EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT THE FORT ST. JOHN NORTH PEACE MUSEUM SPRING & SUMMER 2025

Special Travelling Exhibit: Land of Thundering Snow NEW

- Astounding Avalanches Program NEW

Curriculum-Based Educational Programs

- Building the Alaska Highway
- Minding the Fort: Fort St. John & the Fur Trade MOST POPULAR
- Wild Animals of the North Peace MOST POPULAR

Guided Tours MOST POPULAR

Scavenger Hunts

- Scavenger Hunts inside the Museum
- Transportation Scavenger Hunt
- Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt
- Heritage Building Scavenger Hunts MOST POPULAR

Educational Programs

- Birds of the North Peace NEW
- Doctors, Nurses & Hospitals of the North Peace
- One-Room Schools of the North Peace
- Marvellous Mushrooms
- Rodents of the North Peace
- A Date with Dinosaurs
- Marine Dinosaurs

Explanation of Fees

Shape Your Learning Experience

LAND OF THUNDERING SNOW

Exploring Avalanche history and safety in Canada

The North Peace Historical Society & Fort St. John North Peace Museum are pleased to announce that we are hosting a special exhibition, Land of Thundering Snow, from the Revelstoke Museum & Archives from mid-April through September this year.

This travelling exhibit teaches visitors about avalanches. Propelled by gravity, snow avalanches are releases of snow that rush downhill in steep terrain, altering the landscape and ecosystem as they pass. The unimaginable power of an avalanche carves new patterns into the landscape, and becomes fresh ground for species of plants and animals that thrive in slide paths.

The exhibit also emphasizes the impact that avalanches have had on human settlement, migration, travel, and transportation. From the mapping of railway and highways to the technological advances of avalanche mitigation, the story of avalanches encompasses the story of humans and landscape and ties them together for museum visitors in an engaging and interactive experience.

This exhibit will be included in our guided tours this spring and summer or classes/camps can choose to do our brand new Astounding Avalanches program.



Revelstoke Museum & Archives

Astounding Avalanches Program

Massive, destructive, powerful, and deadly…. Avalanches change landscapes and lives.

Learn how avalanches start. Discover the impact avalanches have on the landscape including wildlife and plants. Learn about avalanche safety.

Find out how avalanches have shaped Canadian history from settlement to transportation. Learn about some of the most notable avalanches in Canadian history.

Try an avalanche experiment. Make an avalanche “snow globe” craft to take home.

This program is aimed at grades 2-6 or can be done for a range of ages (summer camps, homeschool groups, etc.)





Duration: 75 minutes
Cost: $95 plus GST per class (max. 30 students). Adults are free of charge.
PROGRAM FEES ARE DUE BEFORE OR ON THE DAY OF THE PROGRAM.

An adult must accompany every ten students in an elementary class. We recommended more accompanying adults for grade three and under. It is the responsibility of the teacher and accompanying adult volunteers to maintain discipline throughout the visit.

Please note: This program is also available to come to your classroom for an additional $15 as long as your school is within a 15-minute drive of the museum. We do the driving and save you the hassle of arranging a bus to the museum.

If you have any questions or would like to book a tour or program please contact Heather Sjoblom at fsjnpmuseum@fsjmail.com or 250-787-0430 or stop by the museum (9323 100 Street). Please book at least two weeks in advance to avoid disappointment. Any cancellations must be made by phone (250-787-0430) at least 48 hours in advance or a $20 cancellation fee will apply.

Building the Alaska Highway Program

From muskeg to mosquitoes, building the Alaska Highway was a challenge. Discover the stories behind this man-made marvel of engineering.



This program is aimed at grade one* and focuses on this key event in our history and how it changed the lives of settlers and local Indigenous Peoples.

Students will learn about the reasons behind building the highway, the process of construction from surveying to bridge building, the experiences of construction workers, the impact of the highway on Fort St. John and Indigenous Peoples, and travel and tourism today. Using historic photographs, archival footage, stories, and interactive activities, this program helps students to understand the difficult work of building the highway. At the end of the program, students will make two Alaska Highway related crafts – bulldozers and mosquitoes.

*This program has also been adapted for middle school and high school students with a longer presentation, film clips, and questions instead of crafts.

Duration: 75 minutes
Cost: $95 plus GST per class (max. 30 students). Adults are free of charge.
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MOST POPULAR

Minding the Fort: Fort St. John & the Fur Trade Program



Experience Fort St. John's rich fur trade history from 1794 to 1938 through the artefacts at the Fort St. John North Peace Museum!

Aimed at grade four*, this program examines the economic and technological exchanges between fur traders and Aboriginal people in the Peace Region.

Students will learn about the introduction of new materials and technologies to First Nations in this area. They will be able to see and pass around archaeological artefacts found at forts in this area.

They will understand the technologies used in bringing trade items from Europe to the Peace Region.

Students will learn about bartering through a fur trade exchange activity. They will also learn about the Made Beaver system of value.

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*This program has been adapted for middle school and high school history classes as well. It has also been done for a range of ages for home schools. There is also a shorter version for grades 2-3.

