



# Neubergthal Notes

*Kohmt triqj nohm Darp*

Summer 2018

Volume 16 issue 1

## Board Members

- Shaun Friesen - chair
- Terry Mierau - vice chair
- Ken Hamm - treasurer
- Brad Braun
- Lori Dueck/Loren Braul
- Karen Martens
  
- Harv Heinrichs - bookkeeper
- Ray Hamm - executive assistant, fundraising
- Graham Schellenberg - summer host, tour guide - 204 304 1929

For information about Neubergthal Heritage Foundation or NHF events contact Ray Hamm 204 324 4115

**Mark September 15 on your calendar for Culture Day in Neubergthal**

As part of "Thursday in the Village" (see back cover), a treaty event was planned for June 21.

## Treaty UnderstandingS, 2018

was the theme of the meeting in the Commons Barn. Indigenous stories are also part of the stories of this place. This was a part of the NHF plan to hear and experience many stories of this place, this area.

Loretta Ross, the treaty commissioner for the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, was the featured guest. The other speakers were from Roseau River First Nation - -Charlie Nelson, lead elder and teaching elder Peter Atkinson.

A small smudge ceremony - - some sage smouldering in a large shell - - began the evening. Charlie Nelson encouraged us to take in, to breathe in, some kindness.

Commissioner Ross presented some context and the need for treaties and reconciliation. In 1800, this land clearly was the homeland of the indigenous people. By 1900, they were guests or clients on reserves in this land. (The world was overturned for indigenous people in Canada in the 19th century.)

There are different views of the treaties among indigenous people, even among the people at Roseau. Some aspects of treaties are tested within the Canadian constitution and within the Canadian court system. On the other hand, some aspects of treaties need to be parallel to the Canadian system. Some parts of the constitution need to be tested within the treaties.

## Reflection

We all want a better future for our children and grandchildren. We must do better than has been done to this point. We are neighbouring families. New ways of sharing this land are needed. There will be more conversations and meetings.

# A Short Story of Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation

## Part 1 - beginnings and heritage features

Neuberghthal was designated as a national heritage site by Parks Canada, "having both historical and architectural significance." This includes the whole village, not just some of the older buildings. Parks did not impose any policies or by-laws on the village.

### Historic Features

In the 1980's Parks Canada decided they wanted a place to show something about the Canadian prairies, early agriculture settlement and changing agriculture in Canada. Parks did a survey across western Canada to find a place to show and tell these stories. Parks chose the village of Neuberghthal as the best place to experience some of the early permanent agricultural settlements on the open prairie. There are many other villages in southern Manitoba and in other places. (Stirling, Alberta, a Mormon community was also designated at the same time because the Mormons brought irrigation to the Prairies.)

- The land map of a village is not the ordinary homestead or land ownership pattern. The early Mennonite immigrants were given special permission to live in villages - this would help them survive on the prairies.
- The size and layout of the yards show unique patterns. - - most yards are approx 14 acres, having enough pasture for 8 horses and 5 cows.
- Building patterns tell many stories Original buildings and layouts and also buildings which show changes made over the years are here. Most buildings were set back from the street, usually at a uniform distance, were perpendicular to the street, with the front facing south or east

[www.neuberghthalheritagefoundation.com](http://www.neuberghthalheritagefoundation.com)

- The single street and the rows of trees along the street and along property boundaries are trademarks of these villages. The trees were mostly cottonwood and Manitoba maple.
- For the Parks Canada listing of the "historic features" go to [historicplaces.ca](http://historicplaces.ca) and search for Neuberghthal street village - - <http://historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=13161&pid=0>

After Parks had done some preliminary work, the village decided to accept this heritage designation. Parks was very clear that they were not making rules for the village. They said to the village, 'we think you have something important here. We will help you preserve some of this and we will help you to tell, to share, some of the stories of the the prairies and farming.'

Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation (NHF) NHF was incorporated in 1997. Following are some statements from the constitution.

### *Purpose and Goals*

- 1) *Maintaining and preserving the historic and heritage aspects of Neuberghthal, and*
- 2) *making these historic and heritage aspects of Neuberghthal available and interesting to the public, as appropriate.*

*The board of the NHF shall be composed of a minimum of five members and a maximum of nine members; at least two-thirds of the committee shall be local (local means residents of Neuberghthal, and also former residents and family members living within 20 miles of the village).*

Over the years, many people have been members of the board.

