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Region 7 Thunder Bay Rally

By: John Sellers

Forty units arrived for a successful Region 7 rally at Thunder Bay, Ontario. The rally was held August 11-15 at Confederation College, in the heart of Thunder Bay only blocks from the waterfront. Thunder Bay isn't actually in Region 7, but members of all Units of Region 7, as well as the Ontario Unit, attended. The size of the province of Ontario can be appreciated from the fact that one couple from Toronto drove a thousand miles to the rally in Thunder Bay! The Canadian route north of Lake Superior is slightly shorter, but they came south of Lake Superior, through the US, to take advantage of lower US gas prices.

We enjoyed fine weather for the entire rally, sunny but not too hot, which permitted the first evening's barbecue and the rally opening ceremonies to be held outdoors. Parking was in

the parking lot of Sibley Hall residence, where we had access to rest rooms and showers. Electricity was conveniently supplied by plentiful 20 amp outlets provided in the parking lot to keep car engines warm

The crown jewel of Thunder Bay tourist attractions is historic Fort William, the original settlement.

during the cold Ontario winter, and water was supplied by lots of hose! Meetings and meals were in the Shuniah Building about a quarter mile away.

The busy rally schedule included a visit to the largest amethyst mine in North America, where we could prospect for (rare) gem-grade amethyst on our own or buy run-of-the-mine amethyst

for just \$3 a pound! From there we went to Ouimet ("wee-met") Canyon, a billion-year-old crack in the bedrock from which a thin slice of the original volcanic rock was removed by the glaciers. The canyon is so narrow that sunlight seldom reaches the bottom, where sub-arctic plants grow, far south of the Arctic Circle.

The crown jewel of Thunder Bay tourist attractions is historic Fort William, the original settlement. (The city of Thunder Bay was formed by the 1970 merger of the cities of Port Arthur and Fort William.) The name "fort" is slightly misleading, as Fort William was a fur trading post of the Northwest Company. We spent one morning at the Fort William Historical Site, staffed by actors in period costumes playing the part of 1812 occupants of the fort. Other activities included the

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Minnesota Unit 50th Anniversary Celebration

By: Margaret-Ann Miller, Chair

The Minnesota Unit's 50th anniversary celebration was held in conjunction with the annual installation ceremony at Minnesota Airstream Park on Saturday, September 6, 2008. A crowd of 70 enthusiastic adults, one child and one baby attended this special event.

The event was held in the park clubhouse which had been tastefully decorated with royal blue and gold streamers and blue balloons. Royal blue table cloths and candlelit brandy snifters on each table added to the elegance of the affair. Each place setting had a



Joan Lahr, Region 7 Second Vice President installs Minnesota President Sharon Ramler and First Mate Harry, as Mike Lahr looks on.

*In all there were
14 Past Presidents,
9 Past First Ladies
and 2 Past First
Mates at the event.*

white napkin in a gold napkin ring with an Airstream trailer printed on it. A blue/gold/white silk floral centerpiece on the head table and the punch table completed the ambiance. To commemorate the 50th anniversary, a surprise gift of a small Minnesota Loon was at each place at the table.

The evening began with a delicious catered pork loin dinner. Following dinner, Hal Routhe initiated Tim and Melanie Clifford as new members of the club. Newly elected Minnesota officers and their spouses were introduced by Hal Routhe and installed by Region 7 Second Vice President Joan Lahr, assisted by her Mate, Mike Lahr. Special thank you gifts and awards were handed out by outgoing President, Carolyn Grandstrand and newly elected President, Sharon Ramler.

Carolyn and Sharon each spoke to the gathered guests.

At the conclusion of the installation ceremony, Bob Miller, MC for the 50th anniversary program, welcomed everyone to the celebration. Bob read congratulatory notes, an e-mail, and a telephone message from former Past Presidents and First Ladies of the Minnesota Unit. Invitations and announcements of the 50th anniversary had been sent to all living Past Presidents and/or Past First Ladies spanning the years 1962—2008. (Note: All folk from 1958—1961 are deceased.) Bob introduced the Past Presidents and/or Past First Ladies and Past First Mates in attendance. In all there were 14 Past Presidents, 9 Past First Ladies and 2 Past First Mates at the event. Of special note were: June Nichols —Past First Lady 1973-74 (husband Abe), Bobbi Mitchell—Past First Lady 1979-80 (husband Frank) and Dolores Holm—Past First Female President 1982-83 (husband Ray).



