



150 YEARS  
*of* STATEHOOD  
1858 • 2008

A SESQUICENTENNIAL

*J*OURNEY  
2005-2008

MINNESOTA STATEHOOD  
SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION  
FINAL REPORT

This report is submitted to the Minnesota State Legislature by the members of the Minnesota Statehood Sesquicentennial Commission:

Cay Shea Hellervik, Commission Chair,  
Personnel Decisions International, Minneapolis

Reatha Clark King, Commission Vice-Chair; Chair,  
Capital, Grants & Legislative Committee, General  
Mills Foundation, Minneapolis

Sen. Don Betzold, Fridley

Rep. Sondra Erickson, Co-Chair,  
Subcommittee on Education, Princeton

Tess Hohman, Co-Chair,  
Communications, General Mills, Excelsior

Sarah Janecek, Communications Committee, Dolan  
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Public/Plan for Our Future Committee, Moorhead

Former Sen. Cal Larson, Capital, Grants & Legisla-  
tion Committee, Fergus Falls

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Elizabeth McMullen, Engage the Public/Plan for Our  
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ship, Minneapolis

Sen. Gen Olson, Program Committee, Minnetrista

Sen. Pat Pariseau, Engage the Public/Plan for Our  
Future & Capital, Grants & Legislation Commit-  
tees, Farmington

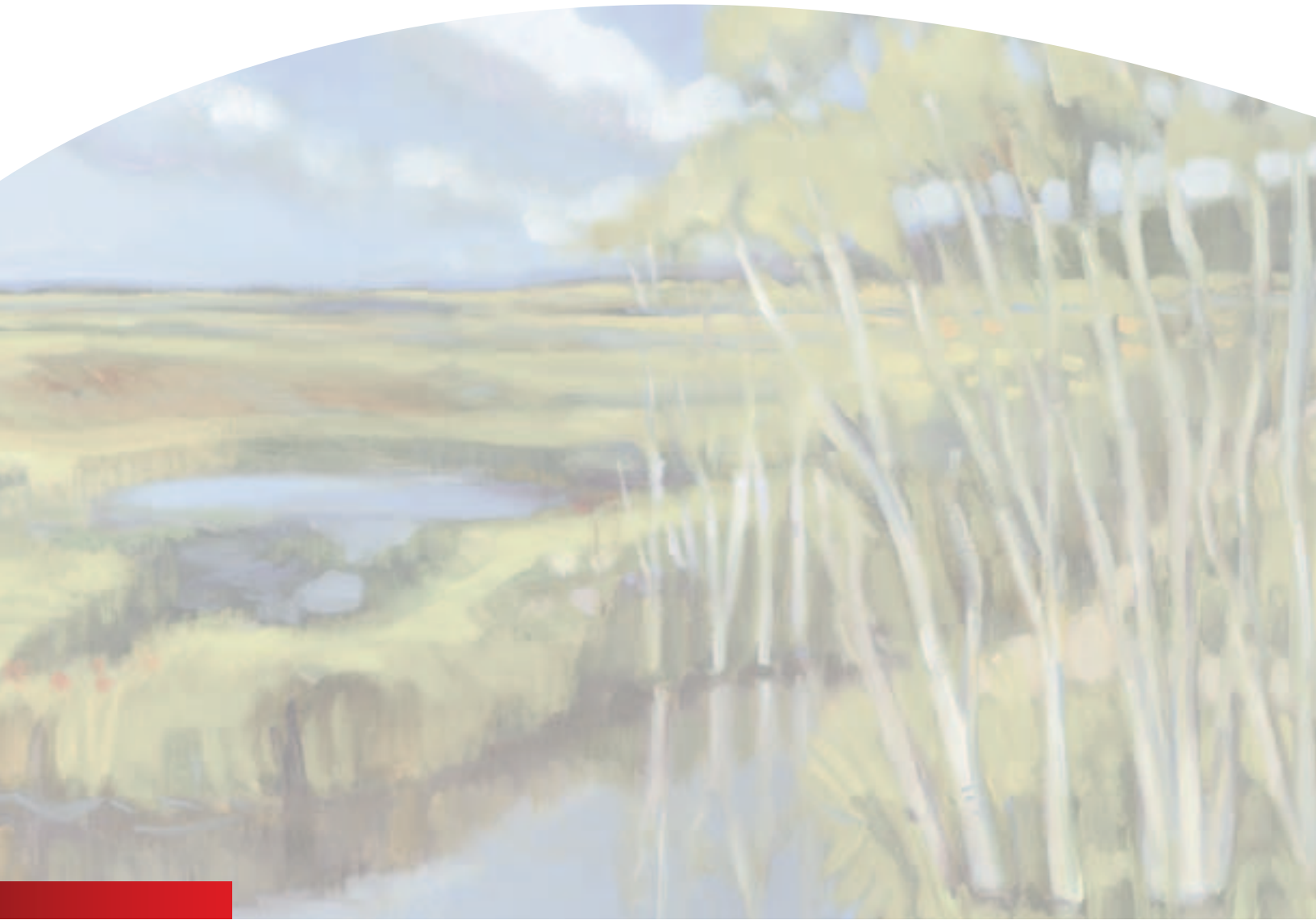
Mark F. Peterson, Chair, Program Committee,  
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Dallas Ross, Program Committee, Upper Sioux  
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Rep. Loren Solberg, Program & Engage the  
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Rapids

Joe C. Swedberg, Co-Chair, Communications Com-  
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# A SESQUICENTENNIAL *J*OURNEY 2005–2008

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## LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

December 2008

Dear Fellow Minnesotans:

When we began this journey nearly four years ago, none of us could imagine the challenges and opportunities we would encounter in trying to wrap our arms around something as vast and encompassing as 150 years of Minnesota statehood.

Like Minnesotans before us, we rolled up our sleeves and dove in, gathering strength from the enterprising spirit that has always marked Minnesota's hopes and dreams. We endeavored to commemorate Minnesota's history and celebrate the accomplishments of the millions of people who have come before us and those who continue to live, work, play and achieve here. We also hoped to use this time as a springboard to inspire our fellow citizens to engage in planning for Minnesota's future well-being.

Thanks to the help and support of thousands of Minnesota citizens — and their generous gift of \$1.6 million authorized by the State Legislature, which was matched several times over by community, corporate and foundation funds and in-kind donations — the Sesquicentennial challenge was met through opportunities for Minnesotans to learn, grow, and we hope, prosper into our next 50 years.

Reaching five million people scattered over 87,000 square miles was a test indeed, but the test was answered by an extraordinary grassroots response. People in small towns, townships and urban neighborhoods caught the anniversary spirit, expressed through creative endeavors and team efforts that helped mark this occasion, to remember where we came from and envision where we are headed.

Minnesotans recognized that statehood is a precious privilege and responsibility in 2008. It was a year which saw the state host its first national political convention in over 100 years — the Republican National Convention. It was a year in which America elected its first African-American president. It was a year in which government at local, state and federal levels worked together overtime to rebuild — in record time — the Interstate Highway 35W bridge that had collapsed into the Mississippi River just five months before our 150th anniversary year began.

Finally, it was a year in which Minnesotans connected again through the ideals of statehood, through the sense of belonging to, and being responsible for, something greater than our individual selves. Minnesota is indeed a place — and a state of mind and heart — that we all cherish.

We have been privileged to serve the state and its citizens to plan and organize this historic 150th anniversary of statehood. This Final Report of the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission touches on many anniversary highlights. We hope it will spark more memories from this special year and be a record for those who follow us in paying tribute to the state we all call home.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Statehood Sesquicentennial Commission

Cay Shea Hellervik, Chair  
Reatha Clark King, Vice Chair  
Sen. Don Betzold  
Rep. Sondra Erickson  
Tess Hohman  
Sarah Janecek

Rep. Morrie Lanning  
Cal Larson  
Rep. Diane Loeffler  
Elizabeth McMullen  
Sen. Pat Pariseau  
Mark F. Peterson

Sen. Gen Olson  
Sen. Ann H. Rest  
Dallas Ross  
Rep. Loren Solberg  
Joe C. Swedberg  
Jane Leonard, Executive Director

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**MINNESOTA'S STATEHOOD SESQUICENTENNIAL** was a year of commemoration to reflect on and learn from our past. It was a year of statewide celebration to rediscover our state, showcase our people and achievements, and connect us as Minnesotans. And it was for many, a once-in-a-lifetime catalyst to unite us, to rededicate ourselves to creating a thriving and innovative future.

In 2007 and 2008, through more than 500 events, over 150 grant projects, arts and culture exhibits, presentations, music and literature creations, Minnesotans endeavored to tell all the stories that shaped this land, our culture, our people and our destiny — from before statehood to the present to the years beyond our own time.

We accomplished this statewide Sesquicentennial programming and participation with modest funding from the Minnesota State Legislature (\$1.6 million over a period of 3.5 years — about 32 cents for each of the 5 million people living in Minnesota.) We matched that funding nearly three fold with private and community-based contributions of cash and in-kind resources to generate a total investment of \$4.5 million.

For nearly two years, these investments went back to communities and organizations across the state in the form of Sesquicentennial grants, local events creation and promotion, and to fund major statehood programs including the Plan for Our Future, Statehood Week (May 11-18, 2008) and the Minnesota State Fair (August 21-September 1, 2008.)

These investments proved to be a strong catalyst for civic engagement and community capacity building at local, regional and state levels. They helped start and strengthen efforts that will reverberate for years to come. For more details, see the events, programs and grants descriptions and listings in this report.

We pledged to our funders to engage at least 1 million Minnesotans “to learn from the state’s past, reflect on lessons from both its success and failings, and get engaged in planning for Minnesota’s future well-being.” This became the Sesquicentennial

Pledge to ensure that this 150th anniversary of statehood would be both meaningful and memorable to all Minnesotans who took the time to participate.

Based on our data collection (grant project records, event tallies, media exposure) more than 1 million Minnesotans participated in the Sesquicentennial, in telling and listening to the stories inspired by the 150th year of statehood.

The Commission could not have accomplished this without the help and determination of thousands of volunteers statewide. These citizen volunteers in small towns and urban neighborhoods saw in the Sesquicentennial an opportunity to stir and organize teams of people to accomplish together what individuals could not do alone. They jumpstarted community projects that may have been languishing for lack of inspiration and saw beyond the current day to leave a legacy for generations ahead.

Projects in every one of Minnesota’s 87 counties told the compelling stories of our shared home, Minnesota. These projects ranged from:

- Many Nations One Circle project in Evansville (pop. 561), in west central Minnesota, which honored our Native American and immigrant roots to
- Minnesota is Our Home opera written and performed by the 4th graders at Linwood School in St. Paul (pop. 270,000) to the
- Speaking of Home exhibition on the diversity of our citizens. Displayed in a downtown Minneapolis skyway, it was viewed by thousands of people each day as they walked past or drove by to the
- Minnovation exhibit at the Minneapolis Public Library of Minnesota’s inventions and patents throughout statehood to the
- 150 years of Rural Life project in Pleasant Hill Township, Winona County to
- Oral and pictorial history projects in Madelia, Waseca and Walker.

These, and other projects and events, showcased Minnesotans’ ingenuity, accomplishments and contributions in arts and culture, science and technology, business, public affairs, education and compassion worldwide.

From city to town to village to township to public and nonprofit organizations, Minnesotans harnessed their creative minds and hearts to help us all



remember the essence of statehood. Statehood is ultimately about democracy, choosing democracy as a way of life, a way of deciding and getting things done together, and putting service above self for the common good.

The Sesquicentennial was for Minnesotans in 2008 a time to reflect and then a time to act, to do our best and be our best, to call upon all the good we are capable of in a difficult era, a national and global time of uncertainty, anxiety and fear. We gained inspiration from our past and then looked to the future, embracing hope, aspiration, confidence and courage.

We can move forward into our next 50 years with an expanded vision and a renewed sense of purpose, inspired by the sacrifice and perseverance of those who walked this land before us.

This Final Report of the Commission captures all of Minnesota's Sesquicentennial stories in three sections that mirror our work plan: Time of Preparation, Time of Celebration & Commemoration, and Time of Reflection & Legacy.

However, no written record can adequately contain the outpouring of spirit we witnessed across the Minnesota landscape.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Minnesota these past two years as executive director of the Minnesota Statehood Sesquicentennial Commission. I came to this job with a deep love for my home state. I leave it with a much deeper understanding of, and respect for, the complexities and continued promise of our state and its people. We are many voices. We are one state. We are many nations, one circle. And Minnesota is our home.

Jane Leonard  
Executive Director  
December 2008



## Many Nations One Circle

*From the Evansville Sesquicentennial Grant project*

*Words by Anne Dunn, Sharon Henneman & Patty Kakac*

*Music by Patty Kakac & Sharon Henneman*

**I have been told that when we walk the land  
Our breath falls upon the earth  
And in that place we are remembered  
In our good and ancient land.**

**Many nations, one circle  
Many voices, one song  
Let us honor those who went before us  
Honor those who are to come.**

**And if you come in 500 years  
As the wind blows through these hills  
With the fragrance of the wild flowers  
Know that I am with you still.**

# REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR

Cay Shea Hellervik  
December 2008

## History of the Commission

In 2005, the First Special Session of the State Legislature enacted a law (Chapter 1, Article 4, Section 121) regarding the Minnesota Sesquicentennial anniversary. Here's how the law read:

Sec. 121. Sesquicentennial Commission

### *Subdivision 1. Commission Purpose*

The Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission is established to plan for activities relating to Minnesota's 150th anniversary of statehood. The Commission shall create a plan for capital improvements, celebratory activities and public engagement in every county in the state of Minnesota.

### *Subd. 2. Membership*

The Commission shall consist of 17 members who shall serve until the completion of the Sesquicentennial year of statehood, appointed as follows:

1. nine members appointed by the governor, representing major corporate, nonprofit and public sectors, selected from all parts of the state;
2. two members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
3. two members appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;
4. two members from the majority party in the senate, appointed by the Subcommittee on Committees; and
5. two members from the senate's minority party, appointed by the Subcommittee on Committees.

### *Subd. 3. Compensation & Operation*

Members shall select a chair from the membership of the Commission. The chair shall convene all meetings and set the agenda for the Commission. The Minnesota Historical Society shall provide office space and staff support for the Commission, and shall cooperate with the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to support the programs of the Commission.

Meetings shall be at the call of the chair. The Commission may appoint an advisory council to advise and assist the Commission with its duties. Members shall receive no compensation for service on the Sesquicentennial Commission. Members appointed by the governor may be reimbursed for expenses under Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subd.3.

### *Subd. 4. Duties*

The Commission shall have the following duties:

1. to present to the governor and legislature a plan for capital grants to pay for capital improvements on Minnesota's historic public and private buildings, to be known as Sesquicentennial grants;
2. to seek funding for activities to celebrate the 150th anniversary of statehood, and to form partnerships with private parties to further this mission; and
3. to present an annual report to the governor and legislature outlining progress made towards the celebration of the Sesquicentennial.

### *Subd. 5. Commemorative Coin*

The Commission may arrange for design, production, distribution, marketing and sale of a commemorative coin. Proceeds from sale of the coin are appropriated to the Commission.

### *Subd. 6. Expiration*

The Commission shall continue to operate until Jan. 30, 2009, at which time it shall expire.

The legislature appropriated \$50,000 to be used by the Commission the first year, with \$50,000 to be used the second year for planning and support of its mission. Later amendments in 2007 and 2008 to the enacting language eliminated the capital improvements grant requirement, encouraged the Commission to be as energy efficient as possible, allowed the Commission to conduct meetings by telephone, authorized production and sale of a commemorative license plate, and directed the Commission to use the Plan for Our Future results to provide feedback for the Minnesota Milestones. The legislature also appropriated an additional \$1.5 million between 2007 and 2008 to carry out the work of the Commission.

The Commission began formal meetings in the spring of 2006.



## Executive Committee & Other Commission Committees

### Executive Committee

Cay Shea Hellervik, Chair  
Reatha Clark King, Vice Chair

The members of the Executive Committee were Rep. Diane Loeffler, Sen. Don Betzold, Commissioner Tess Hohman, Commissioner Joe C. Swedberg, Sen. Ann H. Rest, Rep. Morrie Lanning and Commissioner Mark F. Peterson. The majority held major committee responsibilities, all generously offered wisdom, guidance and genuine care and concern to, and for, the work of the Commission. Their ideas became the basic fabric from which the work of the Commission was cut.

The Executive Committee worked to establish committees, create a strategy for the Commission, and design the organizational structure of the Commission. The committees they established were:

### Capital, Grants, & Legislative Committee

Reatha Clark King, Chair

This committee sought the fiscal resources necessary to carry out the mission, legislation, legal and fiscal relationships of the Commission. It also worked with the other committees to develop policies and procedures for the Sesquicentennial Grant Program.

### Engage the Public/Plan for Our Future Committee

Sen. Ann H. Rest & Rep. Morrie Lanning, Co-chairs

This committee worked with partner groups to ensure that leaders and citizens in all 87 counties of Minnesota were aware of and engaged in the Sesquicentennial and in the creation of the Plan for Our Future. They also worked to partner with other government agencies, the private and nonprofit sectors and neighboring states. The completed Plan for Our Future document is available in the online version of the Commission's Final Report.

### Program Committee

Mark F. Peterson, Chair

This committee developed, along with partners, the signature events and programs of statewide impact for the Sesquicentennial. It also coordinated with independent efforts in the public, private and nonprofit sectors to help promote those programs and events that commemorated the Sesquicentennial.



### Communications Subcommittee

Tess Hohman & Joe Swedberg, Co-chairs

This subcommittee worked with the staff and volunteers to develop communications vehicles that promoted and marketed the Sesquicentennial message, programs and events, including logo design and use, Web site, printed and electronic communications, and media relations.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION MET MONTHLY FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

### Establishing a Mission & Strategies

The Executive Committee decided to invite a consultant from Wisconsin to brief them about that state's 1998 Sesquicentennial celebration. With examples from the Wisconsin experience, the Executive Committee formed a nucleus of ideas that was accepted by the Commission and adopted as core concepts by which we operated in the coming years.

Consultant Judy Plante, director of management analysis and development from the state's Department of Administration, worked with the Executive Committee, designing discussions and leading sessions with the Commission to develop its mission, goals and desired attributes for the celebration. Her work with us created a lasting memory and documents that served to guide all of us.

Our Mission statement was:

The Commission and its volunteers will strive to increase pride in our state by:

- Achieving broad participation of the people of Minnesota, visitors, local communities, institutions and organizations in activities across the state;
- Raising awareness and educating Minnesotans by telling the stories of our past, recognizing the indigenous people of Minnesota, and learning from them and the many ethnic groups that have come and continue to come to Minnesota;
- Developing a shared vision for the state's future,

- by engaging Minnesotans in civic dialogue;
- Leaving a lasting legacy through print, visual, musical, and other reminders, as well as media documentation;

So that all might have a meaningful perspective on the impact our state has had in the past and will have on the future for Minnesotans, the nation and the world.

### **The Commission's work**

Central to the operation of the Commission were matters regarding organization, including recruiting staff and volunteers, hiring staff, evaluations, personnel issues, policies for employees, office setup and furniture. These were critical contributions made by the Executive Committee and required hundreds of volunteer hours before full-time professional staff were hired.

Personnel Decisions International donated my time and that of my assistant during these early months, as well as office furniture. This allowed the Commission to save the full amount appropriated by the legislature for later essential Commission salaries and grants.

With the goal of involving as many citizens as possible, members of the Executive Committee worked tirelessly traveling the state and speaking to thousands of citizens, especially at Minnesota Township Association meetings and other gatherings.

The Commission engaged over 100 Sesquicentennial Ambassadors throughout Minnesota. These Ambassadors served the Commission well by encouraging citizens to check out the critical information on the Sesquicentennial Web site, helping motivate as many Minnesotans as possible to become involved in events and to apply for grants from the Commission.

As a result of these efforts, combined with Sesquicentennial communications and outreach, the Commission received hundreds of requests for grants and ideas related to activities and events that were being planned independently all over Minnesota, whether the Commission was funding them or not. The Web site became a clearinghouse of events and projects for the people of Minnesota to reference.

Reatha Clark King served an immense number of hours on the Executive Committee, and as chair of the Capital, Grants and Legislative Committee, she devoted hundreds of volunteer hours. Reatha sought the fiscal resources necessary to carry out

our mission, and she personally oversaw its finances. She also worked closely with the Commission chair to develop policies and procedures for the Commission, as well as the Sesquicentennial Grant Program.

