



NEWSLETTER

March 2022, Volume II, Issue 1

WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN!

Can you believe our first birthday has come and gone already? It was January 26, 2021 when a group of 19 enthusiastic supporters of the Old School Zoomed in and created Friends of the Mindemoya Old School, replete with a newly-minted Constitution, Bylaws, and a five-person inaugural Board of Directors. We remain profoundly grateful for the invaluable guidance of Rob Leverty of the Ontario Historical Society through the process.

2021 IN REVIEW (IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!)

- ✓ Since incorporation, your Board and many volunteers have been tirelessly working to turn our dream of saving the Old School into reality. To keep you up-to-date we issued [five newsletters](#) along the way – detailing many parts of our journey from fundraising, presentations, gathering ideas for how the building might be repurposed to benefit our community to our efforts to enlist support and raise funds and awareness of the exciting possibilities...the list is never-ending!
- ✓ On the communications side, we set up a [Facebook](#) page, a [website](#) and a Google Group.
- ✓ We're currently conducting two surveys aimed at YOU! If you haven't already completed one or both, click the links below or contact FOMOS to receive a hardcopy.
 - [Survey for Seniors](#) – what types of facilities and programs would seniors like to have in a Seniors Reconnection Centre?
 - [Creative Hub Survey](#) – how does the local Arts & Crafts Community feel about a Creative Hub located in downtown Mindemoya?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JUNE 2022 (DATE STILL TBD)

- ✓ Our first AGM is the perfect time to meet your Board of Directors and voice your views on our future path. We hope you are as excited about it as we are and that you will find the time to attend this important milestone meeting. Your voice and vote matter!
- ✓ The AGM is also when the Board reports on progress to date, finances and our future as well as being an opportunity to amend the Constitution to better suit our purposes. In the words of Rob Leverty, “the Constitution and Bylaws are living documents - they can be modified”.
- ✓ We will also vote to formally bring on a new Board member, Karen MacKenzie (nee Cooper). Karen has been volunteering with FOMOS for a while now and is really a major-league player. We are grateful that she has agreed to officially join us.



LEASE

In October 2021, the Municipality agreed to work on a lease for FOMOS to rent Mindemoya Old School for a 21-year term. Since January we have been working in consultation with municipal staff and our lawyer to finalize what is currently a draft-lease. We are confident that it will not be much longer until we have an agreement that is favourable to both FOMOS and the Municipality.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG A NEW YARD SALE SEASON – SAVE THE DATE: MAY 21!

- FOMOS will be holding a YARD-BAKE-TRUNK (a Yabat)-sale at the Lions Pavilion behind Mindemoya Old School on ***Saturday May 21***, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Spaces at this event are available for the low-low price of a \$20 donation to our awesome cause. Note that the seller must remove all their unsold items at the end of the event (best bring that trunk 😊).
- FOMOS merch and memberships will, of course, also be available for purchase.
- Special draws will be held to add to the fun.
- Your editors' hips are testimony to the fact that some of you are excellent bakers and we're hoping you might want to contribute some of your goodies – just bring them with you to the event, making sure they're priced. If you can't make it on Saturday, Jim and Joanne Smith will accept baked donations at their home on May 20. Stay tuned for more.

ODDS & SODS

- ✓ **We Sure Could Use Some More Help** – especially in these areas:
 - Legal advice (re not-for-profits and leases)
 - Grants – identifying and applying for (because we need \$\$\$ to carry out our mission, dontcha know)
 - Maintaining our membership database
- ✓ **Worthwhile Causes:** [The Ontario Historical Society](#), the [Architectural Conservancy of Ontario](#) and [The National Trust for Canada](#), have been invaluable to our progress. Please consider joining one or all these amazing organizations who, staffed by truly caring and dedicated people, help conserve our history.
- ✓ **Attention Artists:** Later this year, we are hoping to hold one or two art auctions and would be grateful for any donated work. Details to follow later.
- ✓ **April 22** marks both [Earth Day](#) and [Great Lakes Day \(March 02 in the US\)](#), so designated by the Anishinabek Nation to honour and call attention to the urgent need to protect and conserve our Great Lakes for future generations.

As always, reach out to us with any input you might have. We wish everyone a wonderful spring!

Friends of the Mindemoya Old School
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