



# 2026 Annual REPORT

Prepared for the  
2026 Annual General Meeting



# Vision And Mission

## Vision

### VISION STATEMENT

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

## Mission

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of MHV is to preserve and exhibit for present and future generations the experience and story of the Russian Mennonites and their contributions to Manitoba.

### CORE VALUES

Integrity  
Respect  
Excellence  
Financial Sustainability  
Environmental Responsibility  
Visitor/Customer Friendly  
Member Owned  
Teamwork

### MHV BOARD MEMBERS

Willie Peters  
Kerry Fast  
Carlee Friesen  
Conrad Stoesz  
Karen Thiessen  
Erin Unger  
Matt Wieler  
James Loewen  
Sid Reimer  
Warren Kroeker  
Stephanie Klassen  
Terry Wiebe

### BY VIRTUE OF POSITION

MHV Auxiliary President  
Linda Schoeder



# AGM Agenda

Annual General Meeting  
April 14, 2026  
Meeting Agenda



Welcome

Willie Peters

Approval of Agenda

Opening Remarks

Robert Goertzen

Minutes of AGM, April 8, 2025

Erin Unger

President's Report

Willie Peters

Executive Director's Report

Robert Goertzen

MHV Auxiliary's Report

Linda Schroeder

Financial Statements Report

James Loewen

Presentation of 2026 Budget

James Loewen

Appointment of the Auditor for 2026

James Loewen

Nominating Committee Report

Erin Unger

Election of Directors

Erin Unger

Appreciation

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Willie Peters

# Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV)

## 60<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Minutes April 8, 2025

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Matt Wieler thanked everyone for coming, and did a land acknowledgement and indicated that Willie is on the phone. He introduced the board members that were present.

2. **Approval of Agenda:**

M/S/A/James Loewen/Sid Reimer

3. **Opening:** Robert reported that an AGM is a time to look forward for the museum. There is a high level of engagement from the public. We see hundreds volunteers during our festival days. The festival days are a time that bring up memories.

4. **Minutes of AGM, April 2, 2024:** Page 3 Dates should be changed to 23 and 2024 Stoesz spelled wrong.  
M/S/C: Waldy/Erin

5. **President's Report** (Page 5): Wille made mention of people who have served their full term and the leadership of the museum.

6. **Executive Director's Report** (Page 8): It has taken a team effort this year. He introduced the team members right now. They meet every other week for a staff check-in. 60 years He summarized his report mentioning, Spring Gala, Eastman Choir concert in December. We also celebrated 150 year anniversary exhibit , Red River Cart walk, Film premier of Where the Cottonwoods Grow. Maintenance of the windmill, Tractor Drive, Peace Trek, efficiency in IT. The education program remains strong, We are a weather dependant museum which affected a few events including Canada Day. Volunteer engagement continues to be strong, and our gift shop sales are robust.

7. **MHV Auxiliary's Report** (Page 21): 24 women participated. Stopped waffle booth (see written report)

8. **Finance Report 2024** (Page 24): Karen Thiessen was chair. A new finance committee was formed (See written report). Moved to accept all committee reports as presented

M/S/A: Matt/Conrad

9. **2025 Budget** (Page 26): See report passed by finance committee

M/S/A: Matt/Barry Dyck

Questions

Tariffs?

What percentage of the bequest was used (33%)

Confidence in donations (there is a base line. 100k over is aspirational but achievable.)

## 10. Appointment of the Auditor for 2025

Mayers/Norris/ Penny Have done a good job. The auditors finding is that it is a clean report

M/S/A: Matt/James Loewen

11. **Nominating Committee Report** (Page 27): See written report and profiles. We look for a variety of skills.

Acceptance of the nominating committee signifies election of the nominations

M/S/A Erin Sid

Presentation of Thank yours and plaques

Doris Penner

Neil Klassen

Waldy Ens

## 12. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Adjournment - Matt/Conrad

# Board of Directors Report

Willie Peters | Board President

Welcome to the 61st Annual General Meeting of this superb Manitoba Signature Museum! Our village is thriving and we are excited to share what has unfolded in the past year. You are invited to join the board and staff in evaluating our progress and help us plan for the future.

We want to express sincere appreciation for the work of our dedicated staff members under the effective leadership of Executive Director Robert Goertzen. It is inspiring to observe this team operating in partnership with the Board of Directors while executing day-to-day operations and driving our purpose forward. Thank you to each staff member for your vital contributions to MHV!

The 2025 Board of Directors contained a remarkable mix of individuals who offered thoughtful input and a positive attitude! Our Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary and Executive Director) was a productive unit. The terms for three members of the Board of Directors end in 2026 and all of them are willing to stand for reelection: Erin Unger, Carlee Friesen, and Conrad Stoesz. Our policy states the maximum number of consecutive terms that can be served is three. Currently, this applies to Matthew/Matt Wieler. His enthusiasm and ideas (especially as the Vice President) energized us for nine years. By virtue of position, the MHV Auxiliary President is a member of the board. Linda Schroeder has faithfully filled that role for 15 years! Her strong guidance has been an incredible asset to this dynamic arm of the museum. Welcome to everyone who will come to the table with the Board of Directors in 2026 – returning and new participants!

