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# Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre

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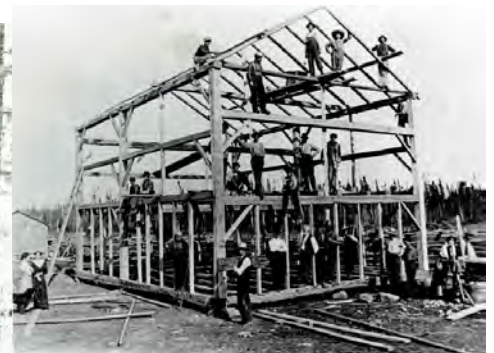


Summer 2016

## *Currently at the Museum!*

***Rainy River Roots—Settlement of the District*** is our latest exhibit. Curated by intern, Bethany Waite, the exhibit allows us to glimpse Fort Frances and area in the years prior to the second world war. The exhibit features photographs and artifacts from our collection, and covers such topics as homesteading, schools, churches, doctors, early epidemics, mail service... *you get the picture!*

On Thursday, June 30th, Mall Day in Fort Frances, we hope you will join us for an open house. This is your chance to stop by with your family, meet our summer staff and view the exhibit. There will be old-fashioned activities for children, and refreshment for all!



Thursday, June 30th, Mall Day, marks the opening for our **specialty teas & home-made scones**, served on fine china in the coolness of our upstairs meeting room. In conjunction with our open house, scones will be served with home-made jam and special butters. \$4 per person. The back elevator entrance will be open all day. *Pssst, moms, enjoy tea & scones upstairs while the young ones partake in activities downstairs! What's not to like about that?*

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## Summer is here and so are our students!

They bring their own skill sets based on interests and talents, and help us out with summer programming. They ready the museum for the tourist season, including opening up our heritage sites on the waterfront: the Hallett and lookout tower. During May and June they prepare for visiting classrooms, and in July and August plan activities around weekly visits from Rec'n Crew and Day Care kids.

They cover reception, manage our gift items, create posters, assist Bethany with our media posts, and help both interns and me with our many research projects, including work on our Canada 150 themes. In addition, they will assist with Market Thursday's tea and scones, continue work on our newspaper digitization project, and have planned a great line-up of activities and baked goods for our exhibit opening, organized in conjunction with Mall Day, June 30th. We hope you will stop in and say hello!



**Cameron Cawston** (*left*) is funded through *Young Canada Works* and the Canadian Museums Association. A university student with OCAD, Cameron is studying integrated media.

**Mikayla Chiasson** (*below right, left side*) is funded through the *Summer Experience* program under the provincial Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport. Mikayla is attending Ryerson University and pursuing a Bachelor of Interior Design.

**Erika Cochrane** (*on right*) is with us through *Canada Summer Jobs* (Employment & Social Development Canada). She is working towards a general Arts & Science degree at Confederation College.



**Naomi McManaman** (*left*) is our returning high school student. Also funded through *Canada Summer Jobs*, she begins as soon as high school wraps up, but leaves us early in August for India and a humanitarian cause.

We always have much to accomplish each summer — maybe too much as summer has a way of slipping by should we forget to pay attention! Still, we're on track. The museum is in good hands.

We are fortunate once again to receive the funding to offer employment to our student staff. The Museum benefits by being able to tackle many of the tasks that require extra manpower; i.e. working on our newspaper digitization project. The community benefits as we can also offer summer programming to Rec'n Crew and Day Care kids. The students benefit as they help pay for schooling costs, but also learn a variety of skills in a heritage field.





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## Museum Projects & Interns!

### Collection in good shape going forward

**Bethany Waite**, having completed the Museum Management & Curatorship post-graduate program at Fleming College, was hired in July 2015 to manage our collection. She is now into her final weeks with us at the Fort Frances Museum. She has inventoried our collection and ensured our database reflects our artifacts. Storage problems have been addressed, and we've room again for our collection to grow.

Too often, database entries made years ago don't give us enough information. A search on the database can tell me that the museum has a hame, but what is it exactly? Whose was it and what was its purpose? Was it manufactured locally, purchased, and who donated it to the museum? Is it in good shape and where is it located in storage?



Hame — one of two curved supports attached to the collar of a draft horse to which traces are fastened.

To minimize the impact of light, temperature, humidity and the accumulation of dust, artifacts are typically wrapped or boxed, then placed on shelves. So, not knowing where things are stored has always been a big handicap to creating interesting exhibits... up until now. Now, thanks to Bethany, I know.

Storage areas have been re-organized, two moveable storage units purchased, aisles cleared, and duplicates or items in poor shape have been identified.

I've been able to cross another important task off our list!

The above intern position was made possible through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation overseen by the Ministry of Northern Development & Mines.

- ✓ Transfer two old databases to new computer software
- ✓ Inventory collection & ensure database up to date
- ✓ Review storage needs, add new units & reorganize
- Address accessioning backlog



### Interactive Programming

Last, but certainly not least, is **Julia Piskiewicz**, a post-graduate student in the Museum Management & Curatorship program at Fleming College. Julia's final course of study prior to graduating is a 14-week, free internship with a museum. Fortunately for us, she has chosen Fort Frances.

