
Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre

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October 2011

At the Museum now...

Traditional foods of the Lake of the Woods Anishinaabeg

Mijim

Anishinaabe gaabi inanjiged zaaga'iganiing

The Anishinaabeg believe that the Creator placed all things, including the Anishinaabeg themselves, upon the earth. He is the Great Provider and all that comes from the earth and the water is a gift to his people, and all that is provided is all that is needed.

Mijim is the creation of Iskatewizaagegan #39 Independent First Nation, the National Resource Institute of the University of Manitoba and the Lake of the Woods Museum.

This well presented exhibit is of great cultural value to the entire community. School groups are encouraged to take advantage of this educational opportunity, on display at the Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre until October 29th.

Coming up in November...

“This Place Where We Live”

featuring Connie Cuthbertson & Wayne Yerxa

Well-known area artists, Wayne Yerxa and Connie Cuthbertson, collaborate on an art show of paintings that will feature scenic Rainy Lake. The exhibit will open early in November and continue through January.

As each artist approaches this theme in very different ways, you can expect to see a wide variety of colours and techniques.

Many of Wayne's stylized works are woven with spiritual images and will be painted with acrylics.

Connie's paintings will be created in oils with an impressionist approach. This will be her first show in this medium.

Both artists will be including poetry with their work. Through images and words, they hope viewers will connect on a personal level and understand... *This Place Where We Live*.

Another summer over

Wow! Autumn here already.

Summer was a flurry of activity as we worked through a number of important projects, allowing us to eliminate a few of the must-be-addressed items from my list. I felt very fortunate to have four very energetic and highly organized students working here. Sarah Mallory and Janelle Duffy are back to university, along with graduating high school student, Jillian Berry. Our most recent hire, high school student Kristina Robertson, remains to cover Saturdays during our off season.

We gratefully acknowledge the funding received from Young Canada Works, Canada Summer Jobs and Northern Development, Mines & Forestry, which makes it possible for the Museum to hire much needed assistance for the summer.

Off Season Hours

With Thanksgiving, we close our heritage sites, and return to off season hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 11 to 4 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by over the summer or who sent visiting family and friends our way.

Over the past season, we welcomed visitors from all over Canada and the USA, and as far away as Linz, Austria!

If it has been awhile since the last time you visited the Museum, please stop by. Our modern facility is another great reason to be proud of where we live.

Friends of the Museum

After taking a short break for the summer, the Friends of the Museum are rested and eager to get started once again. The first thing on the agenda is forming an executive body to: #1 provide leadership and #2 take another step closer to becoming an organized charity. As any fund-raising group must have bylaws and leadership — president, vice president, secretary and treasurer — we're very glad to have three out of four positions filled.

Duane Hicks will lead the group as President. Caron Cridland will back up Duane as Vice-President. Sue Fletcher will serve as Treasurer. The position of Secretary is still open.

What is the Friends group hoping to accomplish? Their mandate is to fund-raise for the extras that the Museum cannot fund out of its normal budget.

How important are these "extras"? Very. It is a proven fact that by increasing the arts and cultural component of a community, economic growth will follow. You ignore the first to the detriment of the second. Although it is difficult to justify spending money for arts-related programming when infrastructure is failing, we need do just that. Think about it. Yes, we need meat and potatoes and a roof over our heads to stay alive, but it's music, literature and art that make life worth living.

And that is what the Friends group is all about. They will raise funds for those extras – children's activities, adult workshops and speakers, first class exhibits and programming. With their help, the Museum can become a hub for community events, a drop-in place to stimulate thought and feed our souls.

Upcoming events include a bake sale, Oct 22, 11-4 at the Museum; serving hot chocolate and cider on parade day, Nov 26; a garage sale in the spring; and one or two historical re-enactments to coincide with next year's Pulling for Peace.

If you would like to become more involved, meetings are held monthly at the Fort Frances Museum. Next meeting is Wed Nov 2nd at 4:30. For more information, call Sherry at 274-7891.

For anyone who cannot commit to regularly scheduled meetings, we can always use your help in other ways...

