



Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre

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Find us on Instagram & Facebook!

Then vs Now — The Evolution of the Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre



Does this scene look familiar? It should! This photograph was taken in the early 1900s during the fair. In the background you can see the school house (AKA the Museum today) and the old curling rink beside it — both built in 1898. This year marks the 120th Anniversary of the Museum Building, and the 40th Anniversary of the Museum in this building! Exciting milestones we have achieved together as a community!

The building has seen the community grow, change, and thrive throughout its 120 years on Scott Street. It was built as a school when the little Red School House became too small to adequately serve the community's needs. Through the years, the facility was used by the legion, the police and Chamber of Commerce, and finally became the home of the museum in 1978. This building has seen many generations walk through its doors, and as the Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre, it will see many more—and still with its original mandate to educate, to uphold knowledge and to preserve the collective memory of our community.

Come, join us on September 19th from 4 to 7 p.m. to celebrate the opening of our 40th Anniversary Exhibit. Opening remarks at 4:30. Details on Page 2.

Issue 27

September 2018

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Special Dates of Interest

- Opening Night Reception for our new exhibit: the 40th Anniversary of the Fort Frances Museum September 19th from 4 to 7 p.m. Everyone welcome!
- Orange Shirt Day—remembering the impact of Residential Schools—is September 30th!
- Friends Fundraising Gala—date to be announced!

◆ JOIN US IN CELEBRATING ◆

40 YEARS

AT THE FORT FRANCES MUSEUM
& CULTURAL CENTRE

premiering this fall

WINE & CHEESE OPENING RECEPTION

celebrates the Museum's 40th! The building's 120th!

Grand opening of our new roof, accessible
washroom and ramp!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 4-7 P.M.

opening remarks begin at 4:30

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Calendar of Events

Exhibits

We had an overwhelming response to our summer exhibit, **We Were Taught Differently: the Residential School Experience**. Thank you to everyone who supported this important story.

We celebrate the **Museum's 40th Anniversary** with an exhibit, featuring many historical photographs! We tell the story of our own museum – its growth and achievements – but also the story of world museums and where the future will take us and already has... virtual reality and more! If you can't make our opening, please stop by before closing October 31.

To end the year, staff are gathering the **stories of veterans** from our First Nations communities and plan to exhibit the results. If you have a story to share, please contact the museum by calling 274-7891 or by email museumc@fortfrances.ca

From February to April in our main floor gallery, we bring you **Fibre Content**, a travelling exhibition that features fibre arts and artists.

Upstairs, we will display local pieces submitted through our **Fibre Arts Festival**. Our first festival (2016) was so successful, we wanted more! So, if you work with textiles and haven't started, there is still time. Deadline to submit is January 15th. Call for more information.

Special Events

Check out workshops on page 4. Additional events will be posted in the newspaper and on Facebook. Register early as spots fill quickly!

Friends Gala

Friends of the Museum are busy planning their Fall Fundraising Gala. Last year was a sell-out so keep your eyes peeled and ears tuned to further updates! You don't want to miss it!

Museum Updates & More Renovations!

A HUGE thank-you to everyone in the community who is liking our Facebook and Instagram posts! Our engagement on our social media has increased this summer which is amazing! Please keep on giving us the awesome feedback and let us know what you would like us to post next!

Our ramp that bypasses the front steps is completed! Thank-you to our awesome community for understanding about our closed front courtyard entrance for July and August. Once again we thank FedNor and Trillium for the federal and provincial funding that allows us to grow as a community museum.

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The town's 2018 capital budget includes repairs to the Hallett this fall — woohoo! This means that many windows and doors will be rebuilt, and the flooring replaced. For next season, the Hallett will be ship-shape!

*Doesn't it
look great?*



The Tugboat Owandem News

Although fundraising for the Owandem has taken a short recess, work continues. If you would like to contribute to this cause, Owandem supporters say thank you! With still roughly \$13,000 to be raised (weather proofing & building a berth), we are still accepting contributions to the fund.



Indigenous Arts Workshop Series

A new workshop program is being developed through the networking and support of our community. The goal is to have different indigenous workshops that gets people traveling to different communities. It will be once a month, every second month. It is done with support from the Friends of the Fort Frances Museum, Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre, Fort Frances Library, 7 Generations Education Institute, Sunset Country Metis, Project Sunset, Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre, and the multitude of other community members. A huge thank-you to TD Canada Trust and the Copper River Inn for their generous donations to our project.

