

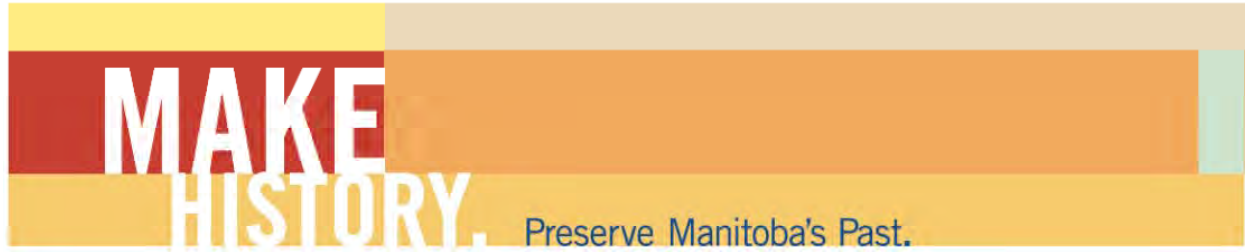
OUR ESSENTIAL PAST

Follow-Up Projects



- \$2,000 was spent to fix up the roundhouse.
- A second floor was made for the children and the kitchen.
- The roundhouse could now hold 1500-2000 people.
- The East Selkirk Immigration shed opened in 1899.

A Guide for Communities and Consultants



OUR ESSENTIAL PAST

Follow-up Projects

THE RESULTS of any of the three foundational projects carried out under the initiative *Our Essential Past*—Pivotal Events, Notable People and Special Places—is intended to be presented in a popular format that will ensure wide local access.

The basic and simplest follow-up activity will see the various final texts and images developed in each project reworked into a binder or booklet that is placed in the municipal office, archive, museum and library. Some additional introductory text likely will need to be developed to ensure readers' understanding of the purpose of each project.

Historic Resources Branch, working with a variety of municipal partners, has developed model projects for each of the three initiatives, with standard (and simple) layout options that make for attractive final presentations.

Some communities that have been working on the three *Our Essential Past* initiatives have also asked for HRB assistance to develop other follow-up activities and products, and to date the following additional communication initiatives have been completed:

- Binders/Booklets
- Plaques/Signs
- Walking/ Driving Tours
- Certificates
- Articles
- Events
- Websites
- School Projects
- Museum Projects
- Research and Booklets
- Planning
- Designations
- Conservation Handbooks
- Workshops

The following entries describe these projects in more detail.

Binders/Booklets

The three covers opposite suggest one of the key results of each of the foundational projects. Thus for a Pivotal Events project, the top image is the cover for a project in Wawanesa, entitled *Milestones*; for a Notable People project in Hartney (middle), *We Made Hartney*; and for a Special Places project in Boissevain, *Special Places* (note that this series has since been renamed by other communities as *Landmarks*).

These booklets or binders (which is another presentation option) are displayed in museums, schools, public libraries and municipal offices.

The series has a common graphic appearance to reinforce their common purpose, and their province-wide application.



MILESTONES

Wawanesa's Significant Historical Themes and Events



We Made Hartney

Notable People from Hartney's Past

Special Places

Boissevain's Significant Heritage Buildings



Plaques/Signs

Several communities have moved a Special Places project to the stage of designations and of the placement of signs or plaques at these locations to build community knowledge and appreciation for the project, and its results.

In Gimli (top image), the Gimli Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee commissioned a local graphic designer to develop this standard sign, which incorporates the RM's logo with a fanciful and colourful sign form, the site name and date and the notice that the sign marks a "Gimli Heritage Site." These signs have proven very durable, manufactured of sturdy plastic.



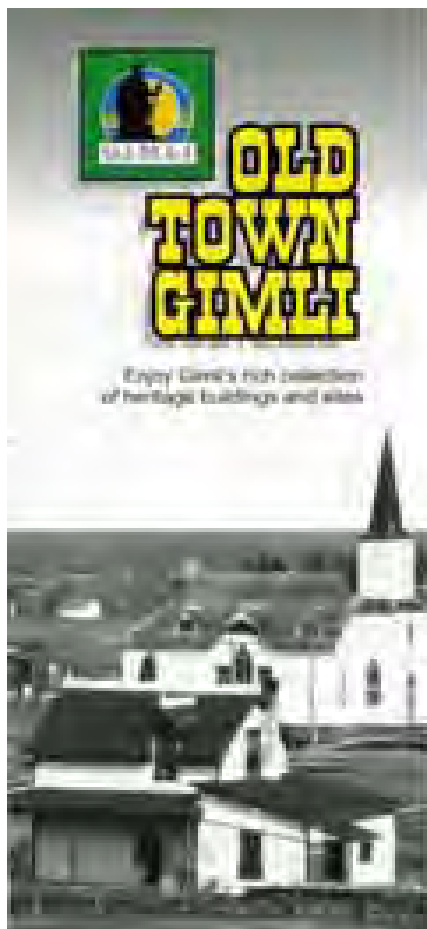
The Manitou Heritage Group used its Special Places project to highlight several sites in the community (and in the surrounding RM of Pembina) and developed impressive bronze plaques for placement at each site. The Manitou group did some additional research to ensure that these plaques were "made in Canada," from the Alloy Foundry in Merrickville, Ontario.



