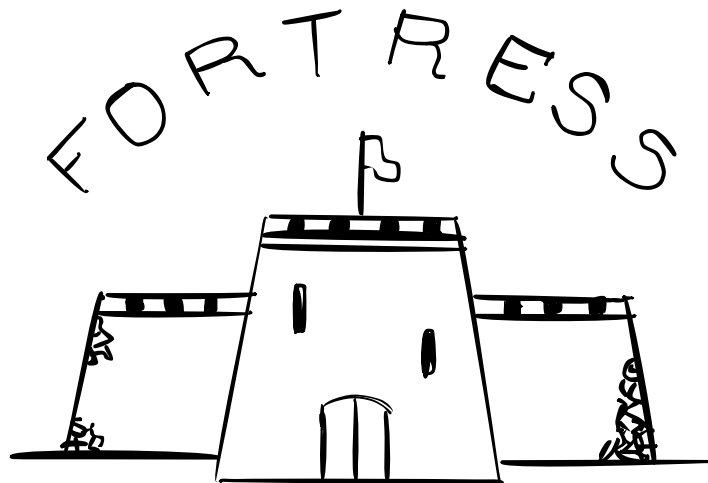


T H E
FORT VERMILION AND AREA
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY



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 TWOTHE FORTRESSAUGUST 6, 1940VOLUME ONENUMBER EIGHTYOU COULD LIVE ALONE

If you were the only resident in Fort Vermilion or in the District, you probably could get along. Things generally would be difficult, and life you would find quite a problem. Oh, no - it is not so easy as it is; people living in more settled areas have a much better time of it, but just suppose you lived alone here. In the first place you would have no Doctor, or hospital. Your children would have no school and you would have no church. There would be no mail service, and on the river no boats or 'planes alighting. You could not write nor 'wire, nor could you go to the stores to purchase your needs. There would be no roads, no community hall, no concerts, plays, dances, or sports. All the machinery you brought in (yourself) would come by the overland route in the winter. In the same way all your other needs would have to be transported long distances.

Then - there would be no markets here. No one would ever want to purchase your chickens, eggs, butter, or grain. You would have no one to talk to except your own family, and there would be no place to go. If you had a problem, or needed assistance in building a barn or a house, it would be a long, long walk to help. There would be no way to secure locally the services of an artisan, a bricklayer, carpenter, blacksmith, or mechanic. Every single necessity of life would have to be brought long distances, by expensive means.

Yes, you could live alone - but it would be quite a trial. For this reason, it is in your interest that the Community flourish. It is essential to your own welfare and progress that the Community be aided in its advance. Your whole scheme of existence is woven into the fabric of the Community structure and it is in your hands to make your contribution as strong and permanent as possible. In the edifice of the Fort Vermilion Community must go a part of the energy of all living within its boundaries. If you withhold your share you weaken the influence for betterment here. As the tide of fortune rises by the concerted action of all - so your fortunes will rise - and the converse is true. If you do some unselfish act in the Community and that act is motivated by an honest desire to improve living conditions for us all, although the act may pass un-noticed, it cannot fail to add something to the common weal.

Where is this all leading? To the subject of the Third Annual Fall Fair. This message is directed to any and all in the District. You are requested to do as much as you can to make the coming Fall Fair successful - very, very successful. It requires no great strain on your ingenuity to determine in what manner you may assist. You can exhibit - anything and everything you believe worth exhibiting. You can offer your services in many ways to assist in the labor which is connected with the Fair. You can help with time and money to build up the most successful exhibition we have ever had. The fall Fair is the crux of the Society's activities, and it demands of all the very strongest expressions of interest and support. It would not be an unpleasant feeling to know that you had done some small thing which you knew helped the Fair to be the best yet.

We do not deny that you could live alone - but consider how very much better it is that you are living in a community where there are people interested in you and your welfare. You do your part to make the community better for us all. You can - and the Fair is one way to do it. Just think this over. Some of the people living in the district may be better fitted to help the community than you are - but not one single one need be more enthusiastic or filled with a real desire to help in some way. Just think it over. ED.

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 August 1924.

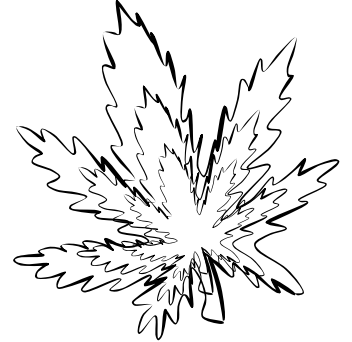
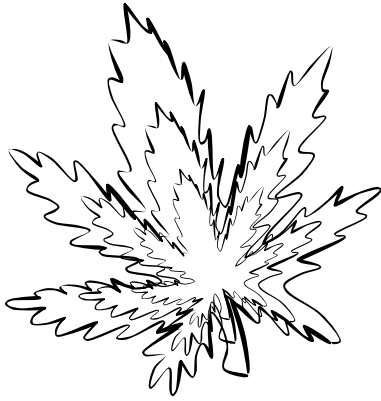
Record of Sunshine - Total hours 244.8 Average / day 7.9
 Temperature - Highest 79.8°F (+26.5°C) Lowest 32°F (0°C)

August Precipitation total - 2.27in

The DA Thomas arrived in the community on Aug. 7 + 25.

The first frost in the district was on Aug 28.

