



Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre

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Find us on Instagram & Facebook!

Special Dates of Interest

- **Fibre Arts Festival** (local art) now open - upstairs.
- **Fibre Content** (traveling exhibit) now open - downstairs.
- Feb. 18-24 is **Heritage Week** for the National Trust for Canada
- **SnOasis 7, Snowflake Heaven** runs March 2 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- March 30 is the **last day** for the Fibre Arts exhibits
- **Taking Back Our Natural World** runs April to June; accepting art submissions!
- Monday April 22nd is **Earth Day!**
- Watch for workshops & seminars around **climate change**

During February and March in our main floor gallery, we bring you **Fibre Content**, a travelling exhibition on loan through the collaborative effort of numerous organizations and artists from southern Ontario who love and support the creative use of textiles. These are incredible examples of textile art. Included in the exhibit is an interactive component that allows browsers to touch — not something usually allowed with fibre art.

Upstairs, we display local pieces submitted through our **Fibre Arts Festival**. This exhibit will run until March 31st. Like the art in Fibre Content, these are a must see!

We thank our judges: **Cher Pruys**, **Phyllis Johnson** and **Pattie Anderson** for making the difficult choices for awarding 1st and 2nd place in each category. For Best Original Design, winners are Jamie Nelson for *Off Season Reindeer Games* and Carol Hyatt for *Tianna's Sweater*. For Best Pattern Piece, winners are Debbie Ballard for *By the Lamp's Glow* and Kim Roy for her table runner. For Best Use of Materials, winners are Caren Fagerdahl for *The Mitten* and Camie Gray for *Lady in Red*. Congratulations to all winners. Submissions are of amazing quality and skill. Thank you to everyone who submitted.

We invite you to our
Open House on Wed Feb 13, 1-3 p.m.
to celebrate fibre art.

Tea & dainties will be served! All welcome!

Fibre Content

Exhibit on display at the
Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre from
February 5 until March 31

WE ARE OPEN:
TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY - 11AM TO 4PM



Notes...

2018 was an important year for the museum. With *We Were Taught Differently: the Residential School Experience* and *Veterans of Treaty 3*, we made a conscious decision to focus on subjects that are not only of great importance to our indigenous community but are equally so to all Canadians. To imagine a future that is as good as we can make it, we must first know our past, recognize that there is work to be done, and make the choices that ensure the best chance of getting there. But the best part is that the returns are truly huge. I feel very good about the positive direction our community is heading and at so many levels. Leadership across our district is truly inspiring.

The museum continues to gather the **histories of all veterans** for our files, therefore should you have a family story to share, please contact the museum by calling 274-7891 or by email: ffmuseum@fortfrances.ca.



The museum is also part of a larger community group that initiated the **Indigenous Workshops** series that help support and promote native arts. Just as we recognize the importance of heritage crafts with our **Fibre Arts Festival**, it is equally valuable to teach and learn how to make tourtiere and capotes, and to understand the traditions behind ribbon skirts, beading and medicine bags from those experts and elders who best know the old ways. Also of great benefit is that we get together with new and old friends, learn something we didn't before, and feel good about being creative. What a great way to beat the winter season!

In the coming year, we tackle another very important subject: **climate change**. We hear so much about it, but I'm embarrassed to say, it's another topic that we've somehow failed to explore and are now running to catch up. Please look for more on this on page 4.

Last year we missed doing a **membership drive**. I'm happy to say there were many of you who still sent in your donations in support of the museum, so thank you very much! We will be running a drive in early March, so watch for that. We thank everyone in advance for their continued support. We cannot do it without you!



March 1st marks the last day for **Laura Gosse**, our Community Engagement intern. She has worked hard during her year at the museum to reach out to the greater community, and has been instrumental in forming and strengthening a number of valuable partnerships. Laura is looking forward to the Masters program in Environmental Studies at Lakehead in September and we wish her well as she tackles another stage in life's journey. *Thanks, Laura, for your contributions to the museum and community!*





Miller Family Quilt

The Miller family understands that the quilt was made by family members, relatives and friends of the Park, Church and Miller families, plus a few local Rainy River neighbours and friends, back in the very early 1900s, and was presented to Clara Jane Park (1879-1939) on the occasion of her marriage to William Edward Miller (1877-1962) in 1905.

