



A family tree can wither if no one tends to its roots

Introduction to The Red River Ancestry Genealogy Centre

- Our mission is to establish a resource centre for the preservation of the St. Andrews area history, Manitoba family histories and historical records/materials. This centre would provide access to this information in a local historical setting.
- The facility will provide educational opportunities and host workshops related to genealogical research.
- Our centre is funded through the R.M. of St. Andrews and is part of the St. Andrews Rectory Committee's portfolio. The Centre is named in honor of Gary Still who was a well renowned self-taught Genealogist who created the web site "Red River Ancestry."
- The centre is open the same hours as the Rectory. See our website for hours <https://www.standrewsrectory.ca/red-river-ancestry-genealogy-centre/> Typically volunteers are at the centre on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 – 3 but you should still call to confirm they will be there. Appointments can be made for other dates and times.
- The centre is free for all to use for their research. Please note however, that we are not able to do individual research but we do provide assistance through access to our library and resources. It should be noted that our library is a non-lending library but there is plenty of room to sit and do research.
- Contact can be made through email at RRgenealogyctr@outlook.com or phone at 1-204-339-6396. Our centre is in the heart of the Red River Settlement area and our resources focus on the settlement and people of the area. This area is very rich in historic significance. We have some local settlers' family trees and some donated family trees available. We are building a list of people that are compiling their own family trees and may be able to provide contacts for others who are following the same ancestors.

Red River Ancestry Genealogy Centre – A Brief History

- The project started in 2018 with the intention to add another aspect to the Museum to help bring the displays to life by telling the stories of the pioneers of the artifact displays.
- A Genealogy Interest Group was formed to determine resources, activities, educational opportunities, research and the goals for the centre. A display of a plot map of river lots, pictures & a small family history book was set out in the Tartan Room which was becoming the Genealogy Room. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic hit and the opening of both the new museum displays and the genealogy centre was put on hold. Due to unforeseen circumstances the project and the group was delayed until mid-2021.
- The project was restarted in June 2021 and the following items have either been completed or are in process:
 - Family research has been done on some of the pioneers that are in the museum displays (on going).
 - Permission was received to name the centre in honour of Gary Still who spent endless hours putting together family trees of some of the early explorers, fur traders and settlers in this area and created the Red River Ancestry website.
 - We have expanded the resource library through purchases and donations.
 - A guideline has been created for use of the centre and an Action Plan for 2022 with 5 goals some of which are complete and some that will move into our 2023 Action Plan.
 - A large table, 2 desks and additional shelving were purchased to provide room for the computers, displays, our library and research space.
 - A brochure was created and we are distributing it to help advertise the centre both locally and in the surrounding area.
 - Created a webpage through the Rectory's website and an email address RRgenealogyctr@outlook.com
 - Regularly set up monthly displays celebrating various events/holidays in the centre.
- Although the centre opened in June 2021, unfortunately due to COVID we were not able to have a proper opening.



THEN



NOW



Library Category List

Although we are not a lending library, we do have space available to sit and read and make research notes.

Canadian History	Land Records	Selkirk Settlers
Cemeteries	Local History	Ship Passenger Lists
Census	Manitoba Community History	St. Andrews Families
Church & Clergy	Manitoba History	St. Andrews Rectory History
England	Mennonite	Swiss
First Nations	Metis	Ukrainian
German	Northwest Company	Veterans
Home Children	Orkney	Wars
Hudson Bay Company	Royal Family	World History
Icelandic	Schools & Yearbooks	
Irish	Scotland	

- **Magazines & Periodicals**
- MGS Generations Magazine The Beaver – 2008-2010
- Canada's History (formerly The Beaver) – 2010-2021

Resources

Manitoba Genealogical Society Manitoba Historical Society Genealogy Form Samples
Louis Riel Institute Library and Archives Canada Genealogy Resources
Red River Ancestry Hudson Bay Archives Lord Selkirk Assoc. of Ruperts Land
Local Tours & Attractions Red River North

