
Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre

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Find us on Facebook!



February 2018

Until the end of February, we continue to exhibit fashion. We have selected a number of pieces from our own collection that depict the changes to fashion over 150 years: evening gowns and summer wear from the early 1900s, a 1920s flapper style, a 1950s full skirt and crinoline, many examples of hats and other accessories that were must-haves for a lady heading out and about, and two outfits from the flower-power '70s.

We also have some fine examples of late 20th century fashion from the closet of B.E. June Smith and other ladies from our community who had an excellent eye for style.

Fashion in Canada... *and yes, including undergarments...* was greatly influenced by the World Wars, and the resultant need of women in the workforce ...until, of course, they were no longer needed, and fashion changed again!

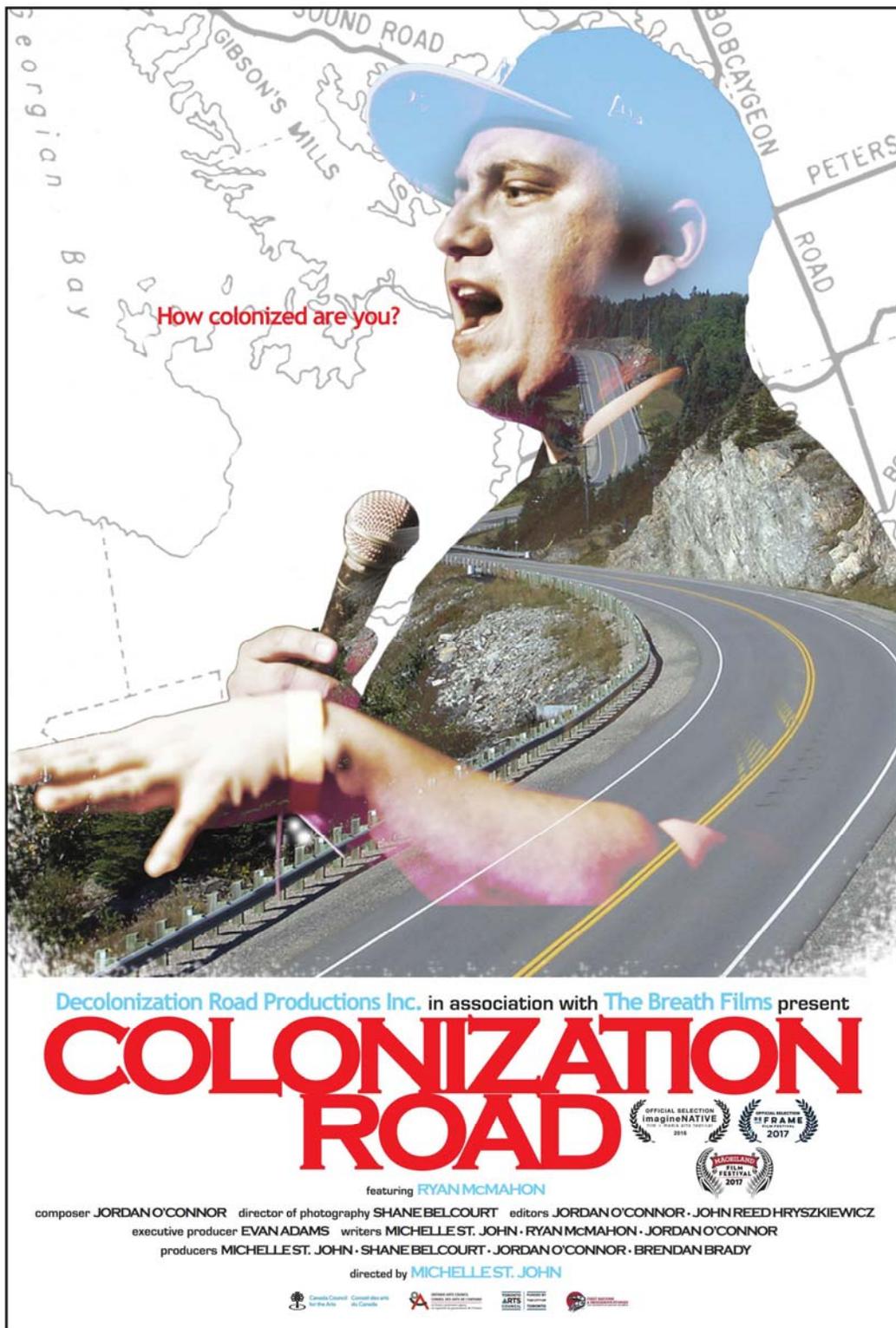


Reflections of Realism

Coming in March and April, we are delighted to feature the art work of well-known local artist, **Cher Pruys**. Cher's signature pieces - aviation paintings - have won many prestigious awards over the years, in addition to finding permanent places in private collections and galleries world-wide. Cher remains busy as she continues to explore her creativity while taking her art in new directions.

Be sure to stop by the museum to see *Reflections of Realism*, Art by Cher.

Opening reception: Thur Mar 1, 6:30-8:30



Film Screening and Discussion with Ryan McMahon

FREE Event • Wed Feb 21 from 7-9 PM • Fort Frances Public Library

Hosted by the Right Relations Circle and the Fort Frances Public Library

More information is available at www.facebook.com/rightrelations or by emailing rightrelationsrrd@gmail.com



SnOasis Six! Your Winter Fix!

Once again, Friends of the Museum have partnered with Friends of the Library and Sunset Country Metis to bring you our sixth FREE winter carnival for children and young families!

Fun starts at noon on Saturday, March 3rd. Join in winter fun and games! Try one of our famous auger hotdogs! Or toast bannock on a stick at the firepit!

And yes, there will be hot chocolate, cookies, face-painting, and story-time yoga with Meghan Spooner at the Museum!



**New location!
Rainy Lake
Square!**



Please join us at the Rainy Lake Square on Scott Street on March 3, 12 - 2 p.m., as Friends of the Museum and Library say 'thank you' for your continued support!!

Want to help? Call Caren at 274-6460 or Sherry at 274-7891. We've many events to man, and can always use some extra help. What's more, we have fun doing it!

