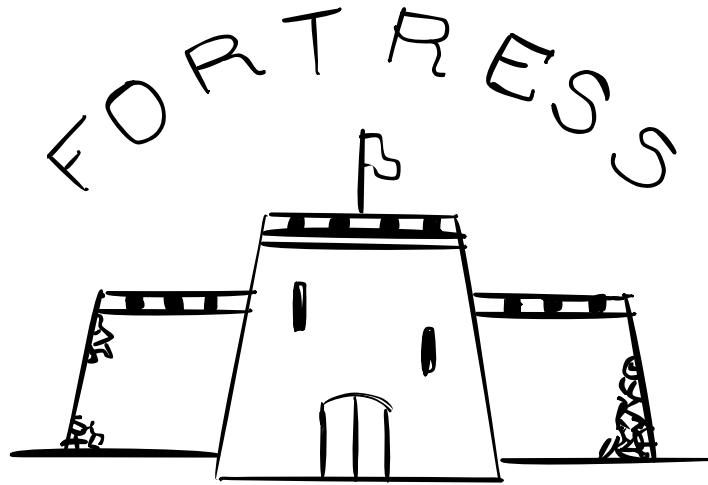


T H E  
FORT VERMILION AND AREA  
AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETY



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.

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THE FORTRESS

JUNE 6th. 1940

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Board was held at the home of Mr. J.B.Kemp, on May 1st., 1940 with the Vice-President, H.L.Partch being the Chairman. The first proposal passed was that a letter be sent to the Hon. the Federal Minister of Agriculture regarding the possibility of securing some means of providing Meat inspection here. The Ways & Means Committee reported that a change had been effected in the present personnel of the Dance Committee. It is now headed by Mrs. A.J.Bresee with the following Members: Mrs. M.Porter, Mrs. H.A.Hamman, Buddy Hallet and Ernie Bourassa. The W & M Committee also are studying a plan to provide Members who have paid their fees during the present fiscal year, with voting power at the coming Annual Meeting. The Play Comm. report some difficulty in arranging a suitable date for the return engagement of the "Path Across The Hill" due to the fact that members of the Caste will be absent at different times during the Summer months. The Advertising Committee reported that to date \$132.00 in advertising had been secured for the Prize List and this money would pay the cost of Printing and leave a small surplus. The Publicity Committee reported that the "Fortress" is still somewhat in the "red" and that some success had been secured in efforts to get newsprint paper at a more reasonable price. The three-quarter Ad. Mr. J.P.O'Sullivan ran in the Fortress was donated by the Committee in appreciation of Mr. O'Sullivan's generous services to the Society in the past. The Membership Committee report that Memberships are coming in very slowly there being 58 to date. The Prize List Committee partly finished their report when the meeting was adjourned to May 8.

On May 8th. the Directors re-assembled at the home of Miss Bruce and the draft of the Prize List was considered, some changes were made and the List adopted. The award of the printing was made to the Record-Gazette Press. After some discussion the date of the Fair was set for August 30th., 1940. The Fort Vermilion Board of Trade then submitted an offer, through Mr. H.L.Partch, to our Society to take over the July 1st. Sports on the following terms: The Board of Trade to turn over \$150,00 to the Society and lease the grounds for \$11.00 annually. This proposal was adopted and the Society are now responsible for the operation of these Sports. Your whole-hearted support is earnestly requested. The Sports Committee will consist of Mr. H.L.Partch, Convener, assisted by Messrs. W.M.Sibbald and Thos. Bourassa. A proposal to hold a Special Meeting on Monday, May 20 to consider the question of the Diamond "P" Hall and Memberships was passed.

