

Canadian Mennonite Encyclopedia Online

Report to the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada
December 5, 2003

During the past year we have added 67 articles to the Encyclopedia. Most of these were additions from the print version of the encyclopedia; some were new biographies, primarily from British Columbia and Ontario. In addition there were 29 revised congregational entries, almost all from Ontario.

Below is a table showing comparable figures since statistics began to be kept in April 2000.

	Dec. 2000	May 2001	Dec. 2001	Dec. 2002	Dec. 2003
Hits per Day	1,786	2,119	2,920	4,215	12,506
Visitors per Day	524	603	657	734	1,026
Unique visitors (Total)		115,355	173,599	314,027	502,400
Page Views per Day		1,659	2,215	3,072	4,030
Articles in CMEO	2,216		2,239	2,304	2,371
Visitors multiple times					70,963

The most hits we've had was 4 November 2003, when we received 32,080 hits; I assume this is related to search engine "crawls." The most popular pages in the Encyclopedia continue to be: "Conestoga Wagon," "Amish," "Furniture and Woodworking," "Folk Medicine," "Dress," and "Amish Division."

Many reference questions continue to be received. I continue to forward a few to other editorial committee members. Recent questions have included Hindi funeral practices, Mennonite marriage practices, location of John Holdeman's notes from early Holdeman conference sessions, etc. At least once in the last year I was asked to suggest where to find a nice Amish man for someone wanting a husband.

I did not obtain a grant to transform CAIN congregational articles to encyclopedia articles. Instead the Mennonite Historical of Ontario received a grant to work on a website. As part of that grant they also asked each Ontario congregation to review its congregational entry and to write a revision based on encyclopedia guidelines. While the response was not overwhelming, it was gratifying and included a number of "conservative" Mennonite churches. More of these dribble in from time to time. We may want to pursue this again, or provincial societies may want to solicit congregations for articles. It results in less uniform articles, but does build useful links to congregations.

I wonder again if it is time to set up a subgroup of the editorial board to systematically update the information within "subject" articles, and to solicit new articles. The "Who Are the Mennonites" section of the MHSC website remains in need of revision.

Submitted by Sam Steiner,
Managing Editor