to Morden in 1920, forming a partnership with Dr. Samuel Edward Holmes.

He was a member of the British Medical Association, Canadian Medical Association, and Manitoba Medical Association (president, 1932-1933). As a member of the Presbyterian/United Church he was the chairperson of the building committee during the construction of a new church. His leadership skills also made him a natural candidate for the position of school board chair when Maple Leaf School was built in 1928. He was a member of the Board of Trade, serving as president in 1926. He served as secretary of the Southern Manitoba Medical Society and was a member of the Knights of Pythias

Dr. Menzies received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Morden Kinsmen in 1947. He was given an honorary Doctor of Law degree by the University of Manitoba in 1956 for his accomplishments in medicine.

Dr. James Campbell Menzies (1925 - 2012)



James Menzies was born in Morden. Affectionately known as “Dr. Jim”, he dedicated much of his life to the practice of medicine, following the pattern of his father A. F. Menzies. Jim did his schooling in Morden, studied medicine at the University of Manitoba, and returned home in 1950 to practice with his father.

Professionally, Jim was a dedicated family physician and played an important role in the development of patient care and the practice of medicine in Morden and area. He served as chairman of the Morden and District Hospital staff from 1970 to 1974 and for many years was the member-at-large for the southern Manitoba Cancer Society.

He was active in many aspects of the community, including the Western School Division board, St. Paul's United Church, Kinsmen, United Way and the Seniors Friendship Centre. He was particularly involved in the Scouting movement, serving as scout master for about ten years. He was instrumental in developing the rural district of LaVerendrye and served as Assistant District Commissioner and Commissioner of the district. He also served as Provincial Commissioner for Manitoba.

In the early 1960s Dr. Menzies and Dr. C. J. Unruh, together with dentist Dr. Fred Ollinik and optometrist Dr. Stan Jenkins purchased a property on 2nd Street across from the hospital to build a medical centre. The Centre opened on January 19, 1963.

Dr. Jim received many awards including the Medal of Merit, Silver Acorn and Silver Wolf awards for Scouting, the Morden Kinsmen Citizen of the Year in 1971, Canada's Family Physician of the Year in 1974 and the Manitoba Tourist and Convention Association's Good Citizenship Award in 1979.

Dr. Robert James Menzies (1952 -)



“Dr. Bob” was born and raised in Morden, Manitoba. In 1976 he graduated with an MD from the University of Manitoba. He then returned to Morden where he began to practice Family Medicine, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, becoming the third generation of Menzies to be physicians in Morden.

Bob has worked in various capacities including Family Practice, Medical Examiner, outreach physician for the chemotherapy unit, physician for the dialysis unit and chief of staff. He has been an active member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, served as president the College of Family Physicians of Canada and was one of the ten “Family Physicians of the Year” for Canada in 2002. Dr. Menzies participated in the establishment of the state of the art Boundary Trails Health Centre which opened in 2001.

Bob Menzies is also well known for his support of community based organizations such as the Morden Area Foundation, Festival of the Arts, Scouts and St. Paul’s United Church.

Harry Meikle (1857 - 1931)



Born at Burritts Rapids, Ontario, son of John Meikle and Eliza Barron, Harry Meikle came to Manitoba in 1881. In the spring of 1882 he moved to Nelson and worked in a general merchandise store belonging to David McKay. He bought the business from his employer in 1883 and, in partnership with T. S. Coppinger, moved the store to Morden in spring of 1886. He bought out his partner in 1889. He was a member of the Masons and the Oddfellows. In 1902, he served as Mayor of Morden.

F. W. Milhausen

F. W. Milhausen and his wife were both born near Walkerton Ontario. They married in June, 1913 and came west, first settling in Saskatchewan and then in Morden in 1920. Mr. Milhausen operated a meat market for over 25 years. After selling the market, he became interested in construction and built several houses, a large hall on North Railway Street and a butcher shop. He was active on the Board of Trade and the Masons.

