

splitting them in half due to severe contact over the course of the season. The shoulder pads were not a lot better but it did not matter we were tough and ready to prove it.

Game field was an outdoor rink on the northeast corner of the Selkirk Barn Arena. Lockport was well represented by parents who looked over the boards like they were watching a hockey game. We blew away the Selkirk Eagles in our first official league game. However, it was my first and last game that season as a player. I was so proud of our accomplishment and personally contributed with four touchdowns as a quarterback in that game. For me personally the euphoria died quickly. Emil was hustled to the league office right after the game and a new rule instantly came into being. Emil explained to me that I was not permitted to play the rest of the year due to age. At age 15 I was devastated and to this day I look upon the happening as one of the low points of my life.

The team carried on with Percy Maxon and Fred Peebles sharing quarterback duties. The team was on a mission for the rest of the year. I helped Emil as an assistant coach.

Ironically the championship game in Lockport's first season was also between the Selkirk Giants and the Mustangs. The Giants prevailed 35 to 18 in the final.

The following year in 1966 was when the Lockport Cowboys officially came into existence. The Lockport Mustangs became the Lockport Lions in a league for the older boys called the Canadian Football League and the younger boys played as the Lockport Cowboys in the previously established Little National Football League. The league expanded to include even younger Lockport football players in later years. The Lockport Cowboys also had a devoted group of enthusiastic football cheerleaders. Community support was exceptional. I remember Emil recruiting players for the 1966 Lockport Lions and specifically Tommy Harcus and I think Gordon Loutit as well. Both were close to a weight maximum. With the new league for older players, an eligibility formula involving age and weight had been established. I remember Tommy dressed in green garbage bags sprinting up and down our basement stairs, skipping and doing calisthenics before the weigh in. He sweated bullets but made the requirement. The season was a challenge but we made the championship game against the Selkirk Stampeders, which we lost.

In the summer of 1968 I left home to attend Royal Roads Military College in Victoria, British Columbia and subsequently lost touch with all the happenings surrounding the Lockport football pro-

gram. Through the mail and during my return home on summer vacation, my two younger brothers, who played and had great personal success, told me that Lockport won many championships in the following years, including games won by over 100 points. The Lockport Cowboys overwhelmed the opposition and dominated the league until at least 1974.

On September 29, 1995 the 1st Annual Alumni Dinner for the Lockport Cowboys was held at Gaffer's Restaurant in support of raising money to keep the football program alive. It was almost 30 years exactly from the inaugural season. Unfortunately football in Lockport died but not the memories.

Thirty years of boys playing football in a very small community is special. Many boys had dreams of being professional football players and I was no exception. Two achieved this lofty goal. Our own Winnipeg Blue Bombers currently employ Troy Westwood, place kicker specialist and Todd Furdyk offensive lineman. Both men played youth football for the Lockport Cowboys.

It would be inappropriate to not mention the Truthwaite family contribution to the Lockport football program, most specifically Alex, David and Jimmy for their endless volunteerism keeping the program healthy over the years following Emil Russin's and my departure. In 30 years I know many other dedicated community minded people shared in this responsibility. I apologize for not knowing who they are and mentioning them. However the purpose of this narrative is to tell everyone how it all started without getting into extraordinary detail. I hope you enjoy these memories.

See Ganske family

## Happy Trails Riders

The trail boss, Jake Dawson, and his troupe from Lockport separated from the Red River riders when they decided to go on tour. Jake says their aim is to entertain in their homemade costumes pretending to be riding barrel horses. All monies realized after expenses go to charity. They were pleased to showcase with CBC program "*On the Road Again*" in 1997.

It was an honour to be asked to perform at Lower Fort Garry, in 1998, when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride came to celebrate their 125th anniversary. The group performs their humorous musical skits at parades, carnivals, rodeos and festivals. They choreographed one of their skits on ice skates to perform at the Manitoba Moose game in 1997. They have visions of doing downhill skiing and roller blading.

The Happy Trails Riders feel honoured that they



Left to right – Bryan Dawson, Matt Dolenuk, Scott Helm, Kevin Chalus, Brent Polson, Mitchell Proctor, Kris Dolenuk, Jason Klainchar, Barry Alexiuk, Tanis Dawson, Jake Dawson, Maria Walker.



Aerial View of Lower Fort Garry – 1997.

were able to help the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, Manitoba Riding for the Disabled and the Variety Club Telethon.

Their greatest reward for the thirty volunteers, is the applause and smiles of joy from their fans.

### **Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site by Bob Coutts, Parks Canada historian**

Lower Fort Garry, or "the stone Fort", as it was referred to historically, is western Canada's major historic site.

It was built in 1830 by the Hudson's Bay Company after Fort Garry, at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers (now central Winnipeg), was destroyed by flood in 1826. It was constructed 20 miles (32 km) north high above the flood waters, and below the dangerous St. Andrew's Rapids (Lockport Bridge). The Hudson's Bay Company felt that Lower Fort Garry would become the headquarters of the richest fur region in the British Empire. However, this did not happen, as for two decades the fort's influence extended little beyond the Red River Settlement.

In 1837 the Upper Fort (at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine River) was reconstructed, as this was the established social and economic centre of the Red River Settlement. Upper Fort Garry conducted the Hudson's Bay Company's trading and administrative functions and the Lower Fort evolved as a significant fur trade provisioning and trans-shipment centre, and retail outlet for the Red River Settlement.

Lower Fort Garry was actively involved in the volatile political atmosphere of Red River, and from 1846 to 1848 soldiers were quartered there during the free trade crisis, and again in 1870 after the Riel resistance.

