

On Track



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The Official Newsletter of the Inglis Elevators National Historic Site

Winter Issue 2009

On Track, the official newsletter of the Inglis Elevators National Historic Site, is distributed to members of the Inglis Area Heritage Committee Inc. The information and opinions in this newsletter are collected from a variety of sources and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the IAHC. For information on becoming a member, contact our office.



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A HISTORY OF INGLIS – 1931

By John Goodes (continued)

Depression? What depression? As news of a crumbling economy in Canada and elsewhere occupied many people's minds, the citizens of Inglis reveled in good times. A steady stream of dances, whist drives, plays, debates, skating parties and sports engaged the members of the community. A particularly active week of social activities in January focused on "keeping us on the *qui vive*." Perhaps all this was a way of keeping their minds off the approaching reality. A more subdued mood was reflected in some innocuous areas, such as the local orchestra changing its name to *The Gloom Chasers*, allegedly to "chase the gloom of hard times out of the dark corners." Whether influenced by the social whirlwind or due to oratory skills, the affirmative side won a debate between Inglis and Rochedale on the subject "Resolved That Divorces Should Be Made Easier in Canada." Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Alexander of Rochedale were on the winning side, while Mrs. Guy Coulter and Mrs. L. Herschfield of Inglis were the losers.

Curling was the sport of choice to the point where a local curler unveiled the *Armstrong Cup*, which was quickly claimed by the James De la Mare and Roy Dwyer team. They were immediately challenged and in the following week lost the cup to the team

of John McRae, Harry Armstrong, Dr. L. Herschfield and T.C. Martin. In late January the dogged determination of Inglis curlers was exhibited by two teams who "plowed, pushed, dragged and shoveled" to get to games at the Angusville Curling Club. Skips William Hancock and A. McKay, with team members Roy Dwyer, Art Bell, Tom Jackson, Scotty Hansen, Roy Breckenridge and Howard Armstrong defeated their "gracious hosts," thereby making their hazardous trip worthwhile. Another "outstanding event" occurred when a team of married men challenged the single men to a game of broomball. When the single men won, the losers were advised "to eat more porridge." In late June, the Inglis Football Team was revitalized by holding a successful barn dance to raise money, with music by the *Gloom Chasers*.

Back on the social scene, the St. Patrick's Day Dance was celebrated in a "fairlyland atmosphere with garlands and garlands of shamrock decorating the walls." On the sidelines, Adam Cipryk, Herb Lorimer, Scotty Hansen and others who had made an infrequent trip to Winnipeg regaled their listeners with their impressions of the big city. In mid July, a hall

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crowded with people to the door, with barely standing room available, turned out to see the stage show *Are You a Mason?* a popular play which originated in England. The locally organized play was also booked for Langenberg. It was produced by the Inglis Dramatic Society.

In spite of the "inclement weather," large crowds attended the Inglis Sports Day in early July. Rochedale defeated Inglis in football, with Herb Lorimer scoring the only Inglis goal. Rochedale also beat Inglis in fastball. The Lennard girls' softball team beat Inglis, and then defeated Rochedale in the final. An added feature in the annual event was a Baby Clinic, sponsored by the Inglis Women's Institute. The customary dance in the evening was held with the Hancock Orchestra squeezing out the local *Gloom Chasers* for the job. In the following week, "nearly all Inglis" was present at the annual Russell Fair, and reportedly all had a grand time.

Several local couples were married during the year. In May, Thos. F. Pooley married Jean Irene Jamieson and planned to reside in the Boulton district. Local businessman Gregory Merinuk married Mary Sarafincian of McNutt, SK. Later in the year, another local businessman, Adam Cipryk married Emily Pifko of Brewer, SK.

For the first time in more than 10 years there was no new construction activity in the village, and few business changes. Early in the year, Leroy McCauley arrived to assume duties at the local Bank of Toronto. Mrs. Sophie Berman, co-owner of Berman's Store that burned down the previous year, moved to Winnipeg after a farewell tea was held at the home of Mrs. A. Shnider. Mail service from Russell was increased by one delivery per week. It was also announced that starting in October, stores would stay open until 7 P.M. except on Saturdays when they would be open late. A less newsworthy event took place when Mr. Angus Wood, owner of the Inglis Hotel, "hit the jack pot" when he won a bag of flour in a Shellmouth raffle.