William Edward Miller was a son of Robert Miller (1843-1931) and Agnes Miller (nee Duncan, 1843-1935).

Robert Miller and his older brother, Stewart Miller (1842-1926), were very early settlers in the Rainy River area and moved to Rainy River with their families from eastern Ontario in the 1890s. Both brothers settled east of the community of Rainy River on either side of a local creek, hence the creek became known as Miller's Creek, a name that exists still today.

William and Clara Jane Miller are buried in Rainy River.

This quilt is a wonderful example of a heritage craft. Often made with much attention to detail and even love, these crafts, designed for a purpose – warming a bed or a floor (rughooking) – were also an artform, with fabrics and needlework selected to complement the piece.

It is for this reason that we promote our Fibre Arts Festival – to further support heritage crafts.

We are grateful to the Miller family for choosing to gift this family heirloom to our museum. It will be treasured.

Accessioning News



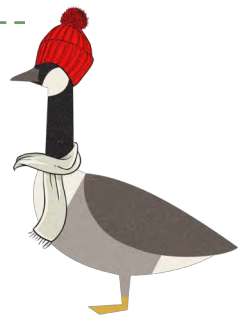
We have a new volunteer who has joined the accessioning ranks! A big welcome to Carolyn Mount. Carolyn has worked at three major BC museums and has considerable experience managing artifacts. Using her expertise, she is lending her support to Nell in tackling the backlog of items gifted to the museum.

If anyone is interested in learning how we accession artifacts or anything else in the museum, please feel free to pop by the museum and ask our staff and our wonderful volunteers!

Coming Up...

Mark your calendars for the **Friends of the Museum's** annual children's winter festival: **SnOasis 7: Snowflake Heaven!**

March 2nd from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Rainy Lake Square. This is a great day of winter fun for young families. Auger dogs and bannock on a stick! Also cookies, hot chocolate, face painting and yoga at the Museum. We thank our Friends of the Museum for this yearly event; also Friends of the Library for serving hot chocolate and Meghan Spooner for leading yoga. *Where would we be without our Friends!*



Taking Back Our Natural World

Climate change is here, now. Weather systems that once moved through our area taking the rain or cold with it, now hang over us with no end in sight. No one likes Domesday imagery but climate change will be catastrophic for our children if we can't do enough to keep temperatures under control.

The United Nations has set the year of NO RETURN to 2030, **only 11 years away!** Scary, isn't it? How old will you be? What about your children, grandchildren? Eleven years is no time at all to ensure temperatures do not rise more than 1.5°C. Are we doing all we can? Will it be enough?

If we look around our community, we can see that some very good things have been accomplished. Our own power corporation and the Town have done some great work when it comes to solar power, LED lighting, and educating the public around energy conservation. Recycling? Yes, our community has been stepping up.

There are also inroads being made by our business community. Flint House provided a water bottle filling station at the Rainy Lake Square. The Rendezvous and other local restaurants have banned straws, and many other business owners have strongly discouraged the use of plastic bags. There are numerous other good things happening. Kudos to all of you who are thinking about these issues and doing your part!

However, climate change is a very real threat that will impact all of us, so we need put our heads together and determine what else we can be doing. As individuals, we need conserve natural resources like water, and eliminate products that cause harm, won't break down or can't be recycled. We must look for opportunities to leave our cars at home, and instead bike or walk. We can plant trees, compost, and consider natural alternatives for shorelines.