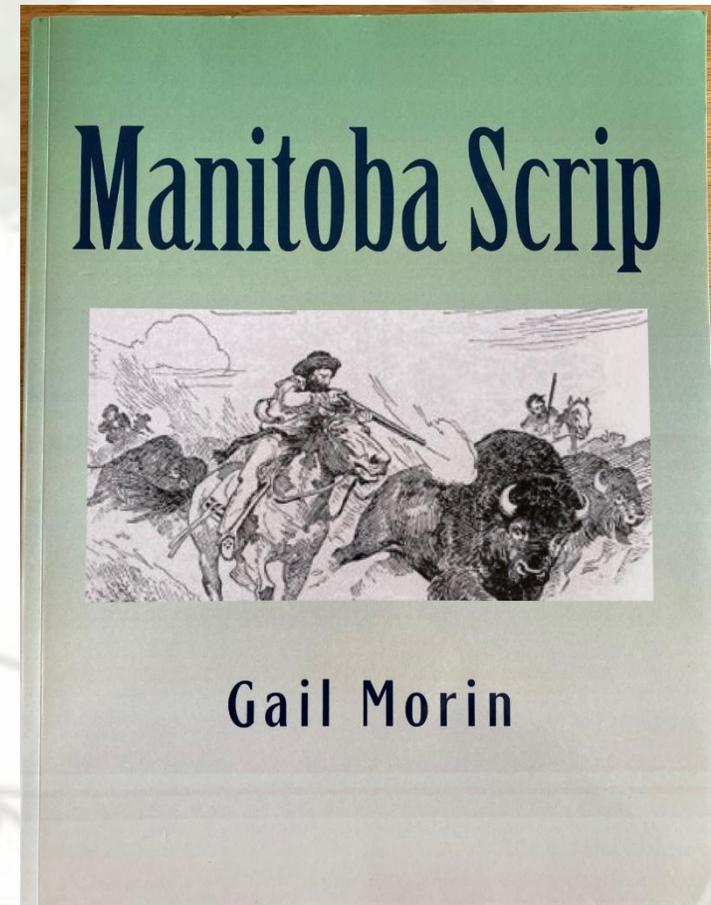
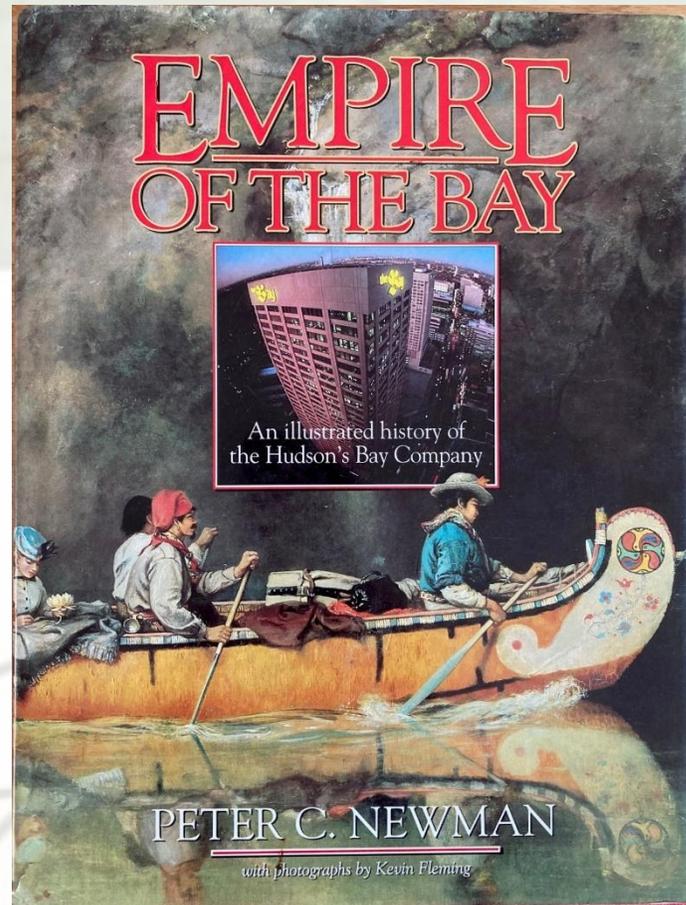
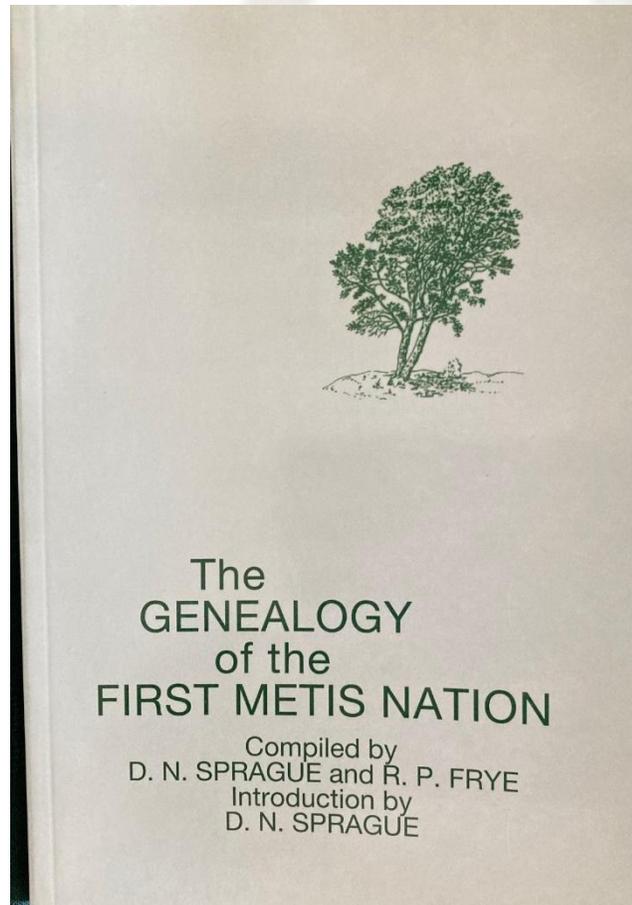
How To

Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet
Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy Tracing Your Irish Ancestors Research Cycle Checklist
Unpuzzling Your Past

Family Histories

James Edward Birston Mary Elizabeth Bayer Sarah Ann Campion (Black)
Rev. William Cockran Irene Foster Donald Gunn
Isham – Adams The Kennedy Family McKay Family History
Duncan McRae Paquin/Pocha Lord Selkirk, Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk

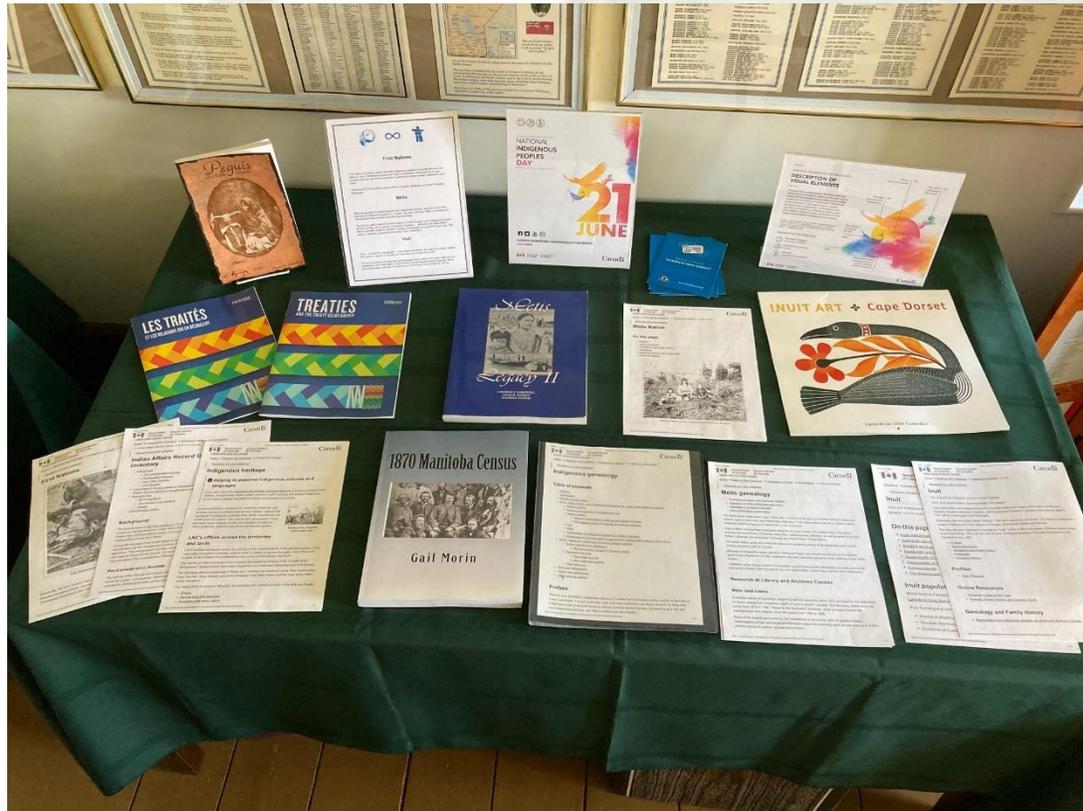
These are a sample of some of our books that you may find useful in your research



