

Village Review



VOL. 8 NO. 1

November 2011

Exciting Events Fill the Summer By Anne Toews



The leaves are gone as the wintry weather moves into Manitoba. The lush green of summer has shriveled and the wonderful shades of orange, yellow and brown have changed to the wonderful white of winter. The summer months have quickly changed into fall. Summer is always a very busy time at MHV.

Special Events Throughout the Summer:

Our first event of the season was *Spring on the Farm and Tractor Show* on the May long weekend Monday. This event was a joint venture with the local tractor club. In addition to our pioneer demonstrations, there were a tractor parade, a variety of tractor games, and tractor square dancing. Live entertainment was provided by Woody Holler and Orchestra, and The Workshop Boys. Attendance was 1462.



Canada Day celebrations were on July 1st. This year we were entertained by The Cracked Egg Shell, Michael Audette, Bush Wiebe & The Mennonite Blues Experiment and The Rock Ridge Pickers. The Filipino and Latino Associations set up cultural displays and provided tastes of food from their ethnic cultures. A Canada Day ceremony was held at 10:30 am with speeches by MLA Kelvin Goertzen, Mayor Chris Goertzen, The Honourable Vic Toews, and flag raising by the RCMP. Our national anthem was sung by Danny Plett. Pastor Dave Dickey from the Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church offered the prayer of peace. After the program hundreds of people were served birthday cake and coffee. The day continued with pioneer demonstrations, activities for the children, and lots of good food from the restaurant, short order booth, and the waffle shop. Attendance was over 1400.



Flag raising ceremony.

On June 4th we had our second annual *Tractor Trek Fundraiser* event, a joint venture between MHV and Eden Foundation. Forty-seven vintage tractors participated in a 40 kilometer ride through the countryside. More than \$34,000 was raised. Both participants and funds raised were significant increases over last year's event. All funds were equally shared by MHV and Eden East. The day's event concluded with a banquet and entertainment. Plans are already developing for another event next year. A big thank you to all the drivers who worked diligently to collect pledges, and to the sponsors and contributors who helped make this fundraiser a success.



Tractor trek traveling through the countryside.



Barry Dyck introduces dignitaries.

Our biggest event of the year was *Pioneer Days* held on the August long weekend. Pioneer demonstrations, threshing, entertainment, and lots of good home-cooked food made this weekend a success. A horse show was held on Sunday by The Southeast Draft Horse Association. Monday we held a flea market and a gymkhana horse show. The horse shows were a huge hit and enjoyed by many. Fifteen different entertainment groups performed throughout the weekend featuring genres of music. Pioneer Days drew a crowd of over 5500 people.

Continued on page 4

Notes from the President

by John Rempel



The summer of 2011 has been a successful one for Mennonite Heritage Village. We enjoyed good weather for most of our major events, and the attendance, although very good, was down slightly from last year.

Your board of directors has met nine times since our annual membership meeting in March, dealing with a wide range of issues. We discussed many projects and programs that would be beneficial to MHV. One of the first tasks we undertook was to prioritize these projects and programs. A building project that was identified as a top priority was a permanent replacement for our tent. This large tent is used regularly throughout the summer and needs to be set up and taken down each year at considerable cost in both labour as well as in wear and tear. Although expensive, this tent has a relatively short life span. A permanent replacement was identified as a high priority but we will not proceed until funds are in place, or committed to be in place. Another project, or exhibit, that was identified as a high priority, was to better represent at MHV, in a prominent way, the largest single immigration of Mennonites to Manitoba; the "Russlander" migration of the 1920s. This is only in the early planning stages, but several interesting concepts have already been

brought forward and will continue to be developed.

Lawrence Klippenstein, one of our board members, drew to our attention a museum in Germany that was celebrating an expansion of its facilities. This museum, located in Detmold Germany, tells the story of German Mennonites of Russian origin. There are considerable similarities between MHV and the Detmold museum. Another of our board members, Rudy Friesen, was in Europe at the same time, and kindly agreed to attend their opening ceremony, and deliver greetings and well wishes, as well as a small token gift from MHV. Further details appear elsewhere in this Village Review. It is our desire to develop an ongoing relationship with this museum.

