

A letter of thanks...

I want to extend my thanks to all the members of the Association of Manitoba Museums for the Life Membership Award I received at the recent annual conference in The Pas.

I am both honoured and delighted to join the Life Members' group, all of whom are museum colleagues I respect, and museum friends I value. One in particular, David Ross, was my mentor and role model, and his support and encouragement enabled me to look at museology as a career.

I was originally bitten by the museum *bug* in grade two, when a museum treasure trunk arrived at my school. You all know, of course, that this virus is incurable; it's the same reason that keeps you all involved with museums and heritage.

The fever grew, and reached epidemic proportions when I had the opportunity to work with David, Diane Skalenda and Warren Clearwater, during the early years of Manitoba's Museum's advisory service.

Since then, I've had the privilege of working with museum communities in more than one province, and in several capacities, during the last 35 years.

I've retired from my most recent position with the provincial Historic Resources Branch, but I still have the *bug* in my system, and I hope it will be with me for many years to come.

I promise that I will do my best, as you do every day, to keep the *bug* alive, and to pass it on at every opportunity.

Thank you again for this honour. I look forward to continuing to be interested in and involved with museums and heritage well into the future.

David McInnes