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THIS WEEK



Radford Rink
Tops in St. Claude
Men's Bonspiel

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Van De Kerckhove
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Bonspiel Title

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Early Deadline
This Week

Due to Good Friday,
the news and
advertising deadline
will be Thursday,
March 24 at
12:00 noon.



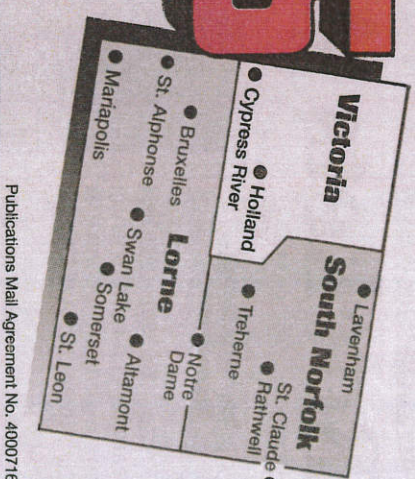
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“Sisters Reflections” on Exhibit in Notre Dame de Lourdes

by Patti Hacault
STAFF REPORTER

The “Sisters Reflections,” which is presently on display at Musée des Pionniers et des Chanoineses Museum in Notre Dame de Lourdes, is a synopsis of handwritten letters by the Sisters. In this remarkable exhibit, they share some of their personal stories as they reflect back on their lives and their contribution to the archives of Manitoban history.

The “Sisters Reflection Project” is an important component of the Legacy of Care, Courage and Compassion. CHAM made a special request to the Catholic Sisters who have and still serve in Manitoba to participate in this project.

The twenty-two informative and educational panels share their personal stories of some of the Sisters as they reflect back to their youth. They share with the viewers the Sisters’ lives, and provide some insight on what they have all accomplished throughout the history of Manitoba.

The Sisters of Charity of Montreal or the “Grey Nuns” as they were more commonly known, arrived in Manitoba in 1844. They were the first of approximately fifty congregations of Catholic women who worked within and from the province. Some orders have stayed for more than one hundred and seventy years, while others were here for a short time. They all had an impact on the history of Manitoba.

These Sisters played a key role in serving the various needs of the communities in parishes and orphanages, tending the underprivileged and needy.

These Manitoba women became pioneers in improving the province’s health care system. The Grey Nuns established the first hospital in Western Canada and Manitoba’s second largest tertiary care hospital (St. Boniface Hospital) in 1871. The SBH, which had grown over the decades, was passed to lay administration in 1969.

Since 1844, some religious orders devoted assiduously to provide education to Manitoba children in English, Ukrainian and French in urban and more remote rural communities.

The Musée des Pionniers et des Chanoineses Museum held a Come and Go Tea to officially



Hommage aux
sœurs catholiques
du Manitoba
Hommage to
Manitoba's
Catholic Sisters
Вітання
Католицьких сестер
Манітоби

THE TIMES PHOTO/PATTI HACCAULT

Sister Florence Vuignier was a special guest at the Musée des Pionniers et des Chanoineses Museum which held a Come and Go Tea on Sunday, March 13th.

open the “Sisters Reflections” on Exhibit on Sunday, March 13, 2016. Approximately thirty-five people were present at the event, along with a couple of Sisters.

Sister Helene Poiron and Sister Florence Vuignier were both in attendance bringing with them their own stories.

Sister Helene Poiron, a member of the Chanoineses Régulières des Cinq Plais order, was a schoolteacher and principal, as well as a choir director for thirty years. She spent twenty years as a missionary in Haiti. Sister Helene presently resides at the Manor in Notre Dame de Lourdes. Sister Florence Vuignier, one of the youngest members of her order, became an LPN, and spent her life-time caring for the sick. She worked in the Foyer and the Tache Nursing Home. Her international experience included two years in Switzerland at the School of Faith. She presently is a caregiver for the senior nuns in Winnipeg.

“The exhibit struck me, at first, as a very beautiful artistic presentation. It also reminded me of our history and what all these pictures actually mean,” noted

Taking time for a photo beside her personal panel at the “Sisters Reflections” exhibit in the Musée des Pionniers et des Chanoineses Museum on Sunday, March 13th was Sister Helene Poiron.

THE TIMES PHOTO/PATTI HACCAULT

Sister Helene.
“This exhibit is fantastic! It was very nice that the Catholic Association of Manitoba wanted to

print and exhibit such a legacy and tribute. It was nice to be acknowledged for what we have done for the education and health care systems of the province,” added Sister Florence Vuignier.

Committee members are committed to maintaining an exceptional Pioneers Museum, which is dedicated to those who came from Quebec and Europe to rebuild their lives in the “Pembina Hills.” Why?

“I love history, especially the history of my community and area,” stressed Aline Thérout.

“I’ve always had an interest in genealogy and the history of my community where I grew up,” added Ariane Comte.

“Museums tell the story of who we are and where we came from, and I wanted to be involved with this,” concluded Yvette Gauthier. The exhibit will be on display for the month of March.

