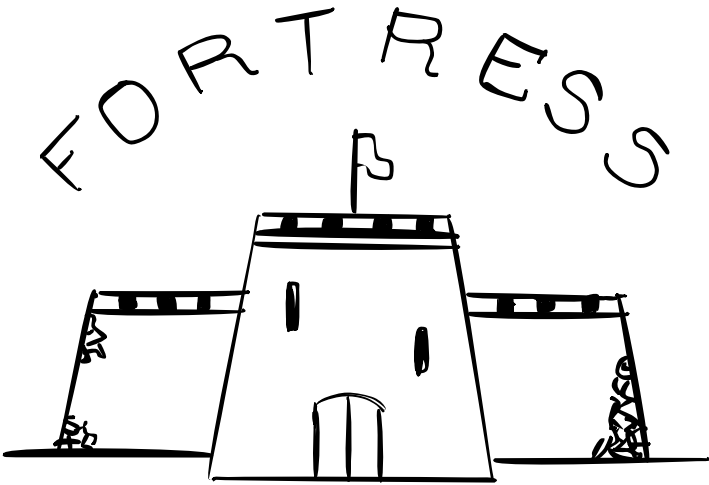
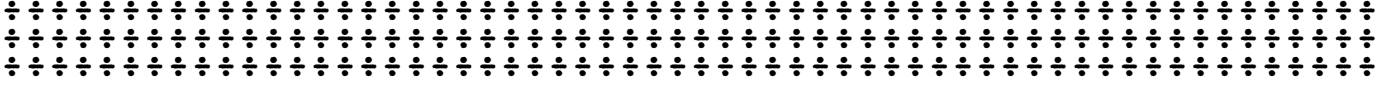


T H E
FORT VERMILION AND AREA
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY



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 TWO

THE FORTRESS

MAY 6, 1940

An Open Letter To The FARMERS of the FORT VERMILION AREA

Organize and cooperate! There are markets here in Fort Vermilion and in the North for your produce. At present these markets are being filled from outside.

We, the Directors of your Agricultural Society, urge you to cooperate and take advantage of these markets. By doing so you will not only be helping yourselves to a better living, but also, by cutting down on importations, now needed overseas, you will do your bit towards helping your Country in the present War. Here are the facts:— Every year there are tons of lard, bacon, flour and tallow brought down by the boats for local consumption. Every year you ship out many hogs, beeves, and wheat. Why ship out seven or eight-cent hogs and ship in thirty-five-cent bacon and hams? The difference is lost entirely to this country. While it certainly takes a great deal of care and labor to cure quality hams and bacon to compete with the imported brands, it can be done and has already been done by some of our local farmers.

However, to manufacture a reliable standard grade a central packing plant and slaughter house should be established here to handle the business. If such an enterprise were to succeed it would give a market for your hogs when they were ready to market. You would no longer have to hold them over for the opening of navigation, thereby taking penalties on them because of overweight, neither would you have the expense of bringing them on slowly so that they would not be ready too soon. A local plant would make it possible for you to raise a hog from weaning to maturity in the quickest and most economical way and insure you of a market at any time of the year.

There is also the Indian Department bacon, lard and flour which we feel sure could again be filled locally if we could convince the Department that we have a strong cooperative organization working here, equipped to supply a first-class product.

Local beef and pork were sent to Yellowknife from here this winter by caterpillar tractor train over the new winter road. We have been advised that the purchasers were very pleased with this meat, and the possibility of more and continued business is very probable. There is a likelihood that this coming summer may see refrigerator scows below the Vermilion Chutes to take our products North; and there is also every indication of an established year-round plane service which would increase our northern markets.

Many dozens of Fort Vermilion eggs have been flown North this winter, but at the present time eggs are a glut on the market. Surely, it would pay you better to give your hens the proper feeding and housing necessary for winter egg production! As you know, eggs are worth fifty percent more in winter than they are in the summer time. Preserve eggs in the spring when production is heaviest for your home use during the following winter, so that you will have more fresh eggs with which to fill orders in the fall and winter. Any organization that would be in touch with the northern buyers could, we feel sure, increase the market for your butter and eggs, provided they could guarantee a reliable quality and supply.

