# Alberta Mennonite Heritage Cultural Society

The evolution of the Mennonite Heritage Farm

# Dedicated to Preserving Agrarian and Mennonite Culture in Strathcona County

# HISTORY

- 1978 Purchase of 20 Acre “Farm”
- 1979 First Communal Garden
- 1980 House Addition
- 1982 Construction of Barn
- 2007 First Mennonite Heritage Picnic
- 2013 Parking Lot Construction Started
- 2018 Last Mennonite Heritage Picnic
  - (Attendance ranged 90 to 400)

EVERY ENDING
IS CREATING THE
SPACE AND
OPENING FOR
AN AMAZING
NEW
BEGINNING.
– BRYANT MCGILL
Simple Reminders

# Alberta Mennonite Heritage Cultural Center Concept 2019

- Steering Committee:
  - Ernie Wiens
  - Derek Giesbrecht
  - Kurt Sawatzky
  - Peter Unger
  - Eugene Huk
  - Jim Thiessen
  - Davie Toews
  - Glen Burkholder

# Spring 2019

- By Laws drafted
- Non Profit Society documents submitted
- Elected officials contacted - Federal, Provincial, Municipal
- Planners and neighbors consulted
- Summer activities planned

# Summer 2019

- Heritage House
- Open House
- Concerts
  - The Fehr Family
  - Bump Dogs
  - Legends of Country Music

# Promoting

- gardening (planting, weeding, harvesting etc)
- mechanical (machinery maintenance and restoration)
- building (maintenance, construction, renovation)
- farming (field work, seeding, haying, harvesting)
- Culinary (baking, catering, cooking classes, preserving)

# Questions

- What are the Mennonite demographics in central Alberta?
- What is the appetite for Mennonite culture and traditions?
- What is the appetite for Agrarian traditions and nostalgia?
- Can Mennonite and Agrarian culture be promoted with the Mennonite Heritage Farm concept?

# Conclusion

- The Alberta Mennonite Heritage Cultural Society thanks the Priorities Committee for the opportunity of this presentation.
- We are thankful for the support from our Councilor, the Mayor, Provincial and Federal Representatives and our Neighbors.
- We hope and trust the Priorities Committee will whole heartedly support this endeavor.