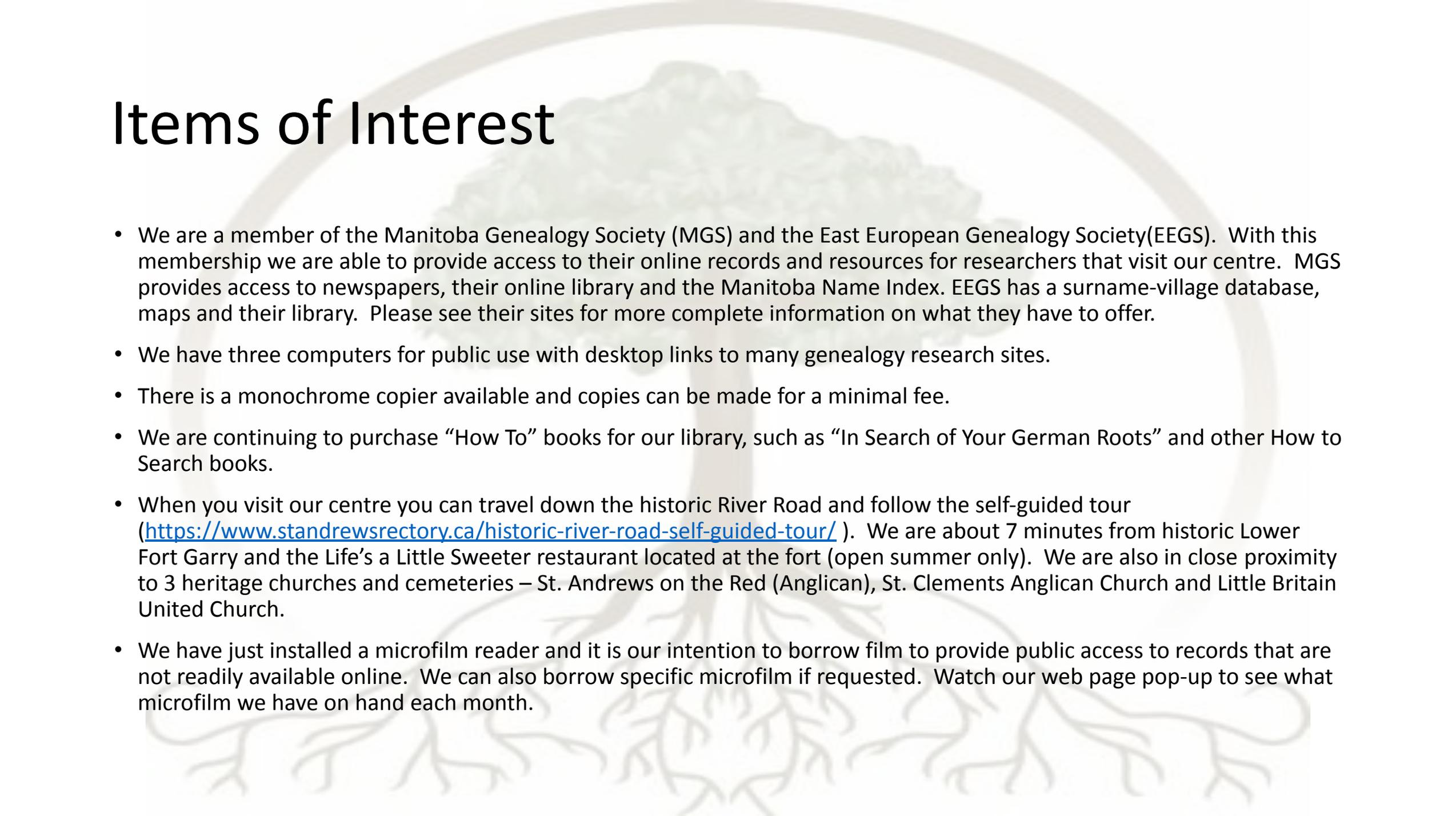
Each month we select a special event/occasion to set up informative displays and whenever possible we incorporate local settlers and history. We have had displays for Irish Heritage Month, Women's Day, Icelandic Festival, European Heritage Days, German Heritage Month, and National Indigenous Peoples Day just to name a few. The following pictures are of some of the displays that the centre had in 2022. The ones below were for Canada Day and the display was set up for the whole month of July.



The picture on the left was in June and was for National Indigenous Peoples Day and the one of the right was Remembrance Day.



