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COMMANDA GENERAL STORE MUSEUM

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# NEWSLETTER

Edition #4

[www.commandamuseum.ca](http://www.commandamuseum.ca)

November 2023

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

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*Good day everyone.....especially to our new friends and colleagues, of the Loring Restoule Business Association. We were lucky enough to attend a recent meeting of the LRBA and not only was the food and company very good, but we also learned many interesting things.....one of which, for me, was the need to nurture and protect the Deer Yards, located in Golden Valley. ....more on that later.*

*At the Museum's meeting, held October 30, we gathered to discuss such things as a planning committee for the 150th Anniversary of the Old Nipissing Road, an August Fun Festival, procuring a TP, and , staying with those two initials.....hosting Tea Party (ies). We discussed organizing a combined field trip, for local students, starting at the Museum with a hike through the Deer Yard.*



*At these meetings of the minds, finances, insurance, grants, responsibilities and resources are discussed at length. Thoughts, problems, solutions and laughter, fly around the table as well as physical issues (a recently repaired window, for instance) and fiscal items are brought to the fore .....and, dealt with. I am continually amazed at the grace and respect shown to each other, even when one of them doesn't agree, it always gets resolved.*

*Now that the Museum is closed for the season.....please reflect on the wonderful Chili Dinner that was presented last month.....and, all the events and experiences to come next year and, the fact that, even though we are closed, the Board of Directors still meet and carry on the business of doing business ....with the Government, local Artisans, contractors, neighbours .....and, all of you, who continue to support and applaud our efforts.*

*Our best to all of you reading this missive*

*Stay safe and warm*

*Darlene Erskine*

*President*

*Commanda Museum*



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# OUR GENEALOGY PROJECT

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*Small historical museums, such as the Commanda Museum, may not have the resources or recognition of larger institutions, but they play a crucial role in preserving our history and our cultural heritage. These museums provide a unique perspective on local history and preserve cultural heritage. By supporting and preserving these museums, we ensure that our history is not forgotten and can be enjoyed by future generations.*

*Buildings, artifacts, historical records and official documents may overlook or omit certain aspects of history. By capturing the verbal history of seniors, we can fill these gaps and gain a more comprehensive understanding of the past.*

*The Genealogy Exhibit at the Commanda Museum captures and shares the stories of local seniors. These stories can inspire and educate future generations as well as teach empathy and resilience and a respect for the area, and the seniors raised in the area.*

*The following are some edited anecdotes from seniors who have participated in the Genealogy Project:*

*“All the communities had a community hall and on Saturday nights everyone attended dances, including the children. There were bootleggers out back of the halls, selling illegal alcohol. I remember the day, Constable Fingers arrested my uncle at the Commanda Community Centre and my aunt had to go to pick him up the next day.”*

*Arnold Gerhke, 2023, 100 years old*

*Be sure to watch our funny and moving interview with Arnold on our videos page!*



# OUR GENEALOGY PROJECT

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*"We had to travel from our farm on Commanda Lake to the school in Carr. My older brother was responsible for arriving early and lighting the woodstove. Depending on the season, we would row across Commanda Lake or walk across the ice or go all the way around by road (it got easier when we all had bicycles to ride)."*  
Rodney Fry, 2023, 93 years old - son living on the original homestead now.

*We'll have more of these wonderful stories in future newsletters!*





# OUR GENEALOGY PROJECT

*With November being the month we remember and honour our veterans, we should also remember the role that women played in the war effort. One group of women, mostly lost to memory, belonged to a group called the “Farmerette Brigade”. The Farmerette Brigade formed during WWII to fill the labour shortage caused by so many men fighting overseas. Between 1941 and 1948, the Farmerette Brigade recruited thousands of young women in Ontario to work on farms on a volunteer basis.*

*“Farmerettes Forever” is a group in Ontario committed to preserving the memory of these amazing women. You can find out more on their Facebook page:*

*<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4104344342983754/>*







# COMMANDA MUSEUM

PAST... PRESENT... FUTURE

[www.commandamuseum.ca](http://www.commandamuseum.ca)



## DONATE

SUPPORT US AS WE COMPLETE  
IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR MUSEUM

KEEP  
HISTORY  
ALIVE

The Commanda Museum had record-breaking attendance this summer as the community embraced our educational tours, new Internet Cafe, and gift shop featuring the work of local artisans. As we look forward to 2024, we are appealing to the community to help fund the restoration of sections of the building. Your donations will help us preserve the history of the region and serve the community. Tax receipts will be given for donations.

Donate Via E-Transfer  
[commandamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:commandamuseum@gmail.com)



[www.commandamuseum.ca](http://www.commandamuseum.ca)

# *Thank You For Your Support!*







*See You  
In  
December!*