GRAMPAS FINEST



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

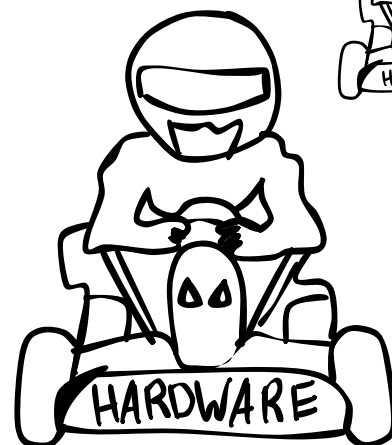
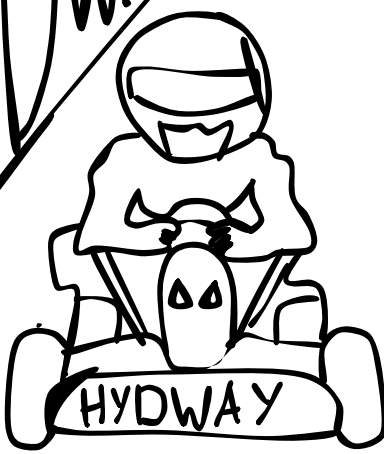
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Downtown Fort Vermilion

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.

August/1865:

Arrivals: Indians from across but no provisions, left for upriver (2-6th); Fournier & party with a horseload of dry scraps, only fit for dog food (7th); 2 Indians for ammo (9th); Fournier & son for tobacco (10th); Indians still around to see the Ft. St. John boat (11-14th); Indians still around in hopes of ammo & tobacco (16th); Indians equipped & off (21st); Indians still not getting better (24th); Chipewyan Indians still tied to the house, gave them purges & vomits (25th); the Chipewyan Cree are beginning to move about briskly but the Chipewyan are as bad as ever (26th);

Tripping: rec'd moose from Lannahay, worried about Trois Pouces who went hunting on Wednesday, not returned (4th); arr Trois Pouce, been tracking wounded buck moose (5th); Lannahay killed a doe moose (14th); Trois Pouces rose camp, (24th); arr carters with doe moose from Ha ha chay, the first he killed since hired in July, Fort Hunters sick (26th);

Tasks/Events: " Michel thinks he will get double the quantity of hay this year, the Fire having passed at the hay ground this spring had made the hay to grow", boys beginning to catch goldeye (1st); men reaping barley (9th); men tied up 2 bales of dried meat & made 2 bags pemmican for St. Johns boat (10th); 'St. John's Boat arrived in the afternoon, the crews of the boat Mostly all laid up with the scarlet fever. I much fear they will not be able to leave this for some time to come" (18th); Fort St. John boat off with the healthy ? men, loaned them Jules Roy, rest at house are to try to gather strength to return to Chip (21st); put up 25 bales inferior dried meat for Ft. Chip, Ind not improving (22nd); men bagged 1200 lbs dried meat for Chip, Tourangeau's family all sick; Inds all ill (23rd); young Baptiste St. Cyre well now, (26th); women & children of the fort all suffering (27th); boat off to Chipewyan with a sick crew but most recovered, Gabriel to help them all the way to Chip, Oliver Courteoreille & Appasasin to help them over chutes (29th);

August/I840:

Arrivals: old Cadotte & 2 sons with Adziconne, Lakish & two boys, no provisions made(6th); La Patate & Montagnier's son with families with intent of staying at Fort but the Post is too short of fresh meat (8th); Le Maigre, Nez platte, Le Cerfe, Nazoway, Shawly, the 3 Montagniers, Mondoux and a dozen others with 1300 lbs dried Meat, 224 lbs Grease, 400 lbs pounded Meat, also a few fur (21st); arrived La Hache & Akatchay from Loon R. for horses to bring dried provisions (29th); Anathadarah & Abitzely /Chipewyans/ from Hay River, there by arrangement to take down express to Chip, have come too soon so sent hunting (31st); Bonne Bouche off to Caribou Mountains again (31st)

Tripping: arr Chacally & 2 boys with meat of doe moose from La Patate (2nd); sent Chacall & Trois Pouces hunting (9th); "Sent off Lapatate and Montagnier's Son a hunting, the former down the River and the latter upwards, whether they will meet with any success is hard to say as they left this with little hope of meeting with any game of any kind, saying that animals is scarce all over the Country" (9th); arr Chacally & Trois Pouce with doe moose (12th); arr Lapatate with doe moose (13th); La Patate at post, arr Montagnier's son with doe moose, Chacally & Trois Pouces left with three horses to hunt (14th); La Patate upriver hunting & to meet La Bonne Bouche (16th); arr Chacally & Trois Pouce with a bear (20th); arr La Patate, no game for the Fort (21st); requested La Bonne Bouche & Nez Platte to come on 12th of Sept to start fall hunt, arr Montagnier's son with buck moose (22nd); la Patate & Montagnier's son off to hunt towards Loon R. (25th); Chacally & Trois Pouce to join La Patate (27th); Montagnier's son with doe killed at Boyer R. (29th); Montagnier's son killed 2 bear cubs on island opposite Fort, mother had 4 more cubs (30th); hunters at Loon R. to return as soon as they have killed a Bear or a moose (27th);

Events/Tasks: return of haymakers, very dirty (1st); Dents Malfaits sends him $\frac{3}{4}$ keg of berries by his Wife (2nd); "Madame Mangeur de lard & Daughter / Beaver Indian Women/ who are here since last week supplying me daily with Straw Berries as much as I can eat", hoeing potatoes at Old Fort (3rd); Obichon making ashes for soap, sharp frost last night (4th); purchased berries from some Beaver women from across (10th); grass-hoppers eating beets, cabbages, "clouds in the prairies" (11th); have caught a considerable number of gold eye by hook & line this month (14th); grasshoppers destroying cabbage, have not troubled potatoes across the river (15th); potatoes frost bit (20th); fires blazing countryside; apprehensive about hay at Lac d'Ours & safety of post (23rd); hunters upset about strange Indian hovering around the fort, fear of Assiniboines - factor sat up & saw nothing (26th); bad potato season, summer frosts (31st);

