



BRONWYN SCOTT PHOTO

**A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM:** Natalie Doherty, 9, was moos-ing around at the Kids' Night at the Museum on Friday in Fort St. John, with the theme 'wild animals of the North Peace.' After learning about moose, elk, bears, beavers, wolves and lynx, the kids got to have some fun with crafts and participate in wild animal activities.

MARCH 21, 2016

# Digging up history at cemetery tour

**ALEISHA HENDRY**

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The history of Fort St. John will come alive, so to speak, this Friday, July 22.

The Fort St. John North Peace Museum is hosting a guided tour of the Fort St. John Cemetery, where they will shed light on some of the community's most colourful pioneers.

"It's not a very somber affair," said museum curator Heather Sjoblom. "Some of the stories are funny, you get an idea of how they contributed to the community, and you also get a good understanding of how the Fort St. John cemetery came to be in its current location."

The tour will introduce 10 characters from Fort St. John's past, including an American Civil War veteran, the community's first Muslim shopkeeper, and a member of the

Order of Canada.

Sjoblom's favourite tale is about Fred McKibben, who was the undertaker for the cemetery in the 1940s. McKibben had his own map of the cemetery that was different from the city's official map, and when his job was passed on to someone else, whom he did not care for, he kept his map, leaving many unknown gravesites.

The tour will have the same stories as last year's tour, so those who missed it last time will get the same experience.

"Not at all morbid, not scary, we don't get into ghost stories or anything, but you gain a good understanding and appreciation for some of the people that used to live in this area," said Sjoblom.

The cemetery tour starts at 7 p.m. If you can't make this tour, the museum will be hosting another tour on Aug. 19. For more information, call 250-787-0430.







ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

Fort St. John North Peace Museum curator Heather Sjoblom will take you on a guided tour of the Fort St. John Cemetery and share stories about the community's pioneers on July 22.

JULY 21, 2016



APR 28, 2016

**CULTURAL AWARD:** This award acknowledges an individual or group that supports the arts in the community. The winner of the Cultural Award was the North Peace Historical Society for its work in preserving the history in Fort St. John. Evelyn Sim accepted the award on the society's behalf.



LOCAL NEWS

AUG 25, 2016

# ALIVE WITH HISTORY



MATT PREPOST PHOTO

Fort St. John North Peace Museum Curator Heather Sjoblom, along with Coun. Larry Evans, gave another round of history lessons to the community at the Fort St. John Cemetery on Friday, Aug. 19. The museum's two cemetery tours this summer drew more than 120 people who wanted to learn more about the region's earliest residents.

SEPT 1, 2016

# Mischief charge after museum vandalism

A 15-year-old girl is facing mischief charges after allegedly attempting to smash into the Fort St. John North Peace Museum early Thursday morning, Aug. 25.

Officials say police were called to the museum shortly after 1 a.m. after the girl climbed the museum's fence and tried to smash open the door with a flower pot, triggering an alarm. Another 15-year-old girl caught by officers at the scene "tried to dissuade her from doing so," police said in a statement.

One of the teens was arrested with mischief under \$5,000 charges being recommended. The other was turned over to her parents, police said.

There was no damage to the museum as the door is made of shatter-proof glass, according to Coun. Larry Evans, who works with the North Peace Historical Society and was called to the scene.

"There's no damage, which is a relief because it's a brand new door from last spring," museum curator Heather Sjoblom said. "The museum is very lucky."

In a statement posted to Facebook, the City of Fort St. John urged residents to call police if they see someone vandalizing property.

"Last night some hooligans climbed the fence at our museum and tried to smash the windows with flowerpots. They were only successful in making a mess and getting arrested," the city said.

"Thankfully nothing was badly damaged and nothing was stolen but this kind of behaviour is a good reminder to all of us to be vigilant and call the police when we see someone damaging our property. It is not only a monetary cost to all of us but it damages the fabric of our community."