Ramsay Alexander Monaghan (1923 - 2004)



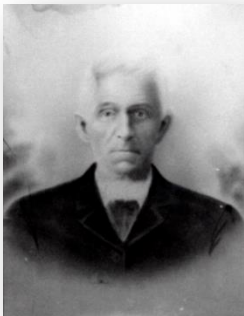
Ramsay Monaghan was born and raised in Morden. A veteran of World War II, he joined the Winnipeg Rifles in 1939 and later transferred to the Royal Edmonton Regiment. He served overseas in Sicily, The Netherlands and Germany. Ramsay was presented with the Netherlands Bronze Cross by the Dutch Consul stationed in Winnipeg, on behalf of Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.

After the war Ramsay operated a barber shop and hair salon in Morden. He later purchased the old “Rabinovitch” store and for many years operated a men’s clothing store.

A long serving member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Ramsay served two terms as president of the Morden Branch, holding numerous positions on the branch executive, including several terms as sergeant-at-arms. He was Morden’s Fire Chief for over 25 years. Ramsay was a sports enthusiast, active in many minor sports programs in Morden.

His volunteerism earned him the Kinsmen Citizen of the Year award in 1969.

Alvey Baker Morden (1813 – 1891) and Frances Hutchinson Morden (1829 – 1915)



Born 1813 in Prince Edward County, Ontario of United Empire Loyalist stock, Alvey Baker Morden was married to Frances Hutchinson. They had five children - Wilmot, Frank, Albert, David and Elizabeth.



Alvey Morden brought his family to Manitoba in 1874, leaving Walkerton, Ontario on May 1st and arriving in Winnipeg on July 12th to file claims on government land in Manitoba. Alvey was so ardent a Canadian that he refused to travel through any part of the United States, taking instead the more difficult all-Canadian Dawson route.

In Fort Garry, Alvey met an old friend who recommended an area six days journey to the southwest where there were very few settlers. Alvey, Frank and Wilmot went to look over the land, returning to the fort to file claims. They left Winnipeg on the Hudson Bay Trail and took up a homestead on land where the City of Morden now stands.

Death of Mr. A.B. Morden - Morden Monitor, October 15, 1891

“The death of Mr. Alvey Baker Morden, removes the oldest and most prominent of Morden’s pioneers. He struck this part of the country sixteen years ago, and showed his judgement by selecting this valley as his resting place. He has lived and died on his old homestead, although he had sold a considerable portion of it at different times, while all his sons – four in number – each homesteaded adjoining quarter-sections, and it is on the claim of the eldest son, Mr. Wilmot Morden, that the principle part of the town of Morden, called after the family is built.

Old Mr. Morden was a man of considerable sagacity in business matters, and to his efforts may be attributed the present location of the town. It may be news to some people that in the olden days there was considerable pulling and counter pulling on the part of located settlers as to where a (railway) station should be placed, and Morden was no exception to the rule. First the town was located about a mile and a half east of its present site, and was called Stephen; then the farmers farther west took a pull and the station was brought to the Cheval Creek, close to the present water tank and a large town site laid out on the hill side going to Thornhill, which was called “Morden”. Again, the pullers between these two places put their shoulders to the wheel and it was finally decided, principally by compromise, that it should be located in its present position, and the name was altered to “Mordenville”, which will remain its legal name until the town is incorporated. Mr. Morden and his four sons took prominent parts in all these contentions and finally came out victorious.

Mr. Morden was a Quaker by religion and a shoemaker by trade, but took to farming in Bruce County, Ontario, early in life, until he struck out for the Great Lone Land, of which, about twenty years ago such excellent reports were beginning to be heard in the East. The old gentleman used to tell some thrilling stories of his adventures after leaving Emerson in a Red River Cart to seek a home in the west. By dint of some lucky sales of property and careful investments, Mr. Morden became comfortably fixed in circumstances...”

Death of Pioneer Lady - Morden Chronicle, March 4, 1915

“On Saturday, February 27th, Mrs. Frances Morden, wife of the late Alvey Morden, and the oldest, both in age and residence, among the pioneer inhabitants of this district succumbed to the grim reaper – death. On Wednesday, February 17th Mrs. Morden met with an accident through which she fractured her thigh, and to that her death is attributed. The late Mrs. Morden was born in the island of Prince Edward (sic) and was ninety three and five months old at the time of her death. In June 1874 she came to this district with her husband and family from Walkerton, Bruce County, Ontario and was the first settler in the district. The homesteaded north of Thos. Conner's farm. Up to the time of the accident she was very healthy, active on her feet and had fairly clear eye-sight and wonderful memory...”