By 1865, the Lower Fort had become an economic force in the St. Andrew's area, as an industrial complex south of the fort contained a boat building yard, blacksmith shop, lime kiln, brewery and grist mill. However, after the expansion of the eastern agricultural frontier even these activities became less significant.

But it was the signing of Treaty Number One with Ojibwa and Swampy Cree peoples in southern



Lower Fort Garry fur loft and sales shop.



Manitoba at Lower Fort Garry in August of 1871 that led to the fort's commemoration by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. The first of eleven numbered treaties negotiated across the west between First Nations peoples and the Crown, Treaty Number One assisted the government in its goal of establishing immigrant agricultural settlement within the borders of southern Manitoba.

Lower Fort Garry was also used as a training ground for the Northwest Mounted Police, as a provincial penitentiary, and in 1885-86 as a provincial lunatic asylum. The fort continued as a Company residence until its closing in 1911 and two years later was leased by the Manitoba Motor Country Club who occupied the site until 1963. In 1951 title passed from the Hudson's Bay Company to the Crown. Parks Canada began the restoration of the site in the 1960s and in the 1980s carried out conservation work on the fort's perimeter stone walls. The current focus of the program of costumed animation at Lower Fort Garry is on the 1850s fur trade period.



Lower Fort Garry blacksmith shop in action.

## **Lower Fort Garry Volunteer Association Inc.**

**by Elaine Elliott**

Out of an information meeting, called by Art Goldsmith on September 25, 1984, a small group of people came together. These people had a common interest, "history", and they wanted to know more about Co-operating Associations. Art, who was superintendent at Lower Fort Garry at that time, was the key person in getting the various people interested and drawing them together for meetings. The local Chamber of Commerce had been the place where he introduced the idea. At the next meeting on October 24, 1984, at the Big House, at Lower Fort Garry, a nucleus of people decided to go with

the idea of forming an association, with Ernie Malis acting as chairman until an official board could be formed. We were all given material on Co-operating Associations and constitutions to take home and digest so we could all have some input into our own bylaws. The December 14 meeting proved to be very fruitful with an Interim Board being struck and ideas put together for a constitution. Time was of the essence as applications for seed money from the government had to be in by February 1, 1985. It was decided that we needed a lawyer.

Ernie approached Lewis Wasel, who agreed to do the paralegal aspects of incorporating, name search, and drafting of the by-laws, and agreements, free of charge, until such time as the Association had the funds to pay. A name was chosen, criteria drawn up regarding projects that could be undertaken in our first year and a tentative proposal drawn up.

Lewis came to the meeting on January 14, 1985, with our constitution drawn up and informed us of the cost of doing the name search and registering our organization. The Constitution and proposal for seed money was voted on and passed and we were off.

On January 28, 1985, a regular Board of Directors was formed, officers elected and Elmer Keryluk became the first official president of the newly incorporated Lower Fort Garry Volunteer Association. What had been an idea in September, was now an actual fact. We had decided to begin slow so our first project was the Bake Oven, which was to be opened that summer. The bread was mixed at the Selkirk Regional Comprehensive School, Health Board rules, but was baked in the bake ovens. June Denton was in charge and 40 loaves were sold that year with many others distributed by the slice at special functions. Hardtack was also attempted and at one function a hardtack throwing competition took place.

During this time we were looking to the future when Lowry Toombs, operator of the gift shop, made us an offer. By fall, plans were formed whereby we decided to purchase the gift shop stock and go into business for ourselves. With this in mind, we advertised for a manager and applied for our 1986 seed money to operate the shop. Lilian Tankard was hired by our newly formed personnel committee and Operation Gift Shop began.

Onno Kremer replaced Art as superintendent, but with Art remaining as a member, we now had the expertise and support of both these gentlemen, and there was one consistent person we could rely on for advice, help and support and that was Ann Corner who worked with us until she transferred to Fort Langley, B.C.



Onno moved on and was replaced by Louis Guyot, who was very supportive of all our efforts during his years as superintendent, while Ann was replaced by Bob Andrews who was one of our most vocal supporters whenever he had the opportunity to talk about us.

The last three or four years has seen enormous changes within government and how things were to be run. First, Louis left, as the position of Park Superintendent was phased out, then Bob left to take up a position near his family in Ontario. Tom Kynman returned to Lower Fort Garry to become the head of operations there and for us it was an old friend returning, because Tom had worked at the site when we were in our early beginnings and had kept abreast of our growth over the years. This was a real bonus for us as he was familiar to some of us on the board, he believed in us and we only had to bring him up-to-date about our organization's operations. We now have a superintendent again of course in the person of Dawn Bronson who also has been very supportive and helpful.

Other presidents of the Association over the years have been, Johanna Handford, Elaine Elliott, Barbara Gessner, Sharon Sutton, Barbra Hartwell who is presently in Office. Board Members have come and gone and each one has given their gifts of time and expertise and left us richer because of their participation. Of the original group who met for the first time in 1984, only Johanna Handford and myself still remain on the Board as well as maintaining our memberships. Lilian's job grew by leaps and bounds as we took on more and more projects like horse and wagon, warehouse Mess; now defunct, drama performances, volunteer activities, a feasibility study for a farm complex, day camp, History in Tune; a one summer project, publishing a book, the restaurant, historic dinners and lunches, fashion shows, pageantry events, publishing a cook book, the Environmental Citizenship Project (winter), the canoe race, our Christmas craft sale, music nights, workshops, community appreciation day, Victorian tea, and then the partner events with the park staff like Take a Hike, Canada Day Citizenship Court, Rendezvous. In addition to this, attending not only our meetings but site meetings, meetings for tourism and numerous other events that she had to undertake to attend on our behalf or projects she assisted with, as well as trying to improve what we were already doing. During that time she also chaired the National Cooperating Association Board of Directors which we nominated her for a Director's position in the first place. Lilian was with us from 1986 until August 1, 1998, when she moved on to accept the challenge of a new position with

Travel Manitoba. She has left us the legacy of her 12 years of dedication and hard work where she lived and breathed our operations and really put our Lower Fort Garry Volunteer Association on the map in more ways than one.

