

President's Report 2017
by Tom Schell

Welcome to the 40th Annual meeting of St. Boniface and Maryhill Historical Society. 2017 was a busy and successful year for our society. In the information package handout are listed activities in which we were involved this year. Secretary Ken will outline them his report.

In our January planning meeting, we set some objectives for this year. Some were a continuation from 2016. Our first objective was a web site to serve our members as well as the greater community. Thanks to a grant from the Township of Woolwich we now have an informative web site that has more information added weekly.

Another goal was to work with other community groups in the area. Thanks to Canada's 150th birthday we were able to do partner with the Knights of Columbus, Arris-Maryhill Lions Club, Maryhill Firefighters and Catholic Women League. I hope we may continue this community event on Canada Day going forward.

A special "thanks" to our local politicians who took time to celebrate with us. Harold Albrecht, Member of Parliament, Mike Harris Member of Provincial Parliament, and Murray Martin Woolwich Township Councillor. These gentlemen have been very supportive of the Maryhill Historical Society for sometime. As well thank you to Peter Tillich for the donation of a sugar maple which was planted behind the Halter House to mark Canada 150.

An initiative that was long overdue was a complete inventory of all items in the Halter House Resource Centre. In January, Mary Ann Stroh, Diane Beitz, Diane Strickler, Carol Neumann and I started in the kitchen and worked our way through the house. We would meet once a week for a few hours. Finally we completed our task in May. Diane Strickler is now putting the results on paper and in the computer.

There was one project that I had hoped to have completed for our 40th anniversary celebration on Heritage Sunday. We as a society had put together a proposal to have signs placed on the four entrances to Maryhill and three at the Fribourg

corner. The signs gave a brief historical description of the location. For example, Maryhill was called New Germany until 1941. As far as we know the request is somewhere in local government. Maybe this will be the year we will get permission to place these signs. After all you see a lot of these in other areas of Ontario.

Finally, I want to say it has been a very rewarding experience to serve as your president. I was fortunate to have a very co-operative board that was forward thinking and always positive. Board members were always willing to volunteer their time to help at various events and functions.

Thanks to the following: George Isley, Vice-President; Ken Hanson, Secretary; Fran Vegh Treasurer; Ken Kurtz, Programs; Doug Keller, Maintenance and Wayside Shrines; Linda Kennedy, Website; Diane Beitz, Birthday Club; Diane Strickler, Archives and Genealogy; Lee Ann Wetzel, Fundraising; Carol Neumann, Membership; Mary Ann Stroh, Resource Centre; Susie Motz, Newsletter and Calendar; and Marlene Bruckhardt, Past President.

I very much appreciated your advice and help throughout the year. I wish incoming President George and his board much success.

Thanks - Tom Schell