
COMMANDA GENERAL STORE MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

Edition #12

www.commandamuseum.com

September 2024



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Well, hello, hello! School is in and the Jays are out, hockey equipment is being hauled out of the basement...and fall has finally arrived.

I have some fabulous news - recently our darling little Church, got a new, sturdy, long- awaited foundation - yeehaw!!!!!! The Museum is so excited to soon be able to use the Church as an exhibit space.

Our volunteer painting team has accomplished much. it is a huge undertaking and, once again, have you all noticed the Juliette Balcony? Outstanding.

Did you happen to attend our neighbours', the Commanda Community Centre, themed dance - 1930's? Sounded like fun!

Speaking of Commanda , I begin to think of all the areas that you, our faithful folk, come from; Booth Road, Rye Road, Beatty Creek, Barrett, Bartlett and Bennet Roads, Jack Lake, Duck Lake, Commanda Lake Road, Everett Drive, Greybow and Lambs Road, Loring, Port Loring and Arnstein, Golden Valley, the NorthShore, the Alsace , Pilgers, Schermers ...and Lovers Lane. When I see your sweet faces at one of our events it, as my Grandmother used to say, “warms the cockles of my heart”. I am not exactly certain where my cockles are but I know they are warm.

We are proud to announce that the Museum has become a destination stop for Forgotten Trails cyclists and hikers! We welcome you and next year will support your activity with energy drinks!

We recently had a meeting to discuss finances, maintenance, and future events. We want to showcase the uniqueness of the Museum. The interior is so beautiful now and many things spring to mind! And let me tell you, there are many fertile, facile minds in that group. I am always amazed at how clever and gifted the Board is, coming up with novel ideas. Stay tuned and we thank everyone for their support – every person matters when it comes to supporting the Museum.

We would like one more time to say a heartfelt “thank you” to the youthful staff that populated our beloved Museum this season - Marissa, Sean and Sienna. Absolutely stellar performances!

If there is anything you would like to see happen at the Museum, please let one of the Board members know. We are continuing our bottle drive(there is a container at the front of the Museum), and are still hopeful of presenting something delicious to entertain you all some time this fall - something fun and elegant and totally bold! Unless, of course, we feature something to do with Remembrance Day, in which case it would be a solemn and somber event .

On behalf of the Board, we wish each and every one of you a perfect and productive day!

Yours in Community Service

Darlene Erskine, President

Little more than 150 years have passed since the vast and sprawling lands of Northern Ontario were first opened to European settlement. Both Lake Temiskaming and Lake Nipissing have served as extensions of the Ottawa River, allowing for travel to the North and to the West, respectively.

Lake Nipissing emerged about 9,000 years ago as the last glaciers retreated, and is approximately 50 miles long by 20 miles wide, making it one of the largest lakes in Ontario. Champlain was so impressed upon seeing it for the first time in 1615 that he wondered if it might be part of a great western sea. His native guides, however, laughed at the idea and replied that they called it “Nipissingue” meaning “little body of water”. For Nipissing in particular, travelers first made their voyages by canoe, then later sailboats. Until the arrival of iron steamships on the Great Lakes in the late 1800s, the Nipissing route was the preferred choice for those heading west. Roads and steamboats followed and then finally the railroads arrived.

In 1850, the Province of Canada (which was comprised of southern Ontario and Quebec) had been anxious to provide new lands for settlement. The government persuaded the native Ojibwas to sell all of their lands north of the Severn River (except for a few reserves) as far north as, and including, Lake Nipissing. The region however remained remote and sparsely occupied until a settler name John Chapman of Pembroke , and his family, took up land at the mouth of the South River around 1862. In 1865, John Beatty, of Eganville, founded the tiny village of Nipissingan (Nipissing).



**We at the Commanda Museum
honour the National Day for
Truth and Reconciliation on
September 30. We hold in our
hearts the children who never
returned home and survivors
of residential schools.**