History & Education Committee

Report to 1919-2019 Centenary Conference Planning Committee

Sharon Reilly / April 28, 2019

**1. Millennium Library Speaker’s Series**

This five lecture series concluded April 17th. It was highly successful, attracting good audiences (despite the bad press around new security measures and Jets Whiteout preparations) and engaging people in robust discussion. Attendees included high school students as well as older folks. We distributed dozens of conference flyers at each session; Fernwood Publishers sold a good number of books; and we promoted other centenary events and publications.

We received a grant from the U of W Teaching History Institute to video-record this series and the public history session at the conference to produce an educational piece for the schools. This will be a part of what we do to meet our early objective of updating the Winnipeg General Strike Educational Kit

Library staff did an excellent job in promoting the lectures and developed a number of 1919 related exhibits (Robert Kell reproductions and originals; an overview of the strike and its legacy; Foote photos; and library books related to labour history) that were displayed throughout the library. They provided us with the following stats:

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| Date | Presenter(s) | Theme | Audience |
| March 20, 2019 | Nolan Reilly | The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike Tour | 98 |
| March 27, 2019 | Mitch Podolak  Darryl Reilly | Labour Protest Songs | 115 |
| April 3, 2019 | Dennis Lewycky | Reflection on Revolt Remembering the General Strike | 87 |
| April 10, 2019 | Paul Moist | Brookside Cemetery Virtual Tour | 86 |
| April 17, 2019 | Kevin Rebeck  Gina McKay | The Fight for a Better Life - Contemporary Lessons from the General Strike | 85 |

The library staff (contact info below) were great to work with and they would be very interested in planning future sessions with conference committee members.

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**2. 1919 Winnipeg General Strike Driving and Walking Tour**

The 100th Anniversary Edition is back from the printers and looks great. Our designer, Stephanie Whitehouse, did an excellent job, and KKP Printing was great to work with. We had 15,000 copies printed; most are with Kevin Rebeck at the MFL. Three hundred copies are reserved for the conference and can be picked up by contacting Kevin. Can Krishna do this?

We received a federal grant for French translation and printing of French language copies of the brochure for the schools, etc. The manuscript is now being translated.

About 30 people - many of them union activists - participated in a classroom training session held at the MFL April 7th and as a bus tour April 27th. Nolan Reilly coordinated and led the training; Paul Moist, Dennis Lewycky, Patrick McGuire and Sharon also contributed. Nolan will be taking CBC’s Marcy Markusa out on the tour this Tuesday. Thanks to Kevin Rebeck for providing classroom space, the bus, and refreshments.

In addition to the tours being held by Mayworks, Paul Moist is coordinating the many requests that the MFL is receiving for tours. People can plan a tour or sign up to go on a scheduled tour through the MFL website.

**3. Winnipeg General Strike Educational Kit update**

In additional to the video of the Millennium Library 1919 Speaker’s Series lectures and conference Public History session, we will be providing copies of the 100th Anniversary Edition Strike Tour brochure and 1919 Graphic History to the schools.

Sharon and Sarah Reilly, who teaches Grade 11 History at the Maples Collegiate, will present three workshops for students and teachers based on the Edu-Kit and new educational materials at the Red River Heritage Fair, University of Winnipeg, May 2nd.

Sharon and Nolan also will be speaking at the October 25th SAGE Day for high school teachers.

**4. Graphic History**

Congratulations to Jeff on backing this excellent project! Book launch is May 12 at 2:00 pm McNally Robinson. The MFL received a grant for French translation, and this work is now underway.

**5. Brookside Cemetery Tour**

Paul’s presentation at the library was excellent. People were lining up to sign on for the tour. Congratulations to Paul on his research and stirring delivery! People can also register for the tour through the MFL website. MFL 1919

**6. Fire Fighters Historical Museum 1919 Exhibit**

Research is complete and design work is beginning. Opening date tbd. We hope to have promotional material in place for Doors Open May 25 & 26th.

Sharon Reilly – Conference Report

**1. Bus Tours**

As Paul reported, we have eight guides lined up for the conference delegate tours May 11th. Based on the experience of Saturday’s tour, and the small size of the buses we have booked, we are no longer concerned about getting a loudspeaker system onto the buses for these tours. Thanks to Amber for getting all these organized.

The tour guides will be meeting soon to finalize their approach and the route to be taken. We will send this to Amber to pass along to Transit.

We agreed early on to pay our tour guides. I would suggest a cash payment to each team. I think the younger, unemployed and semi-employed guides will receive these funds.

**2. Conference Chairing Responsibilities**

I have been in touch with the people in my two sessions and have no concerns. Thanks to Jim for keeping me informed of changes in the Thursday session.

**Other News**

**1. From Sarah Ramsden at the City of Winnipeg Archives**

I believe I mentioned the Winnipeg General Strike research guide that our staff has been working on. I wanted to let you know that earlier today we posted it to our website:

<https://winnipeg.ca/clerks/pdfs/publications/COWArchivesResearchGuideStrike.pdf>

We also did a small print. Hard copies are available at the Archives, but we plan to circulate it further.

We digitized a number of strike-related records and plan to make them available through our website Winnipeg in Focus. Most of the material is not up yet, but we estimate it will be up by the end of the week.

Thanks again for your interest in this project!

Best Regards,

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|  | **Sarah Ramsden**  Senior Archivist  City of Winnipeg |
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**2. 1919 National Working Group**

Rhonda will speak to this, but we discussed having a business meeting of this group and others during the conference to discuss possible future collaboration.

Florencia Berinstein, Executive Director of the Ontario workers Heritage Centre and Coordinator of the 1919 National working Group recently sent out the following;

I hope everyone's organizing efforts are going well, we have now launched our 1919 commemorative program here: <https://wahc-museum.ca/event/massive-disruption-commemorating-the-winnipeg-general-strike/>