

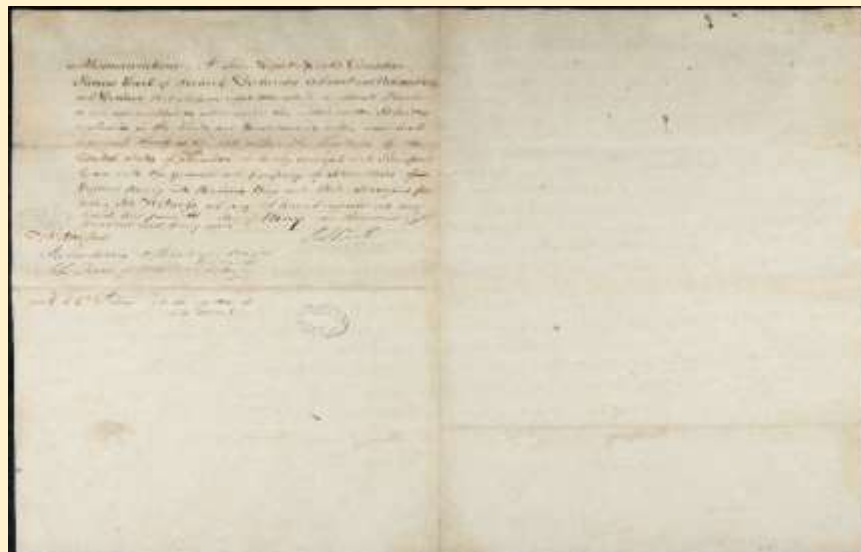
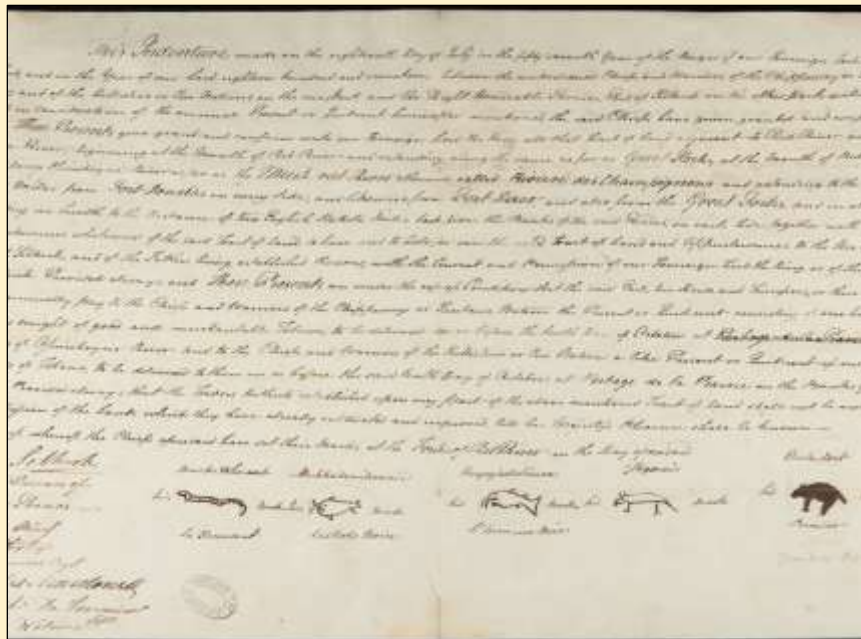
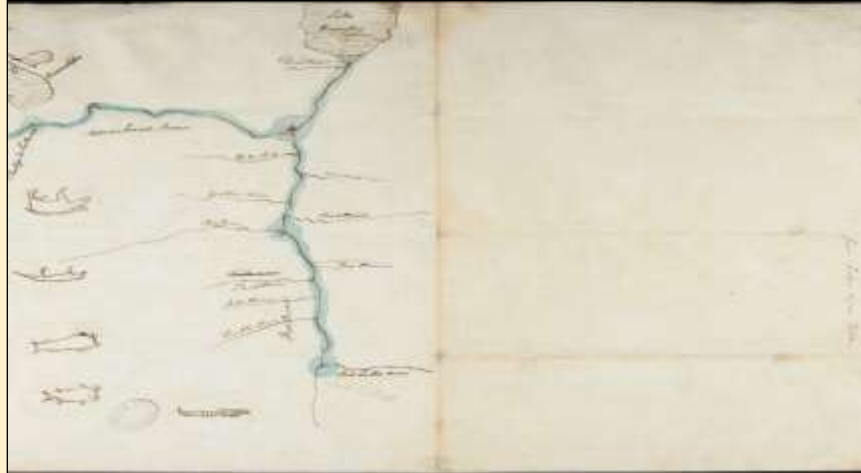
# Supplement *to the* MLHS Newsletter