Executive Committee members contacted hundreds of corporations, state agencies, nonprofit groups and foundations, and engaged them in the process of bringing essential funding to the Commission.

The Executive Committee worked with Commission staff to organize their travel to the five Capitals for a Day and coordinated with Gov. Tim Pawlenty so he could be at the honorary Capitals during Statehood Week, where he greeted thousands of Minnesotans.

The Executive Committee prepared reports and budgets for the governor and legislature, not only for funding but also for the purpose of keeping them informed.

The Executive Committee, Program Committee Chair Mark F. Peterson and Commission members spent many months visioning and outlining ideas for the events and activities of the Sesquicentennial celebration. During this phase, we vetted hundreds of ideas. The Commission worked hard to limit the number of ideas to keep within our budget. With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Commission decided which events or projects we would reject, support in our literature and on our Web site, and which projects we would try to fund.

Other members of the Executive Committee contributed their time as well, including Rep. Diane Loeffler, who assisted us with legislative relations, outreach for the Plan for Our Future project and the Web-based mapping of events. Sen. Don Betzold guided us on many matters regarding legal and military issues. Sen. Ann H. Rest was instrumental in securing the Minnesota Twins as partners for the Statehood celebration. She worked tirelessly on getting license plate legislation passed, as well as co-chairing with Rep. Morrie Lanning the implementation of the Engage the Public/Plan for Our Future work mentioned in more detail later in this report.

I want to thank all of the Commission members, our Executive Director Jane Leonard, and all of the staff, Fellows and volunteers who worked so hard to bring this celebration and commemoration to all Minnesotans. The remainder of this report will illustrate the wide scope and depth of programming that made the Sesquicentennial dreams come to life for all Minnesotans.

# TIME OF PREPARATION JULY 2006 TO MAY 2008

## ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

**THIS SESQUICENTENNIAL WAS** more than community celebrations and special events. At its heart, it was about engaging the citizens of Minnesota to think about their state, to learn what Minnesotans want the future to be like, and what they are willing to commit to doing to make that future a reality.

The Sesquicentennial Plan for Our Future: Many Voices-One Minnesota is just that – a plan for a future crafted by the citizens of the state. To capture their hopes, dreams and visions for Minnesota, the Sesquicentennial staff, in partnership with the Regional Development Commissions, encouraged a series of community conversations held throughout the state.

In a message to these conversation groups, Executive Director Jane Leonard said, “Minnesota is a vast and diverse state, by geography and by culture. It is a daunting challenge to capture all of who we are today, where we have come from, and where we are heading. That is the magnificent opportunity we have before us. We can, through the Sesquicentennial lens, connect people to learn from our past and prepare for our future progress.”

Moderators at the community conversations, as well as an online survey, asked participants:

- “What do you want the future to be like for the next generations?”
- “What are the key issues and challenges we have to deal with to ensure the future we envision will become reality?”
- “What would you like to tell Minnesotans 50 years from now that you are personally working on today to ensure they have the same or better quality of life you have now?”

These conversations, which were one of the first ways Minnesotans became engaged with the Sesquicentennial, began in 2007 and carried through much of 2008. For an in-depth discussion of the process and resulting document, see pg. 25.

The Plan for Our Future was presented to the State Legislature and will be available for other public use in conjunction with the many “plans” created by

other organizations representing the different sectors and fields of discipline (such as land use, environment, health care) that encompass Minnesota policy development.

The Plan is available online at [www.mn150years.org](http://www.mn150years.org) and is archived along with other Sesquicentennial official papers at the Minnesota Historical Society.

## SESQUICENTENNIAL PLEDGE

DURING THE  
SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR,  
I WILL ENDEAVOR TO LEARN FROM  
THE STATE’S PAST, REFLECT ON LESSONS  
FROM BOTH ITS SUCCESSES AND  
FAILINGS AND GET ENGAGED  
IN PLANNING FOR  
MINNESOTA’S FUTURE WELL-BEING.

## FUNDRAISING

Fundraising began in earnest with a \$100,000 planning grant from the Minnesota State Legislature. Downturns in the economy and competition from other events and festivals made fundraising challenging, but we met our goal of \$4 million by raising a total of \$4.5 million in cash and in-kind.

The Commission held a funders’ briefing in June 2007 at the St. Paul Hotel, and again in October at Eastcliff, the University of Minnesota’s president’s house. These briefings helped current and potential funders grasp the big, detailed picture of the Sesquicentennial goals, strategies and opportunities.

Another fundraising event was hosted at the St. Paul Hotel in February 2008 by Commission Chair Cay Shea Hellervik and the Sesquicentennial staff. The reception program provided an opportunity for many notable Sesquicentennial supporters to tell personal stories of their love for Minnesota, including former Gov. Al Quie and current Minnesota House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher.



As of December 2008, the exact total of funds and in-kind raised was \$4,483,600. This included:

### From the State Legislature

\$1.6 million in appropriations (\$100,000 in 2005, \$750,000 in 2007, and \$175,000 & \$575,000 in 2008)

### Matched by

\$375,600 cash from foundations, organizations & individuals  
 \$384,500 cash from corporations  
 \$1,071,500 in-kind from corporations & organizations  
 \$652,000 cash match from communities & organizations for state Sesquicentennial grants  
 \$400,000 in-kind match from communities & organizations for state Sesquicentennial grants

We matched one-to-one the initial state appropriations of \$850,000 within one year – May 2007 to May 2008 – and met the Bush Foundation challenge grant match (three-to-one) within one month, April 2008. The total Bush Foundation grant was \$226,000.

Of the cash received from all sources (except the \$652,000 cash match from communities and organizations for grant matches,) \$585,000 went directly to local communities and organizations as Sesquicentennial grants. The remaining \$1,775,100 went to plan and implement events and programs of statewide scope, including Statehood Week and the 2007 and 2008 State Fair exhibitions.

### The Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission thanks the following for their generous donations of funding and in-kind assistance:

#### Our Partners

Minnesota Historical Society  
 University of Minnesota  
 Minnesota State Colleges & University System  
 Special thanks to: Minnesota State Legislature, the Governor's Office, the Office of the Secretary of State, the Minnesota Supreme Court, and the many state agencies supporting the Sesquicentennial including the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Education, Human Rights, Natural

Resources (State Parks), Explore Minnesota Tourism and Veteran Affairs  
 Minnesota National Guard  
 Minnesota's private colleges  
 Minnesota's regional public library systems  
 Staff & volunteers at the James J. Hill House  
 Sesquicentennial volunteers across the state

### Sesquicentennial Presenting Sponsors - \$250,000 & above

People of Minnesota, through an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature  
 Personnel Decisions International  
 TPT-TV - The Minnesota Channel

#### Trailblazers: \$100,000 to \$249,999

Bush Foundation  
 Minnesota State Fair

#### Voyageurs: \$50,000 to \$99,999

AgStar  
 BBDO  
 Bell Museum of Natural History  
 Dolan Media

KARE-11  
 Katherine B. Andersen Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation  
 Miller  
 Travelers

#### Founders: \$25,000 to \$49,999

Blandin Foundation  
 General Mills Foundation  
 Minnesota Twins  
 Minnesota Vikings  
 Securian  
 Skyline Design  
 Target

#### 32nd State Club: \$10,000 to \$24,999

Citizens League  
 Comcast  
 Eureka Recycling  
 F. R. Bigelow Foundation  
 Heroic Productions  
 Midwest Coca-Cola Bottling Company  
 Minnesota Federation of Stamp Clubs  
 Pioneer Press  
 Public Affairs Company  
 St. Paul Foundation  
 St. Paul Hotel



Stagetime Productions  
Toro  
Troje  
US Bank  
Xcel Energy

**Sesqui Stewardship Club:**  
**\$1,000 to \$9,999**

A & A Engraving  
Best Buy  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota  
CHS Foundation  
Cinequipt  
Dot.com.printing.inc.  
ECM Publishing  
Ecolab, Inc.  
Grotto Foundation in memory of founder Louis W. Hill, Jr.  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
Hormel Foods  
Melrose  
Metro Transit  
Minnesota Rural Partners, Inc.  
N. Judge and Reatha Clark King Family Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation  
Northwest Airlines  
Padilla Speer Beardsley  
RiverPoint Media Group, Inc.  
SuperValu  
Tunheim Partners  
Visual Impact  
Weber Shandwick  
Wendells  
Private Individuals

**Minnesota Memories level: Up to \$999**

Woman's Club of Minneapolis  
State Government Meeting Planners Group  
The Minnesota Association of Cooperatives Education Foundation  
Two Fools Vineyard  
Private Individuals

**Special Event & Project Partners**

City of St. Paul  
Emergency Foodshelf Network & Taco Bell  
Members of the Minnesota Private College Council  
Minnesota Public Radio  
Minnesota State Patrol & Capitol Security  
Nodin Press  
Old Minnesota Song of the North Star Big Top Chautauqua  
Plant Management Division of the Minnesota Department of Administration  
Roseville Visitors Association

Sesquicentennial Honorary Capitals for a Day:  
Bemidji, Thief River Falls, Detroit Lakes, New Ulm & Winona  
Sesquicentennial Wagon Train  
United States Postal Service for the Minnesota Statehood Commemorative Stamp  
Vintage Aircraft Flyover

**Media Partners**

KARE-11  
Pioneer Press

## SECURING PARTNERS

Any journey is easier, more fun and filled with more experiences when you have good travel partners. It was the same with the Sesquicentennial journey. Key partners added event expertise, depth of knowledge and breadth of exposure to the Sesquicentennial. These Sesqui journey partners were:

### Minnesota Historical Society

What better institution to capture the sweep and scope of Minnesota's history than the Minnesota Historical Society? Following the Sesquicentennial's lead to create an inclusive, interactive commemoration, the MHS solicited nominations for the 150 people, places and things that changed and shaped Minnesota.

More than 2,700 entries came in from Minnesotans living in every corner of the state, as well as across the globe. MHS Director Nina Archabal said, "It was an unprecedented degree of participation. And who better to tell us about Minnesota than the people who live here?"

A committee of MHS staff, community members and subject experts selected the final 150, basing their choices on the compelling case made by the nominator, as well as the potential for each topic to be developed into a successful piece of the exhibit.

So who and what made the final cut? Bob Dylan and Prince. The GPS and Greyhound Bus systems. Hubert H. Humphrey and Elmer L. Andersen. John Beargrease and the American Indian Movement. The 1980 Olympic Hockey Team and Patty Berg. Burma Shave signs and the Kensington Runestone. Plus 138 more.

The MN 150 exhibit opened October 13, 2007, the 150th anniversary of the vote by Minnesota Territory residents on the proposed state constitution. (It was



#### OFFICIAL SESQUI-SCOUT PLEDGE

HOLD UP YOUR RIGHT HAND IN THE SESQUI-SALUTE AND SESQUI-SOLEMNLV VOW:

ON MY HONOR, I WILL TRY:

- TO VISIT ALL 26 HISTORIC SITES AND MUSEUMS OR AT LEAST THE ONES MY PARENTS WILL TAKE ME TO,
- TO DO MY BEST TO LEARN HOW TO PRONOUNCE "SESQUICENTENNIAL,"
- TO HAVE A SESQUI-FUN, SESQUI-SAFE, SESQUI-ORDERLY SESQUICENTENNIAL,
- TO BE A GOOD SESQUI-CITIZEN AND HELP MY FELLOW SESQUI-SCOUTS EVEN MY BROTHERS AND/OR SISTERS.

MN150 Wiki (collection of pages that can be modified by users) at the historical society's Web site, [www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org), by submitting their comments and creating their own MN150 lists.

Also on the Web site, users could become "Sesqui-Scouts" by taking the official pledge and printing out an ID card good for admission discounts at any participating state historical sites and museums and \$5 off on an MHS membership. All historical sites and museums were encouraged to develop Sesquicentennial-related events, programs and exhibits.

Also at each site, kids could choose from several Sesquicentennial rub-on tattoos including: Sesquilicious!, Sesqui-Lightful! and Vote for Sesquatch.

To draw visitors to its sites, the MHS published The Official State Sesquicentennial Guide to Minnesota

accepted, 30,055 to 571.) Each year, 350,000 visitors tour the History Center exhibits, and a majority of them viewed MN 150. At the end of the Sesqui year, MN 150 will continue as a major exhibit at the Center.

Others have checked out the top 150 through the book, *Minnesota 150: The People, Places and Things that Shape Our State*, by exhibit developer Kate Roberts. And more have participated in the

History. This fun, fold-out guide showcased, through photos, compelling graphics and words, the Society's sites and museums, a timeline of Minnesota history and objects from its collections. The MHS also held a free open house at its 26 historical sites and museums on June 1, 2008.

In addition, the MHS created an eye-catching "Sesqui-Sensational" advertising campaign to spotlight its activities throughout the Sesquicentennial. Lory Sutton, chief marketing officer for the MHS, said, "The ad campaign was a humorous take-off on the word 'Sesquicentennial,' which newscasters and citizens alike had trouble pronouncing and remembering, much less knowing the definition!"

The campaign targeted women ages 35 to 50 who typically set the social agenda for their families and friends – in other words, the people who plan and organize trips to historic sites.

Sutton said, "We wanted the Sesquicentennial campaign to stand out from the usual historic-patriotic-tourism approach by doing something memorable and fun. We built the buzz with election yard signs, tattoos, the Scout pledge and more."

Using visuals like those in the ad campaign, the MHS played on the 2008 election by developing yard signs that read, "Vote for Sesquatch!" and featured a tall, furry, furtive creature running into the distance.



The MHS also held a Media Resource Day in February to acquaint journalists and members of the media to the range of programs, services and other resources to help them research, illuminate and enrich the Sesquicentennial Year.

#### Office of the Secretary of State

To commemorate the Sesquicentennial, the Office of the Secretary of State sponsored a number of initiatives focused on governance and governing, including:

- **Bringing the Declaration of Independence to Minnesota.** To underscore where democracy begins, the

Office, in partnership with Dolan Media, the Minnesota Historical Society and the Sesquicentennial Commission, arranged for an original version of the Declaration to be on exhibit in May 2008 at



the Minnesota Historical Society. During Statehood Week, 20,000 people viewed the DOI, as it is affectionately known.

- **Achieving record voter turnout.** With the goal of “80 in ‘08,” the Secretary of State’s office sought to improve voter turnout, especially among those who face significant barriers including military service people and the hearing and visually impaired. Once again, Minnesota was the national leader in voter turnout, and almost reached the campaign’s goal with a 78 percent turnout.
- **Presenting a history series.** These public events exploring the history, current state of affairs and future challenges of the Office included working with the Minnesota Historical Society on protecting documents in the digital age and a seminar on facilitating commerce.
- **Honoring Minnesota’s public servants.** This initiative had four parts: voting in honor of a veteran; a reunion for the thousands of Minnesotans who have served the Office of Secretary of State; publication of a special Sesquicentennial edition of the “Blue Book,” the manual of the Minnesota State Legislature; and a statehood ceremony honoring those who serve – public servants, citizen volunteers and members of the armed forces.

### Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

In the words of the MHS’ ads, 2008 was a “Sesqui-sensational Summer” to visit the state’s amazing, beautiful and diverse state parks. With gas prices hovering around \$4 per gallon and a wobbling economy, many residents opted for “stay-cations” – vacations closer to home. Where better to explore the state’s history, culture and geography than at a state park? To jumpstart these Sesqui journeys, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources offered free admission to all state parks and sites on June 1, 2008.

The DNR’s goal was to offer at least 150 new Sesquicentennial-related programs. As Claire Plank, state park Sesqui event planner said, “The state parks just grabbed the Sesquicentennial and ran with it.”

- All 72 parks were required to buy a Sesqui flag and fly it at the entrance. All non-uniformed staff wore Sesqui pins.
- The DNR produced a coloring book of state symbols for the parks’ youngest visitors.
- Staff and naturalists at the parks tailored programs to their park’s particular history or geography.

More than 250 programs were presented throughout the year. They were publicized on the Sesquicentennial’s Web site as well as through a new program brochure designed especially for the 150th anniversary of statehood. They ranged from “Stories in log and stone” at Old Mill State Park to “Fishing techniques of the past” at Sibley State Park to “Minnesota birds since statehood” at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park to “Biking into the North Shore’s past” at Gooseberry Falls State Park.

The DNR lured kids into exploring the great outdoors by hosting a Geocaching History Challenge for the Sesquicentennial. Basically, geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt. Using a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) device, the geocacher enters the coordinates of the treasure, then goes in search of it. Here’s how the challenge worked:

- Began May 11, Minnesota Statehood Day.
- Geocaches containing collectible, Minnesota history cards, Sesqui medallions or trinkets and a log book were hidden in each of the state’s 72 parks and recreation sites.
- Participants could download the coordinates from [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).
- Anyone new to geocaching could visit a demonstration site at one of 16 state parks. If they didn’t have a GPS unit, they could check one out at the park.

In addition, *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, the DNR’s quarterly magazine, published a special Sesquicentennial article in each edition during 2008.



SINGER-SONG-WRITER ANN REED PERFORMED IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT MINNESOTA IN THE PROCESS OF WRITING HER SESQUICENTEN-NIAL TRIBUTE SONG.

### Explore Minnesota Tourism

Explore Minnesota Tourism helped travelers explore Minnesota through a comprehensive listing of Sesquicentennial events and events on its Web site: [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com). Visitors to the site just searched "Sesquicentennial." The department also featured Sesquicentennial events in its quarterly tabloid promotional newspaper, *Explore Minnesota* and electronic newsletter.

### University of Minnesota

Founded in 1851, the University of Minnesota has played an integral role in the development of the state and its people. To recognize this special relationship, the University hosted events on each of its campuses honoring Minnesota during the academic year 2007-2008.

A university-wide committee, chaired by Thomas Fisher, dean, College of Design, and Ann Pflaum, University of Minnesota historian, helped plan and coordinate activities offered in the Twin Cities as well as at the Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Rochester campuses.

Some events became part of commencements, convocations or lectures, others were developed especially for the Sesquicentennial. Among them were:

#### Crookston:

- At commencement exercises, Crookston choir performed "Shines for All to See," the official Sesquicentennial song composed by U of M School of Music faculty member Dean Sorenson.
- Orlin Ostby, Northwest School of Agriculture Class of '57, recreated a 40-day, 420-mile walk with an ox and ox cart along the Old Pembina trail. This walk originally was re-enacted in 1958 for the Minnesota Centennial by Delmar Hagen, who hired Ostby in the 1950s as a farm hand.

### Duluth

- The campus sponsored a four-part lecture series called, "American Indians in Minnesota: A Personal History." It featured speakers including authors, performers, educators and Native American leaders exploring topics such as contemporary civil rights, governance, economic development, literature and culture.

### Morris

- The sixth annual Symposium on Small Towns was dedicated to the Sesquicentennial. All of the small towns nominated for Capital for a Day were recognized with special certificates of appreciation from the Sesquicentennial Commission. The symposium, "The Power of Small: Building Solutions for Energy Self-Reliance," included a concert by Minnesota storyteller and singer Peter Ostroushko, as well as Sesquicentennial displays.

### Rochester

- The newest of the U's campuses held three events based on the theme: "The Power of Medicine, Education, and Technology in Rochester: A Look at the Past, Present and Future."

### Twin Cities

- The Weisman Museum on the U of M campus mounted an exhibit "By the People for the People: New Deal Art in Minnesota." It focused on Minnesota art of the 1930s.
- "Celebrating Discovery: Our Past and Our Future" was a series of four faculty panels held at the Campus Club. Topics of the panels were: "Arts and the Built Environment: Changing Symbols and Realities in Suburban Living," "Agriculture, Forestry and the Natural World," "Changing Demographics: Snapshots of a New America and a New Minnesota," and "A Changing World: Past and Present Threats to the Public's Health."

### Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society

A group of more than 40 leaders in the Minnesota legal community came together to form the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society. Modeled after the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society, the new nonprofit organization was dedicated to collecting, preservation and promoting Minnesota's judicial history. The Sesquicentennial gave the MSCHS an ideal platform for launching its activities. It took part in the Statehood Week events and updated publication of bar memorials for all members of the Minnesota Supreme Court since its inception.

## Minnesota Department of Agriculture

There are Centennial Farms, and now there are Sesquicentennial Farms. In honor of the state's anniversary, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture recognized 90 families who have retained ownership of their land for 150 years or more.

