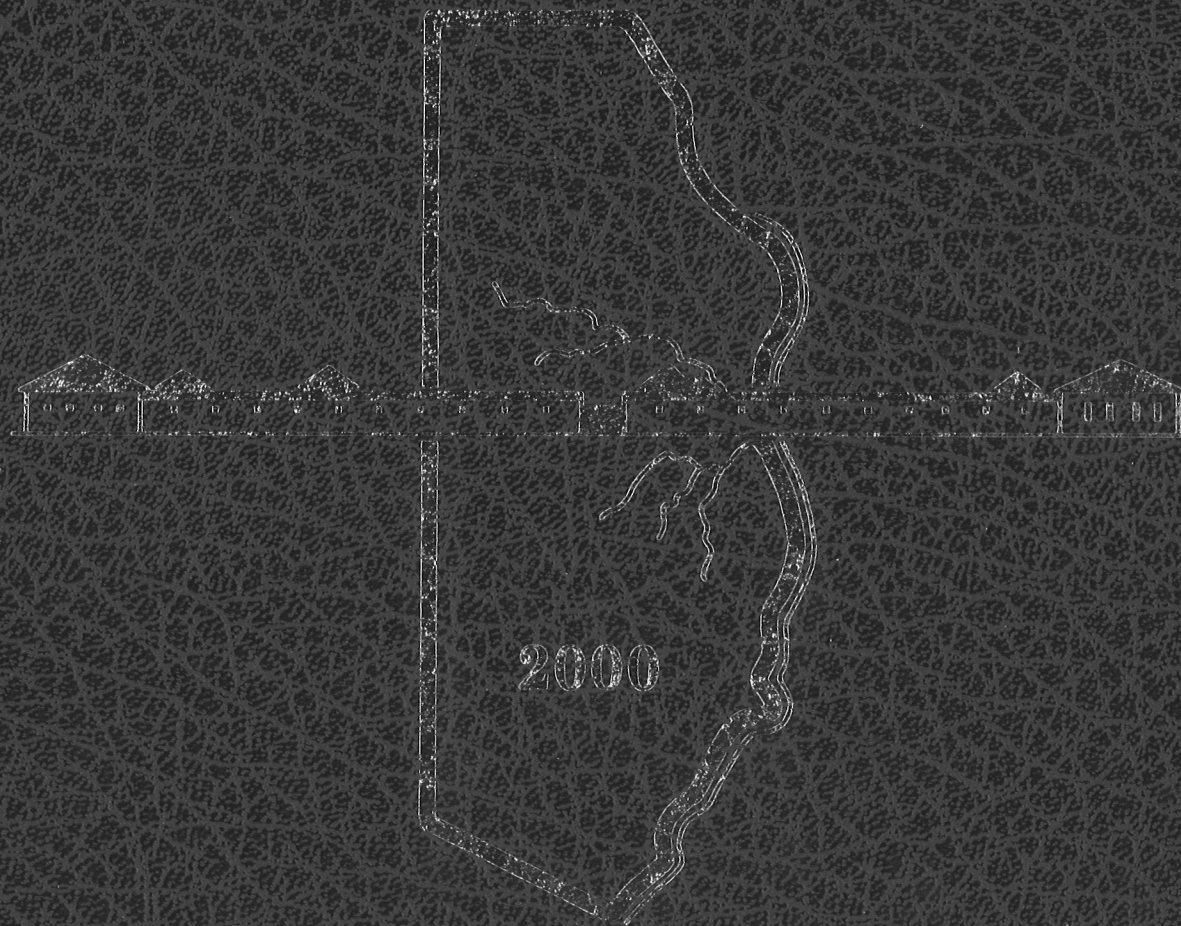


BEYOND THE GATES of LOWER FORT GARRY

A SEQUEL



R.M. of St. Andrews
A Millennium Project

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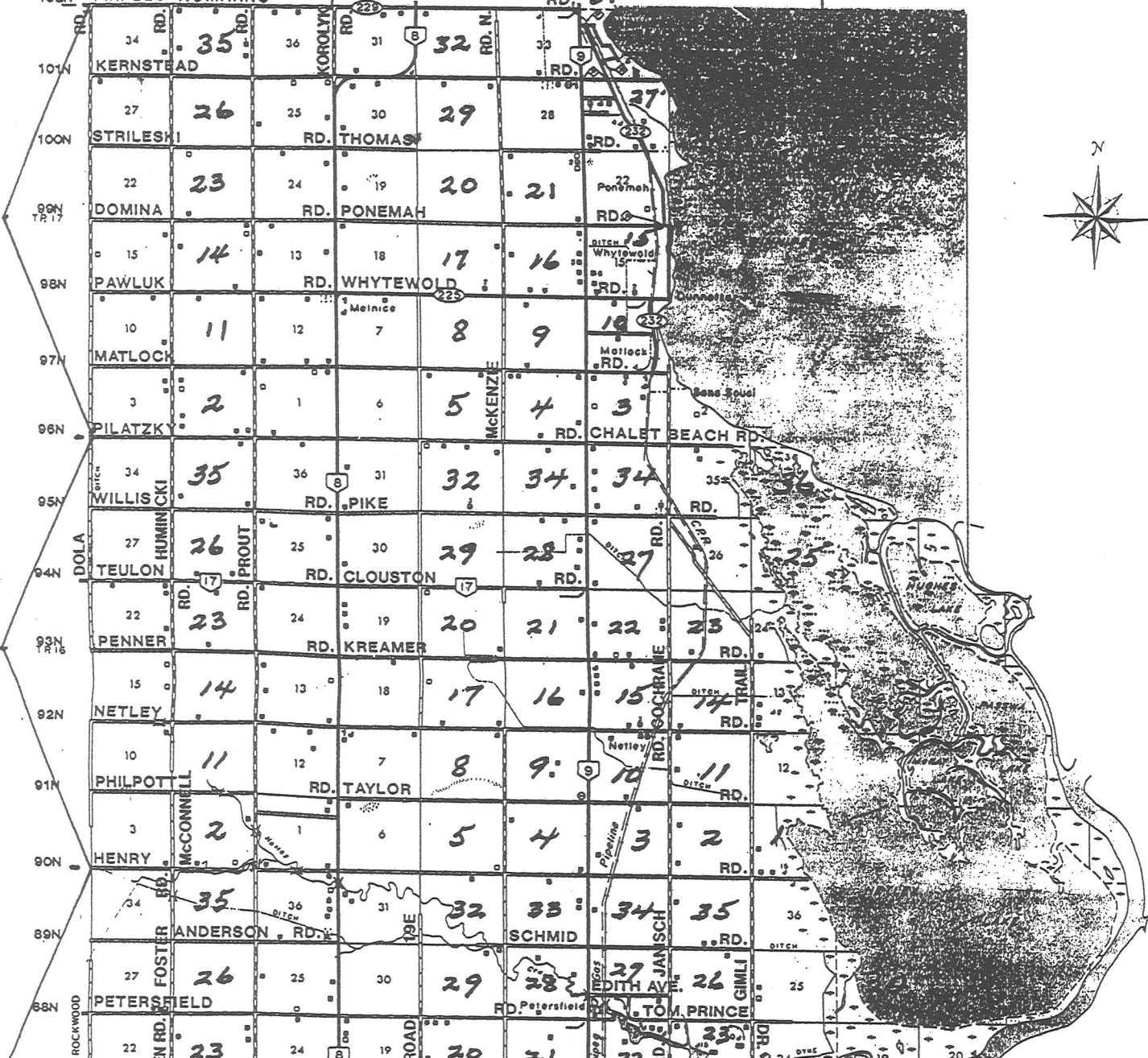