To The Farmers of the Fort Vermilion Area (continued)

In anticipation of increased business to the North we have written to the Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, asking for some means of meat inspection up here, as this point seems to be the chief obstacle to our securing the markets we have wanted so long.

Any organization entering upon this business would of necessity be entirely separate from your Agricultural Society, as our charter forbids us to enter into any business whatsoever. But, as we were organized and formed through the Board of Trade, so we in turn offer our facilities to help organize any marketing board or cooperative which you, the producers, care to form. To this end we ask anyone who is interested or has any suggestions to offer to send a letter or card to the Secretary, The Fort Vermilion Area Agricultural Society, and we will arrange a meeting at a later date to discuss the entire business.

We urge you, one and all, to think this matter over seriously and to talk it over with your neighbors. We believe the time has come when you can all do something to help your country and better yourselves at the same time. Nothing can be accomplished without your support and cooperation.

It is up to you -- Think and act NOW ! !

The above was subject to the consideration of the Board of Directors at a special meeting held on April 17. The whole subject of the marketing of produce was discussed and the "FORTRESS" recommends that every Producer peruse the above findings and suggestions .

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING April 9th., 1940:

Mr. Newman presided at the meeting which was held at Mr. Partch's home. The President stated that there was not sufficient logs obtainable on the timber permit held by the Society and this matter was referred to the Buildings and Grounds Committee. This Committee reported the scenery built for the stage cost \$30.00; the floodlights cost \$8.00. All this equipment is of a permanent nature. The Committee recommended the expenditure of \$4.00 for eight benches. The Directors approved of making an application to the Hospital Society for a \$500.00-loan. The Advertising Committee reported \$92.00 in advertising obtained for this year's prize list. The Play Committee reported a net profit of \$32.35 and it is hoped the play can again be produced. The Board of Directors approved a motion to donate a page of advertising in the prize list to the Board of Trade. The Publicity Committee report shows that the FORTRESS is gradually "getting out of the red". The Committee feels not sufficient use is being made of the facilities available and that the FORTRESS could be of much greater service to the Society if the members would avail themselves of this medium.

The Grounds and Buildings Committee reported that a Sound System embodying a gramophone turn table amplifier and speaker to produce dance music and thus eliminate the excessive cost of music as it is at present would cost between sixty and seventy dollars! Such a system should work satisfactorily and would be self-liquidating.

F
R
O
M

T
H
E

O
R
I
G
I
N
A
L

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.

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!

+++++

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 May 1924.

Record of Sunshine - Total hours 299 Average / day 9.7
 Temperature - Highest 82°F (+27°C) Lowest 24°F (-4.4°C)

May Precipitation total - 0.88in

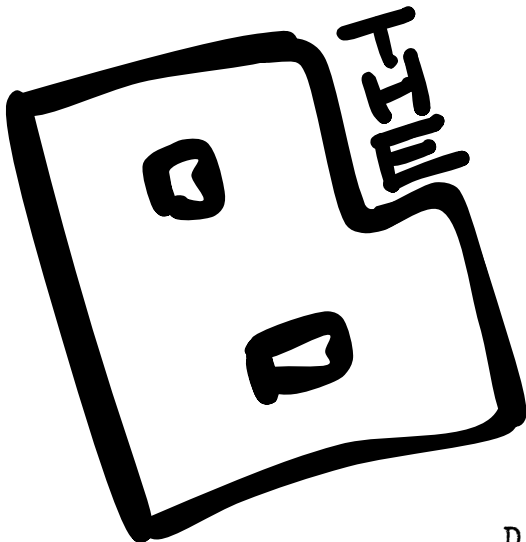
Frogs were first heard on May 1st, Trees started appearing green on May 13, first saskatoons were in bloom May 30

Sunday Closed
Monday 10 am-10 pm
Tuesday 10 am-10 pm
Wednesday 10 am-10 pm
Thursday 10 am-10 pm
Friday 2-10 pm
Saturday 2-10 pm

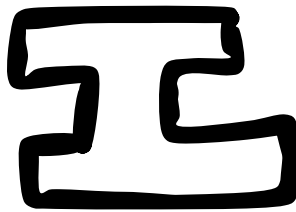


GRAMPA'S FINEST

4803 49 STREET, FORT VERMILION, AB, CANADA, ALBERTA
+1 780-927-3036 GRAMPASFINEST@GMAIL.COM



Hydway Hardware
4901 49 Ave,
Fort Vermilion
780-927-3505
hydway@gmail.com



Downtown Fort Vermilion



Open Mon - Sat 9am - 6pm



meeting all your painting, hardware, firework, gardening,
pet, building, electrical, vehicle, plumbing, fishing,
propane, and camping needs!