These families were invited to Sesqui-Century Farm Day at the Sesquicentennial Big Top Chautauqua during the 2008 Minnesota State Fair. As part of the recognition ceremony, they received a certificate from Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson, which was signed by Commissioner Hugoson and Gov. Tim Pawlenty. The day also featured a display of the Sesquicentennial Farms. The Sesquicentennial Farm recognition program will become an annual event through a partnership with the Minnesota Farm Bureau.

The Department of Agriculture also added special Sesquicentennial sections to its Web site and its *AgMag* publication for schools, which continued through the year.

## Minnesota National Guard

Minnesota ranks 26th among states in population, but 5th in military service. That military connection was in full view during the Statehood Weekend Festival and the Commemoration Ceremony on May 18, which was dedicated to "Honoring Those Who Serve."

- F-16s of the 148th Fighter Wing opened the ceremony at 6:58 p.m. (18:58 in military time) with a roaring flyover to mark the state's admission to the Union.
- Maj. Gen. Larry W. Shellito, adjutant general for the state, thanked members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families for their commitment and sacrifices.
- 100 service members participated in a march to the Capitol steps, complete with flags representing all the state's National Guard battalions and wings.
- Lt. Col. Greg Thingvold, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion, addressed his family and the crowd via satellite link from his base in Iraq.

The National Guard also provided a link to the Sesquicentennial on its Web site.



NATIONAL GUARD JETS OPENED STATEHOOD CEREMONIES WITH A FLYOVER ON MAY 18 AT 18:58.

## Minnesota Department of Human Rights

To help tell the story of human rights in the state, staff from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights created an in-depth DVD, "150 Years of Human Rights in Minnesota." It includes photos, text and voice-over that chronicle the milestones marking the struggle for human rights in Minnesota. The DVD debuted at the annual Human Rights Day dinner in December 2008.

## Minnesota Public Radio

To help tell Minnesota's story at its Sesquicentennial, Minnesota Public Radio created a special section on its Web site to showcase MPR's Sesqui programming. The section, called "Minnesota Arrival: A Sesquicentennial Survey," included:

- **Tell Your Story.** New and established Minnesotans, whether they came from near or far, were invited to tell their story on the social network, [www.gather.com](http://www.gather.com). Many included videos that could be viewed on the site.
- **Song for Minnesota.** As part of MPR's Troubadour concert series, singer-songwriter Ann Reed toured greater Minnesota and performed at six MPR-produced Sesqui concerts. Along the way, she gathered suggestions and inspirations for a new song about Minnesota, which she premiered at the Fitzgerald Theater in downtown St. Paul on May 3. Visitors to the MPR site could hear the "Song for Minnesota," as well as others she wrote following her travels.



- **News.** MPR created more than 20 news stories covering Sesqui events and issues ranging from presidential hopefuls from the state to stories from the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps to a memoir written by a Hmong immigrant to the Native Americans' view of the Sesquicentennial. All were available via audio links on the site.
- **Minnesota 150 quiz.** Visitors could take a quick online quiz to test their knowledge of Minnesota's past.
- **Resources.** This section provided links to a variety of Sesquicentennial Web sites and historical resources.

## TELLING THE SESQUI STORY

One of the greatest, nonstop challenges of the Sesquicentennial was communicating to the public about everything that was happening and how they could participate. Not only did the staff need to communicate the date for a community conversation, details about the geocaching event or how to buy a souvenir medallion, it also needed to engage Minnesotans, excite them about the Sesquicentennial and convey the broad reach of the Sesquicentennial activities.

### Sesqui on the Web

With limited staff and financial resources, as well as an ever-changing calendar of events, the most effective vehicle for reaching diverse audiences was the Sesquicentennial's official Web site, [www.mn150years.org](http://www.mn150years.org).

The site served as a one-stop shop for the Sesquicentennial. The home page was a lively introduction and changed as events and highlights changed. A visitor could find links to the Sesqui-related blog, listen to the Sesqui song, watch a video of noted Minnesotans reading the Declaration of Independence, check out photos of the historical fact for the day, or explore a Spotlight Tour of the state.

With a quick click, visitors could find the following information:

- **Grant programs.** Interested citizens could learn about the program and apply online for grants to fund Sesquicentennial-related activities.
- **Community programs.** These included the Sesquicentennial cookbook, the Community Spirit

program, Capital for a Day, volunteer opportunities and more.

- **Events.** Visitors to the site could check a month-by-month calendar for events, read about them, or search them from an interactive map, thanks to the help of Commission member Rep. Diane Loeffler and the legislative GIS mapping service. Anyone hosting an event related to the Sesquicentennial could add it to the listings, which would also be loaded on the clickable map.
- **Merchandise.** The Web site provided ordering information for a variety of Sesqui memorabilia: the commemorative medallions, cookbook, gear, and flags and banners.
- **Background info.** This section covered Commission members, a historical timeline, fact sheets, links, sponsors and suggestions for raising awareness about the Sesquicentennial.
- **And more.** Visitors could find contact information as well as all the news releases for the Sesquicentennial.

The Web site also provided a way for people to register to use the official logo for their local events, programs and activity materials. Hundreds of requests came in, resulting in the logo being used statewide. Some of the nearly 200 uses included: White House Easter Egg and Christmas ornament, tissue boxes, collector matchbooks, Bemidji Woolen Mills blanket, Chisholm Fire Days cake, medallion for the Spielmannszug Karneval Klub, and collector Red Wing Pottery jars and trivets.

The Web site had 8,100 links to it from other sites. The blog, written by Sesqui staff members, started in May, 2007 and nearly 400 posts were made to it. The Sesqui-blog was viewed more than 17,500 times; readers posted 55 comments.

Other communication vehicles complemented the Web site including news releases, a monthly e-newsletter and special-use publications such as a Sesquicentennial highlights brochure, a tent-shaped program for the 2008 State Fair Chautauqua and a "State-Constitution-on-a-stick" for the 2007 State Fair booth.

The Sesqui news releases were picked up directly by media outlets or served as a springboard for the development of local stories. By year's end, they had generated thousands of news clippings from every corner of Minnesota, which are archived at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Many newspapers and media Web sites developed Sesqui promotions, including a MN150 fact of the day in the StarTribune, and special Statehood Day sections in the StarTribune and Pioneer Press.

### Speeches & Special Appearances

Commission members and staff were privileged to be honored guests and guest speakers at more than 100 events and meetings with community and organization hosts. These included Rotary luncheons, club meetings, historical society annual meetings, time capsule openings, dedication ceremonies, school presentations and other gatherings.

The Sesqui staff created special PowerPoint, video presentations and generic speech materials that could be used with a speaker or as a stand-alone presentation. These tools enabled Commissioners, staff and others to promote special and general aspects of the Sesquicentennial programs, grant availability, event logistics and overviews in person or from afar.

Commission staff also held a mini conference in Roseville in early fall 2007 to help grant recipients, event planners, vendors and others better understand the general framework, themes and work plan of the Sesquicentennial and to encourage networking between participants across the state.

## PROMOTING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

To capture the attention and imagination of Minnesotans across the state and raise their awareness of the upcoming Sesquicentennial, the staff planned a series of promotions beginning in 2007.

### Kick-Off Press Conference

On March 1, 2007, Gov. Tim Pawlenty hosted a press conference at the State Capitol to announce plans for the Sesquicentennial celebrations, introduce Commission members and the newly hired executive director. It was fitting that a snowstorm blustered outside, nearly 150 years to the day the U.S. Congress passed an act allowing voters in Minnesota Territory to begin work on becoming a state.

Gov. Pawlenty was joined by Commission members, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie and Supreme Court Associate Justice Paul H. Anderson, who held up his weathered, but still colorful, copy of the special section created by the Minneapolis Star newspaper in 1949 for the Territory's Centennial.

The governor outlined the purpose of the Sesquicentennial observance, saying that "today we remember the perseverance and determination of Minnesota's early leaders who brought us together as a state, and we look forward to another 150 years of the enterprising and innovative spirit that makes Minnesota special."

Pawlenty announced plans for a matching grants program, fundraising efforts and events at local and state levels. He also submitted to the State Legislature a request for \$2 million to fund the Sesquicentennial (eventually the Legislature allocated \$1.6 million) to be matched by communities, corporations, foundations and individuals — which did occur, nearly three times over.

Also that day, Yves Roux, vice president and creative director of the marketing and advertising firm BBDO, unveiled the official Sesquicentennial logo, the first in-kind contribution to the Sesquicentennial by a Minnesota corporation.

### Minnesota Rural Summit

In May 2007, the annual Minnesota Rural Summit devoted its theme and timing to the Sesquicentennial, hosting the conference in Brainerd, May 10-11. "Thriving by Design" looked ahead at Minnesota's future — land use, changing demographics, cultural diversity, etc. — after looking back at the effects of 150 years of settlement.

Minnesota's regional public library systems also agreed to be hosts and shepherds for the Sesquicentennial banners and journals, which made their first appearance at the Rural Summit. Over the next 12 months, two — and eventually four — sets of banners and journals made their way

GOV. TIM PAWLENTY SIGNS THE FIRST SESQUI AMBASSADOR BANNER THAT TRAVELED TO LIBRARIES ACROSS MINNESOTA DURING 2007-2008.



across Minnesota via community libraries, stopping for up to three weeks at each location.

The banners became the Commission's roving ambassadors well before there was adequate staff and funding for more complicated programming and outreach. Library staff hosted events and programs around these materials. Thousands of people viewed the banners and signed the journals, recording their thoughts about Minnesota and hundreds of local newspapers printed stories and photos.

The first banner was autographed by nearly every state legislator, the governor and Minnesota's two U.S. senators at one of two events: the State of the State address in St. Cloud in February 2008 and when the banner arrived at the State Capitol steps on May 11, 2008 for the Statehood Day ceremonies. The journals and banners are archived with the Sesquicentennial collection at the Minnesota History Center.

### 2007 Minnesota State Fair Booth

If you want to reach Minnesotans from every corner of the state and every walk of life, have a booth at the Minnesota State Fair, the Great Minnesota Get-Together. And give away something on a stick. That's exactly what the Sesquicentennial staff did for its first major promotional event that lasted 12 hours a day for the 12 days of the fair.

Minnesota Constitution Day is August 29, the constitution also was celebrating its 150th anniversary, so the timing was perfect to focus on statehood at the late-August to early-September fair.

Visitors to the booth received not only information about the Sesquicentennial and how to get involved, but also took away a souvenir "Constitution-on-Stick" — a stick-mounted flyer with the Democratic-signed version of the first Minnesota Constitution printed on one side and the Republican-signed version on the other.

A birthday cake for the state; a flag-raising by Sesquicentennial Commission members, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie and constitutional expert and Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Paul H. Anderson; participation in the daily fair parade by Sesqui staff and Commissioners in 1850s

COMMISSION VICE CHAIR REATHA CLARK KING WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CREATING A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR MINNESOTA'S ANNIVERSARY.

garb; and visits from characters Trix the Rabbit (General Mills) and Spammy (Hormel) were Sesqui highlights of the 2007 fair.

Besides beginning to engage the public in the Sesquicentennial, the booth served another purpose — to collect mailing and e-mail addresses for a comprehensive list of people wanting more information or interested in volunteering for the big events to come in 2008.

### Community Spirit Program

Stillwater was one of the first towns in Minnesota, so it's only fitting that the kick-off of the Sesquicentennial's Community Spirit Program was held at "The Birthplace of Minnesota" on September 18, 2007 at the Water Street Inn. Helping with the launch were a local fourth-grade class, Main Street merchants and the Stillwater Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Community Spirit Program served as a clearing-house for "street graphics" — Sesquicentennial flags, large-sized banners, light-post banners and sidewalk decals — for communities to get in the Sesqui spirit. Communities could even request large-scale graphics for buildings or special decals to turn cars into Sesqui-mobiles. The Community Spirit Program also offered Sesqui gear ranging from pins and medallions to caps and t-shirts to travel mugs and souvenir license plates.

### Sesquicentennial stamp

The Mississippi River begins its journey to the Gulf of Mexico in Minnesota. From earliest times, it was the site of settlements and commerce. That's why the great river was chosen as the subject for the Minnesota Statehood Commemorative stamp.





Minnesota photographer Richard Hamilton Smith captured a view looking north from Winona of a glass-smooth river reflecting the late-afternoon sun, dotted with islands and spanned by Winona's iconic bridge. The stamp's design was unveiled and announced at a reception on October 6, 2007 at Winona State University, which also celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2008 and is the oldest publicly supported college west of the Mississippi.

The stamp was officially dedicated and made available nationwide on May 17, 2008 as part of the Statehood Week festivities. Commission Vice Chair Dr. Reatha Clark King was instrumental in making the inquiries and following through with the U.S. Postal Service to ensure that Minnesota's 150th anniversary stamp became a reality.

### Capitals for a Day nominations

St. Paul is the official capital of Minnesota, but to raise awareness of and celebrate the state's diverse ecological "biomes," cultures and people, it shared that honor with five other Minnesota cities during Statehood Week, May 11-18, 2008 and throughout the remainder of the Sesquicentennial Summer.

Rather than working within the imposed county and regional/district government borders of the state, the Sesquicentennial staff adopted Minnesota's unique ecological and geological features for the regional zones. The concept behind this decision was to encourage people in Minneapolis, for example, to understand that they share the same kind of ecological landscape as a small town in northwestern Minnesota.

The biomes were defined as the coniferous forest of the northeast; the tallgrass aspen parklands of the northwest; the deciduous forest that bisects the state diagonally from Ada to Zumbrota; the western prairie grasslands; and the driftless area of the far southeast.

This project also helped the state's residents understand how unique Minnesota is, and why we love and seek to preserve our great outdoors. It's the only place in the North American continent where three major biomes converge — deciduous, coniferous, and prairie. This makes Minnesota's plant and animal life exceedingly diverse.

In October and November, 2007, Minnesotans were encouraged to submit an online nomination at [www.mn150years.org](http://www.mn150years.org), including an essay of up to

150 words, of communities to serve as a Capital for a Day that best represented the people, culture and heritage of the region. Once the nominations were closed, the entries were divided by region prior to online voting. Voters could read the nomination essays, then make their selection of one community in each region. Nearly 11,000 visitors participated in the online poll.

The five honorary Capitals were announced December 5, 2007 at a press conference with Gov. Pawlenty. He presented the mayors of Bemidji, Detroit Lakes, New Ulm, Thief River Falls and Winona with official Capital for a Day certificates.

Each community organized hundreds of volunteers and planned months of Capital for a Day-inspired celebrations and events. The communities also were featured on their own day during the Statehood Week festivities (see pg. 21.)

### Highway welcome signs

To let travelers know that Minnesota is an exceptional place filled with exceptional people celebrating its 150th anniversary of statehood, signs announcing the Sesquicentennial were placed at every highway entry point into the state by 2008. The signs, measuring 5.5 feet by 2.5 feet, read, "Minnesota 1858-2008, 150 Years of Statehood."

Special signs also were installed at highway entrances to each of the Capital for a Day cities.

All highway signs were scheduled for removal in early 2009 and will be offered for sale: \$500 for each of the 67 signs on a first-come, first-served basis. Communities, businesses, individuals and organizations that buy them could display them as lasting reminders of this special year.

### Sesquicentennial song

The weather was frosty on January 12, 2008, but the music was hot. The Sesquicentennial Song, "Shines for All to See," debuted at the Roseville Jazz-fest. Commissioned by the Sesquicentennial Commission and the Roseville Visitors Association, the upbeat music and lyrics were written by Dean Sorenson, director of jazz studies and the Minnesota Jazz Band at the University of Minnesota.

Called "a good, sing-along song," the Sesqui song praises the beauty, people, cultures and traditions, lakes and waterways of the place Minnesotans call

home. The song was sung by choirs, audiences and individuals throughout the Sesquicentennial Year.

### Sesquicentennial license plates

There are vanity vehicle license plates and then there are special plates — license plates that allow owners to show their support for the environment, the troops and, starting in 2008, the Sesquicentennial.

Commission member and State Sen. Ann H. Rest, State Rep. Mary Murphy, Duluth Mayor Don Ness and Secretary of State Mark Ritchie unveiled the Sesqui plates at a ceremony outside the Maritime

Museum in Duluth on August 13, 2008. Duluth was chosen because it marks the beginning of State Scenic Highway 61 that runs along Minnesota's famed North Shore.

Sen. Rest, was instrumental in shepherding the plates through the lengthy approval process at the State Capitol. She was helped in these efforts by other

Commission members who also are state legislators and co-sponsor State Sen. Scott Dibble.

As a side note, people asked why the license plates weren't available earlier in the Sesquicentennial Year. Ironically, Minnesota has so many vanity plates that the legislature had become cautious in approving new ones. But honoring statehood prevailed, and the plates went on sale from 2008 until 2011.

Price of the plates are \$35, with \$25 dedicated to the Sesquicentennial Commission to support programs and activities during the Sesqui year. Funds leftover and those raised after the Sesquicentennial will benefit the restoration of the Minnesota State Capitol.

### Volunteers

The Minnesota Sesquicentennial would not have happened without the thousands of grassroots volunteers across the state.

The Commission began its work with a full-time staff of one. Eventually, full-time staffing rose to four, with several Sesquicentennial Fellows (current college students and recent graduates) contributing their time and talents from Summer 2007 until the Commission's sunset in January 2009.

For the Statehood Week and State Fair in 2008 alone we needed — and got — 300 and 600 volunteers respectively, working shifts of three hours or more. Thousands of hours of volunteer time were donated by community leaders and citizens both young and young at heart. They produced more than 500 officially recognized events, over 150 grant projects, plus the Capital for a Day events in Bemidji, Thief River Falls, Detroit Lakes, New Ulm and Winona.

In an age when everyone is pulled in so many directions by other community responsibilities, it was heart warming and inspiring to see people turn out to help, excited by the Sesquicentennial.

We can't include the 3,000-plus people on our mailing list in this report, but you'll find the list of Sesquicentennial Ambassadors on pg. 34. These volunteers served as a conduit for information between their counties and the Sesquicentennial staff.



# TIME OF COMMEMORATION & CELEBRATION MAY TO SEPTEMBER 2008

**SUMMER 2008** LIVED up to its billing as Sesqui-Sensational. One blockbuster Sesquicentennial Commission event kicked off the summer in May, while another provided a grand finale in September and scores of community, state park and historical site events amused, educated, informed and thrilled participants in between. The following is an overview of the key events; there's an addendum that lists all Sesqui events from January through December 2008 at the back of this report.

## STATEHOOD WEEK, MAY 11-18

On May 11, 1858, Minnesota became a state. May 11, 2008 should have been the ideal date for commemorating this momentous anniversary. But a big one-day celebration would have clashed with two other time-honored Minnesota traditions: the fishing opener and Mother's Day. Instead, May 11, 2008 kicked off more than a week's worth of events focused on statehood, democracy, public service, and of course, fun.



### May 4-11

Wagons, ho! On May 11, Wagon Master Jon Olson led the 19 wagons of the Minnesota Statehood Sesquicentennial Wagon Train out of Cannon Falls to begin an eight-day re-creation of an authentic pioneer journey.

- More than 135 people participated in the wagon train, which wound its way from Cannon Falls to Red Wing to Hastings to Inver Grove Heights then on to Fort Snelling.
- Along the way, townspeople were invited to visit the wagon camp and take part in the heritage festivities.
- The wagon train arrived on the State Capitol grounds in St. Paul and took part in the Statehood Day commemoration.

### May 6-18

A copy of the original Declaration of Independence was placed on display at the Minnesota Historical Society, thanks to the efforts of Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, Commission member and Dolan Media executive Sarah Janecek, and the MHS and Commission staffs. The MHS estimates that nearly 20,000 viewed the document free of charge.

### May 10

The Minnesota Twins baseball team played the World Series Champions, the Boston Red Sox. The game was dedicated to the Sesquicentennial, and

- The Metrodome concourse featured Sesqui videos playing on the game monitors and Sesqui signage.
- The Twins wore a special Sesqui logo uniform patch.
- More than 30,000 fans received a Statehood Week invitation postcard when they arrived at the ballpark.
- Pre-game ceremonies included a flag raising, introduction of the Sesquicentennial Commission members, singing of the Sesqui song by the combined choirs of Armstrong and Cooper High Schools in Robbinsdale, and throwing of the ceremonial first pitches by Sesquicentennial Executive



MINNESOTA TWINS JANE LEONARD OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL AND HER SISTER KARIN SONNEMAN TOSS OUT THE FIRST PITCH AT A TWINS GAME.

