

Biographies Regina and Bushwakker Present



THE 5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of Biographies Regina Inc.
will be held

TUESDAY

March 29, 2011

Dinner & Speaker 6 pm

Meeting 8 pm

Bushwakker

(Arizona Room)

2206 Dewdney Ave.

For the following purposes:

1. To receive the year-end review of financial records.
2. To receive reports of directors.
3. To elect members to the Board of Directors for 2011.
4. To appoint a reviewer of financial records for the ensuing year.
5. To deal with any other business as necessary and appropriate.

To make your meeting enjoyable and to offer you the opportunity to socialize, your committee has made arrangements with Bushwakker to offer you a special deal. For those renewing or purchasing the 2011 Biographies Regina membership an 8 oz. Steak (Chicken or Veggie Burger as substitute) Dinner with a complementary beer or non-alcoholic beverage - after all this is a brew house - will be included for the special price of \$20.00 for both the membership and meal. Bring along a guest for dinner and they can take advantage of the meal for only \$16.00 and are welcome to attend the AGM. Members who have prepaid dues for 2011 will get a reduced price for the meal. Our guest speakers for the evening will be from the "Queen's Printer" and will talk on electronic publishing and the services they offer.

Please contact the president: Gord Goddard: ggoddard@accesscomm.ca or Phone: 924-0748 to indicate your attendance and meal requirements **no later than 22 March**. Payment will be collected at the door.



President's Corner

Hello everyone, this year has been an interesting one to say the least. We have had to do as much as had been done in the past but with fewer resources. The focus of your committee has been to find out what we need to do to get the warehouse book out on the street and what we need to do as an organization to keep you, the members, interested and informed. Realising there was a problem, two visioning sessions were held and, thanks to the attendees, an understanding was reached. Well, the point of the matter is that we did come up with a task matrix but with so few to develop and implement the solutions it was not possible to implement them. We hope to be able to resolve this but without your help and participation we are faced with an uphill battle.

Not to be discouraged, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Dick Wood has been working diligently and is almost half way through the story editing process. There are over 60 stories in this book, moreso than in any other effort to date. With any luck the stories should all be edited and ready to go to press in late fall or early spring. That being said we have to understand how best we can deliver the stories to the public. The idea of having only one method of printing and delivering books to the customer, or even who the customer is, has changed dramatically in the 21st century. We are now in the electronic age and change is constant.

Gord Goddard

Members: send your stories for possible publication in future newsletters. We are also collecting stories for use on the web site or in a future publication.

visit us online

www.

biographiesregina.ca

An Excerpt from the Warehouse Project

James Strathdee



Lives of ambition, success, tragedy

Rumours have swirled at 2206 Dewdney Avenue for decades. The stories say the ghost of James Strathdee walks the halls there, haunting the beautiful building he left behind when he was found in 1936 with a bullet in his neck.

James Strathdee was born in Kincardineshire, Scotland in 1877, the son of a tailor. James followed in his father's footsteps and apprenticed. By 1901 he had moved to Battersea, London, England. In 1902, in Bromley, Kent, England, he married Sarah Young Sutherland, a native of Scotland, and that same year they sailed to Canada and settled in Winnipeg.

He found work first as a floor worker and later became a commercial traveller with the Campbell Brothers and Wilson Wholesale Grocery Company. In 1903, their first child, Lilies, was born and another daughter, Nora, arrived in 1905. Strathdee advanced quickly in the company and by 1911 assumed the position of manager of the newly-formed Campbell, Wilson and Strathdee Co. of Winnipeg.

In 1912 the Regina cyclone tore through the Queen City, leaving many of the young buildings in ruins, among them the Mack Lung Chinese laundry at 2204 Dewdney Avenue. Reconstruction projects sprung up all over the city and the land where the laundry was located and the former residence of Dr. Walter Cowan was sold to Campbell, Wilson and Strathdee. From the outset, the company had plans for their Regina building to be a cornerstone of the Warehouse District.

Want to know more??

Help us to finish the story!

Join us - get involved - work on the book.

The Book - The Re-revised Plan

I am looking forward to us gathering for the AGM, especially for the opportunity it will provide for Biographies Regina members to again come together socially and to renew our commitment to what we are about – preserving Regina’s people history.

That commitment was reiterated with considerable conviction when some members came together for two Visioning sessions seven weeks apart last May and June. There were wide-ranging discussions relating to the organization in general and to the Warehouse District book project in particular.

One of the broad brush decisions made was to free up more time for me for the book project by having others take on more of the administrative functions I had been doing for some time. The latter has, of late, begun to happen, and will continue.

As for advancement of the book project, there was some progress made in the month or two following the second Visioning session, but when I became ill in the late summer those efforts bogged down. I am now recovering from my still unidentified health issues,

after a multitude of tests and 12 days of hospitalization in January.

In due course, I will resume work on the book, but with a much modified approach. To do otherwise is a risk I will not take.