As we now move into a new phase of operations, we are looking to the future as we analyze where we are at, during this time of change over from the known to the unknown of hiring a new person and bringing them on-stream. We, as a board, have taken on more responsibility, in the short term, which is making us really look at all our levels of supervision and how we operate. Change can be good if approached positively and while we are sad to lose someone who has done so much for us, we are forging ahead with a positive outlook to a new Director who may bring some new ideas and give us a fresh outlook on the future directions of our association.

## **Motor Country Club**

**by Barbara Gessner**

In 1911 the Hudson's Bay Company leased Lower Fort Garry to a group from Winnipeg who were to use the site as a motor country club for a yearly rent of \$1.00. Membership into the club was restricted to those who owned an automobile. The original act of incorporation outlined the following aspirations:

To hold, organize and establish from time to time, automobile tours or endurance contests, and also to promote races and speed contests between automobiles which may be considered expedient for the purposes of promoting the perfection of the automobile.

To promote and encourage the maintenance and construction of good roads and generally to maintain the rights and privileges of all persons who own or are interested in motor vehicles.

The club was originally known as the "Goldsborough Automobile Club" and established a country retreat on the Balmoral Road near Stonewall. This club eventually became the Manitoba Motor League. Mr. A. C. Emmett was a leading organizer of the club whose focus was on promotion of road development and driving standards.

When the Balmoral site burned down, the club started to look for a more permanent site and Lower Fort Garry again came up. The club moved into its new quarters at Lower Fort Garry on June 7, 1913. The annual membership fee was \$6.00 with an additional charge of \$25.00 for the use of the buildings. The rain was so heavy on opening day, that the cars

were unable to travel on the 'gumbo' so had to come to the Fort by train.

The big house was refurbished inside and improvements made outside as well. The lawns were used for tennis, lawn golf, croquet, bowls, and quoits. Plans for a golf course were implemented south of the fort walls and a landing on the river for members boats was constructed. Representatives from the Country Club and the Hudson Bay Company worked together to ensure the original style and fabric of the building was maintained. While the club was somewhat exclusive in terms of membership, visitors and tourists were allowed to visit the well-kept grounds during the main season. The premises were also available for conferences for Hudson Bay Company managers or for visiting delegations.

Historian Margaret MacLeod recorded her impressions of the cuisine at the Country Club: Modern kitchens which have been added to the governor's house yield perfect popovers hot from the oven, gently fried chicken, steaks and roasts of incomparable western beef, lacy 'brandy baskets' containing no brandy but filled with cream, and superb vegetables from the river bank gardens.

One of the many special events held at the Lower Fort was in 1920 to mark the 250th anniversary of the Company. The entire community came out. Parades with floats, races, craft and skill demonstrations, speeches and good food were all part of the celebration.

The depression and the second World War took their toll on the Club and with the rise of national consciousness in 1951 the historic landmark was deeded to the federal government as a 'gift to the nation' by the Directors of the Hudson Bay Company. The Motor Country Club was given five-year lease agreements which gave the public greater access to the grounds, although the Club House was still reserved for members only. By the terms of the last lease, increased access to the fort and its buildings was granted to the general public and a system of visitor reception was introduced, staffed by federal commissionaires.

The lease expired in 1962 with 477 members under President George Sharp. With the closure of the Club an auction was held with items such as ladderback chair replicas, Royal Worcester dinner set made in Montreal for the Club, vases, lawn chairs, silverware bought by Selkirk's curling club, and pressed glass fruit cups bought for St. John's Cathedral. The largest purchase was the land bought by the Manitoba Government for \$97,000.00 for forty- five acres adjoining the Fort.

Source: *A Good Solid Comfortable Establishment*  
by Graham MacDonald

## **The Red River Riders**

Richard Loutit has led the Red River Riders to a professional level of family entertainment. In Canada they have donated to:

Children's Wish Foundation

Boys and Girls Club

Child Find

Heart and Stroke Foundation

The Red River Riders have done many fundraisers in Canada and the United States. One hundred percent of the profits go to the charities.

The Red River Riders have had the pleasure of doing the RCMP Musical Ride at the California State Fair. The show is very unique, educational and cultural.

We have had the pleasure of performing a private back stage show for Naomi Judd and her staff.

We did a major fundraiser for St. Judes Ranch for Children in Las Vegas. It was held at the MGM Grand Hotel on December 2, 1995. The cost was \$100 a plate and the event raised a quarter of a million dollars. We shared the stage with Tanya Tucker, Jeff Foxworthy and Reddick Bow.

The Red River Riders have done warm-up entertainment for various artists such as: Joe Diffie, Willie Nelson, Roy Clark, etc. The most recent warm-up was for Collin Raye in August of 1999.

The Red River Riders have played:

Dauphin Country Fest

Wee Fest – Detroit Lakes,

Lockport Children Festival

Selkirk Triple S. Fair and Rodeo

The Red River Exhibition

Santa Barbara Fair and Expo

San Bernardino County Fair

Calgary Stampede

Orange County Fair

Clark County Fair

Monterey County Fair

California State Fair

Puyallup, Washington

Kern County Fair

Big Fresno Fair

LA County

Oregon State Fair

Alameda County Fair

Mojave County Fair

Kingmen Arizona Fair

Minnesota State Fair

Wisconsin State Fair

North Dakota State Fair

Summers are spent in the United States touring

many large and small county fairs. We are a popular group with young and old.