NEARLY 20 WAGONS PULLED ONTO THE STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOLLOWING THEIR WEEK-LONG JOURNEY FROM CANNON FALLS.



Director Jane Leonard and her Minnesota twin sister Karin Sonneman of Winona.

- During the 7th inning stretch, Sesqui Commission member Sen. Ann H. Rest led the crowd in baseball's national anthem, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Sen. Rest was instrumental in working with the Twins to arrange this tribute and quintessentially Minnesotan way to kick-off a week of festivities.

## May 11

On the official Statehood Day, Gov. Tim Pawlenty, state and federal elected officials — including all the state legislative leaders and U.S. Sens. Norm Coleman and Amy Klobuchar — and the Sesquicentennial Commissioners gathered for a short commemoration ceremony on the steps of the State Capitol. They also were on hand to greet the Sesquicentennial wagon train and recognize the Sesquicentennial Essay Contest winners.



GOV. ORVILLE FREEMAN AWARDS THE CENTENNIAL BABY CERTIFICATE TO DWAYNE OSTREM AND HIS MOTHER IN 1958.

Former First Lady Jane Freeman, whose husband Orville Freeman served as governor during the Statehood Centennial in 1958, introduced the Centennial Baby

Dwayne Elton Ostrem. Ostrem was born May 11, 1958 at Fairview Hospital in Minneapolis, practically 100 years to the moment that Minnesota became a state. He is now a civic leader and bank vice president in Rushford, Minn. In 1958, he won the WCCO radio contest to become Minnesota's Centennial Baby.

## May 12-16

Now it was time for the Capitals for a Day to shine. Each honorary capital, nominated and elected online by Minnesotans, hosted unique events to showcase its community and region. Sesqui staff and Commission Chair Cay Shea Hellervik boarded vehicles after the Statehood Day ceremony and made the rounds of the Capitals celebrations. At each stop, the ceremonies included a brief speech by Gov. Tim Pawlenty or Lt. Gov. Carol Molnau, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie and a community conversation to discuss the Plan for Our Future. The rest was up to the individual Capitals. Here are some highlights:

- **Bemidji, May 12.** A community-wide pancake breakfast and flag raising at City Hall were followed by a horse-drawn wagon tour of the town and lunch in Diamond Point Park. Festivities wrapped up with a theater performance that evening.
- **Thief River Falls, May 13.** Community events included an address by the governor, the unveiling of the Sesquicentennial cancellation stamp in honor of the state commemorative stamp, an art and local resources and businesses exhibit, a breakfast honoring local businesses and a picnic at the ice arena.
- **Detroit Lakes, May 14.** Detroit Lakes used this opportunity to dedicate a lakeside sailboat sculpture and host a picnic for the community complete with boat rides and giveaways. Lunch ceremonies featured former Gov. Al Quie and current State Auditor Rebecca Otto. There also was a huge community trade show in the afternoon at the lakeside pavilion where local organizations displayed their resources, a farmers market sold local foods and crafts, and stained glass art show participants showcased their work on the sparkling windows surrounding the pavilion. The community held a dance the night before.



A WORKER NETS A CATFISH FOR THE DNR'S CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING CONTEST IN THE MINNESOTA RIVER AT NEW ULM.

- **New Ulm, May 15.** A pancake breakfast filled the sports arena; a dedication ceremony at the museum reminded attendees of New Ulm's unique place in Minnesota history; a lunch and band concert entertained visitors and residents; Lt. Gov. Molnau helped release a huge catfish for the DNR contest into the Minnesota River (It was caught and released several weeks later; the lucky angler won \$1,000.); and a city-wide picnic in the park featuring music and dancing ended a great day.



- **Winona.** The day started with a Native American sunrise and reconciliation ceremony and tours of the city, surrounding bluffs and historic banks and businesses. City Hall hosted the student-run “State Legislature,” with Gov. Pawlenty opening the session. A flag-raising and honor guard salute preceded unveiling of the state stamp depicting Winona’s slice of the Mississippi. The Winona celebration wrapped up with a picnic by the river, readings by its poet laureate, an all-city aerial photo and fireworks.

### May 17-18

Culmination of Statehood Week was the Statehood Weekend Festival held on the State Capitol grounds. An estimated 22,000 visitors attended the two-day celebration, which included:

- **Sesquicentennial stamp unveiling.** Introduction of a life-sized version of the stamp was marked by a flyover by vintage airplanes, including one of the first, pre-World War II airmail delivery planes and rare World War II-era warbirds — the P-38, P-52 and other fighters, bombers and trainer planes.
- **Exhibits, entertainment.** Supported and organized by the State Agency Working Group, the exhibits showcased state resources. Sesqui gear was available for purchase and entertainment reflected the diversity of Minnesota performers.
- **Commemoration Ceremony.** Both solemn and exhilarating, this centerpiece of Statehood Week featured a flyover of four Minnesota Air National Guard F-16s; performances by the All-State Choir led by renowned conductor Philip Brunelle and the University of Minnesota Jazz Band; the Honor Song presented by the Leech Lake Nation; a Sesquicentennial address by Gov. Tim Pawlenty; a 100-soldier march by the Minnesota National Guard; satellite link to Minnesota soldiers in Iraq; and grand-finale fireworks.

## SUMMER OF SESQUI EVENTS

The following is a snapshot of activities that took place during the Sesquicentennial Summer. Some were funded by Sesquicentennial grants, some were part of annual community celebrations, some were new events just for Sesqui-time, but all told Minnesota’s story through innovative programs, events, exhibits, presentations and performances. (See all 500 beginning on pg. 46.)



WINONA RESIDENTS ASSEMBLED TO FORM THE SHAPE OF MINNESOTA DURING CAPITAL FOR A DAY FESTIVITIES.

- *Celebrating Change and Resilience*, an interpretive exhibit of the Ojibwe culture.
- *Land of 10,000 Lakes: Minnesota’s 150-year connection to water* enacted by Heart of the Beast puppet theater.
- *They Chose Minnesota*, an oral history and DVD of older and more recent immigrants.
- *Held in the Heartland: German POWs in the Midwest*, a bus tour to POW detention sites in Minnesota.
- *Obsidian Arts: 150 years of African-American Artists in Minnesota*, an exhibit and documentation of black artists’ work since statehood.
- *The State We’re In: Critical and Creative Approaches to Minnesota’s History at 150*, a conference and research event hosted by St. John’s University, Collegeville.
- *Lakes Bluegrass Festival*, held at the Cass County fairgrounds.
- *Before the Plow*, a presentation about the Des Moines River landscape near Jackson.
- *Voyageur Canoes on the Rum River*, a family tour at Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park.
- *Dakota City Chautauqua*, a musical theater salute to Dakota County in 1858 held at the fairgrounds.
- *Lake of the Woods Master Gardener Tour*, a tour of the county’s northland gardens.

### Sesqui Spotlight Tours

Minnesotans and visitors were invited to blaze their own trail and become acquainted with the state’s unique natural areas through the Spotlight Tours. Each tour showcased a region of the state hosted by its Capital for a Day winner: tallgrass aspen parklands, prairie, deciduous forest, coniferous forest and driftless area. The tours, which could be found online at [www.mn150years.org](http://www.mn150years.org), featured the towns, events, attractions, parks, historical sites and special beauty in the regions. The Web site provided links to help travelers plan their visits.

## Walking the Pembina Trail

Ox carts trundled along the Pembina Trail from Winnipeg to St. Paul, establishing our capital city as a major trading center. Over 400 miles and 40 days, Orlin Ostby, his family and the ox pulling an authentic Red River ox cart retraced the trail July 1-August 21, arriving in St. Paul on the opening day of the State Fair. Ostby was inspired to take on this challenge by his friend, Delmar Hagen, who accomplished the same walk for the Minnesota Centennial. Online users could follow their progress at [www.walkingthepembinatrail.com](http://www.walkingthepembinatrail.com).



MORE THAN 100,000 FAIRGOERS TOOK IN EVENTS AND EXHIBITS AT THE 2008 STATE FAIR CHAUTAUQUA.

## Sesquicentennial at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair

In the two, gleaming white, flag-topped, air-conditioned, circus-style tents of the State Fair Chautauqua 150 Years of Statehood Big Top, Minnesotans came together for one last blockbuster event of the Sesqui Summer. Over 100,000 people passed through the tents and during the 12-day run of the fair, they could:

- Watch daily performances of "Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star," a compelling, original musical tribute written especially for the Sesquicentennial by Warren Nelson, Fairmont native and director of the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua. More than 40,000 people watched these engaging and enlightening shows.
- Listen to experts and join in the discussion of issues including natural resources, innovation, health and wellness, arts and culture and educa-

tion as part of "Minnesota Real and Imagined: What Minnesotans Need to Know for the Next 50 Years." The programs were taped and later rebroadcast by partner organization TPT - The Minnesota Channel, thanks to funding by the Bush Foundation.

- Buy Sesqui gear.
- Tour a changing schedule of exhibits, many of which were funded by Sesquicentennial grants or hosted by Sesquicentennial Commission partners.
- Pick up a copy of *Make It Minnesotan!*, the official Sesquicentennial cookbook, and have it signed by one of the contributors.
- Recognize Sesqui sponsors.
- Get a souvenir Sesqui Big Top Chautauqua fan with a schedule of all events in the tents. To promote the Sesqui Big Top, 30,000 fans also were handed out at the August 23, 2008 pre-season game between the Minnesota Vikings and the Pittsburgh Steelers.
- Honor the Sesqui-Century farms and the families who operated them. Department of Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson led the tribute to the state's agricultural heritage and future.
- View scenes from Minnesota's history on the big screens between events in the Big Top, thanks to programs such as Minnesota Minutes, based on the Bell Museum's award-winning documentary, "Minnesota: History of the Land."
- Celebrate Minnesota's past and present through storytelling, interviews and more.

## SESQUICENTENNIAL SALUTE TO MINNESOTA BUSINESSES

The event was the 13th Annual Minnesota Development Conference. The highlight was a Sesquicentennial salute to Minnesota businesses that recognized their legacy of innovation and their support for the Sesquicentennial. Commission member and State Rep. Sondra Erickson presented a certificate of appreciation to The Travelers Companies, Inc., Minnesota's oldest corporation in operation (started around the time of statehood) and one of the major sponsors of the Sesquicentennial State Fair exhibition.

# TIME OF REFLECTION & LEGACY

## MAY 2008 TO JANUARY 2009

**THE SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR** closed on December 31, 2008, but many of the major activities were designed to have a lasting impact on the state and to leave a legacy of information about this point in the state's history. These are the projects that encouraged reflection about the past and captured Minnesotan's aspirations for the future.

### MANY VOICES – ONE MINNESOTA: SESQUICENTENNIAL PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE

Plan for Our Future was a key Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission project to explore Minnesotans' vision for the future and their role in creating that future. The Commission's Engage the Public, Plan for Our Future Committee, co-chaired by members State Sen. Ann H. Rest and State Rep. Morrie Lanning, organized the statewide effort. Planning began in Fall 2006, with implementation starting in Spring 2007.

The resulting report, *Many Voices – One Minnesota: A Sesquicentennial Plan for our Future*, was carefully constructed to thoughtfully and accurately represent Minnesota in 2008 and serve as a roadmap to measure and guide our progress into the future. It included:

- concerns of current citizens,
- opinions of community leaders,
- work that is being done in the legislature, and
- work of other civic-involvement organizations.

To gather this wealth of information, Minnesotans participated in community conversations hosted in more than one-third of the state's counties or responded online to these questions:

- What do we want the future to be like for the next generations?
- What are the "got-to-deal-with" issues if we're going to make that future real?
- What would you like to tell Minnesotans 50 years from now that you are working on today to ensure they have the same or better quality of life you have now?

Community conversations took place between Fall 2007 and Summer 2008 in more than 30 counties in eight Regional Development Commissions and in the Twin Cities metro area. These town hall-style meetings were open to everyone and facilitated by staff members from the RDCs working in partnership with Commission staff. Facilitators led the meetings, following a format and guidelines developed by the Sesquicentennial Commission.

Each meeting lasted one and a half to two hours and was divided into two segments: a period for participants to write answers to the questions, and one for group discussion. All of the written, anonymous responses were collected and sent to the Sesquicentennial Commission where they were recorded and organized.

The responses fell into several broad categories: economy, education, transportation, environment, health care, social issues and government. Overall, citizens were both engaged and thoughtful in their responses.

Coming directly from Minnesotans, these responses form the heart of *Plan for Our Future*. Many thanks are owed to the RDCs for their willingness to organize and host the community conversations. The responses form a fascinating record of how Minnesotans feel regarding our state's opportunities and challenges for the future.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS, LIKE THIS ONE IN BEMIDJI, PROVIDED INSIGHTS FOR THE PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE.





Staff also interviewed community leaders and professionals representing the cultural and socio-political spectrum of Minnesota. These apolitical interviews were the idea of Commission Vice Chair Dr. Reatha Clark King and were made up of questions from the community conversations, as well as those about the participant's area of expertise and perspective.

Minnesota is fortunate to have many organizations working toward a brighter future. To highlight their efforts and gauge progress on issues, the Plan for Our Future report also contains a list of those organizations and summaries of their current work. This progress report was designed not only to help future generations learn from what we were doing in 2008, but also describe our priorities and values and what we were doing to ensure progress.

And finally, letters were sent to each of the RDCs requesting summaries of their regions, including current and future challenges and opportunities. These reports helped tie the rest of the information together and provided the most accurate snapshot of Minnesota, by region, in 2008.

The final product, *Many Voices – One Minnesota: A Sesquicentennial Plan for Our Future* is a thoughtful, and thought-provoking look at Minnesota in the year 2008 — our concerns, our desires, and our ideas of how to ensure Minnesota maintains and improves its celebrated culture, commitment to civic engagement and high standard of living. This report hopefully will serve as a living document, functioning as a reminder of where we stand today so we and others who follow may take informed steps forward.

## SESQUI PLEDGE & CIVIC ANGAGEMENT PROJECT

At the end of the Sesquicentennial Year, the Commission and staff wanted to look back and see that they had accomplished three key objectives:

- Used the Sesquicentennial as a time to commemorate and learn from our past and tell the stories that should be told so we can move forward with better understanding and compassion;
- Celebrated who we are today as Minnesotans; and
- Recognized the Sesquicentennial as a catalyst to plan for our future to ensure that the next generation of Minnesotans can enjoy the same — or higher — quality of life.

These objectives coalesced around a statewide civic engagement initiative called “Minnesota @ 150, Real & Imagined,” which debuted under the Big Top Chautauqua tent at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair.

Thanks to funding from the Bush Foundation, and partnership with Twin Cities Public Television and the Citizens League, we offered more than 40,000 State Fair goers a chance to learn about Minnesota history — its grand achievement as well as its painful moments — through the Big Top Chautauqua production of “Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star.”

To further engage State Fair visitors with the people and organizations that give Minnesota its rich traditions and diversity, Sesquicentennial Grant project partners staffed fascinating, interactive exhibits in the smaller Chautauqua tent or led performances and discussions under the Big Tent.

Nearly 50,000 visitors had the opportunity to learn more about Native American culture, the early history of the computer industry in Minnesota, the experiences of Minnesota’s “Greatest Generation,” how to preserve historic barns and farmsteads and much more.

Below is a representative list of exhibit and presenting partners for the Minnesota @ 150, Real & Imagined initiative:

- Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Cultural Resource Center
- Explore Minnesota Tourism
- Minnesota Historical Society
- Citizens League CitiZing! Online Civic Engagement Project
- Friends of Minnesota Barns
- Minnesota Bar Association & Historical Society of the Minnesota Supreme Court
- TRACES Museum of History and Culture
- Minnesota’s Greatest Generation Film Festival Award Winners
- In the Heart of the Beast Theatre production of “Land of 10,000 Lakes”

Minnesota @ 150, Real & Imagined also inspired Minnesotans to think about the future of our state. On the fairgrounds and in the Chautauqua exhibit tent, citizens were invited to take a survey updating the Minnesota Milestones, an ongoing effort to shape state planning and policies organized by the State Legislature.





PANELISTS DISCUSS THE STATE'S NATURAL RESOURCES AS PART OF MINNESOTA@150, REAL & IMAGINED AT THE STATE FAIR.

Minnesotans were also able to listen to and interact with some of the state's more provocative thinkers and doers through lively discussions on arts and culture; education; business innovation; health and wellness; and the environment. These discussions were designed to inform citizens about the present status of these issues and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

With funding from the Bush Foundation and through our partnership with TPT, these five live discussions were taped, edited, and aired on the Minnesota Channel 17 in Fall 2008. Additional copies were created and distributed across the state to public and academic libraries, educators and groups such as foundations and planning commissions. For details about the programs, see pg. 54.

## SESQUICENTENNIAL LEGACY & MICRO GRANT PROGRAM

In May 2007, the Minnesota State Legislature appropriated \$325,000 for a Sesquicentennial Grant Program to encourage Minnesota communities and organizations to create meaningful and memorable Sesqui programs. In June 2008, an additional \$260,000 in grant funds was designated for Commission-chosen projects with statewide significance.

The goals of the Grant Program were to:

- achieve broad participation of the people of Minnesota, visitors, local communities, institutions and organizations in activities across the state;
- raise awareness and educate by telling the stories of our past, recognizing the indigenous people of Minnesota, and learning from them and the many ethnic groups that have and continue to come to Minnesota;

- develop a shared vision for the state's future by engaging Minnesotans in civic dialogue; and
- leave a lasting legacy through print, visual, musical and other vehicles, as well as media documentation.

The Commission staff, in conjunction with the Grant Subcommittee of Commissioners, developed the following criteria for awarding the grants. All grant recipients were required to:

- align with Sesquicentennial goals;
- reflect the Sesquicentennial themes of arts & culture; health & wellness; business & innovation; environment; or education.
- show evidence of sufficient planning;
- demonstrate appropriate community outreach, involvement and co-sponsorship; and
- demonstrate the ability to execute the proposed plan.

Grants were awarded in two categories: Micro Grants of up to \$1,000 and Legacy Grants of \$5,000-\$7,500. To gain additional public and private support, all Sesquicentennial Grant recipients were required to match their award one-to-one with cash and/or in-kind and donated goods and services.

### Micro Grants

Many more grant applications were received than could be funded. For the two Micro Grant award

WASECA COUNTY RECEIVED A MICRO GRANT TO DEVELOP AN EXHIBIT OF PHOTOS AND STORIES OF COUNTY RESIDENTS.





A COORDINATOR SHOWS OFF ARTWORK FOR A PHOTO AND ART EXHIBIT OF OJIBWE CULTURE CREATED BY THE WHITE EARTH LAND RECOVERY PROJECT IN CALLOWAY.

rounds in August and December 2007, 186 proposals were submitted, but only 108 projects could be funded. The Commission ensured that all 87 Minnesota counties had programs and activities funded by Micro Grants.

### Legacy Grants

Competition for Legacy Grants — awards of up to \$7,500 for projects aiming to create enduring creations or investments — was even greater, and only \$150,000 was available to fund them. Once again, two award rounds were offered. The initial round, held in September 2007, attracted 52 proposals totaling more than \$350,000 in requested funds. Of these, 16 proposals met the scoring cutoff. In round two, 114 grant applications were submitted, with 16 scoring high enough to merit funding.

A full list of the Micro Grants, Legacy Grants and statewide grants can be found on pg. 36.

### Impact of the Grants

Sesquicentennial grants made a remarkable impact in communities large and small. We can't describe each one in detail, but from our experiences, we found the Sesquicentennial Grant Programs grants to be:

#### Catalysts for action and additional support

Although recipients were required to match each dollar received with a dollar in cash or in-kind or donated goods, the average match at the time of funding was nearly to three to one. By the time most projects were complete, the matching donations were closer to five to one, underscoring the leveraging capacity of an initial public investment.

#### Individual and community 'capacity-enhancers'

The vast majority of grant recipients were first-time applicants for public funding. Not surprisingly, staff

provided considerable technical assistance, both during the application phase and to help grantees complete required reporting. We believe this investment of time — although a real challenge, given the Commission's thin staffing — will continue to reap benefits because individuals and community groups now feel "empowered and educated" in seeking public and private support for projects.

For example a Becker County township grant recipient said, "The application process and reporting were a stretch for our small group, but we learned a lot along the way. We think we know enough now to compete for other grants."