## *Peguis-Selkirk Treaty 2017*

July 16, 2017

# Peguis Selkirk Treaty 1817



Courtesy Manitoba Archives



To: All participants in the 2017 Bicentennial Commemoration  
of the Signing of the Peguis-Selkirk Treaty

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors at Seven Oaks House Museum, I would like to extend my most sincere thanks for your participation in the July 16<sup>th</sup> Treaty signing re-enactment event.

This event was tremendously successful, and we have received an overwhelmingly positive response from stakeholders, visitors, and media alike. We were able to overcome substantial scheduling and logistical difficulties, and transformed a difficult situation into a resounding success. None of this would have been possible without your generous contributions of time and energy. Thank you for your patience and persistence.

This momentous occasion was a critical, foundational moment for the City of Winnipeg, and indeed the entire Province of Manitoba as we know it today. Our efforts to commemorate, celebrate, and critically examine this event have ensured that it has been directly experienced, and will be remembered by another generation.

Some of you may have noticed that all media coverage of the events related to the Treaty Anniversary (even those planned by groups external to our own) have adopted our preferred nomenclature: The Peguis-Selkirk Treaty (no more simply the Selkirk Treaty). This change has been effected primarily by the efforts of those involved with this re-enactment event. Without the difficult decisions taken and the strong statements made by some of you, I do not believe that this paradigm shift could have come about. This is truly a monumental change, and a major step forward in the spirit of Reconciliation for the equitable interpretation of Canada's history.

This week we have not only re-enacted history, but we have made it. I hope that you all take pride in what has been accomplished here, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

My most sincere regards

**Eric Napier Strong**  
Curator / Manager, Seven Oaks House Museum  
204-330-0935

## MLHS Thoughts about the day: July 16

### Oriole

**Part 1:** Marie, I'm at Ross House. Where is every one? Where should I be?

**Part 2:** Thanks so much for yesterday. So much work goes into an event like that. I can hardly imagine. IT was a great event!

### Fran

*It was fun to help provide ambiance for the treaty commemoration. Enjoyed the day.*

### Erle/Peguis

I didn't participate, all that much. By the time I got there it was pretty much all over. There were a lot of questions and interactions with the public, after I did get there. There seemed to be a lot of interest in my role but not as much as if I was there for the start. I became a secondary figure. I learned, that if I arrive late, I become background.

### May and James

*Once again, another successful event, thanks to the organizing committees & people involved in all aspects of this great event!*

*James & I are always enthusiastic about the activities & events put on by MLHS! I really appreciate "borrowing" clothes since mine are still in the process of being made! Dylan would have wanted to be there but he had hockey! We told him how the other kids were asking where he was!*

*The re-enactment ceremony was really something to witness. I was impressed with the fact that there were many important people who were in attendance! We also had pretty good TV coverage!*

*Congratulations on a job well done & thanks for all your hard work Marie & Judy !!!*



### Carol

The drummer seemed to set the tone for the whole event as did the speech by Chief Peguis. Wish that more public had stayed after the ceremony. Great to see so many from MLHS at an event.

### Ed

*We came, we set up, we re-enacted. We succeeded as witnessed (by) the news coverage from CTV.*

### Gary S

The encampment was visually stunning with tents, cooking fire, animals; ducks, chickens, geese and the lovable Isabella who capped off the event with her ever-curious wanderings and provided a special realism to the day's events.

