



**About Us**

Established in 1953, the Manitoba Agricultural Museum (MAM) is a registered charity located on 320 acres near Austin. The museum holds one of Canada’s largest collections of operating vintage farm equipment and an extensive assortment of household and commercial artifacts in the 25-building Homesteaders’ Village. There are 19 designated heritage buildings on the grounds.

MAM hosts special events and live programming, including its premier summer festival, the Manitoba Threshermen’s Reunion & Stampede.

**Mission**

To immerse visitors in rural Manitoba’s past, providing context to the present and future of agriculture in Manitoba, and to collect, preserve, interpret, and demonstrate Manitoba’s agricultural heritage.

**Vision**

To enable the generations of today and tomorrow to walk in the footsteps of the people who shaped agriculture in Manitoba.

**Board of Directors**

- Angie Klym, *President*
- Jonathan Whetter, *Vice-President*
- Gordon Goldsborough, *Secretary*
- Diane Rourke, *Treasurer*
- Gary Davis
- Tylor Martens
- Greg McConnell
- Rosana Neufeld
- Bill Warren

**Staff**

- Lise Mitchler, *Operations Manager*
- Tricia Dyck, *Collections & Programming Manager*
- Tom Lehockey, *Yard Foreman*
- Dennis & Diane Pohl, *Resident Volunteers*
- Dawn Scammell, *Financial Administrator*

**Summer Students**

- Aaron Friesen, *Young Canada Works*
- Olivia Friesen, *Young Canada Works*
- Jesse Dyck, *Canada Summer Jobs*
- Mackenzie Mitchler, *Canada Summer Jobs*
- Drake Sheppard, *Manitoba Métis Federation*
- Trady Meeches, *Urban/Hometown Green Team*
- Kearstin Zacharias, *Urban/Hometown Green Team*



Aerial view of the museum grounds during the 67<sup>th</sup> Manitoba Threshermen’s Reunion and Stampede, July 2023



**MANITOBA  
AGRICULTURAL  
MUSEUM**



## Leadership Message

Over the past year our museum has experienced several historic milestones. In February we celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation as a non-profit organization. We reached 50 years of being a federally registered Canadian charity. Beginning in May, we re-opened for our first regular season in four years due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The return to regular programming resulted in our strongest attendance in years. The school tour program hosted over 1,000 children ages 5 to 17 through the Trailblazer and Custom program offerings. Volunteers shared their deep passion with 16,000 visitors over four days during the Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede, the largest crowd since 2016. In December, one thousand visitors of all ages came out to enjoy the sights and sounds of horse drawn sleighrides at our Winter Wonderland village lights event.

Like many organizations that experienced significant growth in the 1970s, much of the museum's infrastructure is over 50 years old and in need of updates to expand its lifespan and meet the needs of today's visitors. Throughout the year, the museum put significant effort into evaluating our main assets and drafting plans for their renewal. Refurbishment work has already begun on the Heritage Building.

The Heritage Building is now home to the world's most complete collection of operating Canadian-made Massey-Harris/Ferguson combines. In early 2023, the Grycki family donated their extensive combine collection of 24 restored and original condition machines. After a month of dedicated hauling by museum volunteers, the collection now calls the museum home. The addition of these

artifacts builds on the museum's strategic plan to become a destination place for visitors from around the world.

Connecting these artifacts and the unique stories of the people who used them to our visitors is an important way we keep our rural history alive. In 2023, several new curated exhibits were opened on the grounds and online. These exhibits are detailed later in this report.

As with any family farm, maintaining the quality and productivity of our 320-acre site is paramount. Despite dry growing conditions, the museum's cropland produced crops above expectations. These yields resulted in the Heritage Harvest Growing Project providing a record \$20,000 contribution to the museum. The sustainability of our farm program will improve even more in the coming years thanks to several changes to our field crop program to improve soil composition. Installation of water control infrastructure was also completed to better manage surface water as it flows through our grounds.

