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COMMANDA GENERAL STORE MUSEUM

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# NEWSLETTER

Edition #2

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

September 2023

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

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*Hear ye , hear ye,....ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls ....this is an update on the comings and goings of Commanda Museum.....and it is a lengthy one.*

*Firstly, I would like to introduce the group of volunteers who currently have the privilege of being the latest group of people to continue the 44 year history of maintaining and improving the Commanda Museum.*

*At our Annual Meeting in June, I was once again elected President, and I report to you from that lofty position!*



*At that meeting, we discussed finances , grants and debts, which repairs needed to be done first, student summer job opportunities/grants, the condition and replacement of the existing garage, church foundation and window repairs, gift shop and café plans, bylaws, water testing (we are very strict and diligent when it comes to that), and many other items. But, four of the most exciting , anticipatory items that we discussed were:*

*a) Create a new Indigenous Exhibit. Renowned Indigenous Artist, Bradly MacDonald, has been commissioned to create murals for our beloved Museum, as the base for our new Indigenous exhibit.*

*b) Create a new Genealogy Exhibit. We have been so lucky to have the support of professional videographer, Sabina Hooper of 705blackfly.com, to create a film studio and to train volunteers to capture the stories of the area residents so the Commanda Museum can be a base of personal histories.*

*c) Trinity Lutheran Church:- In 2016, the Congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church voted to transfer their beloved Church into the care of the Commanda Museum. Seven years have passed as the Museum has struggled to raise funds to perform necessary structural repairs to both the Museum and the Church to allow both buildings to safely open to the public and to preserve them for years to come. The Board of the Commanda Museum is absolutely thrilled to announce that this year there are funds and plans in place to complete structural repairs, and replace the windows and doors at the Church so that the space can be opened as an Exhibit to the public. For those in the Trinity Lutheran Church community, thank you for your patience and your trust in the Commanda Museum, and we look forward to announcing the completion of the necessary projects and then welcoming you to the new space.*



d) In keeping with one of the objects from the original Mission Statement of 1978 to “promote the local artists and craftsman by providing space for their use”, in the spring, we put out a call for all local artisans to display/sell their goods in our gift shop. We had 16 local artisans participate this summer by not only selling their goods but by attending the Commanda Museum to display their skills at workshops/exhibits. Our summer visitors have been thrilled with the items in our gift shop

The meeting is over, we close up and leave , amidst a flurry of “good nights”, “See ya” and horn honkings. I run to my truck, dodging Black flies and darkness. I am exhausted and exhilarated and as I am driving down the 522, it starts to rain, which always makes me pensive. But, I begin to think of them.....my team members....please let me tell you about them:

First, there is Mike. He is a magician. He can fix anything. Doesn't work? Won't open or close? Won't go up or down? He can fix it ....or meld it or mould it! I call him “Magic Mike”. But, I fear it does not mean the same to him as it does me, so I will change that to “Miracle Mike”. That man has single handily kept this building afloat. He has pushed, pulled, dug, trenched, hammered and replaced countless things here. He installed a sheer wall and support beams in the museum, built a porch, and continues to mow the grass and cook at the bbq, with élan.

Then there is Jennifer.....the other part of the Mike/Jennifer dynamic duo.....the heart and soul of this place. She is our Museum Curator and our Kitchen Ninja .....Never to be seen without a disinfectant of some sort in her hand. She plans the menu and sources the supplies, and she's always on the lookout for bargains. She trains and teaches the students.....and, she makes me laugh!



*Next is Deb, our newest member. Not sure how we got along without her! She is our legal eagle, enforcer, grant application officer, and bylaw sleuth ...keeping us on the straight and narrow and our feet to the fire. If you agree to perform a deed.....you better do it! And, speaking of laughter, she has a laugh that warms the heart and delights the soul. With Deb comes Herb, her right-hand man. We affectionately refer to him as the "Museum Driver" but he does so much more!*

*Renee, our voice of wisdom with decades of volunteerism at the Commanda Museum. She has more connections than all of us put together. A tree fell on the Church? Renee knows who to call! Need a lawyer? She is on it! Along with her husband, Garry, they also provide musical entertainment at the Commanda Museum functions. We appreciate and applaud her presence at every gathering.*