Walking/Driving Tours

Communities that have developed a Special Places project will be able to use two key parts of that kind of initiative—the short lists of significant sites and the community architectural history—to develop effective walking/driving tours.


Samples here, from the Gimli Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee and the Manitou Culture and Heritage Committee, suggest the results. In each case, informative text and engaging graphic design make for the kind of truly useful and informative products that help a community define its historic character.



Manitou

Step Back in Time

and Walk in the Footsteps of Nellie McClung




Experience Manitou as Nellie would have seen it. Nellie McClung lived in Manitou and area from 1890-93 and 1896-1911, an era of growth and change. A few of our Heritage Sites were here when she arrived but most were built while she lived here. We invite you to take our tour and enjoy our heritage.

The Log House Museum and Tourism Centre
Corner of PTH 3 and Main Street

A designated heritage site, the Log House Museum and Tourism Centre, with its hand-hewn squared logs with dovetail corners, is one of the oldest buildings in town and has been connected to the coming of the CPR.

By 1886, it was located near the Post Office and was home to an early pioneer family, the Brennagh/Listers, until 1936. It was moved to its present site in 2002.



Manitou Culture and Heritage Committee
www.townofmanitou.com

Certificates

The development of certificates is a popular and inexpensive way to promote results of one of the projects of *Our Essential Past*, and to ensure that this information is placed in ongoing public view that reinforces messages.

Images below, from certificates for Virden and the RM of De Salaberry (in this case in French) suggest how information from those community's Special Places projects were developed for presentation to individual building owners (and placed in budget-conscious plastic frames, given that there are typically numerous recipients).

Certificates have been given a similar graphic identity to suggest a province-wide application.

In Gimli (below), MLA and Minister of Industry Peter Bjornson is a regular guest for the MHAC's annual heritage open house, where certificates are distributed and recent heritage activity is showcased.



Articles

Groups working on any of these projects will find willing partners in local newspaper editors and writers, who are very interested in heritage issues. Samples here from Manitou (below, in *The Western Canadian*), Carberry (bottom, from the *Carberry News-Express*) and Winnipeg Beach (right from *The Interlake Spectator*) were all developed using information from this guide (“Introducing the Initiative”) that helps with important messaging about these kinds of projects.



WHILE THE SNOW HELD OFF — and contractors were squeezing the last jobs into the building schedule, the Gingerbread House got some professional attention. The upper balcony got some adjustable shoring installed from Gabler Welding, and some cement footings were formed and poured by Scott Builders. When the ground floor porch joists and planking are in, this year's part of the staged project will be complete. The special shoring can adjust the balcony to drain properly and true the roof line.



Susan Greenberg with granddaughter, clockwise from above; a street view of the summer home; a large eating area off the living room; a stunning verandah greets a visitor.



Purpose of inventories of Gimli and Winnipeg Beach:

- * To identify interesting architecturally and historically significant old buildings/sites (a cemetery such as the Gimli Icelandic Pioneer Cemetery can be significant).

- * To compile information on and photos of those buildings/sites.

- * To determine their role and the role of the owners in the history of the community. For example, Cartoon Charlie Thorson lived in a house and cottage in Gimli. In all probability he developed the character of Snow White for Walt Disney. Our built heritage, together with the stories of those associated with them, tell us where we came from and who we are. The romance of beautiful old unchanged buildings enriches our understanding of our communities.

— Wally Johannson

Events

Communities working on *Our Essential Past* projects have found that developing an event to promote the work of the group, or to focus on a particular success story as one of the projects is completed, are excellent opportunities to engage the local community in their heritage.

In Gimli (below), the MHAC's annual heritage open house (in the municipally designated Gimli Dance Pavilion) showcases the group's recent heritage activity, and is a major source for promotion of *Our Essential Past*.

In Manitou (right) local heritage leader Bette Mueller has developed two major events (in the municipally designated Opera House) to highlight projects in that community, including the presentation of commemorative plaques that followed from a Special Places project.