Speeches were excellent and audible.

The drummer/singer's presentations were excellent and I found them very moving.

The children were a wonderful part of the encampment, helping to describe actual life of the times.

Overall it was an excellent well-timed presentation with a good mix of history and activity. Public interaction after closing ceremony was very good.

A most enjoyable and meaningful day.

### Barb

*I was surprised at how smooth things went at the Metis encampment. With the co-ordination of 7 kids (one potty training), the animals, 2 trailers and all the other stuff, it had potential to go off the rails very quickly, and it almost did when the van died in Teulon Sunday morning. The kids and I attended the event but Dawn rescued us from our van troubles, Easton pulled the utility trailer to Winnipeg, Erle pulled it back to Komarno, a bunch of people helped us set up and take down and all the kids were reasonably behaved even though they were exhausted from several late nights. The whole event felt professional but still flexible (thinking of the elusive Chief Peguis). Great job everyone!*

### Ben

I really didn't want to wear the loin cloth but once I got there, then I did but it was too late (to put the breechclout on).

### Cheyenne

*It was good. I really liked having the pony there.*

### Rebecca

I really liked the deserts, they were goooood and I liked talking with everyone.

### Marina

*I didn't like it, it was really boring.*

**Donavin**

I got to watch Isabelle the lamb and I got to play at the park and I really like that park.

**Anthony**

.....(well, he finds joy in whatever he is doing but doesn't necessarily articulate his reasons for happily zooming from place to place)

**Frederick**

The day started with me showing various people how to properly tie a cravat. As we marched off to the Seven Oaks Memorial, I was pleasantly surprised to find my cousin, Nic Curry [MLA for Kildonan] marching at my side. He later introduced me to Grazyna Galezowski of the Canadian Polish Congress, and we talked about the Poles that came with Lord Selkirk. I also had a long conversation with the First Nation singer/drummer which included a discussion of sustainable development in the area of forestry. A very varied set of memories.

**Sabrina**

*It was particularly interesting to be present at a reenactment of a particular historical event. I enjoyed seeing people representing historical figures and getting a chance to be a part of the scene, a witness to a replay of history.*

**Bernice**

A wonderful day with like-minded historical friends. I enjoyed the re-enactment of the Treaty signing. I loved the bagpipes and the short parade to the monument on main and back to Seven Oaks House Museum.

**Wayne**

*I enjoyed Marie's connecting this re-enactment with reconciliation. It was interesting to hear from Chief Peguis (Earl) as well.*

**Kristine**

It was a beautiful day! We had some Winnipeg friends join us at the parade, so I enjoyed being able to share our historical activities with friends. My favourite part of the re-enactment was the ceremonial singing and drums.

**Elizabeth**

*I liked the re-enactment of the signing of the Treaty and that there were copies of the original treaty being handed out. The parade was fun and I liked the bagpipes!*

**Jonathan**

When I was there I liked the food, especially the cake Marie made. The other thing I liked was meeting with my friends.

**Katherine**

*I enjoyed learning that the chiefs used symbols on the Treaty. I also didn't know the names of the chiefs so Thanks!*

**Oceane**

I liked animals especially the horse. I liked walking in the parade with my friends.

**Darrion**

*No comments but I know he was intrigued as he climbed a tree to see what was happening....Gen*

**Gen**

The ambience that we created was fantastic. I was amazed at the interest and how many people showed up at our event. It is important for us to recreate and share the what the treaty is all about.

**Xavier**

*No comment as well, he and the other kids were engrossed in their own games.*

**Barry**

As I sat peacefully under my fly, watching the dog and pony cart show unfold, I noted with some interest that a sheep was browsing ever closer to me, until it finally reached my chair and I was able to pet it..... mistake!! Moments later, I heard a noise behind me and lo and behold, a black sheep known as Isabella was chewing on the box that was specifically designed for my top hat. Moments later, the said Isabella had walked around the table and was making all sorts of motions to trim the brim of my beaver top hat. I shooed her away - probably an error in judgment on my part because the same said Isabella returned at some point and crapped a mighty crap behind me. Indeed, a sheep in wolf's clothing! I am now up to date.