As an organization dedicated to bringing our prairie heritage to life, our successes would not happen without the collective efforts of the board of directors and staff and the unwavering support of our volunteers, sponsors, and stakeholders. Thank you to all for making 2023 a memorable year!



Angie Klym  
President,  
Manitoba Agricultural Museum



## Collections & Conservation

At the centre of the Manitoba Agricultural Museum is its extensive collection of historic machinery, buildings, and household and commercial goods. These artifacts, which number in the thousands, tell the story of rural Manitoba's development from the 1860s to the 1970s.

In 2023, tens of thousands of hours and a similar amount of dollars were invested by the museum and its volunteers to preserve and maintain this vast collection.

### Artifact Repairs

**Sawmill edger** – rebuilt with new bearings and steel decking; new blade teeth and new shafts for increased stability; labour along with material and parts were donated by Darwin Fedorowich



**Flat Warehouse envelope remediation** – period-accurate embossed tin restoration of roof, fascia, and exterior siding was completed by George Payette of Roseisle



**Steam engine repairs** – complete repiping of the Case 65 and Gaar Scott stream engines entailed stripping the injector circuits, water column circuit, blowdown, blower and steam-dome attachments back to the boiler and replacing them with new pipe and registered fittings.

The work was necessary because the inspection code requires it after 25 years of service. The jobs were completed in time to certify the boilers for operation at MTRS. In the Fall, the Steam Committee started on repiping the Case 75; that job is now mostly done.

The Case 65 was acquired by the museum from the estate of Don Carrothers in 1993 after being idle for 12 years. Its piping had been patched and modified over time, and has been due for full replacement for many years. The Gaar Scott came from the Tilston area and has been at the museum since the 1970s. In the mid-1990s, it was reboilered and its piping was renewed.

### Homesteaders' Village

**Fort Ellice Trail Playground** – the fort-style entrance was renovated and bright new signage was installed.

**Grist Mill** – the staircase was reconstructed and tin was acquired for the north side of roof restoration.

**Northern Pacific & Manitoba Railway Station** – exterior refinishing work was completed using a stain treatment.

**Western Canada Flour Mills Grain Elevator** – construction materials were acquired for upper window restoration of what is now the oldest surviving elevator in Manitoba.



## Around the Grounds

### Water Retention Project

In partnership with Whitemud Watershed District, the museum increased its water storage capacity by more than 50%. The project ensures the museum grounds and our downstream neighbours are better protected from weather events like the June 2022 flood that caused extensive damage in the area.



### Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden creates a place to recognize and remember the efforts of the thousands of volunteers who have contributed to make the museum what it is today.

In 2023, these names were added to the Memorial Wall:

- Ken Boleen (1932–2023), *Aldergrove, BC*
- Arthur “Art” Devrieze (1935–2023), *Austin*
- Edward Grobb (1916–2000), *Treherne*
- Elva Helen Johnson (1922–1994), *Treherne*
- Paul Kaschyshyn (1932–2013), *Inwood*
- Morely McKay (1928–2023), *Hilton*
- Robert W. McMillan (2004–2020), *Carman*
- Ken Moorehead (1936–2016), *Douglas*
- Alice Moorehead (1935–2016), *Douglas*
- Ed Mulla (1934–2023), *Tyndall*

There are now 107 members commemorated on the wall.

## Community Engagement

### DiverseCITY

This partnership between the museum, Portage Learning and Literacy Centre, and Fort la Reine Museum focused on multiculturalism and heritage.



### Three Creeks Meeting House

Community participants and museum members were invited to showcase their quilts along with vintage quilts from the museum collection. We heard great reviews about how the six-day long event provided more opportunities for visitors and we really appreciated all the exhibits at the Three Creeks Meeting House across the road.

### Museum at the Care Home

MAM visited the MacGregor Care Home monthly during the fall and winter months with a box full of museum artifacts to share and discuss. Our visits were a highlight for residents, visitors, and staff alike.



