



LAKE OF THE WOODS MUSEUM ▲ DOUGLAS FAMILY ART CENTRE

2023  
ANNUAL REPORT

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## HIGHLIGHTS

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### ►FROM THE MUSE

- Establishment of the Lori Nelson Legacy Fund with the Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation. The Fund is currently valued at over \$100,000
- Establishment of the online store - Functioning and accepting orders! It is a huge time saver and allows staff to spend time working on core functions rather than long form admin work.
- Revamped revenue reporting - streamlined ways of reporting revenue have allowed staff to regain approximately 5 weeks of admin time over the course of the year.
- The Muse has grown facility rentals and is becoming known as a venue. Customers this year included NOSM, Grand Council Treaty 3, Kenora Veterinary Clinic, Ministry of the Attorney General, Pimachiowin Aki, and private renters such as Kirsten Schmidke, Denise Pemmican, Laura Cotton & Darcy Ura, and more!
- Our fantastic summer students! Amelia DeGagne, Ashley Vogrig, Cloe Hinz and Noah Kalde-way.

### ►FROM THE MUSEUM

- *Something to Talk About: The 50th anniversary of the Kenora Bank Bombing* exhibit was a very popular exhibit and suite of programmes, including the 50th anniversary event on May 10th with Joe Ralko that was featured prominently to a national television audience on CTV's W5.
- Treaty # 3: Manidoo Mazina'igan – The Sacred Document- A nearly year long process working with every level of government to help with the Treaty #3 150 commemoration. It was a tremendous amount of work, but the results were a fabulous exhibit and valuable experience working with Grand Council Treaty #3. The Lake of the Woods Museum hosted Lt Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell and Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh to see The Sacred Document exhibit on September 6th
- The addition of Codie Brook Goodman as Museum Curator in September gave the team a much needed boost. She brings important experience, knowledge, and perspectives to the team.

### ►FROM THE ART CENTRE

- Acquiring the Walter J. Phillips *Stream at Keewatin* was very special. It provided us greater insight into Phillips' work inspired by Keewatin, as well as being the sister piece to another work in our collection which was untitled, and whose inspiration was previously unknown.
- The *Gift of Art* exhibition featuring the Douglas family's entire W.J. Phillip's collection including new acquisitions, and wrapping up the capital campaign with the Summer Celebration.
- New partnerships in Art Centre programming, including successful programmes with Aimee Baldwin and Patrick Hunter. The painting workshop with Patrick Hunter was very popular and brought in a number of new faces, including those who came from Sioux Lookout just for the workshop.

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## ATTENDANCE

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### ►NUMBER OF VISITORS TO MUSEUM

2023 - 7823

Note: Attendance continues to trend upward

For comparison purposes, here are the stats from the last three years:

2022 - 7,626

Note: The Museum was closed in January 2022. While the world is returning to some level of normal in 2022, it should be noted that our attendance is still not back to pre-COVID levels.

2021 - 3,186

Note: The Museum was closed for 1/2 the year.

An increase of 46% over 2020, however, only 25% of our pre-COVID attendance.

2020 - 2,181

Note the Museum was closed from mid-March to mid-June.

This is 17% of our pre-COVID numbers.

### ►NUMBER OF VISITORS TO ART CENTRE

2023 - 8033

Note: Nearly all programming occurred at the Art Centre

For comparison purposes, here are the stats from the last three years:

2022 - 6,787

Note: The Art Centre was closed in January 2022.

For comparison purposes, here are the stats from the last three years:

2021 - 3,799

Note: The Art Centre was closed for half the year.

An increase of 38% over 2020.

2020 - 2,744

Note: the Art Centre was closed from mid-March to mid-June

### ►TOTAL COMBINED VISITS - 15,856 visitors

### ►WHERE OUR VISITORS WERE FROM

We were pleased to see more visitors in 2023. While most of our visitors this year were from our own and surrounding communities as well as Manitoba, we're pleased to report that we also had visitors from 9 Canadian provinces, 2 territories, and 13 states (Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin)

We also had international visitors from: Australia, China, Czechia, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, & Ukraine.

►AND THEY HAD THIS TO SAY:

MUSEUM:

"Love it"

"Excellent! Love the nature exhibit by the children"

"Beautiful museum."

"Awesome displays! Very good exhibits!"

"Thank you Marcus + staff for your generous help. It is beautifully laid out museum and we very much enjoyed our visit."

"Really opened my eyes to the history of Kenora and First Nations peoples. So important to understand the history"

ART CENTRE:

"Loved the prison exhibit"

"Childhood memories at the Lake"

"A feast for the senses"

"Overwhelmed — the building, the paintings, the fibre art! Thank You!"

"A great asset to Kenora!"

"Wonderful WJ Phillips exhibition. Especially loved the watercolours exhibit. Exquisite ."

"Good work + effort. Smiles for miles."



Family Crafternoons at the Douglas Family Art Centre are fun for the whole family!

Internationally acclaimed artist Patrick Hunter lead a workshop at the Douglas Family Art Centre on March 25, 2023



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## COLLECTION/CONSERVATION - MUSEUM

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### ►DONATIONS / CATALOGUING

In 2023, the Museum accessioned 27 lots of donations, totalling 41 catalogued items. The Royal Lake of the Woods Yacht Club Collection was re-processed in the summer of 2023 in conjunction with members from the Royal Lake of the Woods Yacht Club.

### ►NOTABLE OR INTERESTING ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION

- Stone Boat Manufacturing Company canoe, dating to 1918
- Reg Clayton Enterprise Photograph Collection
- Kenora Ukrainian Athletic Club Hockey Sweater
- Scale model of the Helen M fishing boat
- Covid19 related items (signs, custom masks, etc)

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## COLLECTION/CONSERVATION - ART CENTRE

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### ►DONATIONS OR ACQUISITIONS / CATALOGUING

In 2023, the Art Centre added the following to its collection:

- Walter J. Phillips watercolour *Stream at Keewatin*

### ►CONSERVATION

- Conservation and framing was done of the above noted piece.



Walter J. Phillips  
STREAM AT KEEWATIN  
1921  
Watercolour

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## COMMUNITY + PARTNERSHIPS

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### ►LOCAL BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

The following businesses and organizations supported The Muse through donations of services, materials, promotion, advice, and money: Area News magazine, Canadian Mental Health Association, Cottage Guide magazine, Ne-Chee Friendship Centre, Stuff magazine, Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig (WNHAC), Triple P.L.A.Y.

### ►ARTISTS

Shop the Muse at the Douglas Family Art Centre has partnered with a number of local and regional artists to carry and promote their artwork through consignment sales. These artists include: Charles Copenace - Anishnuks, Holly Ann Friesen of HAF Gallery - paintings, cards, pencil cases, Melissa Jean - prints, John Paul Lavand - art cards, Bill MacFarlane - prints, Lori Schmidtke of KLAS Squared - jewelry, Cheryl Wilson Smith - glassworks and jewelry, Betty Wires of Midnight Loon Glass - glassworks, Lori Skitt (Wildy.one) - jewelry, Teresa Bowyer - prints, Olivia Whiddon - CD's, Kim Pirie Milko - photography, Martha Troian (Pinotino-way) - jewelry,

### ►PROGRAM PRESENTERS

The following people partnered with The Muse to present programming: Aimee Baldwin, Nina Chen, Laurie Dufresne, Ana Frech, Zachary Geyshick, Kris Goold, Jan Lindstrom, Michael Nelson, Sheeba Ninan, Bekkie Vineberg, Nicole Melillo, Joe Ralko, Ed Mandamin, Rob Richards, Teika Newton, David Malaher, Harry Duckworth, Susan Bulman, Patrick Hunter, Judy Martin, Penny Berens, The Gustafsons, Patricia Bovey, Kristen Malbranck, Anong Migwans Beam, Tammy Bush, & Olivia Whiddon

### ►COMMUNITY GROUP PROJECTS/PARTICIPATION/PARTNERS

1

Common Ground: A Sharing of Our Stories

Marcus Jeffrey and Lori Nelson serve on the community organizing committee. In 2023 the storytelling event was held on April 22 at the theatre in Beaver Brae Secondary School.

