

Fort la Reine Museum

Annual Report
December 2023

Fort la Reine Museum

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MB

EST. 1967



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Overview.



The following report summarizes the activities, tourism, grants, funding, and special events at the Fort la Reine Museum over the 2023 operating season. Special events and facility rentals will continue in our off-season until we re-open in May 2024. We were pleased to have hired four summer and two fall staff this year! Current museum goals remain building renovations, exhibit curation, collections management, and integrating digital tools into the visitor experience.

Who We Are & What We Do!

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

Conservation

The Museum houses 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. Plans are underway to update the Museum's collection management program to more accessible software. The museum's exhibitions primarily center around settler history and stories from the Portage area and surrounding district. We are excited to announce our upcoming Indigenous Perspectives exhibit opening in 2024.

Education and Outreach

To provide educational opportunities through guided tours, programming, special events, and 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 businesses.



2022-2023

Board Members & Governance



Ryan Kontzie
Board Chair
RM of Portage



Emma Ens-Maclver
Museum Director



Faron Nichols
Director
City of Portage



Bob Tilk
Director
Community Member at Large



Roy Tufford
Director
RM of Portage



Darryl Taylor
Director
Community Member at Large

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 community members at large. The Board of Directors oversees major projects, approves proposed budgets and expenses, and acts as an advisory committee.

The Board of Directors oversees the Director of the Fort la Reine Museum, who 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.

2023 Highlights



We purchased new tipi poles thanks to the Community Futures Heartland grant!

The corn maze returned this season to FLRM!



Live at the FLRM
Tuesday August 15th

- Showtimes: 3pm & 7pm
- \$20/ Ticket Ages 16+
- 11am and 1pm Historical Magic Workshops with Museum Admission. Recommended Age 8+

*Show Tickets Now Available for Advanced Purchase Only @ Museum Reception



We welcomed the Live History group to the museum for special interactive theatre performances and historic magic workshops.



MUSEUM GHOST HUNTING TOUR

Halloween Night! Oct.31st

@ The Fort la Reine Museum

Tickets \$25 -Available @ eventbrite.ca

*Limited ticket availability

ROUND 2!

We welcomed six film crews to the Museum this summer, two of which came to ghost hunt! As a result, we ran our own ghost tours in the fall!

What's Included?

- 2 hours of museum exploration with a guide and ghost-hunting equipment in a small group from 7-9 pm
- 2 ghost hunting zones to explore
- Bonfire with smores & hot chocolate station

Must be age 15+ to attend (those under 18 must have a waiver signed by parent or guardian, waivers can be found @www.fortlareinemuseum.com)



FLRM staff churning butter and running activities at the Portage fair!

We volunteered at the Family Fun Day at Our Farm with the Mutual Insurance Truck!



Fright Nights

- We had our best turnout yet for Fright at the Museum this Halloween!
- Thank you to over 800 people who attended the event.
- Special thanks to our volunteers, participants, and vendors who braved the snow to provide activities, giveaways, live music, and concessions!



Diverse CITY

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

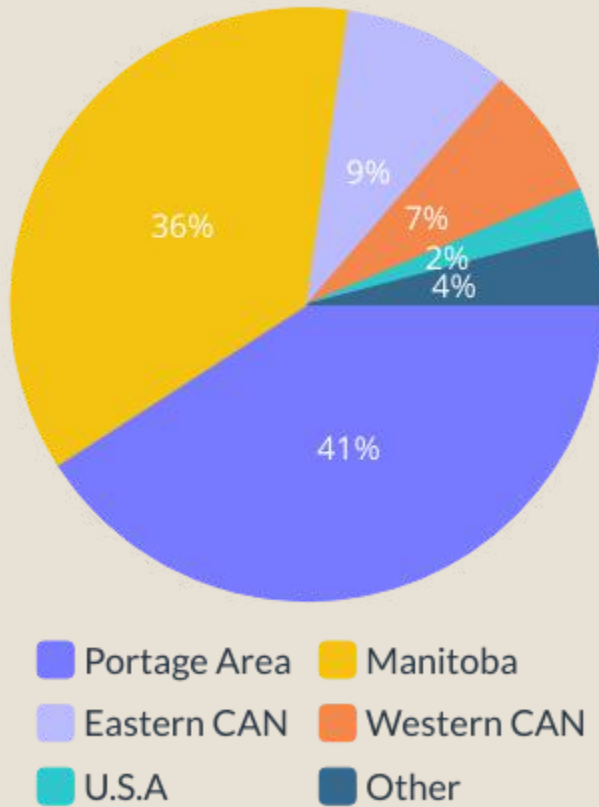


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MUSEUM

Fert la Reine Museum
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MB
EST. 1967