### **Brynja**

*I really liked the parade because I liked walking with everyone together.*

### **Kahy**

I liked participating in the whole day because it was important that everyone knows that white people took the land from the Indigenous people and didn't give it back.

### **Aria**

*I liked dressing up and playing with the other kids and listening to the drumming.*

### **Olivia and Freya**

I thought it was important that such an event be brought to the attention of the general public and celebrated equally with the Indigenous. I didn't attend the other events that week but thought that some of the speakers this day didn't share quite the same facts surrounding the history of this event. Historical facts somehow need to be made clear for the next generation. So happy to be part of an event that should be acknowledged! Great organizing made this event a real success.

### **Greg**

*The July 16<sup>th</sup> event was wonderful! I learned a lot, not just about the treaty history, which was great. There has been so much input by so many to make the society (Manitoba Living History Society) work.*

*Great hands on experience too! Tents, tools, artefacts, etc. This was my second experience with MLHS and I had a great time.*

### **Judy**

My thoughts on OUR Peguis-Selkirk Treaty re-enactment are - WE DID IT!!! Despite imposed changes to our event; despite a last minute cancellation of our event by others - we said NO WAY - WE WILL have our treaty re-enactment - and we all pulled it together and it was fine, fun, entertaining and educational and I loved it.

### **Marie**

*I am soooooo tired I can sleep for a week...*

**MLHS I love YOU all!!!!**

*We pulled off a stellar event that has been seen in so many places; BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario Grand Forks, Fargo and even Poland!*

*None of this could have happened without ALL of you and your belief in creating history in a truly honest way.*

*Judy and I worked on the background planning for the original event and we will not go into details, which happened to change rapidly... but each of you rose to the occasion and delivered an amazing day to honour the Peguis Selkirk Treaty. Judy and I were instrumental in the name change to reflect this treaty from the Selkirk Treaty to the equitable name of Peguis Selkirk Treaty to give credit to each major partner in the endeavor, but truly the days event belongs to all of you for coming together to make it as great as it was!*

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### **Thank you from Marie & Judy**



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### **Other comments**

*Evening Marie: The historical reenactment of the Chief Peguis Lord Selkirk 1817 Treaty at the site was quite informative as to what occurred 200 years ago. It puts into perspective the friendship that occurred between the two leaders that helped to shape not only Manitoba but Canada.*

*We can learn from that Treaty the reconciliation that can occur should the government and the Crown live up to the original spirit and intent of the Treaty to coexist in peace and harmony and to not infringe on the rights of the First Nations of this country.*

*Chief Jim Bear  
Brokenhead Ojibway Nation*

Marie, We really had a great time. My associates commented how well done and all the effort going into making the gathering a wonderful visual and learning experience.

Thank you  
Charlie Linski

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*Honored to have all those who attended from other places... Just a thank you for coming out with the others from the Live History Group and being part of our Special Day to Honor Chief Peguis and Lord Selkirk on the signing of the Peguis Selkirk Treaty. It was a beautiful day and the dinner was great. I had a*

*request from one of the visitors for Sweet grass - we have an abundance of sweet grass growing two minutes from the Pow Wow grounds. Too bad I didn't know - could have gotten some picked for those who wanted some.*

*Again, history preservation is very important and we must continue to share and seek reconciliation in the history of our province and country. Your group does this and is appreciated, Carl in Peguis.*

Carl McCorrister  
Peguis First Nation

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I attended the reenactment of the signing of the Peguis Selkirk Treaty that was presented by the Manitoba Living History Society on July 16 at Seven Oaks House. The event was well attended and brought History alive for many there. I attended the re-enactment of the signing as a Selkirk Settler descendant, I found the event especially moving. My friends from Brokenhead ON and Peguis FN expressed similar feelings. We were watching our own ancestors being represented in a very authentic way.