2

City of Kenora Community Services

All members of the Community Services department of the City coordinated their March Break programming and marketed it as an offering from the whole department. Community Services also joined forces to support activities in our area parks during June, Parks and Rec Month.

3

Lake of the Woods Arts Community (LOWAC)

The Muse has provided support to LOWAC through grant support which has included letters of support and also the sponsorship of their applications to the Kenora and Lake of the Woods Community Foundation (required since they are not a registered charity). In addition, this year, The Muse partnered once again with LOWAC in the presentation



of ARTSFEST. This full-day arts festival (July 15) was planned by the Lake of the Woods Arts Community. The Muse partnered with them by providing the venue (Memorial Park), access to washrooms, a green room (the Museum board room), electrical power for artists, and the Museum courtyard for musical performances.

Shelby Smith serves on the LOWAC Board as Secretary and Muse liaison.

5

Piitwewetam: Making is Medicine

This exhibit at the Art Centre from the Thunder Bay Art Gallery was supported by community partners: Ne-Chee Friendship Centre, WNHAC, and CMHA. The partners provided financial assistance, guidance and programming ideas/presentations.

6

Kenora Tourism and Recovery

The Art Centre played host to the banner making workshops in support of the winter banner project with the City of Kenora. For Saturdays in September children could come to the Art Centre and try their hand at making a banner. The banners were collected (or taken home to be finished) and submitted to a graphic designer to be turned into winter themed street banners.

7

Grand Council Treaty #3

Braden Murray and Lori Nelson are the key contacts for a partnership project led by Grand Council Treaty #3 to bring the community copy of the Treaty and the Treaty Adhesions home for the 150th anniversary celebrations this year. Other partners in the project include Library and Archives Canada, Canadian Heritage, and the Ontario provincial government. The Indigenous Advisory Committee was also involved in crafting the content for the interpretive banners that accompanied the Treaty and the Adhesions as it travelled throughout the territory.

8

Midewiwin Lodge & Kenora Chiefs Advisory

The Museum has been working with the Midewiwin Lodge to provide greater access to museum materials for education and ceremony. This has included several visits to Shoal Lake #39, and a week long showing (Nov 20-24) of items at the Kenora Chiefs Advisory Farm. Artifacts borrowed from both the Lake of the Woods Museum and the Thunder Bay Museum were brought to events at Shoal Lake. The Midewiwin Lodge is keen to partner with us moving forward, and some really good contacts are being made. Like many churches and other volunteer organizations Midewiwin Lodges are struggling for members in 2023, and as such are opening up their ceremonies to interested individuals. This has been a great experience for Marcus, and will continue to be a fruitful partnership for both parties.

9

Ontario Arts Council

The Douglas Family Art Centre became a member Ontario Arts Council Recommender programme. This programme is a crowd sourcing programme by the Ontario Arts Council that will allow the OAC to draw on the knowledge of vetted art gallery staffers. The only other OAC recommender in northwestern Ontario is the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. The Lake of the Woods Museum was a recommender back in the 1990s, and we are happy to accept the invitation.



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## PROGRAMMING - MUSEUM

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### ►CHILDREN / FAMILY

Early Years Open House

June 15

4:30 - 7:00

Attendance: 462

Halloween Family Mysteries

October 27

All Day (PD Day)

Attendance - 6

Halloween Family Mysteries

October 28

All Day

Attendance - 26

Kenora Main St Christmas Tree Lighting open House

November 17

6:00 - 7:00

Attendance - 260

### TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN CHILDREN/FAMILY PROGRAMMING - 754

### ►ADULTS

Presentation and Photo Cafe - All Aboard:

Kenora's Railway History

(55+ and Free Program)

Saturday, January 28

Led by Braden Murray

Attendance - 28

We Are What We Eat - Israeli Food

Thursday, February 9

Led by Bekkie Vineberg

Attendance - 24

We Are What We Eat - Mexican

Saturday, February 11

Led by Ana Frech

Attendance - 18

We Are What We Eat - Indian Food

Saturday, February 18

Led by Sheeba Ninan

Attendance - 16

Dating Historic Photographs and What the  
Museum Can Do For You

(55+ and Free Program)

Thursday, February 23

Presented by Braden Murray

Attendance - 14

All Aboard! The First Trip by Rail from Rat  
Portage to Thunder Bay

(55+ and Free Program)

Saturday, February 28

Presented by Braden Murray

Attendance - 49

A Taste of the Past

(55+ and Free Program)

Saturday, March 4  
Presented by Braden Murray  
Attendance - 24

We Are What We Eat - Taiwanese Food  
Saturday, March 11  
Led by Nina Chen  
Attendance - 22

Presentation on the 50th Anniversary of the  
1973 Kenora Bank Robbery  
Presented by Joe Ralko  
Wednesday, May 10  
Attendance - 152

Tuesday Night Speaker Series - Creators Gar-  
den: The Anishinaabe Knowledge and Rela-  
tionship with Plants as told by the Knowledge  
and Spiritual Keepers of Iskatewizaagegan.  
Presented by Ed Mandamin  
Tuesday, July 4  
Attendance - 33

After Dark: Lake of the Woods Cemetery Tour  
Presented by Braden Murray  
Friday, July 8  
Attendance - 12

After Dark: Lake of the Woods Cemetery Tour  
Presented by Braden Murray  
Friday, July 16  
Attendance - 21

Tuesday Night Speaker Series - 1893 The  
Great Land Rush on the Lake: Territory Wars  
and the Selling of Charles Wilson's Planned  
Community on Coney Island.  
Presented by Robert Richards  
Tuesday, July 18  
Attendance - 66

After Dark: Lake of the Woods Cemetery Tour  
Presented by Braden Murray  
Friday, July 22  
Attendance - 13

Tuesday Night Speaker Series Redux - 1893  
The Great Land Rush on the Lake: Territory

Wars and the Selling of Charles Wilson's  
Planned Community on Coney Island.  
Presented by Robert Richards  
Monday, July 24  
Attendance: 37

Tuesday Night Speaker Series - Dam It! Trans-  
formative Tales from Tunnel Island.  
Presented by Teika Newton  
Tuesday, July 25  
Attendance: 25

After Dark: Lake of the Woods Cemetery Tour  
Presented by Braden Murray  
Friday, July 28  
Attendance - 6

Tuesday Night Speaker Series - A Study of  
Alexander Henry's Map of 1776 from Lake  
Superior to Lake Athabasca, including Rainy  
Lake, Lake of the Woods, and Lake Winnipeg.  
Presented by David Malaher and Harry  
Duckworth  
Tuesday, August  
Attendance: - 41

After Dark: Lake of the Woods Cemetery Tour  
Presented by Braden Murray  
Friday, August 4  
Attendance - 18

Tuesday Night Speaker Series - Flashpoint of  
the Border War: The Battle of Rat Portage,  
1883.  
Presented by Braden Murray  
Tuesday, August 8  
Attendance - 29

After Dark: Lake of the Woods Cemetery Tour  
Presented by Braden Murray  
Friday, August 11  
Attendance - 12

After Dark: Lake of the Woods Cemetery Tour  
Presented by Braden Murray  
Friday, August 18  
Attendance - 9

After Dark: Lake of the Woods Cemetery Tour

Presented by Braden Murray  
Friday, August 25  
Attendance - 13

Presentation of The Lost Moccasin  
Presented by Bradford Bilodeau  
Friday, September 29  
Attendance - 14

Free admission to see Treaty #3 on National  
Truth and Reconciliation Day  
Saturday, September 30th  
Attendance - 85

