

Requiescant in Pace

Schuett, Charles (Carl) Andrew—Sept 29 2015, in Kitchener, age 91 years, Husband of Therese (Salvaneschi). Father of John and Judy Reitzel, Brian and Barb Schuett, Jim and Jane Schuett,, Michael Schuett and Feckla Spauldin, Cathy and Paul Harnois, Virginia and Grant Diemert. Predeceased by daughter, Maryanne Reitzel and siblings Clarence, Clara, and Edith Schuett, Marie Grundy, Loretta Daub, Wilbert Schuett, and Anna Zettel.



Weiler, John J.A. —Nov 7 2105, at Victoria Hospital, London, age 71. Buried in St. Boniface cemetery, Husband of Patricia (nee Brand), father of Michael "Jamie" (Shannon) and Mark. Brother of Patrick (Elaine) and the late Michael Weiler. Predeceased by his parents Anthony and Honora (nee Driscoll).

REINHART, J.Simon—Nov 14, 2015, at Guelph General Hospital, age 93. Husband of the late Frances (Bruder). Father of Tom, the late Jean Draves (Bryon), Jim (Rose), Carl (Debbie), the late infant son Joseph (1957), Mary Mitchell (Dan) and David (Mary Lynn). Survived by his sister Katherine Keifer (late Vince) and by sisters- and brothers-in-law Elmer (Cathy) Bruder, Helen Dorsch (late Earl), Arthur Bruder (late Eva), Phyllis Bruder (late Herbert). He was predeceased by sister Marie Foster (late Edgar).

BROHMAN, Patricia "Pat" (nee Schell) Nov 27, 2015 Wife of the late Edwin Brohman. Mother of Karen Horsfall (Rob), Kevin Brohman (Jo Ann Keating) and Kenneth Brohman (Janice Mothersill). Sister of Mary Paulter, Agnes Proulx and Maureen (Matt) Eichorn, sister-in-law Maureen Schell. Predeceased by brother Gerard Schell.

Merry Christmas to all our members!

A few fun facts about the West Montrose covered bridge:

- In the late 1800's the primary means of transportation was horse-drawn carriage and a covered bridge was less disturbing to horses crossing waterways.
- In winter, buggy wheels were replaced with sleigh runners, and a local resident was hired to shovel snow onto the bridge.
- Originally coal oil lamps lit the inside of the bridge. A long pole equipped with a hook was used to hoist each light onto a beam 13 feet above the bridge floor. The lamps remained until 1950.
- With a two-ton load limit, the local school buses had to stop, drop off one student to stop traffic at the other end, all the students would then unload, and cross on foot. The bus would cross and load up on the other side. School buses can no longer cross the bridge.
- Known as the kissing bridge, on a date, the boy would ride his buggys through it and would often stop for a secluded kiss. But when the horses stopped themselves, without any command from the driver, the local girls learned to be weary!



The Last Word

Our Birthday Club:

Each year we invite locals from the community, or those who were born here 80 years ago, to join our Birthday Club. See who else celebrates their 80th birthday in 2016:

- Mary Tyler Moore
- Robert Redford
- Burt Reynolds
- Pope Francis
- Screw-top bottles
- The Shopping Cart
- Porky Pig



Mustard Plaster

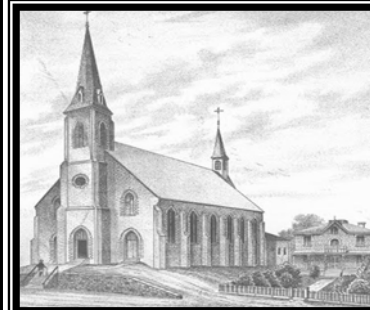
Canada's medicare didn't start until **July 1, 1966**. Prior to that – people were responsible to pay for their medical costs and visits to the doctor were infrequent unless absolutely necessary. Well it is cold season, so here is the recipe used in the past to ward off nasty chest colds:

Mustard Plaster:

- 4 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons dry mustard
- Water (lukewarm)



Mix the dry ingredients together then add the water to make a paste. The paste should be smooth and easily spreadable but not too thin so that it runs or is watery. Take a clean **flour sack towel** (yes—let's be thrifty) or flannel piece of cloth and spread the paste across it. Fold in half. Apply to the chest area. Be careful – skin will blister if left on too long!



