

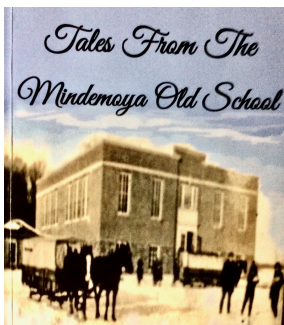


## **Friends of the Mindemoya Old School**

*“Building on the past to forge a prosperous, green, creative and inclusive future”*  
**May 2024 Newsletter Volume 4, Issue 3**

### **Announcing a new Board Member – Now we are Eight!**

We are thrilled to announce that another new Board member, Christianna Jones, has joined the FOMOS team. Christianna is a member of the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, an Islander who grew up in Little Current and now lives in Manitowaning. She is currently the Health and Wellness manager at Noojmowin Teg Health Centre in Aundeck Omni Kaning. She brings prior experience with grant and proposal writing. A few years ago she worked with a team to win the \$75,000 Aviva award for the Wiikwemkoong High School, enabling them to build a greenhouse. She is active with the Burns Wharf Theatre in Manitowaning, making beautiful costumes for their musical plays. Christianna’s love of historical buildings, theatre and the arts makes her a great fit with FOMOS. As an Indigenous person, she will bring new perspectives as we strive to be inclusive and beneficial for all Manitouliners.



### **Local BEST SELLER *Tales From the Mindemoya Old School* has gone to a second printing.**

Joanne Smith’s captivating collection of memories gathered from former students is once again available. For only \$30, you can enjoy over 100 enthralling and side-splitting accounts of life in the Old School. Available from FOMOS.

## ***Highlights of Upcoming Summer Activities*** **Our annual 50/50 raffle is NOW UNDERWAY**

Tickets are \$5 and only 2000 were printed. This is your chance to win up to **\$5,000!**

Our Early Bird draw for \$500 is on **July 1 so don't wait to purchase your tickets - buy now.** The winner's name goes back in for the final draw to take place on **Aug 10** at our annual Birthday Bash and BBQ in the Mindemoya arena.



Get your tickets now at Kat's Pet Supplies, Williamson's Hardware and on select dates (to be announced) in the Mindemoya Foodland entrance area. Watch for us at special events and local markets.

You can order online by going to our website mindemoyaoldschool.ca and following the instructions or email us at mindemoyaoldschool@gmail.com and we will forward your numbers. Be sure to specify **50/50 Draw** no matter which method you choose.

We can always use more help selling tickets too. If you would consider taking a book of tickets to sell or would be willing to manage a table at an event, it would be greatly appreciated.

## **THE BIG SALE DAY WILL SOON BE HERE!!!**

Come out and enjoy our YARD/TRUNK AND BAKE SALE on **June 22 from 9 - 1 pm** behind the school in the Lion's pavilion. Once again, thanks to our talented volunteers, we will have a great selection of delectable home-baked treats. Last year the homemade hot chilli was so popular we are bringing it back. Get chili, a roll and a drink for \$10.

We have a great selection of antiques for all the collectors and a draw for a gift basket. Please note that we are not accepting items for the general sale. If you have items you wish to sell, bring your vehicle and perhaps a table. For \$20 you can use one of the dedicated spaces to park, open your trunk and sell your treasures.

For those of you who wish to donate baking and can't join the fun on Saturday, June 22, baked goods can be dropped at the home of Jim and Joanne Smith, 1867 Hwy 551 just outside Mindemoya on Friday, June 21.

**Please mark your calendars for Wednesday June 12th at 7 pm**

The **Annual General Meeting** has tentatively been scheduled for 7 pm on Wednesday June 24th. More information will be available soon.

**ART LOVERS  
TAKE NOTE!**



We are excited to host a fantastic online art auction once again. In previous years very talented and generous people donated a variety of quality artwork. The auction will go live on July 10th and final bidding will take place at the Birthday Bash and BBQ on August 10 at the Mindemoya Arena at noon. This year there will be numerous opportunities to view some of the works in person. Watch for our displays around Mindemoya and at select events this summer.

Once again we will be using the *32 Auctions* platform, more information on how to bid will be shared closer to July 10th.

