Swedes on Wheels set out on Number 6, celebrate culture

Submitted by Sonja Lundstrom, president **Swedish Cultural Association Manitoba**

With smiles on their faces and gas in their tanks, the Swedish Cultural Association of Manitoba set out on Highway 6 last week to tour the places and hear the stories left behind by their ancestors.

The association regularly organizes such trips, affectionately called Swedes on Wheels, to visit their rural roots and reconnect with the people and places that share their history.

The latest trip came Sept. 15, and the group's first stop was Lundar, where they dropped in at Pauline Johnson Library in time to enjoy barbecue and swap stories of Icelandic first settlers there.

Next, Eriksdale welcomed the Swedes, with the Swedish flag flying full out in the fall breezes. Deputy Reeve MacLennan brought greetings



Eriksdale Creamery showcases the equipment formerly used to make butter in rural Manitoba.



Located on the shores of Lake Manitoba, Steep Rock is known for its beautiful sunsets, rock formations and cliff-side views.





Steep Rock is free to visit and explore, and features numerous beaches and caves.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Swedes on Wheels pose outside the Eriksdale Museum, which was established in 1995 by a group of community volunteers seeking to commemorate and preserve the area's history.



The Jonas Erikson memorial for Manny's Sthack honours immigrants from the early 1900s.

and stories about the area.

Highlights for the Swedes included a visit to the Jonas Erickson Monument of "Manny's Shack" for immigrants in early 1900s and a tour of the Eriksdale Museum.

Lunch was held at the lovely home of Neil and Anna Brandstrom, where their abundant garden was on display and more stories of Swedes of Eriksdale were told in true Swedish style.

A trip to the Nyland (in English, New Land) school and church sites brought more stories.

Then, the Swedes went on to Steep Rock, one of Manitoba's truly unique destinations. They took in the beauty of the lake, toured the cliffs and ran the Steep Rock beaches.

Margaret Olson Snidal arrived by boat and regaled the group with more stories of the Swedish settlers of the

The Swedes on Wheels enjoyed meeting fellow Swedes of West Interlake, sharing stories of their rich heritage, singing songs and even a little dancing.

Thank you, West Interlake, for your wonderful hospitality and keeping the Swedish history and culture alive.

More programming is available online at www.Scandinaviancentre.ca (select the Sweden tab).

Swedish language classes, movie nights and book club are also available online.

Svensk lunches are scheduled for Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1, with pea soup and pancakes on Oct. 19.

Those interested can register by emailing svenskclub17@gmail.com



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> (Estimated amounts at time of publication) CHASE THE ACE"

Lic # LGA 318-RF Tickets sold 5:00 -7:00 PM with draw to follow \$2.00/ticket Current Accumulator - \$1,941.00+ **CANTEEN - OPENS @ 5PM** Perogies, hamburgers, hotdogs, desserts, etc INFORMATION - 204-642-9392 or 204-643-5541 or www.fraserwoodhall.com

Fall Supper & Dance

Sat. Oct. 21, 2023

Music by Gemstars, tickets adults - \$35, 6yrs to 12yrs \$20, 5 & under free For tickets contact Nancy 204-861-0098, Lois 204-643-5541 or J & J Store 204-643-5556

Ladies Night

Oct. 28, 2023.

Cocktails 5pm, Dinner 5:30-6:30pm, Live Auction 7pm, DJ, Tickets \$50 in advance only Please call Amanda 204-847-0677 or Nancy 204-861-0098

Old Time Dance

Sunday Nov. 12, 2023 Music by Trailriders, 1pm to 5pm, contact Lois 204-643-5541

Craft & Bake Sale

Sat. Nov. 25, 2023, 10am to 3pm, Hot canteen for info contact Yvonne 204-642-5352