Financial sustainability for Mennonite Heritage Village continues to be an ongoing concern. Because we are very dependent on financial support from the greater community we are gratified that many of you, personal as well as corporate, contribute regularly to MHV. Thank you for your ongoing support. We continue to solicit additional support.

New Assistant Curator

My name is Jocelyn Lehotsky and I was hired as the Assistant Curator at the Mennonite Heritage Village at the end of July to work alongside the Curator, Roland Sawatzky. I graduated from the Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute (MBCI) in 2002 and went on to obtain a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Winnipeg in 2006. While I was working on my B.A., I took a couple of Mennonite history courses under the direction of Hans Werner.



Jocelyn Lehotsky enjoying a summer afternoon with the Grandma Statue.

Finally, in 2008 I finished an M.A. in Museum Studies from the University of Oklahoma. My M.A. work provided me with the opportunity to spend the summer of 2007 working at the Fairview Pioneer Museum and the R.C.M.P. Centennial Celebration Museum in Fairview, Alberta. Fairview is a small town in northern Alberta's Peace River Country. During the summer of 2008, I did an internship with the Museum of Natural History in Mesa, Arizona.

More recently I volunteered with the Education Department at the Manitoba Museum in Winnipeg from February 2010 until this July when I was hired by the MHV. I have also been volunteering with the 17th Service Battalion Museum in the Minto Armouries on St. Matthews Street, Winnipeg since February 2010 and am continuing to do so.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my work at MHV. I have found the work to be interesting, exciting, and rewarding. I have been involved with the Blumenhof Archaeological dig, helped with the installation of Jim Reimer's Manitoba Wildlife exhibit in the Auditorium, and dealt with artifact donations. I look forward to continuing to deepen my understanding of Mennonite history and building relationships with the Steinbach community.

MHV Mission Statement

To preserve and exhibit for present and future generations the experience and story of the Russian Mennonites and their contributions to Manitoba

MHV Vision Statement

MHV will be the premier international interpretive centre for the Russian Mennonite story

Village Review

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From the Executive Director

by Barry Dyck



2011—The Year in Review

This year has been passing with astonishing speed. At Mennonite Heritage Village we have enjoyed many good things and have also had our share of challenges. I would suggest that this is an indication that MHV is a healthy, growing organism. Growth typically includes challenges.

We have enjoyed a variety of exhibits in our various galleries throughout the year. Mennonite Women Evolving, art by Mennonite artist Kornelius Epp, and Memorizing Landscapes: Mennonite Maps and History were the three exhibits presented in the Gerhard Ens Gallery in 2011. Our Hallway Gallery and Auditorium Gallery featured art work by contemporary local artists and also a taxidermy/photography exhibit. All were well done and interesting. These changing temporary exhibits make repeat visits to MHV more compelling.

New artifacts have again been added to our collection. This year's additions include cars, books, furniture and textiles, as well as a large number of items unearthed in the Blumenhof archeological dig. In 2012 we will provide opportunity for the public to see some of the Blumenhof artifacts and hear a presentation about the project by our Senior Curator, Dr. Roland Sawatzky. The expansion of our artifacts storage facility this year has given us room for a number of years' worth of growth.

We entered 2011 projecting that our attendance numbers at festival events, on regular days and in our Education Program would continue the trajectory of growth we experienced in recent years. Our expectations were not met. MHV was impacted by the fact that Canada Day was on a Friday this year, which gave people the opportunity to go out of town over a long weekend. We also know that during some of the very hot days of summer, a number of daycare groups cancelled their field trips to MHV because of the excessive heat.

On the bright side, our donations and our food-services revenues saw healthy growth. The Livery Barn Restaurant, the Short-Order Booth and the MHV Catering Services collectively saw a growth of about 20% in their business. At the end of October our donations were up over last year by 22%. In the bigger picture, MHV's overall income is up by 7%. We are grateful for the strong support we receive from our constituency.

Because the tourist season is now largely over, and because the outdoor Village is closed for the winter, one might assume things are slow around here. By some measures they are and by others there is still much happening. We continue to enjoy a significant amount of facility rental business. This frequently falls on weekend days, so staff supervising the rentals needs to adjust weekday hours accordingly, in order to maintain a reasonable work / life balance. This is also the time of year when fundraising, planning, budgeting, performance reviews and many other "year end" sorts of activities become high priorities.