Tips on Conducting a Historical Interview  
Presented by Lloyd Mack, Braden Murray,  
and Codie Brook Goodman  
Thursday, November 23  
Attendance - 14

### **TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN ADULT MUSEUM PROGRAMMING - 600**



Braden Murray conducts a cemetery tour at the Lake of the Woods Cemetery

### **► VISITS TO/FROM SCHOOLS**

All presentations were given by Braden Murray unless otherwise noted

King George VI School February 15 Museum and Art Centre visit - 2 classes Attendance - 43	Museum and Art Centre visit - Grade 6 Attendance - 23
Valleyview School February 16 Museum and Art Centre visit - Grades 5 and 6 Attendance - 37	Beaver Brae Secondary School April 4 Museum visit Attendance - 17
St. Louis School February 17 Museum visit - Grade 6 Attendance - 25	Thomas Aquinas High School April 18 At the school Attendance - 32
Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys School March 8	Baibombbeh School April 25 Museum and Art Centre visit - Grades 4-6 Attendance - 23

Keewatin Public School  
May 4  
Museum and Art Centre visit - Grades 1/2  
Attendance - 22

Sacred Heart School Sioux Lookout  
May 11  
Museum and Art Centre visit - Grades 4-8  
Attendance - 41

Evergreen School  
May 16  
Museum and Art Centre visit - Grade 1/2  
Attendance - 18

Valleyview School  
May 25  
Museum and Art Centre visit - Grade 5/6  
Attendance - 21

Adult Challenge Club  
May 27  
Museum visit - Adult Education  
Attendance - 12

Washagamis Bay School  
May 31  
Museum visit - Grades K-4  
Attendance - 12

University of Manitoba  
June 7  
Museum visit - University aged  
Attendance - 19

Evergreen School  
June 16  
Museum and Art Centre visit- Grades 2/3 &  
4/5  
Attendance - 47

Keewatin Public School  
June 20  
Museum and Art Centre visit- Grades 4/5 &  
5/6  
Attendance - 26

Valleyview Public School

June 21  
Museum and Art Centre visit- Grades 1 & 2/3  
Attendance - 44

Keewatin Public School  
June 23  
Museum and Art Centre visit- Grades 2/3  
Attendance - 22

Evergreen School  
June 28  
Cemetery Tour- Grades 1/2  
Attendance - 17

Valleyview Public School  
September 27  
Museum visit- Grades 5&6  
Attendance - 45

Valleyview Public School  
September 28  
Museum visit- Grades 5&6  
Attendance - 42

Saint John-Paul School  
November 8  
Museum Visit - Grade 6  
Attendance - 35

King George School  
November 24  
Museum Visit - Grade 2  
Attendance - 31

Valleyview School  
November 29  
Museum and Art Centre Visit - Grade 6  
Attendance - 39

King George School  
November 30  
Museum and Art Centre visit - Grade 1  
Attendance - 19

Keewatin Public School  
December 13  
Grade 5  
Attendance - 21

**TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL PROGRAMMING - 733**

►VISITS TO/FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS OR SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, ETC.

Cadet Troop January 31 Attendance - 16	May 9th Presentation by Joe Ralko on Writing & the Kenora Bank Robbery Facilitated by Marcus Jeffrey Attendance - 100	by Braden Murray Attendance - 16
Pinecrest Home for the Aged March 8 Presentation on International Women's Day by Braden Murray Attendance - Approx 20	Pinecrest Home for the Aged June 14 Presentation on Gold Mining on Lake of the Woods by Braden Murray Attendance - 25	After Dark: Lake of the Woods Cemetery Tour Private Tour Presented by Braden Murray Thursday, September 7 @ 7:30 Attendance - 6
Scout Troop March 9 Attended by - Approx 12	Wiigwas Elder Centre June 16 Presentation on Gold Mining on Lake of the Woods by Braden Murray Attendance - 27	After Dark: Lake of the Woods Cemetery Tour Private Tour Presented by Braden Murray Wednesday, September Attendance - 14
Awesome Adventure Day Camp Museum and Art Centre March 14 Attended by - 20	The Muse in Minaki June 17 Muse co-presentation on history and art in Manaki by Braden Murray and So- phie Lavoie in Minaki Attendance - 31	Wiigwas Elder Centre Presentation on History of the Shore Lunch by Braden Murray September 22 Attendance - 16
Pinecrest Home for the Aged April 12 Presentation on the First Railway Trip between Rat Portage and Thunder Bay by Braden Murray Attendance - 27	Urban Adventure Day Camp Museum and Art Centre July 19 Attended by - 18	School Cemetery Tour October 12 TA School - Grade 10 Attendance - 27
Wiigwas Elder Centre April 14 Presentation on the First Railway Trip between Rat Portage and Thunder Bay by Braden Murray Attendance - 21	Sioux Narrows Sport Fishing Centre Presentation on History of the Shore Lunch August 16 by Braden Murray Attendance - 22	Private Cemetery Tour October 18 TA School - Grade 10 Attendance - 20
Thomas Aquinas School May 9th Presentation by Joe Ralko on Writing & the Kenora Bank Robbery Facilitated by Marcus Jeffrey Attendance - 20	Pinecrest Home for the Aged August 23 Presentation on History of the Shore Lunch	School Cemetery Tour October 20 Beaver Brae SS- Grade 7 Attendance - 23
Beaver Brae School		School Cemetery Tour October 25 Beaver Brae SS- Grade 8 Attendance - 23
		Pinecrest Home for the Aged

October 25  
History of the Harbourfront  
by Braden Murray and  
Codie Brook Goodman  
Attendance - 19

School Cemetery Tour  
November 1  
Beaver Brae SS- Grade 8  
Attendance - 41

School Cemetery Tour  
November 2  
Beaver Brae SS- Grade 7  
Attendance - 40

School Cemetery Tour  
November 3  
Beaver Brae SS- Grade 7  
Attendance - 34

Mapleton Seniors Centre  
Presentation on A Taste of  
the Past: Five Roses Flour  
by Braden Murray  
November 2  
Attendance - 32

Wiigwas Elder Centre  
Presentation on History of  
Airplanes in Kenora  
by Codie Brook Goodman  
November 10  
Attendance - 21

Thomas Aquinas School  
Presentation on Why People  
Move to Kenora  
by Codie Brook Goodman  
November 15  
Attendance - 19

Ancestor Seekers of Kenora  
Presentation on How to  
Conserve Historical Items at  
Home  
by Braden Murray  
November 15  
Attendance - 16

Pinecrest Home for the Aged  
December 6  
Presentation on History of  
Flight  
by Codie Brook Goodman  
Attendance - 31

Thomas Aquinas School  
Presentation on History of  
Kenora  
by Braden Murray  
November 15  
Attendance - 19

#### **TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL GROUP VISITS - 640**



Braden Murray and Codie Brook Goodman made 10 trips to Pinecrest and Wiigwas in 2023. The staff love sharing our history with our seniors, and this programme will continue in 2024.



