

HAPPENINGS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Carberry Fair</i>	2
<i>Discovery Trunk</i>	2
<i>Open House</i>	2
<i>Kids' Programs</i>	3
<i>Tour Day</i>	3
<i>In the Meantime...</i>	3
<i>Notes from the Board</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- Promoting The Seton Centre
- Educational trunk has much potential
- Activities for kids and adults

SUMMER DISPLAY: THE YELLOW RAIL OF THE DOUGLAS MARSH

Fifteen kilometers east of Brandon in the Douglas area, there lies a wetland. Although it may be overlooked by many, it has great importance. Primarily due to its significance to the yellow rail bird as its preferred summer breeding habitat, the Douglas Marsh has been given IBA (Important Bird Area) status.

The yellow rail is considered, by the Committee on Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, to be a species of "special concern" because of its dramatically decreasing populations. A major factor for this decline seems to be the loss of its preferred winter habitat along the coast of the southeastern United States, although its summer breeding habitat is at risk as well.

Potential threats to the Douglas Marsh include wetland loss, beaver activity, birding ecotourism, and a proposed highway diversion. Although the highway project would not interfere with officially conserved land, it would affect privately owned land in

the area which, as studies have shown, may be most hospitable to the yellow rail. For example, in 2003, 70% of recorded yellow rail calls heard came from this land. Only 9% of officially protected marshland meets the preferred requirements of the yellow rail, and this area may not be large enough to attract them, since none have been recorded there.

For this summer, The Seton Centre is displaying a poster detailing research information, as well as a juvenile yellow rail, a yellow rail egg, two Virginia rails, and other marsh creatures. Hopefully this will raise awareness of this "special concern" bird and its home.

The above article



appeared in the Carberry News Express, the Neepawa Banner, and the Glenboro Gazette to create awareness.

On June 14, a hike of the Douglas Marsh was arranged by the Brandon Naturalists Society to see and/or hear the Yellow Rail. It was unfortunately cancelled due to the weather, but it may be rescheduled for next summer.

A WALK IN THE WILDFLOWERS

On June 4, there was a hike of the Quiet Voices wildflower trail at Spruce Woods Provincial Park, guided by our own Chris Malcolm.

The trail, which opened in 2003 with assistance from The Seton



Centre, was in bloom with several different varieties of flowers and grasses, which our guide helped to identify.

The hike was a learning experience for all who

attended. We encourage everyone to visit this beautiful trail!

THE SETON CENTRE GOES TO THE FAIR

The Carberry Fair and Races was held from July 1st to 3rd this year, and on July 2nd, The Seton Centre was in on the action.

Our gazebo could be found outside among the display buildings with an exciting assortment of sale items such as books, t-shirts, and postcards, as well as pictures of the grand opening of the Quiet Voices wildflower trail (which took place two years ago), tourist brochures, and raffle items. The wolf print went to Wayne Blair of Carberry, and the t-shirt went to

Vanessa Graham of Carberry. Congratulations to them.

I would like to thank



the board members for their help, and offer special thanks to Dan McPherson, Bev McCabe, Fay Baron, and Paula Graham for volunteering their time to make our display possible, and successful.

Having a display at the fair seems to be an effective way to attract attention to and interest in The Seton Centre. In future years, we may be seen at the Carberry Fair again, and eventually we may make appearances at the Austin Thresherman's Reunion.

NEW! THE DISCOVERY TRUNK: "WHERE THE SKY BEGAN"

The Seton Centre and the Mixed Grass Prairie Stewardship Program have collaborated to produce an educational trunk filled with items such as videos, books, animal skulls, puppets, and a lot more. The trunk, entitled "Where the Sky Began," was designed to teach kids about nature, and get them interested in it.

So far, a variety of items in the trunk have been used in some of the kids' programs conducted at The

Seton Centre. The kids seem to enjoy the trunk, especially the animal track moulds used to make plaster casts. The animal guessing game was a success as well.

The Discovery Trunk can be effective in recreational day camps and activities like ours, as well as

in the classroom. There has already been interest expressed in the trunk by representatives from the Riverbank Discovery Centre in Brandon, and R.J. Waugh Elementary School in Carberry. With more time and more promotion, the sky's the limit!



"So far, a variety of items in the trunk have been used in the kids' programs at The Seton Centre."

OPEN HOUSE

On Wednesday, August 10, The Seton Centre offered free cookies, drinks, and door prizes to all who attended. We also had videos about conservation playing throughout the afternoon. The open house ran from 1:00 to 4:00, and we got a fairly good turnout.

Our door prizes included t-shirts, hats, a fleece

vest, postcards and stickers. The winners were: Dylan Lintott, Monica Frank, Mary Ann Flood, Payton Dickson, and Echo/Dale, all of Carberry. Congratulations to them.

We would like to thank the board members for their donations of baking for this event. It was very much enjoyed by all!



KIDS' SUMMER PROGRAMS

As usual, we have offered a variety of kids' activities at The Seton Centre throughout the summer. The first one took place on July 7, and will continue every week up to August 24. The age range of the kids has been 6-



12, and the cost varies depending on the supplies that will be used. There has been significant interest shown in our programs this year.

In our programs, we have included: making a summer mural to display at The Seton Centre, building milk carton cabins, mak-

ing plaster casts of animal tracks, making rock animals, and listening to campfire tales. The kids seem to enjoy the activities, and keep coming back for more!

Our goal for the kids' programs is to provide enjoyable, educational activities to keep the kids occupied during the summer, and perhaps get them interested in the natural world and the conservation of it. It is apparent that we are succeeding!