During the past year, board members participated in some professional development. For two sessions we concentrated on our Strategic Action Plan (including a review of the mission, vision, and values) with facilitator Roger Langlais, Regional Manager of the Community Development Branch – Eastman Region Department of Municipal and Northern Relations. A SWOT analysis guided us in identifying MHV's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Extremely important components of life in the village are the donors, sponsors, and volunteers. All of them make a powerful difference and this institution could not operate without their assistance. We are deeply grateful for these incredible people and supportive organizations!

In 2025, a unique highlight was marking 500 years since the courageous birth of the Anabaptist movement. A “watch party” on May 29th connected MHV with the worship service in Zurich, Switzerland. From August 6th to September 6th, we hosted “On Fire for Christ” with an informative Traveling Exhibition called 500 Years of Discipleship – From the Anabaptists to us. Meanwhile, the Gerhard Ens Gallery featured the extension of an exposition from 2024 celebrating 150 years of Mennonites in Manitoba and now we look forward to a display focusing on medicine.

It is remarkable to see the lengthy list of events facilitated by MHV! Our site is bustling with attractions and activities, and there are always more people from near and far who are discovering this gem in southeastern Manitoba. As we prepare for another year, we are privileged to begin with a full slate of staff and board members. We have a great, well-run facility surrounded by a collaborative community! After weighing the mission statement and deciding to retain it, I am reminded of a quote. Archiving our past, from Russia to the East Reserve, secures our identity for the future. Anonymous. As you are able, please continue sustaining one of Manitoba’s treasures with your time, prayers, finances, endorsement, and encouragement – Mennonite Heritage Village!

Submitted by Willie Peters  
**Board President**



# Executive Director's Report

Robert Goertzen | Executive Director

The mission of Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) is to preserve and exhibit for present and future generations the experience and story of the Russian Mennonites and their contributions to Manitoba. As we share this history with our local community and with guests from around the world, we are engaging with many cultural groups, and we are recognizing that MHV is a significant tourist attraction for the region of southern Manitoba.

Here are some of the highlights for 2025:

- The exhibit, 'Mennonite Reflections: Arriving in Manitoba 150 Years Ago' was held over from 2024 and continued to attract many visitors whose ancestors arrived in Manitoba in the 1870's.
- In June, we commemorated the 500th anniversary of the beginnings of Anabaptism with a lecture featuring poetry and readings by Gareth Brandt along with his exhibit, 'Radical Roots'. During Pioneer Days in August, Gareth engaged with guests at our Dirk Willems Peace Garden with the topic, 'From Munster to Menno', examining the development of Anabaptist theology in the early years.
- In August, we hosted a travelling exhibit, made available to the museum by a group of 7 German-speaking Mennonite Brethren Churches in southern Manitoba. The exhibit called, 'On Fire For Christ: 500 Years of Discipleship, From the Anabaptists to Us', portrayed the early beginnings of Anabaptism in Europe followed by a challenge to reflect, engage and be inspired by a legacy of faith that continues across generations.
- The museum installed the second phase of our Outdoor Signage Project and finalized the third and final phase of signs to be installed around the village in April 2026. These signs are interpretive panels that include updated information and are accessible on the outside of the heritage buildings and near our monuments.
- Our programs and events were well-attended, thanks to excellent weather throughout the spring and summer. We had nearly 50,000 visitors joining us as participants in school programs, as guests at weddings and receptions, and as visitors to our festivals and events.
- We continue to develop our winter programming and activities by providing outdoor recreational opportunities like snowshoeing, kick sledding, ice skating, and getting a ride on a horse-drawn sleigh. Also, workshops for Homesteading skills are being offered, such as sourdough bread baking, sewing, and springtime seed preparation.
- This fall, our Assistant Curator, Garth Doerksen, moved up to the Senior Curator position. The Assistant Curator position has now been filled by Graeme Unrau, who comes with several years of archival experience and Mennonite history involvement.

As a not-for-profit organization, MHV continues to face increasing costs in many areas, including food and material costs, staff wages, and insurance premiums. We believe that

the museum is important for the local community and for the wider Mennonite community, so we continue to look for ways to deliver cost-effective programming. Funding our exhibits, programs, and events continues to be a challenge. We are very grateful for the continued support of individual donors, business sponsors, and government granting agencies.

Every department is enthusiastically preparing for another strong year in 2026. Our former Senior Curator, Andrea Klassen, began planning for a new exhibit last year, and now Garth is continuing with preparations to launch a new exhibit entitled, 'Mennonite Medicine: Cures and Curiosities – 1800 to 1950'. The focus will be on medical beliefs and practices among Russian Mennonites, especially from the years 1800 to 1950. We hope to have the opening ceremony in conjunction with our MHV Gala on May 22nd, 2026.

2025 has been a busy year hosting over 3000 school program participants, guiding 76 campers during our Pioneer Day Camps, and welcoming thousands of visitors from southern Manitoba and around the world. Over 200 wonderful volunteers assist our dedicated staff in preserving and exhibiting the stories of Mennonites who immigrated to Manitoba in the 1870's. We are truly grateful for the many ways that we can serve our local community and the wider Mennonite constituency.

