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# Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre

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*Now on Facebook!*



Fall 2014

*Currently featured in our main floor gallery and upper floor meeting room...*

## **“We Remember Them”**

The Museum partnered with the Royal Canadian Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary on this exhibit, created to mark the 100th Anniversary of the start of the Great War and 75th of World War II.

In early spring, we sent out an invitation to the community to bring in their family stories. Because many veterans prefer not to speak of their experiences, we were unsure of what response we would get. Would there be enough for an exhibit?

In the beginning response was slow. But in the past 2-3 months, and specifically in the weeks leading up to the opening on Sept 18, the amount of information coming in has been nothing short of amazing! The traffic through here has been non-stop with individuals bringing in photos, their family treasures and, yes, the stories.

Trying to get everything scanned in and typed up has been daunting however. Even with two volunteers working many long hours, we still have much to do. So, there are gaps in what you'll see. At the same time, we are very pleased with what we have — well over 200 posters of those who served locally.

In addition, we have also received many stories of those whose lives were affected by war. The war brides were one such group. Those who entertained the troops or worked to fill employment gaps left by absent men are others worth noting.



This exhibit is definitely a work in progress as families continue to bring us their treasures and war stories. We will continue to add to the exhibit until it closes at Christmas time, at which time we hope to compile the work in some way. So, if you have information in a drawer somewhere, it's not too late to dig it up and get it in.

And think about encouraging your children's teachers to bring in their classes, or bring in your children and grandchildren yourself. Our local veterans' stories are definitely worth knowing.

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## We Remember Them

Here are a few samples of what was brought in for this exhibit.



### Bugle and Photograph

The bugle, shown on the left, can be seen in the hands of bugler, Archibald O'Donnell Ross, only 14 years old at the time this photo was taken.

The family was able to verify that his attestation papers show an incorrect birth date. Like many new recruits, this young fellow lied about his age.

*(on loan from Greg Ross)*



### Cigarette Case

On the left we see the bottom of a cigarette case made by a fellow prisoner-of-war (from plane wreckage) and gifted to Stan Ward while at Stalag IVB, Muhlberg, Germany.

*(on loan from Stan Ward)*

### Edward Orton

Framed photo and medal collection, belonging to Edward Orton, was brought in along with this artistically designed box — a gift to troops from Queen Victoria in 1914 — and include a piece of trench art.

*(bottom right below)*



With long stretches of very little to do other than keep one's head low, soldiers created art from shell casings. Note the folded metal is engraved with the locations where this soldier served: Amiens, Mons, Vimy, Cambrai, Paschendaele and others, all well-known sites along the arduous road to Victory.

*(on loan from Margaret Rousseau)*



The medal case, shown above, was put together to honour Neil Galbraith, one of several veterans who served in both WWI and II.

Photos of Neil and his story are below it.

*(on loan from Bea Galbraith)*

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## Friends of the Museum

Volunteer group, Friends of the Museum, continues to be busy.

Following their success with SnOasis, held the final weekend of March break, Friends put their heads together and designed a promo card for the Museum that will be available at local hotels and outlying resorts.

Featuring thumbnail images of what can be found at the museum and heritage sites, the card also includes important information on location, hours and key attractions. Very attractively designed by Fort Frances Times staff, this eye-catching promotional card will help bring visitors into the museum!



Over the summer, the Friends sponsored three workshops, a song-writers workshop with Shannon Darby and Ken Kellar, and two paper lantern workshops, led by local artist, Lindsay Hamilton. All three workshops were very popular and well attended.

Following some research into our founding families — those who now have streets named after them — Friends are now doing the final touch-ups on a community calendar before it goes to press. The calendars will be ready for Christmas gift-giving.

Next up is the Friends **Fundraising Gala**, on Thursday, November 6th. The wine and cheese evening will be co-ordinated around the museum's current exhibit *We Remember Them*. With the theme of "**An Evening at the Officers' Club**" the evening event is not to be missed! Delectable hors d'oeuvres, live music, a silent auction and much more! Tickets are on sale now, \$35 each or two for \$60.

Active members of the Friends of the Museum are: President Duane Hicks, Vice-President Caron Cridland, Treasurer Sue Fletcher, Secretary Mandy Lahti, Deb Ballard, Robert Schulz, Judy Kielczewski, Samantha Manty, Sarah Marusyk and Pat Basaraba.

The group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 4:30 at the Museum. New members are always welcome.



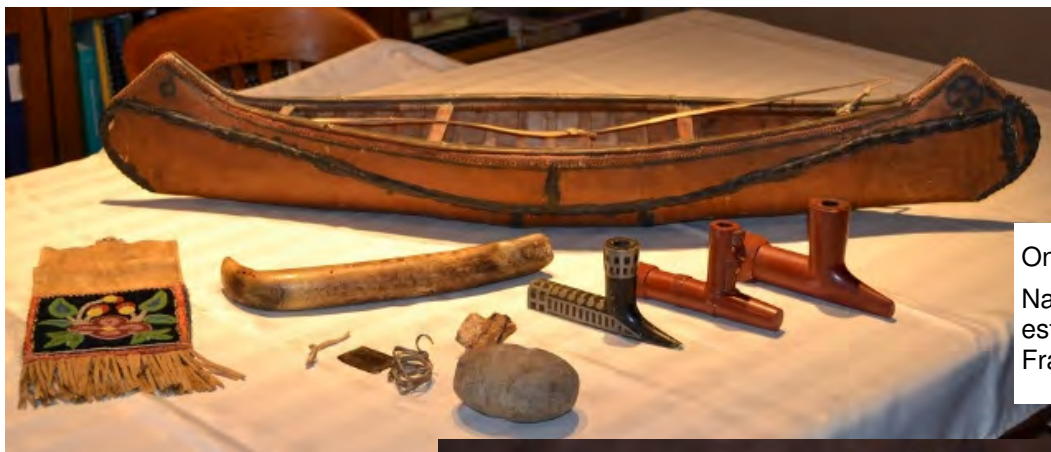
A very big  
**THANK YOU** to  
all our 'Friends'.  
The museum is  
very grateful for  
your support!



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## Recent Donations to the Museum's Permanent Collection

The Fort Frances Museum is very fortunate to have received some very fine pieces over this past year.



On the left  
Native artifacts from the  
estate of Mary Emma  
Frances (Molly) Phair.

Below  
Dentist chair donated by  
Dr. Bud Danylchuk.



Above right  
10-piece commode  
set once belonging to  
Dr. Robert Moore.

The fine china was purchased by Jessie Turewich in an estate sale during the depression for less than \$10. Items are donated by Rose Bernardi in memory of her mother, Mrs. Turewich.



The Museum also received a fine example of native regalia including head-dress that had been presented to William Noden on the occasion of the opening of the Noden Causeway. A donation from his grand-daughter, it will be displayed next summer for the 50th anniversary of the causeway.

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