
COMMANDA GENERAL STORE MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

Edition #1

www.commandamuseum.com

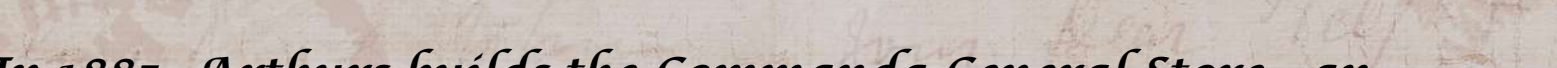
August 2023



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We are thrilled to share our first newsletter this year....and in quite some time. There are SO MANY updates and exciting plans but first... a nostalgic look back....

The time is the 1880'sless than a decade away from the Gay Nineties. Alexander Graham Bell has perfected the telephone, and the north is opening in leaps and bounds as families journey to claim their free land grants, following "The Free Grants and Homesteads Act of 1868". The thick forests have come under the loggers axe and camps are almost as numerous as the stands of prime timber they work.



People come from far and near, to the village - to the McLachlan Brothers for smithing and carpentry, to the Carr Mill for lumber or flour, to the Evers Hotel, for lodging and meals, to the Livery, the Church and School and, perhaps to do business with the local coffin shop and, always , to the Commanda General Store for feed , medicine , staples, woven cloth, mail and, occasionally, a rare luxury that has made its way from Toronto or Montreal.

Now, more than a century later , the only remaining commercial building in Commanda is the ancient store which was saved from destruction by the formation of a charity group in 1979 called “Gurd and Area Historical Corporation”.

Over the past 44 years, small groups of volunteers have seemingly performed miracles to save the structures which has allowed the Commanda Museum to be the gem that it is today.



Fast forward 44 years.....no, noslow forwardwhile we give credit to so many hardworking folks.....Claire, Rose, Ruth, Corina, Diane, Kelly, Lisa, Jaimie, Vic, Roberta, Donna, Sharyn James, Arnold, Mr. Beachy, Renee, and so many more, but, I don't know them. So, we have reached 2023 and the Commanda Museum boasts a charming tea room, and a gift shop to rival the best of them, an internet café with an eclectic offering of used books for sale, baked goods, ice cream cones and the best milkshakes, ever. As well, there are two new exhibits in the works - an Indigenous Exhibit and a Genealogy Exhibit, both being actively created as we speak.

Over the years, the Commanda Museum has received generous support from the provincial government in the form of capital improvement grants to complete major restoration projects!

With your support, and the support of every other generous and interested, and interesting (because everyone has a story to share) visitor, to the Commanda Museum, we have been able to meet the financial contributions necessary under the grants but, as you can imagine, keeping the bills paid is an ongoing struggle.

Thank you for your support, and your anticipated continued support, and stay tuned for our next newsletter!

Darlene Erskine
President
Commanda Museum



OUR GENEALOGY PROJECT

On May 18th, 1930, Rodney Fry was born in Commanda, Ontario. He would grow up with his parents, three brothers, and 1 sister before marrying June Dobbs when he was just 20 years old. We are so honoured to have had the opportunity to speak with Rodney as part of our genealogy project. He shared wonderfully humorous and touching stories about growing up in rural Ontario. Go to our website and click on the videos page to watch it!



PAST...PRESENT...FUTURE

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 museum will be open
October 7th & 8th. Pre-
purchase baked goods will
be available.



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 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!