## **ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BASH AND BBQ ... YAHOO!!!**

Last year this event celebrating the anniversary of the Mindemoya Old School was a resounding success. Events were held inside the arena and outside in the sun. The lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle, \$2500, was announced, and the winners of the beautiful art pieces in the auction.

This year's event on **Saturday, August 10th from 10 - 2** promises to be very enjoyable with vendors, live music, cafe/visiting area, kids games, the final display of the art auction items, snacks, onsite BBQ and more. Mark your calendars, this is a day you don't want to miss.

# **ANOTHER MILESTONE RETROFIT MOMENT**

We have already begun parts of the retrofit. As you know, a new metal eco-friendly roof was installed last Fall and we are now confident that the inside will remain dry for years to come. This spring the old insulation in the ceiling of the school was removed. This was necessary due to the requirement of the Municipality that we have an engineer inspect the complete roof structure to ensure it is secure. There are in fact two roofs – the old flat one that many former students will remember, and the newer peaked roof. Removing the insulation was expensive. We do our best to keep costs down, but it came to more than \$35,000. Once deemed completely secure and safe, new insulation can be installed. It will be high R-value insulation to ensure energy efficiency when heating and cooling the building. Exciting times for sure.

## **A Word from the President**

In 2021, FOMOS began with just five Directors – Alison McAllister, Lynn Quesnel, Aaron Quesnel, Malene Brynildsen and me. Soon Karen MacKenzie joined the team, and now two new Directors, Christine McNaughton and Christianna Jones, will add their skills and talents to the FOMOS leadership. Your FOMOS team is getting stronger!

We anticipated opening part of the building this summer, but in this economy securing large grants for the retrofit is a challenge. The competition for government funding at the provincial and federal level is intense, and priorities change frequently. Not-for-profits like FOMOS are competing with municipalities, and it has been pointed out to us that many other not-for-profits also receive financial support from their municipalities. In our case, FOMOS pays for all the insurance as well as utilities. The cost of decommissioning the building and hauling it to landfill was estimated at \$150,000 back in 2019, so FOMOS is saving the Municipality those costs as well.

So the search for grants continues. According to our lease, signed in 2022, we had to raise \$525,000 for the retrofit by last March, but now we have two more years to raise the funds. FOMOS appreciates the support of Council in allowing the extension. The benefits, when we succeed, will accrue to the social fabric, the artistic community, and to the economy of the Municipality and the entire Island.

With best wishes, Jan

# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

We would not be where we are today without our volunteers. So many great folks have stepped up to assist with, selling, cleaning, baking, attending meetings, donating, letter writing, sending Thank You cards ... the list goes on.

The support of our donors has been invaluable. Once again we thank the Douglas A. Smith Family Foundation, Trillium Mutual Insurance, TerraStar Building Products and Belanger Salach Architects. Thanks also to our individual and family donors. Special thanks to the Gervais, Davidson, Palmer, Costigan, and Pettis families, Patricia Robertson and Norm Morrell, who will each have a plaque in the Old School for donating \$1,000 or more. We've come a long way but have a long road ahead and your generosity makes it all possible.

## SPEAKING OF DONATIONS

It goes without saying that FOMOS relies on donations to help us save this century-old building. You can also make donations in memory of a loved one. It is a thoughtful way to show your support to the family and also to FOMOS. If you give us the address of the family, we will send a note to them of your memorial donation.

**If you require a TAX RECEIPT** (for donations \$25 and over):

Send a **cheque written to ACO** ( Architectural Conservancy of Ontario) and **MAIL IT to FOMOS** Box 107, Mindemoya P0P1S0

**If you DO NOT require a tax receipt**, there are three ways to donate:

- Send a cheque directly to FOMOS, and please **specify** if it is "In Memory of someone" or simply a donation.
- Go to the WEBSITE [mindemoyaoldschool.ca](http://mindemoyaoldschool.ca) to donate online through the Kambeo platform.
- Send an e-transfer to [mindemoyaoldschool@gmail.com](mailto:mindemoyaoldschool@gmail.com) and specify how it is to be directed.

Friends of the Mindemoya Old School, Box 107, Mindemoya, ON P0P 1S0  
Facebook: Mindemoya Old School Website: [www.mindemoyaoldschool.ca](http://www.mindemoyaoldschool.ca)  
Email: [mindemoyaoldschool@gmail.com](mailto:mindemoyaoldschool@gmail.com)