### **St. Andrews Kennel and Obedience Club by Shirley Johnson**

A meeting of concerned dog breeders took place at the home of Ralph and Nia Massey of Peguis Kennels (Airedales) on Breezy Point Road. This was on a summer's day in 1976.

The object of the meeting was to discuss the proposed by-law restricting home owners in the Rural Municipality of St. Andrews to two dogs per household, regardless of whether they had a kennel or not. There were a many licensed kennels in the municipality and the owners were very concerned.

The problem of irresponsible dog ownership was a relevant one but we pointed out that kennels were licensed and controlled.

At the end of one of our meetings the subject of forming a dog club in the St. Andrews and surrounding areas was mentioned. At this time the dog people were training at the Dog Association Building on Pembina Highway and University Drive, in Winnipeg. It was too far away.

The idea of forming a dog club was favourably accepted and a few people offered their time and expertise to do the groundwork. Frank Wiens, of St. John's Cathedral Boys School (Dynevor Kennels) offered the use of the gym at the school for training. Dynevor kennels raised Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes and later the Canadian Eskimo Dog.

The school also offered the use of a classroom and any equipment available for meetings in the evening.

In the fall of 1976 a constitution was formed and a club was started. Dog training classes started the same year at the Boys School and have been ongoing every year since.

When the Boys School closed, the training classes moved to the Agricultural Building in Selkirk Park. After a little better than a year, we were able to get the use of the Lockport Community Club hall. Since getting this building the number of dogs in training has almost doubled.

The objectives of the St. Andrews Kennel and Obedience Club Inc. are to encourage more responsible dog ownership. No dog, regardless of breeding (i.e. mongrels or purebred) is refused training or membership. Many dog owners, regardless of breed, come back for further sessions to train their dogs.

The local veterinarians recommend us, in particular if people have a dog with behavioural problems. We hope to be able to carry on our work and continue to encourage dog owners to train their dogs and become responsible, caring dog owners.

Our dog shows have taken place in the Selkirk Park yearly since 1979. There were two Sanctioned Dog Matches in 1977 and 1978. The dog shows are three days in succession. Our participants come from various provinces in Canada and from all parts of the United States. They book a year in advance at the Daerwood Motor Inn and fill the spaces in the Selkirk Park campgrounds from Thursday to Sunday each year.

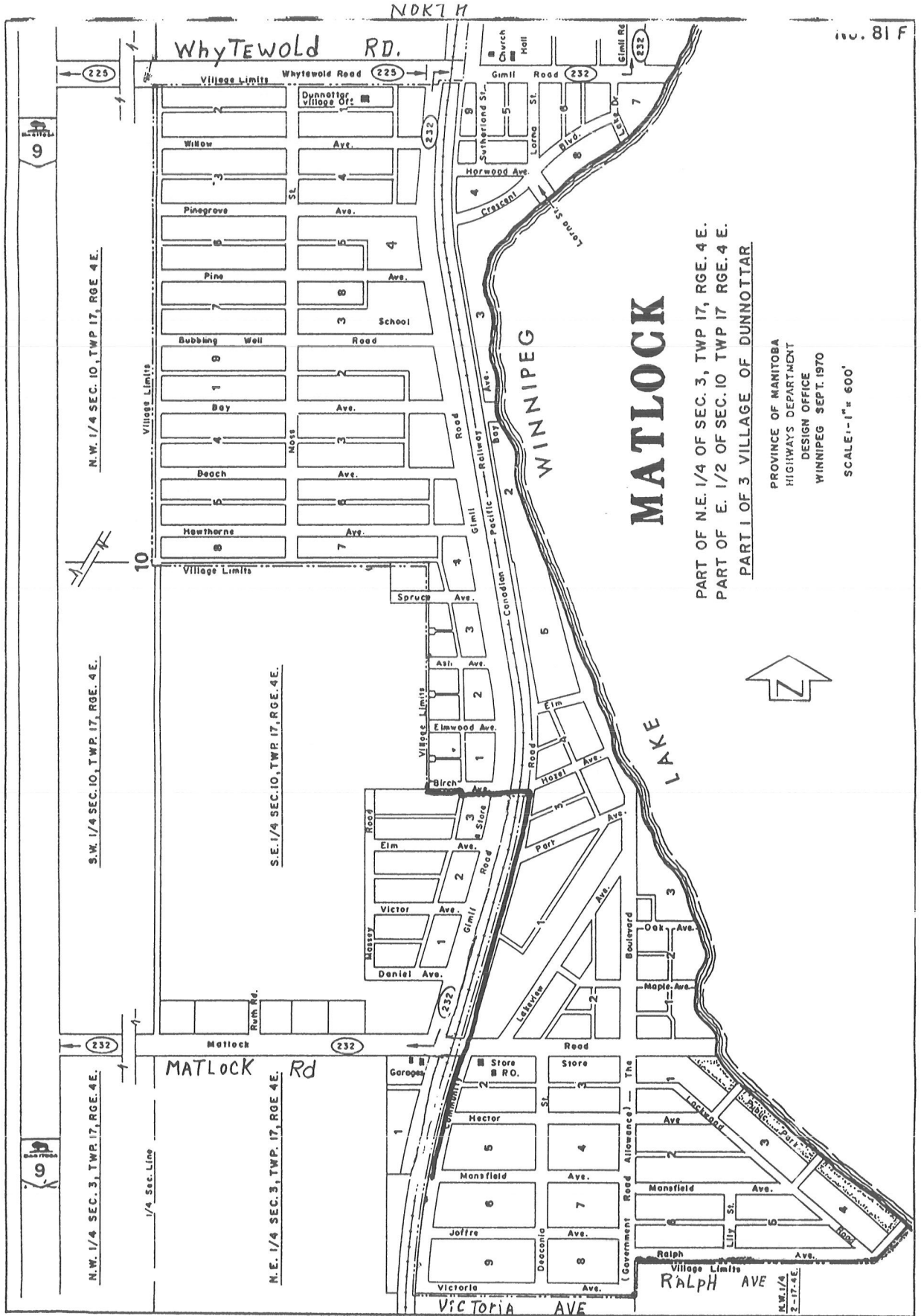
We now take part in the Selkirk Parade in July and have been invited to participate in the Highland Gathering and the Selkirk Children's Festival. Members of our club make visitations with their dogs to the local Senior Citizen's Home and have been in schools in the area.

