

Canadian Mennonite Encyclopedia Online

Report to the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada

December 1, 2000

During the past year we have added 100 articles to the Encyclopedia, most of these "source documents" produced by denominational delegate meetings. These have been from the Mennonite Church, General Conference Mennonite Church and General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church. During the next year we hope to add statements by the Canadian conferences of these denominations, and possibly from some of the smaller denominational groups as well.

By the time of the annual meeting, it is hoped to have a proposed revision of the website ready for examination by the Encyclopedia's editorial committee as well as the full board. The PeaceWorks Computer Consulting, using grant money left from the earlier SchoolNet project, undertook the work. The objective is to improve movement between the various parts of the Society's website, and to upgrade the "look and feel" of the site.

The site receives an average of 1,786 hits per day, from an average of 524 unique daily visitors. This is an increase of about 170 unique visitors over last year. The average visitor spends just under 16 minutes at the site; almost 2/3 of our visitors come from outside Canada. Since April 2000 6,200 have visited our site more than once. The most hits we've had this year was on October 26, when we received 4,456 hits. The most popular pages are in the "Who are the Mennonites" section of the Society's site. The most popular pages in the Encyclopedia are: "Amish," "Amish Division," "Dress," "Conestoga Wagon," and "Bible Colleges and Institutes." I suspect many of these hits come through direct references from the large search engines like Alta Vista.

I will not report on the work of the Editorial Committee or the commissioning of new articles; that will be provided in a separate report.

Submitted by Sam Steiner,
Managing Editor