



# Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre

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Find us on Instagram & Facebook!

December 2019

## Special Dates of Interest

- **Writers Group** - Meets every 2nd Wed at 4:30 Back door entrance.
- **Right Relations Circle** - Meets every 3rd Wed at 10:00 - Everyone welcome.
- **Friends of the Museum** - new members welcome. Call 274-7891
- New **workshop** line-up: page 5!

## IISD - Experimental Lakes Area

Earlier this year, **Sarah Warrack**, visited to talk about the work undertaken by **IISD - Experimental Lakes Area** and its importance to world decisions made around Climate Change. She gave two presentations, one to an adult group in the evening, and another to Grade 7s from St. Francis School, set up by Jean Bujold, the Experiential Learning Coordinator. Her presentation gave an overview of what was being studied at their site where scientists closely monitor the effects of numerous changes on 58 lakes in the Kenora area, the only research facility of its kind in the world. Sarah's specialty is the study of plastics.

This fall, with plans to be in our area once again, IISD-ELA invited a new crop of Grade 7s to hear **Pauline Gerrard** deliver a presentation of the work she does in environmental science and ecology.

We are very grateful to have this group reach out to us when they are in the area. As part of their mandate is sharing what they've learned, we look forward to hosting them as often as they wish to come. As we deal with the impacts of Climate Change, we welcome having the experts shed some light on what is happening and how we can help.



Winter's Here!





## Friends Fall Fundraising Gala

If you were unable to attend this year's gala, planned around our prohibition exhibit, you missed a good party! Friends of the Museum hosted another packed house! Donations to the live auction were very generous and bidding was fierce — all for a good cause, of course! Food catered by Flint House was scrumptious and live music by Jordie Baird warmed up the room. As in other years, the Rainy Lake Highlanders piped everyone in.

We thank everyone for coming out.



**FRIENDS  
OF THE  
MUSEUM**

Money raised covers the fees paid to artists to run our programming, and helps with advertising costs. If we had to download these expenses to participants, the workshops would be out of reach for many people. As we recognize the importance of socializing to our mental health, especially in winter, it is a goal of the Friends to keep costs to materials only.

In addition, funds pay for SnOasis, our yearly FREE winter carnival for kids, held in early March.

Thank you for your continued support of Friends' initiatives!





## Exhibits

**Current** — *Prohibition & Profit: the Business of Smuggling Booze* runs until year end.

**Coming** — *Canada: Day One* begins in the new year. This is a traveling exhibit that tells the story of immigration, created by the Government of Canada in 2017.

Canada's immigrants, like those who settled in other areas of the world, came in waves: the Scots driven off land to make way for sheep (1759), the Irish during the potato famine (1845-52), the Chinese to fill manning shortages on the railways (1864), the Ukrainians and Russians (1870s to 1890s) to escape extreme poverty and overcrowding, Vietnamese fleeing persecution (1970s and 80s), and many others... all for reasons of considerable hardship.

Many of us locally have family stories around immigration. A large percentage were those who resettled after the world wars: wives who followed their husbands, men who wanted to escape battle-scarred landscapes and cities razed to the ground, others who were fleeing religious persecution and racism.

These, unfortunately, have been reasons for leaving one's homeland since time began and, disturbingly, are reasons millions today continue to flee. For many, immigration is not a luxury — not simply a means to pursue better opportunities or land — but rather a necessity, to provide a stable home for family where children are safe from violence and women have the same freedoms as men.

With the advance of climate change, the migration of people around the world will increase. As coastal waters rise, as droughts and flooding increase, the need to flee will escalate.

Canada has been fortunate. We did not see the influx of refugees that Europe experienced recently. We will probably continue to be fortunate as other areas of the world feel the brunt of the climate crisis. Although Arctic communities are seeing dramatic change that will worsen, these locales are not where the bulk of our population reside, unlike India and Africa where conditions are deteriorating rapidly for millions.



How will third-world countries cope when temperatures rise to a level that is not suitable for life, simultaneously creating shortages of food and water?