Wilmot Freeman Morden (1851 - 1930)

Born at Walkerton, Ontario in 1851, son of Alvey Morden and Frances Hutchinson, he came to Manitoba with his family in 1874. Five years later, he married Elizabeth Borthwick, daughter of Hugh Jamieson Borthwick. He served for 20 years as a member of the Morden School Board, retiring in 1902. He was a member of the Oddfellows.

James Adrian Mutcheson (1925 -)



Born in Portage la Prairie, Jim Mutcheson was an accomplished hockey player, excelling on a number of teams from 1942-1962. At the same time, he was giving back to sport. In Morden and Steinbach, Jim coached minor hockey from 1950-85 and helped to build outdoor rinks. Hockey was his great love, but it is his career as a builder in baseball that has garnered the most attention. He coached minor baseball from 1950-78 in Morden and was instrumental in building the Morden ball park in 1961.

A driving force behind the Little League program from 1958-85, Jim coached Man-Dak to the Little League Provincial titles twice and to a silver medal at the Western Canadians in 1966. He served as chairman of Little Canadian Baseball from 1974-82. Jim was inducted into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999.

Jim Mutcheson was honoured by the Legion with the Meritorious Service Medal for his tireless efforts in communities in which he has lived. Jim and wife Sylvia received the 1964 Kinsmen Citizen of the Year Award.

Patricia Lynn Plett (1946 - 2011)



Pat Plett (nee Bergman) was the Executive Director of the Morden Friendship Centre for 16 years and was widely known for her volunteer work in the community and her church. Pat was chair of the Pembina Hills Arts Council, co-chair of the Morden Integration Committee and Winterfest and chair of the Christmas Cheer Committee. She served on the boards of the United Way, South Central Cancer Resource, Palliative Care, Morden Caring and Sharing and the Corn and Apple Festival. Pat was a member of the Morden Historical Society and 120th Anniversary Committee. She was the Corn and Apple Parade chair for 11 years.

Pat was honoured for her volunteerism with awards including the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the Pharmasave Remarkable Woman and the Lieutenant Governor's Vice Regal Volunteer Award. She received the Kinsmen Citizen of the Year award in 1995.

Milton Rabinovitch (1909 - 2001)

Milton Rabinovitch was born in Morden in 1909, the son of pioneers David and Sonia Rabinovitch. As a young man he worked at the Dominion Experimental Farm and in his father's general store. In 1927, he opened Rabinovitch Bros., a family clothing store. In 1960 he moved his young family to Winnipeg, where he began Milton Footwear Ltd., which became an institution in the Exchange District.

Milton's community service included terms as chair of the Morden and District Hospital, president of the Morden Board of Trade, member of the fire brigade and general manager of the Morden junior hockey team. He was a life member of the Morden Masonic Lodge.

John Henry Ruddell (1859 - 1906)



John Henry Ruddell was born in 1859 in Halton County, Ontario. After finishing his schooling he served as an apprentice to the harness trade in Blythe, Ontario. He came to Manitoba in 1879 and located at Nelson, where he engaged in the harness business. In 1884 he moved his business to the new village of Morden. In 1896, he formed Ruddell, Pickel and Hobbs, a real estate, insurance and financial business.

Mr. Ruddell served on the first Nelson Council in 1881 and on the first Morden Council in 1894. In 1895 he was elected Mayor of Morden and served until 1898. In 1899 he was elected to the

Provincial Legislature for the electoral division of Morden as a Conservative. He was re-elected in 1903 and held the position until his death in 1906. He is credited with being instrumental in Morden being chosen as the seat of the Southern Judicial District and the construction of the Court House.

Reverend Mark C. Rumball (1857 - 1926)



Born near Clinton, Ontario, Mark C. Rumball was the son of Ebenezer Rumball and Martha Cassells. He was educated at Huron County schools, Victoria College, Cobourg (BA), Knox College (Toronto), the University of Manitoba, and the London Business College. He taught school for two years and then was engaged in mission work at Proton, and Tilbury Centre, Ontario.