A Special Meeting was held at Mr. H. Edgecombe's home on May 20. Rev. Father Hugerre reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee had held a meeting May 17, and it was suggested that a foundation be built at once, the building then moved and a new roof provided, this at an expenditure of \$450,00. Then, next year, additions and the necessary improvements be done with the \$500.00 projected loan which has received the ratification of the Hospital Society. This loan is to be the subject of a General Meeting to be held on June 25th. 1940. Mr. Sibbald informed the meeting that the Contractors engaged in the construction of the H.B.Co. building had inspected the Hall and were of the opinion that the cheapest method of solving the problem would be to wreck the building and re-build with the salvage. In dealing with Memberships, Mr. Sibbald suggested that we ask the Department to grant permission to accept Promissory notes for Membership dues, such notes to be given between the date of the Fair and the Annual Meeting and to mature at the latest two days before the Fair



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!

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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 June 1924.

Record of Sunshine - Total hours 253.7 Average / day 8.4  
 Temperature - Highest 87.8°F (+31°C) Lowest 27.8°F (-2.3°C)

June Precipitation total - 0.64in

There was frost June 8th and 13th. June 16 wild roses were in bloom June 30 Alfalfa was in bloom.

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

It's the  
finest alright  
he he he ...

# Grampoo's finest

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

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# HIDWAY HARDWARE

490I 49 Ave,  
Fort Vermilion  
780-927-3505  
hydway@gmail.com

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

Open Mon - Sat 9am - 6pm Downtown Fort Vermilion

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.

June/1865: breaking new ground for field

Arrivals: Tsapotte from across with furs (6th); Assinassy & 2 others Indians with fur hunts (12th); "a tolerable large party of Indians with their spring Hunts, all in Beaver of course, this party met with the Dunvegan Indians by appointment at Battle River from whom they purchased 8 horses - so much for the Vermilion Indian, with what they already possess, they will soon have as many horses here as the Dunvegan Indians" (15th); all Indian returned to tents (16th); Indians with spring hunts, all in beaver (19th);

Tripping: arr Trois Pouces, killed a moose but kept for himself (2nd); Trois Pouces laid up with sore eyes (3rd); Trois Pouces & La Bonne Bouche's son laid up with sore eyes (5th); Trois Pouces improving, rose camp (7th); arr Etienne, one of our Fort Hunters, starving and nearly blind from sore eyes (9th); rec'd moose from Nulessay (10th); Akinam off hunting towards Lac d'Ours (14th); arr Trois Pouces to idle about and have a chat with Charlette (18th); rec'd 2 moose from Trois Pouce party (17th); Trois Pouces & party off to Lac d'Ours (21st); rec'd 3 moose from hunters, that is, Lannahy, Trois Pouce's son and Mondoux (23rd); 2 meat haulers arrived with 2 moose killed by Trois Pouces & Lanahan camped at foot of mountain (30th);

Tasks/Events: sore eyes among Indians & a couple of our boys already affected (2nd); Roy grubbing field, Michel & Oliver at the dairy, "wife and children went for eggs to Bear Lake, brought home about 100" (3rd); Indian women & boys brought eggs from both sides of river (4th); Indian women went for eggs at Lac la Mau across the river (5th); arr Akinam & Gabriel from Ft. Chip, all well there (9th); Oliver & Gabriel to Dunvegan with ballshot in a bark canoe to bring down 8 horses if possible, Michel & Roy breaking new ground (13th); crops of barley, wheat & Indian corn look well, other garden plants less so (16th); Akinam, Roy & the boy brought a lot of eggs from Lac d'Ours (18th); arrived St. Johns boat with Oliver Courtoreille & Gabriel, they never made it to Dunvegan but turned back with boat at Smoky R., so no horses and ½ bag ballshot returned; still clearing & grubbing ground intended for potato field (24th); St. Johns boat off, Mr. Shaw took passage to go to Portage la Loche, Akinam & Gabriel assisting boat (25th);

June/I870:

Arrivals: party of Beaver Indian with spring hunt of beaver (5th); Indians all done well with spring hunt; Montagnier's party with large bundle of Beaver (9th); more Indians (11th); lots of Indians in (13th);