Items of Interest

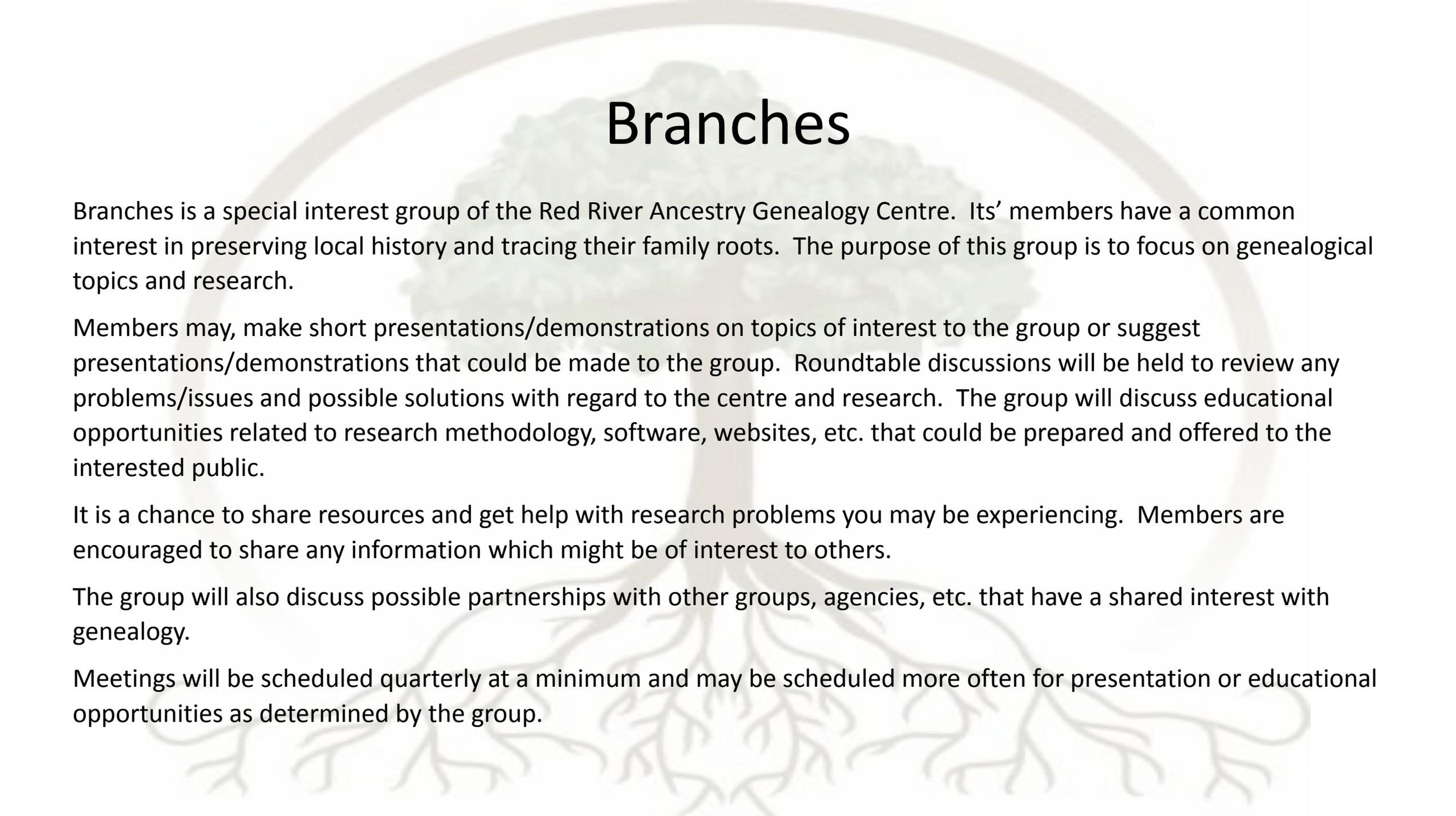


- We are a member of the Manitoba Genealogy Society (MGS) and the East European Genealogy Society (EEGS). With this membership we are able to provide access to their online records and resources for researchers that visit our centre. MGS provides access to newspapers, their online library and the Manitoba Name Index. EEGS has a surname-village database, maps and their library. Please see their sites for more complete information on what they have to offer.
- We have three computers for public use with desktop links to many genealogy research sites.
- There is a monochrome copier available and copies can be made for a minimal fee.
- We are continuing to purchase “How To” books for our library, such as “In Search of Your German Roots” and other How to Search books.
- When you visit our centre you can travel down the historic River Road and follow the self-guided tour (<https://www.standrewsrectory.ca/historic-river-road-self-guided-tour/>). We are about 7 minutes from historic Lower Fort Garry and the Life’s a Little Sweeter restaurant located at the fort (open summer only). We are also in close proximity to 3 heritage churches and cemeteries – St. Andrews on the Red (Anglican), St. Clements Anglican Church and Little Britain United Church.
- We have just installed a microfilm reader and it is our intention to borrow film to provide public access to records that are not readily available online. We can also borrow specific microfilm if requested. Watch our web page pop-up to see what microfilm we have on hand each month.



Our Future

- Moving forward we want to host presentations & workshops on genealogy and build more partnerships.
- Continue to expand our resource library through purchases and donations of books and family trees.
- Research, select and install a library software to make our library easier to search for a specific book.
- Expand our volunteer base. We currently have 3 volunteers, one is in BC and is doing research on local families and the other two are local. One is working with us to hold a fundraiser and the other volunteer works at the centre with us on Wednesdays and is also at the centre on Thursdays from 10-3 to assist anyone that may come in. Volunteers are always welcome.
- We hope to create a catalogue of families that visitors/researchers who come to the centre are looking for so we can connect people researching the same families.
- Create our special interest group which we have called “Branches”. We hope to have 10 members. A brief description of the group’s responsibilities and its purpose follows this slide.