Submitted by Robert Goertzen  
**Executive Director**



# Membership Committee Report

**Karen Thiessen**  
**Kerry Fast**

| Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

A big thank you to all members for your support of the MHV.

This year saw the formation of a renewed membership committee co-chaired by Karen Thiessen and Kerry Fast. Additional members are Sid Reimer, Willie Peters, and Robert Goertzen. The committee met twice this year.

The overarching responsibility of the membership committee is to oversee the advancement of membership and admissions, with the purpose of increasing membership and maximizing admissions. To this end, the committee reviewed the membership categories and recommended a modest increase in membership amounts, including the life membership from \$500 to \$600. These increases have been implemented.

Together with staff, the committee reviewed MHV's current practices that are designed to increase membership and discussed new initiatives. In addition to what is already being done, the committee identified several goals for the coming year:

- have a dedicated table at all MHV events to sell memberships;
- incorporate incentives into the promotion of memberships;
- emphasize the value of membership to prospective members;
- work closely with staff and the board to promote memberships.

MHV staff is highly motivated and is working creatively to increase memberships. It is an honour for the membership committee to work alongside them in promoting the unique historical and community treasure that is the Mennonite Heritage Village.

Submitted by Karen Thiessen  
**Co-chair, Membership Committee**

# Curatorial Department's Report

**Garth Doerksen** | Senior Curator

The Curatorial Department experienced a year of significant change and growth.

Andrea Klassen returned from maternity leave in March and resumed her position as Senior Curator, bringing her experience and insight back into ongoing exhibit and collections initiatives. In August, she stepped down from her role, concluding her long and valued tenure with the museum. Her many contributions to exhibit development, collections care, and community engagement continue to shape the department's work. Thank you Andrea!

From January to August, Garth Doerksen served as Assistant Curator, contributing to exhibit development, collections management, and interpretive planning. In September, he was hired as Senior Curator, allowing for continuity in leadership and the advancement of several long-term projects. His expanded role supported both strategic planning and hands-on curatorial work during a period of departmental change.

The department also benefited greatly from the dedication of volunteers, whose efforts made many projects possible. Volunteers provided essential support in exhibit preparation, historical interpretations, and maintenance tasks. Their commitment strengthened the museum's capacity to deliver high-quality programming and steward its collections responsibly.

## **Exhibits**

The museum's exhibit program continued to build on major initiatives launched in previous years while also responding to significant anniversaries within the broader Mennonite story. The Mennonite Reflections: Arriving In Manitoba 150 Years Ago exhibit, installed in 2024, remained on display in the Gerhard Ens Gallery throughout 2025. This exhibit continued to draw strong visitor engagement, offering a comprehensive exploration of Mennonite settlement, community formation, and cultural continuity in southern Manitoba.

In the summer months, the museum hosted two exhibits marking the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Anabaptism. The first, created by Gareth Brandt, offered a reflective and artistic interpretation of Anabaptist identity and history. The second, On Fire for Christ, presented a more historical and narrative-driven approach to the same anniversary, highlighting key figures, movements, and theological developments. Together, these exhibits provided visitors with multiple entry points into the Anabaptist story, enriching public understanding of the roots and evolution of Mennonite faith and practice.

## **Projects**

Several significant projects advanced this year, strengthening both the interpretive and physical infrastructure of the museum. Work continued on replacing and improving interpretive signage in the permanent gallery and heritage buildings. This multi-year effort aims to enhance clarity, accessibility, and historical accuracy, ensuring that visitors encounter engaging and up-to-date interpretation throughout the site.

Phase 3 of the outdoor signage project was developed, with installation planned for the spring of 2026. This phase focuses on expanding interpretive coverage across the village and grounds, integrating historical context with wayfinding and visitor experience design. The planning work completed this year included research, text development, and design coordination.

In addition to interpretive improvements, the museum completed the replacement of the buggy shelter roof. This project addressed both preservation and safety concerns, ensuring the long-term protection of the equipment housed under the structure. The work reflects the museum's ongoing commitment to maintaining its heritage buildings and outdoor exhibits to a high standard.

## **Collections**

The museum's collections continued to grow and deepen through the generosity of donors and the ongoing interest of the community. Fourteen artefact donations were received this year, consisting of thirty-six individual items. Among these was the 150-year-old mia'grope cauldron, which was reunited with the Chortitz housebarn, its original home 150 years ago.

Throughout the year, the museum also welcomed individuals and families who visited to see items donated by relatives in past decades. These visits underscore the museum's role as a keeper of community memory and highlight the emotional and historical value of the collection. Such interactions reinforce the importance of careful stewardship and ongoing documentation, ensuring that artefacts remain accessible and meaningful to future generations.

This year's work reflects the dedication of staff, volunteers, and community partners who continue to support the museum's mission. The Curatorial Department remains committed to preserving Mennonite history, enhancing visitor experience, and developing exhibits and projects that honour the stories entrusted to us.

