

**Mennonite Historical Society  
of  
British Columbia  
*February 1996***

# NEWSLETTER

**Dear Members and Friends,**

Your Society has planned an active program for the first half of 1996 and we hope that you will all participate and continue to support our efforts.

## **HERITAGE LECTURES**

February 17, 1996 at 7:30 PM - Clearbrook Community Centre

**Dr. Harvey Dyck**

**Topic: Unlocking Russian Mennonite History**

~ Soviet Archives give up their first secrets ~

Dr. Harvey Dyck is Professor of Russian History and Director of the Research Program into Russian and Soviet Mennonite Studies at the University of Toronto. He was in Russia last August and September, and again in December, in a major research project to inventory and microfilm Soviet Archives in Zaporoshje that pertain to Mennonite life in Russia. The Mennonite Heritage Centre in Winnipeg and the Mennonite Historical Society of B.C. are supporting this effort.

Dr. Dyck has published many books and articles on Mennonite history including, together with Ingrid Epp, "A Research Guide to the Peter J. Braun Archive", and, with Svetlana Gulkin, the recently released, "Odessan Odyssey" - The Last Summer of the Soviet empire. His talks are always interesting and stimulating and therefore we urge all members and friends to attend.

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**Coming Events:**            *March 30, 1996*                            - *Dr. Abe Friesen*  
                                      *May 11, 1996 (At the AGM)*            - *Dr. Walter Klaassen*  
                                      *October 19, 1996*                            - *Dr. Ted Regehr*

## **THE ARCHIVES**

Your Society is responsible for the B.C. Mennonite Archives. They are located on the lower floor of the Columbia Bible College Administration and Library Building, and are open to the public every weekday morning from 9:00 to 12:00.

Available in the Archives are many historical records of MCC in B.C., Board of Church Extension (MB), Conference Ministers files (COM), Bible Schools, and a complete microfilm copy of the recently discovered Peter Braun Archives. We also have some fairly rare historical volumes and many Family Histories that may help you in your own genealogical research.

Of particular interest may be the newly acquired English translation of the 1835 Census of the Molotschna Villages. This document may fill in some gaps between B. H. Unruh's 1808 Census and your family's memories and records that seldom go back further than the latter 1800's.

The Archivist, Hugo Friesen, or his assistant, Karletta Munchinsky are most willing to help you find what you are looking for and operate the equipment.

**Volunteers Needed:** *If you can spare a morning one or two days per week we would appreciate your help in organizing and cataloguing historical records. Anyone willing to help, please contact Hugo Friesen at 853-6177 or 859-4905.*

## **MEMBERSHIP**

All members and guests that made a donation to the Society at the Annual Banquet last October have been accorded membership for 1996.

Those that were unable to attend at that time and would like to support the work of the Society and continue receiving notices of coming events are reminded that we need your help and urge you to renew your membership as generously as your resources might allow.

*"Without your support, we can do nothing"*

The Directors