



Neubergthal Notes

Stories Live Here

Fall 2018

Volume 16 Issue 2

Neubergthal welcomes over 300 to Culture Day, 2018



Brief Glimpses of
Culture Day,
Sept 15, 2018 - -
-“Kohmt trigj nohm
Darp”
- come back to the
village

Inside the Commons
Barn Saturday evening
photo by Lori Dueck

Andrew Bergman, Daily Bonnet founder and writer, entertained a large crowd Saturday evening with stories of his experiences and writings (www.dailybonnet.com). Josh Letkeman, singer, songwriter from Winnipeg, concluded the evening with a mix of folk and country music

Royden Loewen, Chair of Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg, discussed Mennonite migration to southern Manitoba and indigenous displacement. This session was held in Elmer & Hilda Hildebrand's housebarn,

Historian Ernie Braun, Niverville, presented a history of Mennonite schools, the transition from private to public schools in the 1920's, and how villages and groups responded in different ways, more stories on p 3

Neubergthal Heritage Foundation story part 2

Major Projects



Friesen Housebarn

photo by Lori Penner

Friesen Housebarn

The first major project was the restoration of the Friesen Housebarn. Oral history tells us that this place was built in the early-middle 1890's. These buildings were last used as a residence in 1986. (The last residents in this place were Margaret (Mrs Abram) Friesen and her son, Abe.) The area just around the buildings was leased from Jerry & Wendy Friesen. The rest of the yard is not public space, it is still a working farm yard. Grants were received for restoration work and this place has been open for summer tours since 2005.

HF Hamm Picnic Shelter

The HF Hamm picnic shelter was moved to its present location in 2009. It was initially a residence for Johann Hamm, built in the 1880's, and had been used as a granary for many years at the back of that family property - Johann, then Peter F, and Henry F, and Brian. (Dave and Ana Klassen live on that yard now.)

Bergthal School

The Altbergthal school, now called the Bergthal School, was moved to this property in 2012 and restoration work was completed over the next several years. Initially a Bergthal School Committee was responsible for this project but this has been turned over to NHF.

Washroom

A public washroom was built on the Commons yard in the summer of 2017.

School, washroom and picnic shelter



photo by Carey Kehler

The Commons Barn (Housebarn)

After Eddie Schmidt died, the Klippenstein/Schmidt yard was given to Neubergthal Heritage Foundation as part of the estate settlement. (The last residents in this place were Elizabeth (Mrs John) Klippenstein and Eddie Schmidt, the hired man.) Village stories say that this barn is one of the two oldest and original buildings in the village, erected in 1876. (The other original building is the barn on the yard of Ray & Marilyn Hamm.) That seems a few years early but that was the village story. The house was last used as a residence in the middle 1960's and the barn was used for a dairy operation till the middle 1980's. On the basis of a newspaper on an upstairs wall, it is said that the house was built in 1910.

The house and barn were put on solid footing in 2011. The bottom ends of the timbers in the frame of the barn had to be rebuilt.

Looking ahead

These buildings are available for weddings and meetings, for community and family events. Other plans for the house, kitchen facilities, the yard, are being discussed.



Neuberghthal Commons Housebarn

photo by Carey Kehler

Dennis and Phyllis Reimer on stage in the afternoon
photo by Lori Penner



Culture Day cont'd

An artisan market and different music groups kept the Commons Barn feeling warm and full all afternoon.

And there was Plaut Deetsch!!

Joyce Friesen and Edwin Dueck had us all laughing a lot.

“Goondach, mien nohmen ess Edwin Dueck Ejk vohn 9 miel vasteh fon Altona.. Ejk hab met de Neu Hoffnung drama grupp fe tvintich yoa jeoabeit, bet de shool too jeschloteh vort.. Emma faehl schpos jehaut. Hiea ess ne korteh jeschicht.

En Sindach School Leara stalt dee Junges daut fea, vaut vud baeta sennen too drinkjen, Schnaups ooda vota? I

Hee nempt en glaus vota, schopt doa en laevenden vorm enen, en dee schvampst doa sondazorj romm en daut glaus.

Dann nempta en glaus Schnaups en schopt doa en laevenda vorm enen, en enn uagenblick essa doot, schiev aus en shtok. De Leara frajcht, vaut jkev vie learen fon dit?

Enn jkliena Jung haft siena haunt op, en sajcht, Schnaups ess baeta too drinjen aus Vota, viels dann brukt enna nich angst hann daut eena varm haft.”

(Good day My name is Edwin Dueck I live 9 miles west of Altona. I have worked with the New Hope drama group for twenty years, till the school was closed. Always had lots of fun. Here is a short story

A Sunday School teacher asked the boys, which is better to drink, whiskey or water?

He took a glass of water and put a live worm in it. The worm swims in the water with no problem. He took a glass of whiskey and put a worm in it. The worm dies in the blink of an eye, stiff as a stick. The teacher asks what do we learn from this. A small boy raises his hand and says whiskey is better because then there is no fear of having worms,)
(more stories next time)

Plaut deetsch is what we speak here in southern Manitoba. Low German is slightly different Rose Hildebrand, Altona, reported on a book by Reuben Epp about these two languages. Low German was the business language for the Hanseatic League (around the North Sea) from the 12th to the 15th centuries.

Anne Friesen Retiring

The commitment and steady work of Anne Friesen as caretaker of the community centre for many years (25?) was recognized at a village supper on Nov 8. Anne will be retiring from this work at the end of this year. She was given a gift certificate and a plunger in appreciation for her service to the community. Sara Abrams made delicious enchiladas for the supper. Won Jae and Olivia Song, of the Diversity Times (Wpg), paid most of the expenses for the meal. They are the coordinators of a seniors cooking project which involves a local group and they made this meal one of their events. Over \$500.00 was raised for the community rink.

The rink, Christmas programs and picnics were frequently noted on the small 'memory' papers on the tables. Suppers and other community events were also mentioned.

Due to cost and time involved in the present pattern of mailing Neuberghthal Notes, we would like to send Neuberghthal Notes by email if possible in the future.

To help us with this, **please send your email address to rmhamm@icloud.com**

Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation

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Finance and Fundraising

The NHF application to a cost-sharing program in Parks Canada was approved and work on the barn began in the fall of 2017.

Eligible expenses for this work - - outside restoration and inside rehabilitation - - are approx \$750,000. Parks will pay 50%. There have been other expenses which were not eligible for cost sharing. Financing arrangements were made to match the federal funds and fundraising is ongoing to cover these loans. Approximately \$100,000 is still needed to cover all the costs.

All donations and pledges are welcome and gratefully received. NHF is a non-profit organization and will issue tax receipts. Donations can be made online through the website

www.neuberghthalheritagefoundation.com
click on donate

or cheques can be made out to
Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation and mailed
to NHF, Box 2429, Altona MB R0G 0B0

The Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation is seeking former students of the Altbergthal/New Hope School for an oral history project. Please email Graham Schellenberg if you have some stories to share. (schellenbergg@gmail.com)

For information about Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation and activities, go to

www.neuberghthalheritagefoundation.com

or Facebook/neuberghthalcommons

or contact Ray Hamm

rmhamm@icloud.com

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