In addition to honing fundraising skills, the application and implementation process prompted development of new community alliances that will endure beyond the Sesquicentennial project. As one recipient said, "Through an impressive collaboration between the county, the cities, the county park board, the schools and a host of other organizations, the 850 residents of Lac Qui Parle County who attended this event spent a day together in a nearly unknown park and celebrated their history and heritage."

#### Stimulus to local cultural and natural resources

The reference above to use of little-known resources was echoed by a number of grantees. Numerous professional staff at regional parks and heritage sites reported that grant-funded projects garnered much-needed exposure and visibility, even in their home regions.

A grantee from Rock County said, "One result was that everyone had the opportunity to learn more about Blue Mounds State Park, its herd of bison, its walking and hiking trails along the cliff line, and hopefully many of these people will return to the park."

At least 20 organizations, both in the metro and in Greater Minnesota, told us that the one-time infusion of funds enabled them to experiment with programs and formats that attracted new audiences.

For example, metro-area project directors with Minneapolis' Marcy Open School and Mill City Museum, said, "Our diverse student body is a microcosm of the changing population in Minnesota. And yet many of these families do not participate in the broader culture of our city. The hands-on exhibits at the Museum are especially useful to families for whom English is not a first language."

### Renewing civic and community identity

Commission staff received numerous accounts of the ways in which even very small grants had an impact beyond their size. Organizers for Rothsay's (pop. 500) 125th anniversary events that attracted 2,000 visitors, said, "There was a huge swell of community pride. People came to town who had not been here for years. It refocused our effort to continue a yearly celebration and renewed community spirit."

## MORE SESQUI LEGACY PROJECTS

Through several projects, the Sesquicentennial will continue beyond December 31, 2008. These legacy projects include:

### State Fair Big Top Chautauqua CDs

Performances of "Old Minnesota Song of the North Star" were recorded and made available on CDs through the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua's gift shop at [www.bigtop.org](http://www.bigtop.org). The State Fair Chautauqua attracted enough attention and participation that an effort is underway to bring it back in 2009.

### Sesquicentennial commemorative stamps

Due to the interest and enthusiasm generated by the Sesquicentennial stamp, the Sesquicentennial Commission and U.S. Postal Service held a "second-day issue" ceremony June 14, 2008 at the historic Ard Godfrey House in Minneapolis. Godfrey was the first postmaster of Minneapolis, which also was celebrating its 150th anniversary.

At the ceremony, collectors were able to purchase special \$5 caches with the Minnesota stamp and a sketch of the Ard Godfrey House, thanks to the efforts of the Woman's Club of Minneapolis which manages the House, and the Minnesota Federation of Stamp Clubs.

The Federation was a steady partner throughout the Sesquicentennial Year, helping to host key events surrounding the commemorative postage stamp design and official release. The stamp remained on sale through 2008.

### 'Make It Minnesotan!' Sesqui cookbook

One of the insights into a time, a place and its people are the foods they cook and enjoy. Led by



Sesquicentennial Fellow Claire Plank, a committee of volunteers created *Make It Minnesotan!*, a cookbook that captures the flavors and foods – and the stories behind them – that make Minnesota cooking unique.

SESQUICENTENNIAL FELLOWS PROMOTE THE SESQUI COOKBOOK AT A SUMMER EVENT.

The recipes gleaned from more than 800 entries represent all 87 counties and reflect the remarkable diversity of the state's population and the broad sweep of its history.

Published by Nodin Press, a Twin Cities-based publishing house, *Make It Minnesotan!* is available for \$19.95 online through the Sesquicentennial Web site, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com), as well as many local stores and attractions. To market the book, committee members and contributors appeared at numerous book signings throughout the state. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook benefited the Sesquicentennial and restoration of the Minnesota State Capitol.

### 'Greetings from Minnesota!' Sesqui mosaic

Visitors to the Food Building at the Minnesota State Fair can sample a taste of the Sesquicentennial for years to come. "Greetings from Minnesota!" a monumental, mosaic-tile postcard depicting scenes from Minnesota was installed on the north side of the Food Building during the 2008 state fair. We hope it's still there for the Bicentennial!





SUSAN WARNER WAS THE LEAD ARTIST FOR THE "GREETINGS FROM MINNESOTA" MOSAIC.

Lead artist on this public-arts project was Susan Warner of Mississippi Mud Works in Minneapolis. Throughout the Sesquicentennial Year, hands-on opportunities were offered in communities statewide so citizens could work on the piece.

### Sesqui license plates

Sesquicentennial plates were approved by the Minnesota Legislature during the summer of 2008. Vehicle owners can purchase these special plates through the Department of Public Safety/Driver and



SEN. ANN H. REST SHOWS OFF THE FIRST SESQUICENTENNIAL LICENSE PLATE.

Vehicle Services and online when they renewed their license tabs.

Price of the plates is \$35, with \$25 dedicated to the Sesquicentennial Commission to support programs and activities during the Sesqui Year. Because the plates are available for three years, funds raised after the Sesquicentennial benefit the restoration of the Minnesota State Capitol.

### Archives

The Minnesota Statehood Sesquicentennial archives are made up of the official documents, correspondence, work papers, and notes from the Sesquicentennial Commission and are stored at the Minnesota History Center.

The archives also stretch across time and space to represent as many of the Sesquicentennial artifacts as possible from 2005 to early 2009. These include commemorative items such as medallions, flags, official cookbook, locally produced items and written, audio and/or visual materials from the grant projects, events and programs, particularly anything that features the official logo of the Sesquicentennial.

### We are All Minnesotans – Thank You, Minnesota!

On January 6, 2009, the Commission hosted the final public celebration of the Sesquicentennial. It was a two-hour open house reception at the State Capitol to thank all the volunteers and legislators who had been instrumental in supporting and carrying out the 150th statehood anniversary events and activities.

Participants ate state-shaped cookies and viewed the photo and video record of the Sesquicentennial journey from 2007 through 2008. It was a chance — until the bicentennial in 2058 — to gather the Minnesota family in the one home we all share, the State Capitol building. It reinforced another value we share – that we are all Minnesotans, no matter whether we were born here or just arrived several weeks ago.





# MESSAGE TO THE FUTURE & BICENTENNIAL PLANNERS OF 2058

**IN CLOSING THIS** report, Sesquicentennial Executive Director Jane Leonard and staff wanted to share their insights into planning such a massive commemoration. A more in-depth analysis is archived with Leonard's working files at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul.

If you want to do a good job planning for the Bicentennial of Minnesota Statehood, we suggest:

- Begin initial meetings of interested people and organizations about 10 years beforehand to brainstorm and gather support.
- Four years out, make sure you are doing serious planning, fundraising, recruiting of volunteers and hiring full-time paid staff.

The Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission began serious work two years ahead to plan for and implement the statehood anniversary. They began hiring paid staff one year from the Sesquicentennial Year, which began January 2008.

Even though the Commission managed to raise private support, two years was not enough time to fully tap corporations and other funders for major sponsorships. These organizations plan several years in advance how their sponsorship, philanthropic, and marketing funds will be allocated.

Try to avoid competing with other major events the state might be hosting in and around the anniversary year. Coordinate in advance to partner with potential competitors for dollars and media attention. 2008 was an unusual year for national events in Minnesota. The Sesquicentennial had to compete for corporate sponsorships with the Republican National Convention, the National Figure Skating Championships and the U.S. Women's Golf Open.

We coordinated as much as we could with these national, annual and high visibility events. However, they drew far more attention from potential sponsors because they could guarantee corporations valuable exposure year after year. Being a one-time event can make it difficult to convince funders it's worth their investment.

- Clearly delineate the entertainment and educational aspects of the anniversary, especially when you are asking for financial support. Both aspects are important for commemoration and celebration, but they require different approaches and attract different funders and audiences.
- Hire a good staff that includes people knowledgeable and skilled in fundraising, promotion, marketing, grant making, and community and economic development.

Marketing is key because you have to help citizens relearn the concept of statehood. It's an abstract concept — statehood is an invisible status conferred on a place and its people by the U.S. Congress. 150 years after receiving that designation, statehood is taken for granted, even though we depend on it for nearly everything we do for our entire lives.

Promotion is important because recognizing a significant anniversary gives us a chance to — as they said for Minnesota's Centennial in 1958 — “sell Minnesota to Minnesotans.” You have a rare opportunity to help people rediscover their history and explore the unique and fun places from a different perspective. It's a chance for people to be passionate students and tourists in their own state.

Grant making to communities and organizations is critical to help increase engagement. Even the micro grants of \$1,000 or less that we made to small towns, neighborhoods and local organizations across the state seeded teamwork and renewed interest in preserving, promoting and showcasing the incredible creativity Minnesotans possess.

Be prepared to render lots of technical assistance in the grant-making process at the local level. Many organizations that apply for anniversary funding do not have the experience to deal with the abundance of paperwork required by government funding.

Community and economic development experience is a must because so much of what we did for the Sesquicentennial involved community and organizational outreach. Each of the 150 grants and more than 500 events happened because citizens worked together on a common goal, inspired by the occurrence of the Sesquicentennial.



## Minnesota's Indigenous Peoples & the Sesquicentennial

Recognizing the indigenous people of Minnesota, the earliest inhabitants of the land well before statehood, was a main goal set early on by the Sesquicentennial Commission. It should be a prominent part of the Bicentennial observances.

Teaching, learning and increasing our understanding of the American Indian experience and culture are central to understanding why Minnesota at statehood was a crucible, in every sense of the word.

At the time of statehood, Minnesota was a complex mix of cultures, attitudes and values colliding during an era in our nation's history — the 1850s and 1860s — in which the very union of states was in question. What happened then reverberates to this very day and into our future.

Minnesota's admission to the United States stood on the fulcrum of American tragedy and triumph. Immigrants and manifest destiny were pushing older worlds aside for westward expansion, and a Civil War was soon to test the essence of our nation's democratic ideals. As in many other states, the entry into, and early days of statehood, was a difficult time for American Indian cultures.

During the Statehood Sesquicentennial, many people would be paying attention to the wide swath of Minnesota's history, from pre-statehood to the present day. The Sesquicentennial was an ideal time for many stories to be told and learned again.

Commission staff met with tribal leaders and staff members of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council to encourage the involvement of Minnesota's 11 American Indian nations (seven Anishinaabe reservations and four Dakota communities) in the Sesquicentennial observances.

Several Dakota communities declined to participate directly in the official Sesquicentennial activities. However, many alternative events and educational opportunities took place, created by tribal members, scholars and partner groups, such as the Truth and Reconciliation gathering organized by the Winona Dakota Unity Alliance for their Capital for a Day observances, and public seminars such as "American Indians in Minnesota: A Personal History" at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.



MEMBERS OF THE CASS AND LEECH LAKE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS GATHERED AROUND THE STAR QUILT MURAL THEY HELPED CREATE.

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council staff and Commission staff worked together to use Statehood Week and the 2008 State Fair to raise awareness of American Indian history, culture and resources for further learning.

Several grant projects emphasized American Indian culture and history, as well as collaborative efforts between white and American Indian community members.

The Star Quilt Mural project by the Boys & Girls Club in Leech Lake & Cass Lake stands out as most symbolic of these projects. The Star Quilt is a gift that represents both an end and a beginning, and is an object of both honor and function in everyday American Indian spiritual life. The morning star design is similar to the Sacred Circle, representing life's continuous circle. For many Northern Plains tribes, the Star Quilt is one of the most honored gifts a family can give or receive.

This intergenerational project featured boys and girls, ages 6 to 18, who worked together with adults and elders to create the mural. They gave to all Minnesotans something very sacred. They gave us stories depicted in their paintings that help us remember — and never forget — who we are today, where we came from, and where we are headed.

Bicentennial planners, take note and good luck.

# SUPPLEMENTAL SESQUI INFORMATION

## Sesquicentennial Staff

Staffing for the Commission began with one full-time person — the executive director — in March 2007. By May, as funding increased, another full-time staffer was added. We also reached into the college and post-graduate arenas to form a corps of Sesquicentennial Fellows who took on responsibilities far beyond their years of experience.

For full-time staff and Fellows, this was a win-win arrangement. The Commission could accomplish the necessary community outreach, day-to-day legislative and organizational relations, fundraising, public relations, and office operations with a limited staff budget. The Fellows received an experience of a lifetime, which prepared them for career opportunities and challenges.

By summer of 2008, the busiest time of the entire Sesquicentennial, we had 14 full- and part-time people on board: four full-time staff, plus 10 Fel-

lows and interns. They coordinated 150 grant projects, 500 events and managed hundreds of volunteers (600 alone for the 12-day run of the State Fair.) They also planned and implemented the two major statewide events — Statehood Week in May and the State Fair in August.

As the anniversary year wound down in the fall of 2008, staff fell back to four full-time members and an average of four Fellows and part-time interns. They closed out events, activities and reports until the Commission sunset in January 2009.

## Staff

Denise Cumming, office assistant & archivist  
Jane Cunningham, grants & development manager  
Jane Leonard, executive director  
Karen Rickert, executive assistant & financial officer  
Ann Treacy, Webmaster  
Audrey Williams, office volunteer

## Sesquicentennial Fellows

Eric Anunobi, administrative coordinator  
Laura Barrato, community events coordinator  
Tane Danger, communications director  
Rachel Garaghty, Plan for Our Future coordinator  
Daniel George, planning coordinator  
Megan Jung, grants outreach coordinator  
Claire Plank, community outreach coordinator  
Andrew Ranallo, Plan for Our Future coordinator  
Stacy Sielaff, Plan for Our Future coordinator  
Mong Vang, multi-media specialist

## Summer & Fall 2008 Interns

MacKenzie Collins  
David Johnson  
Meera Mansingh  
Rebecca Peichel  
Nick Sarnicki

## SESQUICENTENNIAL MBASSADORS

These volunteers served as the Sesquicentennial Commission staff's eyes and ears and helped engage citizens in their county. They were a touch point for providing information to the communities in their area and for updating the Commission staff on local activities. Their contributions helped make

STAFF SHOWS  
OFF THE NEW  
SESQUI HIGH-  
WAY ENTRANCE  
WELCOME  
SIGNS THAT  
WERE IN-  
STALLED  
THROUGHOUT  
THE STATE.





the Sesquicentennial a truly grassroots, memorable and meaningful event. Thanks to all of you!

### Ambassadors by county

Becker: Roxann Daggett  
 Beltrami: Doug Fuller  
 Big Stone: Norm Shelsta  
 Brown: Charles Enter  
 Carlton: Patti Almquist, Anne Dugan, Milo Rasmussen  
 Carver: Joe Hoppe  
 Chippewa: Tim Douglass  
 Chisago: Scott Friday  
 Clay: Arlen Stangland, Lisa Vedaa  
 Clearwater: Allen Paulson  
 Cottonwood: Linda Fransen, Norm Holmenn, Cheryl Hanson, Cathy Peterson  
 Crow Wing: Carrie Ruud  
 Dakota: Arlen Erdahl, Denny MacNamar, Mike McGinn, Sean Nienow, Bob Stassen  
 Dodge: Randy Demmer, Kathy Demmer  
 Douglas: Rachel Barduson, George Cassell  
 Faribault: Don Ziegler, Clara Vereide  
 Fillmore: Greg Davids, Kenric Scheevel  
 Freeborn: Jean Eaton  
 Goodhue: Steve Sviggum  
 Hennepin: Diana Houston, Barb Sykora  
 Houston: Greg Davids  
 Isanti: Robert Eastlund  
 Itasca: Don Boese  
 Kanabec: Judy Soderstrom  
 Kandiyohi: Richard Larson  
 LeSueur: Jim Donovan, Peg Donovan  
 Lyon: Arlene Lesewski, Ellayne Velde-Convers, Harry Weilage  
 Martin: Scott Higgins  
 McLeod: Lori Pickell-Stangel  
 Meeker: Dean Urdahl, Steve Dille  
 Mille Lacs: Pat Braun, Michelle McPherson  
 Morrison: Greg Blaine  
 Murray: Doug Magnus  
 Norman: Don Merkens  
 Olmsted: Fran Bradley, John Hunziker, Sheila Kiscaden  
 Otter Tail: Roxann Daggett, Bob Block  
 Pennington: Faye Auchenpaugh  
 Pine: Becky Lourey  
 Pipestone: Bud Johnston, Mick Meyers  
 Pope: Tim Douglass, Jim Palmer, Karna Palmer  
 Ramsey: Warren Anderson, Lee Bradford  
 Rice: Ray Cox, Dianne Hohrman  
 Rock: Jane Wildung  
 Sherburne: Ramona Doebler

Sibley: Eldrene Ebert  
 Stearns: Jim Knoblach  
 Steele: Laura Resler  
 Stevens: Mary Hill  
 Swift: Marlys Gallager  
 Traverse: Marcie Conroy, Tammy Conroy  
 Washington: Pat Conley, Karen Klinzing  
 Winona: Michael Charron, Karin Sonneman  
 Wright: Tammi Dahlman  
 Yellow Medicine: Tim Douglass, Dave Zmiglewski



### STATE AGENCY WORKING GROUP

MEMBERS OF THE STATE AGENCY WORKING GROUP MET TO PLAN STATEHOOD WEEKEND.

This group of dedicated state employees ensured coordination of Sesquicentennial-related events and initiatives throughout the state agency system. They worked closely with key agencies that created their own Sesquicentennial planning committees, such as the Secretary of State's office, the court system and the departments of agriculture, education, natural resources and tourism. The State Agency Working Group also helped plan, along with the Commission's Program Committee, the activities of the Statehood Day and Weekend events.

Representing their respective government bodies, agencies or departments were:

Dean Alger, Secretary of State  
 Bryce Anderson, Department of Natural Resources  
 Paul H. Anderson, Supreme Court  
 Roger Bjork, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
 Keith Bogut, Finance  
 Gary Caldwell, Health  
 Brianna Chambers, Education

Jane Cunningham, Sesquicentennial  
 Kathy Dummer, DNR  
 Sue Gens, Minnesota State Arts Board  
 Linda Gremillion, Minnesota State Council on  
 Disability  
 Terry Gunderson, Human Services  
 Cay Shea Hellervik, Sesquicentennial  
 Georgie Hilker, Iron Range Resources  
 Kristine Hiller, DNR  
 Blane Iffert, Minnesota National Guard  
 Andrea Kajer, Minnesota Historical Society  
 David Kelliher, MHS  
 James Kirkpatrick, Human Rights  
 Leann Kispert, Tourism  
 Jane Leonard, Sesquicentennial  
 Linda McDonald, Veteran Affairs  
 Jennifer Osborne, Metropolitan Mosquito Control  
 District  
 James Pointer, DNR  
 Nate Prouty, Public Affairs  
 Dave Radford, DNR  
 Linda Radimecky, DNR  
 Lisa Reiter, Employee Relations  
 Darla Riley, Agriculture  
 Noah Rouen, Public Affairs  
 Mary Somnis, Iron Range Resources  
 Paul Strandberg, Agriculture  
 Colleen Tollefson, Tourism  
 Pat Turgeon, Veteran Affairs

## MINNESOTA MILESTONES SURVEY SUMMARY

In 2008, the Minnesota Legislature directed the Commission to provide ways for Minnesota citizens to give input to the Minnesota Milestones, a series of goal statements for the state's progress, which were produced in the 1990s and updated most recently in 2000.

A grand total of 3,223 respondents from more than 444 different Minnesota ZIP codes completed the Minnesota Milestones ballot. The majority of participants declined to provide geographic or demographic information but opinions of all kinds were expressed; some regarding the 19 Minnesota Milestones, while others focused on the general state of Minnesota as we move into the future.

Full results of the survey were given to the Legislature and the Minnesota Milestones committee, organized by the Departments of Administration and Management and Budget for consideration in the 2009 legislative session.