## Sponsors & Supporters

The Manitoba Agricultural Museum is grateful to all of our sponsors, supporters and donors for helping us collect, preserve, interpret and demonstrate our agricultural heritage for Manitobans and visitors from around the world.

### PRESENTING PARTNERS

(\$7,500+)



### GOLD PARTNERS

(\$5,000 - \$7,499)



### SILVER PARTNERS

(\$3,000 - \$4,999)



### BRONZE PARTNERS

(\$1,500 - \$2,999)



Hidden Valley Hutterite Colony

### FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM (UP TO \$1,499)

- Austin & Area Lions Club
- Austin Subway
- Bayer Crop Science
- C. S. Repair
- Delmar Commodities
- Double-You Builders
- EMJAY Homes
- Fountain Tire Portage
- Four Way Motors
- Gladstone Veterinary Clinic
- Inland Radiator & Hydraulic Works

- Jl Bar Cattle Company
- Peavey Mart
- Phil's Fine Foods
- Laramie Enterprises
- MacGregor Home Centre
- MacGregor Hotel & Viking Room
- Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation
- Mckelvy Agencies Ltd.
- NRG Electric
- Norfolk Truck Repair
- Pallister Financial

- The Peters Family
- POSTECH Screw Piles
- Portage Mutual Insurance
- Rocking U Feeders Ltd.
- Rolling Hills Repair
- Squirrel Creek Angus
- Squirrel Creek Skidsteer Service
- True North Plumbing & Heating
- VEELA Builders Ltd.
- Wayne Friesen Construction
- Wurtz Brothers Concrete Services



**MANITOBA  
AGRICULTURAL  
MUSEUM**

## 2023 IN REVIEW

### Colt Raffle

The 2023 edition of the annual colt raffle featured a beautiful yearling colt. Over \$2,900 was raised. Many thanks to Linwood Equine Ranch for donating the colt and Dr. Cathy Patterson for providing in-kind vet services.

### New Exhibitions

- **Age of Apiary** – curated by summer staff member Jesse Dyck, this pop-up exhibition located inside the Centennial Building showcases several of the collection's beekeeping artifacts
- **Sickles to Swathers: An Exhibition on the History of Harvest in Manitoba** – officially opened in the Centennial building in the summer of 2023, this is the new iteration of what was previously called History of Harvest
- **Hickory Dickory Dock: A Whimsical Exhibit of Clocks** – a pop-up exhibit 'holiday window style' as part of the Winter Wonderland event. This exhibit featured several antique clocks from our collection with the addition of lights and cute holiday mice
- **Farmers of Manitoba Virtual Exhibition** – four collections of submitted stories written by Manitoba farmers and their loved ones, on view on the museum website since November 2023



### Programming & Events

- **Winter at the Museum** (January) – a grant for outdoor winter recreation provided an opportunity for one school to spend a day with us in the snow; snowshoeing, walking tours and wiener roasts kept us (mostly!) warm
- **Storytime at the Museum** – preschoolers and their caregivers came for story time; each week was a different location at the museum and highlighted different themes like nature, gardening and, of course, tractors!
- **Brandon Hamfest and Flea Market** on August 19 brought 97 people to the grounds and the Pioneer Centre rental brought \$545 in revenue.
- **Annual Steak Supper** was held on July 26, selling 220 meals. The event raised \$2,600 to support facility upgrades to the museum's food booths.
- **AgriCULTURE Day** (September 24) – part of the larger Manitoba Culture Days event, we offered steam engine rides and two special films from the National Film Board of Canada: *Roundup* (2020, directed by Nettie Wild) and *The Grasslands Project: Life Out Here* (2016, directed by Scott Parker)
- **School Programs, Hands-On & Tours** – We provided fun and educational programming to over 1000 students from May until August



## 2023 IN REVIEW

### Campground

Our Three Creeks public campground operated from May 12 to September 30, during which we had 1,219 days of occupancy (not including overflow during the Reunion). It produced \$7,599 in regular income and \$23,748 in Reunion income.