Many other people attended this event, and for them it brought alive historic events that were new to them. This is a very engaging way to increase awareness of our history and I wish to commend the MLHS for their dedication.

Gordon Cameron  
Vice President THE LORD SELKIRK ASSOCIATION  
of RUPERT'S LAND

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### ***Celebration of the Selkirk Treaty Signing - Seven Oaks Museum Grounds***

*Sunday morning, July 16, 2017, was a glorious commemoration of the Selkirk/Peguis Treaty signing some two hundred years earlier.*

*Piped on to the Seven Oaks House property, the assembled entourage parade displayed an authentic scenario as*

*volunteer members of the Manitoba Living History Society kept walking pace with traders, First Nations and regimental military representatives as they all emerged from the distant trees to gather by the white wall tent that housed the document table and artifacts specially arranged for the signing.*

*Bonneted and skirted by ground length working gowns/aprons, one quickly became aware that what the volunteers wore was not only appropriate to the period being remembered but more importantly very utilitarian as mosquitoes surely would have been very present back in 1817*

*In fact the clothing of all the MLHS men, women and children provided a readily apparent recognition of how our predecessors had to have functioned on a daily basis. Their ready and friendly explanations of what they wore including what was displayed in the signing tent, exemplified their purpose in being on site as they drew one's attention to the amazing fur pelts on display (readily available for anyone to stroke the samples) – for many visitors surely a first time experience.*

*Then too MLHS volunteers explained how spinning yarn was done; how flint lock firearms worked and how smaller farm animals were tended – much to the delight of many children in attendance as they (by their exuberance) caused some concern for the fenced tame ducks.*

*When combined with the museum being open for all to visit, the MLHS folks again demonstrated how their 'living' presence transformed us all back some two hundred years creating an awesome sight particularly when the First Nations drummer beat his drum to offer a prayer to sanctify the ceremony with his voice that carried beyond the towering oak trees.*

*History – to be appreciated completely – is much better understood when we listen, see and indeed embrace the aroma of the moment (fur pelts; animal hide clothing; fire and smoke; song and drum beat; wandering goats and quacking ducks). All contributed to the 'moment of recognition' of this important treaty.*

*For the authentic display, time and active involvement of the MLHS I say a warm 'thank you'.*

Gary R. McEwen, MA MEd  
Past President  
Manitoba Historical Society

*Nolan Kowal, Videojournalist @NolanKowal*

*Published Sunday, July 16, 2017*

*4:13PM CST*

*Last Updated Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:41PM CST*

The Peguis-Selkirk Treaty, regarded by some as the founding document of Winnipeg, was signed 200 years ago this Tuesday.



(CTV Winnipeg, The Canadian Press)

The 1817 treaty established the Red River Settlement after an agreement was reached between Chief Peguis and Thomas Douglas, the 5th Earl of Selkirk.

On Sunday morning, members of the Manitoba Living History Society marked the anniversary by dressing in 1817 attire and re-creating the event at Seven Oaks House Museum.



(Source: John Schneider/CTV Winnipeg)

“Chief Peguis came from the Great Lakes area and settled in Netley Creek, the Selkirk Settlers arrived in 1812 and both had difficulties with seasons, with planting crops, and with basically existing,” said Marie Zorniak, chair of the Manitoba Living History Society. “And they each shared their resources with each other and their knowledge. So it was an agreement set up to establish a community.”

The treaty also established the initial relationship between First Nations and the Crown in Western Canada, despite it being signed well before Confederation in 1867.

