
Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre

259 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON P9A 1G8
807 274-7891
Fax: 807 274-4103
www.fort-frances.com/museum
sgeorge@fortfrances.ca
Find us on Facebook!



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Closing the Distance: *150 Years of Getting from 'A' to 'B'*

For the summer of 2017, our Canada 150 year, 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.



Above: '348 ties to home'.
Left: 978.054.001 - by canoe

Below: 996.038.110a - old meets new
Below left: 987.153.576b - Norseman at Mathieu mill



The scope of Northwestern Ontario is determined by its ease of navigation... at times murderously slow; more recently almost civilized!

Through fantastic photographs and local story, we cover 150 years of history by relating it to transportation, a key component to communication and economy in this part of Canada.



2017! As we celebrate Canada 150, we know it's important to find a few quality souvenirs of this momentous year. To mark the event, the museum is offering a line of souvenirs that is very attractive, well-made and available only through museums. They include the tote bags seen here, as well as mugs, caps, umbrellas, shot-glasses and bookmarks. We are very pleased with the product and certain you will be also.



BASEBALL CAP

Museum Retail CONSORTIUM

ICONIC CANADIAN IMAGES



TOTE BAGS

Vibrant, full-colour wraparound print with OH CANADA printed on bottom.
Durable, stain-resistant, waterproof PE with strong woven fabric handles and edges (holds 10 kg)

Market Thursdays Tea & Scones return!

Begins June 29th and runs each Thursday until the end of August:
11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Smashing teas and home-made scones baked fresh each day.

Back elevator entrance will be open.



Important Museum Initiatives

New! Interactive programming!

Thanks to the efforts of our museum intern **Lauren Hyatt** who pulled together our local stories, and library technology staff **Jeremy Hughes** who designed the 'app' (computer stuff that makes it work), we now have most of our area history available on tablet. We've placed four large screens in key places in our permanent exhibit areas... First Nations, Exploration, Early Settlers and Industry, making them accessible to anyone walking about. In addition, we have eight more tablets in two sizes that can be carried around by visitors or shared by a classroom. Information is available by touching the screen and covers subjects in a variety of ways... video, audio, text. There is more than enough to hold your interest; indeed, it will consume every minute you have to spend!

This important project has been funded in a variety of ways. We gratefully acknowledge the **Ontario government** for funding the internship program that allows us to hire skilled staff. In addition, the **Winnipeg Foundation**

helped with the cost of purchasing tablets. Last, but certainly not least, we thank all those who have bought memberships and made donations to the museum. It is your money that funds the extras!

Do stop by! The tablets are very simple to use, but should you need a little help, students are back and will be happy to walk you through it.



William Hampden Tener (Tenner)

Coming soon... the museum's Canada 150 project: the **William Hampden Tener photographs!** Great quality, important history!

Available later this year through the hard work of historian and author, **Merv Ahrens** with the support of museum volunteers, **Maxine Hayes** and **Nell Laur**.



Strategic Planning

The Museum Advisory Committee, which typically meets once per month, has been meeting more frequently as we work towards a current strategic plan. **Ian Simpson** has been leading our group through the process of defining values and setting goals, and creating an action plan to achieve these.

Using strategic plans drawn up by the province for museums and the town for our community, we work through a series of important steps that will help us determine the future of our museum. The whole point is to truly gain an understanding of where we want to go, and then focus our energy on getting there.

I want to thank Ian for leading us through the process, and both Ian and the museum's hard-working advisory committee for giving up their free time so generously.

If you are interested in any part of what we have accomplished thus far, give me a call, and I would be happy to share it with you.

Welcome Summer Students!

Cameron Cawston has returned for his second summer as a museum student attendant. Cameron is pursuing a bachelor of fine arts degree at OCAD University with a major in Integrated Media. Over the summer he will be assisting with children's programming, such as Rec'N Crew, and will help us build a strong advertising presence in town with his computer and photography background. Thank you to **Young Canada Works** (federal program) for giving Cameron this opportunity to join us again this summer.



Alyssa Armstrong, born in Fort Frances and a Queen's University student specializing in biology, is new at the Museum this summer. Alyssa is working towards a Bachelor of Science degree, with plans for a career in the health field. She is particularly interested in a pediatric specialization because she enjoys working with children and wants a career where she can help others. Due to her interests, Alyssa is looking forward to leading activities with school groups and being involved with the Rec'n Crew summer program. Like Cameron, Alyssa is with us through funding from **Young Canada Works**.