Branches

Branches is a special interest group of the Red River Ancestry Genealogy Centre. Its' members have a common interest in preserving local history and tracing their family roots. The purpose of this group is to focus on genealogical topics and research.

Members may, make short presentations/demonstrations on topics of interest to the group or suggest presentations/demonstrations that could be made to the group. Roundtable discussions will be held to review any problems/issues and possible solutions with regard to the centre and research. The group will discuss educational opportunities related to research methodology, software, websites, etc. that could be prepared and offered to the interested public.

It is a chance to share resources and get help with research problems you may be experiencing. Members are encouraged to share any information which might be of interest to others.

The group will also discuss possible partnerships with other groups, agencies, etc. that have a shared interest with genealogy.

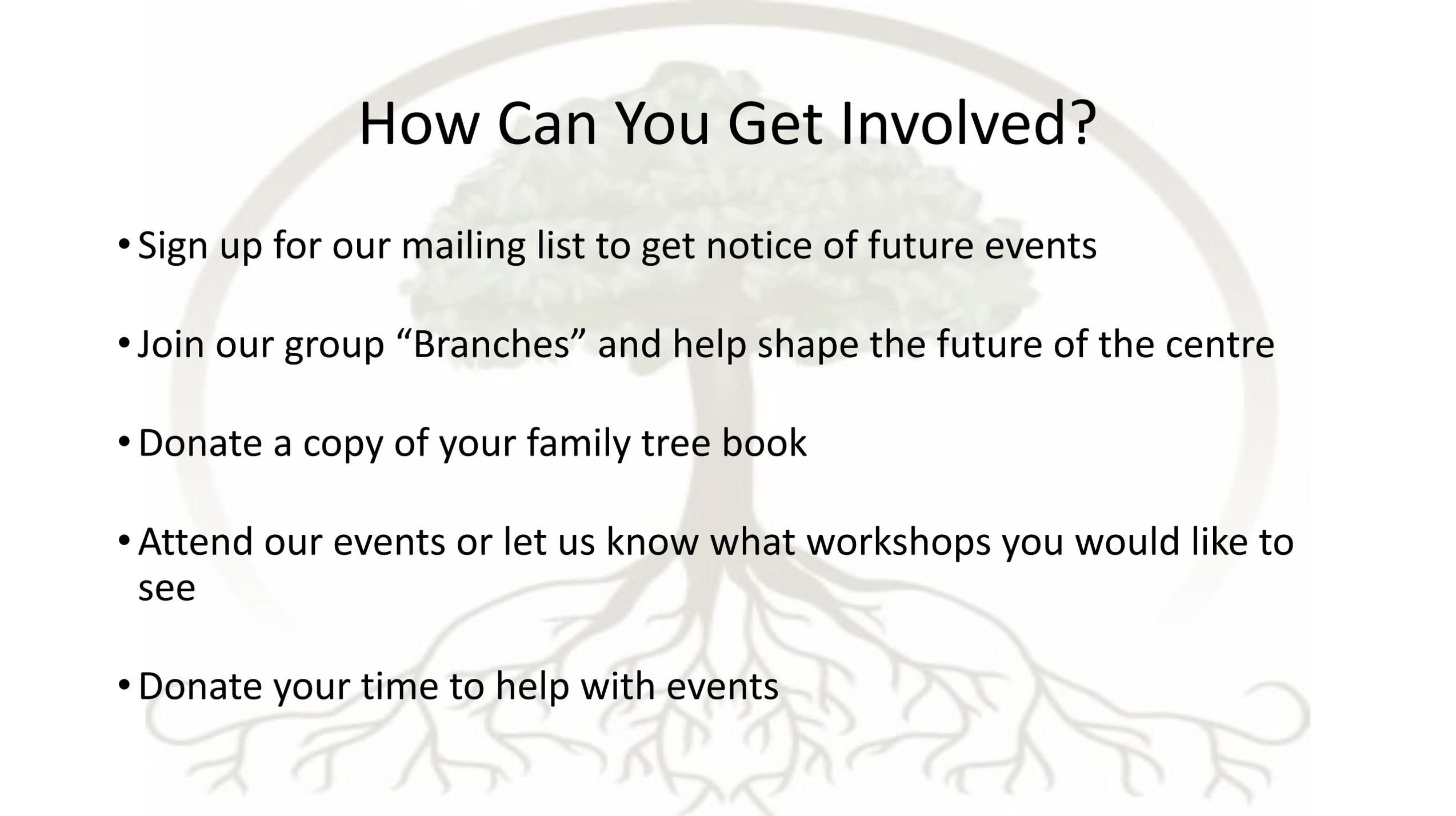
Meetings will be scheduled quarterly at a minimum and may be scheduled more often for presentation or educational opportunities as determined by the group.

