



Town of Fort Frances  
**Museum Advisory Committee  
Meeting**

June 23, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

Virtually via Zoom

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Page

1. **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

1.1 Robert Schulz has sent regrets for this meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

3. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest and the General Nature Thereof:**

4. **Approval of Previous Committee Minutes**

5. **Items Referred from Council**

None

6. **Information**

6.1 Curator's Report

4 - 5

7. **Recommendations to be made to the Community Services Executive Committee..**

8. **ADJOURN / NEXT MEETING DATE**

## TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

### MINUTES

### MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 26, 2021

The meeting of Museum Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Virtually via Zoom on May 26, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:26 p.m.

PRESENT: Debbie Ballard - Chair, Robert Schulz, Mary Hickling, Caren Fagerdahl, Christine Denby, J. McTaggart, Councillor

ALSO PRESENT: Beverley Cochrane, Museum Curator, Aaron Bisson, Recreation & Culture Manager

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

- 2.1 Robert would like to see a Status Report on the following on every Agenda: Owandem, Hallett repairs, Anchor, and Mill Whistle. Informal discussion about 2021 Hallett repairs conducted

#### **3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest and the General Nature Thereof: None**

#### **4. Approval of Previous Committee Minutes**

- 4.1 Meeting Date: March 23, 2021

#### **5. Items Referred from Council**

#### **6. New Business**

- 6.1 Owandem Update: The Owandem remains stored at the Town Maintenance facility. Debbie inquired whether another fundraising committee was needed. The boat restoration was completed a few years ago.
- 6.2 Walking Tour. Pocket Sites has been purchased; content continues to be developed. Historical marker sites and Front Street riverfront are primary focus. John discussed the possibility of a "Culinary tour", possibly a partnership with MAT Committee. Historical Downtown tour will eventually be added. Note: discussion about the Mill Whistle recovery from Mill site.

#### **7. Information**

##### **7.1 Curator's Report**

- Discussion about collections; deaccessioning process missing items, duplicates and objects without provenance or not in accordance within Museum Statement of Purpose.
- Will be working on a formal "Education" section within our collection; some of the deaccessioned items may be moved to this. These objects will be able to be loaned to schools, be touched, and examined.
- Items have been secured from Tourist Information Centre when it was closed in 2020.
- Discussion about COVID stories, Debbie updated that she was writing about her covid story

#### **8. Recommendations to be made to the Community Services Executive Committee..**

9.     **ADJOURN / NEXT MEETING DATE:**  
June 23, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

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D. Ballard, Chair

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B. Cochrane, Museum Curator

Finance:

- The Community Museums Operating Grant (CMOG) Report and Application is due to be uploaded into Transfer Payments Ontario by June 30, 2021. CMOG has been completed and sent to CSEC and then will be forwarded onto Council for approval.
- Post-Secondary Students at Museum have not started yet, due to lockdown. Museums fall within "Step Three" of Ontario's current reopening plan. Canada Summer Jobs funding approved for 8 weeks; Young Canada Works approved at 12 weeks.

Collections:

- Round One of Deaccession is projected to be complete by July 30, 2021. Duplicates, broken/poor condition, no provenance will be the initial items for deaccessioning.
- A few items have been accepted for the Archives collection, including photos of local people and places.

Exhibitions:

- June - August: Nindinawemaganag: My Relations. Scheduled for installation on July 8, 2021.
- September - October: Tony Sepers Art. Provided a letter to Tony confirming timeframes and outline of expectations.
- November 2021 – February 2022: Fort Frances Businesses. Request sent out for stories; we have had a few stories shared with us. Another ad will be placed into Fort Frances Times. The radio station has contacted volunteer Maxine Hayes to conduct an interview about the research process; great for exposure.
- March – May 2022: Fibre Arts – This exhibit is on a 3-year rotation schedule. Planning yet to begin, likely in Fall 2021, regarding themes of arts. Likely arts created during COVID-19.
- 2022: My Tattoo, My Story – Travelling Exhibit. Have not heard back from host Museum whether we've been approved to host this exhibit.

Research:

- Pandemic Community stories will be collected. Debbie Ballard initiated discussions with the Fort Frances Times; requested assistance from Fort Frances Writers Group with starting.

Physical Plant:

- Sunset Security still required to install backup battery for one emergency light.
- Humidity and temperature has been relatively stable since implementation of humidifiers.
- Fire Panel yet to be installed

Community:

- Friends of Museum have begun planning their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Garden Tour July 3, 2021. Museum is promoting this on their Facebook page, and will update Museum space on Fort Frances website.
- Right Relations Committee looking to conduct cultural education sessions at Rainy Lake Square
- Rainy Lake Square running smoothly; initially food vendors were only permitted in accordance with the provincial restrictions. Crafts and other vendors are now able to participate.

- Would like to re-incorporate “Tea and Scones” on Market Thursdays. Informal discussions with Jennifer Horton regarding possibilities for a “Make and Take” style to begin.
- Currently working on a loan agreement with Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung for an artifacts loan. They will be opening an exhibit when restrictions are lifted. Currently coordinating with Insurance companies regarding wording of the agreement.
- In response to the 215 discovered buried in B.C. the Museum has partnered with Betty’s to display the St. Marguerites Residential School portrait and Excerpts from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which were a part of a previous exhibit. They are currently still on display.
  - Attended Ceremony at the former St. Marguerites on May 31, 2021.
  - Received a request from Rainy River First Nations for information about the Residential School. Printed and mounted smaller versions of the local exhibit for display at the Residential School gathering at RRFNs on June 4, 2021.

#### Owandem:

- No further update except to note that the Owandem will be included in Woodyard development planning commences and funding is secured. Grant funding will continue to be searched for the Berth.

#### Anchor:

- Awaiting quote for sandblasting and painting of Anchor.

#### Hallet Repairs:

- Repairs for Hallet are being planned, likely will occur in 2022 as not currently budgeted. Funding sources have been researched and will continue to be.

#### Mill Whistle:

- No updates regarding the Mill Whistle.

#### Municipal Accommodation Tax Update:

- Had preliminary discussions with Kayleigh Spiers regarding the concept of partnering with the Mounds for tourism experiences. Discussion about pottery and other experiences.
- Virtual meeting with Tannis Drysdale of RRFDC on June 16, 2021 to learn about an app that they are developing regarding tourism experiences. Advised Tannis of discussion with Kayleigh, and this was in line with the concept.
  - Suggestion of having the Museum experience to begin with.