

T H E

FORT VERMILION AND AREA  
AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETY

" F O R T R E S S "

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT FORT VERMILION, ALBERTA, BY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY TO PROVIDE AN AVENUE FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF NEWS OF THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS OF THE SOCIETY AND TO FOSTER A CONTINUAL INTEREST IN ALL OF THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE WORK AND RECREATION IN WHICH THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION MAY BE ENGAGED.





PAGE 8

THE FORTRESS

APRIL 6, 1940

"THE PATH ACROSS THE HILL"

The Society's Hall was jammed to capacity on the evening of March 25, when this season's play, "The Path Across the Hill" drew a record-breaking crowd. It is with pleasure that we report the performance was both a dramatic and financial success, and the reception the play received leaves no doubt that Miss M. Bruce has produced a hit. To a large extent any dramatic performance will succeed only in proportion to the ability of the director or directress and it is reasonably certain that of the audience of nearly two hundred persons, very few will deny that Miss Bruce has very exceptional talent in direction. The FORTRESS believes that the whole Society is deeply indebted to her for so successfully and ably performing a thankless, difficult task.

This play as staged by the Society is unique in that it has no particular stars. The work of each of the cast reflected talent and marked ability. Don Lavender's interpretation of an old and harrassed man was excellent. Miss Ella Kemp and Mrs. Hamman excelled in two parts requiring ability and understanding, while Mrs. Singleton and Mrs. Sibbald "rolled them into the aisles" with their keen portrayal of two darkies. Dorothy Edgecombe and W. M. Sibbald turned two parts not calculated to draw sympathy from the audience into real living people and there were moments when they nearly "stole the show". Mrs. Ware, with experience on the stage, gave "Grandma" just the right shading of understanding and humanity so necessary to the part. The work of Buddy Kemp and Const. Skead was for the most part up to the standard set by the others.

The Play Committee have done an exceptionally efficient piece of work on this production, and to them and to all those who worked so hard to make the play successful, should go the thanks of the Society. There is one man in particular, who worked entirely off-stage and who earned the appreciation of the cast and directress particularly and every member generally, Mr. S. Stephen, who gave his time as prompter, and the only man who never missed a cue.

Considerable money was spent to produce the stage effects for the play and to provide satisfactory and adequate lighting on the stage. It was found that the scenery in use last year was not satisfactory and only of a temporary nature, but that now constructed will be permanent and of such construction that it may be readily adapted to any type of interior staging. The lights are also built in such a way that they can be incorporated into a new stage when one is built.

If you have not seen "The Path Across the Hill", you are forgiven this time, but it is to be played again in a month or so and you'll never forgive yourself if you do not see it then. This is not just the opinion of the FORTRESS, ask any one who was fortunate enough to see the play, you will be told the Society has produced a smash hit, so watch the columns of the FORTRESS, for the date of the next performance -- AND DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T TELL YOU !!! This is something you must not miss -- ask your friends !!



O'SULLIVAN & STIGSEN RIVER TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

SCHEDULE OF SAILINGS

1940

M. B. "The Beaver"

Master: J.P. O'Sullivan

Leaves Peace River Town Bi-weekly -- 5 p.m. Saturdays for

Ft. Vermilion Chutes.....May 4  
 sooner if river clear of ice.  
 Ft. Vermilion.....May 18  
 Ft. Vermilion.....June 1

Ft. Vermilion Chutes....June 15  
 Ft. Vermilion.....June 29  
 Hudson's Hope.....July 6  
 Ft. Vermilion.....July 13

NOTE OUR

SPECIAL EXCURSION TRIP TO HUDSON'S HOPE  
 July 6 - Returning to Peace River July 12

First Class Round Trip Ticket \$25.00 - Meals and Berth Included

No Scheduled Trips to Ft. Vermilion Chutes Will Be Cancelled

Freight Rates: 55¢ per cwt. to Fort Vermilion only, and 65¢ per cwt. to Fort Vermilion Chutes.