The new year will see us focusing on new initiatives designed to encourage repeat visits to MHV because there is always something new to see and learn at our museum. Look for more about this in the next issue of Village Review.

Call for Nominations

The Mennonite Heritage Village preserves and promotes the history of Russian Mennonites and their contribution to Manitoba. MHV is searching for Board Members to assist in its governance. These Board Members will be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 27, 2012.

Nominees must be over 18 years of age and have held a valid MHV membership for the previous three years (unless waived by the Board). Please forward your nomination by Monday, February 27, 2012 to:

Nomination Chair
Mennonite Heritage Village
231 PHT 12 N
Steinbach, MB R5G 1T8
Or email: info@mhv.ca

Or contact a member of the Nominating committee:

Al Hamm, chair, Gilbert Brandt, Abe Hiebert, John Rempel or Barry Dyck.

There will be no nominations from the floor at the AGM, as per By-Law 1-2004.

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Fall on the Farm again was on Labour Day in September. Highlights of the day were the hog butchering, threshing, log sawing, farmer's market, and eating fresh corn on the cob. Children were able to enjoy the petting zoo and inflatable bouncers for the last time this summer. These additions to the events have certainly been a huge hit with the children. Entertainment groups under the tent were Lulu and the Tomcat, Tom and Lori, The Jasper County Line, and The Workshop Boys. Attendance was around 1500 people.

The last event of the season is *Touch of Christmas – A Living Nativity* which will be presented on December 2 and 3. The Living Nativity is an outdoor performance, a portrayal of the Christmas story featuring live animals and actors of all ages drawn from Steinbach and surrounding communities. The play will be presented on Friday and Saturday evenings. Sleigh rides, fire pit, hot chocolate,



Fall brings harvest time as volunteers keep the threshing machine working



Fall on the Farm ploughing demonstration

and refreshments can be enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Bring your family and plan to make this an annual tradition as a start to the Christmas season.

Education program:

We had a good year in our education program which typically

finishes by the end of August. A few schools were here in September and October. The program was co-ordinated by Kim Plett, and assisted by Jana Neufeld. Many volunteers spent countless hours interpreting in the historical buildings, and giving guided tours and horse drawn wagon rides. To date we had 4,144 students. These tours were accompanied by 754 adults/teachers. It is good to watch the buses pull up in front of the Village Centre and hundreds of children piling out filled with enthusiasm to spend a few hours learning about pioneer life.

Volunteer Appreciation:

On October 13th over 100 people enjoyed a *Volunteer Appreciation Dessert Evening* in the Village Centre Auditorium. The evening included a power point presentation of the summer events, entertainment by 3 Mol Plaut and thank you comments to the volunteers by President John Rempel, Executive Director Barry Dyck, and Program Director Anne Toews.

The theme for the event was “Volunteers are Stars in our Eyes.” Every year hundreds of volunteers donate their time and energy to help with the school programs, summer events, guiding tours, gardening, mowing grass, and wherever help is needed. Volunteers are the power behind our programs, festivals, and events. It would be impossible for MHV to function without the help of hundreds of volunteers. Thank you volunteers!

MHV Auxiliary Notes

By Linda Schroeder, President

The last several months have flown by and the Auxiliary has again experienced rewarding fundraising efforts. I will just recap some of our events:

- Waffles sales in the Waffle Corner were enjoyed by many visitors and regulars
- Waffles on Main Street were a popular part of Summer in the City
- The Auxiliary catered the first annual MHV Golf Tournament
- An evening of armchair travel to Siberia was fun and enlightening. The ice cream and freshly baked pies pleased everyone!
- The Annual Fall Turkey Dinner saw a full house enjoying the turkey with all the trimmings!
- The ongoing quilting projects help raise funds and also provide an interpretive experience for the many visitors
- Many lunches and suppers have been catered at MHV in the off season.

This past year the Auxiliary used its funds to help MHV with various projects:

- We paid for a high speed telephone line to the Livery Barn Restaurant and the General Store.
- We recently purchased new blinds in the auditorium.
- The Auxiliary again supported the Education Program
- We provided all the flowers for the MHV grounds for the local garden club
- We contributed funds for the upgrading of the artifacts storage system.
- We have agreed to finance the construction of a new boardwalk on main street. This should be completed by the time the new summer season rolls around.

