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# Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre

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*Now on Facebook!*



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Winter 2014

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

## **“We Remember Them”**

If you haven't been in to see the exhibit, there is still time. Due to the exhibit's popularity and its importance to our community, we are holding it over the winter. Since the exhibit opened in September, we have expanded the war bride section and added well over 100 more veterans' stories... *and more are coming in every day!*

We have been asked: “At one point are you going to stop?”

It made us realize we cannot stop. If this information is not collected now, when? We are fortunate to have many of our veterans still active in our community, but we must acknowledge that there are many more who are gone. For the most part it is their children who are bringing in their stories, but they, too, are ageing. In another 10-15 years, who will remember?



If your family has someone who served in either the first or second world war, then their story should be included. Bring in what information you have along with a photo, and we will see that it goes up. We know there are

many stories still out there.

Call Sherry at 274-7891 for more information or stop by the museum to pick up a form. When the exhibit comes down, the museum intends to bind the results, so let's include as many of our local veterans as we can.

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## Take a trip down memory lane...

The Friends of the Museum 2015 Calendar is now ready for Christmas giving! Discover the rich history of Fort Frances through photos and facts.

Calendars, available at the Fort Frances Museum, From the Grind Up and the Christmas Store, are \$20 each. Supplies are limited so don't miss out on a unique and meaningful gift!



## World War II Lecture Series

The Museum is pleased to offer an informal Lecture Series on World War II that includes maps and battle footage. Jim Curr, a high school history teacher, instructs the course and leads discussion. The course runs Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 at the museum. We have taken a break leading up to Christmas, but lectures will resume on Jan 7<sup>th</sup>.

Cost is \$4 per person per evening, or \$7 per couple. Jim Curr has offered his services at no charge in memory of his father and his generation. Fees collected by the museum cover advertising.

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## Some visitor comments for this exhibit....

*Very touching exhibit. —Oliver, Fort Frances*

*Absolutely wonderful. Thanks to anyone who helped put this display together. —Deschamps, Fort Frances*

*A great exhibit. —Laur, Fort Frances*

*I just loved it. —Kerr, Fort Frances*

*Such an interesting exhibit to read. —Albanese, Fort Frances*

*Thank you! Wonderful display. —Mutchmor, Winnipeg*

*I enjoyed the local histories very much. —DeZwart, Vernon, BC*

*Excellent displays of our soldiers. —Fowler, Fort Frances*

*Very moving. —Marsh, Winnipeg*

*Great job; the youth need to see this. —Ross, Fort Frances*

*Cool, cool, cool. —London, ON*

*Wonderful exhibit. —Callaghan, Fort Frances*

*Really good. —Sinclair, Winnipeg*

*Delightful. Aksu, Toronto*

*Very nice! —Martin, Gouad, TX*

*Great! Wonderful! —Laurence, Vancouver*

*Excellent displays. —Pruys, Fort Frances*

*A wonderful tribute to those who served. —Kowalchuk, Fort Frances*

*A great tribute. —Bynkoski, Fort Frances*

*"Lest we forget" —Hazel, Fort Frances*

*Totally riveting to see our history like this!! A most moving exhibit. Thank you. —Dennis, Fort Frances*

*Nice to see such respect and info for soldiers. —Miller, Crozier*

*Lots of work done so well. —Eisenhauer, Fort Frances*

*Thank you for all your work in putting together this display. —DeBenedet, Fort Frances*

*Outstanding—we do remember them. —Miller, Fort Frances*

*Awesome —C.Guimond, Winnipeg*

*Great display (a lot of effort went into it). —Miller, Fort Frances*

*Wonderful Exhibit!! —Newman, Fort Frances*

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On the evening of our Friends Fundraising Gala, we offered a trivia contest to guests. For fun, we're including the questions. Select from 'possible answers' below. Correct answers are on the back page.

## World War Trivia Questions

### Question 1

There was a recurring problem with early war-time aircraft that severely hindered a pilot's ability to manoeuvre when under attack. If the plane rolled, as they often did to avoid enemy fire, the engine would die. What feat of engineering fixed the problem?

### Question 2

In World War II, the Fort Frances paper mill received a significant order that would aid the war effort. A crew of sixteen worked on the project. What was the order for?

