

Award of Merit



Inés Bonacossa, Winnipeg Art Gallery and Dalnavert Museum & Visitors' Centre, Winnipeg

In recognition for her outstanding volunteer work at the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the Dalnavert Museum and Visitors' Centre.

At the Winnipeg Art Gallery Inés has hosted and led hundreds of public tours as well as many educational youth and adult programs. She has also played an integral role on their extended education team; as an avid researcher, a committed team player and an outstanding tour guide. Her tours were consistently well received with written and verbal praise or accolades from their guests. Inés works hard at delivering well-researched tours to make the exhibitions more accessible to visitors.

Inés has completed major projects such as creating nearly 4,000 artwork files for the Twomey collection on Inuit art, scanning and processing photographs for upload into the WAG's collection database, and she transposed 14 binders of historical exhibition and publication history information for the WAG's collection.

At the Dalnavert Museum and Visitors' Centre, Inés has been a leading tour guide; providing visitors with very informative and engaging experiences of the museum, often customizing her tours to the interests of visitors. She also trained many of their tour guides and assisted with the development of their skills, increasing the depth of their knowledge of the house, its artifacts and the history of the period it preserves.

When the Dalnavert Museum closed Inés reached out to her fellow volunteers, to leaders in Manitoba's heritage community and to the news media. She pulled together the group who would become the Friends of Dalnavert Museum, the current stewards of the Museum. Deeply committed to the re-opening of the Museum, and to secure its future, Inés was the catalyst who brought it all together and made it seem possible.

Inés's leadership and commitment goes above and beyond what we expect in even our most dedicated volunteers.
Bravo!

Award of Excellence



Medd House Museum, Winnipegosis, for the work that went into preserving and maintaining this important piece of Winnipegosis's history.

The Medd House is one of the last two-storey houses in Winnipegosis that were built prior to the inception of Winnipegosis in 1915. It was built in 1900 for George Bellamy and was purchased by Dr. A. E. Medd in 1914, when he married Mary Agnes McArthur. They raised five children in the house, but it also served as a doctor's office and the town's first hospital with operations being performed on the family dining or kitchen table.

The Winnipegosis Historical Society Inc. (WHS) was given the Medd House and its contents in 2011. The curators used the AMM Museum Standards as their guiding principles as they cleaned, renovated and set up the House as a museum. The WHS Board set out raising funds and applied for grants to pay for the restoration and repairs necessary for the building and garden.

The Board and an engineer with Community Places examined the building to determine its condition and pinpoint where repairs were most necessary to maintain the integrity of the building and to make it safe for staff and visitors. Many improvements have been made, including new wooden steps and platforms, restoration of the original raspberry and fruit garden, and foundation issues were dealt with.

The Museum offers education programs for schools and curators have gathered information and stories from local seniors to enhance the community's understanding of the Medd family and the local people's connection. The WHS also keeps a memory book at the Museum and visitors are encouraged to share their stories of the Medd family.

All of this has been made possible by the devoted members of the Winnipegosis Historical Society. Without their tireless efforts this important piece of Winnipegosis's history could have been lost forever.

Congratulations on a job very well done!