Submitted by Garth Doerksen

**Senior Curator**

# Program Coordinator's Report

Jaysa Thiessen | Program Coordinator

What defines a successful year of museum programming? Yale Insights makes the case that “public engagement is a core function of museums.” After all, if museums curate exhibits, offer events and workshops, or plan educational tours, what is the use if no one utilizes those services? Public engagement is a key determinant of success! In light of this, 2025 at the Mennonite Heritage Village was a very successful year. The MHV continues to be a gathering place for the community, through our festivals and events, our education program, and our volunteer team.

The Mennonite Heritage Village has become known for our community festivals such as Pioneer Days and Fall on the Farm. Our waffles and white sauce are famous, and people keep coming back to experience days gone by in our living history museum. This summer was no exception as our events and festivals reached high attendance numbers. What a privilege it is to share the story of the Russian Mennonites who settled in Manitoba with the guests who come on our event days. Program Assistant, Rowena Johnson, accomplished a massive job in recruiting and organizing the hundreds of volunteers needed for each of these events and assisted greatly with the logistics of event planning and execution.

While most of our community festivals have become community summer traditions, this fall and winter, the programs department thought creatively about new programming ideas through which to infuse life into the museum during the slower months. Light up the Village, a Village and tree lighting ceremony, was a popular evening with families coming out to enjoy a hot dog roast, sleigh rides, caroling, and of course, the countdown to see the Village come alive with thousands of Christmas lights. It truly was a magical night. Our Pioneer Workshop Series kicked off with a sold-out Sourdough Workshop in December. It is my goal to create year-round programming that brings people together during the fall and winter months as well as the summer months. The Mennonite Heritage Village is a year-round gathering place for the community.

MHV's school field trip program continues to be a popular gathering place for school children of all ages. May and June saw thousands of students bustling about the MHV grounds as schools came for their yearly field trip. It is an honour and a privilege to be the place where countless students create lasting memories as they participate in the activities that school field trips to MHV include. Meeting the animals, making schnetje, watching wheat being milled in the windmill, fashioning a nail ring in the blacksmith shop, and other activities live in the minds of students for years to come. Our wonderful education staff, Education Coordinator Hailey Sigurdson and Education Assistant Aria Klassen, facilitated engaging programming for these students and ensured that each field trip was a success. A team of dedicated volunteers makes all of MHV's programming happen – from the events and festivals to the education program. We have a handful of new volunteers join our ranks each year, for which I am exceedingly grateful. The time and talent of MHV volunteers are crucial for us to put on the programming that we do. Each volunteer plays a vital role!

From events and festivals to the education program, 2025 was a successful year for the Program Department. Our public engagement was high, and many people encountered the living history that MHV shares. MHV is a gathering place for the community and will continue to be so.

Submitted by Jaysa Thiessen  
**Program Coordinator**



# Admissions, Village Books & Gifts, General Store

Jo-Ann Friesen | Visitor Experience and Office Administrator

## Admissions/Reception

2025 was a significant year for many reasons here at MHV. Mennonites from all over the world celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Anabaptist movement (1525–2025), emphasizing the 16th-century origins of the movement. Travelers from around the globe ensured their visit to Canada included a stop at the Mennonite Heritage Villag. During the month of August, as we celebrated the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism, MHV was pleased to host “On Fire for Christ: 500 Years of Discipleship, From the Anabaptists to Us”, a travelling exhibit commemorating this milestone event. MHV’s Gerhard Enns Gallery featured “Mennonite Reflections: Arriving in Manitoba 150 years Ago”. This engaging display took visitors on a journey from the Mennonites' life in Russia to their settlement in Manitoba, highlighting the many challenges they faced along the way. There was a significant increase in foot traffic to the museum in 2025, with the Pioneer Days event having the greatest increase overall. The grant received from the Manitoba Government Student Summer Jobs program, enabled Reception to hire efficient admission/retail support staff for the summer months.

## Village Books & Gifts

The Gift Shop continued to be a bustling location in 2025. Customers were delighted locate and to add the hard to find items, Menno cards/gear, historical souvenirs, MHV’s stone ground flour, as well as unique one-of-a-kind items (sleuthed by our very own tremendously talented Storekeeper, Nita Wiebe) to their household or gift lists. The Mennonite Treasury cookbook continues to be our #1 best seller. DVD and book sales increased substantially due to MHV hosting the film night “Where the Cottonwoods Grow” and an increased number of Author’s Reading Nights, as well as two Writers Workshops. These events featured local authors such as MaryLou Driedger, Betty Barkman, Doris Penner, Andrew Unger, Erin Koop-Unger as well as local authors. Attendance was excellent, with enthusiasm for more these types of events.

## General Store

January, February, and December of 2025 the General Store was the go to place for skate, snowshoes, and kicksled rentals, hot dog sales for roasting in the open bonfire close to the skating rink and as a warming hut for folks taking in all the winter outdoor activities during Winter in the Village (Dec – February) as well as the Winter Carnival (February). The regulated temperature of the store has been a tremendous addition to its functionality year-round.