PASSENGERS \$6.00 EACH, ONE WAY, FARE ONLY.

First Class Round Trip Ticket Peace River - Fort Vermilion and Return \$25.00, Meals and Berth Included.

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PERMANENTS

FINGER WAVING

SCALP MASSAGE

MANICURE

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT AT SIBBALD'S

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WE GUARANTEE EXPERT WORK AT VERY REASONABLE COST

MARY T. HILL

GEORGIE WARD

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Did you know?

The Alberta Government recognizes June 26, 1974 as the incorporation date for the current version of the AG. Society - making 2024 a 50th year anniversary! In reality, the experimental farm actively promoted agriculture since 1907 and there has been organized community members promoting and celebrating Agriculture since 1914 with the creation of the Board of Trade. On June 25, 1938 the Fort Vermilion Agricultural Society was officially formed. Supported by the board of trade via equipment and resources, the fledgling society took over operations of the fall fair and quickly became a staple of the community. In 1942 the organization went dormant as WWII raged on. It did not revive after the close of the war - officially dissolving and turning all assets back to the Board of Trade in 1951. In 1974 the the society was formed again and has been in operation since. This publication is one manner in which we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the AG Society.

Staying true to the original 1940 publication intention (as stated on the cover) - this 2024 version desires to not only keep the members of the AG Society informed but the community on the larger whole. Information about community events will be posted here - along with historical anecdotes, advertisements, classifieds and of course news from the AG Society. This is to be a simple publication - staying true to the handmade styles of the original and contrasting the glitzy paper and images of other such publications.

##### Special in this Vol #####  
10 select copies have a "fvhc" sticker somewhere in the newsletter. If you have one - bring it in to the museum to choose from a collection of prizes!

Advertising in "The Fortress"

In 1940 the advertising rates were as follows:

- Full Page ad ----- \$5
- Half Page Ad -----\$2.50
- Classified Ad-----\$0.25

As much as we would like to stay true to these rates of advertising - the small amounts hardly make the paperwork worth it! So instead we are offering rates at the equivalent buying power. In 1940 \$5 had ~the same buying power as \$100 does today! Keeping this model in mind - our advertising costs are as follows.

- Full Page Ad -----\$100
- Half Page Ad -----\$50
- Classified Ad (<30 words) -----\$5

350 copies are printed monthly - 300copies are distributed through the mail boxes and 50 others distributed to stores and local coffee spots. Payment can be made by cheque (Fort Vermilion Agricultural Society) Cash, or E-transfer (FVHC88@gmail.com) All Ads are attractively hand drawn and eye catching - as you will see on the following pages!

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Weather from 100 years ago!

In 1908 The Experimental Farm started keeping detail records of the precipitation / sunshine and temperature. Here are some of the results from April 1924.

Record of Sunshine Total hours 216 Average / day 7.2

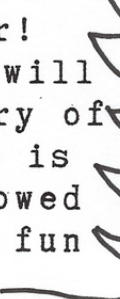
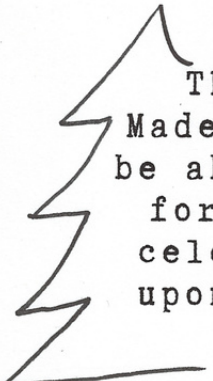
Temperature Highest 68°F (+20°C) Lowest -17.5°F (-8°C)

Precipitation End of April there was 5" of snow despite it snowing 9.5" in April. The first Robin was seen April 30



The Theme has been decided for the 2024 Escape House experience at the Fort Vermilion Heritage Centre! "Late for the boat" is the catch phrase and describes the situation that players will find themselves when starting. They must rush to get out of the house to get to the SS Peace River before it leaves for Peace River town! Expect fun challenges that require lateral thinking, problem solving and team work!

