

## **Sept. 21, 2013 MGS Council Report**

### **VP IT**

After a very busy summer with volunteer work for outside groups I had to hit the ground running in late August as MGS was contacted by Red River College and asked if we could proceed with our next phase of our Data project. Their fall group project fell through at the last minute and they needed a replacement project that was ready to go ASAP. We were planning on hiring students to add the approximately 80 indexes not included in the winter term project which created MANI. MANI is our MANitoba Name Index or what has been referred to as the data project. The Red River Students in the BIT programs created an online database that merged the Cemetery transcription Index with the Elmwood Cemetery Index which had a combined total of about 400,000 records. This fall the student team will create the framework to include our other indexes which will bring our total to about 1,250,000 records.

As all of our records are not digitized yet and others in digital form need to be converted to the required format or cleaned up, the content entry and uploading will continue for a number of years. At the end of this term we will have the MANI database installed on the MGS server and available in house at the MGS Resource Centre. You will then be able to search all of our databases from the one query screen.

We are hoping to be accepted as a RRC BIT project for the Winter Term. We have applied to have an e-commerce interface created that will allow us to make the MANI database available to our members on the internet. Additional content would be available on a pay per view basis.

We received the donation of a Dell Poweredge Server from the United Food & Commercial Workers Union thanks to the effort of Shawn Hilts. They were replacing this server but it will allow us to host the MANI database through the development phase.

Linda White's application for a HUDAC grant was successful and will provide funding to assist the MANI project.

The South East & Winnipeg Branch has applied for a Winnipeg Foundation grant to cover some of our costs associated with the e-commerce phase of the MANI project. This will boost our Capital Campaign funds and help us reach our goals for the MANI database.