

Preserving the Past

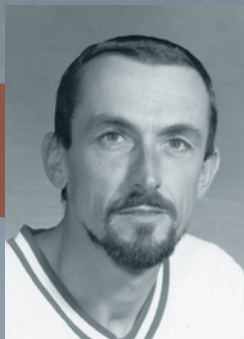
Don Bell

Don Bell (1938-) born in Morden, was an educator whose keen interest in sports, coaching, history and the arts extended far beyond the classroom. As a teacher, his knowledge and skill propelled many local teams to provincial championships, and provincial teams to a national level.

Outside the classroom, Don contributed many volunteer hours to Morden Minor Baseball, Minor Hockey and the Morden Triathlon. His commitment and dedication as an athlete earned him the title of Canadian Masters Marathon Champion in 1982. He is a member of the Peace Gardens Coaches' Hall of Fame.

In the early 1970s, Don and fellow educator Henry Isaak initiated the excavation and preservation of valuable fossils that had been discovered near Morden. Their foresight resulted in the development of a museum facility that has hosted visitors from all over the world.

Energetic and young at heart, Don continues to enjoy investing time in youth to develop their potential. Don's life philosophy is that "If someone has done something for you that has made a positive difference for you, you thank them by doing the same for others." Don demonstrates the value of giving of oneself—privately and publicly, to those who will benefit from the wisdom and experience of those who have gone before them.

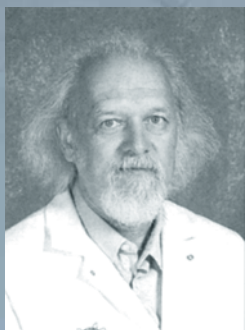


Henry Isaak

"Those exciting days...the thrill of discovering a new fossil, the hard work of digging it out, the intense research, the culmination in the foundation of our museum...those are accomplishments in which I take tremendous pride." Born in Rivers, Manitoba, Henry grew up in Morden where he lived for over thirty years before moving to Winnipeg with his family. He forged deep roots here through his education, his work with fossils and his career as a teacher in Winkler.

Henry is known for his insatiable thirst for knowledge, his passion for discovery and his dedication to science. Paleontology joins an impressive array of scientific venues which he has embraced and pursued including physics, biology, astronomy, computers, mathematics, statistics and biotechnology. His ability to channel this immense knowledge led to his role in the creation of the fossil museum in Morden, as a result of an amazing discovery made by Henry and Don Bell in the summer of 1972, when they learned of fossils being uncovered by the mining activities of the Pembina Mountain Clays Company. The two friends visited the mine sites, talked to the workers and began collecting fossils. Henry's garage, the first storage site for the growing collection, was quickly filled to overflowing and a new location was required. The Morden and District Museum donated some display space on the second floor of the old Post Office, and the basement of the Museum became the new storage site and fossil preparation "lab".

In recognition for his role in the establishment of present-day Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, Henry was presented the Award of Merit For Outstanding Service To The Museum Community Of Canada in 1983 and the Ralph D. Bird Award from The Manitoba Naturalist Society in 1986. Proudly describing the museum as a "renowned segment of the dynamic community of Morden, epitomizing... strong commitment to the work of discovery and knowledge", Henry has also captured the essence of his own character—dedicated to discovery and knowledge.



Ramsay Cook

Ramsay Cook (1931-), born in the farming community of Alameda, Saskatchewan, is a highly respected historian whose research and teaching has been instrumental in shaping our understanding of Canadian history.

Ramsay moved with his family to Morden when his father, Rev. George Cook was posted to St. Paul's United Church. During his high school years, Ramsay worked at the Experimental Farm and for the local newspaper. He began his post secondary education in Winnipeg and then continued in Toronto. His academic career began at the University of Toronto in 1958, followed by a 25 year tenure at York University. During his teaching career, Ramsay supervised the work of both undergraduate and graduate students, including 38 PhD theses. In 1997, the Ramsay Cook Research Scholarship was established at York University in his honour.

On bestowing Ramsay with the prestigious Molson Prize in the Social Sciences and Humanities, the jury commented that he was selected "for his outstanding contributions to Canadian historical scholarship. For almost half a century...a pre-eminent writer, panelist, speaker, teacher, doctoral adviser...One of Canada's first public intellectuals, Ramsay Cook helped bring history out of the classroom and introduced important historical perspectives into public discourse. He has been a remarkable scholar and a deeply-engaged, civic-minded thinker."



Lenore Laverty

Lenore Laverty (1955-) was born in Winnipeg into a family of Irish and Ukrainian heritage. Moving to Morden in 1998, Lenore began work with the Morden Area Foundation as the Millennium Coordinator. This was a tremendous way to get to know Morden, as she worked on projects that would leave a legacy to the community such as the Stephen Street signs and Livingston Nature Park.

Drawn by the principles of the community foundation movement, she became a Morden Area Foundation board member and chair. Lenore is passionate about the job at hand whether it is helping to organize the SuperWalk for Parkinson's or volunteering for a few hours on a variety of community projects.

Lenore's natural curiosity led her to explore Morden's history in a way that she had not done for her hometown. She participated in organizing 120th anniversary events for Morden and was instrumental in reviving the Historical Society to help celebrate Morden's 125th anniversary. This led to the compilation of *125 Stories About Morden* and the establishment of the Morden Community Archive.

Lenore's work in the field of recreation often intersects with her volunteer life. "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