Two concerts in the campground by the Manitoba Old Tyme and Bluegrass Society, in late June and over the Labour Day weekend, saw booking of 121 and 200 campsite-nights, respectively.

### Winter Wonderland

Winter Wonderland was a financial success in December, making a net profit of \$7,507, and welcoming 876 visitors. The proceeds were divided three ways between the Homesteaders' Village, Horsepower, and Operations. Donations from the first weekend went to the North Norfolk Christmas Cheer Board. Donations from the second weekend were included in income.

### Rodeo Summer Series

In 2023, the museum hosted events in the Stride Credit Union arena in partnership with two associations.

#### Manitoba Barrel Racing Association (MBRA)

The museum hosted a MBRA-sanctioned barrel racing series from June to August. There were 179 competitors and revenue of \$1,253.

#### Manitoba Team Roping Association (MTRA)

In September, the museum hosted the MTRA's 2023 finals with 91 competitors and revenue of \$910.

### Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion & Stampede

Canada's largest farm heritage festival returned for its 67<sup>th</sup> edition on July 27–30. This year the festival attracted 16,000 visitors during the four-day event.

In addition to regular programming, the festival hosted the International Cockshutt Collectors Club 2023 summer show and held a special performance from world renowned Manitoba musician Rosemary Siemens & The Sweet Sound Revival.

### MTRS by the numbers

- 65 pieces of farm equipment displayed at the International Cockshutt Club Summer Show
- 7 horse teams, 124 tractors, 23 vintage vehicles, 7 steam engines and more in the CFRY Pioneer Power Parade
- 292 contestants and 19 mutton busters in MacGregor Agri-Sales Stampede
- 271 bushels of winter wheat harvested from 7 acres in the Shur-Gro Farm Services Demonstration Field
- 103 cars in the Route 34 Classic Car Show
- 2,400 clay bake cinnamon buns, 1,728 cobs of steamed corn, and 955 dining hall meals served
- 42 models showcased 70 articles of clothing at the Reunion Ladies Fashion Show
- 97 logs sawed into 990 board feet of dimensional lumber at the sawmill

### Heritage Harvest

The Heritage Harvest Growing Project, a fundraising partnership between the museum and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, grew Invigor L340LP canola that yielded 44 bushels per acre despite dry growing conditions. The project provided a record \$20,000 donation to the museum in 2023! Since 2017, the project has provided \$90,000 in direct funds to the museum.





## Endowment Funds

The Manitoba Agricultural Museum maintains six endowment funds with the North Norfolk Foundation that provide sustainable annual funding for the museum. In 2023, these funds provided over \$83,000 to support museum operations and special projects. Since 2017 the funds have provided over \$333,000 in disbursements.

This year \$62,561 was contributed to the museum's endowments to support the long-term sustainability of the museum. Since their inception, nearly \$1.8 million has been donated to the funds.

### CUMULATIVE ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTORS

#### \$100,000+

Province of Manitoba

#### \$50,000-\$99,999

Estate of Marcel Decock

Elsie Sims

Heritage Harvest Growing Project

MAM Foundation Fund

Manitoba Heritage Trust Program

#### \$10,000-\$24,999

Harvesting Hope World Record Committee

Manitoba Arts Stabilization Inc.