Several unfortunate events occurred in the area during the period. At the beginning of the year, a fire at the rink was brought under control before causing enough damage to cause stoppage in winter sports. At about the same time, Bill McDonagh was sidelined with a badly cut hand. A fire destroyed A. Frohlike's house

in February. Later in the year, fire razed the house of Rhinhold Frieze. The fire was caused by an overheated stove pipe. Meanwhile, some local residents declared that "Inglis was becoming a rival to Chicago" when two robberies occurred in one night. Adam Cipryk's hardware store was broken into and a bicycle and other items taken. On the same night, the N.M. Paterson elevator was entered and about 500 pounds of binder twine taken.

Two prominent citizens of the district passed away during the year. In March, Mrs. William Gillies, who had lived in the district for 20 years, passed away in Winnipeg. She was survived by her sons Herb and Fred Gillies of Inglis. In April, John McLennan, father of Mrs. John Jackson and Tom McLennan died. He had traveled by paddle wheel boat to Fort Ellice in 1881 and took up a homestead in the Minniska district.

Farmer began the crop year faced by extremely dry soil conditions and burnt-out pastures and hay land. These dry conditions allowed them to start seeding in late March. Fortunately, during the summer some heavy local showers fell and a fairly good wheat crop was harvested. Threshing was nearly completed by the third week of September, with wheat yielding from 30 to 50 bushels an acre. But with wheat selling at just over 50 cents a bushel, returns were meager and this was reflected in the falling price of farmland. A one-section farm near Angusville, with 270 acres under cultivation, was being advertised for \$7,000, with a "liberal discount for cash." Other produce fared no better, with the Manitoba Poultry Pool offering 14 cents a pound for light weight chickens and 17 cents for heavier birds.

Canadian farmers were being advised to practice mixed farming to reduce their risks, and a back to the land movement began, with 43,000 people moving from cities to farms in 1930-31. Meanwhile, Elephant Brand fertilizer was being introduced to local farmers for the first time. Experiments with fertilized and non-fertilized plots resulted in wheat yield increases of more than 10 bushels per acre, from 12.6 to 23.2. A meeting of local farmers with W.J. Ward of the United Farmers of Manitoba resulted in a local group being formed.

The signs of the times were now evident. Prime Minister R.B. Bennett was appealing to Canadians to contribute to a National Emergency Appeal to assist

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in supplementing the official government relief measures. He also declared that “never before was the farmer in such a plight as he is today.” Premier John Bracken of Manitoba revealed that the Dominion of Canada agreed to pay 35% of public works in Winnipeg and 50% outside the city. Meanwhile, the Canadian government announced that the Manitoba government would be required to pay \$5.00 a month to the federal government for each of the 2,000 unemployed men from Winnipeg who would be working on the TransCanada Highway in Ontario. The construction would take place between Kenora and Heron Bay, ON.

Locally, Reeve Harry Armstrong spent a few days in Winnipeg to attend meetings to discuss relief work in the district. A rate payers meeting was held to discuss a reduction in local teachers’ salaries. A total of 83 farms in the R.M. of Shellmouth were listed for sale in arrears of taxes. In Russell, the Sacred Heart Hospital was appealing for help to continue providing health services in the area. The call was for cash

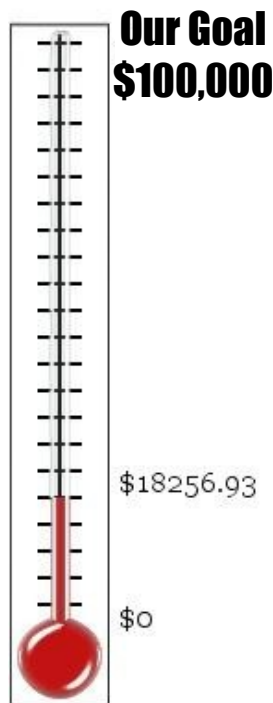
donations, and also for farm produce such as beef, pork, chickens, turkeys, potatoes and root crops. The Inglis Women’s Institute held a Hospital Shower and tea and raised \$14.00 for the hospital.

But in spite of all this, locally, the year was still going out with a bang. Highway #31 (now #83) was completed and now completely graveled, with a new bridge over the Shell River. The social scene was undeterred and Chautauqa hit town with its plays, music, lectures and operettas. The event was heavily attended and a “good profit” was realized. As the year neared its end, the dances, whist drives, parties and sports continued unabated.

Inglis Area Heritage Committee
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:30PM
Inglis Elevators National Historic Site
Please accept this as your
invitation to attend!