## SESQUICENTENNIAL GRANT PROGRAM

Through Micro and Legacy grants, the Sesquicentennial had a lasting, meaningful, and even fun, impact on every community and region of the state. The following dedicated individuals made up the Grants Review Panel and rose to the challenge of choosing which projects would receive grants from a large and impressive group of proposals:

Pamela Holt  
 Hennepin County Library, Minneapolis  
 Ruth Johnson,  
 Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter  
 Reatha C. King  
 Sesquicentennial Commission member,  
 Minneapolis  
 Sen. Ann H. Rest  
 Sesquicentennial Commission member,  
 New Hope  
 Lois Schmidt  
 Bremer Foundation, Tracy  
 Reena Shetty  
 Whitney Senior Center, St. Cloud  
 Judy Sutter,  
 Minnesota Department of Education,  
 Coon Rapids  
 Mike Worcester  
 Cokato Historical Society

### Grant Recipients (by county)

#### Aitkin

Heritage Reunion, McGregor Area Historical Society, for tours, historic demonstrations and activities during Heritage Reunion week

#### Anoka

Celebrating the Season: A Civil War Christmas, Anoka County Historical Society, for historic re-enactment of Christmas at a recreated Civil War encampment

Sesquicentennial Wagon Train, Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission, for a wagon train traveling from Cannon Falls to St. Paul

#### Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, St. Louis, Washington

Under the North Star: Music of Minnesota, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, for presentations of choral music at community sites

**Becker**

Forest Township: A 150-Year History, Forest Township, for research and a historical plaque for display in the township hall

**Becker, Mahnomen**

Photos and narrative exhibit Celebrating Change and Resilience: White Earth Land Recovery Project, for creation of an interpretive exhibit exploring 150 years of Ojibwe culture

**Beltrami**

2008 Head of the Lake Picnic/Commemoration, Headwaters School of Music and the Arts, for re-creation of a 19th-century, day-long picnic & festival

**Benton, Otter Tail, Wadena, Traverse**

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung Concerts, Intermedia Arts, for research and performances about "unsung" Minnesotans

**Big Stone**

Clinton 125th Quasquacentennial Celebration, Clinton 125th Committee, for history programs to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Clinton and the state's Sesquicentennial

**Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine**

Sesquicentennial Visual Art Display, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, for original art depicting Sesquicentennial themes

**Blue Earth**

150 Years of Statehood, 155 Years of Blue Earth County Celebrating Together: Exceptional People at an Exceptional Place, for support of a concert, library programs, and interpretive programs to mark the state's and the county's anniversaries

Junior Historians Talking Back to Tomorrow, Blue Earth County Historical Society, for oral history interviews to be broadcasted on local radio by students in grades 6-12

**Brown**

Guide to Brown County History Outdoor Signs, Brown County Historical Society, for creation and placement of five interpretive maps throughout Brown County

**Carlton**

Jay Cooke State Park Open House, Carlton County Historical Society, for historic demonstrations, displays, and re-enactments at the state park

**Carver**

Celebrating 150 Years of Farming & Agriculture, Waconia Chamber of Commerce, for a one-day festival and farmers market celebrating the importance of agriculture in Carver County

Twilight Camp in the North Star State, Autumn Ridge/Southern Stars Girl Scout Twilight Camp, for special Sesquicentennial programs about Minnesota geography at the 16th annual Autumn Ridge Girl Scout camp

Under the North Star: Music of Minnesota, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, for presentations of choral music at community sites

**Cass**

Boys and Girls Club of Leech Lake Area, Boys and Girls Club of Cass Lake, for an intergenerational community mural project in Cass County

Leech Lake Agency Oral History Project, Cass County, for collecting and editing oral histories from the Onigum Ojibwe community

**Chippewa**

Sesquicentennial Visual Art Display, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, for original art depicting Sesquicentennial themes

**Chisago**

Weekend Guest Program-Series 2008, Friends of Wild River State Park, for a series of programs about Ojibwe culture, historic flint knapping, black-smithing and natural history

**Clay**

West Across Minnesota, Rourke Art Museum, for a traveling exhibit of works by noted Minnesota artists on the theme of settlement and expansion

Keeping in Touch in Clay County, Clay County Historical Society, for an exhibit about the use of various communication technologies

**Clearwater**

Courthouse Signage, Clearwater County, for new public signage at the Courthouse

Traveling Through Time: 150 Years in Minnesota's Historic Northwest, Minnesota's Historic Northwest (plus 13 northwestern Minnesota counties) for a traveling exhibit and postcard book exploring the history of the region



**Cook**

Ham Lake Fire, 1st Anniversary, Gunflint Trail Scenic Byway Committee, Gunflint Trail Association, for planting 150 white pine trees to replace trees lost in the Ham Lake fire

Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center, Gunflint Trail Historical Society, for acquisition of AV equipment, displays and dioramas for a new facility

**Cottonwood**

Cottonwood County Student Art Show, Cottonwood County Historical Society, for a county-wide, juried student art competition exploring 150 years of Minnesota and Cottonwood County history

Celebrating our Cultural Heritage in Cottonwood County, Cottonwood County Historical Society, for a county-wide arts project to create an intergenerational fabric arts project, theater production and a community-generated sculpture

**Crow Wing**

Annual Butterfly Release, Pelican Woods Cemetery and Nature Center, for a butterfly release program featuring 2008 Sesquicentennial themes

County Lines Anthology, League of Minnesota Poets, for support of a state-wide poetry anthology

**Dakota**

Art for Kids, Past and Present, Dakota Center for the Arts, for children's arts activities, including printmaking to celebrate the work of Wanda Gag, Minnesota artist and author

Dakota County Sesquicentennial Celebration, Dakota County Library, for a series of programs featuring artists, historians, and musicians in celebration of Dakota County's diverse history and cultures

Building Minnesota: General William LeDuc's Quest for Minnesota Statehood, Dakota County Historical Society, for a series of historic dramatizations featuring the life and times of General William LeDuc

Life in the Yards An End of an Era, City of South St. Paul, for an exhibit and video documenting the history and significance of the South St. Paul stockyards

Celebrating Our Past as We Serve the Future, City of Farmington, for mounting of historic photos in the new City Hall building

**Douglas**

Sesquicentennial Book Project, Douglas County Historical Society, for research and compilation of a commemorative history text/DVD/CD and related community activities

**Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens**

Evansville History Project, Evansville Arts Coalition, Fond-du-Lac, White Earth and Lower Sioux communities, for re-creation and/or collection of indigenous and traditional structures, stories and artifacts to augment the Evansville pioneer historic site

**Faribault**

Restoration of Pink Schoolhouse, Walnut Lake Township, for restoration of flooring and desks within the Walnut Lake Pink Schoolhouse living history site

**Freeborn, Mower**

Tales of Two Counties, Albert Lea Friends of the Library, for creation of two history plays based on local oral histories and other resources

**Grant**

Celebrating our Heritage, Sister City Fellowship of Elbow Lake, for a series of musical programs celebrating the Sister City Fellowship with Flekkefjord, Norway

Evansville History Project, Evansville Arts Coalition, Fond-du-Lac, White Earth and Lower Sioux communities, for re-creation and/or collection of indigenous and traditional structures, stories and artifacts

**Hennepin, Washington, St. Louis, Carver, Anoka**

Under the North Star: Music of Minnesota, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, for presentations of choral music at community sites in several counties

**Hennepin, Ramsey**

Many Languages, Many Voices, One State: Their Legacy Past and Present, Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures and Minnesota New Visions in Action, for an exhibit on languages spoken in the state

**Hennepin**

150 Years of Hennepin Hospitals, County Medical Center History Museum, for an exhibit exploring the changing role of medicine and hospitals in the city's history

Land of 10,000 Lakes: Minnesota's 150-Year Connection to Water, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, for creating and presenting a puppet theater production exploring Minnesota's historic and contemporary relation to water

The Wireless Pond, Minnesota Independent Scholars' Forum and Minnesota Coalition on Government Information, for a day-long public conference exploring issues relating to the preservation of and access to information

Partners in Minneapolis History, Marcy Open School, for research and development of a project on important people, places and events in history

Documentation of Minnesota Barns and Farmsteads, Friends of Minnesota Barns, for a state-wide effort to inventory historic barns and farmsteads

Twin Cities Juneteenth and Minnesota Spokesman Recorder African American History Timeline, Twin Cities Juneteenth, Inc., for a state-wide historical timeline to be featured during Juneteenth activities

Great River Road Travel Guide and Activity Book, Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission, for a travel guide featuring the history and geography of 21 Minnesota counties

They Also Chose Minnesota, Friends of the Immigration History Research Center, for an oral history project and DVD capturing the experience of "older" and "newer" immigrants to Minnesota

Minnovation: 150 Years of Ingenuity, Minneapolis Public Library, for an exhibit exploring inventions developed in Minnesota

Speaking of Home, Public Interest, Inc. and Intermedia Arts, for creation of public art in downtown skyways exploring cross-cultural notions of "home"

Walldogs on Nicollet, Lyndale Neighborhood Association, for community-conceived, professionally rendered murals along Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis

150 Years of African American Artists in Minnesota, Obsidian Arts, Minneapolis, for a visual arts exhibition and digital catalog about black artists in Minnesota since the time of statehood

Minnesota Voices, American Composers Forum, for new compositions to premiere at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair



#### **Houston**

Spring Grove Music in the Park, City of Spring Grove, for a series of concerts celebrating aspects of Minnesota history

#### **Hubbard**

Opening of the Great Northwest: Transportation and Tourism in Northern Minnesota, Headwaters Center for Lifelong Learning, for a series of public programs on the history of tourism and transportation in the Hubbard County region

#### **Isanti**

Cambridge Historic Overlook Walking Loop and Interpretive Signage, Cambridge, for an interpretive walking loop and signage

#### **Itasca**

Pengilly Centennial Celebration, Pengilly Centennial Committee, for a community-wide celebration and creation of a "community memory book" to mark Pengilly's centennial

#### **Jackson, Murray, Lyon, Lincoln, Pipestone**

Sesquicentennial Environmental History Programs, Prairie Ecology Bus Center, for intergenerational environmental programs in southwestern Minnesota

#### **Kandiyohi**

Sibley State Park Open House, Sibley State Park Improvement Committee, for exploring stories, history, music and food that define the area and region

#### **Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake**

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

ANYONE DRIVING OR WALKING IN DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS COULD VIEW THE SPEAKING OF HOME EXHIBIT IN ONE OF THE CITY'S SKYWAYS.

**Lac Qui Parle**

Lac Qui Parle Heritage Celebration, Lac Qui Parle County Economic Development Authority, for a county-wide celebration and educational programs on the history of the county's ethnic groups

Sesquicentennial Visual Art Display, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, for original art depicting Sesquicentennial themes

**Lake**

Collecting Oral Histories of Two Harbors, Independent School District 381, for an oral history and DVD project by students in the school district

**LeSueur**

History for Kids, Le Sueur County Historical Society, for youth activities in five school districts as part of Le Sueur County's celebration of its Scandinavian heritage

**Lincoln**

Hendricks Troll Town, Hendricks Norwegian Heritage Committee, for locally created troll art as part of Hendricks' celebration of its Scandinavian heritage

Sesquicentennial Environmental History Programs, Prairie Ecology Bus Center, for intergenerational environmental programs in southwestern Minnesota

**Lyon**

Box Car Days, Tracy Area Chamber, for support of the annual Box Car Days celebration in Tracy

Sesquicentennial Environmental History Programs, Prairie Ecology Bus Center, for intergenerational environmental programs in southwestern Minnesota

**Mahnomen**

Mahnomen Health Center Art Project for the 50th anniversary, Mahnomen Health Center, for enlargement, mounting and framing of historic photos and new outdoor signage

Photos and narrative exhibit Celebrating Change and Resilience: White Earth Land Recovery Project, for creation of an interpretive exhibit exploring 150 years of Ojibwe culture

**Marshall**

Highlighting our History, Friends of the Old Mill, Newfolden Lions Club, Marshall County Historical Society, for a series of historic re-enactments and living history programs at the Old Mill Park

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for a new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

**Martin**

Fairmont Songs and Martin County Stories, Martin County Sesquicentennial Committee, for an original musical theater piece by Fairmont native Warren Nelson, founder of Big Top Chautauqua

**McLeod**

Oakland Cemetery Restoration Project, City of Hutchinson, for restoration of significant headstones in the historic Oakland Cemetery

**Meeker**

Remembering 150 Years of Minnesota and Meeker County History, Meeker County Historical Society, for a research and documentation of a project exploring significant people, places, and events

**Mille Lacs**

Sesquicentennial and Mille Lacs Lake Birthday Party, Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group, for interpretive programs and events in Mille Lacs County

**Morrison**

Rural School History and Events, Morrison County Historical Society, for programs exploring the significance and history of rural educators and rural schools

**Mower**

Rededication of M4 Sherman tank, Mower County Historical Society, for refurbishing and rededicating a WWII memorial erected during the 1958 Centennial celebration

Tales of Two Counties, Albert Lea Friends of the Library, for creation of two local history plays based on local oral histories and other resources

**Murray**

Sesquicentennial Environmental History Programs, Prairie Ecology Bus Center, for intergenerational environmental programs in southwestern Minnesota

**Nicollet**

Norseland Community Sesquicentennial Celebration, New Sweden Township, for compilation of a community history book about the unincorporated community of Norseland



Treaty of Traverse des Sioux Central Exhibit, Nicollet County Historical Society, for renovation of an exhibit to interpret the circumstances surrounding the signing of the treaty

#### **Norman**

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for a new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

#### **Olmsted**

Minnesota at Its Sesquicentennial: Exceptional People in an Exceptional Place, Rochester Community College and University of Minnesota-Rochester, for a series of educational, travel and study programs

Hail, Minnesota! Choral Arts Ensemble, Rochester, for a premiere of four new works by Minnesota composers and CD recording

#### **Otter Tail, Wilkin**

Rothsay 125th Anniversary Celebration, City of Rothsay, for a series of educational events held as part of the city's 125th anniversary and in honor of the Sesquicentennial

#### **Otter Tail**

A County on Stage, Otter Tail County Historical Society, for support of student theater workshops culminating in a community history performance

Evansville History Project, Evansville Arts Coalition, Fond-du-Lac, White Earth and Lower Sioux communities, for re-creation and/or collection of indigenous and traditional structures, stories and artifacts to augment the Evansville site

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung Concerts, Intermedia Arts, for research and performances about "unsung" Minnesotans

#### **Pennington**

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for a new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

Rivers and Waters in Pennington County: Their Importance and Significance, Pennington County Historical Society, for a traveling exhibit exploring the history and impact of rivers in the development of the county

#### **Pine**

Minnesota: 150 Years, Pine City Public Schools, ISD #578, for a series of educators' professional development workshops and community programs exploring Sesquicentennial themes

Fire Relief House Project, Hinckley Fire Museum, for construction of a "fire relief house" replica to serve as new meeting and research space

#### **Pipestone**

Civil War Days, Pipestone County Museum, for historical re-enactments exploring Minnesota's role in the Civil War

Sesquicentennial Environmental History Programs  
Prairie Ecology Bus Center, for intergenerational environmental programs in southwestern Minnesota

#### **Polk**

Gully 100! Celebrating and Sharing our History, Gully 100! Committee, for a community-wide celebration, including history displays and re-enactments to mark the Sesquicentennial and Gully's Centennial

Historic Tent and Camping Gear Display, City of East Grand Forks Parks and Recreation, for a living history display of camping styles used by Native Americans, explorers and early settlers

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for a new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

#### **Pope**

Medallion Series, Friends of Glacial Lakes State Park, Inc., for a commemorative medallion celebrating the natural history of the region

Evansville History Project, Evansville Arts Coalition, Fond-du-Lac, White Earth and Lower Sioux communities, for re-creation and/or collection of indigenous and traditional structures, stories and artifacts to augment the Evansville site

Native American Heritage Programs, Pope County History Society, for a series of lecture-discussion programs on Native American cultures

#### **Ramsey**

"Como Te Quiero Minnesota," Adams Spanish Immersion School, for recording and dissemination of an original song

Minnesota Territorial Pioneers Traveling Exhibit, Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, for creating a traveling history exhibit on the life and experiences of Minnesota's earliest settlers

Minnesota Territorial Pioneers Portrait Collection Preservation, Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, for a state-wide project to support ongoing archival work and digitization of a collection of 2,000 portraits

L'Etoile du Nord Mosaic, L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School, for a mosaic created by students and East Side community members

Evening in the Park Series, Fort Snelling State Park Assn., for a series of four musical programs celebrating the history of the park site

Benson Airport Airshow and Historical Exhibit, White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, for documentation and outreach related to the area's aviation history

Mississippi River Eco Journey, Art-Start, for a school-based curriculum exploring the history and significance of the Mississippi River watershed

At the Center: 150 Years at University and Prior Avenues, University UNITED, for research and exhibit development on the history of University and Prior Avenues

Many Languages, Many Voices, One State: Their Legacy of Languages and Cultures, Past and Present, Minnesota County on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures and Minnesota New Visions in Action, for an exhibit on languages spoken in Minnesota

CitiZing! MAP 150 Project, Citizens League, for creation and beta testing of an online civic-networking platform

Minnesota Voices, American Composers Forum, for new compositions to premiere at the 2008 State Fair

German POWs in the Midwest, 1943-46, TRACES Center for History and Culture, for exhibits and community dialogues on the experiences and interaction of "captors and captives"

2008 Vietnamese Community's Summer Festival, Vietnamese Community of Minnesota, for support of a Minnesota "Knowledge Bowl" and an essay contest for youth

Capitol River Council's Sesquicentennial Tree Project, Capitol River Council, for a commemorative plaque about the Sesquicentennial Norway pine on the State Capitol grounds

Penumbra Theatre Archives, Penumbra Theatre Company, for digitization of the theatre's video archives

They Also Chose Minnesota, Friends of the Immigration History Research Center, for an oral history project and DVD capturing the experience of "older" and "newer" immigrants to Minnesota



THE "GREETINGS FROM MINNESOTA" MOSAIC WAS PERMANENTLY INSTALLED ON THE STATE FAIR GROUNDS.

"Greetings from Minnesota," Minnesota State Fair Foundation, for permanent installation of a tile mosaic on the grounds of the Minnesota State Fair

Looking Forward: Invent Minnesota's High School Invention Initiative, Invent Minnesota, for student participation in an innovative initiative

Minnesota Heritage Songbook and CD, Fort Snelling State Park Assn., for research and recording of Minnesota's traditional music and songs

Minnesota Writers Hall of Fame, Friends of the Library, St. Paul Public Library, for development of a Web-based resource on Minnesota writers

Dialogues with Great Leaders Series DVD Project, Concordia University, St. Paul, for distribution of a DVD of historic dramatizations featuring key writings of Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas and Martin Luther King, Jr.

### **Red Lake**

The Story of Old Crossing of the North, Association des Français du Nord, for a readers' theater program and educational materials exploring the 1863 Treaty

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's 150 Years of Statehood, Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, for new art and traveling exhibit exploring the history of Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties

### **Redwood**

From the Inside Out: Celebration of Minnesota's Pioneer Women in Fashion and Song, Note-able Fashions, for living history programs at Redwood County libraries

### **Renville**

Minnesota River: Gateway to Renville County Traveling Exhibit, Renville County Historical Society, for a traveling exhibit on the significance of the Minnesota River

### **Rice**

Historic Musical Stage Play, Northfield Middle School, for a historical musical stage play by students at the Lockwood Opera House

Minnesota Sesquicentennial Vintage Base Ball Festival, Washington County Historical Society, for historic interpreters and players in the Vintage Base Ball Festival

### **Rock**

Blue Mounds State Park Historical Prospective, Blue Mound Park Partners, for living history programs on natural history and the experiences of native Americans and early settlers

### **Roseau**

Falun's 100th Anniversary and State's 150th Anniversary, Falun Township for a commemorative exhibit for the township's centennial celebration

Roseau Scandinavian Festival, Roseau Heritage Committee, for community arts programs, including Scandinavian dance workshops

Walking the Pembina Trail, Palmville Press, for support of an authentic ox cart journey along the Pembina Trail by Orlin Ostby and colleagues



ORLIN OSTBY, HIS FAMILY AND PUM THE OX RETRACED THE 400-MILE JOURNEY FROM PEMBINA TO ST. PAUL.