He came west in 1888 to a pastorate at High Bluff. In 1892, Dr. Rumball was called to Knox Presbyterian church at Morden and was inducted into the pastorate on December 27th, a position he held for 33½ years. During his ministry, Dr. Rumball was active in all aspects of church work and many local societies. He was president of the Freemasons Hospital Board, secretary of the Agricultural Society, president of the Horticultural Society and active in the Oddfellows and Masonic Lodges.

Howard Sager (1940 -)



Howard was born in the Freemasons Hospital in Morden and has lived and worked all his life on the family farm just west of Morden. He invested volunteer time and labour in many local projects including the construction of the Morden Curling Rink, development of Colert Beach, coaching minor sports and involvement with the Morden Legion. In 2013, Howard and his wife Oddney were recognized by the City of Morden as Outstanding Sports Volunteers.

Stuart Scott (1851 - 1941)

Born at Roxburghshire, Scotland, Stuart Scott was the son of Charles Scott and Ellen Oliver. The family immigrated to Canada in 1866, settling in Middlesex County, Ontario. Stuart went west to Winnipeg during the spring of 1881 and, in partnership with John Gilchrist, worked as a builder, architect, and draughtsman. In the spring of 1885, he moved to Morden and continued in the same line of work until 1891. At that time he entered the furniture and undertaking business, while also doing occasional design work. He was responsible for the Morden-Stanley War Memorial in 1921. He served on the Morden Town Council for two years and was elected Mayor in 1904.

Ivadell Sigurdson (1928 -)



Born in Morden, Ivadell Sigurdson (nee Rampton) has contributed to the building of the community both personally and professionally. Her work as a palliative care provider reveals her caring and compassion. As a mother and volunteer, she has been a strong advocate of education and served on the Western School Division board for 21 years. She was a founding board member of the Morden Area Foundation and served as chair of the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation. She was a baseball coach, leader in the Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT) program and a St. Paul's

United Church choir member. Ivadell received the Morden Area Foundation's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2005.

Paul Sigurdson (1927 - 1991)



Born in the 1-6 District south of Morden, Paul Sigurdson was greatly influenced by his Icelandic heritage. As a well-loved teacher at the Morden Collegiate Institute, and later as a playwright/poet, Paul was known for his gentle sense of humour and wit. Following his early retirement from teaching, Paul wrote poetry, essays, songs and plays. He founded Morden Little Theatre.

Paul was instrumental in the establishment of the local library, the Morden and District Museum and the Morden Recreation Centre. He was named Citizen of the Year in 1966.

Marilyn Skubovius (1948 -)



Marilyn Skubovius was born, raised and educated in Morden. After attending the University of Manitoba, she taught for two years in East Africa and three years in Ste. Rose. Returning to Morden, she opened a retail shop - Stephen Street Wear - in the late 70s. As a business woman, Marilyn has made her store accessible to organizations to promote events and fundraisers, sell tickets and display brochures.

She has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Morden Retail Merchants Association and Morden Corn and Apple Festival. In 1986 she was elected to

the Western School Division Board and served for 9 years. She was a founding board member of the Morden Area Foundation.

In 1989, Marilyn and Jane White were the first two women elected to Morden Town Council. Marilyn went on to serve on Council for 13 years. While on Council, she represented the Town on a variety of committees including the Morden Hospital board, the South Central Regional Library board, the Services for Seniors Meal Program, the Morden Come for a Walk Committee, the Morden Business Improvement board and Morden Housing Authority. She served as chair of the Morden Stanley Thompson Winkler (MSTW) Planning District for two years and helped form the Pembina Valley Recycling Network.

Alexander Patterson “Sandy” Stevenson (1854 - 1922)



Born in Scotland, Alexander Stevenson came to Toronto, prior to proceeding westward to Winnipeg in 1874. In 1875, he established his farm near Nelson - to become known as Pine Grove Nursery. Here he planted a small garden and began transplanting native fruits and imported seedlings. He experimented with a number of fruits, including cherries, strawberries and plums. However, it was in apples that he specialized. He experimented mostly with those of Russian origin and from these many experiments, established an apple industry on the Prairies. Known as the “apple king,” his apples carried off

innumerable prizes at exhibitions in Winnipeg and other cities across Canada.