After the introductions, Past Presidents Hal Routhe—1992-93, Alan Richard—1990-91, Bill Crom—1994-95, Evan “Ding” Rangeloff—1988-89, and Margaret-Ann Miller—2005-06 shared some memories of either highlights or low lights (comedy of errors) that occurred while they were officers in the club. At the end of the program, Don Rogers, President of Region 7, congratulated the Minnesota Unit on 50 years of dedicated service to WBCCI and presented Sharon Ramler, Minnesota Unit President, with a special certificate

commemorating the event.

The anniversary celebration concluded with a reception line of the newly elected Unit officers, followed by a time of visiting and sharing memories over a decorated anniversary cake and punch. CONGRATULATIONS MINNESOTA UNIT!! Good luck and best wishes for 50 more years of continued good times and success. 🚐

Presidents' Message

This holiday season we would like to wish you all the peace and happiness that comes to you through your faiths, families and friends. For those of us that are fending off the cold this winter in the northern climates, our memories of the good times in 2008 will help keep us warm. For those of you toughing it out in the southern climates, I know you will be thinking of us as we shovel snow and watch the occasional hockey game on our new wide screen TVs that Santa brought to us.

2008 was a great season of camping, rallies and friends. 2009 promises to be another wonderful year for making new memories, new friends and good times. Terrol and I look forward to seeing many of you in the New Year and once again want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy new year.

Don and Terrol Rogers

Back by great demand!

Region VII Folklorama Rally August 4-9 2009

Come and join Region VII for the 40th Anniversary of Folklorama in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Experience the energy of the largest and longest running multicultural event of its kind in the world.

Experience the energy of the largest and longest running multicultural event of its kind in the world.

From traditional home cooked meals, to electrifying nightly performances by local and international entertainers, Folklorama will create a feast for the senses as you experience (if you want) over 40 pavilions. Take home a keepsake of your visit by exploring the cultural display areas in each pavilion.

Rally fee (TBA) will include two nights of guided bus tours

of three pavilions each night, with a progressive dinner and entertainment included at each site. Use your pass the remaining evenings to explore pavilions on your own. A welcome Bar-b-que, opening ceremonies, three breakfasts and brunch on the paddlewheel Riverboat is also included in the rally fee.

Sign-up tours will include Duck's Unlimited Oak Hammock Marsh, St. Boniface Museum, (oldest log building in Winnipeg), the St. Boniface Basilica and walking tour of the French Quarter. After that, if you choose, water taxi over to the Forks for shopping and more food. More tours will include the ever popular trips to Lower Fort Garry, the Museum of Man and Nature, the Royal Canadian Mint, the Aviation Museum and many more places to discover on your own.

If you have never been to Folklorama, this is your chance to experience the best festival

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Folkfest Installation Rally!



Region 7 President Don Rogers, North Dakota Peace Garden President Rose Larson, and Region First Lady Terrol Rogers enjoy the rally in Bismarck.

By: Cathy Ruebel

What a beautiful weekend for the Folkfest Installation Rally! Bismarck's General Sibley Park was the gathering place September 11 - 14, 2008 for North Dakota Peace Garden Unit members. Region President Don Rogers and First Lady Terrol of Winnipeg came in for the weekend, to install the unit's officers for the 2008-2009 rally season.

Every day was unseasonably warm and sunny, although the wind began to blow and a drizzle put the feel of autumn back into the air late Saturday afternoon. Thanks to a couple of covered screen tents, people were able to stay dry for the most part. On Friday morning, the group headed out for the Folkfest Downtown Street Fair, where arts and craft vendors abounded, and any food imaginable to tempt the taste buds. Saturday morning the biannual business meeting was held, and Region President Don Rogers briefed the group on next year's International Rally in Madison, and potential locations for the 2009 Region 7 Rally.