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## PROGRAMMING - ART CENTRE

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### ►CHILDREN / FAMILY

All programmes presented by Shelby Smith or Art Centre Summer Staff unless otherwise noted

Winter Clay Classes (ages 6-9) Tuesdays, February 7 - March 7 Presented by Aimee Baldwin Attendance - 16	Thursday, March 16 pm Attendance - 22  Drop in Craft - CD Sea Creatures Friday, March 16 Attendance - 15	Prince, the Bridge Troll, and the Water Spirit" Saturday, July 1 Presented by Olivia Whid-don Attendance - 16
Winter Clay Classes (ages 9-13) Wednesdays, February 8 - March 8 Presented by Aimee Baldwin Attendance - 12	Family Crafternoon - Col-laged Sunflowers Saturday, March 17 Attendance - 9  Scratchboard Easter Eggs Saturday, April 8 @ 2 pm Attendance - 3	Drop in Craft - Curious Caterpillars Wednesday, July 2 Attendance - 3  Drop in Craft - Cool Cones Friday, July 5 Attendance - 17
Family Crafternoon - Love Birds Saturday, February 4 Attendance - 27	Media Masters (ages 5-9) Tuesdays, April 11 - May 30 Attendance - 14	Drop in Craft - Daring Di-nosaurs Saturday, July 6 Attendance - 2
Family Crafternoon - Sham-locks and Rainbows Saturday, March 4 @ 2-30 pm Attendance - 26	Media Masters (ages 9-14) Wednesdays, April 12 - May 30 Attendance - 11	Drop in Craft - Mystical Monsters Wednesday, July Attendance - 3
Science North Scavenger Hunt March 4 Attendance - 19	Fantastic Fairies Saturday, April 22 Attendance - 25	Drop in Craft - Fire Breath-ing Dragons Wednesday, July 12 Attendance - 8
Drop-in Craft - Mixed Media Rainbow Tuesday, March 14 Attendance - 4	Written by Water Exhibition - Performance of "The Water Spirit and the Cat" Saturday, June 10 Presented by Olivia Whid-don Attendance - 15	Drop in Craft - Beautiful But-terflies Thursday, July 13 Attendance - 10
Drop in Craft - Cardboard Roll Marionette Wednesday, March 15 Attendance - 22	Written by Water Exhibition - Performance of "The	Drop in Craft - Kooky Kites Wednesday, July 19 Attendance - 16
Drop in Craft - Yarn-Wrapped Owls		

Drop in Craft - Fun Fidget  
Spinners  
Thursday, July 20  
Attendance - 3

Drop in Craft - Funky Frogs  
Saturday, July 22  
Attendance - 8

Drop in Craft - Scintillating  
Sun Catchers  
Sunday, July 23  
Attendance - 6

Drop in Craft - Jazzy Jelly-  
fish  
Wednesday, July 26  
Attendance - 7

Drop in Craft - Happy  
Hedgehogs  
Thursday, July 27  
Attendance - 6

Drop in Craft - Silly Snails  
Saturday, July 29  
Attendance - 7

Drop in Craft - Fluorescent  
Fireflies  
Wednesday, August 2  
Attendance - 10

Drop in Craft - Cute Cacti  
Thursday, August 3  
Attendance - 11

Drop in Craft - Rockin'  
Rainbow Clouds  
Sunday, August 6  
Attendance - 5

Drop in Craft - Bugs on a  
Branch  
Wednesday, August 9  
Attendance - 24

Drop in Craft - Shelly Sea  
Creatures

Thursday, August 10  
Attendance - 28

Drop in Craft - Terrific Tents  
Saturday, August 12  
Attendance - 24

Drop in Craft - Wacky  
Whales  
Wednesday, August 16  
Attendance - 17

Drop in Craft - Amazing  
Airplanes  
Thursday, August 17  
Attendance - 12

Drop in Craft - Splashy  
Submarines  
Saturday, August 19  
Attendance - 4

Drop in Craft - Cool Card-  
board Cards  
Wednesday, August 23  
Attendance - 4

Drop in Craft - Awesome  
Alligator  
Thursday, August 24  
Attendance - 5

Drop in Craft - Summer S'-  
Mores  
Saturday, August 26  
Attendance - 3

Drop in Craft - Fantastic  
Fairy Houses  
Sunday, August 27  
Attendance - 8

City of Kenora Winter Ban-  
ner Design Workshops  
Sept 9, 16, 23  
Attendance - 12

Bedazzled Clay Turtle  
September 30

Presented by Nicole Melillo  
Attendance - 22

Fantastic Art (ages 5-9)  
Tuesdays in October and  
November  
Attendance - 14

Fantastic Art (ages 9-14)  
Wednesdays in October and  
November  
Attendance - 18

Drop in Craft - Driftwood  
Wands  
Saturday, October 14  
2pm-4pm  
Attendance - 49

Family Crafternoon: Illumi-  
nated Haunted Houses  
Saturday, October 21  
Attendance - 23

Drop in Craft - Paper Plat  
Dragons  
Saturday, November 4  
Attendance - 8

Drop in Craft - Pipe Cleaner  
Dragons  
Saturday, November 25  
Attendance - 11

Winter Wonder (5-9)  
Tuesdays, November 28 -  
December 19  
Attendance - 13

Winter Wonder (9-14)  
Wednesdays, November 29 -  
December 12  
Attendance - 10

Family Crafternoon - Gin-  
gerbread Houses  
Saturday, December 2  
Attendance - 5



Family Crafternoon -  
Holiday Ornaments  
Saturday, December 9  
Attendance - 19

#### **TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN CHILDREN/FAMILY PROGRAMMING - 712**



The Wiersma family pose with their splendid creations

#### **►ADULT & TEEN PROGRAMMING**

All programmes presented by Shelby Smith unless otherwise noted

Dreamcatcher Workshop (ages 12+)  
Saturday, January 7  
Presented by Zachary Geyshick (in partnership with the Ne-Chee Friendship Centre)  
Attendance - 17

Painting with Paper Napkins (55+ and Free Program)  
Friday, January 13

Presented by Laurie Dufresne  
Attendance - 15

Artist Talk with Anong Migwans Beam (55+ and Free Program)  
Friday, February 10  
Presented by Anong Migwans Beam  
Attendance - 5

Portrait Painting a la Laurie Dufresne

Saturday, February 25

Led by Laurie Dufresne

Attendance - 6

Feather on a Platter

Thursday, March 2

Presented by Kris Goold

Attendance - 10

Film Screening - Leo Mol in Light and Shadow (55+ and Free program)

Thursday, March 9

Attendance - 27

Fish on a Platter

Thursday, March 23

Presented by Kris Goold

Attendance - 12

Film Screening - Art & Crimes by Crimes

Friday, April 24

Attendance - 25

Painting Workshop with Patrick Hunter

Saturday, March 25

Presented by Patrick Hunter

Attendance - 26

Mushroom in a Bowl

Thursday, April 20

Presented by Kris Goold

Attendance - 11

Open Studio

Fridays, 11:00 - 5:00

Attendance - 17

A Reading of *Kingfisher Days* by author Susan Coyne

Saturday, April 15

Attendance - 42

Meet the Artists/Curator: In the Middle of the World

Presented by Judy Martin, Penny Berens, and

Miranda Bouchard

Friday, May 12

Attendance - 8

Artists/Curator Talk/Curator: In the Middle of the World

Presented by Judy Martin, Penny Berens, and Miranda Bouchard

Friday, May 12

Attendance - 15

Artists/Curator Guided Tour of In the Middle of the World

Saturday, May 13

Attendance - 20

Western Voices in Canadian Art

Presented by Pat Bovey

Monday, July 31

Attendance - 26

Tuesday Night Speaker Series - Walter J.

Phillips: A Growing Collection.

Presented by Sophie Lavoie

Tuesday, August 15

Attendance - 30

Tuesday Night Speaker Series - Make Believe: What We See vs. What We Know.

Presented by Tammy Zebruck

Tuesday, August 22

Attendance - 18

Guided Tour - The W.J. Phillips Collection

Presented by Kristen Malbranck

Thursday, August 24

Attendance - 4

Tuesday Night Speaker Series - Olafur Eliasson: Art and Altruism. A discussion of Eliasson's global perspective and how his creations encourage us to think outside of the box.