By 1900 he was testing close to 100 varieties of apples and several other fruits. Stevenson’s successful fruit growing and the area’s rich soil and longer growing season, prompted the Dominion Department of Agriculture to establish an Experimental Farm at Morden in 1916. As a tree planting inspector for the Dominion Forestry Branch for 20 years, Alexander Stevenson was known throughout the country. His advice concerning shelterbelts, landscaping, fruits and all aspects of farming was invaluable. He was inducted into the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1980.

Hank Unrau (1956 -)



An avid cyclist, Hank was instrumental in the development of the local Minnewasta Trail, and participated in its ongoing maintenance. His enthusiasm and leadership have been put to use in his volunteer work with Special Olympics, the Kids of Steel triathlon, the establishment of the Third Wave Triathlon Club and support and encouragement for fellow participants.

Wilfred K. Warkentin



Wilf Warkentin's volunteering in Morden began with the Kinsmen Club when he moved to the area from Winnipeg in 1967. He is well-known for his efforts on behalf of the Tabor Home Board for over 30 years, 12 of which have been served as board chair. He has been instrumental in creating awareness of the need for a new Tabor Home facility and in moving the project forward through fundraising. Wilf served on Morden's Town Council and as chair of the Corn and Apple Festival, MSTW Planning District, Morden Community Handi-Van and Morden Business Improvement Committee. He was a board member of the Western School Division, Chamber of Commerce, South Central Regional Library and the Parks and Recreation Commission. He is active in the Westside Community Church.

In 2014, Wilf received the Morden Area Foundation's Volunteer of the Year Award.

I. J. "Joe" Weidl

Joe Weidl immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1922, at age 17. He arrived in Winnipeg, obtaining work as a tailor the day he arrived. He moved to Toronto in 1929, where he made samples for the retail trade and then settled in Morden in 1932. Joe was the only tailor in Morden from his arrival to his retirement in 1980.

He was a member of the Beach Committee, the Fire Brigade and Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) - serving as president in 1952. He received the Citizen of the Year award in 1953.

David Weiss



David Weiss and his wife Pam bought Pembina Valley Containers (PVC) in 1987 and grew it from a fledgling company to a thriving business providing a fully integrated waste-management system. In 1988 PVC initiated rural Manitoba's first cardboard recycling program and in 1995, initiated a curbside blue box program. A move to a larger facility allowed the company to accept and process more materials that would otherwise be destined for the regional landfill.

They encouraged the Town to offer subsidized composters to residents and to develop a convenient local compost drop off site. The Morden Chamber of Commerce honoured Weiss with a 2010 Innovation Award for his development of the fuel puck - a heating source produced from recycled wood.

Johan M. "John" Wiens (1922 - 2014)



Born in the village of Nova Prokrowska, Siberia, son of John J. and Helena Wiens, John Wiens immigrated to Canada in 1927 with his family. As an adult, John became a successful businessman in the Morden area who greatly contributed to the economic growth of the community. His business career started when he established a retail lumber company. In 1948 he went into partnership with F. H. Friesen, forming Morden Lumber and Fuel which, over time, incorporated a commercial contracting division and a concrete plant. He participated in the construction of the water treatment plant at Lake Minnewasta, and later became Morden's first residential land developer.

Having retired early to work on Town Council and subsequently as Mayor (1974 - 1977), John understood that industrial development was essential in balancing the seasonality of the community's agricultural base. He played an important role in the arrival of numerous firms including a potato chip factory, clothing manufacturer, Quality Communications and Tupperware Canada. He received the Citizen of the Year award in 1974.

John B. Wiens (1946 -)



John Wiens (son of John M. Wiens) is a chartered accountant/businessman who has been a catalyst for numerous innovations within the community. He was involved in the construction of many Morden buildings including banks, schools and businesses and in numerous business ventures, including the conversion of the old hospital into a community owned medical clinic.

