



**Friends
of the
Mindemoya
Old School**

NEWSLETTER

August 2022 Volume II, Issue 2

COMMUNITY PICNIC AND CRAFT SHOW

Last year's 100-year Birthday Bash was such a huge success that we have decided to follow it up this year with an even bigger event. If you enjoy live entertainment, craft sales, silent auctions and breaking bread with friends out in the open, this event is tailor-made for you! So, don't miss the fun. Be sure to join us behind the Old School and Arena: **August 13, 10 a.m till 3 p.m.**

As with every community picnic, you bring your own lunch...OR... you can enjoy a delicious hot dog or sausage which will be available for purchase. Celebratory cupcakes, coffee and popcorn will be provided.

As with any big event, there will be lots going on and we could **SURE USE SOME HELP** with all the little jobs, such as setting up (and taking down) tables and chairs, attending to cupcakes, coffee and popcorn and making sure everything is clean and sanitary, maybe even organizing, setting up and manning a vendor's booth to sell cold drinks. If you'd like to volunteer your own two hands, please contact us!

SILENT ART AUCTION

Your all-in-one opportunity to beautify your home while also contributing to FOMOS! Bidding is already underway for the twelve pieces of art in this, our first Silent Art Auction. The next opportunity to bid is in person at the **FOMOS Community Picnic and Craft Show**. **Bidding ends at 2:30 pm.** For those of you receiving this by email, [click here](#) to view the artwork and the current high bids.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Donate (even the smallest amount makes a difference). We will have a donation box at the picnic, or you can e-transfer a donation to mindemoyaoldschool@gmail.com (with a "Donation" comment) or send a cheque to: FOMOS, Box 146, Mindemoya, ON P0P 1S0. Please note that, though FOMOS is a not-for-profit corporation we cannot issue tax-deductible receipts
- Purchase one of our products on our website or at the Community Picnic and Craft Show
- Volunteer some of your time

Tales From The Mindemoya Old School



TALES FROM THE MINDEMOYA OLD SCHOOL

This collection of stories told by former students of the Old School is a delightful and memorable read and would make a fine heritage keepsake. The volume contains more than 100 emotional and humorous stories that recount events, romances, pranks and other wonderful memories. Compiled, written and edited by Joanne Smith, this book includes many photos of students and teachers from days of yore.

If you have not yet added a copy of this piece of local history to your own bookshelf, you can do so by picking it up at the **Community Picnic** or by sending an e-transfer for \$25 (plus \$5 postage if the book is to be mailed) marked “Book”: friartuck53@netscape.net.

Books are also available at Cindy’s Fashions in Mindemoya and at The Manitoulin Expositor in Little Current. (Pssst: We think it also makes an awesome Christmas present!)

WE DID IT! (WITH A LOT OF HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS)

Friday July 8th marked a major milestone in bringing the Old School back to life. On that day the Municipality of Central Manitoulin and FOMOS signed a 21-year lease for the building, with a commencement date of June 30, 2022. With this long-term lease in hand we are now eligible to apply for a number of major grants.

The primary purpose of the lease is to preserve this historical building while putting it back into good repair and good use. FOMOS intends to create a community hub that will be a centre for seniors as well as a cultural, arts, and heritage destination with a marketplace.

We have big plans for the building. Our very first project is to re-shingle the roof and upgrade the insulation. As part of the interior renovations the damaged lower-level floor and substructure will be replaced by a new floor with in-floor heating. The old oil furnace will be replaced by an eco-friendly HVAC-system that will include a heat pump and supplementary propane heating. Of course these improvements are with an eye to energy efficiency and reducing our carbon footprint.

WE DID IT (continued)

The main floor will consist of many spaces for artists/artisans along with compatible, small businesses to make, showcase and sell their wares. On the lower floor will be our “Seniors Connection Centre” - a place to gather, to connect and socialize, to work on shared projects and to be part of a variety of organized programming aimed at both body and mind. Some of this space will also showcase the history of the building and its importance within our community. We estimate that the cost of the renovations necessary to make all this happen will be around \$1.5 million.

Finally, as part of the lease, FOMOS has committed to:

- have a Construction Plan in place by the end of October 2022
- be ready to issue Tender Documents no later than the end of February 2024
- obtain \$525,000 in funding within 20 months, and the full amount within three years
- assume maintenance and operating expenses of the building, including insurance
- have the Municipality approve our future sub-tenants

NOTES ON OUR FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JUNE 21, 2022

Our first AGM was well attended, with the entire Board of Directors and well over a dozen members showing up via zoom. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Voting to bring on our new Board member, Karen MacKenzie, who has been a dynamite volunteer and secretary for many months. Many thanks to Karen!
- Voting to convert our **annual** memberships to **lifetime** memberships. No need to remember to renew your \$10 (single) or \$20 (family) membership.
- Our Treasurer reporting that as of December 31st, our year-end, our net income for the year was \$14,800 - all raised **before** we obtained our 21-year lease.

50/50 RAFFLE WINNER ANNOUNCED



On July 1, the first FOMOS 50/50 raffle winning ticket was drawn by Barry Williamson. Nancy F. was the lucky winner of \$1442.50 in prize money. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets, and thanks to Williamson's Pro Hardware and Kat's Pet Supplies in Mindemoya for selling tickets and also to Foodland in Mindemoya for allowing us to sell tickets there.

Left to right: Volunteer Lorene Martell, Jan McQuay and Barry Williamson in front of the Old School for the 50/50 draw.