Websites

Websites are becoming important new communication tools for heritage activity, and several communities working on *Our Essential Past* projects are using that communication vehicle to promote their work.

The Gimli MHAC (logo below) actually undertook to develop a model community heritage website that is now being used as a model for other Manitoba communities, including Carman-Dufferin (logo below). These logos are featured because it is difficult to convey a website in this small guide, but also because the development of community heritage logos as part of the group's "brand" is an important benefit of these projects.

Community Heritage Websites:

Gimli MHAC Website Link

<http://gimliheritage.ca/index.html>

St. Clements MHAC Website Link

<http://www.stclementsheritage.com/>

Brandon MHAC Website Link

<http://www.heritagebrandon.ca/>

Lac du Bonnet Website Linke

<http://lacdubonnet.com/mhac/>



The St. Clements MHAC has invested a great deal of time in its website, which features an important new heritage tool – geo-caching (below). Geo-caching is essentially a sophisticated game of hide and seek, in which participants use GPS units and co-ordinates from the website to track down a cache that contains informative postcards about the particular site.



School Projects

The St. Clements Municipal Heritage Advisory Council (MHAC) has developed several initiatives for school projects that began with their Pivotal Events project.

Using that project, and focusing on Manitoba's elementary school curriculum for Social Studies, the MHAC created a set of PowerPoint presentations that encouraged students at Happy Thought School in East Selkirk to explore key subjects that related to local history, including:

- immigration and hardships
- daily life
- individuals and events of this time
- Canadian Pacific Railway

There are presently eight entries in the St. Clements Teacher's Corner history set, which is available on-line:

Grades 2-4

The Ferry System (12 pages)

East Selkirk Roundhouse (16 pages)

St. Peters Church (13 pages)

The Beaches (13 pages)

Steamships (13 pages)

Grades 4-6

Lockport (13 pages)

East Selkirk History (13 pages)

St. Clements Settlers (14 pages)

The St. Clements MHAC's Teacher's Corner section is available on-line at:

<http://stclementsheritage.com/index.php/teachers-corner/powerpoint-presentations>

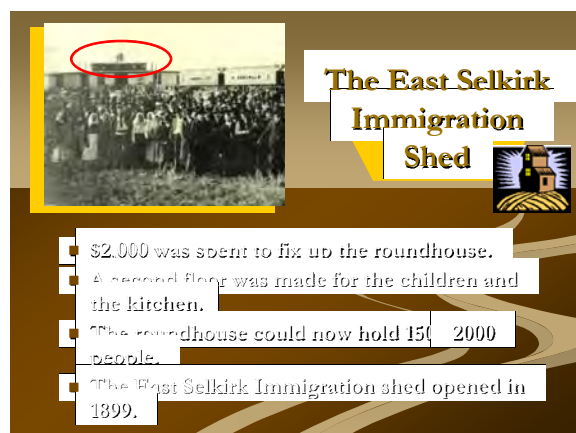
The main page for the St. Clements MHAC website is available at

<http://stclementsheritage.com/>

Sample PowerPoint Section title page and sample pages:



East Selkirk Roundhouse
Grades 2 and 4
(16 pages)



Museum Projects

The three *Our Essential Past* projects developed in Hartney have been used by the Hart-Cam Museum to imaginatively connect visitors to these key aspects of community history through an exploration of museum artifacts.

The short lists of notable buildings, people and synopses of pivotal events and themes, and the introductory pieces for each project, form the essential background that museum curator Dawn McKenzie and her volunteer staff use to focus on particular artifacts in the museum collection.

Pre-packaged information given to museum guests allows them to explore the museum collection with more focus. Subject sheets are keyed to certain artifacts, clothing and tools, which allows visitors to connect immediately to one of the subjects in one of the three binders, ensuring that visitors pursue a more informed exploration.

The Hart-Cam project has identified a different subject per day that allows for an even more varied experience for visitors, and for museum volunteers as well.

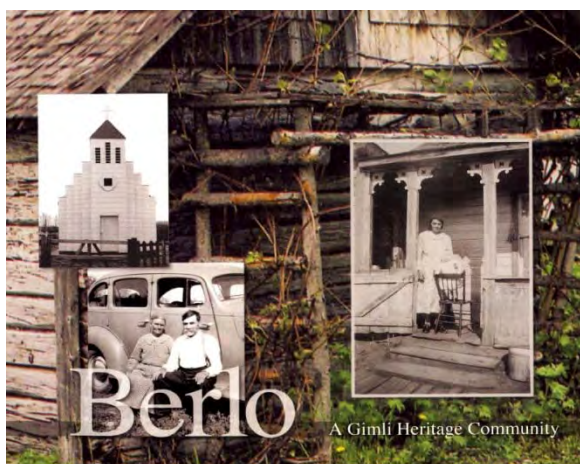


Research and Booklets

MHACs in Gimli and Carberry reviewed the results of their respective Special Places projects and identified subjects that merited additional study and promotion.

