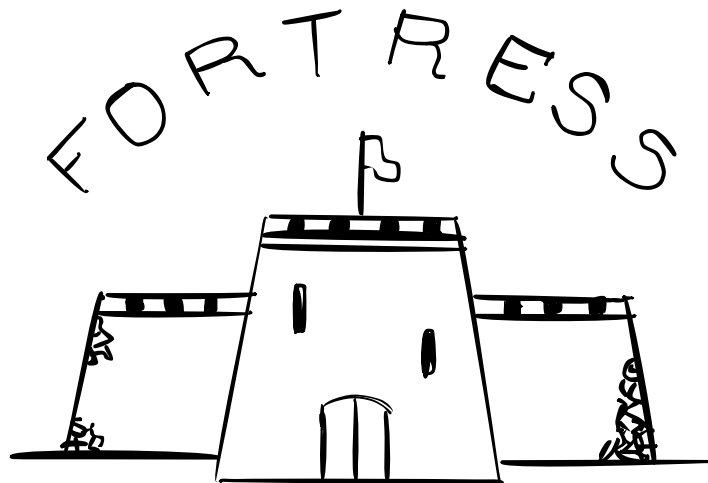


T H E
FORT VERMILION AND AREA
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY



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

OCTOBER 6, 1940

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The attention of every reader is directed to the fact that on October 18, 1940, at 7:00 p.m., the Annual Meeting will be held in the Society's Hall. Every present member and any and all interested in the Society in any way are urgently requested to attend. The FORTRESS has already drawn attention to the paramount importance of a large attendance and once again we wish to bring to your attention that it is at this meeting that new officers and directors are elected, the activities of the Society for the past year are reported on and reviewed and basic plans for the next year are drawn up.

It is expected that most members have sufficient interest in the welfare of this organization to avail themselves of this opportunity, to contribute their ideas, their constructive criticism, suggestions and support. Complaints have been received by the editorial staff of the FORTRESS that a "clique" of townspeople run the Agricultural Society to suit themselves. We admit this criticism is based on fact inasmuch as there are a number of persons serving on the Directorate residing in Fort Vermilion. It has been very difficult to obtain the services of Directors living out of town who are able to attend regularly the Directors' meetings. There is no bar which might prevent any person who is a member in good standing for the year 1940-41 from being elected to serve on the Directorate. If there were a large number at the Annual Meeting a very representative Board could be obtained.

It is to be remembered that at the Annual Meeting all offices and committee appointments are relinquished. It is for this reason that the present editorial staff with the publication of this issue ends association with the FORTRESS. We beueath to our successors sufficient paper to publish twelve issues at the rate of one a month. We further devise one mimeograph machine in first-class working order. There are also sufficient stencils on hand to publish the November issue if reasonable care is exercised. We extend our appreciation to our contributors and gratefully acknowledge the assistance rendered by our advertisers which has been of valuable assistance in financing the FORTRESS.

It is admitted that the explanation could be advanced that members were unable to attend this meeting by reason of not being able to locate the Society's Hall. To obviate this we are publishing herewith instructions as to how the building may be reached. It is now situated South of the Border of the Board of Trade property. Late arrivals may find that the building is crowded and for this reason they may be obliged to stand. It is hoped that this will not impose so great a physical strain that these late arrivals will not able to enjoy the DANCE which will follow the meeting.

Seriously, we are asking everyone to attend the Annual Meeting. More than ever the Society needs your help, your time, ideas, money, and cooperation. If it is at all possible a Fair will be held next year and everyone will be required to do as much and more than was done this year to put this over successfully. The last Annual Meeting was attended by a small number and it was found difficult to commence the year's operations. To give this coming year a fair start this appeal is being made. Elsewhere in this issue a scheme has been outlined for the payment of membership for the coming year. It is drawn to your attention that no matter when you bought your present membership if your card is marked "for the year 1939-40" your membership expires at the Annual Meeting and only members for 1940-41 may vote at this coming meeting or hold office next year. 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 I940 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 I940 \$5 had ~the same buying power as \$I00 does today! Keeping this model in mind - our advertising costs are as follows.