CBC  Radio-Canada

Video of July 16 events:

<http://ici.radio-canada.ca/audio-video/media-7752905/en-1817-la-signature-du-traite-de-selkirk>

(almost 4 minutes on our event)

## Peguis-Selkirk Treaty remembered 200 years later 'If the settlement didn't succeed Winnipeg's establishment would be delayed'

*CBC News* Posted: Jul 16, 2017 4:12 PM CT Last Updated: Jul 16, 2017 5:54 PM CT

A re-enactment of the treaty signing was hosted at Seven Oaks House Museum and performed by the Manitoba Living History Society Sunday morning. (Justin Fraser/CBC)

Grand Forks Fargo



**TIMES COLONIST**  
British Columbia

## 200th anniversary approaches of treaty that led to founding of Winnipeg

*The Canadian Press July 17, 2017 09:43 AM*

WINNIPEG — A treaty regarded by some as the founding document of Winnipeg is about to mark a milestone anniversary.

The 1817 Peguis-Selkirk Treaty was signed 200 years ago this Tuesday.

The treaty established the Red River Settlement in the valley of the river by the same name.

It was signed after an agreement was reached between Salteaux Chief Peguis and Thomas Douglas, the 5th Earl of Selkirk.

Members of the Manitoba Living History Society marked the anniversary on Sunday by dressing in the appropriate attire and re-creating the event at Seven Oaks House Museum.

The treaty also established the initial relationship between First Nations and the Crown in Western Canada, despite it being signed well before Confederation in 1867.

“Chief Peguis came from the Great Lakes area and settled in Netley Creek, the Selkirk Settlers arrived in 1812, and both had difficulties with seasons, with planting crops and with basically existing,” said Marie Zorniak of the Manitoba Living History Society.

“They each shared their resources with each other and their knowledge, so it was an agreement set up to establish a community.



## July 16 Event Pictures





















## The Week July 16 - 22

After our amazing success with the Treaty signing event on July 16, we participated in a number of events during the week.

The following are brief write-ups of the several events attended by some of MLHS in honour of the visit to Winnipeg in July, of James Alexander Douglas-Hamilton Baron Selkirk of Douglas, who came to restate his appreciation of the treaty signed on July 18, 1817 by his ancestor the 5th Earl of Selkirk, and Chief Peguis.

### Manitoba Archives July 18

#### *The Original Treaty, Artefacts and the Chief Peguis Will*

The Lord Selkirk's Association of Rupert's Land reception at the HBC and Manitoba Archives - open to the public. Attended by Barry and Judy. On display were, of course, the treaty signed between Peguis and Selkirk, several other Peguis artifacts, including his Last Will and Testament of 1864 - a most interesting document in which he re-stated his belief in the goodness of humankind.



## Mayor's Lunch – City hall

July 20 Noon hour

A Civic Luncheon at City Hall to honour Lord Selkirk, with invitation from Mayor Brian Bowman. Attended by Marie, Judy and Barry. After a brief reception in the Mayor's Lounge, all guests trooped outside to the front of City Hall where a young Lord Selkirk Sugar Maple Tree was planted with the help of Lord Selkirk and others and four golden spades. Back inside, the luncheon was quite delicious. Soon it was over and as you know Marie has a knack for offbeat things... on her way to the car in the Manitoba Museum parking lot; as she was crossing Main Street, she dropped a shawl, when she noticed it missing she turned and saw it disappear onto a bus. She ran waving her arms but the bus pulled away. ...Marie chasing the bus in historic clothing – Fringe Fest was on and not so many people noticed....maybe they thought it was an act from a play????



*St. Andrew's Society Reception  
July 20 Evening*

As members of the St. Andrew's Society, Barry and Judy were invited to this reception for Lord Selkirk at the lovely Qualico Family Center in Assiniboine Park, and were encouraged to bring along friends--Erle, Marie, Barry and Judy and old friends whom some of you have met - Harry Stevenson and Julie Celestino from Prince George. While many were in kilts or other tartan, well... you know - Barry found his tartan trews, Marie borrowed a plaid of Judy's, Erle - Peguis probably didn't wear tartan, so neither did he - and Judy didn't either - but added silver cairn gorm stone brooches to her 1815 afternoon gown. The atmosphere was lovely with all those windows and all the yummy appetizers. The soaring sounds of the Lord Selkirk Robert Fraser Memorial Pipe Band added the right touch.





