



## Friends of the Mindemoya Old School

*“Building on the past to forge a prosperous, green, creative and inclusive future”*

### Winter 2025 Newsletter Volume 5, Issue 1

We at FOMOS hope that you are enjoying the winter days whether you are at home or someplace warm and sunny. We have been busy planning ahead.

### **WE THANK ALL DONORS TO OUR FALL CAMPAIGN!**

A big THANK-YOU to the many generous donors who contributed to our “Donation Matching” campaign! You keep us going! The Fall campaigns of all charities and not for profits was a challenge due to the postal interruptions. The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario reports they received \$8,550 in November and December, including the matching donations, and they will be issuing tax receipts. In total, the campaign raised nearly \$9,000. That is short of our goal of \$10,000, but some donations arrived in January and will also be matched.

#### Next Great Save



## The Next Great Save Competition

### **\$50,000 to be won!**

The **Next Great Save 2025 Competition** offers an incredible opportunity to win a **\$50,000 cash prize** to help protect a cherished heritage place! Canadians have a deep love for their historic sites and rise to the challenge when these treasures are at risk. This competition empowers communities with a **\$50,000 Grand Prize**, generously provided by Ecclesiastical Insurance. The prize money will support projects that protect, adapt, renew, or improve heritage places for the future—while inspiring us all along the way!

The National Trust for Canada holds a contest every year, called the Next Great Save. Not-for-profits and charities from across Canada compete for three prizes, all donated by Ecclesiastical Insurance, and first prize is a cool \$50,000! FOMOS has applied, and we are hoping to hear on February 13th that we have been shortlisted. We’re already preparing! To win we will need the most votes from our supporters, friends, friends of friends, Islanders, everyone! All at no cost to the voters! We have about 300 members, and we will ask you to contact your friends and relatives to vote. We’ll put ads in the Manitoulin Expositor because we know that many Islanders will vote for the Old School. Stay tuned!

## Renovations Update

Last year numerous visits to the school were made by an engineer and contractor to assess the interior roof and ceiling structure. It was determined that there are some issues that need to be dealt with to meet current building codes. Unfortunately, over preceding years, when multiple renovations and changes occurred, engineering studies were not required and so we are now paying the price. And it will be costly.

Even though we plan to do our project in stages, due to financial constraints, we now need studies on the floor/ceiling between the main and lower levels. We are investigating the best, most time friendly and cost effective options.

## Grants: The Good News and the Bad News

😊 **The good news:** We are working on some upcoming grants, both large and small. We are collaborating with the Municipality for grant applications for programming for seniors. These have been very successful and are benefitting both groups. Our offerings included making Christmas gnomes, cake decorating, flow painting and an exercise program for seniors in Providence Bay. A Valentine's Tea is coming up next!



☹️ **The bad news:** Our application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) was unsuccessful despite two years of hard work. Our proposal was to use the main level for both a seniors centre and a hub for artists and artisans. We were under the impression that NOHFC would fund renovations for both purposes, but they determined that artists are businesses, which they don't fund. Of course, we need the artists for rental income when they move in.

In the meantime, we learned about the unexpected requirements for structural remediation in the attic. We will have to hire an engineer to assess the floor of the main level now as well to come up with an updated budget.

## **Volunteers and Volunteer Courses**

We are always in need of **volunteers** for events and our ongoing efforts, so please let us know via email or by calling 705-377-4045 if you have some time to spare.

On January 19, you received an email regarding the need for volunteers to have certain courses relating to health and safety. If this is something you might consider, please email us at [mindemoyaoldschool@gmail.com](mailto:mindemoyaoldschool@gmail.com) for more information.

