
Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre



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Find us on Facebook!



Fall 2016



Library display case showing some components of our gala theme!

Intern: Lauren Hyatt

Once again, through the generous assistance of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, we have hired a one-year intern position. We welcome Lauren Hyatt, our new Events and Programming Coordinator, who will continue with the development of interactive display components and will lend an experienced hand with programming around our Canada 150 exhibits and events. Lauren, originally from South Africa, obtained a Master of Performing Arts at Lethbridge University in Alberta, prior to moving here. She has experience in event planning and has a particular interest in community engagement. We are very happy to have Lauren on board. She comes at a good time... just as we begin construction of the nearby market square and community stage.

If you are in the vicinity, stop by and welcome Lauren to our community.

Lauren has been working on decorations for the Friends Fundraising Gala, coming up on Nov 3. The shield and dragon are decorations that make up the medieval exhibit, part of the 'Night at the Museum' movie theme.

Also shown is a '49 Canadian' lined wooden cooler, hand-made by Eric Fagerdahl for the live auction.

Did I mention that Lauren studied drama? 😊

Friends Fundraising Gala: *Night at the Museum!*

Thursday, November 3rd, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

An evening of music, games, live auction,
fine wine, delectable eats and more!

Tickets: \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door.

*Dress as a character
from your favourite exhibit,
...or as one of our favourite people:
patrons of the museum!*



Exhibits!

Currently in our main floor gallery, we commemorate 75 years since the **Battle of Hong Kong**. Researched and created by Marjorie Stintzi, service officer and historian with the Royal Canadian Legion branch 54 in Rainy River, this exhibit details the plight of Allied prisoners in Japanese war camps. Many of these stories are of local young men, who with only basic training and lacking sufficient weaponry, were hurriedly sent to Hong Kong, only to lose a major battle and thus spend years - sometimes their remaining years - under brutal conditions in PoW camps.

Last day to view is October 29th.



Above: Best Original Design
First Place: Jamie Nelson (the unicorn)

In our upstairs gallery, we host our first juried **Fibre Arts Festival**! We received a varied selection of pieces: quilting, crochet, needlework, a knitted coat, an appliqued skirt, fantasy creatures made from felted wool, and more!



Left:
Best Use of
Materials
First Place:
Shelley Jordbro

Below:
Best Pattern
Piece
First Place:
Carla Rittau

We're very pleased with the quality of work.

And by the traffic coming in to see, we know we can expect even more submissions the next time we host this event.... two years from now! So all of you who were too shy to exhibit this round... start planning. Competition is sure to be fierce!

Fibre art will be on display until the end of the year. Last date to vote for the People's Choice Award is November 5th.



Opening November 8th and running through December in our main floor gallery, we see the return of **Threadworks**, the fibre arts show that started it all. A very popular exhibit due to the quality and creativity of the work, this will be the last showing of Threadworks, titled *Flashback*. As other fibre arts shows make the rounds, Threadworks organizers are winding down. Although we'll miss the inspiration that fuels our own work, local fibre artists are ready to carry the torch!

For 2017

From January until March, on loan from the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre.... comes **Freemasonry, A history hidden in plain sight**.

In recent years we have seen a lot of hype around ancient brotherhoods and secret societies, a phenomena that started with the Dan Brown books (*The DaVinci Code*, *Angels and Demons*) and exploded with a little help from Hollywood. Free Masonry, although a brotherhood that has been around for hundreds of years, saw its beginnings in legitimate business. This exhibit explains some of the symbolism and history that surround the masons. Although Freemasonry, A History in Plain Sight unravels some of the mystery, the story remains eminently fascinating.

We are able to bring in this exhibit through the Museums Assistance Program which helps museums like ours afford the transportation costs of travelling exhibits.



During most of 2017, April through October, we tell the story of transportation. Beginning with the canoe and snowshoe, we follow travel as it developed with the steamships that dominated the river, the trains that ate up miles of track, bush planes that opened up the north and the hundreds of miles of cart-tracks that were replaced by paved highways. The scope of Northwestern Ontario is determined by its ease of navigation... at times murderously slow; more recently almost civilized, but still with a ways to go. Through photographs and local story, we will cover 150 years of history by relating it to transportation, a key component to communication and economy in this part of Canada.

If you have a story, a photo or an artefact that relates to transportation, please share it with us.

To finish off the year, we will be exhibiting fashions over Canada's history. We will be borrowing ten outfits from the Costume Museum of Canada, specifically selected to explain how fashions developed over 150 years. In addition we'll be adding pieces from our own collection. This should be a fun exhibit. As we know, fashion like art, can dazzle you or.... cause you to shake your head and smile. Either way, we hope you'll enjoy our excursion into the realms of fantas... fashion! November and December 2017.