Presented by Susan Bulman

Tuesday, August 29

Attendance - 16

Dragon's Eye in Soft Pastel (14+)

November 16

Attendance - 5

Watercolour Holiday Cards

Saturday, November 18

Presented by Susan Bulman  
Attendance - 16

Painting with Paper Napkins  
Presented by Laurie Dufresne  
November 30  
Attendance - 9

Trio of Christmas Trees  
Presented by Laurie Dufresne  
December 7  
Attendance - 6

### **TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN ADULT PROGRAMMING - 417**

The joy of creativity and creation fills the air in the Konantz Studio at the Douglas Family Art Centre



### **► VISITS TO/FROM SCHOOLS**

King George VI School  
February 15  
Museum and Art Centre visit - 2 classes  
Attendance - 43

Valleyview School  
February 16  
Museum and Art Centre visit - Grades 5 and 6  
Attendance - 37

St Louis School  
February 17  
Museum and Art Centre - Grade 6  
Attendance - 20

Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys School  
March 8  
Museum and Art Centre visit - Grade 6  
Attendance - 26

Baibombbeh School

April 25  
Museum and Art Centre visit - Grades 4-6  
Attendance - 23

King George VI School  
April 27  
Art Centre - for arts activity  
Attendance - 21

Keewatin Public School  
May 4  
Museum and Art Centre visit - Grades 1/2  
Attendance - 22

Sacred Heart School Sioux Lookout  
May 11  
Museum and Art Centre visit - Grades 4-8  
Attendance - 41

Evergreen School  
May 16

Museum and Art Centre visit - Grades 1/2  
Attendance - 18

Valleyview School  
May 25

Museum and Art Centre visit - Grades 5/6  
Attendance - 21

Sioux Narrows Public School  
May 31

Art Centre - for arts activity - Grades K-6  
Attendance - 34

King George, Evergreen, & Valleyview  
June 15

Early On: A Walk in the Wilderness  
Kindergarten classes  
Attendance - 46

Valleyview School  
June 16  
Museum and Art Centre visit  
Attendance - 82

Evergreen School  
June 16  
Museum and Art Centre visit- Grades 2/3 &  
4/5  
Attendance - 47

King George School  
June 16  
Art Centre Craft  
Attendance - 25

Keewatin Public School

June 20  
Museum and Art Centre visit- Grades 4/5 &  
5/6  
Attendance - 26

Valleyview Public School  
June 21  
Museum and Art Centre visit- Grades 1 & 2/3  
Attendance - 44

Keewatin Public School  
June 23  
Museum and Art Centre visit- Grades 2/3  
Attendance - 22

Valleyview School  
November 28  
Museum and Art Centre - Grade 5  
Attendance - 24

Valleyview School  
November 29  
Museum and Art Centre - Grade 6  
Attendance - 39

King George School  
November 30  
Grade 1  
Attendance - 21

Keewatin Public School  
December 13  
Museum and Art Centre visit- Grade 5  
Attendance - 22

## **TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL PROGRAMMING - 615**



Painting smocks help make sure that everyone leaves the Konantz studio wearing only the colours they arrived in. They make so many more activities available to school groups!

## ►VISITS TO/FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS OR SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, ETC.

All programmes presented by Shelby Smith unless otherwise noted

Cadet Troop  
January 31  
Attendance - 16

Birthday Party  
February 18  
Age 6  
Theme: Unicorns  
Attendance - 28

Awesome Adventures Guided Tour and Art  
Activity  
March 14  
Attendance - 23

Birthday Party  
April 1  
Age 7  
Theme: Dinosaurs/Volcanoes  
Attendance - 15

Birthday Party  
April 29  
Age 10  
Theme: Cats/Flowers/Printmaking  
Attendance - 17

Birthday Party  
June 17  
Age 5  
Theme: Mixed Media Bugs  
Attendance - 22

The Muse in Minaki  
June 17

Muse co-presentation on history and art in  
Minaki  
by Braden Murray and Sophie Lavoie  
Attendance - 31

Birthday Party  
July 28  
Age 7  
Theme: Mixed Media Flower Pots  
Attendance - 14

Birthday Party  
September 16  
Age 6  
Theme: Mermaids  
Attendance - 26

Boy Scouts Private Art Class  
October 21  
Attendance - 16

Birthday Party  
November 9  
Age 5  
Theme: Spiderman/Minecraft/Masks  
Attendance - 13

Private Paint Night  
November 23  
Private group event  
Attendance - 15

**TOTAL PARTICIPATION BY COMMUNITY GROUPS - 236**





A crowd of 30+ welcomed Sophie Lavoie and Braden Murray for *The Muse in Minaki*. A successful first time event meant to reach out to our friends down the river!



Bryce Douglas addressed the crowd at the July 16th Summer Celebration. In his speech Bryce officially launched the Lori Nelson Living Legacy Fund.

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## EXHIBITIONS

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### ►ART CENTRE - TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Piitwewetam: Making is Medicine  
mid-September - January 21, 2023  
Susan and Jim Hill Gallery

Wes and Rachelle Siegrist: Exquisite Miniatures  
January 10 - March 15, 2023  
Richardson Family Gallery

Anong Migwans Beam  
January 31 - April 8  
Susan and Jim Hill Gallery

Beyond the Bars  
February 1 - March 19, 2023  
Community Gallery

Judy Martin and Penny Berens: In the Middle of the World:  
March 30 - June 17  
Richardson Family Gallery

Olivia Whiddon and Teresa Bowyer: Written by Water  
April 15 - July 6  
Susan and Jim Hill Gallery

Kingfisher Days: A Tale of Wonder  
April 19 - June 3  
Community Gallery

Early Years: A Walk in the Wilderness Art Exhibition  
June 13-16, 2023  
Konantz Studio Gallery

Walter J. Phillips: The Gift of Art  
June 24 - September 16

Richardson Family Gallery & Susan and Jim Hill Gallery

Hands On: Bill McFarlane Prints  
July 6 - September 5  
Community Gallery

Mirror's Echo: Marsha Whiddon  
Oct 07 - January 20, 2024  
Richardson Family Gallery

Irene McCuaig: Here be Dragons  
October 14 - January 13, 2024  
Susan and Jim Hill Gallery

Deck the Halls  
November 25 - December 22  
Community Gallery

On Temporary Loan  
*Bird Wrap*  
Ivan Eyre bronze  
On loan for 2023 from a private collector

*Take This Pleasure*  
Andrew Salgado painting  
On loan for part of 2023 from a private collector

*Solar Surface*  
Installation by Olafur Eliasson  
On loan from 2021-2026 from a private collector

The Protector  
Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun | Let's:teseltun  
On loan for 2023 from private collector

### ►ART CENTRE TRAVELLING/OFF-SITE EXHIBITIONS

*Nadya Kwandibens: The Red Chair Sessions* - to PAMA: Peel Art Gallery, Museum + Archives

### ► MUSEUM - PERMANENT MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Changeover of a number of large images in the permanent gallery, moving away from the 1980s silkscreen style to the crisp HD with interpretation embedded in the photo.

### ► MUSEUM - TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

Tell Me a Story: Youth Literature and the Holocaust

Travelling exhibit from the Montreal Holocaust Museum

January 24 - March 25, 2023

Something to Talk About: The Story of Kenora's 1973 Bank Robbery

April 11 - June 10

Early Years: A Walk in the Wilderness Art Exhibition

June 13-16, 2023

The Lake of the Woods Quilt Guild Show

June 20 - July 15, 2023

Treaty # 3: Manidoo Mazina'igan – The Sacred Document

July 20 - November 13, 2023

### ► MUSEUM TRAVELLING/OFF-SITE EXHIBITS

Mijjim: Traditional Foods of the Lake of the Woods Anishinaabeg

Schneider Haus

Kitchener, Ontario

September 2022 - May 2023

Dryden, Ontario

June 2023 - September 2023

Mijjim: Traditional Foods of the Lake of the Woods Anishinaabeg

Dryden and Region Museum

We Were Taught Differently: The Indian Residential School Experience

Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre

Shaunavon, SK

August 2023 - November 2023



The *Treaty # 3: Manidoo Mazina'igan – The Sacred Document* Exhibit showed at the Museum from July 20 - November 10.