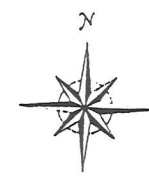
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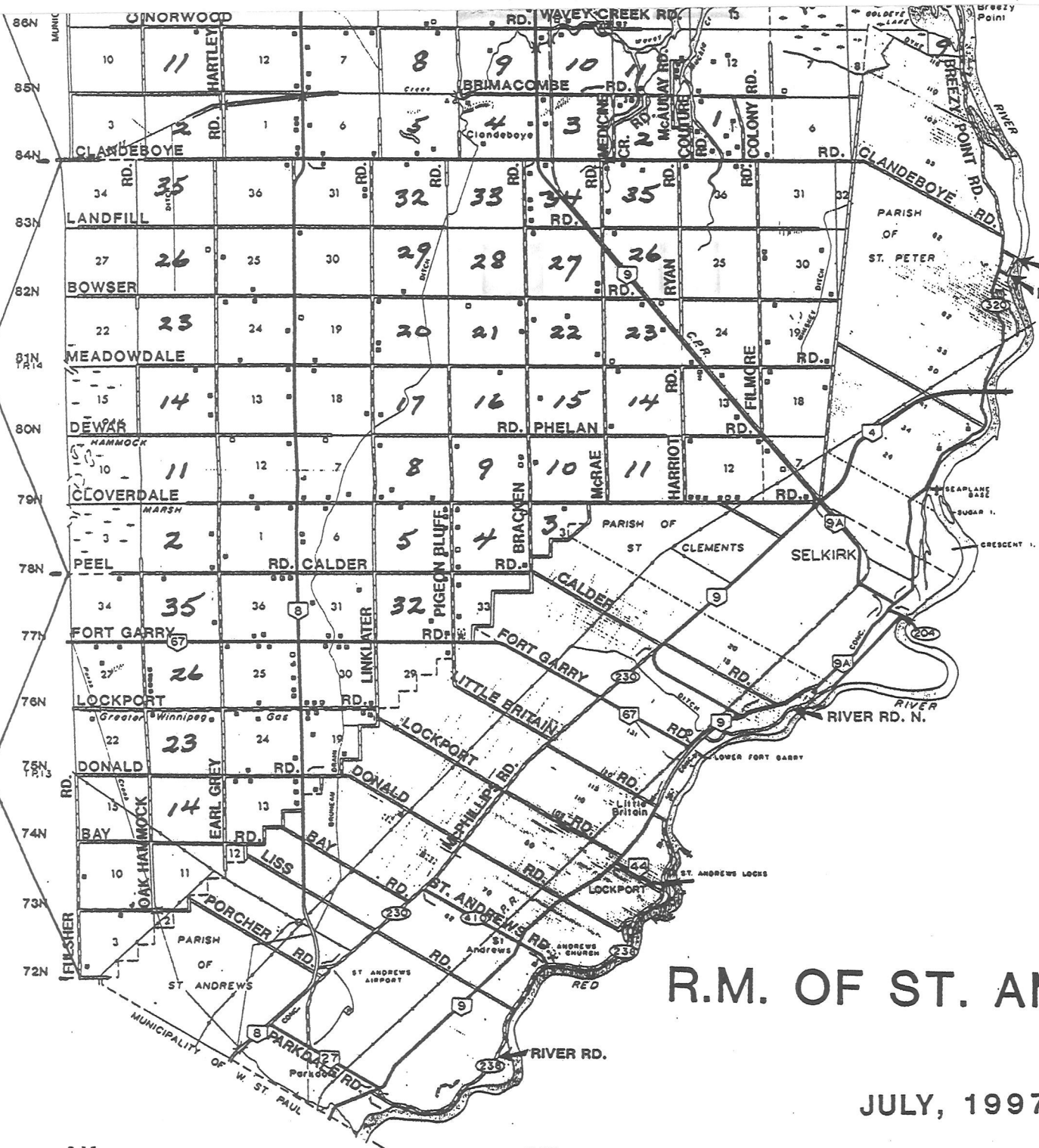
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R.M. OF ST. ANDREWS

