

NEWSLETTER

Edition # 17

www.commandamuseum.org

May-June 2025

We've Moved (domains)!

We've been working on upgrading our website again to incorporate more features such as google calendar widgets, e-commerce and hosting back issues of the newsletter. We also decided to revise the domain from commandamuseum.ca to commandamuseum.org which is more representative of the museum's non-profit status. The new and improved website is live!. Many thanks to Sabina Hooper of [705 Blackfly](#) who put together the last website and took care of updating it. She is another one of our stellar volunteers and supporters!

Congratulations to Mark Ames of Burford! Mark won our second online 50/50 raffle that was drawn May 17. A total of \$550 raised, with Mark winning half (\$275). We had folks from all over the province buying tickets. We have two more draws planned for 2025. Ticket's are on sale now for the [third 50/50](#) with the draw date to close out the season on September 12th! There's a great story behind the marketing for this next raffle stay tuned for some creative advertising!



Annex Thrift - Donations Needed!

The Thrift Store (Annex Thrift) had it's official opening on May 17th! A soft launch that netted over \$200 for the museum. Annex Thrift will be open for the season starting June 28, every Wednesday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

With spring cleaning underway and weekly yard sales leftovers, now is a great time to dig through and consider donating to our up and coming thrift store. Got a lot of items, give us a call or email to arrange pickup if needed. Drop-off locations are open 24/7 at the museum (east wing ramp), Country Tank yard in Trout Creek, and at the Restoule Legion!

Thinking of downsizing, parents retirement, kicked an unruly tenant out? Our superstar volunteer here Mike Nelson has started a new business, Powerhouse Construction Services, and provides estate clean-out services. Leave the work of packing boxes, taking loads to the dump, listing things for sale, etc. etc. to a professional. Contact Mike at powerconservices25@gmail.com to arrange a quote. Mike's goal is donate the bulk of items from clean-out's to the museum thrift store/online auctions.

Looking For:

- Clean items
- Clothing
- Tools
- Licence Plates
- Prints
- Books
- Collectibles
- Odd/Ends
- Toys
- Cottage gear

NOT looking for:

- Appliances (unless specially arranged)
- Large furniture
- Dirty clothing
- Dirty dishes

Unsure? Just message us

Message from the President

Well, hello everyoneespecially our dear friends along the Alsace (big yard sale on May 25th) those on Barrett, Bennett, Pilgers and, Jacks Lake Roadso happy to know you. Well, we did a soft launch May 17th.....I am here to tell you , it was the hip-hop happening place to beinaugural opening of the much anticipated Annex thrift Shop, our charming little Church, newand now home to our Geneology hub, the Women's Institute Records, the Indigenous display, including our lovely red dress and a respectful and heartfelt nod to the original Lutheran Church. It is stunningabsolutely stunning. Our vision is to host , small intimate weddings there ...(Christenings , vow renewals , etc.). The guests will walk across the grass to the parlour in the Museum, for a gourmet breakfast ,complete with violinist). So, a big thank you to Pastors Jerry Slote and Enzo Pellini, for attending, to Mike Nelson for his tasty sausage on a bun, to Jennifer Bowman, for masterminding the Thrift Shop, to volunteers Logan and Isack, for manning the nearly world famous milk shake machine, to Gord McLaren for holding steadfast in the Gift Shop.....great fun. On June 25, we are hosting Michel Neray, in the Church.....musician , entertainer....and, then our Annual General Meetingand, then, our Grand Opening, June 28.....remember July 1Strawberry Social, BBQ, complete with fried onions, music, Museum Tourson and onwhew!!!!!!

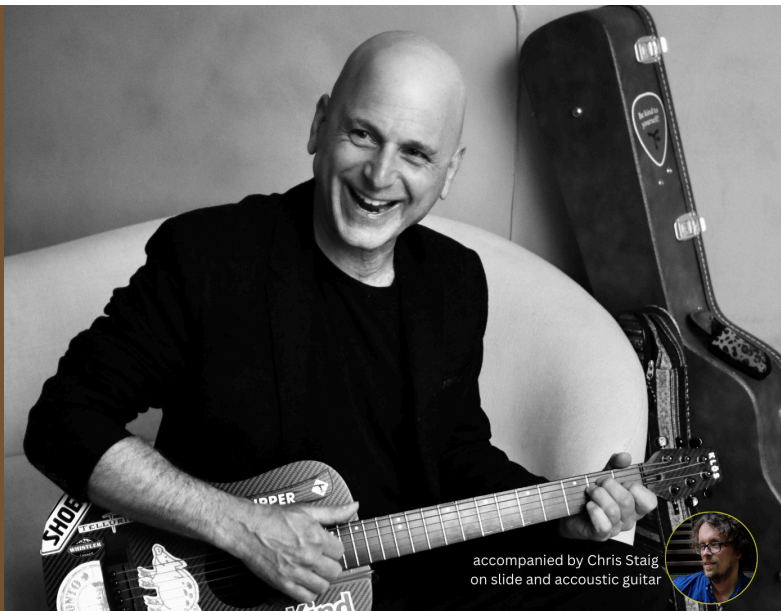
Come on out , folks. Stay safe and strong