May 1 – Sept 30, the General Store greeted visitors with a fantastic selection of handmade products provided by eleven local artisans, a wide variety of old-fashioned candy, MHV's own Windmill stone ground flour, retro toys, and handy souvenirs. The store was usually the first stop as folks entered the museum grounds and was a bustling destination all season long. Upon entering the store, visitors were met with a friendly nostalgic environment, artefacts lined the walls and products for sale throughout. Folks repeated time and again that the store is a true gem in that it is not just a building, but an actual "working" store. Looks of wonder, huge smiles, and stories from their own experiences as they rediscovered many childhood artefacts and memories. Folks expressed the sense of nostalgia that flooded their senses when they entered the store. Many commented on how alive and welcoming the store felt, and how it is so very important in today's ever-changing world for MHV to continue in the work to retain a historical presence in the community. Visitors expressed their sincere appreciation for the fact that MHV is working hard to keep history relevant.

With the old-fashioned candy being so popular, during Canada Day, Pioneers Days, and Fall on the Farm, the General Store moved the candy under a large white tent "Candy Booth" set up close to the General Store on the grounds. Folks were elated at the ease of access and loved stopping by to get their bag full of goodies.

The local artisans participated in being storekeepers throughout the season, always ready with warm smiles, hearty conversation, and relevant information about the General Store, its artefacts as well as the museum.

Submitted by Jo-Ann Friesen  
**Visitor Experience & Office  
Administrator**



# Private Events Report

Elise Plessis | Private Events Coordinator

The Private Events Department at Mennonite Heritage Village continues to be a key revenue-generator and the community continues to seek events here such as anniversaries, family gatherings, corporate events such as AGMs, picnics and Christmas parties. Over the past year, the department has focused on:

- Assisting with the MHV Spring Gala
- Expanding wedding and micro-wedding offerings
- Increasing community-based events and partnerships
- Enhancing client experience through streamlined coordination
- Developing new revenue streams and service packages

Some key highlights include:

## Weddings & Social Events

- Continued demand for affordable and flexible wedding options
- Development of micro-wedding packages (Nov–April) to increase off-season bookings
- Increased interest in all-inclusive and curated event experiences

## Community Engagement

- Hosted and supported multiple community-driven initiatives including cultural and healing events, fundraisers and nonprofit gatherings and post secondary education graduations.
- Strengthened MHV's role as a community hub in Steinbach and surrounding area by creating a corporate event package for ease of booking which includes additional amenities for an affordable price.

New concepts introduced or in development:

- Wedding Showcase & Vendor Collaboration Events
- Themed Date Night Experiences (e.g., Truck Bed Movie Night)
- These initiatives aim to increase foot traffic, attract new client demographics, generate diversified revenue and to position MHV as: "A full-service, curate event experience — not just a venue" with focus on: Unique heritage setting, customizable experiences and value-added service

Submitted by Elise Plessis

**Private Events Coordinator**

# MHV Auxiliary Report

**Linda Schroeder** | President

**Doris Penner** | Vice President

**Martha Friesen** | Treasurer

**Edna Klassen** | Secretary

Auxiliary meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 10 am at MHV. The average attendance is 17.

The Auxiliary is always planning events or programs to promote and fundraise for the Mennonite Heritage Village. 2025 was no exception to the creative and fun ideas the Auxiliary has always provided. To celebrate the museums 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, what better way than to go back to the 60's with an evening of slides depicting the beginnings of MHV as well as the City of Steinbach photos. The 60's fashions were dug out of closets and modeled by volunteers, and of course the old familiar tunes were enjoyed by many in the audience. The pie for dessert auction was also a delicious treat and overwhelmingly supported financially. The pies were generously donated by local restaurants!

The Low German night was overwhelmingly popular beyond our expectations! Because we needed to turn away so many guests, we ran another evening in February 2026 to another full house.

During winter months and the off season, the Auxiliary caters for small lunches to rental groups. We also provided waffle lunches to the Christmas market, spring market, and Family Carnival Day.

We were still actively involved in the summer festival days by cooking and selling fresh rollkuchen and watermelon. The group also provided the volunteers for the summer kitchen and served bread & jam. This was a wonderful opportunity to speak to visitors about the importance of the summer kitchen.

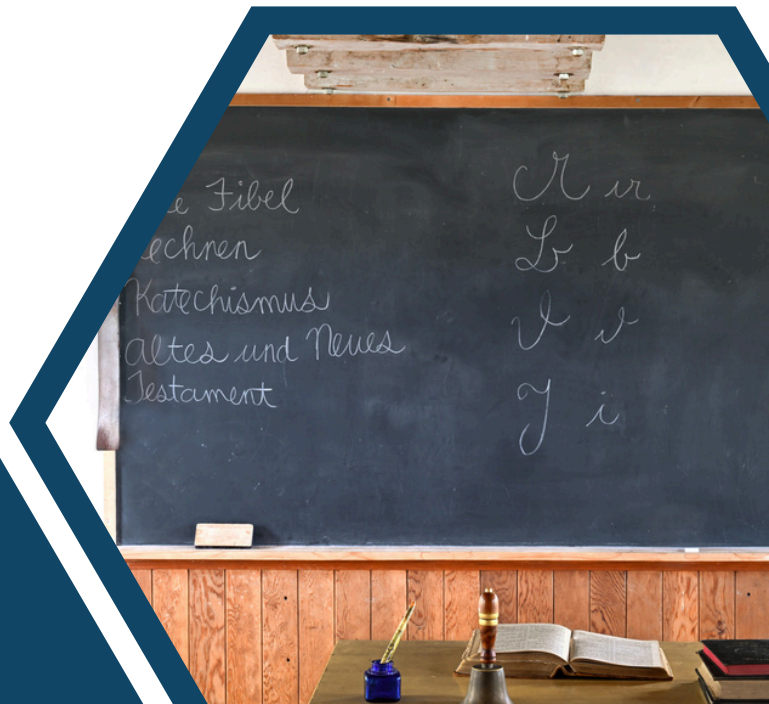
Our Mennonite Girls Can Cook aprons are still a great seller in the Village Gift Store. We have also provided other sewing items, and homemade rhubarb jam to sell in the store. The quilters continue to demonstrate hand quilting and create the beautiful quilt and items we raffle in September.