## ***Upcoming Plans for 2025 - Activities New and Old***

- We **WILL** once again be selling **50/50 tickets**. More information will be forthcoming. Again, tickets will be available online, in town and from Fundraising team and Board members. Last year the 50-50 winnings were \$3542.50 – a tidy sum!
- **Friday June 20** will see the first **FOMOS GOLF TOURNAMENT**. This exciting new event will be held at Brookwood Brae Golf Course in Mindemoya and will be open to the first 72 lucky registrants. It is shaping up to be a fun day with great food, friendly people and prizes. If you want to join us OR sponsor the event, please get in touch soon!
- **Lion's Homecoming Weekend** FOMOS will be using the front lawn of the school to host an event compatible with this special weekend in Mindemoya. Details have yet to be finalized but stay tuned.
- Weather permitting, we will host an **Art in the Park** day in the schoolhouse park in and around the gazebo. We want to showcase local artists and artisans. This will hopefully be scheduled for a sunny, warm day on a weekend in July or August. We are awaiting approval from the Municipality.

- As you are aware, last year we were granted a 2 year extension on the lease requirement. This means that we must raise \$525,000 by the end of February 2026.
- **Collaborations** between FOMOS and the Municipality, as well as between FOMOS and Central Manitoulin Historical Society CMHS, continue. This summer promises to once again be chock full of activities, workshops and demonstrations for all ages. Watch for information posted on websites and Facebook pages for the Municipality and for the Mindemoya Old School.

### *In Remembrance*

Sadly, we lost a number of members and supporters this past year. Our sympathies go out to family and friends for the loss of Larry Moggy, Royce Blackwood, Blaine Nelder, Tom Farquhar and Nancy Foreman.

### **FOMOS needs more Directors at the helm**

Why not join our dynamic team and see firsthand what we do? By joining us, you will be able to add your voice to discussions and decisions. Due to personal issues, we have lost two of our valuable Board members and would like to fill these vacancies asap.

The FOMOS Directors meet via zoom approximately every month at 7 pm to 8:30 pm. The last Directors meeting was January 15, and the next one is yet to be scheduled. We also need someone who willing to attend board meetings and act as secretary. It wouldn't involve setting an agenda or setting up the Zoom, simply taking notes and writing up minutes. Please contact us if you would consider joining our Board."

### **You can help by donating or volunteering – or both!**

If you can, please donate (again). Remember that you can receive a tax receipt for donations of \$50 or more by donating to the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, noting that the donation is for the Mindemoya Old School.

**Update:** Revenue Canada has confirmed that the tax deadline for 2024 donations is extended to February 28, 2025. Here's the link:

[https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/newsroom/tax-tips/tax-tips-2025/clarifying-cra-approach-administering-proposed-tax-measure-extend-2024-charitable-donations-deadline.html?utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Don%20t%20Miss%3A%20Donation%20Tax%20Deadline%20Extended%2C%20Crisis%20Relief%20News%2C%20and%20More%21&utm\\_campaign=A%20%20MKT-273-FebruaryNewsletter\\_EN\\_2025-02-04-Ontario](https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/newsroom/tax-tips/tax-tips-2025/clarifying-cra-approach-administering-proposed-tax-measure-extend-2024-charitable-donations-deadline.html?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Don%20t%20Miss%3A%20Donation%20Tax%20Deadline%20Extended%2C%20Crisis%20Relief%20News%2C%20and%20More%21&utm_campaign=A%20%20MKT-273-FebruaryNewsletter_EN_2025-02-04-Ontario)

1. **Write** a cheque to the ACO (Architectural Conservancy of Ontario). Note that the donation is for the Mindemoya Old School.
2. **Mail** the cheque to FOMOS at P.O. Box 107, Mindemoya, ON P0P 1S0
3. A tax receipt from ACO will arrive in the mail.

If you prefer to donate online, you can go to the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario website [https://acontario.ca/donate\\_check2.php](https://acontario.ca/donate_check2.php). Specify that your gift should be directed to the Mindemoya Old School.

If you do not require a tax receipt, you can donate any amount directly to Friends of the Mindemoya Old School. All donations of \$1000 or more will be recognized with a plaque.

Friends of the Mindemoya Old School, Box 107, Mindemoya, ON P0P 1S0  
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