JULY, 1997

BEYOND THE GATES of LOWER FORT GARRY

A SEQUEL



R.M. of St. Andrews
A Millennium Project

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Acknowledgements

In 1998, when Council began discussing which projects the Municipality might sponsor to celebrate the Millennium Year 2000, the subject of our 1982 publication "Beyond the Gates of Lower Fort Garry" arose. Since there has been significant population growth and corresponding development in the last 18 years in St. Andrews, the stories of these new "settlers" had not yet been told.

In addition, when the 1982 volume was published, numerous, already established families, missed the opportunity to contribute to it's contents. Therefore, it was decided that a sequel to "Beyond the Gates" should be pursued.

Initial organizational work on the project commenced in mid 1998 led by Lenore Somers-Isbach and Dana Clark. The small group of volunteers developed a substantial table of contents which would form the foundation for the sequel publication.

Later in the year, more volunteers became involved with Mrs. Irene Foster co-ordinating future activities.

After publicity and promotion in the local newspaper and sending letters out to all resident home-

owners in the Municipality, finally, the public began to respond to the invitation to participate.

The volunteer group "moved in" to occupy the old upstairs offices at the Municipal Office and continued to work on the project intensively for most of 1999.

Sincere appreciation for the many hours of work devoted to this Millennium project is extended to everyone involved.