The MHV Auxiliary consists of approximately 20 very committed volunteers along with spouses and many other volunteers who help at our fundraising events. We are grateful for the many hours that are spent working tirelessly in support of MHV. We welcome anyone interested in joining this group.

Third Archaeological Excavation at Blumenhof

By Roland Sawatzky



A perfect summer made for a great field season at the Plett site in the former village of Blumenhof, MB. This multi-year excavation is a partnership between the Mennonite Heritage Village and the University of Winnipeg Anthropology Department.

A crew of 8 archaeologists and assistants, with over a dozen volunteers, worked hard to finish excavating the cellar of the 1875 housebarn built by the Cornelius S. and Sara Plett family. We excavated a block of land three meters wide and six meters long (very close to the actual size of the cellar) to a depth of nearly 2 meters in some places. We found a large number of artifacts that had been in the cellar. None appear to be later than 1906 when the house was abandoned.

We've pieced together the following deposition scenario: the housebarn was abandoned in 1906 and the land directly around it was farmed; about 1945 the housebarn was demolished and the stuff from around the dwelling and barn, left there since 1906, was dumped into the cellar hole to effectively fill it; finally the fieldstone foundation was mostly removed and the whole site was covered in soil.

The layers of artifacts in the cellar include, from bottom to top: shingles and wood rafters (probably from a lean-to), a pile of about 50 shoes (men's, women's and children's) mixed with metal stove pieces, and the highest levels include fragmentary pieces of farm machinery, glass, ceramics, buttons, nails, bottles, and even figurines (including doll pieces). The sheer amount of material culture recovered from this early habitation site will provide us with years of conservation and research potential and will figure prominently in upcoming exhibits (including the 200th Anniversary exhibit of the Kleine Gemeinde/EMC scheduled for the summer of 2012 – Blumenhof was a Kleine Gemeinde community).

The Mennonite Heritage Village would especially like to thank Dr. Royden and Mary-Ann Loewen, on whose farmland the excavation took place, and the Steinbach Regional High School students and teacher Katie Cook for participating so enthusiastically for a full week in August—we literally could not have accomplished our goals, and had so much fun doing it, without them.

Thank you also to the funders of this research—Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism (Heritage Grant), Young Canada Works (a federal student employment program) and the Manitoba Archaeo-

logical Society.

Next year we intend to return to a different household in the same village. Roland Sawatzky, Senior Curator at MHV, will be directing the joint U of W/U of M archaeological fieldschool with 24 students at the Unger site.

Other Projects

A rolling storage unit was installed in our Permanent Artifact Storage Room to increase our storage space for large artifacts and new shelving was purchased for the archives (funded by Museum Assistance Program, the C.P. Loewen Family Foundation, the Winnipeg Foundation, the R.M. of St. Anne and the MHV Auxiliary). Important volunteer assistance in moving artifacts was provided



Steinbach Regional Secondary Students putting in a full day's dig.



Rolling shelving helps make efficient use of our environmentally controlled artifact storage areas.



This nearly complete felt hat was unexpectedly discovered at the site encased in clay, which probably helped preserve it. It is currently undergoing conservation treatment at the MHV for inclusion in a summer 2012 exhibit.

by the local Katimavik group.

Repairs were completed to the Private School eaves and vestibule (Community Places Grant).

In partnership with the University of Winnipeg Mennonite Studies conference, the MHV loaned a 1900 carriage to display on the front lawn of the University. Under constant security detail, the carriage helped promote the conference exploring the "Horse and Buggy Mennonites". A workshop and tour also took part at the MHV for researchers.

Exhibits

The Art of Kornelius Epp: A Retrospective (March 15 – June 28, 2011)

Dozens of sketches and oil paintings by Mennonite artist Kornelius Epp were exhibited in the Gerhard Ens Gallery. These included scenes from Ukraine, Germany, Paraguay and Canada that Epp had created during his sojourn in these very different lands.



Girl, 1945, illustration by Kornelius Epp.

