

ines of the H are each 328 feet or ninety-eight metres long.

The Tyndall stone is reminiscent of Manitoba's earliest beginnings, when much of the province was covered by a warm sea, much like today's



Caribbean (though inhabited by very different creatures). Pulitzer Prize winning author Carol Shields opens *The Stone Diaries* in Tyndall, a town two miles from the Garson quarry from

which the Legislative Building stone was stripped. She describes the stone as coming in two colors – “a light buff mixed with brown and a pale gray with darker mottles” which create a “lacy look”. Random fossils – gastropods,



brachiopods, trilobites, corals and snails – were created, writes Shields, “as the flesh of these once living creatures decayed and a limey mud filled the casings and hardened to rock”. Such fossils

can now be seen in both interior and exterior walls of the Legislative Building.

The building's art relies on Greek and Roman mythological icons which relate to justice and the law. Pompeian characteristics appear in the textured



stone walls indoors and outdoors.

One almost has to stand back on Broadway to view the many elements of the legislature's typical temple motif, with its towering pillars and pediments

Showpiece of a Continent

preferred by ancient Greek builders. As they did in ancient Greece, here too they present a bold but simple unity of design.

The wood and brass enclosed front entry faces north and is reached by climbing twenty steps of granite.

Manitoba's economic and agricultural growth as Canada's keystone province.

The stone carvings depict Canada's motto – "From Sea to Sea" – with a nautical wheel (for the Atlantic provinces) at the east end and a trident (for the

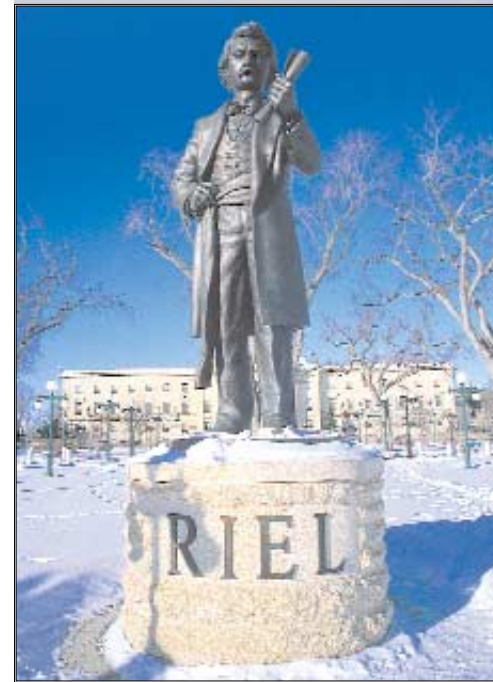
Far left and right: Peter St. John; central images: Dennis Fast



Above the doorway is a massive pediment – a sculptured frieze – set between the roof and the bottom of six towering ionic pillars. Carvings along its length allegorically relate the story of

Pacific coast) at the west end. A series of carved figures stretching across the pediment represents European immigration, productive farming and a young family in a new land. The seated

From the Tyndall limestone (far left), with its fossilized remnants of a much earlier era, the sculptors created columns, cornices, pillars and pediments that echoed the classical art of the



Mediterranean. The exterior sculpture, including this modern representation of Louis Riel (above), presents larger-than-life figures from several of Manitoba's constituent cultures.