Inglis Elevators Endowment Fund

Just over a year ago we created an endowment fund through the Living Legacy Community Foundation. This has been our goal since the project’s inception and we were able to put funds into the endowment that we had originally saved for that very purpose. Any money raised for the endowment will stay in the fund in perpetuity with interest shared with the Inglis Area Heritage Committee on an annual basis. Since the funds inception we have raised a total of \$18,256.93 through many generous donations. Our goal is to raise at least \$100,000 which would result in an annual grant of around \$3,500 towards our operating expenses. At this time we would like to express our sincere **Thanks** to the Following Contributors:



- \$4500.00: Shellmouth-Boulton 2008 Homecoming Cmt.
- \$1000.00: Harold Kopetsky
David & Marcia Rowat
Curt & Eunice Koss († Cassandra Dawn Koss)
Geraldine Donnelly († James & Effie McCrea)
Alan Burns & Wen-Lin Sun
Clare & Shirley Moster († Harold Moster)
RM of Shellmouth-Boulton
- \$500.00: Twin Valley Co-op
Agricore United -Local Board
- \$250.00: Dow Agro Science
- \$200.00: Margaret Lyon († Ernest & Barbara Bryant)
- \$100.00: Glenn Wiseman († James Turberfield)
Gerald & Sharon Maryniuk
Michael Leech, Leech Printing Ltd.
Don & Freda Robin
Cardeager Ford
- \$50.00: Parkway Co-op
Katharine & John Schulz († Ralph Little)
Dee’s Electric († Tyrell Hrynkiw)
Duncan Hough
Nel Henteleff
- \$25.00 & less: Gail Perry

*“Donations to the Inglis Elevators Endowment Fund can be made by sending a cheque to the **Living Legacy Community Foundation, Box 1343, Russell, MB R0J 1W0**. All donations over \$20 are acknowledged by a tax deductible receipt issued by the Foundation.” (Please mark your cheque “Inglis Elevators Endowment Fund”.)*

I'll buy into Canada's Heritage!



Sign me up as a member of the Inglis Elevator National Historic Site. Count my voice in as one of many who recognize the important role grain elevators play in the prairie identity. I am committed to preserving these prairie sentinels for the future and look forward to receiving my membership package within the next four weeks.

	Price	Quantity	Amount
Associate	20.00		
Basic	30.00		
Family	50.00		
Corporate	100.00		
Founding (1st year)	500.00		
Founding (entire fee)	1,000.00		
<i>Founding or Family Memberships Only</i>			
Tailor your membership to include other family members. Add up to five extra (non-voting members) to each membership. Each additional member receives a membership pin			
Extra Pins (up to 5)	5.00		
	Total		

Please enclose a cheque or money order payable to the Inglis Area Heritage Committee Inc. and mail this leaf to:

Inglis Area Heritage Committee Inc.

PO Box 81
Inglis, MB R0J 0X0
CANADA

To discuss the benefits of becoming a member, or to purchase a membership using your Visa, please phone our office at (204) 564-2243.



In the space below, please list the individual(s) purchasing the membership(s) as well as a complete address and phone number. This information helps us to properly acknowledge all members and keep everyone aware of our publications and events

If you prefer to make a donation without becoming a member, please send your cheque or money order to the address above. Your charitable donation tax receipt (for donation or membership) will arrive within four weeks.

Thank you for your generous support!

Revenue Canada Registered Charity 89289 4130 RR0002



**Inglis Area
Heritage Gift Shop**

Featuring

**Souvenirs, Arts and Crafts
By Local Artists in Support
of The Inglis Elevators**

**LOCATED IN THE NATIONAL
(NORTHERN) ELEVATOR OFFICE**

Our Members

Thank you to the following members, who have renewed their memberships and support

- | | |
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| Barrie & Margaret Cochrane | Joe Zimmer |
| Gerald & Sharon Maryniuk | Bob Kertcher |
| Blaine & Margaret Silverthorne | Brent & Ruth Denham |
| Harry & Dorothy Roland Jr. | Leon Kalyniak |
| Phylis Lenderbeck | Dale Yeo |
| Don & Joan Rowat | Rod & Elaine Laycock |
| Edith Witty | Elizabeth Zieske |
| Shirley Otke | Elvie Garnett |
| Wayne Angus | Florian Lewicki |
| Anne MacVicar | |
| Russell & District Chamber of Commerce | |

Our New \$500 Dollar Club Member

Joyce Campbell

Thank you to the following new members

Linda Jackson – Flin Flon Manitoba
The Simpson Family – Port Coquitlm B.C.

Thank you for your donations

Baldur & Gwen Oliver, Winnipeg	\$ 50.00
Doris & James Town, Prince Albert	\$ 50.00

These donations were made in memory Ernest & Barbara Bryant.

Alvin & Gail Zimmer, Inglis	\$ 150.00
RM of Shellmouth-Boulton	\$1,000.00