

Creative Touch

Paul A. Sigurdson

Paul Sigurdson (1927-1991), born in the 1-6 District south of Morden was greatly influenced by his Icelandic heritage. Paul obtained his Bachelor of Education Degree in 1952, then immediately married Ivadell Rampton, and together they traveled to Iceland for one year. Upon their return, Paul was stricken with polio. He spent the next year in an iron lung in Winnipeg, but eventually progressed to using a ventilator.

As a well-loved teacher at the Morden Collegiate Institute, and later as a playwright/poet, Paul was known for his gentle sense of humour and wit. Following his early retirement, Paul wrote – poetry, essays, songs and plays. He also directed and produced, involving both his pupils and actors from the Morden Little Theatre, which he founded.

Paul was instrumental in the establishment of the local library, the Morden & District Museum and the Morden Recreation Centre. He generously gave of his wisdom and skills to the arenas of politics, sports and music. Paul was named Morden's Citizen of the Year in 1966.

A friend observed, "Paul Sigurdson's mind was thoughtfully at work all his waking hours...We are thankful he walked where our paths crossed."



Loreena McKennitt

Loreena McKennitt (1957-) is an internationally acclaimed Canadian singer/composer who was born in Morden, and in 1981 settled in Stratford Ontario. It was here that she began her musical career by busking with her harp and then running her own record label Quinlan Road from her kitchen table.

McKennitt has seen her "eclectic Celtic" blend of pop, folk and world music span eight studio recordings, a live double CD and two DVD's that have gone on to sell over 14 million copies worldwide. Her international tours have included performances for such dignitaries as HRH Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. As a composer, she has written music for productions at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, the National Film Board of Canada, two feature length films and has contributed to soundtracks for both film and television.

In 2007, McKennitt was nominated for a Grammy Award and was the recipient of a North American Folk Alliance Award. She has also won two Canadian Junos and a Billboard International Achievement Award.

As founder of The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund, Loreena was instrumental in raising nearly four million dollars through the sale of *Live in Paris and Toronto* to advance water safety education and research. McKennitt has also established The Three Oaks Foundation, a fund which supports cultural, environmental, historical and family groups. Her extensive charitable and community work has seen her awarded the Order of Canada, the Order of Manitoba and honorary doctorates from three Canadian Universities, as well as the title of Honorary Colonel for 435 Transport and Rescue Squadron of the Canadian Air Force.



David Rabinovitch

David Rabinovitch (1951-) was born in Morden into a family of Russian heritage. He is an Executive Producer and Documentary Film Director whose highly acclaimed lifework has taken him around the world. His most recent work, the docudrama miniseries *Secret Files of the Inquisition*, has been widely broadcast and has received numerous honours including a Gemini Award for Best Direction.

David's exposure to social issues began at a young age. His father, Milton, was a retail merchant whose reputation attracted customers from all walks of life. As David served these customers – farmers and townsfolk alike – he participated in discussions that connected him to a world far beyond his little hometown.

During his teen years, David worked as a writer for a local newspaper. After high school, he began to explore the world, first with a move to Winnipeg and then to Toronto, where he began his career as a Producer/Director at the CBC. Since he entered the film world over 30 years ago, David has written, directed and produced numerous award-winning projects and has partnered with many organizations and networks including A&E, CBS and NBC.

Reflecting on the magnitude of his work, David maintains that no matter where in the world he travels, he is still "a boy from Morden, Manitoba".



Morden

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