



# Heritage Happenings

Watrous-Manitou Beach Heritage Centre

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FACEBOOK: WatrousManitouBeachHeritage

April 2023

## HOURS OF OPERATION

**July & August:** Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**September – June:** Friday & Saturday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

TOURS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT OUTSIDE OF OPERATING HOURS.

This newsletter will be periodic in nature, designed to keep all of the members apprised of happenings at the WMBHC.



1908 Mandal, Saskatchewan



1908 Businesses moved their buildings from Mandel to Watrous when the CNR changed the rail line from Mandal to Watrous.

## *Message From The Chair*

Almost twelve years ago, a group of seven individuals met around a table one evening to discuss the need for a home for our history.

A number of factors were on their minds. Many original residents of the communities were getting advanced in years and their stories and memories needed gathering. The historic scale model buildings of Orin McIntosh needed a public home to be displayed. The CBK transmitter building would likely be torn down, and the equipment lost. The historic research and information amassed by individuals, such as Jean Sproule, Homer Burke and Sue Alcock, needed to be preserved and made available.

Since then, the vision of that small group has come into being and I believe the communities of Watrous and Manitou Beach can be proud of this facility. A tourism/marketing group who visited the heritage center recently said "You are more than your average small town museum/heritage center". And it truly is!

*Kathy Bergen*

Chair, Board of Director

# Post Office

## POST OFFICE EXHIBIT ADDITION



This R.M. of Morris No. 312 map, donated by Roger Davidson of Watrous, has been included in the post office exhibit. The map indicates the land owners' names from the early 1900's. Roger's family found this map in the floor joists of his uncle Doug Davidson's farmhouse.



## Post Office History

### Watrous



In 1908 Mandal post office was moved to Watrous. The name change was recorded on September 1, 1908. The post office was located in the Bjorndahl store on Main Street in the 100 block since 1906.



A new building was erected and the post office officially opened in November 1936 at the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue East.



In 1971, a building was constructed at the corner of Main Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue West where the current post office relocated.



First Post Office

### Manitou Beach

From 1919 to 1936, Manitou Beach had a summer office only from July to September. Each year the post office opened in June and closed in September following the closure of the beach season.



Alyn Scott Telfer on June 29 1936 was appointed the first permanent postmaster and the post office operated year around until it closed in 1970. From 1936 - 1962 the post office was located in the Alyn Telfer home.



Village post office closed on September 30, 1970. Box service was located at MacKay's store with 59 padlocked boxes located outside the store. The new service was called R.R. #1 Lyal MacKay was the courier.

# New Items

## THE UNDERWOOD TYPEWRITER



Bernard LeBlanc donated a "Made in Canada" Underwood typewriter, including the original shipping box. He purchased the typewriter from Murray Gordon at his garage sale in the '90s. It was originally used in Murray's grandfather's and father's law office which operated from 1919-1980. The typewriter may be a 1940's model.

The Underwood No. 5 set the standard for modern typewriters. There were hundreds of varying designs and keyboard layouts. By 1920, nearly every antique typewriter modeled the Underwood Number 5. Between 1900 and 1932, Underwood manufactured nearly five million of this particular model type.

The Underwood typewriter was the creation of German-American inventor Franz X. Wagner, who had earlier been involved with other typewriter models, such as the Densmore. The name "Underwood" comes from John T. Underwood, an entrepreneur and son of a typewriter ribbon manufacturer who bought the company early in its history. The company was eventually bought by Olivetti, and in the early 1960s, the name "Underwood" finally disappeared from the typewriter world nearly sixty years after the first Underwood typewriter appeared in 1895.<sup>1</sup> And, in 1961 the IBM Selectric was introduced.

Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, Jack Kerouac, and Robert E. Howard all used Underwood typewriters to pen their famous works. References to the Underwood typewriter in popular culture are also plentiful, such as:

- In Stephen King's *The Shining*, Jack Torrance uses an Underwood typewriter to work on his play *The Little School*.
- The 1991 Coen brothers film *Barton Fink* portrays the Barton character using an Underwood typewriter after Jack Warner claims that screenwriters are schmucks with Underwoods.
- Mr. Underwood in *To Kill a Mockingbird* types on a typewriter all day every day.
- Frank Abagnale in the 2002 *Catch Me If You Can* film says he forges a check using a stencil machine and an Underwood typewriter.
- The main character in *Moulin Rouge!* uses an Underwood typewriter.
- In Season 3, Episode 5 of *Parks and Recreation*, Ron Swanson uses an Underwood No. 5.
- Pearl Jam released an album in 2009 called *Backspacer*, named after Underwood's back spacer key.
- Kevin Dolenz in the 1985 film *St. Elmo's Fire* brings up a battered Underwood typewriter to Leslie Hunter.
- In the Netflix series *House of Cards*, Frank Underwood uses an Underwood Universal Portable typewriter.

<sup>1</sup> <https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/objects/co38184/underwood-typewriter-no-5-made-in-nyc-early-20th-century-typewriter>

# Come back and see us again!

## WINSTON HIGH SCHOOL



Volunteer, Tom Allin, shows a student how to use the rotary dial telephone.



Ivan Allin and Janice Siegfried answer questions in the aboriginal exhibit.



The tour is rated a thumbs up!



Tom Allin, a retired SaskTel employee, shares his knowledge.

## THE LEVESQUE FAMILY



The Levesque's, from Prud'homme, 5 children played in the schoolroom while mom and dad and the two eldest children enjoyed a guided tour by volunteer Gwen Deneiko.

## VISITORS FROM NEAR AND NOT SO FAR



Georgina Cotts from Watrous



Darren & Kelly Hoare from Shellbrooke



Paul Chevrier from Watrous and grandchildren, Axel and Wade



Arlette Seib from Watrous

# CBK



Volunteer Dwight Kornelsen (left) and board member Dan McIntosh (right) took on the challenge of sorting through boxes of CBK files dating back to 1930's.

Just before CBK was to be dismantled, the WMBHC had the opportunity to collect many items from the building and that included these files along with many artifacts.

Dan's late father, Orin McIntosh, started working at CBK in 1957 and was employed for many years as a technician and then took the role of site monitor. Dan remembers visiting his father at the station on many occasions. Dwight was also an employee of CBK since 1990 and remains the site monitor of the site to this day.

Going through these CBK documents brought back many memories for Dan and Dwight.

## Did you know...

- ❖ 85% of Canadians feel that heritage institutions contribute to their quality of life.
- ❖ 20% of museums are solely volunteer run but the number of volunteers has declined by 51% since the pandemic.
- ❖ About 40% of Canadians visit a museum once a year. Half of these are avid museum-goers visiting 2-6 times per year and younger people in this group visit more often. An additional 43% of Canadians visit a museum every few years.

### HERITAGE CENTRE BOARD MEMBERS:

Kathy Bergen (Chair), Lionel Sproule (Vice-Chair), Sue Alcock, Janice Siegfried, Karen Schroeder-Mark, Chris Moffatt, Dan McIntosh, Joanne Kowalski, Taylor Engele (Town Representative), Karen Siegfried