Save The Date!



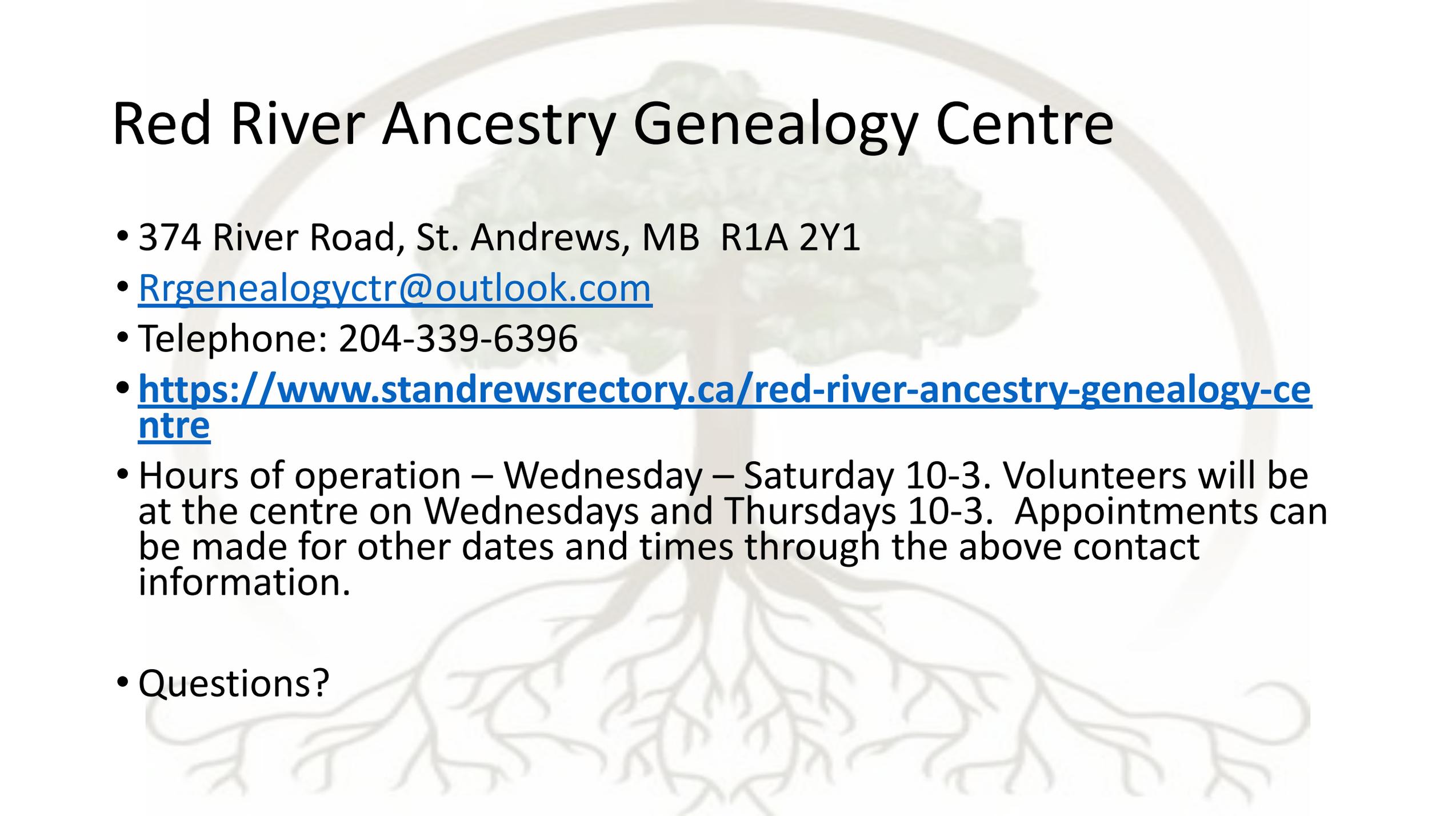
- March 11 – Beginning Genealogy – 1:30 – 3:30 pm
- March 18 – Metis Culture and History – 1:30 – 4:00 pm
- April 25 – Finding Your Genealogy Information – Tentative
- May 13 – DNA Testing in Genealogy Research - Tentative

How Can You Get Involved?