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

Gloria Grycki

#### \$2,500-\$4,999

Dr. Gordon Goldsborough

#### \$1,000-\$2,499

Carolyn Sifton Foundation

In memory of Elsie Sims

2019 MTRS Steak Supper Committee

North Norfolk Foundation

Redvers Generators

#### Under \$1,000

Austin and Area Lion's Club

Alfred and Elizabeth Chorney

Benjamin Linnick

Brooklyn Linnick

Friends of the Museum

In memory of Claude Calet

In memory of Gladys and Jim Barclay

In memory of Katherine and Kasimer Chorney

In memory of Helmut Neufeld

In memory of Joseph F. Smolinski

In memory of W. Lorne Drummond

Colin Farquhar

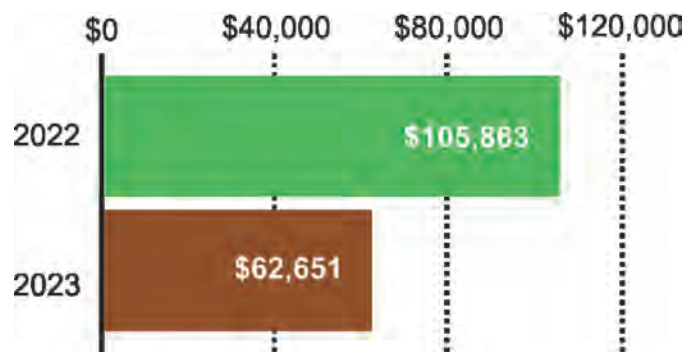
Robert Beamish

Paul Weber

### ENDOWED ASSETS (AS AT DECEMBER 31)

| Fund Name           | 2023               | 2022               |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Heritage Trust      | \$351,462          | \$284,983          |
| General             | \$23,190           | \$22,413           |
| Artifacts           | \$53,940           | \$52,133           |
| Arts Stabilization  | \$13,719           | \$13,259           |
| Signature Museum    | \$1,546,072        | \$1,482,978        |
| Gary Grycki Combine | \$13,000           | -                  |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>\$2,001,383</b> | <b>\$1,855,767</b> |

### ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUNDS



This year, the Garry Grycki Massey-Harris-Ferguson Combine Fund was established to preserve, maintain and operate the museum's Massey-Harris and Massey Ferguson combine collection. In its first year, \$13,000 was contributed to support this important collection of Canadian agricultural innovation!



## Financial Summary

Derived from the audited financial statements, the Summary Financial Statement is prepared by the Museum Treasurer and presents the financial position of the Museum for the year ended December 31, 2023. Reading the Summary Financial Statements is not a substitute for reading the Audited Financial Statements and the auditors report therein.

To view our complete audited statements, visit [mbagmuseum.ca](http://mbagmuseum.ca) or call 204-637-2354.

| 2023  |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Summarized Statement of Financial Position</b> |                  |
| <b>Assets</b>                                     |                  |
| Cash and Short Term Investments                   | 653,740          |
| Accounts Receivable                               | 105,796          |
| Tangible Capital Assets                           | 2,330,779        |
|   | <b>3,090,315</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                |                  |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities          | 16,664           |
| Due to Govt Agencies & Wages Payable              | 11,208           |
| Deferred Revenue                                  | 8,921            |
| Callable Debt                                     | 0                |
| Current Portion Long-Term Debt                    | 0                |
|   | <b>36,793</b>    |
| Long Term Debt                                    | 0                |
| Deferred Contributions Related to Capital Assets  | 276,934          |
|   | <b>313,727</b>   |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                                 |                  |
| Unrestricted Net Assets                           | 245,594          |
| Internally Restricted Net Assets                  | 477,147          |
| Investment in Capital Assets                      | 2,053,847        |
|   | <b>3,090,315</b> |

| 2023   |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Summarized Statement of Operations</b>                              |                  |
| <b>Revenue</b>   |                  |
| Admissions   | 254,597          |
| Campground Fees  | 61,608           |
| Donations and Sponsorships   | 79,807           |
| Services, Events, Gift Shop  | 205,973          |
| Grants   | 272,205          |
| Investment and Endowment Income  | 84,259           |
| Memberships  | 17,015           |
| Rental Income  | 34,262           |
|  | <b>1,009,726</b> |
| <b>Expenditures</b>  |                  |
| Collections Management   | 135,187          |
| Services, Events   | 356,682          |
| Fuel, Oil and Gas  | 16,117           |
| Gift Shop  | 11,589           |
| Insurance, Interest, Bank Charges                                      | 26,135           |
| Office, Admin & Marketing  | 36,083           |
| Repairs, Operations & Supplies   | 51,454           |
| Utilities  | 35,785           |
| Wages and Benefits, Professional Fees                                  | 259,993          |
|  | <b>929,025</b>   |
| Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenditures (before amortization) | 80,701           |
| <b>Amortization</b>  |                  |
| Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets                                | (49,625)         |
| Amortization of Deferred Contributions                                 | 17,092           |
| Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenditures (before other items)  | 48,168           |
| <b>Other Items</b>   |                  |
| Contribution to Endowment Funds  | (20,300)         |
| Non-Monetary Donations   | 187,480          |
| <b>Excess of Revenue over Expenditure</b>                              | <b>215,339</b>   |