- Baking cookies for our bake sale on Oct 22. Donations can be dropped off on Friday, Oct 21st or early Saturday.
- Assisting with the Hallowe'en Haunt scheduled for Sat Oct 29. We will need baked goodies for a snack, or you can help with children's activities and games the day of the event.
- On parade day, Sat Nov 26, helping make heritage tree decorations with kids, or serving hot beverages to parade watchers.

Lest we forget...

In honour of Remembrance Day, I've chosen two biographies from the Museum's files: the first of a well known former resident, mayor and doctor, Colonel David C. MacKenzie, and the second of a more obscure, and probably quite average young man, Private Albert Luther Smith.

David Croal MacKenzie

Dr. David MacKenzie (1870-1939) came to our area out of medical school. He opened his first practice in Mine Centre, which at the time was a leading mining community, and then in the early 1900s, built and opened the first private hospital in Fort Frances, the MacKenzie Hospital.

During the first world war, MacKenzie was a Colonel of the 98th Battalion, and later organized the 141st Bull Moose Battalion in this district. A December 17th, 1914 newspaper story relates how Colonel MacKenzie was ordered to recruit and train one company of infantry, consisting of 110 men for active service abroad. Training and maintenance of this force was to happen in Fort Frances until the contingent was called upon to mobilize. In 1916, as colonel and commanding officer, MacKenzie took his battalion overseas.

Dr. MacKenzie was not simply a resident of Fort Frances, but actively participated in community affairs and served many terms as Fort Frances mayor prior to and after World War I. Following the war, he helped organize the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, started up a town band, was a leading liberal in the political arena, supported local sports of all kinds and prominently figured in both the Masonic Lodge and the Shriners.

He passed away in 1939 at the age of 69. The solidly built MacKenzie Hospital is still a recognizable landmark on Third Street West.



Albert Luther Smith

The story I have of Luther Smith has been pieced together from early personal letters and later on, official documents received by his family from the Canadian government.

Letter dated Sept 2, 1915...

Dear Everyone, I guess you will be surprised at the postmark and I think you will guess about what it meant. We left Port Arthur last night at one. We are away and I want you all to make the best of it and everyone will come out for the best. I will write as soon as I get in a camp. I remain, your loving son and brother, Luther. The train is shaking so I can hardly write.

Letter dated Feb 18, 1916...

Dear Father, I am just sending you a few lines to say I am leaving tonight or tomorrow for France. The weather is rotten and rainy for traveling but that doesn't stop us going. I am well and hope all of you are well. I remain, Luther. P.S. Don't worry and I will write as soon as I get across.

Telegram dated Oct 17, 1916...

Sincerely regret inform you 438836 private Albert Luther Smith infantry officially reported admitted No. 1 Australian general hospital Rouen Oct 9th, 1916 shrapnel face scalp arms will send further particulars when received. Officer in Charge Records

Letter dated Oct 1st, 1917 from Department of Militia and Defence...

I have the honour to inform you that a letter has been received from the Secretary, Manitoba Patriotic Fund, Winnipeg, requesting Militia Headquarters to advise you of the casualty to the soldier marginally noted, and in reply I deeply regret to confirm Headquarters' telegram of August 4th, to the effect that Private Smith, who was previously reported dangerously wounded is now officially reported as having died of wounds at No 7 Casualty Clearing Station, on July 25th, 1917, the nature of the wounds which caused his death, being described as gunshot wounds buttock and shoulder... Director of Records, unclear signature

Our Volunteers

During this past year, the Museum was assisted by the following people who volunteered their time to help out in countless ways: tracking local obituaries, organizing and teaching children's crafts and classes, cataloguing our video collection, hands-on help and modeling for fashion show, baking goodies, moving heavy items, leading our community rug-hooking project, and simply being supportive.

Maxine Hayes, Sandra Tibbs, Pathfinders and Girl Guides, Gail Beyak, Olive Friesen, Barb Marr, Jillian Berry, Randy Thoms, Pat Bassaraba, Hailey George, Chantal McLeod, Caitlin Svoboda, Carly Ford, Crystal George, Judith Johanson, Travis George, Dane Morrin, Dan Smith, Judy Kielczewski, Deb Ballard, Bruce Caldwell, Robert Schulz, Beth Caldwell — *thank you! I sincerely appreciate every one of you!*