In May & June, you will notice a group of volunteers chopping rhubarb for use in the LBR . We are always looking for volunteers to help with this job!

All these efforts have enabled us to again help with various needs at MHV. This past year we helped pay for stage improvements, flooring in the offices, new tablecloths, chafing dishes, dollies for moving chairs, education programming, new sinks in the short order booth, and garden club supplies.

We wish to thank our supporters for attending our events, supporting us financially, and with words of encouragement and volunteer support. We also thank the staff for their help and support for our efforts and ideas. It has been a privilege to work at promoting this wonderful world class museum!

Submitted by Linda Schroeder  
**Auxiliary President**



# MHV Auxiliary Profit & Loss 2025

Category	
<b>Income</b>	
9110- Food-taxable	\$8,023.77
9120 - Food-catering	\$6,675.00
9130 - Gratuities	\$1,001.25
9140 - Gift shop sales	\$14,269.89
9150 - Quilting	\$1,715.00
9160 - Donations (receipt)	\$750.00
9170 - Donations (receipt)	\$1,985.00
9180 - Interest	\$12.70
9190 - Miscellaneous	\$2,370.38
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$36,802.99</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
9220 - Groceries	\$4,820.89
9240 - Quilting/sewing	\$1,007.08
9255 - Fundraising	\$635.45
9260 - Projects	\$20,084.44
9270 - Garden Club	\$2,364.50
9280 - Bank fees	\$40.14
9290 - Miscellaneous	\$4,543.37
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$33,495.87</b>

# Mennonite Heritage Village (Canada) Inc.

## 2026 Budget

	Actual 2025	Budget 2026
<b>Operating Budget</b>		
Income		
Total 4000 · Grants	274,338	353,100
Total 4100 · Donations & Fundraising	437,726	471,400
Total 5000 · Admissions	209,240	262,749
Total 5200 · Income - Food Services	332,864	384,182
Total 5300 · Income - Sales	109,579	129,207
Total 5400 · Income - Private Events	153,223	176,590
Total 5500 · Income - Other	66,431	76,926
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,583,401</b>	<b>1,854,154</b>
Cost of Goods Sold		
Total 6400 · Food Service Expenses	291,905	294,421
Total 6500 · Retail - Gift Shop & General Store	139,574	159,028
Total 6600 · Rental Expense	79,578	86,342
Total 8400 · Fundraising Expenses	42,746	91,359
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>553,803</b>	<b>631,150</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>1,029,598</b>	<b>1,223,004</b>
Expense		
Total 6000 · Collections Management	111,156	148,645
Total 6200 · Program Management	130,009	151,207
Total 6700 · Marketing & Advertising	20,178	65,950
Total 7000 · Facility Management	192,380	189,833
Total 7200 · Occupancy Costs/Property Fixed	170,716	167,978
Total 8000 · Administration	443,960	448,029
Total 8200 · Office Expense	44,873	46,576
Total 8500 · Board & AGM Expenses	2,837	2,970
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,116,109</b>	<b>1,221,187</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-86,511</b>	<b>1,817</b>

# Finance Committee Report

James Loewen | Finance Chair

2025 was a transition year for the board. With the hiring of Robert Goertzen as Executive Director we, the board learned to work together with him to bring about some needed changes.

Another transition during the year was me taking over the finance chair role from Matt Wieler. While Matt was in his eighth and final year on the board, it was my second. Thank you Matt for guiding me and the finance committee during this process. Also on the finance board was Allan Kroeker who provided very helpful insight from his past years on the board and Willie Peters our board Chair sat in on our meetings to give us added leadership.

Another change was to our budgeting process. With the leadership of Matt Wieler and Robert Goertzen we as a finance committee were able to come up with a budgeting process that was complete and exhaustive.

While the budgeting process alone does not achieve our goals, it serves as a critical guide for making informed spending and revenue decisions. We strive to be both realistic and optimistic in our budgeting approach, which allows us to plan for success while remaining adaptable during challenging periods.

With the help of Laurie Wiebe, our bookkeeper, we were able to have reliable and timely numbers. We were able to know where we were at as an organization on a monthly basis. Laurie is now in the process of transitioning our bookkeeping procedures with the implementation of a new and more robust software. We aim to streamline our in-house processes while gaining more information to better manage our MHV facility. The MHV has benefitted from timely bequest funds that helped in maintaining our facility. In 2025 we were able to make some needed repairs to museum ground facilities, replace windows in the main auditorium and repair the parking lot.