How will the world, and Canada, react to increased migration? Will we be understanding of the dire needs of others and help where we can? Will we welcome the displaced? What we will need is investment in infrastructure, and governments at all levels are stepping up.

But consider that welcoming immigrants to Canada helps us as well. Increased populations are necessary to ensure long-term economic sustainability. We've seen locally the list of jobs in the paper; we've called the plumber or a furnace repairman only to hear there's a long waiting list. Our population is ageing, and skilled workers are needed to close gaps. In addition, we must not forget that our publicly funded health care programs and pension plans depend on young workers paying into the tax base.

Our country was built on immigrants and the generosity of those who lived here first. There were many who arrived with only their cultural identity, a strong back and an even stronger work ethic — Ukrainians, Italians, Swedes, Finns, Vietnamese, many more. They then joined others like themselves in the mills and woodlands, or opened small businesses: woodworking, restaurants, bicycle shops and corner stores that dotted Fort Frances. We should also remember that those who struggled on arrival are now the backbone of our communities today.

Let's be equally welcoming to others as conditions in the world worsen.

*In conjunction with this exhibit, we are inviting anyone who has an emigration story to share it with us. To help guide the process, we have put together a list of questions... on the next page.*





## Immigration to Canada

*The following questions are suggestions only, meant to guide the process. If there are other subjects that are important to your story, please include them. Similarly, if there are topics that you are uncomfortable sharing, feel free to leave them out. Use additional paper, if needed. Thank you for participating. Form also available on website.*

Where are you from? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you decide to leave your homeland? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the process for leaving home. What needed to be considered? What preparations were required? How long did it take to get ready? Did you encounter any difficulties that delayed departure? When did you finally leave? \_\_\_\_\_

What were your reasons for selecting Canada as a destination? How straight forward was the application process? Were the requirements for acceptance within your expectations? How long before relocation happened? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the difficulties upon arrival? For example: did someone help you find lodging, a job, a school? Was there help for banking, shopping, navigating a new community and customs? Was language or culture a barrier? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you felt welcomed? Experienced racism? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your greatest obstacle to becoming a new resident? \_\_\_\_\_

What has been the greatest reward? \_\_\_\_\_

If you could go back in time, would you make the same decision to emigrate? \_\_\_\_\_

Any other comments? \_\_\_\_\_

**Fort Frances Museum Workshops: January to April, 2020**

Class	Instructor	Date/Time	Cost per person
Woodburning	H.Krenn	Jan 4, 1-4	\$10
Felting: dogs	J.Nelson	Sat Jan 25, 12-4 Sun Jan 26, 1-4	\$36
Candy-Making	D.Ballard	Sat Feb 8, 1-4	\$17
Spring Wreath	J.Coats	Sat Feb 22, 1-4	\$40
Fused Glass Suncatchers	N.Lowey	Sat Mar 7, 1-4	\$70
Easter Fused Glass	C.Pruys	Sat Apr 4, 1-4	\$75
Cupcake Decorating	M.Spooner	Sat Apr 11, 1-4	\$20

Payment must accompany registration. Cash or cheque only, please. Spaces are limited. Keep in mind that the museum is closed from Dec 22 until Jan 3, *so registration for woodburning must be in by Dec 21.* Thank you!



**Gift Shop Items**

New! fully-lined Canadian-made toques by Ideal North available for Christmas giving—\$23 incl tax. Also, if you don't already have one, the campfire mugs shown here are a great size for coffee or soup. Stop by and check them out! \$12 incl tax.



**Borderland History**

Last Thurs, Dec 5, Max Hayes and Bev Cochrane hosted a presentation on prohibition. In attendance were the **History on Tap** group from Koochiching County Historical Society who have been running a series of local history sessions and were happy to include us. Bev and Max explained how prohibition was handled on the Canadian side of the border, while Ashley LaVigne and Mike Williams related similar tales from south of the border. Details were sometimes sketchy, often funny and certainly entertaining as we heard how law-makers and breakers butted heads over the right to indulge in an alcoholic beverage or two, and the equally weighty problem of who should profit. Cori Horton taped the proceedings.