There will be events and programming around all of our exhibits. Information will be included in upcoming newsletters, on our website and Facebook page. As plans take shape, we will also advertise. If there's an event you would like to see, or an idea you would like to share, give us a call at 274-7891. Together we can properly celebrate Canada's 150th Birthday!



Museum Projects

Interactive Programming

The interactive components that will enhance our permanent exhibit themes have received a good start with some focus from our summer intern, Julia Piskiewicz, and technology expertise from Jeremy Hughes. Although the intention is to have tablets that visitors can carry as they make their way through the exhibits, we will also have three fixed units in key locations. We hope to have some aspect of this project up and running prior to Christmas, so watch for that.

William Hampden Tener (Tenner)

We continue to work towards acquiring high resolution digital copies of the Tener photographs. We now have a contract with the Ontario Archives, and work will soon begin on scanning the fragile glass slides. Aaron Cain, a Toronto university student in archives and records management, will be digitizing the photos on our behalf.

As a Canada 150 project, the museum, in partnership with Jim Cumming and Merv Ahrens, have plans to compile and publish these photographs, important for the depiction of every day life in our rural areas.



In preparation for our Canada 150 exhibit on transportation, we are sifting through and setting aside relevant photographs, a process that is much simpler now that Nell Laur has scanned most of our photograph collection. The photo above shows men working on the rail line 1/4 mile above LaVallee during flooding in 1919.

Arts Programming

This fall, the museum has once again partnered with Friends of the Museum to offer arts programming to our community. Together we pay for artists to lead workshops, plus cover the costs of advertising. Adult participants pay for materials only. ***You must prepay, one week prior, to hold your spot.***

In this way, costs for programming are within reach for most of our community.

Below is our line-up for programming taking place prior to Christmas. In the new year, we'll post the new schedule.

Adults (age 12 and up)

Beginner Sewing: Sat Nov 5 & 12, 1-4 p.m. at the Museum; need sewing machine & measuring tape
Instructor: Judy Kielczewski; Cost: \$15; Deadline for registration: Oct 29

Creating fused glass Christmas ornaments: Mon Nov 7, 5-9 p.m. at "From the Grind Up"
Instructor: Cher Pruys, Cost: \$40, Deadline for registration: Oct 31st

Christmas wreaths: Sun Nov 20, 1-4 p.m. at the Museum
Instructor: Jen Coats; Cost \$35; Deadline for registration: Nov 12

Creating fused glass Christmas ornaments: Sat Dec 3, 1-4 p.m. at the Museum
Instructor: Cher Pruys, Cost: \$40, Deadline for registration: Nov 25

Christmas cross-stitch: Sat Dec 10, 1-4 p.m. at the Museum
Instructor: Carla Rittau; Cost: \$5; Deadline for registration: Dec 6.

Christmas centre-piece: Wed Dec 21 at the Museum
Instructor: Jen Coats; Cost \$25; Deadline for registration: Dec 14.

Children & Families: \$2 per person or \$5 per family

Come & Go, 1-4 p.m. at the Museum

Sat Oct 29: Halloween Haunt with Lauren Hyatt; games & crafts; come in costume.

Sat Nov 26: Open Studio with Lindsay Hamilton; Christmas crafts.

Additional Workshops

This fall, the Museum has partnered with the Sunset Country Metis on a number of workshops.

One group has been meeting on select Wednesdays to bead.



A weekend this fall was spent making a capote, a coat made from a Hudson Bay blanket. Instructors also spend time explaining the cultural significance behind the craft.

Winter Carnival 2017

Part of our Canada 150 programming will be a winter carnival, planned for the Heritage Day weekend in February. The theme of the event will be old-fashioned winter fun. If you're Canadian, you will have experience with some of these activities... snow-shoeing, bannock on a stick, maple syrup in the snow, ice-fishing, etc. But it may be that you're too young to have played pond hockey, jam-pail curling or been around when someone has been putting up ice. Our winter carnival will include as many of these ideas as we have people interested in helping make this happen. If your group would like to take on one of these events, we're one step closer to a great winter carnival.



We're also looking for people who can provide food. If you're fundraising for an upcoming event, think about making hot soup, hot chocolate or popcorn. Any outdoor exercise, and particularly on a wintry day, can whet the appetite. A little something to fuel the furnace will be appreciated — while providing your group with the opportunity to raise some money.



If you've an idea you would like to pursue, give us a call at 274-7891.

Calendar of Events

- Now thru Dec: Fibre Arts Festival, upstairs gallery — in house.
- Until Oct 29: Battle of Hong Kong, created by Marjorie Stintzi
- 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
- February long weekend: Winter Carnival



Off-season hours: Open Tues thru Sat, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission by donation.