John has served on the boards of several organizations including Agassiz Credit Union, Minnewasta Golf and Country Club, and the conservation group, A Rocha Canada. As chair of the Morden Community Development Corporation he introduced the incubator mall concept for small business start-ups.

John served as Mayor of Morden from 2002 - 2006. While in office his work led to several initiatives that contributed to the Town's economic and social well-being, including re-development of the old Morden and District Hospital into the community owned Agassiz Medical Centre and Morden's designation of Cultural Capital of Canada for 2008.

Howard Waldemar Winkler (1891 - 1970)



Howard Winkler was born on a rural property near Morden, son of Valentine Winkler and Josephine Rombough. He graduated from Maple Leaf School and went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts from Wesley College, Winnipeg in 1912 and Bachelor of Science from the Manitoba Agricultural College in 1916.

Being near-sighted, Howard was rejected for service in the regular army, but when the 11th Canadian Field Ambulance Unit was formed in 1916, he enlisted as a dispatch rider in France. He returned home from France with tuberculosis in the winter of 1917 and then moved to the southern United States for health purposes. He returned to Morden and farming in 1919.

On his father's death just prior to the provincial election in 1920, a group of Valentine Winkler's friends took Howard to the nominating convention in Plum Coulee, where he became the Liberal candidate for Morden-Rhineland. Having no political experience, Howard was not surprised by his defeat - by only 50 votes to fellow Mordenite John Kennedy. For the next 15 years, while he did not run for office, he was involved in provincial and federal election campaigns and served as president of the Lisgar Liberal Association.

He was elected to the House of Commons for Lisgar in 1935 and served until 1953. At the end of WWII Howard was appointed to the United Nations Preparatory Commission, to help prepare Canada's representation at the UN's first assembly. It was his work on this Commission that Mr. Winkler strengthened his reputation for good work behind the scenes.

During his term in office, Howard Winkler lobbied tirelessly for the building of a dam on Dead Horse Creek to provide a fresh water supply for Morden and the surrounding farmland. In 1941, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (P.F.R.A.) built a dam on Dead Horse Creek, creating Lake Minnewasta. In 1953-54 further work was undertaken to enlarge the lake and raise the spillway. Its official opening was on August 2, 1954, with 6,000 people in attendance.

Howard Winkler retired from public life in 1953. The following year, he married Ruth Doern and lived the remainder of his life quietly in Morden, but was always interested in the town's well-being. Howard was a generous man as demonstrated through his financial and morale support of countless individuals and organizations.

Ruth Susan Lorraine Winkler (1909 - 2005)



Ruth Winkler (nee Doern) was born in Morden. After completing Grade 12, she attended Success Business College and worked for several years in Morden for Judge George, and at the Dominion Experimental Farm.

In 1934, she attended the University of Toronto, graduating from the School of Social Work. During the Depression she worked for the Regina Family Bureau. During the war years she worked for the Children's Aid Society in Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg. She was honoured with a lifetime membership in the society in 1971.

In 1949, with the Department of Veterans Affairs, she was sent to Newfoundland to help set up veterans' services for Canada's newest province. She was named as one of twelve Winnipeg Women of the Year in 1950 for that work. In 1952, she was loaned to the Canadian Red Cross Society and went to Japan and Korea as head of a team that arranged hospital and recreational services for the Canadian troops in the Korean War.

In 1954, Ruth married Howard Winkler, who had been the Member of Parliament for Lisgar from 1935 to 1953.

Ruth was a strong advocate for the town of Morden, where, among her many projects, she lobbied diligently to have the sidewalks upgraded. She was active in establishing English classes

for new immigrants, the Morden Thrift Shop and free volunteer taxi services for seniors. She supported the formation of the Morden and District Museum and the writing of the centennial history book of the Town of Morden in 1981. Ruth was an active volunteer in the United Way, Tabor Home, and the Christmas Cheer Board. She was named Citizen of the Year in 1968.

Ruth believed in the importance of education. She was active in the establishment of the School of Social Work at the University of Manitoba and the Howard and Ruth S. L. Winkler Bursary. In her later years, she volunteered at Wi Wabigooni School in Winnipeg to assist children with their reading skills. Ruth served on the Boards of the YWCA and the Arthritis Society, and was a member of the Manitoba Historical Society and the Canadian Counsel on Social Development. She received the Manitoba Good Citizenship Award in 1983.