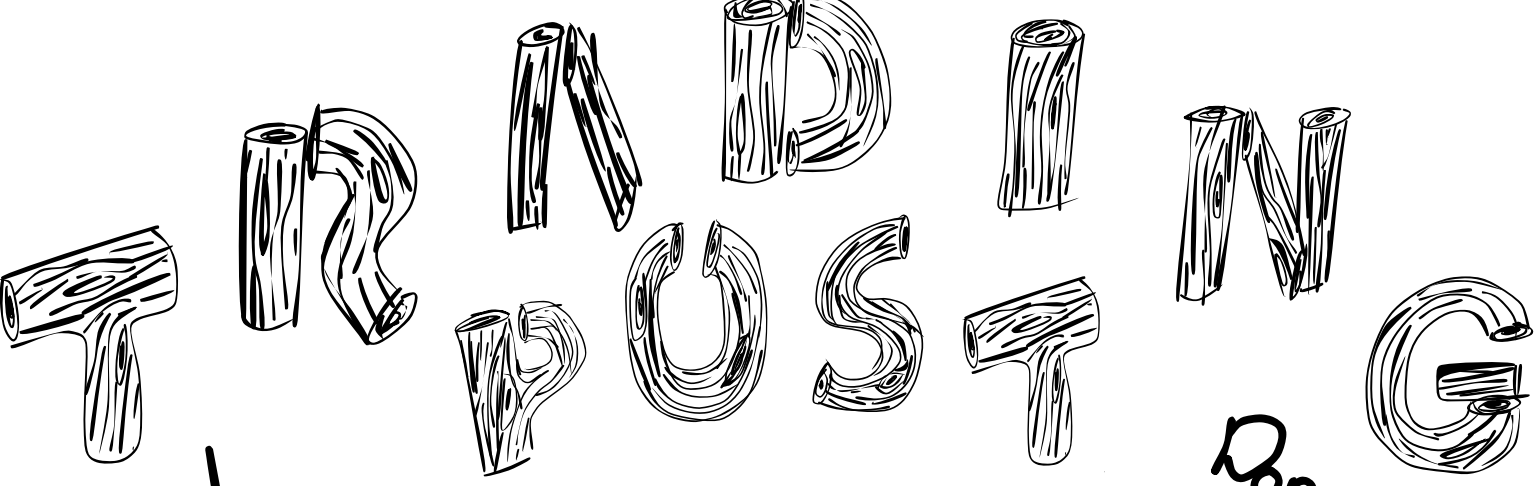
Tripping: no word from Hunters, but lots of fresh meat in cellar from winter (23rd); arrives Trois Pouces with buck moose, complains of gun being bad and missing, gives him an old trade gun (30th);

Tasks/Events: Trois Pouces still about the place, out with the boys looking for eggs (2nd); arrived from Chip to find good many Indians waiting for him [although he noted self as working with Michel, no change in handwriting, must go from his own account to repeating what CT dictated for journal] 'Work about the Fort during my absence all done to my satisfaction' (8th); all hands in store sorting and counting fur, Total since spring: 4227 beaver large & small, 18 large bear, 6 cub, 14 ferret?? Wolverines, 1 wolf, 33 martens, 12 mink, 2 fisher, 14 otters, 4 lynx, 5 swanskins (13th); made up 21 packs (14th); made 2 bags pemmican and 2 bales dry meat to provision Charlotte's men to Chip (16th); Olivier with boys carting chips (20th); Fort St. John boat cast up, "Mr. Angus Ross, passenger and leaves the service to go home to his country, Scotland" (21st); St. John's boat off to Chip with 100 packs, a. Belloux also sent with 2 adult oxen & 2 milk cows "Mr. Shaw and family goes to Chipwyan with ?there crafts" (22nd); men raising pine bark, 100 pieces (27th); men went to square poles to lay on the bark (29th);