**Scott**

Scott County Baseball, Scott County Historical Society, for research and publication of a history of baseball and baseball players in the area

Murphy's Landing Historic Oak Savanna Project, Great River Greening, for establishing a historic oak savanna at the living history site in the Minnesota Valley

**Sherburne**

Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star, Elk River Area Arts Alliance, for a school and community performance of Old Minnesota: Songs of the North Star by Big Top Chautauqua

**St. Louis**

Storyteller Series, McCarthy Beach State Park, for a series of storytelling and living history programs on the culture and natural history of St. Louis County

Fire Days Celebration, Chisholm Area Chamber of Commerce, for hosting 2008 Fire Days, a community commemoration of the centennial of the fire that destroyed Chisholm

Virginia's First Mural, Virginia Community Foundation, for community mural project to celebrate the region's diverse history and culture

Under the North Star: Music of Minnesota, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, for presentations of choral music at communities in several counties

**Stearns**

Paynesville Sesquicentennial-Looking Back, Moving Forward, Paynesville Area Historical Museum, for an outdoor mural and new historical timeline

Lake Wobegon Trail Covered Bridge and Sesquicentennial Historical Park Project, City of Holdingford, for creation of historical and interpretive markers as part of a larger park development

The State We're In: Critical and Creative Approaches to Minnesota History at 150, St. John's University, College of St. Benedict, and the Stearns County Museum, for a public conference and published proceedings exploring contemporary scholarship on Minnesota history

**Steele**

Preservation and Restoration of the Village of Rice Lake, Rice Lake Church Restoration and Preservation Group, for restoration of a historic landmark church in Rice Lake

Celebrate with the State in 2008, Willow Creek Intermediate School, for interdisciplinary community activities and intergenerational programs

**Stevens**

2008 Donnelly Threshing Bee, Donnelly Community Club, for the annual community threshing bee celebration and installation of a flag site on the local fairgrounds

Evansville History Project, Evansville Arts Coalition, Fond-du-Lac, White Earth and Lower Sioux communities, for re-creation and/or collection of indigenous and traditional structures, stories and artifacts to augment the Evansville site

Footsteps on the Trail, Stevens County Historical Society, for development of a children's book and exhibit on the early history of Native American and settler interactions

**Swift**

Sesquicentennial Visual Art Display, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, for original art depicting Sesquicentennial themes

**Todd**

Fireworks/Veterans Tribute, Prairie Community Group, for a program honoring veterans as part of Sesquicentennial activities and Long Prairie's 125th anniversary

**Traverse**

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung Concerts, Intermedia Arts, for research and performances about "unsung" Minnesotans

**Wabasha**

Wabasha Sesquicentennial Community Spirit Project, City of Wabasha, for programs and art activities with Sesquicentennial themes

**Wadena**

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung Concerts, Intermedia Arts, for research and performances about "unsung" Minnesotans

**Waseca**

History of Minnesota Agriculture, FarmAmerica, for an interpretive exhibit on the importance of Minnesota agriculture, past and present

Portrait of Waseca County, Waseca Arts Council, for photo documentation and display of present-day people, landscapes and towns

## **Washington**

Minnesota Sesquicentennial Vintage Base Ball Festival Washington County Historical Society, for support of historic baseball re-enactments

Under the North Star: Music of Minnesota, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, for presentations of choral music at community sites

## **Watsonwan**

Preserving the History of Minnesota Veterans, Madelia Veterans Memorial, Inc., for documentation and preservation of war veterans' stories

## **Wilkin**

Rothsay 125th Anniversary Celebration, City of Rothsay, for a series of educational events held as part of the city's 125th anniversary and in honor of the Sesquicentennial

## **Winona**

Winona Symphony Orchestra and Winona Symphony Orchestra Commemorate Minnesota's Statehood, Winona State University Concert Assn., for an original composition and concert marking the Sesquicentennial of the Winona State University and the Winona Symphony Orchestra

Historic Church Building Preservation Project, Minnesota City Historical Assn., for renovation and creation of a function archive at the historic Baptist Church site

150 Years Ago in Pleasant Hill Township, Ridgeway Community School, for a township celebration and living history display and activities, "circa 1858" Ridgeway Township

## **Wright**

Wright County Celebrates Minnesota's Sesquicentennial, Wright County Historical Society, for a day-long, county-wide celebration and living history program celebrating Wright County's past

## **Yellow Medicine**

Granite Falls Community Celebration, Granite Falls Historical Society, for research and displays pertaining to the region's tradition of ethnic and community festivals held as part of Western Fest

Sesquicentennial Art Display, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, for original art depicting Sesquicentennial themes

# GRANTS OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE

## **Capital Improvement Grants Program**

Minnesota Historical Society, historic preservation grants for properties central to community redevelopment

## **CitiZing! MAP 150 Project**

Citizens League, creation and beta testing of an on-line civic-networking platform

## **Chautauqua at the 2009 Minnesota State Fair**

Minnesota State Fair Foundation, planning for a new historical Chautauqua program for the 2009 State Fair

## **Documentation of Minnesota Barns and Farmsteads**

Friends of Minnesota Barns, state-wide effort to inventory historic barns and farmsteads

## **Excursions on the 261**

Friends of the 261, excursions through the Mississippi Valley on a historic steam locomotive

## **German POWs in the Midwest 1943-46**

TRACES Center for History and Culture, traveling exhibits and community dialogues on the experiences and interaction of "captors and captives"

## **Great River Road Travel Guide & Activity Book**

Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission, travel guide featuring the history and geography of 21 Minnesota counties

## **"Greetings from Minnesota"**

Minnesota State Fair Foundation, design and permanent installation of a tile mosaic on the grounds of the Minnesota State Fair

## **Minnesota Heritage Songbook and CD**

Fort Snelling State Park Assn., research, recording and distributing a CD of Minnesota's traditional music and songs

## **Minnesota History Education Program**

Minnesota Historical Society, student field trips and education program curricular support statewide

## **Minnesota Lincoln Bicentennial Advisory Committee**

Minnesota Historical Society, activities undertaken as part of the Lincoln Bicentennial national and statewide project

### **Minnesota Territorial Pioneers Portrait Collection Preservation**

Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, state-wide project to support ongoing archival work and digitization of a collection of 2,000 portraits

### **Minnesota Writers Hall of Fame**

Friends of the Library, St. Paul Public Library, development of a web-based resource on Minnesota writers

### **Missing Markers Project**

Geological Society of Minnesota, erection of permanent markers at significant geological sites in Minnesota parks

### **Old Minnesota, Song of the North Star**

Big Top Chautauqua, development and presentation Chautauqua-style historic presentations at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair

### **Orlin Ostby Ox Cart Project**

Palmville Press/Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums, re-enactment of the 1958 ox cart journey along the Pembina Trail

### **Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics (STEM) Mentoring and Internship Initiative**

Minnesota High Technology Foundation, connecting students statewide with internships and mentors in high-technology related fields

## **SESQUI COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS**

From Afton to Zumbrota, hundreds of communities in every corner of the state celebrated the Sesquicentennial in their own unique ways. Some created special activities while others combined Sesqui celebrations with their traditional events. Lectures, exhibits, performances, hikes, tours, fairs, festivals, storytelling, shows — the list goes on, encompassing more than 500 commemorations. One thing they all had in common: a deep bond with this place they call home, Minnesota.

### **Afton**

2008 Afton State Fair  
Bison Reintroduction  
Prairie Walk

### **Albert Lea**

Freeborn County Sesquicentennial Celebration  
Myre Big Island State Park Walk  
"Tales of Two Counties"

### **Alexandria**

Alexandria Celebrates the Minnesota Sesquicentennial  
Douglas County Historical Society Open House  
Knut Nelson Open House  
Minnesota Firefighters State Convention

### **Altura**

Fishing Festival  
Fishing Techniques of the Past  
Games of Minnesota's Pioneers  
Ordinary Men, Extraordinary Soldiers  
Pioneer Home Fall Color Tour  
Songs & Stories with Charlie Maguire

### **Amboy**

Amboy Area Community Theatre

### **Anoka**

Library Celebration of Minnesota Sesquicentennial

### **Apple Valley**

Dakota County Sesqui-Celebration  
Tribute to the Hall Brothers  
New Orleans Jazz Band

### **Argyle**

From Field to Flour  
Grinding Days  
Natural History Hike on the Ox Cart Trail  
Stories in Log & Stone  
Under Cart Wheels

### **Austin**

"Tales of Two Counties"

### **Bagley**

Bagley Sesquicentennial Parade & Fireworks

### **Bancroft**

Big Island Rendezvous & Festival

### **Battle Lake**

Fly Fishing on Heritage Lake  
If These Walls Could Talk

### **Baudette**

Lake of the Woods Master Gardener Tour

### **Baytown**

Baytown Township's 150th Celebration

### **Bemidji**

Capital for a Day  
Corn Maze  
Geocaching 101, the History Challenge  
Head of the Lake Picnic  
Itasca's Mysteries in History  
Migrations: Minnesota Birds Since Statehood  
MinnAqua Fishing History Day  
Muskie Mania 2008  
Tour of Paul Bunyan Foot Print  
Walking Tour of Park Historic District  
Wednesday History Walks



**Big Fork**

Building of a Park

**Bloomington**

Bloomington Loves Kids Carnival  
Bloomington State of the City  
Address  
Bloomington 150th Anniversary  
Celebration

**Blue Earth**

Celebrate the Sesquicentennial at  
the Faribault County Fair  
Giant Days

**Brainerd**

Brainerd History Walk  
Crow Wing Canoe Day  
Minnesota Poetry Anthology  
Voyageur Canoe Tour: Paddling  
into Minnesota's Past

**Breezy Point**

Butterfly Release

**Brooklyn Center**

150 Years in the Brooklyns  
New Schwen Swiss Family Picnic

**Browns Valley**

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung  
Concert by Elisa Korenne

**Brunswick Township**

150 Year Celebration

**Buffalo**

Wright County Historical Society

**Caledonia**

Houston County Fair  
Songs of Old Minnesota with  
John Berquist

**Calumet**

Geology Rocks!  
Hike Through History

**Cambridge**

Cambridge Swedish Festival

**Cannon Falls**

Homesteaders Hoedown Live  
Music (wagon train)

**Carlos**

Geocaching 101, the History  
Challenge  
Stories in Log & Stone

**Carlton**

Biking Through the Past  
Geocaching 101, the History  
Challenge  
Hydroelectric Power Plant Tour  
Jay Cooke Open House  
Voices of the Park

**Cass Lake**

Muskie Mania

**Center City**

Ancient Art of Stone Tools  
Art of Blacksmithing in 1858  
From Prairie to Potatoes & Back  
Again  
Get Your Dancing Shoes  
Historical Herbs for Health  
Loggers' Tales-The Story of the  
Great White Pine Logging Era  
Maple Syrup From Tap to Table  
Seegwan, a Celebration of  
Spring  
Visit with Anna Sheldon, 1876  
Wildflowers of the 1800s on the  
Old Military Road

**Carver**

Christ Community Lutheran  
School Grandparents Day

**Chanhassen**

Twilight in the Northstar State

**Chisago**

Ki-Chi-Saga Days

**Clinton**

Clinton 125th Quasquicentennial

**Cloquet**

Sesquicentennial Car Show

**Collegeville**

St. John's/St. Ben's

**Columbia Heights**

Celebrating the Season: A Civil  
War Christmas  
Library Celebration of Minnesota  
Sesquicentennial

**Comfrey**

Before There was a Minnesota

**Coon Rapids**

Library Celebration of Minnesota  
Sesquicentennial

**Crane Lake**

Crane Lake Voyageur Days

**Crystal**

Minnesota Stamp Expo

**Currie**

Lake Shetek in Nicollet's Time  
On the Trail of Joseph Nicollet  
Geocaching 101, the History  
Challenge  
Lake Shetek Revisited

**Detroit Lakes**

Capital for a Day

**Dodge Center**

Dodge County Ghost Town Tour

**Donnelly**

2008 Donnelly Threshing Bee

**Duluth**

American Indians & Human  
Rights  
American Indians in Minnesota:  
• Karen Diver  
• Heid E. Erdrich & Louise Erdrich  
• David Treuer  
• Paul LaRoche  
Ann Reed's Troubadour Series  
FinnFest  
History of American Racism &  
How It Affects Us as People  
Home Grown Music Festival  
License Plate Unveiling/Dedica-  
tion  
Minnesota State Constitution  
Minnesota Statehood  
Celebration  
Owens Yacht Duluth Maritime  
Festival

**Eagan**

Eagan Art Festival

**Elk River**

Agriculture Opener  
Baby Animals Weekend  
Old Minnesota: Song of the  
North Star  
Winter on the Farm: A Women's  
Perspective

**Ely**

Bear Head Lake State Park Walk  
Blueberry Art Festival  
Boundary Waters Blues Festival  
Ely Winter Festival  
Harvest Moon Festival  
History of the Lumber Industry  
MinnAqua Bear History Fun

**Erskine**

Under Cart Wheels

**Evansville**

Many Nations One Circle

**Fairfax**

Digging into Fort Ridgely History

**Fairmont**

Fairmont Songs & Martin County  
Stories  
Walking Tour of Downtown Plaza

**Falcon Heights**

Minnesota Mineral Club

**Faribault**

Faribault County Fair, Celebrate  
Sesquicentennial

**Farmington**

Civil War Weekend  
Dakota County Chautauqua  
Dakota County Sesqui-  
Celebration  
Saving Dakota County Barns  
Minnesota Scottish Fair & High-  
land Games  
Spring Festival Open House  
Village Holiday

**Fergus Falls**

Museum Days: The Fur Trade

**Forest Township**

Forest Township: A 150-Year  
History

**Forestville**

Founders Day at Historic  
Forestville  
Lake Louise State Park Walk  
They Built This Town

**Fort Ridgely**

Minnesota's Pioneer Women in  
Fashion & Song

**Fosston**

Historic Landscapes Presentation  
of 13 Townships in Polk  
County  
Art Reflecting on Minnesota's  
150 Years of Statehood

**Frontenac**

Frontenac State Park Guided  
Walk  
Lighting up the Night: The His-  
tory of Coleman Lanterns  
Voyageur Canoe Tour: Paddling  
Into Minnesota's Past

**Georgetown**

History of Potatoes & Pie  
Photos & Memories of George-  
town

**Gilbert**

Gilbert Centennial

**Glenwood**

Old Minnesota: Song of the  
North Star

**Glyndon**

Prairie History Hike  
Stories in Log & Stone

**Grand Forks**

Art Reflecting on Min-  
nesota's 150 Years of State-  
hood  
East Grand Forks Heritage Days  
Historic Tent & Camping Gear  
Rendezvous

**Grand Marais**

Storytelling with Auntie Bev of  
the North Woods

**Grand Portage**

Grand Portage 154

**Grand Rapids**

HERStory

**Granite Falls**

River & History Weekend  
Western Fest  
Geocaching 101, the History  
Challenge  
Historic Paddle on the Minnesota  
River  
Tribute to Western Fest  
Yellow Medicine Agency in 1858

**Hallock**

Hallock Turns 125 Years Old

**Hastings**

Harvest Haunting  
Hastings August Concert Series  
Hastings Artist Show  
LeDuc Historic Estate:  
• General William LeDuc & Min-  
nesota Statehood  
• Civil War Weekend  
• Currier & Ives Lecture  
• Harvest Haunting  
• Hastings Needlework Day  
• Hastings People in the Civil  
War  
• Simmons Country Market  
• Quality Antique Show/Sale/Ap-  
praisals  
• Modern Interpretations of His-  
toric Designs  
• Needlework Antiquities  
• Musical Program & Reception  
• Remembering Carroll Simmons  
• Friends of LeDuc Estate Lecture  
Vermillion Falls Walking Tour  
MinnAqua Fishing History Fun  
Prairie Walk

**Hinckley**

Foundations of the Past  
Raising the "Relief House"

**Hitterdal**

Community Crime Watch

**Houston**

Pleasant Hill Township 150th  
Anniversary

**Huot**

The Story of Old Crossing:  
Chautauqua & French Festival  
at Old Crossing & Treaty Park

**Ivanhoe**

Minnesota's Pioneer Women in  
Fashion & Song

**Inver Grove Heights**

Brave Journey of an Orphan Train  
Rider

**Ironton**

Cuyuna Iron Range Biking  
History Tour

**Isle**

MinnAqua Fishing History Fun  
Rediscovering Our State Heritage  
Voyageur Canoe Tours: Paddling  
Into Minnesota's Past

**Jackson**

Before the Plow in the Des  
Moines River Valley

**Jordan**

Scott County Main Street to  
Statehood  
Ghost Town-Boom Town  
Minnesota River Historic Canoe  
Trip

**Kabetogama**

Land of the Lady Slipper Festival

**Kingston**

Save the Round Barn Bluegrass  
Concert

**Lake Bronson**

Stories in Log & Stone

**Lakefield**

Before the Plow in the Des  
Moines River Valley

**Lakeville**

Brave Journey of an Orphan Train  
Rider  
Dakota County Sesqui-  
Celebration  
Faces of History  
An Afternoon with Maud Hart  
Lovelace  
Sesquicentennial Shots: 150  
Years of Minnesota  
Photography  
"Up North" storytime  
Tribute to the Hall Brothers New  
Orleans Jazz Band

**Leavenworth**

Leavenworth Township is 150  
Years Old

**Little Falls**

Exploring With Lieutenant Pike  
The Natural Environment of  
Charles A. Lindbergh  
WPA Brought to Life, 1936  
Voyageur Canoe Tours: Paddling  
Into Minnesota's Past

**Longville**

Muskie Mania

**Lutsen**

Salmon Run History Cart

**Luverne**

Buffalo Days & Prairie History

**Lynd**

Great Camden Campout  
Legacy of Company 2713

**Madelia**

Good Ol' Days

**Madison**

Lac Qui Parle Heritage Celebra-  
tion

**McGregor**

Geocaching 101, the History  
Challenge  
Heritage Reunion

**Mankato**

Betsy Tacy Neighborhood Walk  
Blue Earth Concert on the Court-  
house Lawn  
Day at the Dam  
History of Seppman Mill  
North Mankato Fun Days

**Marine on St. Croix**

Boom!  
Ice Cream Social  
Lighting Up the Night: History of  
Coleman Lanterns  
MinnAqua Fishing History Fun  
Train Rides Through History  
Voyageur Encampment

**Mendota**

Do Archeology  
Fur Trade Adventure Day Camp  
History River Walk  
Mendota's Fête de la  
St. Jean-Baptiste  
Mendota Sesquicentennial

**Milaca**

The Legend of Paul & Babe

**Minneapolis**

Bdote Rivers & People  
Coming Together  
Ball of the Wild  
CDI Back in Shape  
5K Run/Walk  
Celebrating Our Minneapolis  
History  
Celebrate Northeast Parade  
CommonBond Playhouse Parade  
Crosby, Stills & Nash  
Friends of Minnesota Barns  
The Story of Grey Cloud  
Historic Main Street Walking Tour  
Interpretive Historic Bike Tour  
Jesus Christ Superstar  
John H. Stevens Day  
Literary Legends:

- Khaled Hosseini
- David McCullough
- David Sedaris
- Armistead Maupin

Little House in the Big Fort Day  
Camp  
Long Time Coming: Minnesota's  
Sesquicentennial  
Love Flute



Make a Difference Day: Fort Snelling  
 MinnAqua Fishing History Fun  
 Minneapolis Sesquicentennial  
 Minnesota Innovation: 150 Years of Ingenuity  
 Minnesota & Its People  
 Minnesota Lynx Home Opener  
 Minnesota River Historic Canoe Trip  
 Minnesota Sesquicentennial Statehood Stamp  
 Monthly Music in the Park  
 National Geographic Live!  
 National Service Learning Conference  
 Natural History of Minnesota Wine  
 Necohundah, the Eagle Catcher  
 New Year's Eve Candlelight Walk  
 Norway Day  
 Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star  
 Open House Day & Photo Contest  
 Plan for our Future  
 Plan for our Future, Northeast Minneapolis  
 Relive the Second Minnesota State Fair  
 Sam Abell, National Geographic Live!  
 Sesqui-Boxing  
 Sesquicentennial Bike Ride  
 Sesquicentennial Concert: Lake Nokomis  
 Sesquicentennial Concert: Calhoun-Isles  
 Spamalot  
 Spielmannszug Minnesota's Prinzenkronung  
 Summer of 150th Celebration Kick-Off  
 Timeline of the American Soldier  
 U.S. Pond Hockey Championships  
 Women of Mill City  
 World War II Weekend

### **Minnesota City**

First Baptist Church Open House  
 Minnesota City Day  
 Native American History & Archaeology

### **Minnetonka**

Minnetonka Fire Dept. & City-Wide Open House  
 Supreme Court Hearing

### **Montevideo**

Horse Power Event

### **Montgomery**

Kolacky Days

### **Monticello**

Fishing Technique of Minnesota's History & Cultures  
 Open House Day

### **Moose Lake**

Junior Naturalists-Minnesota State Symbols  
 Moose Lake State Park Walk

### **Mora**

Brunswick Township 150th Year Celebration

### **Morris**

Ann Reed Concert  
 Power of Small: Building Solutions for Energy Self-Reliance  
 World Touch Cultural Heritage Week

### **Nerstrand**

Land Remembers: The Outside-In Tour of Nerstrand Big Woods

### **New London**

Fishing Techniques of the Past  
 Granite, Oak & Men  
 Sibley State Park Open House  
 Songs & Stories with Charlie Maguire  
 U.S. Dakota War of 1862

