



Life Through A Lens Photography

# MAKING HISTORY COME ALIVE

Fort Vermilion Heritage Centre, Fort Vermilion

For 26 years, the Fort Vermilion Heritage Centre (FVHC) has been known for its authentic artifacts, community driven archives and informative staff.

Unique features include the newly added “Escape House,” a fun trivia challenge for all ages to “escape” a heritage house. And, FVHC has a one-of-a-kind collection of local fossils.

“We have a fossil of a Platypterigius. It’s the size of a shark and is very unexpected for the area. It’s quite unique and is a

huge asset to our marine life collection,” said FVHC’s Coordinator Steven Simpson.

The centre boasts over 16,000 photos, 22,000 archives, 8,000 objects and two heritage houses. Simpson credits the generosity of locals for the wide array of exhibits and displays.

“Most, if not all, of the items in the museum have been donated by community members. The community has invested in the museum and given us the resources to preserve history,” said Simpson.

One of the centre’s most popular attractions is the timeline of Fort Vermilion’s past. It walks visitors through the area’s Indigenous history, the fur trade era, agricultural era and metro history era. Complete with fossils, preserved photos and continuous displays, there’s no shortage of things to see and learn about.

“It’s a small space, but we make use of every inch of it. Even the display cases are artifacts and almost everything we have is original,” said Simpson.

Visitors are greeted with

a souvenir shop and are encouraged to take part in a guided museum tour, walk through the heritage houses or browse the display cases on their own.

Simpson thanks the Fort Vermilion Agricultural Society for their continued support.

“They have been such a supportive factor, and we wouldn’t be here without them,” said Simpson. “They’ve given us the opportunity to bring history alive again.”

5001 44TH TARDIFF AVE.  
FORT VERMILION, AB | 780-927-4603  
FORTVERMILIONHERITAGE.COM | f

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# HIGHLIGHTING THE HISTORY OF MENNONITE HERITAGE

La Crête Heritage Centre, La Crête

Visit the La Crête Heritage Centre (LCHC) and get an insider’s look into the history of La Crête, a Mennonite community with a unique culture. Book a guided tour and have the option to go-kart through an entire 10-acre Mennonite heritage village, which showcases historical and original homesteader buildings with over 4,000 artifacts throughout.

These 10 acres were originally homesteaded in 1950. In 1991, the local agricultural society bought it to preserve the land and

its history by creating a heritage centre. Today, there’s a wide array of agricultural equipment, the former Tompkins Landing Ferry, a sawmill and even windmill.

LCHC Coordinator Susan Siemens has been with the centre since 2008 and believes the centre plays an important educational role.

“We have several informational panels and pictures explaining Mennonite people and how our community came to be in this area. It helps the general public understand the history of

the Mennonite movement,” said Siemens.

Visitors are encouraged to sign the guest book, browse the gift shop, explore the interpretive gallery or book a guided tour through the village.

“Depending on the interests of the individual, it can take anywhere from two to three hours to get through the entire interpretive gallery. It’s a great way to spend an afternoon,” said Siemens.

LCHC’s most popular event is the annual Pioneer Day Event in September. It kicks off with a pancake breakfast

and includes demonstrations of the antique agricultural equipment. There’s also live music, traditional food and a parade that includes local community members.

“We want to provide the community with the opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the culture and history of our area. Our Pioneer Day is how we give back and something we all look forward to each and every year,” said Siemens.

TOWNSHIP ROAD 1060 & RANGE ROAD  
154 SOUTHEAST OF LA CRÊTE (2.5 KM)  
780-928-4447  
LACRETEMUSEUM.WEBLY.COM

Photo 1 by Josh Lambert. Photos 2,3,4 by That Girl Pearl Photography



# COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND EXHIBITING HISTORY

Mackenzie Crossroads Museum & Visitor Centre, High Level

Celebrating their 30th year, the Mackenzie Crossroads Museum and Visitor Centre (MCMVC) promotes and preserves local history from the late 1800s onward.

“We collect, preserve and exhibit artifacts. We provide programming, and we promote and support local tourism,” said Town of High Level’s Tourism and Museum Leader Kayla Wardley.

MCMVC’s primary exhibit is the Northern Trading Post, which features an outstanding collection of over 1,600 food and medicine containers donated by local residents.

“Our Northern Trading Post exhibit is a re-creation of a typical trading post/general store with living quarters attached. Supplementary displays also feature farming, trapping

and Native peoples of the region,” said Wardley.

MCMVC’s visitor information centre has an extensive array of local, regional and provincial travel information. MCMVC also has an enticing gift store.

“We carry a selection of local, hand-crafted and

authentic Aboriginal items for sale, and we sell other local works from artisans and photographers. Everything is locally made or sourced,” said Wardley.

The Interpretive Centre has displays and activities that rotate throughout the year. Currently it features the Wildlife in the North display.



“We’re happy to present our new logo designed by Darlene Derksen, who won our logo refresh contest we ran to commemorate our landmark anniversary. We are excited to use our new logo on swag items, letterheads and more,” said Wardley.

Check out MCMVC’s website as well as the Spirit of the Peace Museum Network, an online portal to 26 museums in the wider Peace Region.

spiritofthepeace.ca

10803 96 ST., HIGH LEVEL, AB  
780-926-4811 | HIGHLEVEL.CA | f  
OPEN MAY TO SEPTEMBER