Full Page Ad -----\$I00
 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 I00 years ago!

In I908 The Experimental Farm started keeping detail records of the precipitation / sunshine and temperature. Here are some of the results from October I924.

Record of Sunshine - Total hours II3.7 Average / day 3.7
 Temperature Highest 59.8°F (+I5.4°C) Lowest I4.0°F (-I0°C)

Precipitation 5 inches of snow. 0.I4 inches rain
 Hoar frost on Oct 9+IITH and notated as "very fair month"

GRAMPA'S FINEST

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

Sunday Closed
Monday 10 am-10 pm
Tuesday 10 am-10 pm
Wednesday 10 am-10 pm

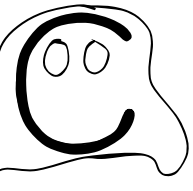
Thursday 10 am-10 pm
Friday 10am-10 pm
Saturday 10am-10 pm

Fort Vermilion Adult Learning



7th

Basic Computers 2-3pm Learners Study Group 5-7pm



8th

Learners Study Group 5-7pm

9th

Learners Study Group 5-7pm



10th

BFN get to know you night

15th

Book club 5pm

Moving into our
new location
Oct 1-4!

780-581-3510
brighterfuturesnorth.squarespace.com

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.

October/1802: travels to location of [Mansfield] post, then works on building store house and main house and establishing relations with Indians

October/1802:

Travel: saw the Buffalo Mountain off the top of the bank at a great Distance bearing south by the Compass, 2 Beaver Inds who were hunting Cattle [large game] told us they would get to the NWC house early in the morning (3rd); arr at NWC house, where he had been ordered by Fidler to build, "Found 15 men of the Beaver Indian tribe with their families and tents there, gave a part of 2 Big Kegs of Brandy, three fathom of tobacco", at 3 PM Leith of New Co. arrived with 5 canoes, 37 men; Inds told them to return down the river again (4th) Events: the New Company made the Indians a present of 3 Big Keg of Rum, Tobacco, cloth, Blankets etc for to get their permission to go higher up in their Country, to which the Natives consented" (5th); gave a quarter of a pint of powder, ten Ball and a foot of tobacco to each man to go and kill some provisions for us"; Leith & 5 canoes obliged to return down river under threat of death from Inds; "there reason was owing to some Disorder that came amongst these Country people this summer which killed 10 of them. And they said it was the New Co. that brought bad Medicines amongst them which was the occasion of the Deaths"; ref to one of men, Malcolm Sinclair (6th); rec'd 90 lbs dried buffalo from an Indian man & family; traded 19 MB from 2 Montreal [Iroquois] Indians (11th); 12 men with families ret'd 800 lbs halfdried Meat, a little green meat which they traded for Brandy, also 2 large Bearskins, three Bvr & 1 Wolverine, 3 parchment Moose skins & 5 Dressed ones (6-12th); Inds drunk, traded a little green [fresh] meat for Brandy (13th); river full of ice (15th); hired a man to hunt for us all Winter, "gave him a new Gun, one Gallon of Spirits, one three point blanket, two yards of Cloth, one Hatchet, two pounds of tobacco, 12 yards of Gartering, one looking Glass, one file, one pint of powder, 30 Ball etc and he went away", arr of 2 Canadians of New Company who have a house below the falls, Indians agree they could build here since NW boats have not arrived (16th);

October I802 continued

4 Inds come to house with a little half dried meat, got drunk & when denied more liquor tried to stab Thomas Gaucher, ordered HBC to go downriver again (I7th); above men asked for credit, saying they did not remember their previous behaviour (I8th); arr of Mr. Doucette & 4 Canadians of the New Co. to build, also arr 2 of the Old Co. at their house; (25th); arr 4 men of NW Company, canoes set fast in the ice, 7 days below; arr of men from Hunting Tent - killed I buffalo cow (29th); men ret'd meat (30 -3I).