The hiring of a curator, a program coordinator, and a development coordinator this year will help us to have a successful year here at MHV. Thank you to Robert, Laurie and all the staff, board members and volunteers for making this MHV facility viable and vibrant. Let us not forget the struggles and accomplishments of our forefathers as they trusted God and worked for a better life here in Manitoba.

Submitted by James Loewen  
Finance Chair

# Nominating Committee Report

In compliance with the General By-Laws of MHV, the Nominating Committee issued a call for nominations in February 2026.

## **Board members whose terms expired this year:**

*Matt Wieler*

*Conrad Stoesz*

*Carlee Friesen*

*Erin Unger*

## **Resignations this year:**

*None*

## **Vacancies this year:**

*One*

## **Candidates standing for re-election:**

*Conrad Stoesz*

*Carlee Friesen*

*Erin Unger*

## **Candidates standing for election:**

*Allison Driedger (three-year term)*

## **Respectfully submitted:**

*Sid Reimer*

*Kerry Fast*

*Erin Unger, Chair*

*Ex Officio, Willie Peters, Board President*

*Ex Officio, Robert Goertzen, Executive Director*

# Nominees



## Allison Driedger

Allison Driedger is a land use planner with more than 20 years of experience supporting thoughtful community development and sustainable growth. She attended Westgate Mennonite Collegiate and earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Environmental Science from the University of Winnipeg, followed by a Master's Degree in City Planning from the University of Manitoba, where she now serves as a sessional lecturer. Throughout her career, Allison has worked with government, municipalities, community groups, developers, and organizations to advance

collaborative planning, public engagement, and community-based decision-making. She is also a member of a Manitoba worker co-operative that provides facilitation, planning, and community research services. Allison has volunteered with the Grunthal refugee sponsorship group, Grunthal Minor Hockey, the Grunthal Recreation Board, Elim Church in Grunthal and the local food bank. In her spare time, she enjoys recreational sports, reading and spending time with her family.

## Conrad Stoesz

Conrad is the archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Archives in Winnipeg and is passionate about Mennonite history, archives, and the Mennonite Heritage Village. His Stoesz ancestors were among the first residents of Blumstein, East Reserve. Conrad has earned a B.Th., B.A., and M.A. In addition to the MHV he serves as president of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada and past president of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society.





## Carlee Friesen

Carlee Friesen, CPA, CGA, is an experienced finance leader serving as Director of Finance at Mennonite Central Committee MB & SK, where she has provided strategic financial oversight for over a decade. As designated CPA, Carlee brings a strong commitment to local and global community, using her expertise to support initiatives in arts, economic empowerment, and international development. She has served on the MHV board for 6 years and on the MHV finance committee before that.

## Erin Unger

By day, Erin has been employed as a copywriter for Golden West Broadcasting for over 20 years, and takes joy in helping businesses craft effective advertising messages. But on evenings and weekends, she embarks on Mennonite-adjacent adventures and discoveries and then often writes about them on her blog, Mennotoba.com. She is married to Andrew Unger of Daily Bonnet/Unger Review fame. Erin was born in Steinbach and raised on a dairy farm located between Kleefeld and Grunthal.



# Calendar of Events 2026

## Hours of Operation:

May - September:

Monday – Saturday 9am – 5pm

Sunday 11:30am – 5pm

October – April:

Tuesday - Saturday 9am – 5pm (Village Centre & Galleries)

Thursday, January 8 & 22, 2026 | 10:00am-11:00am | Exhibit Explorers Craft & Story Hour

Saturday, January 24, 2026 | 10:00am-12:00pm | Pioneer Workshop Series: Sewing Workshop

Saturday, February 7 | 9:30am-12:00pm | “Storied Places” Writer’s Workshop

Thursday, February 12 & 26, 2026 | 10:00am-11:00am | Exhibit Explorers Craft & Story Hour

Saturday, February 14 | 9:00am-8:00pm | Winter Carnival

Winter activity day at the museum including skating, tobogganing, sleigh rides, snowshoeing, indoor game tournaments, crokicurl, and a hot food canteen!

Saturday, March 21, 2026 | 10:00am-12:00pm | Pioneer Workshop Series: Seed Starting Workshop

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 10:00am-12:00pm | Pioneer Workshop Series: Sourdough Workshop

Saturday, April 4, 2026 | 10:00am-2:00pm | The Great Easter Egg Hunt

Enjoy a family activity day including a chocolate eggs toss, free coffee, and crafts for children!

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 7:30pm | Annual General Meeting

Presentation of reports, approval of financial statements and election of board members. Open to the public.

Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 10:00am-12:00pm | Volunteer Seminar & Fair

Hear about the benefits of volunteering and get connected with local volunteer opportunities!

**Sunday, April 19, 2026 | 12:00 - 6:00pm | Wedding & Event Showcase**

Discover your lasting story at the Wedding & Events Showcase. Find trusted vendors and see what your day could look like.