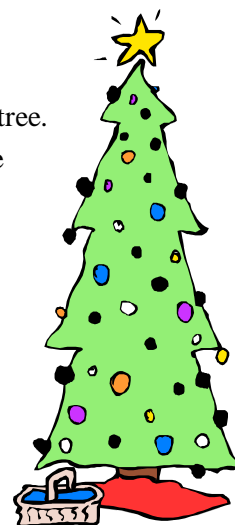
Calendar of Events

- Wednesday afternoons at the Library: *What Hooks You Here* - our CAHEP rug-hooking project - ongoing!
- Wed Oct 12, 6:30: **Writers Group** monthly meeting.
- Fri Oct 14, 7-9 & Sat Oct 15, 9-3: **Writers Workshop with author & historian, Neil McQuarrie**. Upstairs at the Museum. Limited enrolment. \$45 per person includes lunch. Call 274-7891 to sign up.
- Sat Oct 22, 11-4: **Arts Symposium** sponsored by the Ontario Crafts Council. Contact Lindsay Hamilton for more information. www.littlebeaverculturalcentre.com
- Sat Oct 22, 11-4: Friends of the Museum **Bake Sale**: cookies! Your support is appreciated.
- Sat Oct 29, 1-4: **Hallowe'en Haunt**, For spooks and ghouls of all sizes. We'll be on the floor, building a haunted house! Come prepared to exercise your imagination.
- Nov-Jan: *This Place Where We Live* - **Art & Poetry** by Connie Cuthbertson & Wayne Yerxa
- Wed Nov 2, 4:30: **Friends of the Museum** monthly meeting.
- Thurs Nov 3, 2 p.m: **Genealogy Group** monthly meeting:
- Wed Nov 9, 6:30: **Writers Group** monthly meeting.
- Sat Nov 26, 1-4: **Creating with Kids** heritage tree ornaments for Museum Christmas tree.
- Sat Nov 26, 4-6: Friends of the Museum serving **Hot Chocolate and Cider** for parade watchers.
- Thurs Dec 1, 2 p.m: **Genealogy Group** monthly meeting.
- Wed Dec 14, 6:30: **Writers Group** monthly meeting. Serving Christmas goodies.



*Meetings are on the main floor of the Museum,
and are open to the public.*

**Thursday, December 22 - Wednesday, January 4:
Museum closed for Christmas season.**



Genealogy Group



Our community genealogy group, formed early this year, began meeting once a month to discuss what everyone is working on, share ideas and generally support one another. From this informal beginning, the group has quickly identified a few community needs they would like to get involved in: specifically getting the cemetery listings on line, photographing the Museum's collection of newspapers, and getting the community story — interviewing and recording the stories of our elderly. All three are vitally important projects that will greatly benefit our community.

In addition, in conjunction with Family History Month in February, those members with a good start on their family story will be invited to share their findings with the community. The Museum will provide space, assist with exhibit design, and add dimension through artifacts from the Museum's collection. It will be interesting to find out why people came to Fort Frances, the difficulties involved with starting life in a new community and often a new country, and why families continue to stay.

Group member and former teacher, Bill Low, will be offering a beginner's course at the college for those interested in researching family history, but unsure of how to begin: Tuesdays starting October 18, 6 until 8 p.m.



Group meetings fall on the first Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Museum. Everyone is welcome. For those who cannot come in the afternoons due to other commitments, be sure to let us know, 274-7891. We have started a list of individuals who would prefer an evening time slot.

Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre Annual Membership Application

Please print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Anyone on our email listing will receive our quarterly newsletter.

- New Membership Renewal
- Individual \$25 Family \$40
- Patron \$100 - \$249 Sustaining \$250 - \$499
- Sponsor \$500 - \$999 Benefactor \$1000 or more

Cash or cheque payable to Fort Frances Museum.

Note: Anyone donating \$100 or more will receive an income tax receipt and complimentary membership.

In the past year we have received donations from:

Patron

Edna Marsh
Allan & Loneta Robertson
Fort Frances Stamp Club
Community Writers Group

Benefactor

FF Ukrainian Literary Society

Money collected from memberships and donations help to keep the Museum open year round.

The generous donation received from the Ukrainian Literary Society will be used to purchase an exhibit case to display memorabilia relating to their history and culture, which highlights the Ukrainian connection in our community.

Thank you!