The following (listed in alphabetical order) should be acknowledged for their contributions:

Gladys Aime, Art Ammeter, Debbie Ammeter, Doretta Boehmer, Edwin Carter, Jan Chanas, Betty Erhart, Sandra Eyolfson, Linda Fish, Darcia Fish, Irene Foster, Barb Gessner, Bill Gessner, Muriel Haddad, Reg Haddad, Barb Hutton, Wendy Jackson, Dennis Linklater, Dorothy Long, Irene Marriott, George McKenzie, Sharon McKenzie, Bob Morrison, Marge Paradoski, Mary Scraba, John Shachtay, Alice Shachtay, Rev. Stephen Sharman, Helen Skrypnyk, Donna Sutherland, Helen Walker and Shirley Zamatis.

As well, the Municipal Office Staff provided a most co-operative resource to the committee.

Dedication

by **Bill Gessner**

In this our "Sequel to Beyond the Gates of Lower Fort Garry", we have gathered bits of history of this municipality. This municipality is unique compared to other rural municipalities in Manitoba in that this area was a functioning community since the early 1820's. Lower Fort Garry was built 1830-39, the first log school at St. Andrew's was opened on November 27, 1831 and the first log church at St. Andrew's held its first service on May 1, 1832. The present stone church will celebrate its 150 years of service in December 1999. All this was accomplished before Manitoba was a province, before we had a railway and, other than boats, only bush trails on higher ground to get from one point to another. Most outside supplies had to come via York boat from the Hudson Bay Company at York Factory on Hudson Bay until 1859. The steam boat Anson Northup starting bringing supplies on the Red River in 1858 from the south.

The settlement was brought about by the retirement of Hudson Bay company surplus employees after the Hudson Bay Company amalgamated with the North West Company in 1821. The ex-employees were settled along the Red River on river lots having close neighbours in time of need, all with frontage on the river as it was their road, and their source of fish for food. Their descendants moved further west from the river as more land was needed.

With the coming of the railways more immigrants arrived from farther afield. Americans, eastern Canadians, more from the British Isles as well as various nationalities from Europe. They all contributed their time, resources and energies, sometimes under difficult circumstances, to make this municipality what it is today.

We owe them a debt of appreciation for paving the way for succeeding generations.

Foreword

The sequel to “Beyond the Gates of Lower Fort Garry” is a project of a group of volunteers from the Rural Municipality of St. Andrews, to honor the advent of the millennium year 2000.

It was felt that our Municipality had progressed in all areas of work and pleasure, since the centennial book was compiled in 1980 and published in 1982. The sequel, also, contains some older in-depth stories of the people of St. Andrews in their struggle for survival and adventure. Perhaps, all history books in the future will be able to relate to this millennium endeavor.

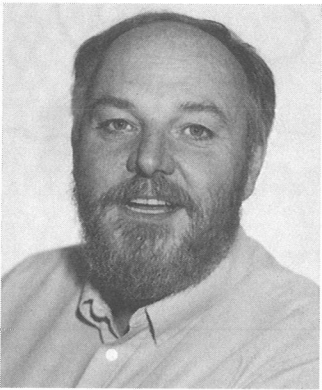
Lower Fort Garry is situated east of provincial road number nine, between Lockport and Selkirk, and it is a National Historic Site. It is an important tourist attraction, where one can travel back through time. The fort personifies the action of the fur trade with the Hudson Bay Company from its beginnings on the Red River. One can also explore life as it was when the fort was the pulse of all the local activities.

The Municipality of St. Andrews surrounds

Lower Fort Garry on three sides; in turn St. Andrews is bordered by the Municipalities of West St. Paul to the south, Rockwood to the west and Gimli to the north. The Red River is to the east. In area the R.M. is approximately thirty one miles (51.6 km) in length and varies in width from six miles (10 km) to twelve miles (20 km) in accordance with the bends in the river. Although they are not a part of the R.M. of St. Andrews, the City of Selkirk, the Town of Winnipeg Beach, and the Village of Dunnotar are within the described boundaries.

Two busy highways, numbers eight and nine, are the arteries of the north-south traffic in St. Andrews. The connecting east-west provincial and Municipal roads are equally busy.

This sequel is intended to be a source of historic interest for future generations to learn about their past, so that they can proceed into the future with confidence, knowing that with ingenuity, hard work and faith in their community the Municipality of St. Andrews will always be a vital part of Manitoba.



Greetings From The Reeve

On behalf of your council, our staff and all the citizens of St. Andrews, I am honoured to extend congratulations and bring you greetings.