**Thursday, April 22, 2026 | 7pm | Volunteer Orientation**

An informational evening for new and current volunteers. Come learn about volunteer opportunities at MHV!

**Friday, May 1, 2026 | 9:00am | Village & LBR Open**

Outdoor village and Livery Barn Restaurant open for the season.

**May 2026 | New Exhibit – Mennonites and Medicine**

Explore the new exhibit in the Gerhard Ens Gallery called “Mennonites and Medicine”.

**Saturday, May 9, 2026 | 9:00am-5:00pm | Manitoba Day Celebration**

Come celebrate MHV’s summer kick-off and Manitoba’s birthday with a Manitoba Day ceremony, free cake and coffee, pioneer demonstrations, and family carnival games!

**Sunday, May 10, 2026 | Mother’s Day Lunch Buffet**

**Friday, May 22, 2026 | Spring Gala Fundraising Dinner**

Celebrate with us and look forward to the future with us.

**Friday, June 19 – Sunday, June 21, 2026 | Summer in the City Waffle Booth**

Enjoy fresh homemade waffles at the MHV booth on Steinbach’s Main Street. Get to know the history of our city and region at the Heritage Tent.

**Sunday, June 21, 2026 | Father’s Day Lunch Buffet**

**Wednesday, July 1, 2026 | 9:00am-5:00pm | Canada Day**

Celebrate Canada Day at MHV with a Canada Day ceremony, free cake and coffee, guided tours of the Village, pioneer demonstrations, entertainment, rides, and lunch at the Livery Barn Restaurant.

**July 6-10, 2026 | Pioneer Day Camp**

Day camp for children ages 5-7 featuring pioneer activities, outdoor games and exploration, and fun time spent with friends and animals.

**July 13-17, 2026 | Pioneer Day Camp**

Day camp for children ages 7-11 featuring pioneer activities, outdoor games and exploration, and fun time spent with friends and animals.

### **July 20-24, 2026 | Pioneer Day Camp**

Apprenticeship day camp for children ages 11-14 featuring learning hands-on pioneer skills, outdoor games and exploration, and fun time spent with friends and animals.

### **Saturday, July 25, 2026 | 9:00am-5:00pm | Country Classic Heritage Car Show**

See classic cars lined up and down the Village Main Street. Enjoy dedicated workmanship and interesting stories.

### **Saturday, August 1 – Monday, August 3, 2026 | Pioneer Days**

Relive our Mennonite past through pioneer demonstrations, guided tours of the Village, steam powered threshing, live music, and great food.

### **August 10-14, 2026 | Pioneer Day Camp**

Day camp for children ages 7-11 featuring pioneer activities, outdoor games and exploration, and fun time spent with friends and animals.

### **Saturday, August 15, 2026 | Peace Trek**

Support MHV and Eden Health at our first-ever community 5k walk.

### **August 17-21, 2026 | Pioneer Day Camp**

Day camp for children ages 7-11 featuring pioneer activities, outdoor games and exploration, and fun time spent with friends and animals.

### **Monday, September 7, 2026 | 9:00am-5:00pm | Fall on the Farm**

Celebrate the harvest season with threshing, field work, hog butchering, hearty food, corn on the cob, pioneer demonstrations, cultural food vendors, and cultural performances!

### **Saturday, September 19, 2026 10:00am- 4:00pm | Touch-A-Tractor Fundraiser**

Be here for the first-ever MHV Touch-A-Truck Fundraiser in support of MHV and Steinbach Community Outreach. Explore vehicles of all kinds in a family-friendly environment.

### **Wednesday, September 30, 2026 | National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

A day to reflect on our relationships with Indigenous friends and neighbours.

### **Thursday, October 1, 2026 | Village & LBR Close**

Village grounds and Livery Barn Restaurant closed for the season.

### **Thursday, October 1, 2026 | 7:00pm | Volunteer Appreciation**

An evening of thanking our wonderful volunteers for their hard work this summer! If you have volunteered at MHV this year, you are invited to attend.

### **Saturday, November 14, 2026 | Christmas Market**

Christmas market, wagon rides, hot chocolate

**Saturday, November 21, 2026 | Herbal Remedies Workshop**

**Thursday, November 26, 2026 | 7:00pm | Melodies of Christmas: Musical Showcase**

**December 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027 | Winter in the Village**

Celebrate winter in the Village with skating, snowshoeing, skiing, crokicurl, sleigh rides, light display, Winter in the Village Café, and a roaring bonfire. Open until 8pm on Saturdays.

**Saturday, December 5, 2026 | 6:00pm-8:00pm | Light up the Village: Christmas Tree & Village Lighting Ceremony**

3...2...1... Lights! Join the countdown to watch the village light up with thousands of Christmas lights. Enjoy caroling, Winter in the Village Café, crafts for kids, and sleigh rides in our picturesque Village.

**December 24, 2026 – January 5, 2027 | Closed for Christmas and New Year**

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you and yours from the staff at MHV!

**December 28 – 30, 2026 | Mini Winter Day Camp**

Winter day camp for ages 6-11 featuring skating, snowshoeing, winter walks, and fun, indoor pioneer activities.





Thank you for supporting  
Mennonite Heritage Village.