HISTORICAL TOUR DAY

On Wednesday, August 24th, The Seton Centre hosted a tour of the area's museums. The tour ran from 10:00 am to about 4:30pm, and was open to all. The cost was \$7.00 per person to cover the transportation and museum admission.

Ads were posted around town, as well as in the Carberry News Express shortly before the event. The interest expressed in the expedition was sufficient to fill a van.

The first stop, the Shilo military museum, is very large, impressive, and professionally developed and managed. Besides the stationary exhibits, we

enjoyed getting a view of interiors of retired military and service vehicles. One participant commented that it was unbelievable that several people would actually live and work in the highly restricted space available in the submarine. This museum warrants leisurely return visits for war museum enthusiasts.

Our second visit was to the Criddle-Vane homestead at Treebank, south of Shilo, where we also enjoyed a picnic lunch. The group was intrigued by this hardworking pioneer family, and impressed by the large restoration project undertaken by the Criddle-Vane Homestead Heritage Committee.

The next stop was Wawanessa's Sipiweske Museum. This classic small town museum intermingles displays of local residents who have made an impact on Canadian society, such as

Nellie McClung and the Criddle-Vane family, along with exhibits to illustrate the day-to-day life of pioneers. This year, they feature century farms. Each year the adjacent St. Albans church is opened for special activities and services. The Sipiweske Museum is open most of the time, except in winter months. One idea we noted was a sheet of information that has been developed for a self-guiding tour of the museum. This idea would be worth considering for The Seton Centre. It allows a visitor to view exhibits without a personal guide, but with a few good pointers and insights into the displays.

On the way back to Carberry, the group made a quick stop at the interpretive building at Spruce Woods Park.

We feel that this tour played a role in boosting tourism in Manitoba. Perhaps tours similar to this one could be planned in future years.

"The group was impressed by the large restoration project undertaken by the Criddle-Vane Homestead Heritage Committee."



Sipiweske Museum, Wawanessa

IN THE MEANTIME...

Between the many programs and events happening at The Seton Centre this summer, the interpreters still found time to get other things accomplished!

Earlier this year, a collection of books on loan to The Seton Centre became donated.

Murray Simpson generously donated a collection of books by Ernest Thompson Seton, as well as

nature books by other authors.

The collection contains 20 books, all in great condition. We are fortunate to have them! The interpreters have already accessioned them into the existing collection.

We have also recently acquired a juvenile Swainson Hawk from Stuart Bailey. A plaque of Ernest Thompson Seton has also

been donated. We very much appreciate these donations!

The interpreters have also produced a new tourist brochure to promote The Seton Centre and provide information about Seton. It includes attractive pictures and has been very well received.

This season has been a productive and successful one. May they continue to be for many years to come!

The Seton Centre



*Museum / Gift Shop /
Herbarium / Art Gallery /
Tourist Information*

116 Main Street
Box 606
Carberry, MB
R0K 0H0
Phone: (204) 634-2809

Hours:
Mid-June:
Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 - 5:00
July and August:
Monday - Saturday 9:00 - 5:00
or by appointment

Free Admission
Donations Welcome

Our new tourist brochure

The Seton Centre

116 Main Street
Box 508
Carberry, MB
R0K 0H0

(204) 834-2509

Museum Interpreters:

Gayle Graham
Colton Frank

The Seton Centre Board:

Chairperson:
Cheryl Orr

Treasurer:
Peggy McPherson

Secretary and Membership:
Sharon McNeily

Maureen Meyers
Chris Malcolm
Larry Bidlake

THE SETON CENTRE: TELLING OUR STORY

We know that The Seton Centre has exciting stories to tell. The challenge is finding new, exciting ways to tell our stories. This summer we have tried several approaches - the effort itself brings our story closer to the community.

We took a look at how some of our neighbor museums tell their stories. For example, we observed that some variation on the self-guiding tour would be an asset. We noted that the Sipiweske Museum weaves local history into their featured displays and exhibits.

Over the summer, our super summer interpreters, Gayle Graham and Colton Frank, have developed an appealing and informative brochure for the Seton Centre. A brochure has been on our wish list for quite some time. The brochure begins to tell the story of The Seton Centre and introduces readers to what we are all about.

This summer we took our story to the fair, where interested folks could be found. We know that local families plan to return to Carberry and visit at the Fair. Taking The Seton Centre to the fair made it easier for people to drop by and visit. This year we were quite visible since we were set up outside under our gazebo. Positive comments were encouraging to Gayle Graham, our interpreter, who took on this huge venture when museum volunteers were relatively scarce.

One challenge in telling our story at The Seton Centre is to find more story-tellers. We would like to involve more history buffs in our programs. We know that most people have good ideas when it comes to community projects. We invite you to let us know if you might like to join our team at The Seton Centre as a volunteer or board member.

Cheryl Orr
Chairperson, The Seton Centre

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

During the 2004 year, The Seton Centre was inadvertently de-registered as a charitable organization. The Charities Directorate has since rectified this error and re-registered our organization, effective June 20, 2004. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused, and

your tax deductible receipts for donations can still be used in the next tax year. Thank you for your continued support!

The Seton Centre gratefully acknowledges the support received from Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism; Carberry & Area Commu-

nity Foundation; Town of Carberry & R.M. of North Cypress; Summer Career Placements Initiative; and Manitoba Conservation Green Teams. Continued assistance through these various grants makes it possible for our museum to remain open.



The gazebo we purchased two years ago is useful in our special events!

