
Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre

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Fall 2015

Another successful summer is drawing to a close...

University students are winding down children's programming, serving the last of the tea and scones, and taking down the summer exhibit that celebrated 50 years with the Noden Causeway.

In addition to dedicating time to our newspaper digitization project this summer, they simplified many of our everyday tasks, and organized museum spaces including both offices.



School children visited through May & June. Above, children imprint fabric using leaves & flowers.



Students provide programming on a weekly basis for Rec'n Crew kids and, as requested, for Day Care.

Perhaps because we pack so much into summer is the reason it whips by so quickly, but it's always a little daunting to see that first coloured leaf flutter to the ground. Yes, fall is just around the corner!

We are looking forward to a great off-season at the museum however, with a new exhibit, additional staffing, a fashion show, and some new arts programming coming up!

But first...
our fall exhibit...



Fall at the Museum features the **Artistry of Hooked Rugs**. Curated by **Debbie Ballard**, this exhibit showcases the scope of hooked fibre art.

Rug hooking began as a craft of necessity. Primitive rugs were hooked by the women of the Canadian Maritime provinces and the northeastern states for purely practical purposes, using whatever materials they had to fashion rough “mats” for cold floors.

Like quilting, rug hooking helped provide our ancestors with a sense of community. Many early rugs depicted elements of daily life within the home and the neighbourhood. Over the years the craft evolved to an art form used to express the unique vision of the hooking artist.

The exhibit offers a sampling of the many types of hooking being done today, from commercial patterns and primitive pieces to adaptations and original pieces of art, including a few heritage pieces. A first of its kind in Northwestern Ontario, this exhibit will feature pieces on loan from hooking artists throughout the province of Ontario, as well as examples of work submitted by rug-hooking enthusiasts in the Rainy River District.



Be sure to stop by this fall to view what has become known as ‘art for the floor’. The exhibit will run from September through to December in our main floor gallery.

It should be noted that we are trying something new. On occasion, we will be inviting a local expert to curate an exhibit. Guest curators will share their knowledge and perspective on subjects that will have meaning to our community. Some ideas for future exhibits are commercial fishing, bush planes and the various boats that are a backdrop to our lakeside living. Museum staff will assist where needed. If you have an idea for a future exhibit, be sure to let us know.



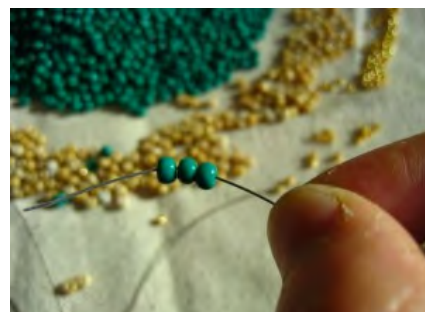
Additional Staffing

The Fort Frances Museum welcomes **Bethany Waite**, our new Collections Management Coordinator, a one-year position funded through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC). This valuable program provides museums like ours with funding to hire a university graduate in a related field — a win-win situation for everyone!

In addition to a Bachelor of Science Degree, Bethany has a diploma in Museum Management and Curatorship. Her primary role at the museum will be to oversee the ongoing care and preservation of the collection, ensure the efficiency of our database and make recommendations as to how we can maximize storage. In addition, she will be lending a hand with whatever we are doing — building an exhibit, researching an artifact, or lining up programming — allowing her to gain some valuable experience, and providing us with much needed help. Welcome, Bethany!

Arts Programming

This year, the Museum is partnering with the Friends of the Museum to provide arts programming on Saturdays for adults (includes ages 12 and up). The Museum/Friends group will pay an honorarium to artists to teach the class. Participants will pay for their materials. This allows us to offer programming at a rate that will be reasonable for everyone.



We are hoping to offer a variety of genres — sketching, painting with water colours, stained glass, wood-carving, rughooking, basket-weaving, fibre-art, jewellery making, beading, photography, whatever! — but that will depend on the number and variety of artists/crafters who agree to teach a class.



We have chosen the 12-and-up age group as young people seem to have schedules that are already very full. It is often parents and other adults who do few things 'just for us', and little of it in the way of expressing ourselves artistically. So this is for you.

Join us one Saturday a month or experiment with a few. Learn something new and have fun doing it! Your cost will be your materials. We pay for the instructor.