While here, she assists wherever she can gain some practical experience, but also focuses on one project. Julia's focus is conducting research into the interactive programming that will enhance our permanent exhibit themes in our upstairs gallery space. This project has been on our wish list for some time, so now one step closer to actually happening!

Visitors to our open house can meet both interns.

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## Fibre Arts Festival 2016 coming up!

Entry deadline is approaching fast: August 15, 2016.

This museum-sponsored event will feature finished pieces submitted by local artists 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 September to December 2016. Maximum number of entries per person is three. Entry fees are as follows: \$15 for one piece, \$25 for two, \$30 for three submissions. Fees will cover administration costs.

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



## Looking ahead to Canada 150!

We have begun planning exhibits and events around Canada's sesquicentennial, which we celebrate in 2017. Our focus will be transportation, beginning with—*of course!*—the canoe, and including steam boats, bush planes, rail, road and recreational modes of travel. If you have expertise in any of the above, or simply an interest in helping out, we are forming a committee to develop plans.



A Canada 150 exhibit will run April through to October next year, so will include our tourist season as well as those months

when school children are more likely to visit. During the summer months, we are borrowing a bush plane exhibit from Kenora, which includes a virtual plane set-up and flying simulator, but we also plan to expand on our own rich bush-plane history.

In addition, we need consider what events we would like to showcase that celebrate our vibrant past. If you have any thoughts, please give us a call at 274-7891.

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## William Hampden Tener (Tenner)



As a Canada 150 project, the museum, in partnership with Jim Cumming and Merv Ahrens, have plans to compile and publish the photographs of William H. Tener. As indicated in a Fort Frances Times article, the glass plate negatives once belonged to Jim's father, Bob. Because the museum did not have the means of housing the collection, it was sent to the Ontario Archives for preservation. We are now in the process of acquiring high resolution copies of the photographs for the purpose of publication.

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## Saturday Arts Programming

Last winter the museum partnered with Friends of the Museum to provide arts programming to our community. Together we paid for artists to lead the workshops, plus covered the costs of advertising.



Adult participants paid for materials only.

Children attending the open studios for families paid \$2 per person. In this way, costs for programming were within reach for most of our community.

This fall we'd like to do it again. If you are an artist who is interested in leading a workshop, please put together a proposal including costs for materials. Keep in

mind that we're trying to keep fees affordable for everyone.

Thank you to artists—Lindsay Hamilton, Jennifer Coats, Charleen Mallory and Nichole Lowey—who led workshops: Christmas wreaths & centre-pieces, soapmaking, painting with acrylics, Pysanky, chalkboard art, terrariums and children's open studios during this past winter. The workshops were well attended and enjoyed by all.



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## Calendar of Events

- Thursday, June 30th, Mall Day: Open House from 10 - 5. Activities for children. Refreshments.
- Market Thursdays from June 30th until Aug 25: specialty tea & home-made scones upstairs.
- Aug 15th: deadline for submissions for Fibre Arts Festival.
- Sept thru Dec: Fibre Arts Festival, upstairs gallery — in house.
- Sept / Oct: battle of Hong Kong; breast health - local curators.
- Thurs Nov 3rd: Friends Fundraising Gala—  
**Night at the Museum!**
- Nov & Dec: 'Threadworks' — borrowed from Ontario Needleworkers and Wellington County
- Jan thru Mar 2017: 'Free Masonry, History Hidden in Plain Sight' — Bruce County Museum



**Summer hours: Open daily, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission fees apply.  
Adults \$4, Children & Seniors \$3, Family Rate \$12**

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## Grants

Besides our student grants, the museum regularly applies for other funding opportunities. If you are familiar with grant writing, you will know that the grant is only part of it; to receive funding, the organization must come up with their share of the funds—50% or 75% depending on the grant—and must meet certain criteria, i.e. in case of an intern, must provide government-legislated training and insurance.

The ‘big’ one for museums is our operating grant, due each June. This is dependent on our museum meeting museum standards set by the Canadian Museum Association around collections care, exhibits, programming, education, our facility and a number of other criteria. It ensures we are meeting our responsibilities.

In addition to our operating grant, we have applied for a MAP ECF grant, which assists museums with the costs of traveling exhibits. If approved, funding will off-set loan fees and transportation costs for the Freemasonry exhibit that we have planned for January.

Again this year, we are applying for a one-year intern position. If approved the intern will oversee programming and events. He/she will continue the work began by Julia this summer; that is to develop interactive programming for our permanent gallery through

the use of tablets and video clips.

The intern will also expand upon the programming planned in conjunction with Canada 150 exhibits and



events, including the possibility of a winter carnival that will feature heritage activities: i.e. sleigh rides, snowshoe races, jam-pail curling, pond hockey, ice fishing derby, bannock on a stick, etc, planned for Sand Bay and the Point.

Programming will be geared to all age levels to ensure community participation in Canada 150 celebrations is inclusive to all.

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