Darlene Erskine

President, Gurd and Area Historical Corporation

Upcoming Events for 2025

- June 24 - Annual General Meeting for the Gurd & Area Historical Corporation to be held at the museum, 1 p.m.
- June 25 - Singer-songwriter and storyteller, Michel Neray is coming up from Toronto for an intimate concert held in the restored Trinity Lutheran Church. Tickets available now!
- June 28 - Museum Opens for the Season - Wednesday to Sunday
- July 1, 2025 - Strawberry Social / Canada Day Celebrations – our long-standing, much-anticipated season opening event. Bring your appetite, your singing voice and be prepared to stand in line for one of our “nearly world-famous milk shakes”. Music this year by the Rye Runners!
- July 25th and 26th, 2025 - Summerfest (date change)! - a spaghetti dinner and party Friday evening followed by a full-day of events, displays and fantastic local music. Stay tuned for more details



accompanied by Chris Staig
on slide and acoustic guitar



presents

Michel Neray

singer-songwriter-storyteller

in the historic former
Trinity Lutheran Church

Intimate setting - great acoustics
limited seating

June 25, 2025 @ 7pm

A portion of the proceeds
go to the Commanda Museum.
Reserve your seat at:
https://bit.ly/20250625_Commanda



michelneraymusic.com



Commanda Summerfest 2025

#4009 and #4077 Highway 522,
Commanda, Ontario
Save the date! July 25th and 26th

Countdown is on! Just under two months to Commanda Summerfest 2025 July 25 and July 26! More details to come of course, our diligent volunteer planning committee is hard at work behind the scenes. So far we have an amazing line-up of super talented local acts scheduled for July 26th with a special, party like concert and spaghetti dinner on July 25th featuring Birds of a Feather.

Saturday on the Smokey Hills Stage (potential for naming rights to a \$1000+ level sponsor) will have:

The Unknown

J Houston Band

Matthew Burkhart

One Way Streets

Big Fish

The Charmers and

The Rye Runners - Country Music & More

Plus Lynn Blunt, Moe McGuinty and Mumblin' Jonathan W.A. Harris busking over at the museum!

A huge shout out to our first summerfest sponsors of the year who've gotten their contribution in that will go toward the acts, additional infrastructure, other expenses and shuttle buses; YES that's right, we're planning not one but two shuttle buses direct from Restoule Provincial Park and Municipality of Powassan to bring folks to the event grounds on July 26th at the Commanda Community Centre Not too late to sponsor! Reach out to museumincommanda@gmail.com to get details and find out about the different tiers of Sponsorship

Many thanks to our first batch of Sponsors so far!

Forest & Farm

Fun In the Forest

Dillon Consulting Limited

Long & McQuade Musical Instruments

H.J. Brooks Contracting

Ed's Buy n' Sell and

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 415

Sponsorship package available [here](#) and you can fill out the following [form](#) to show your interest. A member of the Summerfest Committee will reach out to confirm details and payment.



Forest & Nature School
(Commanda, ON)
info.funintheforest@gmail.com
[funintheforestschool](https://www.facebook.com/funintheforestschool)
The seed will wash off, but the memory will last a lifetime

Long & McQuade
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Forest & Farm
Homestead Retreat

Legion
Branch 415
Port Loring

DILLON
CONSULTING

H.J. Brooks
CONTRACTING
LTD.

Ed's Buy n' Sell

Commanda Summerfest
Sponsor Shout-out!



May 17th Grand Opening and Re-opening

In Mid-May we held an unofficial start to the 2025 season with the grand opening of the Annex Thrift Store, in which Jennifer Bowman has put tireless hours into. The other portion of the day was grand re-opening of the Commanda Trinity Lutheran Church! Retired Pastor Jerry Slote made the trip down from North Bay along with Pastor Enzo Pellini to say a few words. The church was gifted to the museum by the parishioners in 2016 and we're honoured to take on the responsibility of it's legacy. Our friends at 705 Blackfly News made the trip to the museum to take some footage, record a few interviews and put together a beautiful video about the day and church in particular, check it out [here](#), thanks Sabina and Jason!





Tale's from the Treasury

It takes a community! While we're well removed from community barn raising's these days, the community still rallies when needed. For those not in the immediate area, residents of Commanda, Powassan, Loring etc. had a major power surge April 26th and then to boot, a downburst that knocked down a whole number of trees...and knocked out power for a number of folks. The museum did not go unscathed either due to these events. We lost a stove, freezer and a large spruce split

and half of it fell down. Well, the stove is being replaced thanks to a donation and an intrepid young man popped over to help clean up the fallen over spruce. Many thanks to Logan Hough for helping us out by starting on the clean up!

Writing from "downtown" Commanda (Forest & Farm),

Jonathan Harris
Treasurer, Gurd and Area Historical Corporation



[Donate Here!](#)

Thanks to Gord!

We want to deeply thank Gord McLaren for being on the board as a director and more recently, acting chair during meetings. Gord has decided to step back from his role as a director to better focus on personal projects and his businesses, in particular [Ironwood Heritage Crafts](#). Gord will still be around to lend a hand and is involved with the Summerfest Planning Committee still. Thanks so much Gord!

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**Gurd & Area Historical Corporation/
Commanda Museum**

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Canada



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