# Manitoba Agricultural Museum

## CAMPGROUND COMMITTEE

Darin Smith, *Co-Chair*  
 Angie Klym, *Co-Chair*  
 Lee Bergson  
 Barry Klym  
 Clarence Lashek  
 Albert Schiller

## CAMPGROUND HOSTS

Lee Bergson  
 Hubert Cabernel  
 Murrey, Shirley & Lorne Farrell  
 Audrey McCreery  
 Rosana Neufeld

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Diane Rourke, *Chair*  
 Gerald Dueck  
 Gloria Sims  
 Robert Smith

## COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Greg McConnell, *Chair*  
 Jake Hamm  
 Erron Leafloor  
 Glenn Lennox  
 Ron Mitchler

## HERITAGE HARVEST COMMITTEE

Nicole Blyth, *Chair*  
 Jake Hamm  
 Ron Mitchler  
 Harold Penner  
 Rob Penner  
 Kenneth Peters  
 Elliot Sims

## HOMESTEADERS' VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Lynda Campbell-Hawley, *Chair*  
 Vicki Bodie  
 Leighann Quiring  
 Dennis Pohl  
 Diana Pohl

## MTRS COMMITTEE

Gerry Currie, *Chair*  
 Rosalie Beamish, *Vice-Chair*  
 Gloria Sims, *Vice-Chair*  
 Kyle Currie  
 Rachelle Foster  
 Bruce Johnston  
 Lori Kozie  
 Heather Manns  
 Dennis Pohl  
 Ayn Wilcox

## INTERPRETATION & ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

Alex Campbell, *Co-Chair*  
 Glenn Lennox, *Co-Chair*  
 Kyle Guenther  
 Kevin Mabon

## HORSEPOWER GROUP

Heather Manns, *Chair*  
 Chris and Heather Arthur  
 Gary Beuckart  
 Alex and Lynn Christison  
 Bernie and Ruth Dueck  
 Craig Gardiner  
 Art and Lori Gibson  
 Clayton and Wendy Kunzleman  
 Roy and Sandra Manns  
 Lyle and Connie Mansfield  
 Justin McKee  
 Bob Nelson  
 Gordon and Brenda Nelson  
 Landen Nelson  
 Jim Scott

## REUNION LADIES ACTIVITIES

Audrey McCreery, *President*  
 Michaela Knibbs, *Vice-President*  
 Tierney Demare, *Secretary*  
 Brenda Moorehead, *Treasurer*  
 Karen Alton  
 Irene Chartier  
 Donna Christison  
 Kim Christison  
 Jamie Darling  
 Janice Darling  
 Karina Darling  
 Lorraine Drummond  
 Annabelle Dueck  
 Felicity Dueck  
 Jocelyn Godin  
 Margaret Grimard  
 Mackenzie Kibbs  
 Marilyn Knibbs  
 Anita Latimer  
 Celine Lebeau  
 Caleigh McCreery  
 Marilyn McNaughton  
 Alana Moorehead  
 Nancy Moorehead  
 Troy Moorehead  
 Katherine Wright

## RODEO COMMITTEE

Jerry Doucette, *Chair*  
 Duane Bueckert  
 Doug Bueckert  
 Dustin Doucette  
 Henry Friesen  
 Alan Manns  
 Ben Wiebe