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## FACILITY USE / RENTALS

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### ► MUSEUM

Narratives Inc.  
February 24  
Board Room

Beaver Brae Secondary School Graduation  
marshalling location  
June 29  
Entire Facility

Kenora District Service Board  
August 11  
Board Room

Rob McInnis Photography Zoom Presentation  
September 2

Board Room

Private Wedding  
October 26 -  
Parlour

Meeting Rental  
Pimachiowin Aki Inc  
October 26  
Board Room

Christmas Party  
Northern Ontario School of Medicine  
December 21  
Entire Facility

### ► ART CENTRE

Ministry of Attorney General - swearing-in  
ceremony  
February 6  
Entire Facility

Wedding  
March 31  
Richardson Family Gallery

Porcupine Quill Workshop  
June 1&2  
Gail Konantz Studio

Kenora Writers Group Workshop  
July 15  
Gail Konantz Studio

Meeting Rental  
August 1 & 2  
Multipurpose room

Gallery Rental  
September 14  
Richardson Family Gallery

Birthday Rental  
September 30

Meeting Rental  
October 12  
Multipurpose Room



Excited grads from Beaver Brae Secondary School marshal for their graduation march at the Lake of the Woods Museum on June 29, 2023

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## FINANCES

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### ► FINANCIAL AUDIT

An audited financial report for 2023 will be presented to the Museum Board in the spring/summer of 2024.

### ► SPECIAL FUNDING/GRANTS MUSEUM

- Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries - Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) - \$29,096
- Government of Canada - Canadian Heritage Covid Recovery Funding - \$10,589 (1/4 of a payment carried over from 2022)
- Young Canada Works (YCW) - summer student employment - \$7,175
- Seniors Community Grant - \$1187

NOTE: This amount shared with Art Centre

- Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation grant - for the exhibit *The Kenora Bank Robbery* exhibit - \$6,000

NOTE: This grant was actually received in 2022 but was deferred until it was expended in 2023.

- Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation grant - for archiving the Reg Clayton Enterprise Photo Collection- \$3,818

**TOTAL - \$57,865**

## ART CENTRE

- The Gail Konantz Art Education Fund - from the Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation- \$5835
  - Douglas Family Art Centre Legacy Fund - from the Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation
- Regional Community Foundation agency fund - \$22,090
- Seniors Community Grant - (see above)
  - Young Canada Works (YCW) - summer student employment - \$7,778
  - Canadian Mental Health Association - \$500
  - Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig - \$1000

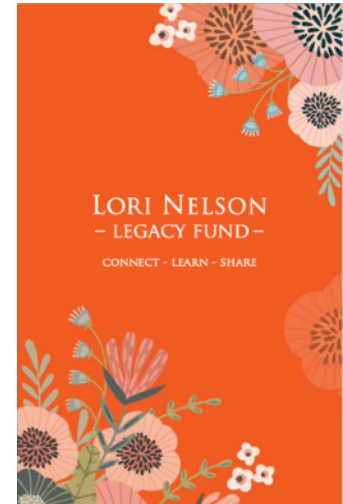
**TOTAL - \$37,203**

## ► ACTIVE FUNDRAISING

Lori Nelson Living Legacy Fund's value as of December 31st, 2023 was \$101,627.03. The active portion of this fundraising campaign has ended as of the end of 2023.

Anthea Murray Memorial Fund - \$9683.20.

This fund was put toward the purchase of the WJ Phillips piece *Stream at Keewatin*



## ► PASSIVE FUNDRAISING

Passive fund raising occurs through a number of vehicles which include: the Museum and Art Centre's donation jars; sale of *The Explorers Guide of Lake of the Woods*, sale of The Muse re-useable bags, and the sale of various other books, photos and prints.

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# GOVERNANCE

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## ► BOARD

Chair - Robert Bulman

Vice-Chair - Lisa Lyle

Secretary / Treasurer - Reid Thompson

Board Members - Jamie Clinton (resigned in October), Charito Gallivan, Anna Harty, Greg Holland (resigned in December), Cheryl Mosindy, Hannah Edie

Council Representative - Lindsay Koch

Council Representative Alternate - Graham Chaze

## ► BOARD MEETINGS

No. of board meetings held - 11

## ► ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- Indigenous Advisory Committee - Geraldine Kakeeway, Mary Alice Smith, Colette Surovy, Tania Cameron, Theresa Jamieson, Charito Gallivan, Lisa Lyle, Braden Murray, Marcus Jeffrey, Lori Nelson (until June retirement).

Meetings - 9

- Art Centre Advisory Committee - Robin Harper, Erin O'Hara, Cheryl Mosindy, Shawn Bailey (resigned in March), Anita Cameron (joined in April), Tersoo Tsevende (joined in April), Sophie Lavoie, Shelby Smith, Tammy Zebruck, Lori Nelson (until June retirement), Braden Murray. Meetings - 11
- Museum Advisory Committee - Lorelei Van Belleghem, Lesley Ratchford, Gloria Harvie, Braden Murray, Lori Nelson (until retirement in June), Marcus Jeffrey. Codie Brook Goodman. Meetings - 7
- Executive - Robert Bulman, Lisa Lyle, Reid Thompson, Lori Nelson (until retirement in June), Braden Murray. Meetings - 3

#### ► AD HOC COMMITTEES

- Membership Strategy Team - Marcus Jeffrey, Sophie Lavoie, Lori Nelson.
- Selection Committee - Robert Bulman, Charito Gallivan, Lindsay Koch, Lisa Lyle, Reid Thompson.
- Diverse Revenue Stream Team - Braden Murray, Robert Bulman, Shelby Smith,
- Passive Fundraising Revenue Team - Shelby Smith, Marcus Jeffrey, Lesley Ratchford, Lori Nelson
- Lori Nelson Legacy Fund - Jennifer Findley, Ferg Devins, Dorothea Belanger, Sophie Lavoie

#### ► STRATEGIC PLANNING

The 2021-2023 Strategic Plan was as follows:

Vision: To build a stronger community by inspiring a passion for our history, arts and culture that has an impact regionally, nationally and beyond.

Mission: To bring enjoyment and an understanding of art, history and cultural heritage while inspiring creativity and encouraging lifelong learning for the communities we serve.

Values: respect, excellence, creativity, courage, collaboration.

Strategic Objectives:

##### 1. Vitality: Strength in Resources

- Secure sound fiscal standing and sustainability.
- Establish human resource needs.
- Ensure an effective board that provides effective skills
- Ensure the preservation of vulnerable collections.

##### 2. Partnerships: Health in Relationship-based Collaborations

- Strengthened relationships with Indigenous communities and policies regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.
- Build and nurture partnerships with community and regional groups and organizations, including schools, art groups, partners with Tourism Keno-ra, industry relationships, volunteer partnerships.

##### 3. Impact and Engagement: Effectiveness in Outcomes

- Ensure a high standard of excellence in all program areas including exhibitions, research, programming, collections, interpretation, gift shops.
- Effectively communicate to existing Muse stakeholders and potential audiences.
- Contribute to social change and awareness.

A 2023 Strategic Plan Report Card will be presented at the January 2024 board meeting and is available upon request.

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## LIAISON WITH CITY OF KENORA

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### ►COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Lindsay Koch is the City Councillor serving on The Muse Board.

### ►COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Muse is part of the Recreation and Culture Department. The Manager of Recreation and Culture is Andrew Smith.

### ►MEETINGS WITH COUNCIL AND OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES

Community Service Departments Meeting

In attendance: Braden Murray, Shelby Smith, Lori Nelson

To discuss programming and plans.