From April to June, the Museum's exhibit will be **Taking Back Our Natural World**. Not only will we be providing some information on how climate change is impacting us and the solutions that are available, ***but also will be inviting the public to submit artwork on this subject.***

What are we looking for? Anything that highlights the impact of climate change on our world. It could be as simple as a collage of photos that shows your favourite places on Rainy Lake impacted by garbage washing up on shore, or a sculpture made of one-serving-only fast-food containers. *But be creative. There will be prizes!* If you need inspiration, look online under 'artwork that highlights climate change'. You'll be blown away! **Deadline for submissions: April 2nd.** Criteria around art submissions can be picked up at the museum or downloaded from our website. Unfortunately we must limit size of entries.

Also watch for upcoming workshops and information sessions from presenters on some of these important topics. There are those in our broader community that can answer our questions and provide suggestions on how to lessen our impact on our natural world. **Taking Back Our Natural World** at the Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre, April to June 2019. For more information, call Sherry at 274-7891.



TAKING BACK OUR NATURAL WORLD

Looking for Artist Submissions

Are you artistic? Feeling creative?

The Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre is now accepting artwork for
Taking Back Our Natural World
an exhibit examining the impact of climate change.

Deadline for submissions: **April 2, 2019**
Pieces will be on display from April through June.

Entries will be judged for creativity and relationship to theme. Prizes will be awarded.
Entries must meet entry criteria; there are size limitations.

Information available at the museum (274-7891), also posted on ffmuseum website.

Exhibits in planning stages...

July - Sept — **Echoes in the Ice: Finding Franklin's Ship**. We're just completing paperwork, but it looks like a go! For July through September this year, we are bringing in a first class exhibit through money raised from our membership drives. Costs for these big exhibits seem high, but not when one considers the level of research that happens behind the scenes and the work of experts to build them. We in northern Ontario also need to contend with the additional costs of transportation to bring them in. However, once in a while it's worth it! We're worth it! Although admission costs will run higher than normal, we hope you will support us by coming out. Be sure to find time this summer!

Oct - Dec — **Prohibition & Profit: the Business of Smuggling Booze**. If you've a local story to share, Maxine Hayes is still collecting.

Jan - Mar — **Canada: Day 1**. This is a traveling exhibit from the Government of Canada that tells the story of immigration.

Singer 15419968 —

Recollections by Mike Solomon

So far as I know, not much is known about the beginning of this machine's first fifty years of life. I do have a wee bit of memory to share about one stage of its lifetime however.

Back in the late 1940s and/or early 1950s Maty Heusbourg, a shoemaker, owned the machine and had it in his shoe repair shop located just next (east) of the Royal Theatre on Fort Frances' Scott Street. Maty became generally and widely known for his skill and handcraftmanship at resurrecting footwear and leather gear for local folk. In particular, his skill at fixing badly worn bushworker workboots and mitts by hand-sewing or using his old treadle sewing machine was admirable, to say the least.

Somehow Maty's old treadle machine (the subject of this tale) went away when he closed up shop. There is a story that he was getting some fellow to do some repairs and the fellow never did the job nor brought the machine back. I heard of this some fifty years later and sought out the repairman. He apparently did not do the job, and after my offer of a hundred bucks, he sold it to me. It has sat in my livingroom (ever since) for the past 30 or more years. Just seeing it there always brought back fond memories for me.

Almost every labourer would wear out their leather mitts quickly. They might also damage their boots, (rip and/or separate the leather tops from the rubber bottoms of boots), etc. Few could afford new stuff so it was usual for workers to roughly cobble up/patch their gear. Mitts in particular wore through quickly. Handling frozen lumber boards, slabs, tools such as axes, picaroons, cant-hooks, peaveys, or railway spike iron clawbars in snow and icy conditions produced ruinous damage to mitts.

Workers would improvise for a time by switching mitts to the other hand. This meant a discomfort by wearing the mitts on the wrong hands. Finally, (actually in a few days for mitts worn on some jobs) the mitts would become a hazard and have to be replaced. This was costly. I don't really remember how much a pair of new mitts cost but I seem to recall the sum of \$3.00 for a pair of new at the camp commissary. BUT! apparently if a worn-out pair was exchanged, new ones could be had for a dollar.