Landscape as Memoir: Mennonites and Maps (July 1, 2011 – March, 2012).

This exhibit explores not only maps made by Mennonites from all over the world, but the meaning of these maps: how they acted to memorialize home places, maintain ethnic boundaries and lay claim to land and inheritance. The exhibit includes all original maps and models.



Landscape as Memoir: Mennonites and Maps exhibit.

In The Village Book Shop

By Marigold Peters

I am finding it somewhat unique promoting Christmas Gift ideas, when the sun is streaming into the window, the wind is blowing from the South, and the temperatures are not that wintry. But I hear the strains of Christmas music wafting into the office from our Book Shop! Henry Engbrecht, director, dropped off a brand new Canzona CD entitled *Stille Nacht: German Christmas songs and carols*.

Canzona is a choral ensemble of 16 – 30 voices, including many of the leading singers in the province of Manitoba. Henry Engbrecht is the founding Artistic Director and Conductor of Canzona and is also Professor Emeritus at the University of Manitoba, where he was Director of Choral Studies and Activities at the Faculty of Music. This CD includes the obvious selection, *Stille Nacht*; along with *Freue dich, Welt*; *O Tannenbaum* plus another 27 songs.

What a wonderful Christmas gift for a loved one as well as a great personal purchase to inspire your Christmas spirit. This CD and Canzona's earlier ones sell for \$20 ea. taxes included!

Mennonite Girls Can Cook

With the number of *Mennonite Girls Can Cook* cookbooks sold in Canada this year, one might think that everyone owns one by now! The cookbook has been a best seller in our Book Shop as well, but we are quite sure there are people on your Christmas gift list that still do not own one.

Mennonite Girls Can Cook is also a blog about recipes, hospitality, relationships, encouragement and helping the hungry—and now it's a book, too! I have

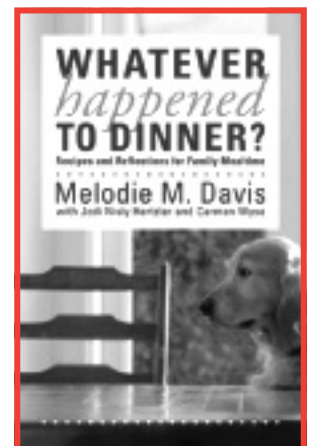
noticed that even the individuals that follow the blog still love to have the book in their hands! Like the blog, the book is about more than just recipes. It's about hospitality, versus entertaining; about blessing, versus impressing. It's about taking God's bounty and co-creating the goodness from God's creation into something that can bless family and friends and help sustain health and energy. **Price: \$24.99**

Whatever Happened to Dinner?

Listening to radio in the car recently, I was struck by what the host and interviewee were talking about—the issue of basic home-cooked meals as the backbone of a healthy eating lifestyle. It reminded me of a book we carry in our shop called *WHATEVER happened TO DINNER?*

This book invites families to eat together, even as it acknowledges the challenges of living in a culture that often pulls us apart. Melodie M. Davis examines the role food and mealtime play in the family and reminds readers of how God gave us the good gift of food.

The book is part cookbook, part reflection on the changing role of dinner, part celebration of family and community connections, part realistic acceptance of how things are, and part practical handles for how to cope.



Price: \$14.99, paperback

Mennonite Heritage Village Honours Detmold Museum

By Barry Dyck



Rudy Friesen presents the MHV gift to Katharina Neufeld, Detmold Museum.

A pair of handmade children's socks offers a permanent and visible link between a museum in Manitoba and one in Germany. This gift helped mark the official opening, Friday July 22, 2011, of the new *Museum für Russlanddeutsche Kulturgeschichte* (Museum for the Cultural History of Germans from Russia) in Detmold, Germany. The Board of Directors of the MHV sent this gift to the Detmold Museum. While the Detmold Museum's story has a slightly different focus, it also has elements in common with the MHV story, specifically the Russian experience.

Senior Curator at the Mennonite Heritage Village, Roland Sawatzky, created an attractive framed display containing one of the socks as well as words of greeting and explanation. Rudy Friesen, MHV board member, attended the opening and presented the gift to Katharina Neufeld, the Director of the Detmold Museum. The matching sock will be similarly mounted and displayed at the MHV to recognize and declare our relationship with the Detmold Museum.