Meeting - 2

Governance Matters

February 1

In attendance: Robert Bulman, Lisa Lyle, Reid Thompson, Lori Nelson, Kyle Attanasio, Ryan Marsh, Roberta Marsh, Andrew Smith, Stace Gander

Governance Matters

April 11

In attendance: Robert Bulman, Lisa Lyle, Reid Thompson, Lori Nelson, Kyle Attanasio, Ryan Marsh

Supervisory Engagements and Development Sessions (SEADS)

January 19, February 23, March 21, April 20, May 25, June 19, October 26, November 19

Attended by Braden Murray, Lori Nelson (until her retirement in June)

Recreation & Culture Joint Health and Safety Committee

Attendance: Braden Murray, Shelby Smith

Meetings - 4

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## LIAISON WITH REGION & PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

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### ►SUNSET COUNTRY MUSEUM NETWORK

The regional network of museums includes: Atikokan, Dryden, Ear Falls, Emo, Fort Frances, Kainah-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre, Kenora, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay (Thunder Bay Museum and the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame). Two meetings are held annually (spring and fall) and are rotated among the sites. Also attending the meetings are the northwest regional advisors from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries.

Spring Meeting

May 11

Hosted at the Lake of the Woods Museum. Attended by Lori Nelson, Marcus Jeffrey, Braden Murray.

Fall Meeting

October 13

Hosted by the Thunder Bay Museum  
Chaired by Scott Bradley, Thunder Bay Museum.  
Attended by Marcus Jeffrey.

### ►ONTARIO MUSEUM ASSOCIATION DIGITAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lori Nelson served on this committee from March 2022 - May 2023.



The Muse Indigenous Advisory Committee met weekly through the winter of 2023 to research and write Treaty # 3: Manidoo Mazina'igan – The Sacred Document exhibit.



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## MAINTENANCE - BUILDING AND GROUNDS

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### ► MUSEUM

#### 1. Inspections –

- Monthly health and safety inspections and meetings.
- Monthly fire extinguisher inspection by staff.
- Monthly emergency light inspection by staff.
- Monthly carbon monoxide alarm inspection by staff.
- Regular building inspections.
- Annual inspection of sprinkler system.
- Annual inspection of fire extinguishers and emergency lights.
- Twice annual electrical safety inspection.
- Annual inspection of fire alarm system.
- Monthly environmental readings

2. Cleaning - weekly cleaning (January to December) and twice-weekly cleaning during July and August, done by Julie Hamill.

3. Assessment of HVAC controls by Ainsworth.

3. Twice annual HVAC maintenance.

4. Shovelling as needed, done by City of Kenora

5. Exterior Lights replaced, done by City of Kenora

6. Regular needle pick up and tidying of the park, by staff

### ► ART CENTRE

#### 1. Inspections –

- Monthly health and safety inspections and meetings.
- Monthly fire extinguisher inspection by staff.
- Monthly emergency light inspection by staff.
- Monthly carbon monoxide alarm inspection by staff.
- Regular building inspections.
- Elevator inspections.
- Annual inspection of fire extinguishers and emergency lights.
- Annual inspection of sprinkler system.
- Twice annual electrical safety inspection.
- Monthly environmental readings

2. Shovelling as needed, done by the City of Kenora.

3. Repairs to balcony re: leaking issue.

4. Repairs to entrance paving stones re: tripping issue.

5. Improved door sweeps installed

6. Painting of galleries between exhibitions.

7. Installation of no slip strips on stairs

8. Graffiti removal by Rite Way

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## MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### ► MEDIA

Local Radio - 89.5 The Lake and Q104 FM - An arrangement has been made with both stations to provide advertising as needed for the Museum/ Art Centre, based on a set monthly fee. This includes both on-air and digital media. As well, public service announcements are made as requested. Staff have been guests on the morning show to provide a quick synopsis of special events happening at the Museum and the Art Centre. News from The Muse has also been included on the station's website, Facebook page, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter feed.

CBC Radio - Public service announcements, interviews (in both English and French – thank you Marcus and Sophie), press releases, Twitter, Facebook.

#### Newspaper

Coverage of our activities in the *Kenora Miner and News*. The Muse also has the opportunity to publish a monthly column in the newspaper.

The newspaper also continues to publish a photograph from the Museum's collection on a weekly basis. Occasionally this will be a photograph that needs identification and we've received excellent feedback from the public in assisting us with this.

#### Magazines

*The Lake of the Wood Area News*, which is published five times yearly, includes announcements of our events. We also assist them by providing photographs to accompany articles they publish.

The Museum maintains a presence in the *Ontario Sunset Country Travel and Info Guide*.

*The Cottage Guide* provided us with a colour full-page ad, gratis.

*Border Crossings* - half page ads in this tri-annual national fine arts magazine

### ► IN-HOUSE MARKETING MATERIALS / SOCIAL MEDIA

Posters - advertising specific events (like the temporary exhibits and gift shop sales) were occasionally posted around the city.

Newsletters - published quarterly and mailed (or e-mailed) to all Muse members, capital campaign supporters and the media; available to the public at the Museum and the Art Centre.

The Muse Website - [themusekenora.ca](http://themusekenora.ca)

The Muse Facebook page - Regularly updated.

Followers in 2023 - 3086

Followers in 2022 - 2,821

Twitter account - occasional updates as deemed appropriate.

Instagram account - regularly updated

Followers in 2023 - 1272



Followers in 2022 - 843

TikTok account (launched in September 2023)

Followers in 2023 - 10

Shop the Muse Winter Catalogue - in early December, a gift shop catalogue was developed for primarily Christmas shoppers. It was distributed to local members and supporters. This was an effective way of making people aware of our gift shop offerings and anecdotally we heard from visitors that it was the catalogue that prompted their visit. This is the third year for this publication.

### ► SPECIAL EVENTS

Closing Event Piitwewetam: Making is Medicine

January 19 - Art Centre

Attendance - 30

Closing Ceremony for Piitwewetam: Making is Medicine

January 21 - Ne-Chee Friendship Centre

Attendance - 40

Opening for Kenora District Festival of the Arts exhibition

April 15 - Art Centre

Attendance - 90

Written by Water Exhibit Opening

May 6 - Art Centre

Attendance - 33

Lori Nelson Retirement Event

June 9 - Art Centre

Attendance - 75

Summer Celebration - Douglas Family Art Centre Capital Campaign Wrap Up

July 16 - Art Centre

Attendance - 136

The Sacred Treaty: Treaty 3 150th Event

September 6

Attendance: 58

Exhibition Opening - Marsha Whiddon's Mirror's Echo Exhibition

Saturday, October 7 @ 2pm

Attendance - 10

Exhibition Opening - Irene McQuaig's Here be Dragons Exhibition

Saturday, October 14 @ 2pm

Attendance - 57

Exhibition Opening - Deck The Hall Exhibition

Saturday, November 25 @ 1pm

Attendance - 20

**TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL EVENTS - 549**



Ontario Lt. Governor The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell (L) & Ojibwidaa Francis Kavanaugh visited the Museum on September 6th as part of the Treaty #3 150 Celebration

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## MEMBERSHIPS

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### ► MUSE MEMBERSHIPS

Benefactor (\$1000+) - 5  
Sponsor (\$500 - \$999) - 3  
Sustaining (\$200 - \$499) - 21  
Institutional (\$200) - 9  
Patron (\$150) - 66  
Family (\$75) - 113  
Individual (\$45) - 185  
Total: 402 members

2022 numbers for comparison:

Benefactor (\$1000+) - 8  
Sponsor (\$500 - \$999) - 4  
Sustaining (\$200 - \$499) - 15  
Institutional (\$200) - 10  
Patron (\$150) - 63  
Family (\$75) - 125  
Individual (\$45) - 169  
Total: 395 Members

### ► THE MUSE IS A MEMBER OF:

Association of Manitoba Museums  
Canadian Heritage Information Network  
Canadian Museums Association  
Community Heritage Ontario  
Kenora Chamber of Commerce  
Lake of the Woods Arts Community  
Lake of the Woods Historical Society  
Ontario Historical Society  
Ontario Association of Art Galleries  
Ontario Museum Association  
Sunset Country Museum Network  
Galleries West

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## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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### ►NEW POLICIES:

None

### ►AMENDED POLICIES:

The following policies were adopted by Kenora City Council at the June 21st Council Meeting:

#MU-01-08 Community Policy

#MU-01-09 Conservation Policy

#MU-01-10 Interpretation and Education Policy

#MU-01-11 Investment Policy

#MU-01-12 Reserve Fund Policy

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## RESEARCH

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### ►RESEARCH REQUESTS

At the Museum, we had 121 recorded research requests in 2023. These requests were made in person, via mail, e-mail, or telephone. Each request was answered personally – some require staff to do the research, others involve assisting researchers in gaining access to the material they need.