We wish to remain a viable, active club in the Rural Municipality of St. Andrews, and the surrounding area and to continue promoting responsible dog ownership.





# Matlock



## **Matlock Recreational Club**

### **77 Matlock Road**

**December 7, 1947** – A general meeting was called by the local citizens to meet at the Whytefold School in Matlock. Mr. Jim Vaughan was appointed acting Chairman and Mrs. Clearwater as acting Secretary by the assembly. Mr. Case moved, seconded by Mr. Salmundson that an Executive Body be nominated who would choose their own officers. Carried.

The purpose of the meeting was to form a club in the area and the main objective of this club should be to foster community spirit and to try to enlarge community activities by encouraging recreational and cultural ends. It was felt that a suitable name should be selected in order that business arrangements could be completed. The name "Matlock Recreational Club" was chosen. Membership cards were ordered and a fee of \$1.00 per person was charged for the membership.

**June 11, 1949** – The first annual meeting was opened by the first president Joe Chapel. Minutes of the last meeting and a financial report was read and adopted. The new officers of the executive were elected. Members earnestly raised funds with raffles, dances and donations. Soon \$800 was raised and it was suggested that it be set aside as a building fund.

**January 7, 1950** – The annual meeting was postponed because of extremely cold weather.

**June 6, 1952** – A general meeting was called to discuss acquiring land for the club building. Nominated for this committee were Joe Weiss, Joe Chapel, Dave Anton, Dan Rogoski and Walter Swirski. They were to purchase property, register it and compose a constitution. It was brought to the committee's attention that two parcels of land were available on the Matlock Road in the RM of St. Andrews. After discussion with the owners, a decision was made to purchase 1½ acres by one acre deep from Dan Rogoski for \$300. A deposit of \$100 was given as part payment and the balance on receipt of the Title. A parcel of land adjoining the property at the corner was later donated by Dan as well as a donation of \$100.

**March 17, 1953** – At the annual meeting the bank balance showed \$1,080.58 and \$27 in petty cash.

**April 10, 1955** – A letter requesting that the RM of St. Andrews approve the club as a non-profit organization; this was refused. The committee then decided to have Mr. Hillhouse as a lawyer for the club, and draw up a proper charter and proceed to incorporate the Matlock Recreational Club. A fee of

\$125 was paid. Membership fees increased to \$2.00 per family.

**May 6, 1955** – The title of the property was obtained and a general meeting was called to appoint personnel to be on the letters patent of incorporation under the Companies Act of Manitoba as a non-profit organization. A motion by Peter Kozak that Joe Chapel, Alfred Kelner, Helen Anton, Frank Swirski, Joe Weiss, and Walter Swirski be the signing officers on behalf of the club; seconded by Marry Weiss, Carried. The original papers are in a safety deposit box held by the Board of Directors.

**September 1956** – It was recorded that 25 volunteers helped clear the land and do all the preparatory work for the foundation. Hours were not recorded, but it took 18 days to complete.

**April 2, 1957** – Thirty-one volunteers worked approximately 12 days to erect the building which was 80 feet long and 40 feet wide.

**October 24, 1957** – Until November 22, approximately 313 hours were recorded when 26 volunteers helped put on the siding outside the building. Selkirk Lumber Company was very generous in extending approximately \$4,000 credit to the club for their dream to come true. When the minutes were recorded again in 1958 it was noted that the Executive was very prudent to pay the debt.

**December 31, 1957** – The official opening was celebrated by having the very first of many future New Years Eve dances.

**March 14, 1958** – At the general meeting, Frank Swirski became president. The membership fee remained at \$2.00. Because the hall was used for public functions, sanitary conditions were specified by the Selkirk Health Department for the number of outside toilets to be used for "Ladies" and "Gents". A wood stove was used to heat the building, when required.

**From 1964 – 1990** the club raised most of the funds through rentals, bingos and fund raising. In 1964 enough funds were available to add an addition 24' wide by 80' long where a kitchen, washrooms, canteen and bar were accommodated. As funds became available, the heating system was changed to an oil furnace and later gas furnace. Electrical improvements were made and eventually air conditioning was installed. The roof was replaced three times. The Board of Directors who were in charge from 1958 to 1990 did a dedicated job of keeping the club as a centre of recreation and social activities as well as keeping the finances under control.

**By 1992**, many new residents moved into the community and soon new Board Members were elected. One of their first objectives was to have the

foundation repaired. New government funding was available for non profit organizations and securing funds was pursued with determination. Combining a Manitoba Lotteries grant of \$15,000, RM of St. Andrews grant of \$15,000 and our own contribution, as well as with the help of Dave Cain of Community Places, the foundation was completely renovated so it could last another fifty years. The Board applied for and was granted over \$23,000 allowing 19 volunteers to put in 903 hours of free labor, redoing the inside of the larger hall. New wallboard and insulation was installed. The RM favored us with an additional grant of \$5,000 to renovate the small addition. Once again, volunteers spent 742 man hours insulating and replacing wallboard, replacing electrical circuits in order to handle capacity loads when required. New energy efficient lights were also installed in the small dining room.