The worn-out mitts were bagged until enough of an accumulation deserved a trip to Maty in Fort Frances when the camp boss or one of his minions went back for supplies or business. Apparently, later, the boss would pay Maty for the repairs and fetch the repaired mitts back to camp upon return. Now I clearly recall hearing workers vow that Maty's repaired mitts were better than new ones. Maty would also do cobbler work like putting steel corks in river drive boots.

So... what about me? Well, from time to time I went to Fort Frances and visited with contractor Vince McEvoy's boys of my age. I was tasked on doing so, with carrying a gunnysack of worn mitts to Maty's Shoe Shop. Maty, of course, would badger and torment me about who I was and what kind of mischief I would likely encounter in Town. He would nevertheless treat me kindly and after a short visit with Otto Polenske, owner of the Royal Theatre next door, they would say that I could "see a Show" for free. I did so and recall these warm memories as I write about the old treadle sewing machine.





Indigenous Arts Workshop Series newgold

The new workshop program, developed through the networking and support of many organizations in our community, is going well. As previously reported, the goal is to have different indigenous-themed workshops hosted throughout our district, thus ensuring that local participants have the opportunity to attend, while allowing for others to visit. Workshops are held once every second month with the support of Friends of the Fort Frances Museum, Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre, Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre, Seven Generations Education Institute, Sunset Country Metis, Project Sunset, Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre, and a multitude of other community members. A huge thank-you to TD Canada Trust for their financial support of our Tourtiere Workshop and to New Gold, our newest supporter, for their generous contribution to upcoming workshops.

Our third workshop — already filled! — will be held **February 16th & 23rd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at Seven Generations Education Institute. The workshop will be **Capote Making** taught by Caren Fagerdahl and Jane Trivers. The **base cost is \$45** which includes sewing materials and lunch. The additional cost of a Hudson Bay Blanket will vary.

Please stay tuned for future Indigenous Art Workshops.

FORT FRANCES MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTRE

Adult Spring Workshops

Beginners Wood Carving Instructor S. Latimer Sat. Jan 19, 12-4:30PM & Sun. Jan. 20, 1-4PM Cost \$15	Abstract Flow Painting Instructor P. Tinkess-Fletcher Sat. Jan 26 1-4PM Cost \$25	
Silk Tie/Scarf Painting Instructor C. Pruys Sat. Feb 9, 1-3 PM Cost \$60	Fused Glass Instructor N. Lowey Sat. Mar 9, 1-3PM Cost \$65	Cupcake Decorating Instructor M. Spooner Sat. Mar 23, 1-3PM Cost \$15
Spring Wreath Instructor J. Coats Sat. Apr 6, 1-4PM Cost \$45	Fused Glass Suncatcher Instructor C. Pruys Sat. Apr 13, 1-3PM Cost \$65	Spring Arrangement Instructor J. Coats Sat. Apr 20, 1-4PM Cost \$45
Felting Instructor J. Nelson Sat. Apr 27 & Sun Apr 28, 12-4PM Cost \$30	Terrariums Instructor N. Lowey Sat. May 4, 1-3PM Cost \$65	Scone Making Instructor M. Hickling Sat. May 11, 1-3PM Cost \$10

Please come to the Museum to register & pay for your classes.
 If you have any questions please feel free to contact the
 Museum at 274-7891

Workshops at the Museum

We are no longer accepting registration by phone or Facebook. Paid fees must accompany your registration. Cash or cheque only. This change is necessary to provide artists with numbers in order to buy supplies. We thank all past workshop lovers who have paid or cancelled in a timely fashion.

A HUGE thank-you to Friends of the Museum who subsidize the cost of artist fees and advertising. We simply could not offer classes at these prices without this support!



Our 2018 Fall Workshop line-up was a success! A sincere thank you to Caren Fagerdahl for continuing to organize our line-up of workshops.

Thanks also to the instructors who teach us new skills, crafts, and encourage us to be creative. And thank you to all our participants! Without your interest, we could not have a program.

We are now into another season, new memories and wonderful experiences with you all!