Valentine Winkler (1864 - 1920)



Valentine Winkler was born at Neustadt, Ontario, son of David Winkler and Barbara Juliana Lang. On the death of his father in 1879, Valentine left Ontario for Manitoba to work in his brother Enoch's lumberyard at Emerson.

He worked for his brother for two years, learning the lumber business. In 1881, Valentine was sent to Gretna to open a lumberyard and grain warehouse. Two years later, when the C.P.R. surveyed a town-site at Morden, Enoch further expanded his lumber firm. Again, Valentine was sent to open the new branch. In 1888, Mr. Winkler bought a farm close to Morden.

In 1892, his business operations expanded when he helped found the nearby community of Winkler. The first owner of quarter section of land on which the community of Winkler grew was Mennonite farmer, Isaac Wiens. When Wiens obtained a land grant in 1883, part of the quarter section had already been given to the C.P.R. as right of way. In 1892, the C.P.R. acquired the station grounds and a half interest in the quarter section. As the Mennonite custom was to live in villages away from the railway, Wiens was in a quandary. Valentine Winkler, who owned property one-half mile to the northeast, took advantage of an excellent business opportunity by trading land with Wiens. He had the property surveyed into lots for a townsite and opened a lumber, grain, and land business. Mr. Winkler gave the C.P.R. every second block of land in the village and in return, the railway company built the Winkler station in 1898.

In the mid- 1880s, Winkler became involved in politics. His ability to speak German and his business dealings with the Mennonites east of Morden won him their political confidence. In

1890 he was elected the first reeve of the Rural Municipality of Stanley and was soon organizing events in the area for the Liberal party.

In 1892 the provincial Liberals persuaded him to run for election to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba and he won easily in the constituency of Rhineland, becoming a back-bencher in the government of Thomas Greenway. In 1900, at the urging of the federal Liberal party, he resigned his seat to contest the federal constituency of Lisgar. Although Winkler was defeated, he was re-elected to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly in the by-election held to fill the seat he had vacated. He would retain it until his death in 1920.

Winkler was Minister of Agriculture and Immigration in the government of Tobias C. Norris, introducing many legislative initiatives vital to farmers such as the amended Noxious Weeds Act, the Live Stock Purchase and Sale Act, the Farm Implement Act, and the Settlers' Animal Purchase Act. This last act was also known as the "Winkler cow scheme" because it was a special project of his which provided one to five cows on the lowest terms of credit to needy settlers in the Interlake.

Despite these and other initiatives Winkler and the Department of Agriculture and Immigration came under attack from farm groups as early as 1917 for being inefficient, unorganized, and out of touch with farmers. There were calls that Winkler should be dismissed, however, he remained popular in his own constituency. He was expected to win re-election by acclamation in the election of June 1920, but died that month from complications related to diabetes.

In 1980 Valentine Winkler was inducted into Manitoba's Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Jane White

Jane White served on the Morden Town Council for ten years beginning in 1989 and was the first woman to serve as Deputy Mayor. She volunteered with numerous organizations in the community including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Chamber of Commerce, the Corn and Apple Festival, the Recreation Commission, the library book sale committee and the Morden Historical Society. She was a board member of the Morden and District Hospital and Meals on Wheels. She worked on the transition board for the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Joe Wiwchar (1935 -)



Joe Wiwchar began his baseball career in the 1950's in Winnipeg and later in Morden. He has been a player, coach, administrator, registrar, scheduler, umpire, scout and mentor. He served as chairman of Morden Minor Ball. He was inducted into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999.

Joe was named Citizen of the Year in 1979. In 2011, The City of Morden named a baseball diamond in his honour. Also in 2011, Wichar was inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame as a Builder. He served as a founding member of the committee that formed Baseball Manitoba and is the volunteer curator of the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum in Morden.