June/I906: sawmill, construction, plowing, packing furs

Work/Incidents: breaking land (1st); butchered a cow of Tourangeau's, 486 lbs (4th); arr Billey Lambert and H. Bourassa with scow from Peace River Crossing (6th); arr Ben Charles with a raft of logs for HBC sawmill (7th); prepare ½ sacs of flour for treaty (8th); Grey not working, wife sick; Tall Cree put up his furs for competition between Revillon Brothers & HBC, HBC got it for \$2300.00 (11th); Conroy started to pay the Indians (15th); steamer crossed the Slavis (17th); death of Grey's wife at 2:30 pm (19th); funeral of Grey's wife, all hands attended, Beaver 7 Cree trading all day (19th); Charloos & Chackioosis grubbing (23rd)





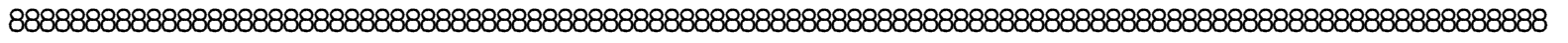
Bag day every Friday!

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

Open Tues - Fri 1pm - 6pm

Donations accepted wed + Fri

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



Mackenzie Applied Research Association

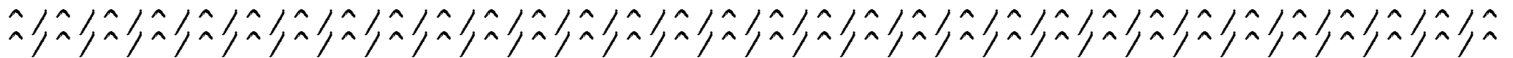
MARA individual Membership only costs \$30 / year or \$50 for three years!

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

Events You may be interested in this month!

- The Fort Vermilion Heritage Centre Mini-Golf and Escape Room open June 1! Call Steven at 780-841-2501 for more info or find it on the website / facebook page!
- The next Trivia Night is June 28th at the Sheridan Lawrence Bar!
- River Daze is scheduled for July 27+28!
- Kayak rentals are now available at the Fort Vermilion Complex! 780-927-4222
- Fort Vermilion Heritage Centre is hiring summer Tour Guide! Call Steven at 780-841-2501 or drop off your resume and cover letter at the museum!
- Fundraiser dinner and tea Dance for Shanelle Meneen June 8 - 6pm \$10 plate dance to follow! Bobbi Paul-Alook 780-841-6559

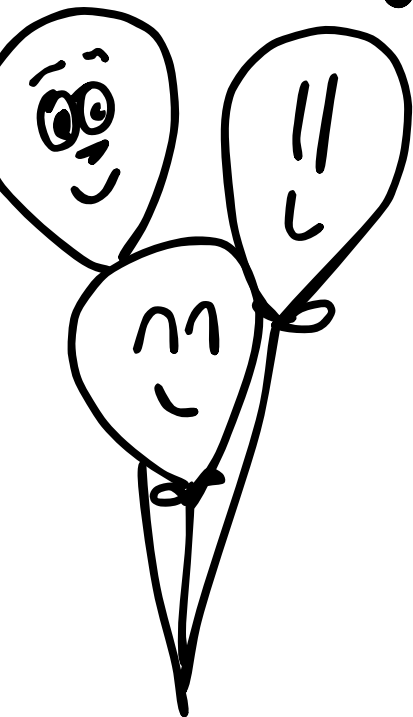


Mackenzie County AG Fair and trade show

# AUG. 9+10

- Ultimate Farmer Challenge
- Cowboy Challenge
- Corn Maze
- Tradeshow
- Pie Eating Contest
- JOE SHOW VANTRILQUIST
- Guns of the Golden West
- Parade
- Square Dance
- Box Car Races
- Bench Show
- Tug-of-War
- Cowboy Poetry
- Music Festival
- Bushman Challenge
- and more!

Prizes to be won!



Something for everyone!

FORT VERMILION AIRPORT JUNE 1956



FORT VERMILION FERRY JUNE 1939