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.

May/1842:

Arrivals: Shawly & 2 boys, not catching fish, need food, take 20 lbs fresh meat for the Old Chief (26th); Old Chief's boy came in for more provisions but also brought 1.5 doz ducks eggs (30th); Shawly from Old Chief with Bearskins, asks for more meat (31st);

Tripping: engaged La Bonne Bouche & La Patate as Ft Hunters, they have 2 lads to assist them as meat haulers & to hunt (1st); Ft Hunter can see no moose, will hunt ducks & geese (4th); arr Naguehay, St Louis from the Hunters with 23 Ducks & 6 Grey geese, they're going to hunt on the mountain behind the fort (10th); arr Naguehey & Ulor's /Ulei's son or St. Louis from La Bonne Bouche (12th); 1 small moose doe (12th); arr lads with one large doe, one small moose killed by La Patate (14th); Ft Hunters visited (15th); arr Naguayshay & St. Louis with 2 doe moose from La Bonne Bouche & La Patate (24th);

Events/Tasks: hoeing garden (3rd); "Gale of wind from the Westward - a very large blazing around the Fort which was nigh burning the whole Establishment we succeeded however in extinguishing it, but could not prevent burning all our cord wood, say 30 Cords cut since the spring " (7th); clearing land on island opposite for Garden to sow Swedish turnip & Carrots as a trial (10th); men hunting waterfowl towards Lac la Minx & returned with 1 Crane 1 Goose 5 Ducks and 6 Duck Eggs (12th); Dunvegan boat arrived (14th); Returns: 64 Packs, 32 Bags Pemmican, 6 Bags Pounded and 5 Bales Dried Meat (16th); men & Indian lads planting potatoes at Old Fort (17th); clearing & planning more potato fields (19th); cabbages all destroyed or eaten by mice/worms (21st); Old Chief left to fish in the upper parts of the Boyer River (22nd); lot of vermin and insects around garden (23rd); sent Takousai, La Patate's stepson, with Sylvestre to see if ducks are laying, returned with ducks but no eggs (27th); catching fish in river with hook and line (29th); CT caught about 12 small fish (30th);

May, 1895: establishment include James Smith, Clarke, Bourassa, Thicoullay, Landrie, Jack working in gardens

Arrivals: Ambroise, Nimicata, Ekay (7th); Sewepegaham from LRR with a letter for L. Cardinal, acting as Interpreter (8th); Tallcree (12th); Beauchamp and Jacques Fournier with some fur (16th);

Tripping: prepping for Hay R. trip (1-4th); Kipling, Chillay and Pierre Lizotte and Samuel to Hay R. with 9 horse loads of goods & return, Mr. Clarke waiting at Hay R. for rest of Indians (6-19th); arrival of Clarke, Antoine and Bourassa (21st);

Tasks/Events: Antoine & Kipling melting tea lead & making Ball (1st); Clarke & Paul Montagnais hunting horses across (2nd); arr of Francis St. Cyr with trader La Rivier's boat (9th); Joseph Lafleur started for Chipewyan today en route for Edmonton (10th); La River's men sent supplies & 2 men to RR (10th); arr of trader Fred Brick (11th); James Smith cutting seed potatoes & acting as interpreter (13-15th); planting potatoes (16-21st); Bourassa making a coffin for Chocolate who died last night (22nd); sorting & counting Hay R. fur (24-25th); a heifer calved, making 15 in total, 14 of the HBC and 1 of Sournois (25th); Bourassa working for himself (29-31st); working at fur press (29-31st);

May, 1898: Joe Dollar = Joe Lafleur

Arrivals: Sewepegaham and 4 Cree from RR (30-31st);