The sock in a beautiful frame.

The socks were knit by Susanna Neufeld, nee Heinrichs, who was born in 1892 in South Russia, now part of Ukraine. In 1912 she married Gerhard Neufeld, who was murdered by rebel forces in 1920. Susanna Heinrichs Neufeld emigrated to Canada in 1924 and became known for her talent as a seamstress.

MHV Hosts First Fundraising Golf Tournament



MHV Heritage Classic winners are from left to right: Paul Gauthier, Tony Martel, Heinz Reimer, Matt Reimer

Did you know?

Mennonite Heritage Village has an Endowment Fund

To provide an income stream
for MHV in perpetuity

Donate by:

- A bequest in your will,
- A commemorative Gift
- Securities – Eliminate Capital Gains
- A charitable remainder trust

For details call:

- Stan Franz – 204-326-9661
- Art Kroeker – 204-489-5509
- Barry Dyck – 204-326-9661



Calendar of Events – 2011 and 2012

Friday, December 2 & Saturday, December 3

Touch of Christmas/The Living Nativity:
Experience the true meaning of Christmas as the story of old is presented nightly in the stable by an outdoor nativity with live animals. Enjoy home baking, sleigh rides, fire pit, and activities for the whole family.

Sunday, December 4 Vespers Service @ 4pm

Friday, December 23, 2011 – January 8, 2012 Closed for Christmas/New Years

Sunday, February 5 Vespers Service @ 7pm

Sunday, March 4 Vespers Service @ 7pm

Sunday, April 1 Vespers Service @ 7pm

Watch the website for details concerning events for next spring and summer

Upcoming Exhibits

May 1 – June 15, 2012 Cars and Pioneers: An Old Ride. Photographs by Wayne Benedet (Gerhard Ens Gallery)

Featuring artistic photographs of antique cars and historic buildings found in rural Manitoba.

June 17 – November 12, 2012 EMC/Kleine Gemeinde, 200 Years. (Gerhard Ens Gallery)

The EMC Bicentennial Committee has partnered with the Mennonite Heritage Village to produce a comprehensive exhibit celebrating the origins and changes of the Kleine Gemeinde/Evangelical Mennonite Conference since 1812. The exhibit will feature many artifacts from the museum, since the KG/EMC is particularly well represented in our collections.

November 2012 Journey to Freedom: Women Refugees of the 1940s (Gerhard Ens Gallery)

Art in this exhibit explores this difficult

period of Mennonite life and the resilient women who survived and thrived.
Featuring art by Ray Dirks.

Spring, 2012 Photographs by the Steinbach Arts Council Photo Class (Auditorium)

Featuring photos of the Mennonite Heritage Village.



Benefits and Privileges of a Membership

- * Free subscription to the *Village Review*, MHV's newsletter (several times a year) to keep you in touch with events and friends of the museum
- * A vote at the annual meeting of Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) if membership - has been in place 60 days prior to the meeting.
- * Two extra complimentary tickets to allow you to bring friends or relatives to the museum (to be used in the year of your membership).
- * 10 percent discount on all gift store items
- * Invitation to special membership events
- * Free admission to MHV and special museum days:
 - Spring on the Farm
 - Canada Day
 - Pioneer Days
 - Fall on the Farm
 - A Touch of Christmas
- * Free admission to the following museums:
 - Manitoba Agricultural Museum (Austin)
 - Costume Museum of Canada (Dugald)
 - New Iceland Heritage Museum (Gimli)
 - Western Canada Aviation Museum (Winnipeg)
 - Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum (Brandon)
 - St. Boniface (Winnipeg)

Yes, I reviewed the membership categories. Please enroll me as a member and supporter of the Mennonite Heritage Village in the following category:

- \$70 Annual Family Membership (includes children 18 and under)
 \$35 Annual Single Membership \$500 Life Membership (\$300 is tax deductible)

I would also like to make a special donation. (tax deductible)

- \$1000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

I am enclosing a cheque or money order for a total of \$ _____

Please charge my membership and/or donation to my

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Account # _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

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Please make cheques payable to Mennonite Heritage Village Registered Charitable Number 10363-393-RR0001



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