### Question 3

With so many young, unattached men in Europe, it was inevitable that 'guy would meet girl', the love-bug would bite, and they would hook up. Approximately how many war brides came to Canada immediately following World War II?

### Question 4

How much did it cost the Department of National Defense to move war brides and their young children following WWII? Consider travel within their homeland, ocean transportation, train fares, berth and meals across Canada.

### Question 5

During World War I, Canada's primary general quickly gained a lot of respect. He was valued by his peers for his well thought-out and detailed planning. But his greatest contribution was to minimize, wherever possible, the impact of war on his troops.

### Question 6

The 141<sup>st</sup> Bull Moose Battalion was organized by our own Dr. McKenzie. As colonel and commanding officer, he would take his battalion overseas. Where in town was his headquarters located?

### Question 7

To ensure the success of D-Day, it was important to keep secret the exact location of the landing. Besides the many false messages broadcast over radio, there were numerous other large-scale deceptions leading up to D-Day. Name one.

### Question 8

When Canada announced the start of World War I, how many regular soldiers did our country have?

### Question 9

Twenty-five years later, it's war again. At the announcement of World War II, how many regular soldiers did Canada have?

### Question 10

Who was the first resident of Fort Frances to give his life in World War II?



## Possible Answers

Shevlin Yard    \$760    Fold-up and collapsible 25-lb guns    4,000    antifreeze    Arthur Currie  
counter-intelligence documents    Pocket-size New Testament Bibles    8,000    \$520    WD40  
John Townshend    15,000    Leonard Murray    48,000    gun mounts    David C McKenzie    3100  
Fuel injection    \$140    Full-size inflatable tanks & ships    Frederick Johnson    Lester Pearson  
West of Rainycrest    Shredded aluminum foil dropped from planes to 'foil' German radar    32,000

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**This year's  
Fall Fundraising Gala  
was an unequivocal success!  
Thanks, everyone, for your  
help & support!**







Pictured here are two wartime artefacts that have been recently donated to the museum by Christina Stoessinger.

On the left is a World War I Christmas card showing the flags of Britain, France, Russia and Italy, with the Belgium flag — origin of the piece — below and left. The centre of the card is embroidered linen, while the framing is raised vellum displaying grapevines.

On the back... *Merry Christmas to you all... a happy & prosperous New Year*: Signature is unclear. Postmarked *Somewhere in Belgium, Xmas 1915*.

The piece on the right is an invalid cup. Made in Germany, it is gold trimmed and features the Red Cross logo.



Most of us are aware that during wartime the Red Cross treated soldiers injured in battle, aiding military medical services. What is less known is that the International Committee of the Red Cross, through its International Prisoner-of-War Agency, was the main support for prisoners. By the end of World War I, the Agency had transferred approximately 20 million letters and messages, 1.9 million parcels, and around 18 million Swiss francs in donations to POWs of all countries. Furthermore, due to the Agency's intervention, about 200,000 prisoners were exchanged between the warring parties. The agency also became instrumental in the humane treatment of prisoners; the agency conducted on-site visits to well over 2000 prisons.

### Calendar of Events

- Currently thru winter - 'We Remember Them' features our local veterans.
- WWII Lecture Series: Wednesdays beginning January 7, 6:30-8:30
- Probably March break - SnOasis!
- Next summer: 50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Noden Causeway
- Fall: The Artistry of Hooked Rugs
- Genealogy Group meets every 2nd Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.
- Writers Group meets every 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Closed for holidays: Dec 21-Jan 4.**

1: Fuel injection, so that when planes rolled, gravity would not interfere with gas getting to the engine.  
2: Gun mounts and sites for Canadian Corvettes were produced in the paper mill machine room on two shifts – 4-12 and 12-8. Dayshift employees could continue with their regular duties.  
3: 48,000 brides, many with small children. Number including children: 61,344.  
4: \$140.29 per person.  
5: Sir Arthur Currie.  
6: At the museum. If you look closely at the photo on our trivia page, you will see the museum in the background.  
7: Full-size inflatable tanks and ships. Or, clouds of shredded aluminum foil dropped from planes to 'fool' German radar. There were also fold-up and collapsible 25-lb guns.  
8: 3100.  
9: 4000.  
10: John Townshend. A torpedo struck the S.S. Neriss, a transport ship carrying military personnel into war. 75 lives were lost including Captain Townshend.

**Answers**



***Merry Christmas, Everyone!***