



Family History Essay Contest Winners



Winnipeg, August 12, 2009. The Genealogy Committee of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Henry E. Plett Memorial Award for writing a family history. The winners are both Grade 11 students from Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute (MBCI) in Winnipeg. First prize was awarded to **Meaghan Giesbrecht** (left), for her family history paper which focused on her paternal grandmother's Martens family who left Landskrone, Molotschna, South Russia for Canada in 1926. Second prize was awarded to **Holly Goossen** (right), for her paper which investigated what happened to her paternal grandfather when his personal commitment to Christ interfered with his loyalty to Canada and found himself imprisoned for wanting to claim status as a conscientious objector to war in 1942.

This annual essay contest, open to any Manitoba high school student, aims to promote and encourage research and writing in family history. Students are encouraged to interview grandparents or older relatives, find original family sources such as old family Bibles, diaries and letters; and to visit specialized Mennonite libraries and archives.

MBCI teacher Paul Doerksen introduced this year's winners to the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, where they learned about archival resources and had the opportunity to examine some family documents.

The competition details can be found on the web at: www.mmhs.org/plett.htm for any students who wish to enter next year.