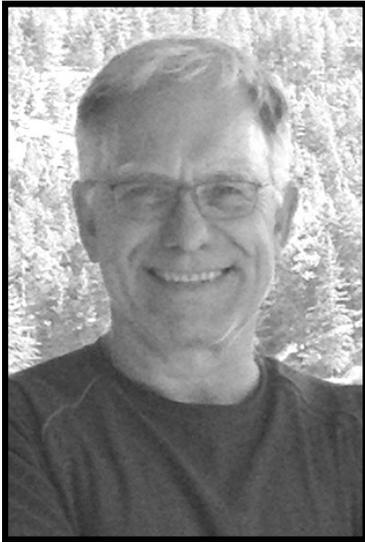


GUEST EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION



It is a distinct honour for me to have been asked to write the Guest Editorial Introduction for *Vantage Points Volume IV*. I was fortunate enough to have been involved in the run up to the first *Vantage Points* produced by the Turtle Mountain—Souris Plains Heritage Association (TM-SPHA) in 2009.

In 2007, while still employed at the Historic Resources Branch of Manitoba, Culture and Tourism, my supervisor at the time, Mark Stroski, forwarded to me a request he received from Leona Devuyst of the Association for copies of whatever information the branch had pertaining to the history of the region. With his blessing to do what I could for the Association, I went a little overboard and ended up with two thick three-ring binders and a CD-ROM full of material. In compiling the information, as I ‘dug’ deeper and deeper into the region’s history, geography and personalities I was increasingly struck by the richness of the region’s geologic, natural and cultural heritage. Compiling those bind-

ers for the TM-SPHA was a much-enjoyed and all too short ‘journey of discovery’ for me. I was born and raised in the province’s Interlake Region, and even through my work with the Branch, I had little previous contact with the heritage of southwestern Manitoba. It was much fun and very enlightening for me—and a welcome break from my ‘usual paperwork.’ Thank you Leona, and members of the TM-SPHA, for the opportunity to learn about your part of the province.

Not very long after the information binders had been delivered to an appreciative TM-SPHA, I was contacted by Teyana Neufeld, a capable summer student researcher hired by the Association to undertake, among other things, a heritage coach tour of the area. She called seeking advice and for permission to use some of the binder material in a tour guide book she was making for the event. Having some involvement with guiding Manitoba Historical Society heritage site bus excursions during the 1990s, I was glad to offer some ideas and suggestions. On the matter of how much information about a site to include in a tour guide, I noted in my experience what seemed to work best was: at least one page but no more than two pages - including visuals, a photo or two, or an old map, and cite the information sources consulted at the page bottom.

I am pleased beyond expression to see that this little suggestion was applied, not only to the guide book of a very successful regional tour in 2008, but was then developed into a format for the now highly popular and innovative *Vantages Points* series of heritage publications. *Vantage Points* has become the “Readers Digest” of southwestern Manitoba history. The articles are well-researched, well-written and an interesting and educational ‘quick-read.’ The reader is left ‘wanting-to-know-more’ and the cited sources encourage interest and facilitate further investigation.

I congratulate the Turtle Mountain-Souris Plains Heritage Association for keeping the ‘old stories alive’ in such an innovative and interesting manner. I look forward to reading subsequent volumes in the series, the concept of which I have no doubt will be soon copied by other heritage associations.

Ed Ledohowski

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Manitoba Culture, Heritage & Tourism
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