Tourism

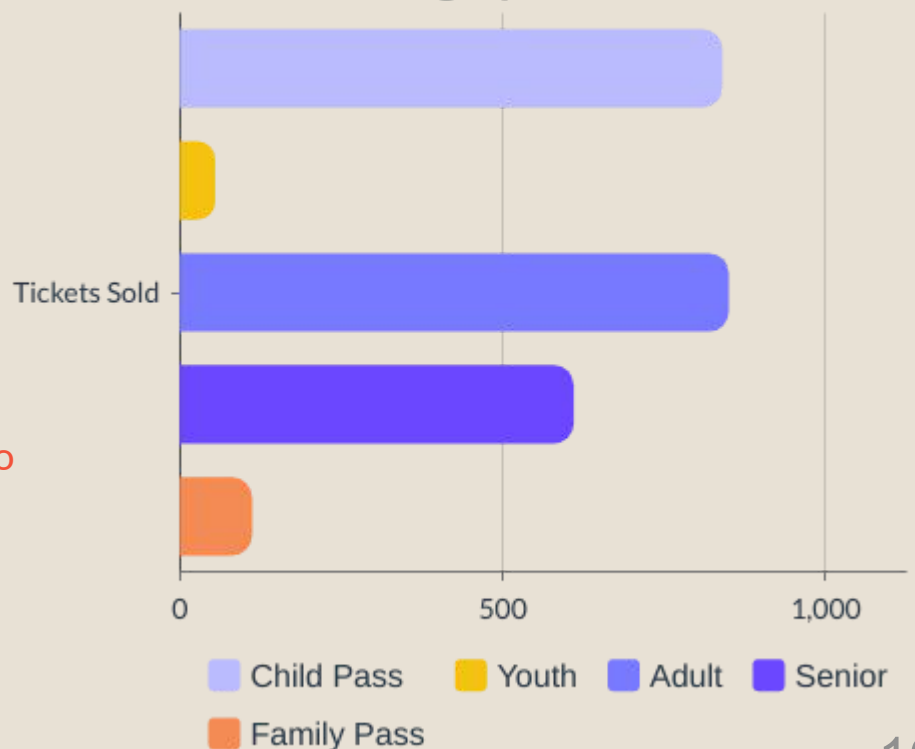


* The 'other' category consists of visitors from Germany, France, Ukraine, Switzerland, New Zealand, the UK, Mexico, Australia, Eastern Asia, Belgium, and India!

The Fort la Reine Museum provided guided school tours for over 600 students this summer! While we close for the season on Oct. 15th, we made special exceptions to accommodate more school field trips this fall.

The Museum sold over 2,650 admission tickets from mid-May to October this year. Ticket sales do not reflect the special event and free event visitation, nor does it include visitors only stopping for tourism info.

Demographic





Special Projects

- Phase one of the Fort Restoration Project was completed. The curation of the Indigenous Perspectives exhibit is underway.
- Transition to a new collections management system (FLRM library in first stages of being published online).
- French tour guiding provided over summer months.
- Improvements to Museum landscaping.
- Development of new hands-on tours and special events.
- Conservation of military memorial wall- installation of new plaques for spring 2024.
- Fundraising for the second phase of Fort Restoration.

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. Thank you to the City and Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie for your investment in supporting local heritage and tourism.

- City of Portage la Prairie - \$50,000
- RM of Portage la Prairie - \$35,000 (plus bookkeeping and administrative services)
- Province of Manitoba, Community Museums Grant - \$3,150



Special Project Funding

Federal

Young Canada Works- **\$11,121**

Canada Summer Jobs -**\$9,012**

Museum Assistance Program (MAP)- Exhibition Circulation Fund- **\$2,700**

MAP 2022/2023 Grant (Recovery Fund)- **\$12,423**

Provincial

Community Museum Project Support Grant (Manitoba Sport, Culture, and Heritage)- **\$7,210**

Community Futures Heartland-**\$1,780**

Military Memorial Wall Restoration:

R. Rutherford-**\$4,000**

E. Smith- **\$4,000**

Military Memorial Conservation Grant (Manitoba Sport, Culture, and Heritage) -**\$3,380**



Fort Tower Rebuild

Thank-you

TO ALL OUR PROJECT SPONSORS!