NOTE: Joe Swirski a member of the club in 1947 was the only member left to help with the volunteers in 1990. For fifty years he served as President, Board Member and in any other capacity when needed; a great example of dedication and community spirit.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE PAST

**February 1966** – Cooperated with Winnipeg Beach when Wonderful Winter Weekend was organized for fifteen years.

**December 1967** – A dinner for seniors was held to celebrate Canada's Centennial.

**July 1, 1984** – Canada Day, honoring Mr. Jim Vaughan and Bill Case, two distinguished local residents who served in World War I. They were both 89 and lived well into their 90th year.

**July 1, 1986** – Canada Day marked the year of Transportation and Communications and Dan Rogoski was especially recognized for his foresight in establishing Dan's Transfer into a successful trucking business.

**1989** – A bursary for a high school student was set at \$100 and increased to \$300 in 1994.

**July 1, 1991** – The club did a super celebration on Canada's 125th birthday. Close to 500 people attended with many activities. A special bingo raised \$1,010 which was donated to the Variety Club. Seniors honored that day were; Mr. & Mrs. A. Corrie, oldest married couple, and Mary Zelinski and Mary Kelner, both in their 90's.

**April 1992** – A congregate meal program for seniors was sponsored by the Matlock Club Senior Resource Council; the Lakeside Lions. A New Horizons grant was received from the federal government to facilitate our kitchen and in February 1993 the club assumed full sponsorship. A grant is

received every year from the Interlake Health Authority to pay the meal coordinator's salary. Volunteers help with the program. A committee of participants meet every second Wednesday of the month to pay the bills and enact the business of the program. A statement is sent monthly to the Senior Specialist in Stonewall – Gerry Hamm. Every year volunteers put on a traditional Christmas dinner for 150 guests. A children's breakfast with Santa is put on every December with children, parents and neighbors enjoying the festivities.

**June 1992** – Our constitution was updated. Elections are held every second Sunday in March. A president, vice president, secretary and treasurer are elected for two years and five Board Members each year conduct business of the club. All Board Members are volunteers.

Each year the Board honors our volunteers with an appreciation dinner and a social evening. Members play whist, cribbage and take part in pattern dancing and line dancing during the week. The meal program continues throughout the year on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Donations are made to various organizations during the year. The Fire Hall # 3 is situated on the property. The title was transferred to the RM of St. Andrews and the Board has a binding Easement Agreement and a Lessee Agreement with the RM of St. Andrews.



Matlock Recreation Club Hall.

#### 05-September-1995

**Winnipeg Free Press**  
**Lake Takes 7th Victim**  
**by Bill Redekop**  
**Staff Reporter**

**MATLOCK** – Lake Winnipeg has claimed its seventh drowning victim of the summer.

RCMP are searching for the body of 21-year-old Derek Behr of Winnipeg, believed to have drowned Sunday.



Behr went swimming at about 5 p.m. Sunday with two cousins near Matlock. The three men swam to a breakwater about 500 metres off shore. But Behr went missing on the swim back.

"You can walk to the breakwater," said RCMP Const. Gary Levis, part of the diving team that searched for the body yesterday.

However, police speculate Behr may have found himself in water to the north of the breakwater where it is up to six metres deep.

But there is still no explanation as to why Behr would have drowned.

"We're not really sure how he came to be in distress," Levis said.

His family told RCMP that their son was a strong swimmer. The beach is not supervised by lifeguards.

Behr is the seventh drowning victim off Lake Winnipeg's western beaches. "It's been a summer I'd rather see go away," said Levis.

Lake conditions were calm at the time of the drowning, RCMP said.

RCMP searched the lake Winnipeg waters from 6-10:30 p.m. Sunday, and from 8a.m. to 4p.m. yesterday before winds forced the divers to give up. RCMP continued an hourly patrol of the shoreline last night.

**06-September-1995**

**Winnipeg Free Press**

**Breakwater a Deadly Magnet for Swimmers**

**by Tony Davis**

**Staff Reporter**

**MATLOCK** – Ruth Allbutt says the breakwater off Ralph Beach alongside this hamlet of 350 people is a magnet that often draws swimmers in over their heads. Shifting winds can quickly change Lake Winnipeg's depths as much as three metres, and currents can create deadly undertows. One minute you can walk to the breakwater, about 300 metres off shore. The next minute it's nearly impossible for even strong swimmers to even reach it.

Allbutt, deputy mayor of the Village of Dunnotar, which is responsible for beaches in the Matlock area, says she and other area residents are at a loss to prevent more people from drowning near the breakwater.

On August 8, 16-year-old Lockport resident Candace Morgoch was overcome by choppy waves as she swam towards the breakwater. Then last Sunday, Derek Behr, a 21-year-old Winnipeg clerk, slipped under the then-calm waters.

He had swum out to the breakwater despite a large metal warning posted at Ralph Beach shortly before the long weekend. The sign cautions beachgoers about the hazards.

It was posted after teenagers repeatedly tore down wooden signs and fed them to late-night bonfires. Workers were cementing in the metal sign yesterday so it wouldn't be pried out of the ground.

Allbutt said party-goers often swim out to the breakwater late at night, floating out coolers of beer with them.

"Oh God," she said, her voice cracking. "If only people would just learn how dangerous this lake and that breakwater can be. The saddest thing in the world is to have to deal with the parents of these drowned kids."

