

NHF Capitol Project Costs

• Hamm House Picnic Shelter: restore and repair shutters, build doors - picnic tables @ 275.00 per table	7,455
• Neuberghthal Playground (next to picnic shelter) - landscape fabric	600
• Friesen Housebarn Interpretive Centre - Maintenance to exterior including repainting	4,410
• Eddie Schmidt Education and Resource Centre Phase 1 - Schematic Design and Condition report (100% complete) Site clean up and stabilization	66,000
Phase 2 - restoration/renovation of house (2010-13) (60% complete)	125,000
Phase 3 - restoration/renovation of barn (2012-16) (0% complete)	895,000

Please consider making a donation to one of the projects. It may be a shutter, a picnic table, or a window for the Eddie Schmidt Housebarn. Donations over \$10.00 will be accepted. Donations over \$500.00 will be recognized on a plaque.

The NHF gratefully acknowledges the gifts of \$5000 from The Altona Community Foundation & \$20,000 from The Winnipeg Foundation!

Neuberghthal today

A lot of changes have happened in the village in the last 3-4 years. As people have sold their property new families have moved in. It is always sad when people move away, but at the same time we hope new residents will feel welcome and become part of village life in Neuberghthal. If interested, an updated Neuberghthal Telephone Directory is available from the NHF.

- It is great to see more young children riding their bikes along the street. The timing is right for NHF to be involved in constructing a playground on the school yard property. This is complemented by the HF Hamm Stack house just to the north of the playground which will soon be inaugurated as the picnic shelter. Another popular addition for the village Kids last summer was the Candy Store in the Friesen Housebarn. This year the Friesen-Pankratz family is working on adding some more fun "items" to The Pantry (Koma) Candy store. Come check it out!

- Also new for this summer will be "Bake Oven" days. The Russian Bake Oven/Heater in the Friesen Housebarn Interpretive Centre will be fired up for anyone who wishes to

bake bread in the oven. Watch for dates and sign up.

- The Friesen Housebarn Interpretive Centre and The Pantry (Koma) Candy Store will once again be open to the public for a self-guided walk through, **starting June 30, 2012.**

The hours will be as follows:

Thursday	- 4:00 - 8:00
Friday	- 11:00 - 5:00
Saturday	- 11:00 - 5:00
Sunday	- 1:00 - 5:00
Monday	- 11:00 - 5:00

A student will be present during these hours.

Tues & Wed - Closed

Closing date will be at the end of September

- For guided tours and fees check out the website, www.neuberghthal.ca, for contact information.

Karen Martens

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Altbergthal School Moving Update

By Lawrence Klippenstein

We are grateful that the project of moving and reconstructing the Altbergthal school building is no longer at a standstill. Several things have happened since we last reported to the Heritage Posting in November, 2011.

First of all, we completed a grant application (in by Dec. 15, 2011) to receive funds (matching) from Manitoba Historic Resources. Obtaining about \$13,000 or so seems to be in the offing. We shall know around April, 2012, what will be coming our way to help the project. It will bring a possible total of CA \$25,000. Together to prepare a foundation at the new site, move the building, and do some further exterior reconstruction – all we hop, to be completed in the spring and summer of 2012. Additional fund raising initiatives are also underway.

We have strengthened our conversation with the Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation (NHF) and W.C. Miller High School's principal, Jonathan Toews, on the possible use of this facility, when relocated, for enhancing an environmental studies program with W.C. Miller High School in Altona. Other uses for the building regarding education and heritage preservation in the region are also under discussion.

Energetic volunteers have virtually completely cleared the site chosen for the new location of the building in Neuberghthal – on the lot of the former Eddie Schmidt property in the village (NHF National Site development). Local media (CFAM and Golden West Radio) have given further information coverage for the public in late fall and early winter. Photo material is available from hiebertc@mymts.ca. We just found a good one for the rear view of the building, along with hockey rink nearby for the late 1940s. N



Spring 2012

Coming events

June 23

Friesen Housebarn Interpretive Centre & the Candy Store open!
(see schedule on back page)

August 9

The New Lightweights (Wpg based folk-pop group) in concert at The Krahn Barn. Tickets: \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Call 204 324 1612 or email krahnbarn@gmail.com for information and to reserve tickets.