*And lastly, our darling Treasurer, Ruth.....who will be out of commission for a bit but who has volunteered with the Commanda Museum for so many years, and through her diligent bookkeeping skills has kept the ship afloat and the T's crossed and I's dotted.*

*In conclusion, when I first came here 7 years ago, I never imagined I would end up in the presence of greatness but here I am, smack dab in the middle of it. I am grateful....and humbled ....and I look forward to being a cheerful, positive influence at the Commanda Museum for many years to come.*

*Yours in community,  
Darlene Erskine  
President, Commanda Heritage Museum*





# AUTUMN AGENDA

## LAST DAY OF 2023 SEASON

Sunday September 3rd  
Makes plans to visit us from  
Thursday - Sunday  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## THANKSGIVING



The planned event  
on October 7th & 8th  
has unfortunately  
been cancelled.



## CHILI DINNER

Saturday October 14th  
Our final event of the season  
will be a Chili Dinner to be held  
at the Commanda Community  
Centre.



Follow us on Facebook, Instagram &  
[www.commandamuseum.ca](http://www.commandamuseum.ca) to  
keep up to date on what's  
happening at the Commanda  
Museum.



# Makers & Artisans

## COMMANDA COMMUNITY



**Saturday, September 23**  
8am - 2pm

## Book your space now!

**Commanda Community Centre**  
**#4009, Highway 522**



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# EVERY CHILD MATTERS

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*The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. On September 30, the Commanda General Store Museum encourages everyone to wear orange to honour the thousands of survivors of residential schools.*



**National Day for Truth and  
Reconciliation  
Saturday September 30th**





# A DASH OF HISTORY



*According to Better Homes and Gardens, pumpkin spice doesn't actually include any...pumpkin. Instead, it's a blend of cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and allspice. It got its name because it is traditionally used to flavor pumpkin recipes.*

*Pumpkin spice dates back to the Dutch East India Company. The Dutch took control of the Spice Islands (now part of Indonesia) in the early 17th century. Access to the spices inspired the Dutch to create blends such as speculaaskruiden, which is similar to pumpkin spice but also has cardamom and sometimes white pepper. The popularity of speculaaskruiden in Netherlands desserts led to the spices moving across borders.*

*By 1791, a similar blend called "mixed spices" showed up in The Practice of Cookery, written by a Scottish author only known as "Mrs. Frazer." Mrs. Frazer's blend was called "mixed spices," and included nutmeg, clove, and "Jamaica pepper." She suggested that the blend be used to season flounder or mutton chops. Some things should never include pumpkin spice...but we'll get to that in a minute!*

*By 1796, the spice blend made it to North America. The first known cookbook to be written by an American, American Cookery by Amelia Simmons, includes a pumpkin spice blend containing mace, nutmeg, and ginger.*

*Now, who doesn't love pumpkin pie? Pumpkins are one of the earliest domesticated crops on earth and known recipes date back to 1675. McCormick, the world's largest spice seller, introduced a spice mix branded as "pumpkin pie spice" to America in 1934 in response to the invention of pureed canned pumpkin. Since then - cooks have added a dash of pumpkin spice to every dish that's a fall favorite!*





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# SEPTEMBER IN HISTORY

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*September 16, 1620 - The Mayflower ship departed from England, bound for America with 102 passengers and a small crew. The ship reached Provincetown, Massachusetts on November 21st. The Pilgrims disembarked at Plymouth on December 26th.*

*September 5, 1847 - Wild West legend Jesse James was born in Centerville, Missouri. Jesse and his brother Frank formed a group of outlaws, robbing banks, trains, stagecoaches and stores. In 1882, after the governor of Missouri offered a \$10,000 reward for their capture dead or alive, a member of the gang shot 34-year-old Jesse and claimed the reward.*

*September 22, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in territories held by Confederates as of January 1, 1863.*



*September 20, 1867 - Canada holds its first election post-Confederation. Sir John A. Macdonald leads the Conservative Party to victory and becomes our country's first prime minister.*

*September 1, 1939 - At 5.30 a.m., Hitler's armies invaded Poland starting World War II in Europe.*

*September 26, 1960 - The first-ever televised presidential debate occurred between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon.*

*September 11, 2001 - The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 people.*



SEE you in  
OCTOBER!