Museum Upgrades

If you stopped in since Christmas, you may have dodged carpenters in our foyer as work progressed on our public bathroom. Finishing touches are now taking place and soon we'll have an accessible washroom.

This project, and the roof that was upgraded last summer, has been made possible due to funding received through the Canada 150 initiative. Trillium, through the provincial government, has funded half; FedNor, the federal body, has funded the other half.



*Thank you to Trillium and FedNor
for financial assistance!*



Volunteers Continue Great Work

Work continues on many of our projects due to a great team of volunteers.

Max Hayes assists researchers with requests for family history and related information. Very knowledgeable on local history, she is our go-to person when inquiries come in. In addition, she and Assistant, **Darleen Mitchell** continue to update our obituary records and organize data already collected on various subjects.

Nell Laur continues to wade through our archival documents, digitizing those files that might be helpful to a researcher or museum staff. Ready for a new project, she's eyeing our accessioning backlog. Brave lady!

Seeing a need for collecting our seniors' stories, **Sandra Brunetta** began this important task last year. A good listener and a great writer, she's doing an awesome job with this project.

We thank our volunteers for their gift of time, and their dedication to these projects. Our museum functions at a higher level with the work that is being completed.

A response, like the one on the right, says it all.

Below is an example of some of the requests we receive for information:

'I wonder if you might be able to help me and my grandmother find some information on her mother. We believe she may have been born in the Rainy River District some time around 1903. We have very little information on her - she died when my grandmother was not yet 3 years old. My grandmother was then put into a Salvation Army foster home, because her father was not able to care for her. My grandmother has been greatly troubled by not knowing her mother's identity. She is 90 now, and hopeful she will soon have a name and maybe even a photo to know her mother by.'

Max was able to find the information requested. In response, she received the following:

'Well, I don't mind telling you this email made me burst into tears! Thank you, thank you, thank you. My grandmother was never told anything about her mother—not even her name or how she died. This has been a poignant journey.'