Few here, including Allbutt, think lifeguards are the solution. Rick Warner has lived in Matlock all of his 45 years. In that time, he says, he's rescued plenty of people who got into trouble near the breakwater.

Yesterday he was perched with his binoculars on a rock at Ralph Beach, helping in the search for Derek Behr's body.

"People have been ranting and raving about lifeguards since these two drownings. But if someone goes down, a lifeguard wouldn't even be able to see them in this murky water."

**27-August-1993**

**Winnipeg Free Press**

**Lake Winnipeg Barely Swollen; Sprawling Inland Sea Can Absorb Huge Flows**

**by Stevens Wild**

**Science Reporter**

IF YOU think it has been a wet summer, remember this – Winnipeg once was under 150 metres of water.

Of course, that was 11,000 years ago, as Lake Agassiz – the predecessor of Lake Winnipeg – spread over virtually what is now the entire province of Manitoba, and into Ontario, Saskatchewan, North Dakota, and Minnesota.

While Lake Winnipeg no longer submerges the city or parts of neighboring states or provinces – even in wet years – it's still the sixth largest Canadian lake and the third largest lake entirely within the nation.

In fact, at 24,400 square kilometres, Lake Winnipeg is so large that this summer's record rains raised levels only .38 metres, to 214.47 metres above sea level Wednesday from 214.07 metres at the beginning of July.

Problems with shoreline erosion start to occur when the level reaches 214.49 metres.

"That's because of its (the lake's) size," Rick Bowering, head of the provincial water management branch, said. "It's been designed by nature to absorb water from a vast area."

With a watershed stretching from close to Lake Superior to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, Lake Winnipeg barely feels the impact of water pouring in from the Red, Saskatchewan and Winnipeg rivers, Bowering said. "It only fluctuates about a foot and a half over a year," he said.

The size of the lake isn't the only reason its levels remain stable. Under an agreement with the provincial government, Manitoba Hydro maintains the water level in Lake Winnipeg at between 213.3 metres and 214.45 metres above sea level, Manitoba Hydro spokesman Glen Schneider said.

That allows Hydro to use the lake as a storage tank for its generating stations on the Nelson River.

In order to maintain levels at below maximum levels on Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba Hydro accelerated flows out of the lake into the Nelson River to 145,000 cubic feet per second Wednesday from 70,000 on August 1.

Schneider said the flow levels at the regulating station at Jenpeg, north of Lake Winnipeg will be accelerated to 150,000 cfs next week.

The extra water flowing into the Nelson makes little difference to Hydro's operations Schneider said.

"It doesn't mean anything to our operations," Schneider said. "There is only so much water you can put through the turbines."

Others, however, are concerned.

Al Miller, who owns a cottage just north of Gimli, said he fears that if the water level in Lake Winnipeg gets much higher, there will be a problem with erosion along his property and that of his neighbors.

Bowering said water levels were not expected to go any higher.

Fisherman Mark Sinclair said commercial fishermen on Lake Winnipeg were worried about a poor harvest when the fall season opens on September 7.

High water will let pickerel escape into small lakes and rivers where fishermen are not allowed to go, Sinclair said.

### **30-April-1994**

#### **Winnipeg Free Press**

#### **Stormy waters on the Inland Sea**

**by Val Werier**

THE STORMS of last October are still being assessed by cottagers on Lake Winnipeg and by Manitoba Hydro. They seem like two diverse interests but indeed both have a big stake in the lake. Cottagers have suffered heavy damage in erosion of shoreline and loss of property.

Since 1976, Hydro has been given the authority to control lake levels and some cottagers blame it

for erosion. To Hydro, the lake is a natural reservoir, storing water in summer and pouring it through the turbines in winter, the time of greatest demand for electricity. The lake is controlled by a dam at Jenpeg, an outlet at the northern end of the lake.

Hydro has had a series of meetings to outline the regulations and to prove it is not responsible for erosion.

Lake Winnipeg, so huge and shallow, can go into tantrums in a big storm. So it was in the storms of October 26 to 29. On the latter day winds reached 50 kilometres an hour from the north, gusting to 80, according to readings taken at Gimli airport. But over the open lake, the wind speed was estimated at 100 kilometres.

This was aggravated by two other factors. One is the build-up of water in the south basin as a result of the northern wind. At Gimli and Victoria Beach this raised the water level by 3.7 feet. At Chalet Beach near the southern end of the basin, the build-up was estimated at a punishing 8.7 feet!

A second factor was a cold front that settled over the warmer lake, in effect squeezing the lake and producing simultaneous east and west offshore winds that caused a lot of damage.

R.R. Raban, Hydro engineer, outlines these interesting facts and the corporation's role in regulating the lake, in meetings organized for cottage owners.

Hydro regulates the lake within a range of 711 to 715 feet above sea level. It maintains that it has reduced the peak levels of the pre-regulation era when in some months levels averaged 718.2 feet. It says regulation has avoided the extreme levels of the natural regime.

Now it must keep the water level no higher than 715 feet above sea level, a level, of course, that does not take into account the wind pile-up. The wind-eliminated level is measured at eight stations on the lake which transmit data to a satellite which in turn relays it to a receiving station in Maryland.

"We are in telephone computer touch with the receiving station," says Mr. Raban.

Once Hydro decides to lower the level of the lake, it must first give two weeks notice to the 7,000 permanent residents who live downstream along the Nelson River.

Increasing the discharge has an immediate impact on the Nelson River residents who may have to take precautions in moving boats and gear.

But for huge Lake Winnipeg, the 13th largest lake in the world, increasing the outflow takes a long time to register. Thus, maximum discharge was conducted all winter and until a month ago, but the lake came down only five inches.