GREETINGS
FROM
NEW GERMANY
CANADA



The Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community
1338B Maryhill Rd., Maryhill ON N0B 2B0

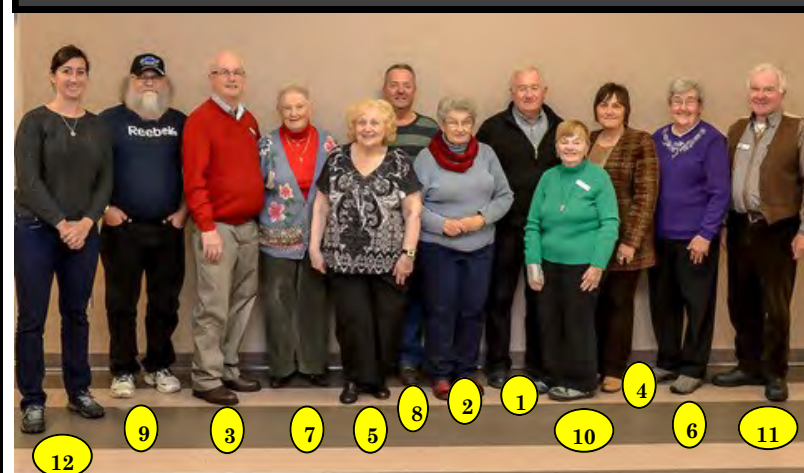
Winter 2015/2016

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Annual General Meeting Results



The 2016 Board Members for the Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community. Missing Lee Ann Wetzel and Carol Neuman.

2016 Executive

- 1) President: Tom Schell
- 2) Vice President: Mary Ann Stroh
- 3) Secretary: Ken Hanson
- 4) Treasurer: Frances Vegh
- 5) Past President: Marlene Bruckhardt

Committees:

- 6) Church & School: Mary Campagnaro
- 7) Community & Birthday Club: Diane Beitz
- 8) Building, Maintenance: Brian Lorentz
- 9) Wayside Shrines: Doug Keller
- 10) Genealogy/Archives: Diane Strickler
- 11) Programs: Ken Kurtz
- 12) Publications/Website: Ashley Honsberger
- Fundraising: Lee Ann Wetzel
- Membership: Carol Neuman

Item from our Past: Flour Sack Dresses



During the Great Depression (1929 – 1939) times were tough. Life on local farms in the 1930s meant hard work and frugal habits. Farm families would "make do" with what they had, wasting nothing that could be recycled or reused. Farm wives even transformed humble feed sacks and flour bags into dresses for the girls, coveralls for the boys, underwear, dish cloths, pillows, curtains, table cloths and many other household necessities. By opening one seam, the sack would become a larger piece of 'fabric'. After bleaching and washing them (by hand of course) many times, they would be suitable for clothing. Eventually the bag manufacturers were turning out bags in bright colours with printed designs or borders on them. Five Roses flour had a pattern for a ragdoll on their bags. During World War II, there was a shortage of cotton fabric for the civilian population, and the recycling of bags became a necessity. Many of the farmers in this area were self-sufficient, growing their food, raising their livestock and as such were not affected to the same degree as many of the unemployed people in the large cities in Canada. Regardless, times were tough and our ancestors were thrifty. Raising a large family during the depression, forced everyone to live simple and make do with what they had.



Dorothy and Helen Brohman—wearing flour sack dresses circa 1930



Ask Diane



Dear Diane:
In my family tree there is a family (last name Schmuck) with 15 children. This was in the 1700's in Soufflenheim. Five of the six girls in the family have the same first name:

- 1) Marie Anne
- 2) Marie Catherine
- 3) Marie Therese
- 4) Marie Elizabeth
- 5) Marie Anne (again)

The first Marie Anne died at age 10 and they had another daughter the same year and called her Marie Anne. My questions:

- 1) Why would anyone name most of their daughters by the same first name?
- 2) Why would they reuse a name that they had already used for a child that had lived to the age of 10?

Dear Readers: It seems absurd today to have 15 children, and reuse first names but that was not unusual in the 1700s in France. In old European naming customs, people were given a first name that was usually a 'spiritual name' and the second name was not referred to as a middle name, but as a "call" name or "secular" (non religious) name. Our relatives would not go by the name Marie but by their 'call' name. Beware when searching for your family history; you may find a baptism of an individual with a name such as Marie Anne Schmuck but later legal records may be registered under the name of Anne Schmuck. To answer your second question, in the 1700s parents could usually count on one third of their children not

surviving. If a child died, the next child of the same sex would often be given the same name. Again a tip when looking for your family history, you may see a George listed as a 6 year old in the 1850 census then in the 1860 census listed as an eight year old. It may mean the George died shortly after the 1850 census was taken. Another interesting fact, if a baby died during birth or shortly after and a name hadn't been picked the boys were usually named Joseph and the girls Mary.



Dear Diane: Many tombstones in the old walled cemetery at St. Boniface Maryhill have the letters **I.H.S.** inscribed on them. What does it mean?

Dear Readers: I.H.S. means Jesus Christ. I.H.S is a Christogram, a Christian symbol which is a monogram or combination of letters that form an abbreviation for the name of Jesus Christ. I.H.S is the first three letters in Latin for the Greek name of Jesus: [iota-eta-sigma](#). The Greek letter **I** represents [iota](#). The Greek letter **H** represents [eta](#). The Greek letter **S** represents [sigma](#). Next time you walk by the old cemetery—look for a large cross that is visible from outside the wall. It proudly displays the Christogram for passersby.

Diane Strickler is our archivist and a local historian with a wealth of knowledge on genealogy regarding St. Boniface and Maryhill families. eMail your questions to info@maryhillroots.com.