Platinum \$20,000 +

Manitoba Government
(Building Sustainable Communities Fund)

George H. Rutherford

Canadian Government
(Canada Community Revitalization Fund)

Silver \$2,500-\$9,999

MNP LLP

The Lupkowski Family

Gold \$10,000- \$19,999

Thomas Sill Foundation

Anonymous Family

Bronze \$250- \$1499

Royal le Page

Southport Aerospace Centre Inc.

Evelyn Smith



Coming
SOON

INDIGENOUS
PERSPECTIVES
EXHIBIT
SUMMER 2024



Community Partnership & Sponsorship

We are grateful for our relationships with local community businesses and non-profits over the years. In 2023, we partnered with a variety of local organizations, such as:

Portage Community Revitalization Cooperation (PCRC), Portage Local Immigration Partnership (PLIP), Portage Learning and Literacy Centre (PLLC), Portage Family Resource Centre, Portage Library, The National Indigenous Residential School Museum, United Way Central Plains, and Manitoba Agricultural Museum.

We were also supported by various local businesses and organizations, such as CO-OP Homestead, Community Futures Heartland, Community Foundation of Portage and District, Mayfair Print Shoppe, CRY Portage, and 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 throughout the 2024 season.

FRIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Oct. 27th & 28th 5-9 pm
Tickets @ eventbrite.ca

Event Participants:

Food For Purchase:

- 'Gotta have that Lemonade' - Mini Doughnuts
- Pizza Pizza
- Bubble n' Brew Bubble Tea
- Mole Guacamole

*We have no ATM on site-
Make sure to bring cash
or card if you want to buy
food or other items!

Thank you to this years sponsors:

One Dance- One Feast- Many Nations

Healing Dance of Reconciliation

Join us on September 30th for

National Truth and Reconciliation Day at
The National Indigenous Residential School Museum
5000 Crescent Rd W Keeshkeemaquah, MB

- 9:30 am- Honor walk from Portage City Hall to the Residential School Museum.
- 10:30 am -4:40 pm- Program, Food, & Entertainment.

\$20 Orange T-Shirts Available for Purchase at:

- Portage City Hall: Sept. 18th- until Sept. 29th at 12pm.
- N.I.R.S.M: Monday- Friday 8:30-4:30 & Sept. 30th.
- Fort la Reine Museum- Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11-3pm until Oct. 15th

*T-shirts can be purchased at 9am prior to the march in front of City Hall.
All proceeds from t-shirt sales go to the National Indigenous Residential School Museum (N.I.R.S.M).

Diverse CITY

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

Join us on Saturday, November 4th, at the Glesby Centre for an afternoon of celebrating our region's cultural diversity through music, dance, food, and more!

\$5 Adults
Kids free (under 6 years)
Get your tickets at:
- PLLC
- Fort la Reine Museum
- Manitoba Agricultural Museum

Saturday, Nov 4th, 2023

1-6pm Pavilion area with free entry
2-6pm Ticketed auditorium (includes shows + food samples + international beer garden)

William Glesby Centre
(11 2nd St Ne, Portage La Prairie, MB)

For more information:
cynthia@pllc.ca

Become a Friend of the Fort!

There are many ways to get involved with the FLRM. Different talents, interests, and levels of commitment are welcomed!

Ways you can volunteer & support the Museum!

Contact info@fortlareinemuseum.com for more information or to request a phone call.



Membership & Partnerships



Yard and Garden Maintenance



Special Events



Tours and historical re-enactment



Educational Programming



Woodworking and buildings projects



Cleaning and Collections Care



Financial Support



Looking Toward 2024!

We have had a fantastic 2023 season at the FLRM and look forward to welcoming visitors in 2024. Project planning has begun to rebuild the Fort's trading post (part two of the fort project).

We are working to expand our web-based collections database, as well as integrate QR codes into buildings- this would allow for further online accessibility to the Museum's collection and enhanced in-person guided experiences.

We look forward to our in-house curated exhibits for the 2024 season and the expansion of our "How it Works" tour.

To keep posted on museum news, visit:

www.fortlareinemuseum.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fortlareinehistory>

Instagram: @fortlareine