In Gimli, the MHAC undertook research on Berlo, a rare German strip-farm village, and on early community construction practices. Both of these studies lead to further activity: for Berlo the production of a handsome booklet (below) that was distributed to about 75 descendants of the pioneers of that community; and for the construction history, the copying of several home design kit guides (left) and leading eventually to the production of a cottage owners' conservation handbook (see entry on that subject).

In Carberry, the MHAC recognized an important opportunity to research James White (below right), who developed a major building contracting business and operated a sash and door factory that is now used as the community museum. Information from this project will ensure that this important community claim will be further enhanced.



Planning

The wealth of foundational and contextual information that will have been collected through *Our Essential Past* projects—Pivotal Events, Notable People and Special Places—as well as through other follow-up activities, will be valuable resources when a community turns to an important aspect of sustainable heritage work: planning.

Planning, and the development of a heritage management plan, is especially important for communities of a certain size, or with a notable collection of heritage resources (buildings, sites, historical claims, etc.).

A good community heritage management plan answers five key questions:

- Where is the community now?
- Where does the community want to go?
- How will the community get there? – goals and objectives
- What resources does the community need to get there?
- How do we know if the community got there?

A good community heritage management plan also:

- represents the values of the community
- is supported by key municipal decision-makers
- responds to opportunities and challenges present in the community
- includes a longer view, typically 5 to 10 years
- makes heritage relevant to the community
- inspires people and offers them opportunities to engage with the community's heritage

Communities that are interested in this aspect of heritage activity are invited to contact the Historic Resources Branch for more information.

R.M. of Gimli Heritage Management Plan

2008-2010



Gimli Heritage Advisory Committee

Cover of the Gimli MHAC three-year management plan, 2008-2010.

Designations

Special Places projects have as one of the goals the protection through municipal designation of buildings and sites identified on a short list of most significant places.

The MHAC in Gimli and the Manitou Culture and Heritage Committee have taken their projects to this stage.

This aspect of a Special Places project can involve delicate communication approaches, given the potential for designation to affect real property rights, and so HRB and these communities have worked to develop a standard guide to assist in this process:

Municipal Designation: Is it right for you?



War Memorial in Manitou, a designated Municipal Heritage Site.



Goodman Cottage in Gimli, a designated Municipal Heritage Site.

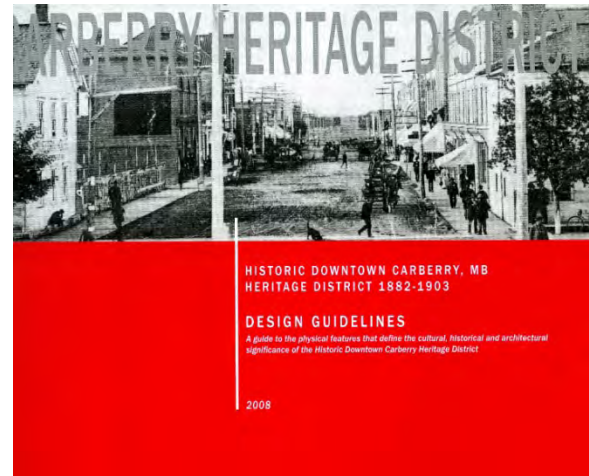
Conservation Handbooks

Communities that have undertaken Special Places project, whose focus is on our physical heritage, occasionally have a concentration of a certain building type that merits special attention.

In Carberry (upper right), which boasts the first designated heritage district in Manitoba, the MHAC worked with HRB and several architecture students to produce a guide to assist commercial building owners with the typical challenges facing this building type.

In Gimli (lower right), where an important collection of turn-of-the-century cottages still defines certain areas of the community, the MHAC commissioned an architecture student to create a cottage owner's guide to inform and guide owners as they pursued their own conservation projects.

These kinds of initiatives ensure that valuable local resources are cared for with the highest levels of technical information.



Workshops

Some groups working on Special Places projects occasionally find that a certain common building type in the community merits more specialized conservation attention.

In Carberry the MHAC invited a skilled mason to lead local building owners in a one-day workshop that gave them hands-on experience in repointing techniques specially designed for the specific brick-building technologies used in many local commercial buildings.