The experience opens June 1st -- \$20/booking -- 5 people/booking



The Mini Golf Course is back in action this summer! Made with all new obstacles and theme this year you will be able to putt your ball through the pre-1950 history of forestry in the area. This is one way that the FVHC is celebrating the Forest Capital of Canada award bestowed upon our area. Expect 7 holes of unique challenges, fun obstacles, and interesting facts!

Opening June 1 ----- \$5/round.

X

Have you seen the online historical map? Its a "living map" on which historical buildings, sites, and infrastructure are notated. Each listing has a historical write up on the location and, when available, photographs of that location. This map is publicly accessible (find it on our website [fortvermilionheritage.com](http://fortvermilionheritage.com)), and we would love your help in adding more information to it!

Get in touch 780-927-4603 [fvhc88@gmail.com](mailto:fvhc88@gmail.com)

There are still lots of "Fort Vermilion: People In our Vast Trading North" (Big Red history book) books for sale! They are \$75 each and a great resource for learning about the families and individuals that comprise 200+ years of Fort Vermilion History!

The Next Trivia Night is April 27th at the Sheridan Lawrence Bar!

Museum is open Tues + Wed 9-5 Thur 9-2

The Hudson's Bay Company maintained detailed records of operations, employees, and happenings at each trading post they operated. The Fort Vermilion Heritage Centre has a copy of those records and offer a peek into what was happening in Fort Vermilion HBC post over 100 years ago!

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\*\*\* These notations have been digitized from the hand written documents. The spelling of words and names may not be correct and outdated terms have not been censored or changed.

April/1827: arrival of fur hunters, equipping, packing and pressing furs

Arrivals: The Hay River Chipewyan arrived along with our Beaver Indian chief and two or three others - all these Indian have paid their debts besides having Furs over & above to trade - for their industry & good behaviour the Br Indian & Chipewyan Chief received each a clothing, consisting of a Scarlet Laced Coat, a Company Wool Hat & Cock Feather, a Company Striped Cotton Shirt, a Sm: Black Silk Hdkf, & a Pair Gurrah Trousers, and each a fathom twist of tobacco, and to their followers less according to their hunts(2nd) "The Chipewyans left us having received a supply of necessaries & as no Beaver is to be killed during Spring or Summer they will endeavour to hunt Swans & Muskrats until the large Animals get fat to make Provisions" (4th); Ft. Chip express, to to go back with canoe bark (6th);

Tripping: "the last of our men came home from the Hunters who are done hunting for the season as they can find no Animals near hand" (5th) return of men with bark (7th);

Events: first geese and ducks (14th); "the great number that now resort to this place exhaust the environs of both game & fur bearer" (24th);

April/1842:

Arrivals: Old Cadotte's family, say 4 women, bringing their Hunts and some pounded meat (1st); Cadotte's family returned to tents with a little Tobacco (2nd); Nagueyhey to join Hunters; & Abitsilly and Dents Malfaits 2nd nephew sent by Old Chief for tobacco, complains of scarcity of small furs, marten and fox (6th); 2 lads from party of Indians in Cariboo Mtns for tobacco & ammo (10th);

APRIL 1842 Cont'd

Fournier, 2 other Chipewyans, Cadotte & Sons, Tatlihay, Dents Malfait's Ist nephew and Tassalai with a few lads, they bring in all 200 lbs Pounded Meat, 25 Bear Skins, 100 Martens, 5 Beavers, 3 Foxes, 3 Wolverines & about 1 doz Dressed?? in skins - "miserable hunts for such a large party", met other Indians who were starving and they were obliged to assist them (15th); old Chief, very weak and coughing in a sled (16th); "Old Chief's party that is the Montagnier's who accompanied the old man most of the Spring" (17th); Charlo, Adsiconnee & La Patate, all Beaver Indians (19th) many arrivals, all eager to hear of Evans' speech (21st); many Indians, including Mondoux, Achosie (22nd); La Bonne Bouche & La Patate bringing 9 Stock Ducks (28th); Toussaint & Gros Yeux, lots of Indians expected, news of an Indian girl dead of starvation (29th); only Fort Hunters left at house (30th);