Our first workshop will be held on **September 29th from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at 7 Generations in the Nanicost Building in Classroom 1. The workshop will be **Ribbon Skirt Making** taught by Dorothy Friday. The cost to participate is **\$40** which includes all materials and lunch. You will need to preregister & prepay to attend. Spots are limited. Please contact the museum at 807-274-7891 to speak to our Community Engagement Coordinator Laura to sign up.



Fall & Winter Workshops at the Museum

Our workshops filled up very fast! We posted dates and times on our Facebook page, a few days before the newspaper release. Most filled up before it hit the paper! We apologize to those who were not able to get into the class they wanted. Clearly we didn't fully grasp their popularity! In future, we will ensure fairness by posting online the day after advertising.

If you did not make it into a workshop this fall, please contact us at the museum to be placed on a waiting list! Spots do open up as schedules change.

If you are signed up for a class, please prepay at the museum to hold your spot! Prepaying allows artists to ensure they have enough materials available for the workshops.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 274-7891.

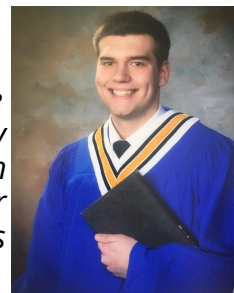
The graphic has a background of autumn leaves. At the top, it says 'Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre' in a cursive font. Below that is a teal horizontal line, followed by the title 'ADULT FALL WORKSHOPS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The workshops are listed in two columns, separated by dotted lines. Each entry includes the workshop name, instructor, date and time, and cost. At the bottom, it says 'PLEASE ASK OUR MUSEUM STAFF FOR MORE DETAILS & TO BE ADDED TO A WAITING LIST' in a bold, sans-serif font.

Sushi Making Instructor A. Sletmoen Sat. Sept. 8, 10 AM - 12 PM Cost \$45 - FULL	Bread Baking Instructor J. Kielczewski Sat. Sept. 29, 12 - 3 PM Cost \$15 - OPEN
Wood Burning Instructor H. Krenn Sat. Oct 13, 1 - 4 PM Cost \$5 - FULL	Felted Figures Instructor J. Nelson Sat. & Sun. Oct 20 & 21, 1 - 4 PM Cost \$25 - FULL
Fudge & Candy Making Instructor D. Ballard Sat. Nov. 3, 1 - 3 PM Cost \$12 - FULL	Fused Glass Ornaments Instructor C. Pruys Sat. Nov. 10, 1 - 4 PM Cost \$60 - FULL
Terrarium Instructor N. Lowey at From The Grind Up Wed. Nov. 14, 6 - 9 PM Cost \$65 - FULL	Christmas Center Pieces Instructor J. Coats Sat. Dec. 22, 1 - 3 PM Cost \$40 - FULL

PLEASE ASK OUR MUSEUM STAFF FOR MORE DETAILS
& TO BE ADDED TO A WAITING LIST

Newspaper Digitization

—article submitted by Chris Silvers, hired through a generous donation made anonymously. Once the next step is complete, our entire collection of weekly newspapers produced over 100 years plus will be available to the public in digital form! A BIG thank you to our donor, to Chris, Jeremy, our summer students and the Fort Frances Times for their important contributions to this significant community project!



Throughout my 10 months working at the museum, I have worked, progressed, and completed a multitude of tasks for the newspaper digitization program. When I started, the museum had files up until 1987, and I can happily say I have finished through to April 2018. This required a lot of hard work: taking pictures of every single page from 1987-1997 and renaming these files. I then had to run these files through both photoshop and docudirect scripts before they were ready to be posted on the website. For the 1998-2018 files, I got in contact with the Fort Frances Times, and they sent me their unnamed files. I looked through each and every file for colour, errors, and page numbers, and then named them accordingly so they were ready for upload to the server.

Other work: I also organized every page from everyday in the Times' files since 1998. This includes the daily bulletins as well. These Bulletins will only need to be named and then they will be ready for upload as well! I also worked at updating/improving the photoshop and docudirect scripts, and performed general maintenance on the device we set up to take pictures.

Next steps: The files I have completed are now handed over to another worker to upload to the museum server. I have kept track of the files that were either not here or at the Times and we will try to locate these files and update the database.

Thank you so much for your donation as it has made our database as up-to-date as we currently can be!



Children's Programming Successful

We started a new children's program — Tuesday's in the Rainy Lake Square! Themes mirrored classes taught to Rec'n Crew kids in the morning but soon expanded to include other subjects. Summer students developed and ran the program; response was great!

We also ran free drama workshops for youth, and hope to offer related programming this fall.