Providing we have enough instructors, there will be six sessions this fall, and six more in the new year. If you are an artist or crafter and would like to lead a class, we invite you to give us a call at 274-7891.



Feast your senses with a Fall Fashion Show!

Coming up this fall, the Museum is partnering with Odawayigamig, Scott Street's new Native Craft Store, to bring you something special. During one evening very soon, we will be offering a fashion show of native

clothing and jewellery, inspired by Ojibwe culture, and hand-crafted in traditional ways.

The Native Craft Store's owners, Pam Johnson and Sandra Wayash-Calder, are excited to present a sampling of the artistic talent in our First Nations communities. The presentation of native fashions will be complemented by traditional music and foods.

For additional information, to submit a piece, or to be involved in any way, please contact Sandra at the store, or email Sandra@odawayigamig.com. *'working together in preserving our language, culture and traditions'*

Due to a conflict with the original date, the new date and time will be advertised once confirmed.





New!

The Friends of the Museum have created a line of merchandise for the Museum. The artwork is based on a product that was once sold locally... beer brewed and marketed by the Fort Frances Brewery. As the labeling so clearly says 'Fort Frances', it was a great choice for souvenirs at the museum.

T-shirts come in S, M, L and XL. BBQ aprons are one-size fits all. Beer glasses are nicely weighted. All items are of excellent quality.



Thanks you student models, Savannah (above) & Naomi (right).



Money raised through sales helps pay for extras, including the arts programming mentioned earlier.

And yes, there will be a 2016 heritage calendar!

The Brewery was located at the intersection of the DW&P (Duluth, Winnipeg and Pacific) railway line with the Mill Road.

In 1960, it was purchased by brewmaster, William A. Beck, and became the Beck Brewing Co. Ltd. Eventually, it reverted to the town and, after being partly destroyed by fire in Oct 1975, the building was razed.

The merchandise above has been imprinted with a beer label from the original Fort Frances Brewing Company, sourced from the Fort Frances Museum archives.

The **Fort Frances Brewing Co. Ltd.** began brewing its first beer in Sept 1925, the same year the Ontario government decided to end prohibition in the province. At that time, the company produced 70 barrels of 4.39 percent ABV (alcohol by volume) beer per day.



Don't forget our
Fibre Arts Festival 2016!

This museum-sponsored event will feature finished pieces submitted by artisans and crafters working with fibre. With more than a year to create, 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 September to December 15, 2016.

Call 274-7891 for more information or ask at the museum. We're also online: ffmuseum@fort-frances.com

Exhibits

The Museum has been investigating travelling exhibitions. Due to a generous gift from the estate of Dino D'Agostini, it seemed that bringing in an exhibit was something we could consider. However, many of the travelling exhibits that would be of interest to our community bear a price tag of \$5000 to \$15000, with transportation costs extra. Although the province recognizes that these prices pose a financial difficulty for museums such as ours, and subsequently provide funding through grants to assist with costs, the question must be asked... *Is this the best use for our limited funds?*

After much discussion with our board and others, we have decided to explore elements of interactive programming. Other local museums, such as Sioux Lookout and Kenora, have introduced I-pads and virtual tours that enable visitors to access items not on display, as well as additional background material related to items that are. For example: someone looking at a jingle dress could listen to a story from an elder of the first time she danced. They might also view a video of a traditional pow-wow with drumming and song.

Although interactive programming of this kind is particularly suitable for engaging our young, Kenora's Lake of the Woods museum is finding that it is also popular with every age level.

We will keep you posted as we explore these and other options.

Calendar of Events

- September to December: The Artistry of Hooked Rugs - main floor gallery.
- To be announced: Fall Fashion Show.
- Saturdays in Oct/Nov and again during Jan-Mar: Art workshops - watch for more information.
- Thursday, November 5th: Friends Fall Fundraising Gala!
- Every Wednesday afternoon starting Sept 16, 1-3 p.m: Fibre Arts Group - upstairs small gallery
- Every 2nd Wednesday at 4:30 p.m: Genealogy Group - Sept thru June
- Every 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m: Writers Group - Sept thru June

Group meetings are open to anyone. Feel free to stop by.

We are still open daily thru September, 11-4 - includes Hallett and tower. Admission fees apply.

Off-season begins October. Open Tuesday thru Saturday. Admission by donation.

