



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR IN REVIEW

FORT LA REINE MUSEUM

EMMA ENS-MACIVER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





MUSEUM MANDATE

The Fort la Reine Museum, Pioneer Village and Tourist Bureau Inc. was established in 1967 to celebrate and preserve the history and heritage of Portage la Prairie and District from 1738 to the Present. Our responsibility and mission are to exhibit and provide educational opportunities relating to our prairie heritage for local inhabitants and visitors of Portage la Prairie and District.

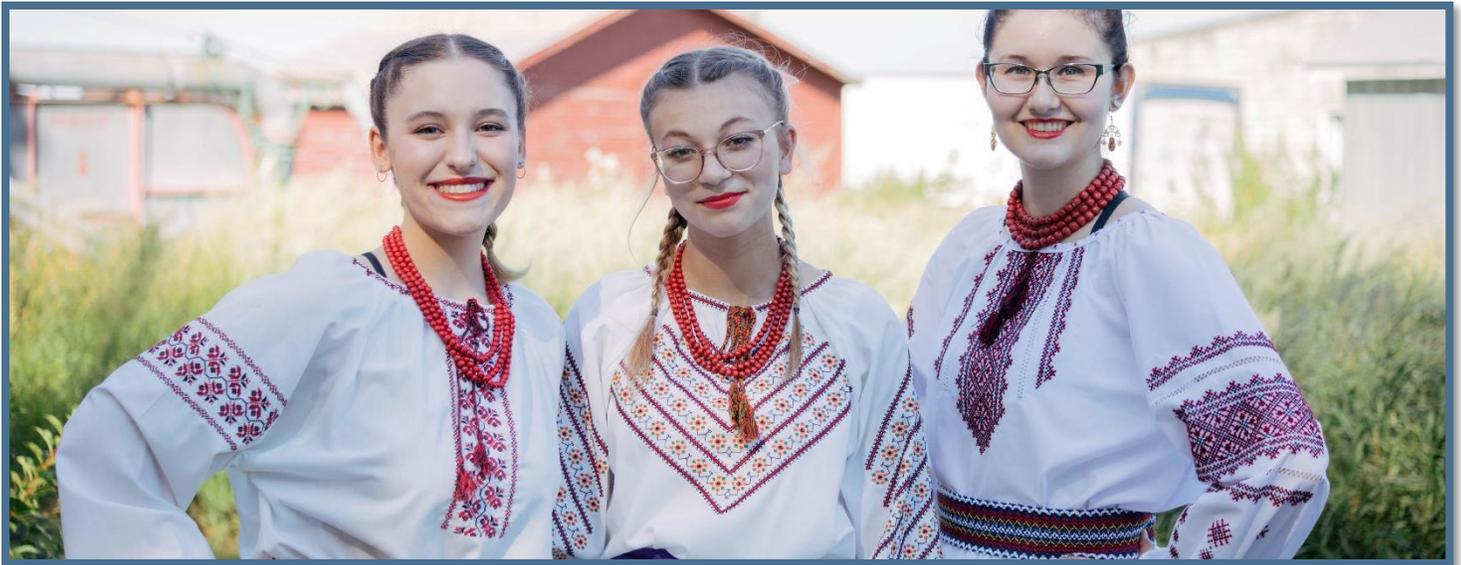
KEY SERVICES

Conservation

The Museum houses close to 5000 objects in 25 heritage buildings and exhibit spaces. Repairs and conservation are ongoing at the Museum, and priority is given to artefacts, and buildings deemed most at risk of deterioration.

Collections Management and Exhibition

For the past few years, the Museum has limited its intake of artefacts and carefully considers new acquisitions based on a set of criteria of the Museum's mandate. Plans are underway to update the Museum's collection management program to more accessible software. The Museum exhibitions currently center around settlement histories and stories from the Portage area and surrounding district. We are excited about the upcoming Indigenous Perspectives exhibit targeted to open in the fall of 2023.



2022 I heart Heritage Festival- Vesna Dance Group

Education and Outreach

To provide educational opportunities through guided tours, programming, special events, and travelling exhibitions, often partnering with other community non-profit organizations.

Tourism

To be a hub for tourist information providing a positive first encounter for visitors as a first stop off the #1 highway.

To offer direction and advice to visitors regarding local attractions, accommodations, and restaurants.

GOVERNANCE

The Fort la Reine Museum exists as an entity of the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie and is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of representatives from the Rural Municipality, the City Council, and members at large. The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing major projects, approving proposed budgets and expenses, and acting as an advisory committee. The Executive Director of the Fort la Reine Museum is supervised by the Board of Directors and manages the Museum collection, day-to-day operations of the Museum, part-time staff hiring, volunteer management, facility maintenance, grant writing, curation, fundraising, marketing, etc.