Many residents from the Maryhill area have been called to serve the Roman Catholic Church. Tony Mancini, a former President of the Historical Society and a retired priest writes about these individuals.

Fr. Clement Brohmann Written by Tony Mancini

Fr. Clement Brohmann, the son of Joseph A. Brohmann and Magdalena Wilhelm, was born in New Germany on Feb. 16, 1875. He is a grandson of Gottlieb Brohman and Catherine Lauber. His studies were undertaken at St. Jerome's College and the Grand Seminary in Montreal, where he was ordained on Dec. 7, 1898, along with Monsignor William Gehl, also from New Germany.

His ministry took him as an assistant in Formosa (1898-1900) and Walkerton. Later he was administrator at Deemerton and Macton. He was the pastor at Midmay (1887-1903). Deemerton was a mission of the Mildmay Parish. He succeeded Fr. John Gehl, another New Germany son, as pastor of Formosa (1915-1933).

It is noted that he had a keen interest in modern inventions so he bought a silent movie projector and showed movies to the school children on Fridays and in the evening to adults. Children from country schools were brought in for a treat. He had the first radio in Formosa and invited families to listen in on the earphones. It is said the parish picnics during his pastorate offered fine food, booths and handmade goods. People came from all over to join in the celebration and races. Fr. Clement also acted as a policeman looking in the horse sheds for hidden cider and wine.

Fr. Clement died on Jan. 4, 1942 and is buried next to Monsignor William Gehl, in the priests' plot, in front of the original chapel in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Burlington.

Who's This from Our Community?

Introducing Bernard Brohman

It is a rewarding experience to meet and interview the elders of our community but this edition I introduce you to someone I have known for a long time—my uncle Bernard Brohman. Bernie was the 10th in a family with 12 children, born in 1930 to Barney Brohman and Angelina Schmuck. The lineup included: Ralph, Clayton, Wilfred, Clarence, Dorothy, Helen, Mary, Roy, Leonard, Bernard, Betty and Bob. Bernie was raised on a big farm outside of Weisenburg. Bernie was born at home like all the country kids back then. Doctor's calls were few and far between and Bernie explained that no one went for routine check-ups because there was no medicare back then; all health care was paid out of pocket by families. One had to be very sick to see a doctor. Bernie grew up without electricity nor running water in the house. The family used the 'pail and dipper' on the dry sink for drinking water. Saturday night was bath night in washtubs, for the little ones. Eventually a toilet and clawfoot tub was installed in the homestead sometime between 1953-1957. Electricity was installed in the home around 1937-1938.



Bernie always loved cars—and as kid, knew the make and model of every car on the road!

The house had 4 bedrooms upstairs – which seems like a lot – but there were 12 kids in the family! The girls slept in one room, the boys in the other, one room for the parents and one spare room was reserved for the older siblings when they came home to visit. The upstairs had no heat – so on cold winter nights they went to bed with a warm brick between the sheets.

Bernie attended Grades 1 to 8 at SS#10 just across the road from his farm. As a boy, he loved cats and he loved cars and anything automotive. He would hammer wood together to make his own toy tractors. As an adult Bernie owned some classic cars—a

1926 Ford Model T Touring and a 1970 Volkswagen Beetle Convertible. Bernie was employed for 26 years (1953—1979) in Guelph at Canadian Gypsum also known as 'The Lime Kill.' After that he worked feeding cattle on the George Kron dairy farm. In 1988 he went to work at the Stock Yards in St. Jacobs and continues to work there one day a week. Bernie has worked there for almost 28 years! Bernie was also the caretaker of the St. Boniface Church and Cemetery. Starting in 1984, he vacuumed the church and mowed the grass in the cemetery. He has since passed these responsibilities onto others but continues to hold the keys to the church—and locks and unlocks the doors before mass on Sundays.



More on our Forefathers - The Brohman Family

If we turn back the clocks to the very origins of New Germany, we find Gottlieb Brohman was one of the very first settlers here emigrating from Rountzenheim in Alsace France, in the late 1820s. Bernie is a descendant of Gottlieb's older brother Joseph, who came to Canada in the late 1830s. Joseph married Magdalena Schumann and together they had 9 children. Their 3rd oldest son was named Ignatz. He married Caroline Mattell. Together they parented 8 children – one child was John J Brohman who married Frances Scherrer. Both died in 1922 – before Bernie was born, so he never had the opportunity to know his grandparents, but their pictures –



in the large glass oval frames hung in his family home for many years. John and Frances had 6 children including Charlie F, Alexander, Richard, Theodore, Barney (my grandfather) and Cecilia (Weiler). At age 85, my uncle Bernie lives in Maryhill at the house he built in the late 1960's. He loves to play cards and attends many social functions in the area. Bernie can be found at St. Boniface on Sunday mornings after he unlocks the welcoming doors. In the mild weather you will most likely see Bernie driving around the village on his motorized bicycle!