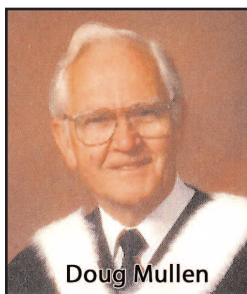
In the coming months, extending into the summer student period (if our application is successful), I hope to put in short hours to get the unfinished files into a certain orderly state so that someone else can take on the bulk of what I would otherwise be doing – final edits, etc. The “someone else” could be provided by or arranged through the Warehouse District office. We have regular contact and there is indication that they will become more proactive, relative to the project. It is seen that this scenario, or schedule, would have all material for the book print-ready by the end of this year, with production/printing occurring in 2012. The Warehouse District has indicated that they would like to tie the book launch into other celebratory events next year.

Dick Wood
Book Project Chair

Help name our book The title of the next “Pioneers! O Pioneers!” book has yet to be decided. The book committee and the board have discussed this but nothing has clicked yet. Now, we’d like members to brainstorm and share their thoughts.

What contributes to this quandary is that the Warehouse District was so diverse. It was much more than warehousing and wholesaling. The area included: retailing, professionals, manufacturing/industry, community leaders, culture, sports, travellers, trades, contractors, services, and, very significantly, residential.

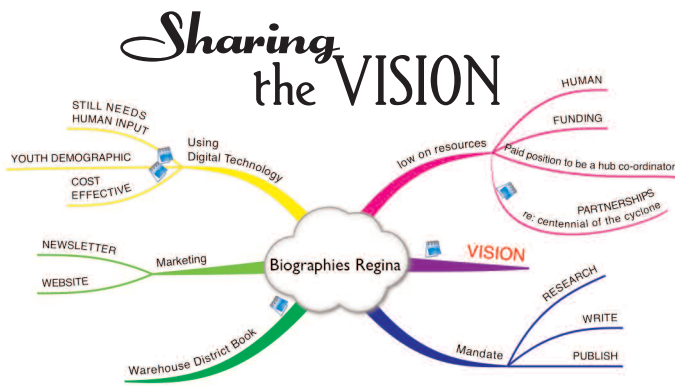
It may be impossible to capture all of those aspects in the title, inclusiveness is a worthy objective. The situation seems to call for a main title and a sub-title.



Doug Mullen

On 12 September 2010 our dear friend and member **Douglas Mullen** passed away. Doug was a founding member of our organization and served in a variety of positions including: the Book Committee, Vice-President and President. He was well-known throughout the city and belonged to many organizations; the Construction Association, the Lions Club, the Regina Symphony Annual Book Sale, and Lakeview United Church, to name a few. Born on 12 May 1921, Doug served during World War II in the Air Force, starting in radar then remustering to aircrew and finishing the war as a Flight Navigator. He was a lifelong member of the #600 Wing (Regina) Air Force Association where he also served in a number of positions.

For over thirty years Doug worked in the paint industry ending his career as the Manager of General Paint. His wealth of local knowledge and his insight was a great bonus to us. He had a ready smile for everyone he met and was always a pleasure to work with. He was a lifelong learner and felt that his greatest accomplishment was to complete a degree at the U of R long after most of us would even think of facing such a challenge. As has been said of many of our Air Force Veterans - He has “slipped the surly bonds of earth”. “We Will Remember”.



During 2010 we conducted two visioning sessions in an attempt to better understand where we had been, where we are at the present time, and where we needed to go. Both sessions were of great assistance in helping to us to recognise our needs and the tools that we need to succeed.

The first meeting was held on 15 May and was well attended. We were able to bring Councillor Fred Clipsham and City of Regina Policy Analyst Liberty Walton to the discussion table. It was stated that the City is concerned about preserving its heritage and that it was conducting a performance measurement that will include how well it is doing with respect to heritage. It was pointed out that the primary focus to date has been on “Built Heritage” but that “People Heritage” also needs preserving.

From this discussion Jan Morier developed the above matrix which clearly demonstrates what we are about and areas that need our attention.

The second session was held on 26 June. We had a bit of a late start and we weren’t sure if it would get going. Eventually it did and again it proved to be well worth the effort. Once again the session provided a great overview of our situation. It was clear that we are if anything determined to get the story of the warehouse district out to the public. The primary concerns were using resources on hand or getting outside assistance through funding or inter-group participation. Several proposals were put forward and an action plan was developed.

In both sessions it was evident that we are continuing to try and do more with less and that we need either more people to take on the workload or funds to hire full or part time help.

P.O. Box 37227, Regina SK S4S 7K4

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: _____, 2011

Name: _____
(Individual or associate organization or company)

Address: _____

City/Prov: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Year(s) _____ Fees: \$10./year

Yes, I want to make a donation to assist the preservation of Regina & District’s social history.

I am donating the sum of \$_____

Paid by cheque cash

An official receipt will be issued for all donations.
Registered Charity Number: 80650 9741 RR0001
Mail to address above.

Thank you for your support.

- Pioneer** \$10 - 49
- Vanguard** \$59 - 99
- Explorer** \$100 - 299
- Visionary** \$300 or more

The Newsletter is published by Biographies Regina. Contributors to this issue: Gordon Goddard, Jan Morier, Richard Wood

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