Come & visit

Tours of *Neuberghthal*, a Mennonite street village, are available upon request.

Call ahead to make arrangements

We also take special requests for other types of tours and events. Please call or e-mail us for details on how we can accommodate your group.

Ph. (204) 324 1567 or 324 1612
email: KaRonmartens@gmail.com

Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation

Brent Hamm
Bruce Friesen-Pankratz
Ron (Joe) Braun
Karen Martens (hospitality)
Harv Heinrichs (treasurer)
Michael Hiebert (secretary)
Brad Braun (vice chair)
Margrùite Krahn (chair)

Neuberghthal Notes



The village people - sometime between 1910 & 1920.

Neuberghthal History Book Project

In November 1984, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended that "the agricultural settlement of the Canadian prairies is a theme of national significance," and further that "while certain manifestations of prairie settlement are illustrated by existing national historic parks, further commemoration of the phenomenon is called for." Four years later, in February 1989, after further research was completed, the board recognized Neuberghthal, Manitoba as an example of distinctive form of group agricultural settlement known as the Mennonite street village. At that time they stated:

"Mennonite Street Villages are prairie settlement forms of both national historic and architectural significance and they should be commemorated at New Berghthal, Manitoba, which not only possessed a considerable amount of resource integrity but an apparently unique "sense of place.""

Thus Neuberghthal was designated a National Historic Site and an appropriate place to commemorate an important chapter in the history of the Canadian prairies.

Preliminary discussions with members of the Neuberghthal community on the implementation of the Board's recommendation were initiated in 1994. In 1996, formal consultation and intensive collaboration research began, to identify the cultural resources and devise a plan for preservation and interpretation of these

resources. The Mennonite street village example was influential in the sense that it proved to the Canadian government and to the future immigrants that the prairies could indeed be successfully settled and farmed. The Neuberghthal Herit-



The village street.

age Foundation has been actively involved with restoration of the Friesen house barn and presently with restoring the Eddie Schmidt house barn.

Parks Canada was concerned about commemorating the place and we as the Neuberghthal History Book Committee are concerned about telling the story of the people. We cherish our heritage and want to keep it alive by writing a book, titled "Neuberghthal: A Mennonite Street Village, A "sense of place" with deep roots." In it, you will find many interesting stories about 'Happenings' in the village. For example "Annie":

Sunday was the day the girls flaunted their fancy apparel, as fancy as Mennonite fashion would allow, and the young men donned their fedoras or bowlers, and three piece suits. An old photo of the village youth group, shows Annie wearing a long brown gored skirt, sashed at her tiny waist, and a white draping blouse, with stand-up collar, leg of mutton sleeves and lace embellishments. Her thick, dark, wavy hair was swept up to the top of her head and held in place with hair pins and a big, white bow. Standing tall and proud she looked like she could be the "Belle of the Mennonite Barn Dance."

Please send us your stories and pictures of past and present family members. Where did they come from, memories, experiences, misfortunes, happy events, good and bad times etc. All pictures that you send to us will be

treated with great care and returned, print your name and address on the back of each picture. Also, forward names, dates and captions for the picture. We might not be able to use them all but we will do our best.

The Neuberghthal History Book Committee reserves the right to edit, but not change, stories for the purpose of space or repetition. If you need further information or if you know of anyone who has been missed in this mailing, please forward the name(s) and address(s) to the following address:

Neuberghthal History Book Committee
314-276 Centre Ave W
Altona, MB
R0G 0B2
Email: prhild@mymts.net

If you would like to pre-order a copy of the book, let us know via email, or by sending a letter to the above address. Please indicate how many copies of the book you would like to have. The estimated cost of one book is \$50.00. *N*