Campfires ruled the evenings, with good conversation in a relaxing atmosphere for people to reflect on this past season's

adventures. Marinated New York strip steaks, baked potatoes, candied carrots and an Italian salad made sure everyone had enough to eat at the Installation supper.

Incoming unit officers were President Rose Larson of Bowman, 2nd Vice President John Krabseth from Williston, 2nd Vice President Vern Zink of Bismarck, Corresponding Secretary Ron Larson, and continuing on as Recording Secretary Arlene Bailey of Wyndmere and Treasurer Lillian Thomson from Cavalier. Trustees are Cathy Ruebel, Larry Ruebel, Don Thomson, and Ron Larson. Cathy Ruebel is the immediate Past President.

Following the installation, everyone headed to the Thomsons for hot fudge and strawberry sundaes to cap off the evening. Sunday morning we converged at Perkins Restaurant for breakfast, conversation, and farewells. Joining the Rogers for this rally were Ron and Rose Larson, John and Joyce Krabseth, Don and Lillian Thomson, Vern and Bev Zink, Jack and Arlene Bailey, Darina Lindroth from Grand Forks, Bruce and Carolyn Coonrod from Pierre, SD, Harvey Petersen and Larry and Cathy Ruebel from Bismarck. ☺

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Ladies Hat Picnic—with prizes for creative and distinctive hats—an evening at a nearby casino, an outdoor concert in the waterfront park, and golf and fishing outings.

The business meeting included International President Jerry Larson's "State of the WBCCI" Powerpoint presentation presented by Carolyn Florence, International Recording Secretary, which favorably portrayed the Wisconsin Unit as one of the top five units in the WBCCI in membership growth.

And finally—no skits! Instead, the last night of the rally was a dinner dance at the Royal Canadian Polish Veterans League, featuring an excellent dinner and an excellent selection of dance music, offering Region 7 Airstreamers an opportunity to exhibit impressive dancing skills. 🚐



Caravanning Seminar Leader Needed

The chairman of the Introduction to Caravanning Seminar for the International Rally has resigned. We are looking for a replacement. The candidate should be familiar with caravanning and be a good organizer.

This is a popular and informative Seminar. It always receives top ratings. It is also mandated in the Blue Book that we hold it yearly.

If you know of candidates for this important job, please let me know.

Bob Bennett
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of its kind and one of the best region rallies anywhere. Just ask someone who has been here before. For those who have been here, please come back. You will have a great time and there is still a lot to discover in the great city of Winnipeg.

We will be staying at Travelers R.V. Park on the S.E. side of Winnipeg, with pull through lots, 30 amp electric, and water and sewer hook-ups. Not to mention trees and grass! The Canadian dollar is down

right now which again favors the American tourists getting more for their dollar. And this time you WILL need your Passport. No more extensions. So mark your calendar and

watch for further information.
"Happy trails to you,
until we meet again"
Don Rogers
President Region VII 🚐



Herb Rohrer

It is with a heavy heart that we let you all know that a long time member of the South Dakota Unit, Herb Rohrer passed away on Monday, December 8, 2008. Herb and Shirley, #16458, joined WBCCI in 1984. Herb was president of the South Dakota unit in 1988 and again in 2000. They were both very active in the set up and activities for the 2007 Region 7 Rally held in their home town in Huron, South Dakota. The funeral was December 12th. Please keep Shirley and her family in your thoughts and prayers as we join our families for the holidays and into the coming new year.





Region 7 opening ceremony in Thunder Bay.



Margaret-Ann Miller, Region Parliamentarian, receives her region badge from President Don Rogers.



Mike Lahr and Don Rogers enjoy a laugh at a social hour.



Fort William



Cathy Ruebel and Pat Herzing mine for amethysts.



Lois Dettmann watches Dean Kyle wash his amethysts.



Region members enjoy a candlelight bonfire.