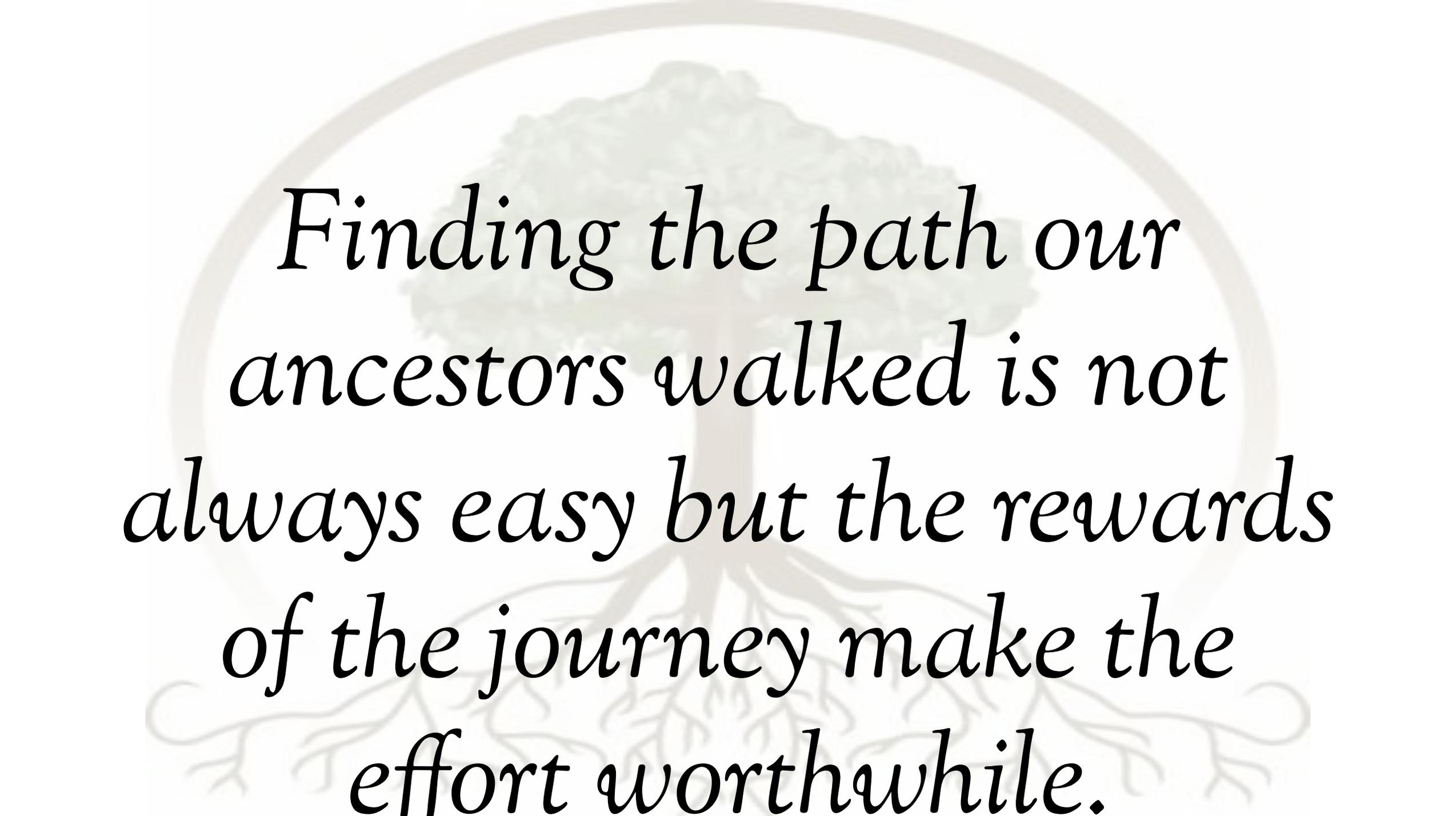


- Sign up for our mailing list to get notice of future events
- Join our group “Branches” and help shape the future of the centre
- Donate a copy of your family tree book
- Attend our events or let us know what workshops you would like to see
- Donate your time to help with events

Red River Ancestry Genealogy Centre



- 374 River Road, St. Andrews, MB R1A 2Y1
- Rrgenealogyctr@outlook.com
- Telephone: 204-339-6396
- <https://www.standrewsrectory.ca/red-river-ancestry-genealogy-centre>
- Hours of operation – Wednesday – Saturday 10-3. Volunteers will be at the centre on Wednesdays and Thursdays 10-3. Appointments can be made for other dates and times through the above contact information.
- Questions?



*Finding the path our
ancestors walked is not
always easy but the rewards
of the journey make the
effort worthwhile.*