Mayors of Morden

1895	H. P. Hansen
1896 -1898	John Henry Ruddell (1859-1906)
1899	William Garrett
1900-1901	George Ashdown (1851-1939)
1902	Harry Meikle (1857-1931)
1903	T. Schmitz
1904	George Ashdown (1851-1939)
1905-1908	Stuart Scott (1851-?)
1909	A. Jickling
1910-1912	Stuart Scott (1851-?)
1913	William Henry Lake (1865-1949)
1914-1918	R. T. Hewitt
1919-1920	Alexander Kennedy
1921-1922	John Leslie Clubine (1886-1970)
1923-1932	William H. Lake (1865-1949)
1933	Norman Clark
1934-1939	Venember (Ven) Allen
1940-1943	John Leslie Clubine (1886-1970)
1944-1945	Murdo Maclean
1946-1952	Derward Alton Duncan (1895-1990)
1953-1965	Harvey Alfred "Honey" Cochlan (?-1967)
1966-1974	Albert G. Morden
1975-1977	Johan M. "John" Wiens (1922-2014)
1978-1980	David A. Fehr
1981-1989	A. R. "Max" Friesen
1990-1992	Walter F. Latter
1993-1995	Ernst Bernhard "Ernie" Krahn (1940-2014)
1996-1998	Brent D. Stewart
1999-2002	Gerald John Edward "Gerry" Gebler (1943-2005)
2002-2006	John B. Wiens
2007-2010	Doug Wilson
2011-	Ken Wiebe

Citizen of the Year

The Morden Citizen of the Year award was founded by the Morden Kinsmen Club in 1945. When the Kinsmen ceased operation, the Morden Area Foundation continued the award, naming it “Volunteer of the Year”. Recipients are:

- 2015 - Edith Lovatt
- 2104 – Wilf Warkentin
- 2013 – Wayne Kroetsch
- 2012 – Basil Agnew
- 2011 – Reg Braun
- 2010 - Denis Magotiaux
- 2009 – Don Boulton
- 2008 – Durwin Buchy
- 2007 – Pat Gibson
- 2006 – Norma Wood
- 2005 – Ivadell Sigurdson
- 2004 – Dale Lambert
- 2003 – Jim Hunt
- 2002 – Maurice Butler
- 2001 – Roberta Cramer
- 2000 – Bernadette Haggerty
- 1999 – Wayne Bergman
- 1998 – John Buhler
- 1997 – Kola Holenski
- 1996 – Abe Thiessen
- 1995 – Pat Plett
- 1994 – Betty Larke
- 1993 – Gertrude Penner
- 1992 – Ray Kirk
- 1991 – Jack Steedsman
- 1990 – Ed Maddock
- 1989 – Henry Bergman
- 1988 – Walter Latter
- 1987 – Margaret Duncan
- 1986 – Bert Wilson
- 1985 – Jim Pearce
- 1984 – Fred Westwood
- 1983 – Joyce Lawrie
- 1982 – Howard Sager
- 1981 – Leona Colert
- 1980 – Dorothy Andrews
- 1979 – Joe Wiwchar
- 1978 – Walter Bollenbach
- 1977 – Ralph King
- 1976 – Ken Dushenko
- 1975 – Catherine Evenson
- 1974 – John Wiens, Sr.
- 1973 – Lorraine Allen
- 1972 – B.G. Morden
- 1971 – Dr. J.C. Menzies
- 1970 – Rev. F.H. Friesen
- 1969 – R.A. Monaghan
- 1968 – Mrs. Ruth Winkler
- 1967 – Cornie Ginter
- 1966 – Paul Sigurdson
- 1965 – John Sharkey
- 1964 – Jim Mutcheson
- 1963 – H.A. Cochlan
- 1962 – Mrs. R. McGregor
- 1961 – C.R. Ure
- 1960 – A.W. Livingston
- 1959 – Mrs. F. Sauders
- 1958 – Judge J.M. George
- 1957 – W.J. Breakey
- 1956 – D.M.W. Colert
- 1955 – Dr. G.H. Bray
- 1954 – W. Jessiman
- 1953 – Joe Weidl
- 1952 – W.R. Leslie
- 1951 – D.A. Duncan
- 1950 – Mrs. J.A. Beaudry
- 1949 – No award
- 1948 – Mark Ki
- 1947 – Dr. A.F. Menzies
- 1946 – George Cox

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