New High School Program to use ESHERC as Field Station

By Bruce Friesen-Pankratz

From burning manure bricks to installing solar panels, there are just some things that cannot be taught in a traditional classroom. That is why the Red River Technical Vocational Area and W.C. Miller Collegiate are so excited to partner with the Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation. This partnership involves an agreement whereby certain aspects of the new Alternative Energy Program will be taught on the grounds of the Eddie Schmidt Education and Resource Centre (ESHRC). The program, which is the first of its kind in Manitoba, was developed this past year by W.C. Miller Collegiate staff. It will be piloted during the 2012-2013 school year. Major themes of the program include exploring how alternative energy can be used to heat buildings, generate electricity, and power our vehicles. For more information visit: http://www.rrtva.ca/images/stories/Broadsheets/alternative_energy_broadsheet_jan._16_2012.pdf or call W.C. Miller Collegiate (204-324-6416).

Update on NHF Projects

By Brad Braun

Eddie Schmidt Housebarn Education and Resource Centre (ESHERC)

Cutting the grass, trimming and clean up around the yard was a regular thing again last year. Ken Hamm took care of most of the yard with the NHF mower while the ESHERC committee members did the trimming and clean up. It started out very busy like the previous year, but when the rain quit, the grass slowed down as well.

The house is in the process of getting levelled. The floor is already much improved and will be completed this spring. Window repair and replacement is under way. We are fortunate to have spare windows and parts from other buildings in the village for this work, thanks to Prairie Eagle Construction's ability to save material that "looks like we could use that somewhere".

Last fall we had electrical service installed in the house. A 200 amp service was installed to supply hydro for work being done. A new line was brought in by Mb Hydro, along the north property line. This install required removal of some trees. One good poplar at the north west corner of the property was taken down. A couple of maples in the area were also removed. The maples were in poor condition but the poplar removal required some debate. In the end, it was too expensive to go around. Poplar seedlings have been planted on the west side along the road.

The two garage buildings on the south side have been demolished. A few maple trees in that area were also removed. Two maples were left and will be pruned to improve appearance and health.

There are several large cottonwood poplars on the Schmidt property and on the old school yard. These trees will also be pruned to remove dead branches, which are a safety hazard, and to improve their appearance and health.

HF Hamm House

Last summer, we worked on preparations to convert the Hamm house into a picnic shelter. We levelled the dirt floor, and then hauled in, levelled and packed in 1/4" down stone over that. The committee had help from some of the village residents for the task. The result is a nice firm floor ready for visitors.

In order to make the house ready for use as a picnic shelter we would like to restore and repair the shutters, and build new doors. This will allow the building to be closed up when the season ends. We will also be purchasing a few picnic tables for the building.

Neuberghthal Playground

A playground is being built next to the HF Hamm house, on the school yard property. This will include some climbing structures, swings, and a few other "agriculturally inspired" play structures.



Friesen Housebarn Interpretive Centre

As with any building, maintenance is essential to keeping it going. At the Friesen Housebarn, we anticipate that the exterior of the building will need a new coat of paint this summer. We also anticipate construction of a new foot path from the street to Interpretive Centre, in order to separate the pedestrian traffic from the farm traffic on the driveway.

If you are interested in getting involved with any of the NHF's projects, by volunteering your time or by making a donation, please contact one of the board members, or check out our website (www.neuberghthal.ca) for the donation form. If you are interested in supporting a specific project, the following is what we need to raise to finish some of the projects listed above:

- 50 - \$150 gifts will complete the restoration of the shutters and doors at the HF Hamm House (\$7500)
- 50 - \$90 gifts will complete the work of repainting the exterior of the Friesen

Housebarn Interpretive Centre (\$4500)

- 12 - \$50 gifts will allow us to purchase building materials for the construction of the swings and the climbing structures at the playground. (\$600)

Any donations over \$10.00 will be receipted, and a donor plaque will be set up in the HF Hamm Picnic shelter. We greatly appreciate the financial and in-kind contributions that people and agencies have made and continue to make towards the conservation and preservation projects of the Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation. We could not accomplish what we do without your support! *N*