### **New Ulm**

Bavarian Blast  
 Build a Park on a Dollar a Day  
 Capital for a Day  
 Historic Marker Dedication  
 Key Ingredients America  
 New Ulm Popcorn Wagon Dedication  
 New Ulm Pictorial Cancellation  
 The State We're In: Stories of Minnesota's Past  
 Wanda Gag House

### **Northfield**

"Harvest" Sculpture Dedication  
 Lockwood's Brightest Stars  
 Medicine Dream Journeys  
 Wild West Roundup

### **Norseland**

Norseland Community Sesquicentennial

### **Oakdale**

Oak Meadows 10-Year Celebration

### **Onamia**

Ancient Villages, Log Drives & Homesteaders: History on the Lakeshore  
 Biking into the Past  
 Explorers & Archaeology  
 Memorial Day Pow-Wow  
 Mille Lacs Indian Museum & Trading Post, The People's Day  
 Summer Solstice Concert  
 Voyageur Canoe Tours: Paddling into Minnesota's Past  
 Voyageur Canoes on the Rum River

### **Ortonville**

Babou, the French Fur Trader

### **Owatonna**

Extravaganza  
 Songs of Old Minnesota with John Berquist  
 Steele County Historical Society  
 Steele County Fair

### **Park Rapids**

Itasca's Mysteries in History  
 MinnAqua Headwaters History Fair  
 Ozawindib Walk/5K, 21st Annual Tell Tales Told 'Round the Campfire  
 Wednesday History Walks

### **Pelican Rapids**

Historic Hallaway Hill  
 Turkey Days 125th Anniversary  
 Storytelling with Auntie Bev of the North Woods

### **Pine City**

Pine City Open House

**Pine River**

Pine River Summerfest  
Lakes Bluegrass Festival

**Pipestone**

Pipestone Civil War Days

**Plymouth**

Modern Indian Dance Academy  
Music in Plymouth

**Preston**

Hardwoods Home Companion  
Iron Mines in the Cornfield  
Legends & Lore of Fillmore  
County  
Migrations: Minnesota Birds  
Since Statehood  
Valley of Forestville - 1858

**Puposky**

Minnesota Sesquicentennial Fall  
Fest

**Ramsey**

Monroe Crossing Bluegrass Band

**Red Wing**

Red Wing Collectors Society

**Rice**

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung  
Concert by Elisa Korenne

**Rochert**

Early Settlers/Logging  
Encampment  
Tamarac History Tour

**Rochester**

Choral Arts Ensemble  
Ed Fischer: 25 Years of  
Cartooning  
Honors Choirs of Southeast  
Minnesota  
How to Talk Minnesotan  
Norwegian Centennial  
Celebration  
Rochester 150 Year Banquet  
Rochester Rotary Club Honors  
Statehood Week  
Roosters Classic Vintage Base Ball  
Festival

**Rollag**

Breakfast on the Farm

**Roseau**

Art Reflecting on Minnesota's  
150 Years of Statehood  
Hickory Wind  
Hike Through History  
Red River Ox Cart in the Park

**Rosemount**

Leprechaun Days

**Roseville**

Roseville Winter Jazz Blast  
Wild Rice Festival

**Rush City**

Rush City Music & Art Festival

**Sandstone**

Banning Quarry Hike  
Banning State Park Walk

**Sauk Rapids**

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung  
Concert by Elisa Korenne

**Scandia**

Statehood Day

**Schroeder**

Celebrate the Sesquicentennial  
on the North Shore  
Temperance River History Cart

**Shakopee**

Eagle Creek Fair  
Independence Celebration  
Minnesota 150  
Minnesota River Bike Tour  
Pa & Me Days  
River Town Days  
Scott County Cemetery Walking  
Tour  
Scott County Celebrates 150  
Years  
Scott County Historical Society  
Strait House Picnic

**Shevlin**

Clearwater County Birthday Party

**Side Lake**

Local Area Tales  
• Mining, Settlement, Logging  
• Music & Tall Tales  
• Music on the Range  
• Tales of Side Lake  
• Songs & Stories That Make  
You Smile  
• When I Came To This Land

**Silver Bay**

Tettegouche History Cart

**Solway**

Solway Celebration

**Soudan**

Soudan Underground Mine State  
Park Walk  
Heritage Days

**Spicer**

Archeology Day & Grand Open-  
ing of History of Corn Exhibit

**Spring Grove**

Spring Grove Music in the Park

**St. Anthony**

6th Annual Fourth in the Park  
Parade  
St. Anthony Village Historical  
Society Open House  
St. Anthony Civic Orchestra

**St. Cloud**

St. Cloud 4th of July Fireworks &  
Freedom Fest  
St. Cloud Technical College 60th  
Birthday

**St. Michael**

Round Barn Move

**St. Paul**

Afloat in the Wireless Pond  
Ann Reed's Song for Minnesota  
CLAC 30th Anniversary Dinner  
Celebrate Minnesota  
Charging Forward – 30 years of  
Groundbreaking Music  
Cookbook Day at the State Fair  
Dakota Conflict Tour  
Dry Bones Blues Music Festival  
Historic Statehood Day  
Celebration

Irish Heritage at the Hill House  
 Lake Phalen Summer Festival  
 Leap in for the Love of  
 Minnesota  
 Minnesota Statehood Week  
 Minnesota Turns 150!  
 Minnesota Sesquicentennial Call  
 for Artists  
 Minnesota Transportation  
 Museum  
 Minnesota Supreme Court His-  
 torical Society  
 Minnesota Territorial Pioneers  
 Log Cabin  
 Minnesota Voices  
 Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung  
 Concert by Elisa Korenne  
 Minnesota's Progressive Republi-  
 can Tradition  
 Monthly Music in the Park Series  
 Old Minnesota at the State Fair  
 Reliving the Second Minnesota  
 State Fair  
 Remembering Supreme Court  
 Justices  
 Sesquicentennial Wagon Train  
 St. Paul Saints  
 Step Back To Statehood Camp  
 Statehood Weekend Festival  
 Supreme Court Justice Loren W.  
 Collins (1838-1912)

Supreme Court Law Clerk  
 Reunion  
 Trial of Alvin "Creepy" Karpis  
 Walking the Pembina Trail  
 Welcome to the State Fair  
 Wild West Frontier Fest on the  
 Mississippi  
 World War II Weekend

**Starbuck**  
 Prairie History Hike

**Stillwater**  
 Celebrating Minnesota's Sesqui-  
 centennial Art Exhibit  
 Minnesota Sesquicentennial Vin-  
 tage Base Ball Festival  
 Minnesota Statehood  
 Celebration  
 Minnesota Territorial Pioneers  
 Annual Banquet  
 Old Minnesota: Song of the  
 North Star  
 Saluting Minnesota's 150th  
 Birthday  
 Summer on the Porch

**Sunburg**  
 Fishing Techniques of the Past

**Taylors Falls**  
 Nation's 1st Interstate Park: Gla-  
 cial Pothole History Walk

**Thief River Falls**  
 Art Reflecting on Minnesota's  
 150 Years of Statehood  
 Capital for a Day  
 View from the Ox Cart

**Tracy**  
 81st Box Car Days Celebration

**Trimont**  
 Trimont Chocolate Festival

**Two Harbors**  
 Biking Into the North Shore's  
 Past  
 "CCC Boys" Stone & Log  
 Legacy Walk  
 Children's Day  
 Geocaching 101, The History  
 Challenge  
 Open House  
 Split Rock Lighthouse Park His-  
 tory Cart  
 Statehood Day  
 "Young Men Building the Park"  
 History Cart

**Vesta**  
 Pioneer Women in Fashion &  
 Song

**Viking**  
 Viking Good Old Days

NUMEROUS  
 COMMUNITY PA-  
 RADES FEATURED  
 THE SESQUICEN-  
 TENNIAL.





**Wabasso**

Pioneer Women in Fashion &  
Song

**Wadena**

Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung  
Concert by Elisa Korenne

**Waite Park**

Quilt Minnesota

**Walker**

Muskie Mania  
Snowshoe at Shingobee Hills

**Walnut Grove**

Wilder Pageant

**Waseca**

Chautauqua 2008  
150 Years of Minnesota  
Agriculture  
Homestead Tour  
Ice Harvest 2008  
Portrait of Waseca County

**Waskish**

Historic Fish Hatchery Tour

**Watsonwan**

Good Ol' Days

**Watson**

Lac Qui Parle Heritage  
Celebration  
Photos from the Past

**Wayzata**

Bushaway Road 150 Years  
Minnesota Stamp Expo

**Wheaton**

K-2 Field Day  
Minnesota's Ordinarily Unsung  
Concert by Elisa Korenne

**White Bear Lake**

Celebrate the Bald Eagle  
Children's Carnival  
Civil War Encampment, 1st  
Minnesota  
Flyers, Food & Fun at Benson  
Airport  
Minnesota Territorial Pioneers  
Annual Banquet  
Sesquicentennial Celebration  
White Bear Lake Rotary Club  
Banquet  
White Bear Lake All-School  
Reunion

**Williams**

Hike to the Zippel Townsite &  
Fisheries

**Willmar**

Glacial Ridge Model T Tour

**Windom**

Minnesota Sesquicentennial  
Legacy Grant Unveiling  
Windom Riverfest

**Winona**

Capital for a Day  
21st North American Prairie  
Conference  
Songs of Old Minnesota with  
John Berquist  
Winona State University  
Sesquicentennial  
Winona Symphony Orchestra  
Centennial

**Worthington**

King Turkey Day Celebration  
Windsurfing Regatta &  
Unvarnished Music Festival



GOV. TIM PAW-  
LENTY PRESENTS  
THE CAPITALS  
FOR A DAY  
CERTIFICATES.

## MINNESOTA @ 150, REAL & IMAGINED

Thanks to a generous grant from the Bush Foundation and partnerships with Twin Cities Public Television-the Minnesota Channel and the Citizens League, the live discussions held at the 2008 Minnesota State Fair were edited and reproduced in retail-ready DVD format.

Called "Minnesota @ 150, Real & Imagined: What Minnesotans need to know for the next 50 years," the discussions were tied to Sesquicentennial themes. Each of the five, 60-minute DVDs feature Minnesota's best thinkers, creators, and doers in the areas of education; health and wellness; environment and great outdoors; arts and culture; and business and innovation.

The following is a list of the DVDs, their subjects and panelists.

### **Minnesota @ 150, Real & Imagined: What Minnesotans Need to Know for the Next 50 Years**

#### **Arts & Culture**

What is Minnesota doing at its Sesquicentennial year to ensure a thriving future? How has Minnesota changed since the 1958 State Centennial? What are the current images and stories we use to describe Minnesota?

*Conversation One: The Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission's Plan for Our Future Initiative*  
*Conversation Two: The State We're In: Image and Identity, Then & Now*

#### **Panelists**

Annette Atkins, Department of History, St. John's University  
John Davis, director, Lanesboro Cornucopia Arts Center  
Rachel Garaghty, Sesquicentennial staff  
Jeff Kolick, professor of history, Southwest State University  
Mary Lahammer, TPT TV  
Jane Leonard, Sesquicentennial staff  
Rebecca Peichel, Sesquicentennial staff  
Kate Roberts, curator, Minnesota Historical Society

#### **Business & Innovation**

With its long history of entrepreneurship and innovation, especially in technology and health care, what does Minnesota need to do now to preserve its robust economy in the decades to come?

*Conversation One: Sustaining a Culture of Innovation in Minnesota*  
*Conversation Two: Young Inventors from The Invention Crew*  
*Conversation Three: Taking Care of Business: The View from Main Street*

#### **Panelists**

Bruce Corrie, College of Business & Organizational Leadership, Concordia University  
David Gundale, St. Paul Public Schools  
Deb Hess, Minnesota Inventors Congress  
Mary Mathews, Northeast Entrepreneur Fund  
Tom Misa, Babbage Institute  
Kate Rubin, Minnesota High Tech Association  
Ken Stone, Rock Solid Media

#### **Education**

What will our education system be like during the State's Bicentennial Year in 2058? Are we doing what's needed now for Minnesota to continue to prosper?

*Conversation One: Vanishing Grads and Minnesota's Future*  
*Conversation Two: 21st Century Schools: What's Needed?*

#### **Panelists:**

Angie Eilers, Minnesota Growth and Justice  
Joe Graba, Education: Evolving  
Bill Green, Minneapolis Public Schools  
Robert Holst, Concordia University  
Peter Hutchinson, Bush Foundation  
Vinodh Kutty, Hennepin County Office of Multicultural Services  
Traci Parmenter, Admission Possible  
Mitch Pearlstein, Center of the American Experiment  
Lori Sturdevant, StarTribune  
John Wade, Rochester Chamber of Commerce

## Environment & Great Outdoors

Known for its abundant natural resources, Minnesota has historically been a leader in environmental health and stewardship. What's needed to ensure this legacy for future generations?

*Conversation One: Understanding and Protecting Our Legacy*

*Conversation Two: Going Green in Morris: Building Sustainable Communities*

### Panelists

Marti Erickson, Center on Early Education and Development

David Fluegel, Center for Small Towns, University of Minnesota, Morris

Amy Kay Kerber, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Peggy Knapp, Hamline University

Charlie Maguire, Mello-Jam Music

Lowell Rasmussen, University of Minnesota, Morris

Deb Swackhamer, Water Resources Center, University of Minnesota,

Cathy Wurzer, TPT TV

## Health & Wellness

Minnesota is recognized as one of the nation's healthiest states. Will we maintain this distinction in coming decades as costs rise and society ages?

*Conversation One: Untangling the Health Care Knot: Prospects for Reform?*

*Conversation Two: All Above Average?*

*What Kids Need to Thrive*

*Conversation Three: Age Wave*

### Panelists

Kathy Bakkenist, Ecumen

Mary Brainerd, HealthPartners

Jim Fries, Mercer Health Benefits

Karen Gervais, Minnesota Center on Health Care Ethics

Jan Hively, Vital Aging Network

Catherine Jordan, Achieve Minneapolis

Sean Kershaw, Citizens League

Dr. Jonathan Larson, Carver County Health Partnership

Sanne Magnan, Minnesota Department of Health

Pat Samples

Jim Schiebel

Ken Stone, Rock Solid Media

## SESQUI BOOKS

For the Sesquicentennial, a number of authors focused their thoughts and creativity on the issues, history, people, culture and heritage of Minnesota. Following is a sampling of books published about Minnesota during the Sesquicentennial Year.

*Creating Minnesota: A History From the Inside Out*  
Annette Atkins

*Dakota Philosopher: Charles Eastman and American Indian Thought*  
David Martinez

*Harriet Bishop: Woman of Contrast*  
Carolyn A. Ayres

*Make It Minnesotan! Sesquicentennial Cookbook*  
Edited by Claire Plank

*Minnesota 150: The People, Places, and Things that Shape Our State*  
Kate Roberts

*Minnesota, Hail to Thee! A Sesquicentennial History*  
Karal Ann Marling

*Minnesota on the Map: A Historical Atlas*  
David A. Lanegran

*North for the Harvest: Mexican Workers, Growers, and the Sugar Beet Industry*  
Jim Norris

*North Star Rising: Minnesota Politicians on the National Stage*  
Barry Casselman

*Riding Into the Sunrise: Al Quie, a Life of Faith, Service & Civility*  
Dr. Mitchell Pearlstein

*Shaping Minnesota's Identity: 150 Years of State History*  
Steven Keillor

*State Fair: The Great Minnesota Get-Together*  
Susan Lambert Miller

*Tales of the Road: Highway 61*  
Cathy Wurzer

*What Does Justice Look Like? The Struggle for Liberation in Dakota Homeland*  
Waziyatawin, Ph.D.

*Where One Voice Ends Another Begins: 150 Years of Minnesota Poetry*  
Edited by Robert Hedin

*Wonders on Ice: Figure Skating in Minnesota*  
Moira F. Harris



**Thanks to the following people for their contributions to this report:**

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Andrew Ranallo, Sesquicentennial fellow

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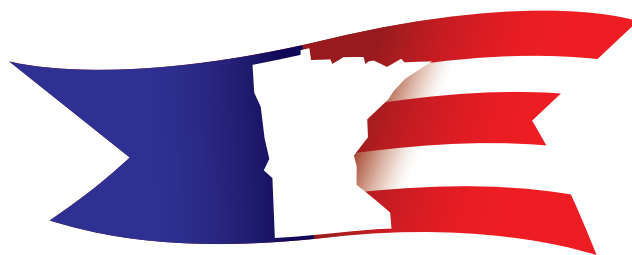
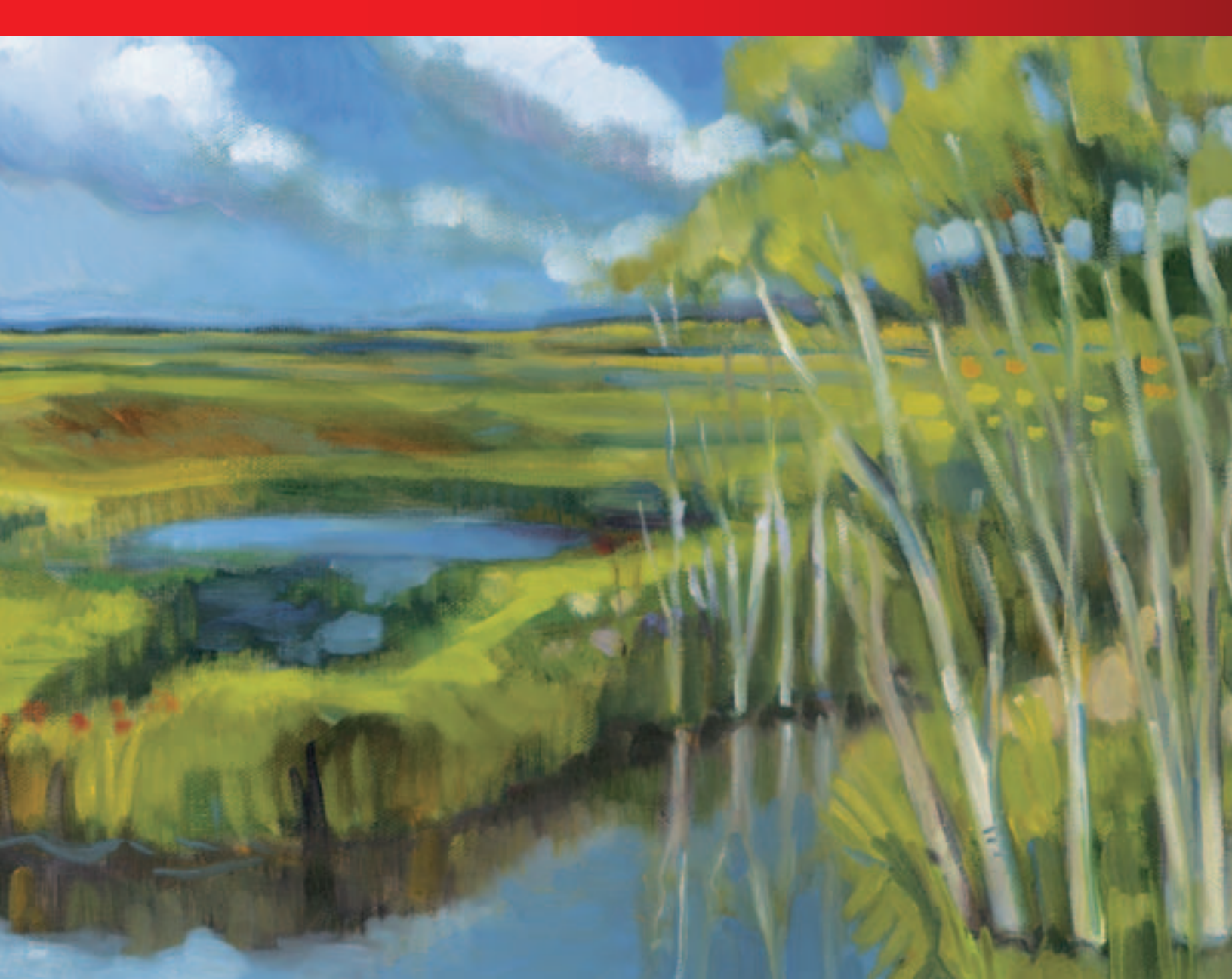
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150 YEARS  
*of* STATEHOOD  
1858 • 2008

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