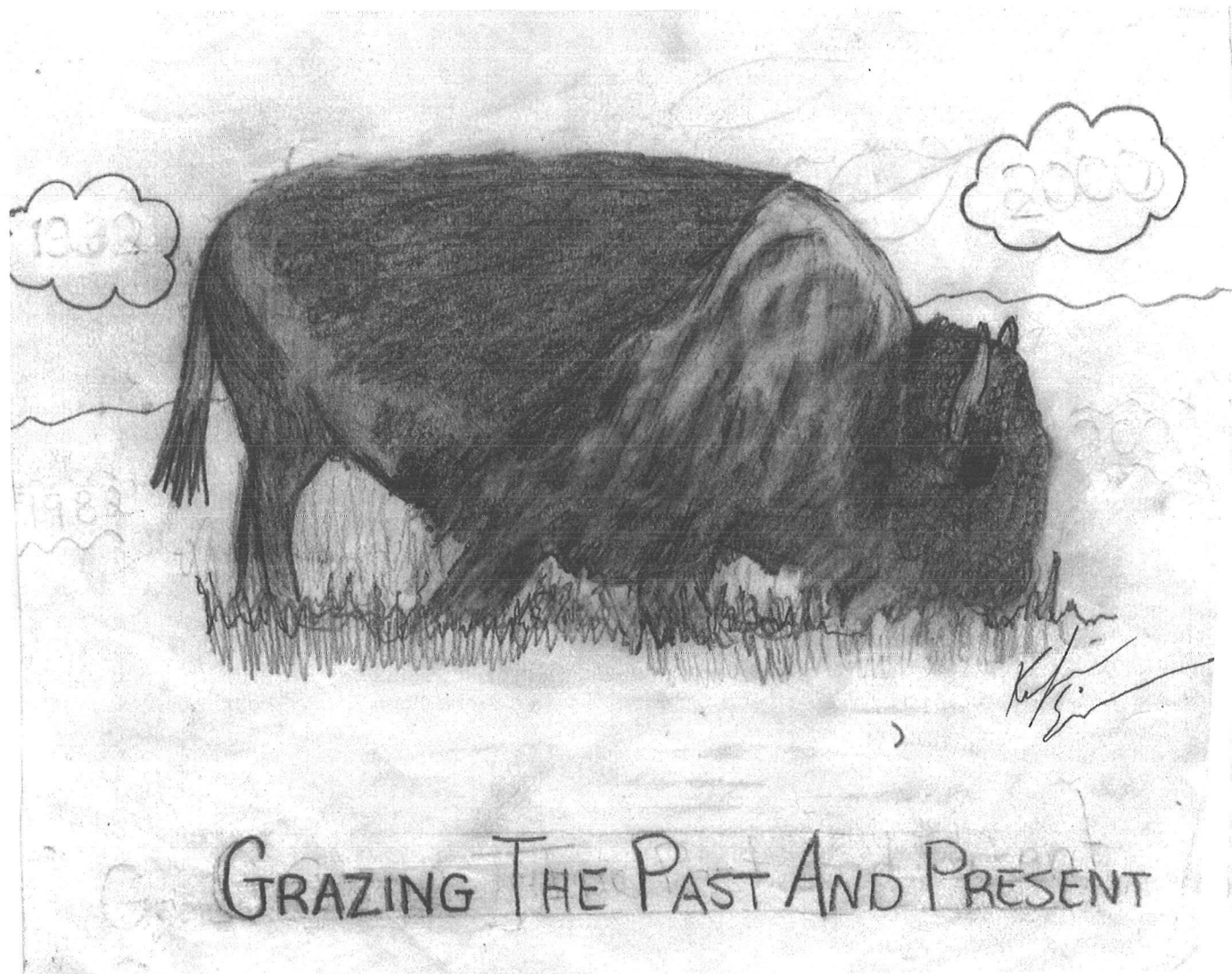
Your Reeve and Council are proud of the volunteer commitment and dedication extended by the “book committee” and would like to congratulate every single person involved in putting together this project. Your many accomplishments must be recognized as contributing most positively to the enhancement of our community. We are all indebted to the many people who have worked on this book and we thank you.

It is appropriate to celebrate our past, as we contemplate our future. This sequel to *Beyond the Gates of Lower Fort Garry* is an excellent way to commemorate the close of the twentieth century and to welcome the new millennium. It tells the stories of those families who are an important part of our history as well as those who are our future. St. Andrews is a rural municipality made up of several communities and this book celebrates the richness and diversity that make this municipality special and unique.

