

Mennonite Central Committee in Canada history soon to be published

At the recent Mennonite Historical Society of Canada meetings held at Winnipeg's Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies January 18-19, Esther Epp-Tiessen reported that her history of Mennonite Central Committee in Canada sponsored by the society is in press. She described both the challenges and the inspiring moments that she experienced while researching and writing the organization's history. The book's launch, scheduled for December 13, 2013, will mark MCC Canada's founding meeting in 1963, 50 years to the day. A study conference co-sponsored by the society's productive Divergent Voices of Mennonites in Canada and University of Winnipeg's Chair for Mennonite Studies is being planned in conjunction with the book's launch. MHSC will also hold its next AGM in Winnipeg at that time.

The society was pleased also to hear that the Global Mennonite History Project's North American volume authored by Royden Loewen and Steven Nolt has been launched. This fifth and final volume is being translated into both Spanish and French.



Winnipeg's Bill Schroeder received the MHSC award of excellence. Well-known for his historical maps, for his publications, for his volunteer work, and for his leadership on tours of Russia undertaken over several decades, society members were delighted to meet Schroeder and his wife Augusta at the award ceremony. It was a fitting location, for Schroeder has been involved in historical research and volunteering at the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies since it opened in 1969. *The Mennonite Historical Atlas* that Schroeder co-authored with Helmut Huebert has sold over 7,000 copies and is a mainstay in most Russian Mennonite research libraries. As the nomination emphasized, "Bill Schroeder exemplifies Mennonite historical research with his quiet tenacity, humble demeanor, and collaborative approaches, all the while cognizant of relationships and striving for excellence."

The Award of Excellence is given annually to persons who have made significant contributions to the advancement of Canadian Mennonite history by their research and/or writing.

The society sponsors a variety of other projects including its recently revived archives committee. An on-line photo database is designed to help Mennonite archives across Canada manage their collections. This service will increase public access to the extensive accumulations of photos housed in Canadian Mennonite archives. The database project testifies to the on-going good relationships and cooperation among Canadian Mennonite historical societies and their participants.

Web-based projects include a genealogy web site still at his initial stages and in fund-raising mode, and the long-standing Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia On-line (GAMEO). The latter was envisioned and launched over twenty-five years ago to make accessible to researchers the database from *Mennonites in Canada* volume II. It grew to become North America wide and last year globalized its mandate to re-structure itself as a sub-group under Mennonite World Conference.

It has become a tradition to set aside a block of time for a learning tour. This year the board had the exciting opportunity to take a "hard hat" tour of the Canadian Museum of Human rights which is still under construction. Impressed with the size and architecture of the building set to open next year, participants benefited from tour guide Angela Cassie's explanations of the unique materials, symbolism

and opportunities the museum will provides to Canadians.

Established in 1968 to sponsor the *Mennonites in Canada* history series by Frank H. Epp and Ted D. Regehr, the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada comprises six provincial Mennonite historical societies, four Mennonite denominational bodies, Mennonite Central Committee Canada and the Chair of Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg.

The 2013 executive is Lucille Marr (Montreal, Quebec), President; Royden Loewen, (Winnipeg, Manitoba), Vice-President; Alf Redekopp (Winnipeg, Manitoba), Secretary; Richard Thiessen (Abbotsford, B.C.), Treasurer; and Maurice Martin (New Hamburg, Ontario), fifth member.

Photos attached.

Captions: Bill and Augusta Schroeder
MHSC Board

For further information please contact:

Lucille Marr
1326 rue St-Zotique est
Montreal, QC H2G 1G5
(514) 286-0713
lucille.marr@gmail.com