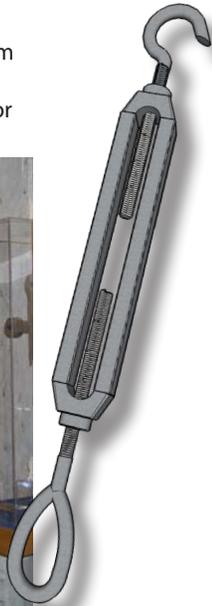


## An alternate support system

The St. Boniface Museum uses a clever wire and turnbuckle system to suspend its panels from the ceiling and tie them in to the floor



*NOTES* is intended to be published four times a year. Its purpose is to share useful ideas, techniques and experiences among community museums, and it is available free of charge to community museums.

Suggestions for future articles may be emailed to:

david.mcinnnes@mts.net

or mailed to:

David McInnes  
22 Sandham Crescent  
Winnipeg MB R3R 1M7

If you would like a small number of additional copies for your Board, volunteers or staff, I will try to accommodate reasonable requests. If you do not want to receive *NOTES*, please let me know and I'll take you off the mailing list.



## Community Museum **NOTES**

January–March 2009

Volume 1, Number 1

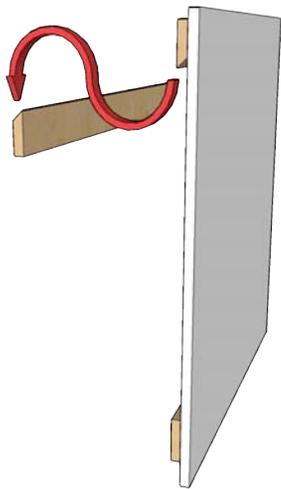
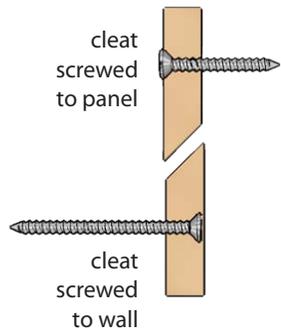
*NOTES* is a brand-new mini-publication aimed at community museums. It is not meant to be either a newsletter or a journal, but is simply a compilation of interesting and useful ideas that community museums can adapt to their own purposes to help them better serve their visitors.

During my more than thirty-five years of working with the museum community, I've had the most fun dealing with exhibits, so exhibits will probably get more attention here at the start; however, I'm open to suggestions and ideas, so please feel free to drop me an email or a note if there's something you'd particularly like to see covered in a future issue. If I don't have the information, I'll try to find someone who does.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

*David McInnes*

## French cleats: the easy way to hang panels



**F**rench cleats have been used for a long time to hang kitchen cabinets. Essentially, a French cleat is a board, split down its length at a 45 degree angle. The bottom half of the split is screwed to the supporting wall; the top half is screwed to the cabinet. The cabinet or panel is lifted up and over, and dropped into place, locking the cleats together.

Cleats have several advantages: they make it easy to line up a set of cabinets; they can be put up by one person; and they are flexible, meaning that it is easy to change cabinets.

This technique translates easily into hanging exhibit panels or cases. While panels and small cases will work fine using a 1x6 board for the cleats, kitchen installers suggest that for heavier cabinets (or in this case, exhibit cases):

- limit cabinet/case widths to 36 inches
- firmly screw cleats to wall studs
- use a ¾ inch back for the cabinet/case
- use two sets of cleats (top and bottom) for extra support
- if necessary use 2x6 cleats



The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden uses French cleats to hang its interpretive panels



Temporary or traveling exhibits often make use of hanging panels

The Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach uses hanging panels in its main exhibit area