Tripping: Milling & La Hache's brother off for La Bonne Bouche's kills; & Trois Pouce & his brother La Hache of another killed yesterday, ret'd with 400 lbs (1st); ret'd haulers with three animals weighing 1100 lbs "they have eat nearly one whole animal, they say the distance was great and the roads bad (Feb25-Mar1st); Cree lad from Douyaehae with news of 3 moose en cache (2nd); 2 meat haulers retr. 3 moose from Dueyaehae's, 610 lbs Lafleur retrieves 1 doe, 1 small, 469 lbs from Old Cadotte's (4-9th), La Bonne Bouche's family rose off to mountain behind the fort to hunt (4th); arr Trois Pouce & lad from La Bonne Bouche with news of 5 moose, but roads bad so can only send haulers for 3 (15th); meat haulers off for La Bonne Bouche's moose, returned without meat, could not travel due to lack of snow, loss of 5 or even 3 moose very serious (16-17th);

Events/Tasks: "La Bonne Bouche of his accord remaining here today - he is the first Indian here I have seen keep the Sabbath and is determined hereafter never to do any work or hunt on that day, saying that since the Rev'd Mr. Evans wished all the people to keep that day for the great Spirit above he should be sorry to break or not follow his orders" (3rd); "Dueyehae is very unwell and I was under the necessity of bleeding him in the arm which gave him some relief" (9th); put 1000 lbs in icehouse, preparing, dusting bear skins (11th); now had Cree lad to cook for him and sent Milly or Willy to the men's house to work as the rest, he is awkward & grumbles a lot (14th); concerned that Auge has not appeared to repair the canoes (16th); sent Shawly to gather gum (18th); tied up 5 Bales of dried Meat (19th); 5 Packs of fur made up (20th); 7 Packs of Fur made up (21st); finished Packs, 19 in total (22nd); remarkably mild weather, great number of geese and ducks; Indians brought a swan and 2 geese (24th); river ice moved, was quite thick at this time last year (27th); ice drifting (28th); river clear of ice (30th);



St Henri Catholic Church flooded on April 27th 1934



People posing on ice post flood 1934.



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FORT VERMILION ADULT LEARNING

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460I-46 AVE, P.O.BOX 789, FORT VERMILION, AB, T0H IN0

780-58I-35I0

# APRIL

SUN

1

Office Closed

2

Office Closed

3

Office Closed

4

Office Closed

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Office Closed

SAT

8

Learners Prep  
5:00pm

9

Computers  
3:00pm

11

Learners  
Prep  
5:00pm

15

Drop in Coffee  
and Snacks  
12:00-2:00pm  
Learners Prep  
5:00pm

16

Computers  
3:00pm  
Community  
kitchens Prep  
4:00pm

17

Community  
Kitchens  
4:00pm

18

Learners  
Prep  
5:00pm

21

Crib  
tournament  
2:00pm -  
4:00pm

22

Learners Prep  
5:00pm

23

Computers  
3:00pm

25

Learners  
Prep  
5:00pm

27

Babysitting  
course  
9:00am -  
4:00pm

29

Staff Training  
office closed

30

Staff Training  
office closed

NEED ACCESS TO A  
COMPUTER OR  
INTERNET?

WE HAVE LAPTOPS THAT  
CAN BE USED.

CRIB TOURNAMENT  
SUNDAY, APRIL 21  
2:00PM TO 4:00PM  
SNACKS WILL BE  
PROVIDED

LEARNERS PREP  
EVERY MONDAY &  
TUESDAY  
CALL TO SIGN  
UP

BABYSITTING COURSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 9:00AM TO  
4:00PM

PLEASE CALL OR TEXT TO SIGN UP

DROP IN FOR

COFFEE & SNACKS  
MONDAY, APRIL 15  
12:00 TO 2:00PM