In closing, your Reeve and Council feel honoured and privileged to have this opportunity to serve this Municipality. Hopefully, through reliving our past and celebrating our community, we will all look back with pride and thanks to those who have gone before and look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead of us, in the next millennium.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Forfar". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the main text block.

Reeve Don Forfar



Grazing the Past and Present – by Kalyn Einarson.

Thank you

The History Book Committee is proud of the sequel to *Beyond The Gates of Lower Fort Garry*. For this reason we would like to thank everyone who contributed art work, communal or family histories and photographs.

We especially acknowledge St. Andrews School and Wm. S. Patterson School whose students contributed many stories. Prizes were awarded to students whose story best portrayed life in their community and, for these prizes, we thank the Manitoba Pork Producers, Edwin Carter, Alice Shachtay, and the R.M. of St. Andrews.

As well we appreciate the Millennium Grant from the Federal Government that enabled us to produce this book at a reasonable cost.

Working together with the staff and council of the R.M. of St. Andrews has been a real pleasure. Thank you for your valued assistance.

With sincere appreciation,

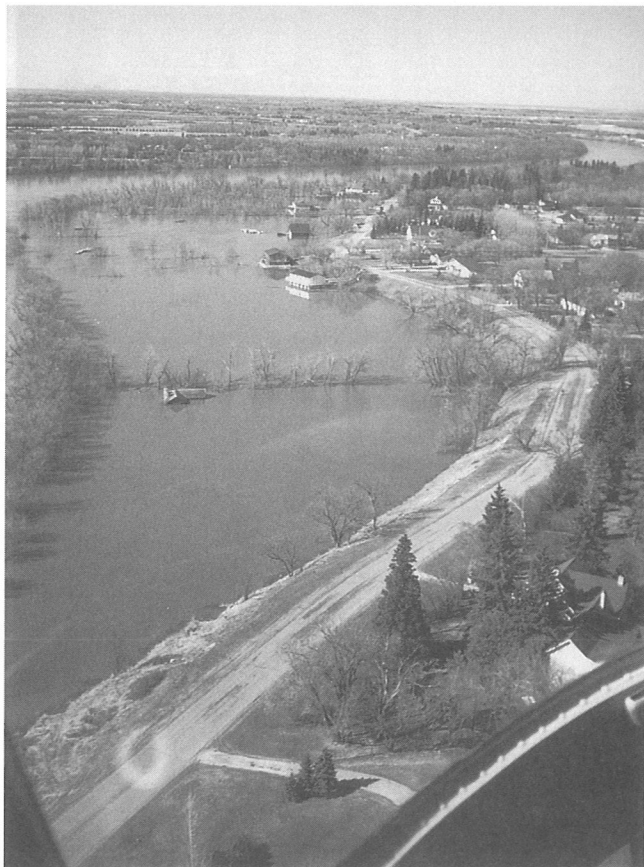
The History Book Committee for the R.M. of St. Andrews



Floods

Floods in St. Andrews by J.C. Gagnon, Emergency Coordinator

Flooding in some areas of St. Andrews is quite common. Residents living in these areas are aware of the potential dangers and know what to look for. These areas are mostly around the creek systems and the Red River, north of the City of Selkirk. Four or five consecutive days of very strong north winds would push Lake Winnipeg water into the south basin and into Netley Marsh, creeks, and the Red River. In extreme conditions, water levels may rise three to four feet above the natural level. Once the wind subsides, the water will recede as fast as it came in.



River Road, south of Selkirk – 1997.

Spring thaw brings another area of concern. Above average snowfall during the winter and quick thaw in the spring could cause flash flooding. Above average snow will insulate the ice, thus reducing the thickness and easier break-up of the ice. On the reverse, less snow will form thicker ice (around four feet) and will take longer to break up. Other areas of concern, because we are at the end of the water flow before Lake Winnipeg, is the amount of melting south and west of Winnipeg. If the water flows too rapidly from the south and west and the ice has not broken up north of Winnipeg, extreme water pressure will be created causing the ice to break up in large thick pieces and causing huge ice jams at many bends in the river. These ice jams hold back an enormous amount of water, flooding low areas, and because of the size of some ice flows (3 feet thick by 50 to 75 feet long and 30 to 40 feet wide) they will destroy anything in their path. Ideal spring thaw conditions are an average snowfall with warm sunny days, to melt the ice and snow, and cool nights to prevent a rapid thaw.



Drilling holes in the Red River, 1997. Area between Clandeboye Road and Netley Creek.