

Lost on the Prairie

by MaryLou Driedger

Newsletter- Autumn 2021



Looking for A Great Holiday Gift?

Lost on the Prairie is available at all three [McNally Robinson Bookseller locations](#), at the [Common Word Bookstore](#) on the CMU campus, in the gift shop of the [Steinbach Mennonite Heritage Village Museum](#) and on [Amazon](#). Read lots of great reviews of the book [here](#).

Christmas Market

I had such a great time at the Christmas market at the Steinbach Heritage Village Museum on November 13. I loved talking to people who had come looking for Christmas presents for friends and family of every age on their gift-giving list. The museum shop had ordered a case of *Lost on the Prairie* novels and we sold them all!





Reviews From Kids!

I especially appreciate hearing from children and young people who have read my book. I have received photos of smiling children holding *Lost on the Prairie* and some have sent sketches they have made of parts of the story. On teenager even wrote a review for a historical magazine.



Book Club Visits

I have had a chance to meet with three different book clubs this fall, and I just loved the experience. My hosts followed provincial health guidelines regarding meeting size and all guests were vaccinated. I already have another book club visit scheduled for January. I'd love to visit your book club too!

A Thanksgiving Mystery

The pastor of Charleswood Mennonite Church sent me this photo of their congregation's Thanksgiving display table. It included a copy of my novel. But who had put it there? The pastor didn't know. Read about how I unraveled the mystery [here](#).



A Night at the Museum

I enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Mennonite Heritage Village Museum in Steinbach on September 22. During an event featuring three authors I had the opportunity to talk about *Lost on the Prairie* and the history behind the book. After our author presentations and a question-and-answer session I got to meet many of my readers and sign copies of my novel for them. You can read more about the evening [here](#).





Meeting My Editor

It was just lovely to enjoy a meal with Lara Kordic the editor from Heritage House who acquired my novel manuscript. We arranged to meet while I was in Victoria in October. I was so glad I had the opportunity to thank Lara in person for purchasing my manuscript and to pass on my appreciation for the way her team, editor Nandini Thacker, designer Jacqui Thomas and marketing manager Monica Miller did such a great job of getting my book into print and making sure it received lots of publicity.



Field Trip

At the end of September, we visited Drake Saskatchewan. My cousin Loraine and her husband Wes took us on a tour of the area, and I was able to find the home my grandparents Peter and Annie Schmidt had built in the 1920s. They both inspired major characters in my novel. I also found the gravestone of my great grandparents Maria and Peter Schmidt and my Great Uncle Alvin who appear as well as characters in *Lost on the Prairie*. You can read more in my blog posts [The Life and Death of a House](#) and [History Hunting in the Cemetery](#).

A Visit with Wendy

Wendy Whalen is my second cousin, the granddaughter of my Great Aunt Alma whose memoir inspired my novel. When I was looking for photos of my grandfather as a child, I went on Facebook to find relatives who might have a photo and that's how I connected with Wendy who it turns out has a hobby as a family historian. We had lunch together when I was in Vancouver, and she brought all kinds of family memorabilia with her. Read more about our visit [here](#).



Speaking of Publicity



There was [a story](#) about *Lost on the Prairie* in the latest issue of Alumni News from my alma mater the University of Manitoba.

The Drake Public Library made a neat poster to advertise my author talk which they hosted on October 27th. Some thirty people were there, many of whom had known my grandparents and my mother. It was lovely to connect with them. Thanks to my cousin Loraine for arranging this and thanks to all the folks who bought my book.



During our visit to the beautiful public library in Calgary I was thrilled to see my book in their catalogue.

In a British Columbia publication, I was excited to see my novel included in a Fascinating Fiction feature section.

Heritage House included my novel in their Canadian School Library week display.



On November 17th I spoke to a wonderful group of about twenty-five people in Carmen, Manitoba. They asked some terrific questions about the book and bought lots of copies. I had a great time. Thanks to my husband Dave who drove me out to Carmen in some pretty stormy weather conditions.

What a privilege to [be a guest](#) on the blog of historical fiction writer Caroline Rose Starr. Her thoughtful questions made me think through the whole process of writing my book and researching it. Thanks Caroline!

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Check out my website for all the latest news about *Lost on the Prairie*. Read reviews, see where I'll be doing special events and read my weekly blog posts about the novel.