*Peguis Reserve*  
*July 21*



Erle, Marie and Judy headed 2-1/2 hours north to Peguis First Nation in Erle's truck, on a perfect not too hot not too cool and cloudy but no rain day. The people there were not expecting us, but together with Ruth Christie, we presented ourselves as Peguis and three of his five wives, and were immediately inserted into the day's celebrations. Photo ops everywhere. Lord Selkirk repatriated a magnificent eagle feather war bonnet that had been presented to his uncle in 1967 (Canada's Centennial) and was presented with a new fur traditional cap with beaded decoration and a black vest, also magnificently beaded. Students from the reserve also presented a re-enactment of the signing of the treaty with Lord Selkirk and our Chief Peguis.

Many modern chiefs were present, as a new grand chief had just been elected the day before. Following ceremonies in the sacred circle, lunch was prepared for the entire population and we all enjoyed amazing lightly battered pickerel, fried and baked bannock and a choice of rhubarb, raisin or apple pie. Before heading home, Carl McCorrister presented each of us with a gift of tobacco. That day will stay with us forever.





## *Farewell Reception Manitoba Legislature July 22 Early Afternoon*

On a gloomy cloudy and overcast Saturday, the farewell ceremony was held for Lord Selkirk on the south grounds of the Legislative Building. Judy, Barry, Marie, Erle, Oriole, Art, James and May attended from MLHS. Regretfully, plans were not at a point where an announcement could be made that a new monument honoring Peguis would be commissioned for placement somewhere on the Legislative Building Grounds. Plans in this regard will continue. Before the ceremony got under way, a light rain commenced, then a heavier rain, so Plan B was activated and we moved everything indoors to the Star Chamber. Everything except the excellent ice cream cookies that we were encouraged to grab on the way in. They couldn't be moved inside as they needed to have that extremely long extension cord to plug them in to keep them frozen. Judy had decided almost as an afterthought, to bring the 5th Earl of Selkirk's replica flag to the ceremony and Marie had the British Union flag in her car. We had put them up outside just prior to the rain, and brought them in with us. This was a brilliant idea because after the speeches, every group of people wanted a photo with the Selkirk flag.

Each member group of the planning committee was presented with a plaque to commemorate this special week with Lord Selkirk. Even Manitoba Living History Society was recognized by our participation at so many events and giving historic colour and charm, and were given a plaque. It is quite beautiful and will be taken to the next few events so all can admire it.



*Reception after the reception  
Final, Final Farewell Jim Christie home  
July 22 Later Afternoon*

Immediately after the ceremony at the Leg, committee members were invited to a reception at Jim Christie's home (St. Andrew's Society) almost right next door to the Leg. It was delightful reviewing the week with all the enthusiastic people - and Jim's table was laden with enough food for a much larger army than crowded his rooms that day. Judy, Barry, Marie, Erle, , James and May attended. We said our final farewells to Lord Selkirk, and to an excellent week of honoring a 200 year old treaty.



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*Final comments - since many of the events were open to the public, Marie and Judy decided that we really wanted to attend, and despite not being part of the planning committee at the end, we knew that almost all on the Peguis Selkirk Treaty Committee understood the difficulties that caused us to pull MLHS out at the last minute, and were supportive of that decision and of our declaration to continue with the re-enactment ceremony. Consequently, we were a very visible presence at all the events we attended, and just had a great time at all of them. Also, partly due to Judy and Marie's insistence, the name of the treaty was rightly changed from the Selkirk Treaty to the Peguis Selkirk Treaty, and will go forward into history with that small but important bit of reconciliation.*

*Thank you to all of Manitoba Living History Society members and participants who made this historic event possible.*

*We were a part of history in the making!*

*Marie and Judy*

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**Peguis Selkirk Events: July 16, July 17 - 22**  
**Photo Credits**

James Sutherland  
Gen Woods  
Judy McPherson  
Seven Oaks House Museum  
Marie Zorniak  
Hydesmith Peguis 200  
Terry MacLeod

# Manitoba Living History Society

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for more than  
30 Years in Manitoba*

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