We had our 2nd Annual Night at the Museum in August and it was even more popular than last year! From making their name using the Egyptian Alphabet, discovering clues that Basil the Beaver left behind to find the tablet, mummy wrapping, and a movie with popcorn at the end! We are looking forward to running these events next summer!



Historic Places Day With the National Trust For Canada

Historic Places Day, run by the National Trust for Canada, is an event day created to raise awareness about the diversity of historic places across Canada! Participating sites received national exposure. This year was the 2nd year of the event, and we signed up to be one of their Historic Sites. We were placed on a map on their website, and were also provided tips and tricks to help our social media. In order to generate more participation in their event they developed a Selfie Contest where individuals could win \$1000 and so could the historic place they visited!

Historic Places Day was a great success here at the Fort Frances Museum! Thank-you to everyone who came out and participated! Due to our awesome community, the National Trust for Canada contacted us letting us know we had one of the most active social media feeds in Canada! Wow! Sadly, none of our visitors won the Selfie Contest, but we got some amazing photos of our community members in front of the Museum and down at the Hallett! Great job! Next year we will participate again to raise awareness of the amazing historical sites in Northwestern Ontario. Mark your calendars and get your camera ready for the 3rd Annual Historic Places Day on July 6th 2019!



Notes from the Curator's Desk...

Another summer gone! Wow! Our students arrived in early May and it's a headlong rush from day one... preparing for the tourist season, finalizing summer exhibits and developing the programming around them, planning summer events, and so on. The museum has been very fortunate to have a great group of young people working here over the years; they bring a lot of energy and new ideas, and leave us feeling somewhat bereft when they're gone. We thank Young Canada Works, Canada Summer Jobs and Summer Experience for the funding that allows us to hire student help to keep us going every summer.

I thank Laura Gosse for doing up our newsletter once again. She has also been key in expanding our social media presence. It's sometimes hard for someone of my generation to recognize the value in newer technologies, but just as we understand that young people are our future, so we must realize that the way to reach them is also vitally important.

Laura has also been working with various groups in a number of local communities to bring indigenous workshops to all corners of our district. This is a very important project, one that we're proud to be part of. Just as we've seen with our Saturday arts programming, adults in our area need something to do besides watching the tube. Workshops allow us to pass on the ways of our elders, to learn a new skill, to socialize with our friends and perhaps make new ones — also important in a country with wretchedly long winters! When we see how quickly our classes fill up, we know we're fulfilling a need in our communities.

So though I regret the end of summer, fall is ramping up. Please join us for another great season! And... as always, thank you for your continued support! —Sherry

Artifact of the Summer



Accessioning has begun! From all of the artifacts carefully photographed, labeled and catalogued this summer, a favorite item has been a child's petticoat. Estimates put it from the 1920s or 1930s. As is typical of the times, the item is hand-made. You can see on the back how the seams do not match up. On the front, there are patches where it has been very carefully mended — again, typical of the times as it was likely passed down to a second or third child. This item evokes a connection because *"you can see the love that went into this garment — you can see how loved the child was"*. The garment would have been made for a three- to four-year-old.

Do you quilt, cross-stitch, knit, sew, bead, hook, felt, spin, weave, or... in a word, **craft using textiles?**

If yes, we invite you to create and submit a piece to
Fibre Arts Festival 2019.

Fibre Arts Festival 2019

will feature finished pieces submitted by artisans and crafters working with fibre. We are hoping to see some original designs, but also welcome pieces worked from a pattern.

Submitted pieces will be featured in the Museum's upstairs gallery from February to March 2019.



As in 2016, Fibre Arts Festival 2019 will be a juried exhibit, meaning pieces will be judged in the following categories: *Best Original Design*, *Best Pattern Piece*, *Best Use of Materials* and *People's Choice*. Judges will be decided at a later date. As we are including pieces created from a pattern, this will be an 'open' rather than themed event.

Entries must be complete, ready to be displayed and accompanied by any necessary hardware and display instructions. The artist's name, contact information and the title of the piece must be securely pinned to the back. Pieces must also be available for the duration, from the entry deadline of January 15, 2019 until exhibit closing on March 31, 2019.

Maximum number of entries per person is three. **Entry fees are as follows: \$15 for one submission, \$25 for two, \$30 for three pieces.** Fees will help cover administration costs.

The museum will insure pieces to include materials only unless accompanied by an appraised value. Any sales will be through direct contact with the artist.

Entry deadline is January 15th, 2018.

We are very excited to be able to offer this opportunity. Fibre art is colourful and creative, inspiring and innovative. Once again, we are confident we will see a wide diversity of entries in a variety of themes and subjects. For certain, fibre artists are singularly passionate about what they do!