# HISTORICAL EXCELLENCE



**MATT PREPROST PHOTO**

The Fort St. John North Peace Museum was recently awarded the Rural Facility Excellence Award from the Peace River Regional District. Lynne Holland (left) and Evelyn Sim of the North Peace Historical Society show off the award in the museum.





MATT PREPOST PHOTO

Zylpha Alexander in front of the Fort St. John North Peace Museum's newest exhibit under construction: the C.M. Finch store. Finch's store was just one of two in the area when Alexander arrived in the region in 1930.



DEC 8, 2016

# North Peace Museum gets early Xmas gift

John Bergen and his team moved the old Bartlett Allen pioneer homestead house from Baldonnel to the museum grounds in Fort St. John in the

early morning hours of Friday, Dec. 2. Local photographer and *Alaska Highway News* columnist Darcy Shawchek followed its move to town.



DARCY SHAWCHEK PHOTOS

The Allen homestead house and Bergen truck speckled in Christmas lasers ahead of the move from Baldonnel. Believed to have been built throughout the 1920s by Bartlett Allen, the two-storey log house is a glimpse into the changing lives of early Peace Region homesteaders.



The two-bedroom house, complete with a kitchen and parlour, replaced a smaller one-room log cabin originally built on the land. Allen, with his wife Winnifred and children Ruth and Floyd, raised horses, cows, pigs, and chickens, while growing grain, potatoes, and other crops.





Originally from Michigan, Allen acquired and registered the homestead in 1915. He would later fight in the First World War and applied for Canadian citizenship, returning to Baldonnel in 1920 with a soldier's grant of a second quarter section. He bought a third section, and began building the log home in 1921. The home is unique in that it features Jack Pine shingles from Red Powell's old sawmill in Charlie Lake, and also features built-in dressers and drawers, and cabinetry.

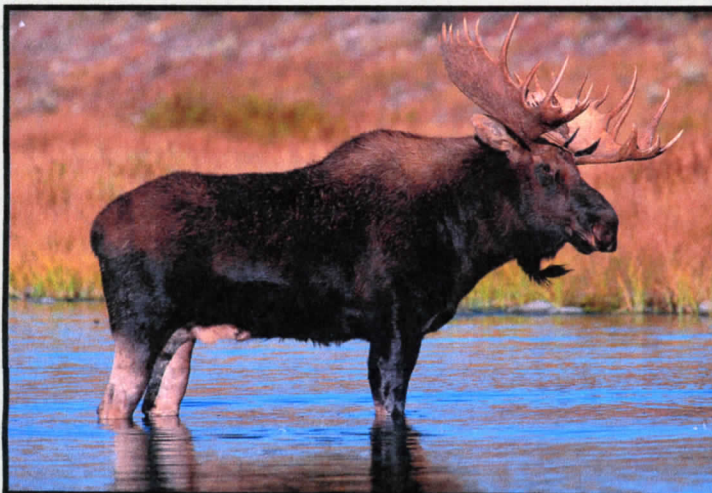


Allen's daughter Ruth donated the homestead to the museum in February 2015. The museum planned to have the house moved earlier this fall, but wet and snowy weather stalled its initial plans.



The long process of restoration will soon begin on the homestead. Several log beams are missing or rotting and need to be replaced, and the roof is in much need of repairs. The building will also need to be refinished inside and out before being opened for exhibits and displays on homesteading in the North Peace.





# Kids' Night at the Museum

## Wild Animals of the North Peace

**Friday, March 18 at 7 p.m.**

Learn about moose, elk, bears, beavers, wolves, lynx and more! Listen to a story. Create animal crafts. Participate in wild animal activities like shadow puppets and a track matching game.

### **REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY AND LIMITED.**

Event tickets are \$5/child or \$10/family and must be purchased in advance. Children must be accompanied by an adult (free). Tickets are available at the museum Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Fort St. John North Peace Museum • 9323 100 Street • 250-787-0430**