Board Members

Ryan Kontzie- Board Chairman- RM of Portage Representative

Roy Tufford- Director- RM of Portage Representative

Faron Nicholls- Director- City of Portage Council Representative

Bob Tilk- Member at Large

Emma Ens-Maclver- Director/Curator



City of Portage Circa 1900- 3rd Street

VISITATION 2022

The Museum made a strong comeback from Covid-19, welcoming over 4300 visitors during our operating season (not including special event attendance). The pandemic prompted increased safety protocol resulting in necessary changes in community gatherings, special events, and temporary closures. One positive aspect of museum visitation was increased local tourism as more Manitoba's explored their province. The 2022 season saw the same enthusiasm from local tourism while being able to remain open at total capacity from the opening date on May 22th to close on October 16th.

"Likely the best museum to learn the recent history of Manitoba."

"Really enjoyed being there for fright night. Ghosts did a wonderful job. Five stars for their efforts."

-2022 Google Reviews



United Way Night Market 2022

GRANTS & FUNDING

Operational Funding

Each year we are thankful for the support we receive from our primary stakeholders and supporters. It is critical for non-profit organizations to have a consistent source of funding for general operations to support full-time wages and general upkeep costs.

City of Portage la Prairie - \$50,000

RM of Portage la Prairie - \$25,000 (plus bookkeeping and administrative services)

Province of Manitoba, Community Museums Grant - \$3,150

Fort Restoration Project Update

We met our fundraising goal of \$140,000 in 2021, and New Green Design Build began work on the new fort towers in May of 2022. We are in the final stages of phase one of the project and will receive the remainder of the Building Sustainable Communities Grant in the next fiscal year.

In addition to the grants and funding obtained last year for this project, we also received \$25,000 of financing through the Canadian Community Revitalization Fund. Fundraising and planning are underway for phase two of the Fort Restoration Project to undertake repairs on the trading post.



Special Project Funding

To support summer employment for students, offer specialty programs, host travelling exhibitions, organize large-scale events, and accomplish restoration and/or conservation projects, the Fort la Reine Museum relies on external funding from multiple granting organizations and government programs. In 2022, we were fortunate to receive the following support:

FEDERAL

Canadian Heritage: Museum Assistance Program- \$16,458
Canadian Museums Association - Young Canada Works - \$12,078
Canada Summer Jobs - \$8,743
Canada Revitalization Fund- \$25,000

PROVINCIAL

Province of Manitoba: Museum Project Support Program- \$5,000
Manitoba Arts Council Grant - \$7,500

COMMUNITY / OTHER

Community Foundation of Portage and District - \$2,240
Community Futures Grant- \$4,910
Southport Aerospace Centre- \$13,000



Figure 2- 2022 FLRM Summer Employees

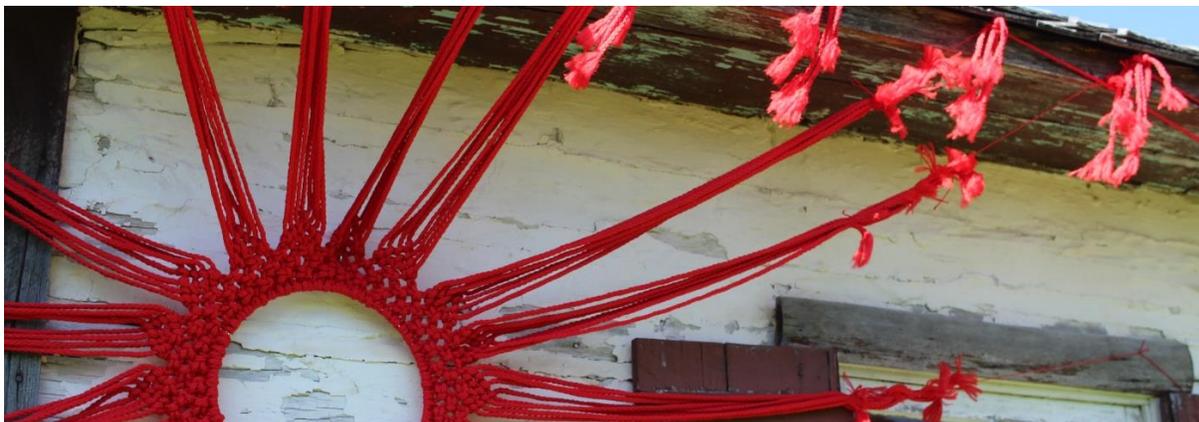
GUIDING PILLARS

2022 has been a year of transition for the Fort la Reine Museum following the change in museum management and board. This year saw a combination of finishing and preparing for new projects. While remaining dedicated to our existing guiding pillars, it is time to reassess our strategic plan and priorities as a museum moving into 2023 to ensure the Museum can remain engaging, relevant, and welcoming in the coming years.

Education

With the increase in visitation, this year came a rise in tour bookings. The Museum hosted over fifteen field trips this season and toured more than 600 school students through the collection. With the focus on virtual tours and education over the pandemic, we were excited to increase in-person programming and activities this season.