Tripping: Joe Dollar & Francois off with flour to RR along with Klondykers (6th); return of Clarke et al from Hay R. (21st); Clarke and Nepeniwiw to Tallcree (31st);

Tasks/Events: putting up fencing (2-3rd); arr of 6 boats of Klondykers; refs to Alex Cardinal (4th); "Fires burning all around us & high winds"; Klondyker boats left (6th); Deschaines and Nepeniwinee retrieve potatoes from the ranche (6-7th); cutting up seed potatoes (9-10th); arrival of more Klondyker boats (10th; departure of 2 of 'argonauts' (11th); J. B. Shawan and Alex Cardinal to James Laurences for raft of 3 loads of hay for S.P. transport animals (11th); putting in garden (11-12th); planting potatoes (13-17th); Alex Cardinal, Joe Lafleur, Louis Cardinal and J. B. Shawan started upriver to build a raft for cattle for Smith Portage (19th); cutting and hauling fencing (13-20th); putting up fencing (21st); men come down with cattle raft (25th); Wm Flett, Jose Lafleur, J. B. Shawan started for Smith's Landing with cattle raft; James Smith and Alex Cardinal goes as far as RR (26th); Tourangeau now working (28th); Bourassa traps 6 marten (28th);

TRADING

POST

Raising money for the building of a seniors lodge in Fort Vermilion

Open Tues - Fri 1pm - 6pm

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Follow us on Facebook !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
River Road Trading post Second hand store

Bag Day
Every Friday

More
Volunteers
needed!!

Inquire at Front!

Wed + Fri
Donation Days

MARA

Mackenzie Applied Research Association

MARA individual Membership only costs \$30 / year or \$50 for three years!

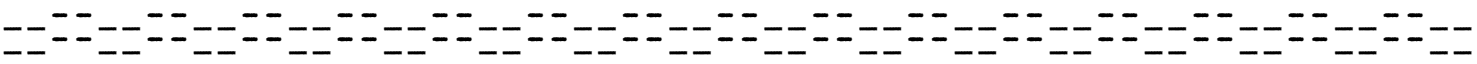
Starts this month →

Member Benefits include:

- >>> Discounted feed and soil testing
- >>> Hay Tester and Soil probe available to use
- >>> Meals in the field for Random draw members
- >>> Newsletter subscription and event calls
- >>> Free annual report on research and events



Dugout water Quality and equipment crossing tour May 29th 9am
Tour producers fields in the La Crete area and learn about
dugout water quality, farm crossings, and erosion control
projects. call 780-927-3776 to register.



The Roman Catholic Church was established in Fort Vermilion in 1866. For 158 years it has maintained a strong presence in the community with regular worship and Mass services.

Sunday Mass starts at 10:30am | 780-927-3219

The Anglican church was established in Fort Vermilion in 1876 and has maintained a strong presence with regular services for 148 years.

Services are Sunday at 11:00am.

Faith Gospel Fellowship is a non-denominational church
Sundays Sunday School at 9:30am | Worship service at 11:00am

Church of God in Christ Mennonite is a Mennonite Church and annually hosts Vacation Bible School in the summer.

Sunday Service is 10am

Events You MAY be interested in this month!

- Mackenzie County outdoor recreation planning meeting May 7th I:30-2:45. Search "Mackenzie Outdoor recreation and tourism plan" in event bright (this is an online meeting).
- Firearms safety course hosted by Adult learning (460I 46 ave) May 3Ist 6-9pm and June Ist 9am until completion. Cost \$I75. I2 spots available. Contact Kerri. 780-58I-35I0.
- Brighter Futures Fundraising Golf Tournament. July 20. \$260/team 2 ball best ball 27 holes. La Crete golf course. Register with Carla - 780-926-03II
- Faith Gospel Fellowship is hosting a large yardsale on June Ist from IO-4pm!
- Hutch Lake, Machesis lake, Wadlin lake and Zama Campgrounds are opening May I7th!
- The 2024 municipal census begins May 2024 look for postings as more information becomes available!
- Light of Truth Fellowship is hosting a youth Rally at the complex May IO+II 7:00pm nightly.
- Eagles Nest "Let Hope Arise camp Meeting" May 3 7:00pm. Speakers Arthur and Mary Noskey

Peace River at Fort Vermilion May 7, I950