Alyssa Chiasson was born and raised in Fort Frances and has completed her first year at the University of Ottawa in the Honours Bachelor of Commerce program specializing in Marketing. She hopes to apply what she has learned into many aspects of this position. Alyssa looks forward to organizing children's activities this summer as she loves working with children and has a lot of experience. She is excited to learn even more about her hometown while educating visitors. We thank **Canada Summer Jobs** (federal) for providing Alyssa with this opportunity.



We welcome back **Naomi McManaman** for her 4th year! She has been and continues to be a great asset to our Museum. Naomi will be graduating high school in a few weeks, and after her summer with us, will be heading to the University of Ottawa to pursue a Psychology degree. Once again we thank **Canada Summer Jobs** for providing the funding that allows us to hire Naomi for another summer.

We will also be hiring a new high school student for the summer thanks to funding from the (provincial) **Summer Experience Program**. Naomi will help train this student to take over her Saturday off-season duties.

With the return of our student employees, we are able to continue our newspaper digitization project. To date, we have over 80 years of weekly newspapers photographed, with nearly 60 years in a portable data file (pdf) format that is searchable and available to the public on computer.

Work has slowed down due to the size of the newspapers, larger in more recent years.

It is our hope that we will eventually have all newspapers in our collection — over 120 years — scanned and available to the public. Not only does scanning preserve the fragile nature of the documents, but makes searching far easier, especially when precise dates may be unknown.

Newspaper Digitization



Children's Activities



Students are busily preparing summer programming. School groups are most likely to visit in June, while Rec'n Crew kids join us once a week during July and August.

This year we will introduce our new interactive devices, but also are planning activities around Canada 150.



As the focus for museums change, so must we. It used to be that visitors were asked to look but not touch. More and more, we are involving our visitors at various levels... viewing, listening, touching.

Designing exhibits and programming becomes increasingly challenging as expectations change; however engaging our young in history and culture remains a primary goal.

Technology for the Hallett

This summer we will be adding a photo frame to the Hallett experience. This will allow visitors to view many of the museum's photographs that feature the use of watercraft, and primarily the Hallett, in bringing wood to the sorting gap.

Wood was sorted according to the stamp on the log, thus payment to the right logging operation was assured. Only then was wood processed: lumber at Shevlin Clarke and paper at the mill further down stream.



Tugboat: 'Owandem'

Owandem, once a working boat employed in the logging industry by MANDO, currently sits in storage at Public Works.

Donated to the Museum prior to Christmas, the tug (right) is in need of sand-blasting and a paint job, but will soon be restored to her former glory, as shown below working the river in front of the mill Crowe Avenue boathouse.

The museum, with a little help from our 'Friends', will fundraise to cover costs of refurbishment. In the meantime, watch out for these little 'bug' donation boxes (bottom photo), which will be placed around town. Every little bit helps and we truly appreciate your support.

The tug, once it receives a facelift, will take its place near the Hallett.

'Friends' Fundraising initiatives for the tugboat

The Friends of the Museum have come on board and are excited to help drive a fundraising campaign for the tugboat's restoration. A mail-out is currently being designed by museum staff, Lauren and Cameron, with the help and highly-trained eye of 'friend' Samantha Manty. This campaign will include various benefits for different levels of giving.

Keep an eye out for this exciting initiative in your mail-boxes this July!



Owandem came from I'Falls with some help from Roche's Towing and Geo. Armstrong Co.

Donation boxes made by 'friend' Eric Fagerdahl.



Calendar of Events

Summer Season exhibit — **Closing the Distance: 150 Years of Getting from 'A' to 'B'**

Market Thursdays in July & August, 11-4 — **specialty Tea & home-made Scones** served upstairs

Nov/Dec — 150 Years of Fashion, exhibit from Costume Museum of Canada

During the summer season, Victoria weekend thru Labour Day weekend, the Museum is open daily, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission fees apply; includes heritage sites. Questions? Call 274-7891.

Meetings for the Writers Group have ended for the year, but will begin again in September. Adult and children's arts programming will also resume in the fall.