October/I865:

Arrivals: two Indians from the direction of the old fort above wanting men to go for dried meat, they say the sickness is raging amongst them (7th); Nadusus arrived from Hay River. He says the sickness is raging amongst them and that they have no provisions" (I3th); 4 Indians arrived from across, 3 men & 2 women died of this party (20th);

Tripping: meat carters with a moose (2nd); loaned an Ind 2 horses to bring down meat (4th); arr meat carter with 3 moose (6th); meat carters retr. I5 moose staged at chutes, but half the meat is rotten. The old woman who was left at the stage to attend to the meat was sick & quite unable to do anything (9-I2th); rec'd 3 moose from Hunters (I0th); rec'd I moose from Trois Pouces (IIth); Hunters not arrived yet, hear they are all laid up with measles (I2th); 3 men & 3 Inds retr. fresh & dried meat staged at Old Ft (I3-I8th);

Tasks/Events: arr 3 boats for Peace R. Outfits with Dunlop to be in charge at Dunvegan & Forsythe at Ft. St. John, news of measles epidemic at Ft. Chipewyan (Ist); spread of measles among Inds camped near the Fort, Dunvegan boat left, some men ret'd to Chip (3rd); hauled potatoes across river, 230 kegs (6th); boy died yesterday (I0th); Inds have now given up fall hunting (IIth); Thomas Smith furnishing wood for the house & cooking (I2th); Lisotte & MacDonnell carting dung (I3th); Courteoreille assists in equipping Inds, sick with measles but none have died of it yet (I4th); death of an Ind child (I6th); Courteoreille made 3 coffins for 3 Ind children who died last night, Cook & Tourangeau digging graves (I9th); Lizotte made a coffin for another child (20th); a woman died last night, Cook dug a grave & made a coffin (2Ist); Dull times amongst the poor Inds. A young lad died last night, great many more sick (24th); the 2 Athabasca men who assisted in getting the boat up to Dunvegan ret'd this morning, Gabriel & Mondoux with them (29th); a woman died last night; ice starting to drift (30th); an Indian died last night; "McDonnell & Cook went to set fire to the roots & willows at the place the ground was grubbed across" (3Ist)

The **TRADING POST**

Second Hand Store
780-927-4800

Open Tues-Fri 1-6 pm
Friday Bag Day - all clothes you can fit
in a bag for only \$5!

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



MARRA
Mackenzie Applied Research Association

Thank You!

to our wonderful members

Congratulations!

to the Rodney Friesen, Russell Friesen, Bernard Goertzen, Gerhart Goertzen and Will Goertzen families - our winners of "Meals in the field" this season.

We are Hiring a full time Farm technician. Anticipated start date is Jan 1st. Find out more on our website, Facebook page or give us a call 780-927-3776



HYDWAY HARDWARE

Meeting all your fall care needs!

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

Open Mon - Sat 9am - 6pm

Downtown Fort Vermilion

+++++Community Events Happening in October +++++

- FCSS is hosting Fright night Oct 30 with a calk walk, costume contest, crafts, games, and a dance! It all starts at 6pm in the hall and is free admission thanks to "The Village".
- The Curling league is starting up Nov 18! Call Carla at 780-926-0311 for more info and to register.
- FCSS is moving to the old Northern Lakes College Building Starting Nov 1st!
- Arts and Crafts Bazaar is Nov 9th! \$20 / table - register at FCSS.
- The Library is hosting Craft club every Tuesday 6:00pm. 18+ bring your own craft!
- The next FVHC Trivia night is October 26 - watch for posters with more info!
- Rocky Lane Agricultural Society Fall Supper is on October 19!
- Rocky Lane Agricultural Society paint night is Nov 9. 780-821-3296 for more info
- The Library is hosting Halloween cookie decorating and pumpkin spice latte making this October. 780-927-4279 for more info
- The legion is hosting an indoor cornhole tournament Sat Oct 12 Registration at 5 tournament at 7. Teams of 2. \$40 / team.