## STEAM COMMITTEE

Bruce Eberling, *Chair*, Reeves  
 Andrew Beamish, MAM Case 75 hp  
 Robert Beamish, MAM Case 75 hp  
 Thomas Beamish, MAM Case 75 hp  
 Garrett Bodie, MAM Case 50 hp  
 Glen Bodie, MAM Case 50 hp

Garth Christison, MAM Case 110 hp  
 Jim Down, Down's Case 50 hp  
 Ryan Down, Down's Case 50 hp  
 John Dreveski, MAM Case 65 hp  
 Gerald Dueck, MAM Case 65 hp  
 Mike Hawkins, MAM Gaar-Scott  
 Travis Kennedy, Reeves  
 Bill McCreery, MAM Case 110 hp

## TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Scott Alton, *Chair*  
 Lee Bergson  
 Alex Campbell  
 Cory Christison  
 Rick Green  
 Korey Lee  
 Glenn Lennox  
 Kevin Mabon  
 Brad Moorehead  
 Brett Moorehead  
 Dwayne Moorehead  
 Dennis Pohl  
 Darin Smith

## FELLOWS ASSOCIATION

Bill McCreery, *Representative*  
 Robert Beamish  
 Ron Bullock  
 Jim Down  
 Ann Futros  
 Audrey McCreery  
 Alex Patterson  
 Barbara Schellenberg  
 Dave Snyder  
 Rollie Wilkins

## MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

Dan Letwin  
 Ed Mulla  
 Gail Scheer  
 Leo Scheer  
 Darin Smith

## MANITOBA AMATEUR RADIO MUSEUM

Bruce Johnson, *President*  
 Mike Bilowus  
 Andy Clemis  
 Ron Samchuk  
 Rollie Wilkins  
 Dave Wood



# Manitoba Agricultural Museum Acquires the Grycki Combine Collection

Twenty-three combines strong. That's the legacy gifted to the Manitoba Agricultural museum by the Grycki family. In 2023, the large collection of Massey Harris Ferguson combines entered the museum grounds to showcase, operate, and to be cared for in their new home.

In 1971, Garry Grycki of Cook's Creek, Manitoba, purchased a Massey Harris Super 27 combine in an effort to prevent its disappearance from the prairie landscape. As he continued, he often found himself outbidding scrap dealers at auction sales as he carried out the objective of 'saving' his generation's harvest equipment. The Gryckis often joked that the combines were coming to a 'care home' to live out their final years in an environment of tender loving care. Along the way, neighbouring communities, friends and acquaintances assisted in this work by providing required details on other combines that were soon to be discarded.



As the search for additional combines widened, the Gryckis created meaningful relationships with folks as far away as Minnesota, Kansas, and Illinois. Gloria Grycki fondly recalls how her best memory of the combine collection project was putting the vintage machinery into action—which they did so for many years and with the involvement of many, including those from the local Springfield Tractor Club.

Those special gatherings around the Massey Harris Ferguson combines brought opportunities for families to harvest together—a sentiment that was not forgotten when the Grycki family decided on the fate of their now large collection. Observing firsthand for years the Manitoba Agricultural Museum's commitment to preservation and operation of agricultural equipment, they believed that their combines would be welcomed at an agricultural organization with that same level of tender loving care.

Abiding in the vision to enable the generations of today and tomorrow to walk in the footsteps of people who shaped agriculture in our province, the Manitoba Agricultural Museum continues the important work begun by the Grycki family. Here at the museum, new gathering spaces will be created because of the unique Garry Grycki Massey Harris Ferguson Combine Collection.

The Museum is located on Treaty 1 Territory where we respect the deep, historical connection of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene Peoples, and the Red River Métis to these lands and waters.



Box 10, Austin, Manitoba, Canada 204-637-2354  
info@mbagmuseum.ca www.mbagmuseum.ca

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report, please alert us to any errors or omissions by calling 204-637-2354 or emailing info@mbagmuseum.ca