Living history demonstrations took place during the summer months through the Prairie Sundays program, which provides hands-on heritage activities free of charge to visitors. Local biodiversity was a theme this summer, and native Manitoban plants and wildflowers were added to the museum gardens while educational material explaining these species was displayed in the visitor center. To encourage repeat visitation and provide new experiences, the Museum hosted the travelling exhibition *“On the Trail of the Monarch Butterfly”* from the Canadian Space and Aviation Museum, which complemented the Museum’s biodiversity initiative. The Museum was also fortunate to host Tracey Mae Chambers, an Ontario Metis installation artist whose project titled *“# Hope and Healing Canada”* could be viewed on the façade of the trading post.



#Hopeandhealingcanada by Tracey Mae-Chambers

Heritage Preservation

Collection repairs and maintenance are ongoing with five acres of Museum and 25 structures. We are excited to be nearing the completion of the 'Quonset reorganization project,' creating much-needed storage and exhibition building space. While deaccessioning can be tedious, it is on our Museum's organizational mandate to keep items that are historically relevant and can be ethically cared for. Therefore, donations are rarely accepted as priority remains on the items already in our care. The Portage Heritage Committee generously donated new artefact storage containers and de-humidifiers to help better regulate and preserve the collection.



Museum Artefacts

The final stages of Phase one of the Fort rebuild project are underway, and exhibition planning has commenced for the Indigenous Perspectives Exhibits, which the towers will house. Phase two of the Fort rebuild project is targeted for 2023 or 2024 to repair damage to the trading post foundation and walls.

Plans are made to restore the military memorial, which will get a new stone façade and landscaping. Further conservation plans for the military collection are underway to make room for new in-house exhibits and better store the current collection.

Conservation, research, and re-accessioning of the Museum's Indigenous collection have begun in preparation for display. Collections management is being reviewed at the Museum as the Fort la Reine prepares to upgrade its collections management software to transition to a more accessible, user-friendly, and sustainable system.

Tourism

The Executive Director of the Fort la Reine Museum acts as the heritage representative on the Portage Tourism Committee and incorporates the Museum as part of a larger objective to attract visitors to our region. This year we agreed to new signage to be installed in front of the Museum that will provide visitors and locals with updated maps and information about Portage la Prairie.

The Museum kept its partnership with Travel Manitoba, advertising to a broader audience and providing valuable digital exposure for the Museum. This winter, the Museum and various other Portage organizations took part in a local destination tourism assessment conducted by Travel Manitoba to identify strengths and weaknesses in our current approaches to tourism and identify needs and suggestions the company can help to target. We will increase our tourism initiatives in the new year by partnering with Central Manitoba Tourism. We are excited to participate in new advertising campaigns in 2023 focusing on videography to promote upcoming in-house exhibitions.

Community

With over twenty non-profits in Portage, creating partnerships and merging events has been a priority in 2022. Community events such as the I Heart Heritage Festival, Fright at the Museum, Summer Craft Market, and Yuletide encourage community engagement and celebrate the diversity of culture and talents in the Portage area. This year we partnered with a variety of local organizations such as Portage Community Revitalization Cooperation (PCRC), Portage Local Immigration Partnership (PLIP), Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition (PUIPC), Portage Learning and Literacy Centre (PCLC), Portage Family Resource Centre, Portage Library, Prairie Players, Portage Regional Economic Development, Girl Guides, and United Way Central Plains.

We were also supported by a variety of local businesses and organizations such as Southport Aerospace Centre, Portage Mutual Insurance, CO-OP Homestead, Community Futures Heartland, Community Foundation of Portage and District, CFRY Portage, Roquette, Stride Credit Union, among others. We are fortunate to collaborate with and be involved in such an active community and intend to continue developing these partnerships and relationships in the 2023 season.

GOALS REACHED IN 2022

- Fort Restoration Project
-Phase I is in completion, and phase II is being planned.
- Begin Developing Indigenous Perspective Project.
-Research and conservation underway.
- Continue Quonset Reorganization Project.
-Scheduled for completion in Spring 2023.
- Develop new programs and exhibitions.
-Completed and ongoing.
- *Develop more in-house collections and Exhibition Rotation.*
-Completed and ongoing.
-One new exhibit room opened, and one closed for renovation and exhibit rotation.

GOALS FOR 2023

- Plan/Curate new in-house exhibitions.
-Indigenous Perspectives and Women in Uniform Exhibition.
- Conservation for Museum Collections.
-New humidity and temperature controls for collection.
- Continue restoring and maintaining heritage buildings.
-Determine restoration priorities.
- Develop new summer events and programming.
-Continue to foster new and existing partnerships.
-Develop museum workshop series, museum tours and supporting activities.
- Increase museum exposure, visitation, revenue, and community outreach.
-Partnerships through travel MB and Central MB Tourism.
-Increase social media presence.
-Strategic planning for product development to increase annual revenues.
-Grow or restructure current community events.

As we reflect on the 2022 year, we want to thank everyone who continues to support and invest in our local heritage. Without your dedication and interest, the Museum would not be here to provide education, public programming, heritage preservation, and recreational activity.



Fort la Reine Museum

Portage la Prairie MB