This Summer's Exhibit — We Were Taught Differently: the Residential School Experience



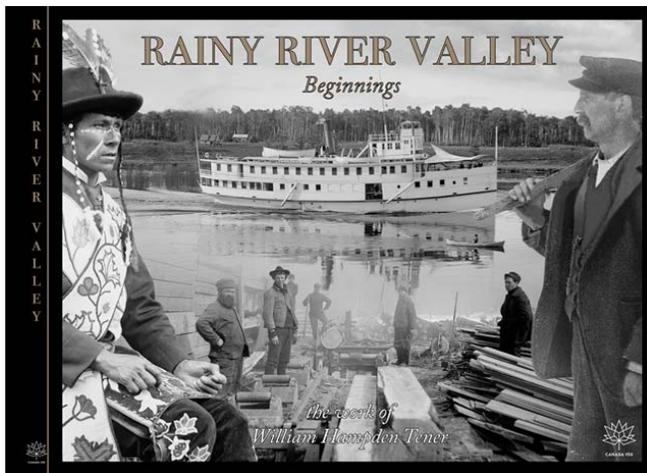
In May, the museum will be displaying: **We Were Taught Differently: the Residential School Experience.**

This travelling exhibit, on loan from the Lake of the Woods Museum, tells the story of the six residential schools in the Treaty 3 area.

In addition, the Fort Frances Museum, in partnership with Couchiching's genealogy expert, Glenn Jourdain, will provide a more focused look at the school that operated as Ste Marguerite's from 1906

until 1962, and then as the Fort Frances Indian Residential School until it closed in 1974.

We Were Taught Differently: the Residential School Experience will be on display until the end of August. Most of us know something about this topic that impacted so many, but do we know the whole story.



William Hampden Tener

If you missed getting a copy of the book 'Rainy River Valley Beginnings', no worries. The book can still be purchased at the Museum. Only \$25.

Raising funds for refurbishing the Owandem!

To date, our fundraising drive has raised over \$12,000 for our tugboat Owandem. Thanks so much to all of you! However, with \$13,000 still to go... if you would like to take part... all donations are gratefully accepted!



sandblasting 30% complete

Fibre Arts Festival 2019

With the success of Fibre Arts Festival in 2016, we are keen to repeat the event. However, as we are exhibiting a new fibre arts travelling exhibition in February and March of 2019, it makes sense to coordinate events. As we did in 2016, we will be exhibiting the work of local artists upstairs in our small gallery, at the same time that we feature **Fibre Content** in our main floor gallery.

Those of you who are madly preparing something for the latter part of this year, relax! Take a breath! You have a few more months to put the finishing touches on your masterpiece! And yes, we are expecting great things for Fibre Arts 2019!

Calendar of Events

Only days left: **Fashion 150**

Mar/Apr — **Reflections of Realism, Art by Cher** — opening reception: **Thur Mar 1, 6:30-8:30**

May-Aug — **We Were Taught Differently: the Residential School Experience**

Fall — the **museum celebrates 40 years!**

Adult arts programming continues most Saturdays. In addition, Judy Kielczewski will lead an **Open Studio** for children and young families on Sat Feb 28, 1-4 p.m.

Writers Group every 2nd Wed, 6:30. Back door entrance. New members welcome.

Off-season: Tues - Sat, 11 - 4. Admission by donation.

Staffing Shortages

We apologize to those who tried to visit on a Saturday and found the museum closed. We do understand that for some of you Saturday is the only day when you can visit. Unfortunately on many Saturdays, we have insufficient staffing to remain open.

We thank you for your patience as we complete the hiring process for another intern. We are pleased to announce that a University of Lethbridge graduate, **Laura Gosse**, will join us March 6 for a one-year internship through the **Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation**.

Our museum has also been approached by a Heritage student from the Netherlands who would like to intern with us for four months. His interest lies with inclusion. For example: Are minorities well represented as visitors to museums? What needs to happen so they visit more? Are changes to exhibit structure or delivery required, perhaps policy? What about representation when planning events, on committees or boards?

Once approved to work in Canada, **Daan Strating** will join our team; hopefully in early March.