

Report VP Information Technology
MGS Council
Feb 21, 2015

The MANI project is moving ahead quickly and is now ready for beta testing where members get to test it out. The project is part of the winter term "BIT Projects" for the Business Information Technology students at Red River College. I have been meeting with the students weekly and they have already solved several bugs and glitches that have stopped MGS members from using MANI. A MANI newsletter was distributed to Council and it is being included in Generations in order to inform our members of the progress of the project.

We will be moving the MANI database to an external server to improve performance and our administration access to the system. It is currently on a college test server and will be moved to an external hosting service. Two other aims are to add an e-commerce module that will allow for Membership processing and pay per view access to MANI pages and MGS publications. As well a web based membership processing and tracking module will be developed to replace what is currently done with a desktop application at MGS. This will allow automation of access to MANI as well as automating membership functions, not to forget web access for the membership committee.

Draft versions for MANI User Manuals have been created for Member, Volunteer and Admin. I will be working with a team of RRC Technical Communications students assigned for the term to rework the manuals as well as consulting MGS members currently working with MANI for their input.

With the purchase of a hi-speed document scanner the Cemetery Transcription are being scanned. Already almost 2/3 of the paper copies in the file drawer have been scanned and a pdf file made.

A joint project with Manitoba Historical Society (MHS) will see MGS providing our cemetery information to MHS and in return MHS will provide a link back on the MHS website to the MGS site where people can purchase cemetery transcriptions. Prepping the files involves matching the listing MHS currently have on their site with ours. This is complicated because quite often we have different names for the cemeteries. Next we will convert our Legal Land Description to the lat/Long standard. We are using a commercial website for doing the conversions

The Scanner, Legal Land Converter credits and the RRCC Scholarship donation will be covered by the Winnipeg Foundation Grant we received last year.

A Virus/adware has infected the Mail computer. I was able to remove it but apparently it is back. We might have to purchase software or pay to have it removed. It would be about \$40-\$50 dollars to have it done.

The computers in the resource centre have had service patches applied to them monthly. The Network Drive central file storage has been backed up and the copy taken off site for safe storage.

I reviewed the current email process at MGS and changes such as adjusting mail forwarding have been made. Groups were also set up in the email contacts for the Executive and Council with updated email addresses added. We have a problem with the twitter account filling up one of our mail boxes. This is being addressed. MTS is also requiring us to move our MGS mail account to a new server in the coming weeks.

We will be decommissioning the Twitter account as we do not have anyone willing to manage it.