Here is a sample of local history topics that people were researching in 2023:

- 1898 typhoid epidemic
- Princess Patricia in Kenora
- Arctic Dovekie sighting in Kenora in 1930
- LOTW Ship Wrecks
- Dams in Kenora
- St Mary's site 1970s Kindergarten

### ►IN-HOUSE RESEARCH

1. Production of off-site programming presentations, e.g the Cemetery Tours, school presentations, talks to various community groups.
2. Exhibit research - postcard exhibit, bank robbery exhibit including assisting CTV's W5 documentary, Treaty #3 150th Anniversary
3. Educational programming for children, adults, school classes and community groups, e.g. Curator Talks, curriculum-based programs, art programming.
4. Publications like the newsletter.
5. Other publications which print features by The Muse staff.
6. The Muse blog and social media posts.
7. Cataloguing – includes use of our research library, internet, and consultation, through the museum listserv, with other museum and art professionals.
8. New products for the gift shop.
9. Social media marketing.

10. Establishment of WJ Phillips archive, including all his columns in the Winnipeg Tribune and Beaver Magazine, and researching local and regional connections and relationships.
11. Creation of brochure on the history of the former Land Titles building

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## SHOP THE MUSE

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### ►ART CENTRE

The focus is the arts, which includes an interesting selection of art books for both children and adults; art supplies and games; unique items.

Other speciality items include:

The Muse soap made by the Lake of the Woods Sunrise Soap Company; Lake of the Woods blankets; and Walter J. Phillips prints and cards.

Consignment agreements have been signed with a number of local artists who are providing us with: glassworks, paintings, sculpture, jewelry, miniatures, cards.

### ►MUSEUM

Books continue to be the bestsellers, so much of the purchasing is focused on finding new titles, as well as keeping a steady stock of our local and most popular books.

The gift shop stocks over 500 unique titles and/or giftware items, with an average price of approximately \$10.00 per item.

Books: Adult, young adult and children; fiction and non-fiction including a variety of cookbooks; strong collection of First Nations titles, both for children and adults. Books with a local connection continue to be the bestsellers.

Stationery: All-occasion cards and postcards by local artists; Peter Pauper Press stationery and journals; mini notebooks, bookmarks and stickers; adult colouring books and pencils.

Children's products: Books, puzzles, crafts, magnetic kits, Scratch and Sketch books, stickers, DIY kits and traditional games.

Miscellaneous: Lake of the Woods Sunrise Soap Co.; Cardboard Safari moose, deer, bear and bass mounts, wreaths and pine cones; magnets; ornaments; historical prints and photographs.

On Consignment: We continue to carry a few items on consignment - primarily locally published books.

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## STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

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### ►STAFF

staff members at The Muse for 2023.

Lori Nelson - Director (until retirement in June)  
Braden Murray - Museum Curator until May  
Named Director in May  
Marcus Jeffrey - Museum Registrar  
Sophie Lavoie - Art Centre Curator  
Shelby Smith - Art Centre Programmer  
Codie Brook Goodman - Museum Curator (Started Sept 26)  
Tammy Zebruck - Administrative Assistant (contract position)

### ►SUMMER STAFF

Four summer students were hired by The Muse in 2023 – Ashley Vogrig and Amelia DeGagne for the Lake of the Woods Museum and Cloe Hinz and Noah Kaldewey for the Douglas Family Art Centre. The students started work on May 23 and worked through to the end of August.

### ►VOLUNTEERS

Exclusive of Board and Committee members (mentioned under Governance)

Other Volunteers:

Geri Beveridge, Susan Bulman, Rolanda Peacock, Sue Straight, Dawna White, Kristen Malbranck

Volunteers in total (includes board and committee members) - 28

### ►PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

First Aid Training  
January 10-11  
Presented by Bruce Graham of the City of Kenora  
Attended by Sophie Lavoie, Shelby Smith, Tammy Zebruck  
January 23  
Attended by Braden Murray  
Dealing with Difficult People AND De-escalating Potentially Violent Situation  
January 13  
Presented by Bruce Graham of the City of Kenora  
Attended by Marcus Jeffrey  
January 18  
Attended by Sophie Lavoie and Braden Murray

Strategies for Attracting Audiences  
January 25  
Presented by Business / Arts  
Attended by Sophie Lavoie  
Photograph on a Dime: Thrifty Tools and Free Software for Heritage Professionals  
February 9 and 16  
Presented by the Canadian Conservation Institute  
Attended by Braden Murray  
Keela Training  
February 8  
Presented by Marcus Jeffrey  
Attended by Braden Murray, Tammy Zebruck, Lori Nelson, Sophie Lavoie, Shelby Smith  
Diversifying Revenue Webinar

February 21  
Presented by the Alberta Museums Association and Global Philanthropic Canada  
Attended by Tammy Zebruck

Naxolone Training  
Presented by St. John's Ambulance  
February 23  
Attended by Braden Murray

Portrait Painting à la Laurie Dufresne  
Presented by Laurie Dufresne  
February 25  
Attended by Shelby Smith

Beyond GLAM Land Acknowledgements: Activating Decolonization and Indigenization in Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums  
March 1  
Presented by the Ontario College of Art and Design  
Attended by Marcus Jeffrey

Actionable Online Accessibility  
Presented by OMA - Small Bytes Webinar series  
March 2  
Attended by Lori Nelson

Approaches to Online Exhibits  
Presented by OMA - Small Bytes Webinar series  
March 9  
Attended by Braden Murray

Honouring and Amplifying Interconnection  
Presented by Julie Bevan  
March 9  
Attended by Sophie Lavoie

Innovating Rural Art Initiatives  
March 28  
Presented by Business/ Arts  
Attended by Sophie Lavoie

Comfort with Discomfort

Presented by City of Kenora and Dr. Marvin Washington  
April 3-4  
Attended by Lori Nelson

April 5  
Attended by Braden Murray, Sophie Lavoie, Shelby Smith, Tammy Zebruck  
(slide deck reviewed by Marcus Jeffrey)

Conflict of Interest  
Presented by The City of Kenora  
April 20  
Attended by The Muse Board members, Lori Nelson

Accessibility Planning for Ontario Museums  
Presented by the Ontario Museum Association  
April 27  
Attended by Lori Nelson

Sunset Country Museum Network meeting in the Art Centre MPR.  
16 attendees from across NW Ontario, as well as reps from province  
May 11  
Attended by Lori Nelson and Marcus Jeffrey

Midewiwin Lodge Gathering  
Presented by the Midewiwin Lodge  
June 11  
Attended by Marcus Jeffrey

OMA Decolonization Workshop  
Presented by the Ontario Museum Association  
November 1  
Attended by Codie Brook Goodman

Midewiwin Lodge Gathering  
Presented by the Midewiwin Lodge  
November 4  
Attended by Marcus Jeffrey

Arts Donor: Motivators and Barriers webinar  
Presented by Charity Village  
November 15  
Attended by Sophie Lavoie

OMA Contemporary Interpretive Writing  
Workshop  
Presented by the Ontario Museum Association  
November 16  
Attended by Codie Brook Goodman

Risk Management  
Presented by City of Kenora  
November 23  
Attended by Braden Murray

Gathering of the Gashkibidaagan and Wiig-  
waasabakoon  
Kenora Chiefs Advisory  
November 20-24  
Attended by Braden Murray and Marcus Jeffrey

OMA Advocacy Workshop  
Presented by the Ontario Museum Association  
November 30  
Attended by Codie Brook Goodman