

SOUTHEAST & WINNIPEG BRANCH COUNCIL REPORT

APRIL 20, 2013

The Branch's mini-seminar, "New Directions" will be held on Saturday, October 19 at Silver Heights United Church. One presenter will be Mrs. Robin Shimpa, who will speak about the migration patterns between the province of Manitoba and Minnesota and North Dakota States. The other is Louis Kessler who will talk about ideas for our Genealogy Society – how to keep members active and involved and publicity. We have booked the same caterer as at our last seminar so the meal and the breaks will be delicious. More information about costs and registration deadlines will be available on the brochure and website. Of course, MGS's AGM will start at 4:00 after the afternoon session. On Sunday, thanks to Mary Bole, the Resource Library will be open from 10:00 to 4:00 for seminar attendees. The profits from this seminar will go to computer refurbishing or upgrades. There is a seminar committee so if you wish to help with the seminar please contact me.

Since our Council meeting on January 19, the branch has conducted two more computer sessions, one on keeping your computer working and the other on the use of digital cameras. Our 12 Heads gatherings continue to be very popular. We have had three very diverse and interesting sessions. The general meetings also have been well attended. Thanks go to all of the presenters.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on Monday, May 13, with guest speaker, Elizabeth Briggs. She will speak on Breaking Deadlocks. We almost have a full slate of officers nominated but still need a 1st Vice President. So please consider joining the executive.

Three more very interesting presentations are planned for this spring: Ethics in Genealogy, a walking tour of Shaarey Zedek cemetery and Preparing for a Summer Research Trip.

Because of Gord McBean's resignation Sheila Woods took over the work with the E-Zine and our Branch webpage. She has updated information and working on new designs. Thanks go to Sheila for taking over this important task.

The Wednesday Night library volunteers have done a wonderful job this year. I will be arranging for next year's volunteers and schedule in May. If anyone is interested in volunteering either as a full-timer or a spare please let me know.

One more item of interest for you: three articles were published in the Winnipeg Metro in March concerning genealogy research. The article seemed like an ad for Ancestry.ca. Both our treasurer, Susan Wellman and MGS's President wrote letters to the columnist who gathered the material for the article and told her about the services offered by MGS and our Branch and inviting her to visit our Resource Centre. No response was given to either letter by the columnist. I mention this to tell you what our Society and Branches have to compete with to get recognition.