Part 2- projects completed to date - - in next issue

[facebook.com/neuberghthalcommons](https://facebook.com/neuberghthalcommons)

## We remember two special friends of the village

Norma Giesbrecht

February 24, 1940 - June 19, 2018. A memorial service was held on June 23 in the Altona Sommerfeld Mennonite Church, Norma was an active member of the board of Neubergthal Heritage Foundation. We will miss her insights, her stories and the snacks she brought to the meetings. Norma grew up in the "Friesen Housebarn" and she has told many stories and led many wonderful tours. We are grateful for all that she shared with us.

Johnny Kehler

November 12, 1931 - May 16, 2018. A memorial service was held May 21 in the Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church. Johnny Kehler grew up in Neubergthal. He will be remembered as an athlete and a huge sports fan. For at least the last 20 years he made and maintained the ice at the outdoor community rink in Neubergthal. Often he would be skating or playing hockey with his grandchildren. The family designated the community rink for memorial gifts. Thank you for your community work in Neubergthal and in the larger area.



---

## Update on the Barn and the Commons

The basics on the barn construction are done. Now comes another critical part - the finishing touches - decor, the little things that strike our eye and our imagination.

To this point the barn project has cost approx 750,000.00 Parks Canada is paying 50% for the restoration work. The local 50%, the portion to be covered by NHF, has come from donations, pledges and a mortgage. **Approx \$100,000.00 of the mortgage still needs to be covered. Donations and pledges are needed, invited and gladly received.**

And there is more for the overall plan. Kitchen facilities are needed for the house and barn. The interior of the house needs more work. There are other things to be added- -a roof for the picnic area, a playground area, landscaping and the list goes on.

Due to cost and time involved in the present pattern of mailing Neubergthal Notes, we would like to send Neubergthal Notes by email in the future. To help us with this, **please send your email address to [rmhamm@icloud.com](mailto:rmhamm@icloud.com)**

# SUMMER IN THE VILLAGE

NEUBERGTHAL  
MANITOBA

2018

Neubergthal Heritage Foundation  
204.324.4115

[www.neubergthalheritagefoundation.com](http://www.neubergthalheritagefoundation.com)  
[neubergthalheritagefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:neubergthalheritagefoundation@gmail.com)

Located at Road 1w & Hwy 421  
1 hour south of Winnipeg off Hwy 75

## SEASON OPENER

MAY 26 2018  
THE NEUBERGTHAL  
COMMONS

Housebarn &  
Schoolhouse tours  
2:30- 5 pm

Soup & Pie  
5-7:00 pm

ADULTS \$15  
KIDS (6-12) \$8  
5 & UNDER FREE

The New Customs  
Concert 7:30 pm

TICKETS \$20  
RESERVE BY PH OR EMAIL

## THURSDAYS IN THE VILLAGE

May 31.  
Storytelling  
June 7.  
Felting Workshop  
June 14.  
Fermented Sodas  
with Edible Alchemy  
June 21  
Aboriginal Day  
July 5  
Weed Walk  
with Laura Reeves  
July 12  
Darn/knit workshop  
with Reclaim Mending  
July 19  
Bake oven Bread workshop  
July 26  
Coffee House  
August 2  
Poetry Open Mic  
August 9  
Family Game night  
August 16  
Storytelling  
August 23  
Coffeehouse  
August 30  
Wild teas, kombucha, kefir, &  
cider workshop

## ALL SUMMER

...

Tours  
Friesen Housebarn  
Klippenstein  
Housebarn  
Bergthal School  
.....

Old fashion candy  
store.  
.....

Welcome to the  
storied village

COME TO THE DARP

## CULTURE DAY

SEPTEMBER 15 2018  
THE NEUBERGTHAL  
COMMONS

Workshops & Live Music  
Artisan Market  
Housebarn Tours  
2:30-4:30

Soup & Pie  
5-7 pm

Concert  
7:30 pm  
Andrew Bergman of  
'The Daily Bonnet'  
The Letkeman Brothers

Details at

[www.neubergthalheritagefoundation.com](http://www.neubergthalheritagefoundation.com)