Cottage owners wanted to know why action wasn't taken earlier because of the record rains last summer. Hydro started maximum discharge at August's end, but it says the wind was the cause of the damage. Minus the wind, the level of the lake was 714.3 feet.

Hydro states that historical records reveal erosion of shores has taken place over many years. On the western side of the south basin, it has averaged two feet per year, although in this picture there are no stable areas.

The most severe erosion has occurred in the vicinity of Gilwell Boy Scout Camp, three miles north of Gimli. There the shoreline has retreated 800 feet in a century.

At Gimli itself, the shoreline is 200 feet farther out than it was 30 years ago, largely because of the effect of the government pier.

Hydro is anxious to provide all the facts but George De Pauw, a retired professional engineer, president of the Lake Winnipeg Property Owners Association in the south basin, complains there never has been a public review of the regulations since they were imposed in 1976.

Furthermore, he says a board of management has never been set up. Such a body was recommended by the Lake Winnipeg, Churchill and Nelson River Study Board, set up in 1971 which brought about the lake regulation for Hydro. It recommended wide representation and a wide range of issues for such a board.

Mr. De Pauw's point of view is valid. There should be a review, as called for by the board, particularly as so much is unknown about the lake.

It's good to report here that a federal provincial survey of the Lake Winnipeg environment will be conducted in August. Examined will be the sediment accumulated over the past 8,000 years and the geological formation beneath the lake.

It is regarded as the "first systematic look" at the lake. Cores thrust down 10 to 12 metres will provide data on the lake's history and climate.

It should be of great interest to cottagers and Manitobans at large to learn more about our great inland sea.

**13-May-1995**

**Winnipeg Free Press**

**A Fascinating Portrait of the Lake**

**by Val Werier**

It's remarkable to contemplate that, on this 125th anniversary of Manitoba, we are today finding out how the ice age shaped the province.

Specifically, scientists have been examining Lake Winnipeg and have made some dramatic dis-

coveries. One is that most of the south basin was dry land as recently as 4,000 years ago and since then the lake has migrated southward to its present extent. This raises a fascinating question: is movement southward still continuing?

The Lake Winnipeg survey was conducted last August by a team of 30 government and university scientists from Canada and the U.S. to find out more about one of the largest lakes in the world.

Never before has the lake come under such scrutiny as in this research by the Geological Survey of Canada, Manitoba Energy and Mines, Manitoba Hydro, the Canadian Coast Guard and the Freshwater Institute.

As well as looking at the physical environment, the researchers are examining shoreline erosion, water quality, toxic materials such as mercury and PCB's and exotic species.

Cores up to nine metres deep taken from the lake are being analyzed and examination of peat and seeds, radio-carbon dated to 4,000 years ago confirms that the basin was dry. A layer of soil was then formed.

Says Dr. Erik Nielsen, of Manitoba Energy and Mines: "These cores are still in the process of thorough analysis at laboratories across the continent, including analysis of physical properties, chemistry, and the study of microscopic fossils."

Water, bottom sediments, and biological samples have also been taken. The Namao, the coast guard ship based at Selkirk, was outfitted with an array of electronic devices and sampling devices.

The research has changed our picture of the lake. It has been conjectured that the bedrock was of limestone. However now it is revealed that the pre-Cambrian shield of granite rock underlies about three-quarters of the lake proceeding from the east side.

Lake Agassiz, a large glacial lake, covered much of Manitoba 10,000 years ago, to the fantastic depth of three kilometres in northern Manitoba. Agassiz' impacts are being studied by scientists today. Lake Winnipeg came into being when the melting ice allowed the final drainage into Hudson Bay.

A core taken off Grand Rapids should provide proof about when the Saskatchewan River started emptying into Lake Winnipeg, which it bypassed thousands of years ago. It will reveal the date by the increased accumulation of sediment carried by the river into the northern basin of the lake.

Says Dr. Nielsen: "The profiles indicate that 10 metres of Lake Agassiz clay were eroded from the lake bottom before Lake Winnipeg mud began to accumulate as much as 8000 years ago."

Dr. Nielsen says that learning of the "origin of



these features will help us understand how the lake functions at present," including such issues as shore erosion.

It was a core offshore from Gimli that revealed that recently deposited lake bottom muds overlie marsh sediments and soil formed in Lake Agassiz clay. Too, seismic profiles reveal a submerged beach south of Hecla Island as more evidence that this was dry land 4,000 years ago.

Seismic instruments send pulses down and print out a picture of what is underneath the bottom of the lake.

Fascinating repercussions of the ice age are still being registered in the province today. The huge layer of ice depressed the land to such an extent that it is still rebounding from this ancient weight. At Churchill, the land is rising at the rate of one metre per century, as determined by gauges at sea level.

So the whole province is still tilting, the north rising relative to the south. This, as stated, created the south basin of the lake.

"The crucial question," says Dr. Nielsen, "is whether this natural migration continues at present. It will be essential for an answer to be obtained before we arrive at a better understanding of how to manage shoreline erosion."

Proof may come from examination of more cores, and an analysis of lake measurements taken during the present century. A new project for the future, in co-operation with NASA, will use satellite receivers at Churchill, Flin Flon and Pinawa, to actually measure "vertical and horizontal motion of the earth's surface velocities measured in millimetres per year."

A progress report on the research will be released this fall. In May 1996, scientists will report on their work here to the Geological Association conference.

The research shows dramatically how we are part of our past, something to remember as we celebrate a milestone in the history of our province.



Taken over Matlock looking south: South Basin, Netley Marsh and mouth of Red River and Chalet Beach. Photo by Paul Wilson.

# Netley



Entrance to grain elevator and terminal at Netley.