Duration: 90 minutes
Cost: $95 plus GST per class (max. 30 students). Adults are free of charge.
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Wild Animals of the North Peace Program



The biodiversity of the North Peace Region is extensive. Following the science curriculum for grades one, two, three, and four, this program looks at local wildlife – their names (including Dane-Zaa names), features, and behavioural adaptations. Students will spot the differences between parents and offspring. They'll discover the place these animals hold in local food chains and food webs. Students will learn about the seasonal rounds made by the Dane-Zaa (Beaver First Nations) while hunting and gathering across the Peace Region and beyond.

Using photographs, taxidermy animals, stories, interactive activities, and crafts, this program introduces students to the amazing biodiversity of the North Peace. Students will sort and classify information by matching tracks to wildlife and identifying taxidermy animals in the museum. They'll make moose antlers, lynx masks, and beaver finger puppets to take home with them.

This is one of our most popular programs. It has been updated with a new food web and lynx mask craft. If you think your students or campers may have done this program before, take a look at our rodents program instead. We can add in some terms and food web information with the rodents program if requested.

Duration: 90 minutes
Cost: $95 plus GST per class (max. 30 students). Adults are free of charge.
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An adult must accompany every ten students in an elementary class. We recommended more accompanying adults for grade three and under. It is the responsibility of the teacher and accompanying adult volunteers to maintain discipline throughout the visit.

Please note: This program is also available to come to your classroom for an additional $15 as long as your school is within a 15-minute drive of the museum. We do the driving and save you the hassle of arranging a bus to the museum. Activities involving identifying taxidermy animals in the museum will not be part of the travelling version.

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MOST POPULAR

Guided Tours

The North Peace Historical Society provides guided tours of the Fort St. John North Peace Museum for all age groups. Staff and volunteers, who share the history of Fort St. John from the dinosaurs to today, lead these groups.

These tours can emphasize almost any topic your class is studying, such as community, the fur trade, transportation, natural resources, communication, etc. Let us know how we can shape your tour. Tours in June will include the travelling exhibition, BC's Marvellous Mushrooms.



Duration: 30 minutes for kindergarten or 45-60 minutes for grades 1 – 12

Cost: $2.50 per student (includes tax). An adult ($8 incl. tax) or senior 65+ ($7 incl. tax) must accompany every ten elementary school students. We recommended more accompanying adults/seniors for grade three and under. It is the responsibility of the teacher and accompanying adult/senior volunteers to maintain discipline throughout the visit.

TOUR FEES ARE DUE BEFORE OR ON THE DAY OF THE TOUR.

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Scavenger Hunts

We have lots of great scavenger hunts to choose from. These hunts can be done instead of a guided tour (same cost as tour) or in addition to a guided tour or educational program for a $10/class fee plus tax. They take about 20-30 minutes to complete unless otherwise stated.

Museum Scavenger Hunts (available year-round)

On the Job: This picture-based scavenger hunt has students finding artefacts in five different business-related or job-related exhibits – the Alaska Highway News, Dr. Szilagyi's dentist office, the schoolhouse, the outpost hospital, and the trapper's cabin.

Useful Items: This picture-based scavenger hunt has students searching for useful items in our kitchen, bedroom, schoolroom, trapper's cabin, and blacksmith displays.

Transportation Scavenger Hunt: Search for photos and artefacts relating to transportation around the museum while learning fun facts about how people got around the north!

Then and Now Scavenger Hunt: Connect the past and the present while searching for historic artefacts grouped around four themes: jobs, medical/dental, transportation, and pioneer home. Students will find objects and answer questions about similarities and differences between the past and present. Aimed at Grades 3 and up (or younger in groups led by teacher/adults).

Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt: Help! 12 small dinosaurs have made themselves at home in our museum exhibits. Students will search for them inside the museum, matching them with their name and picture on the scavenger hunt sheet. This scavenger hunt takes about 10-15 minutes.

Historic Places Scavenger Hunt: Focusing on historic places and buildings, this question-based scavenger hunt is aimed at middle school and high school students and takes about 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

Heritage Building Scavenger Hunts (available May - September)

Please note: Our heritage building scavenger hunts are only available from mid-May through September as our historic buildings are closed when temperatures fall to 0˚C overnight.



Heritage Building Photo Scavenger Hunts

Choose from three different photo-based scavenger hunts that take students around the museum's yard, looking at oil and gas equipment, a chapel, a police barracks and jail, a trapper's cabin, and two pioneer cabins.

Heritage Building Question-Based Scavenger Hunt

The question-based scavenger hunt is aimed at older children (grade four and up). It asks questions about the historic buildings and equipment around the museum yard.

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Doctors, Nurses & Hospitals of the North Peace Program

From Anne Roberts Young to Dr. Kearney and from stethoscopes to X-Rays, learn some cool facts and fascinating stories of practicing medicine in the North Peace. An interactive presentation introduces students to some of our early medical professionals and hospitals through photographs, stories, and questions.



Students will have fun reading and interpreting sample X-rays with our X-ray film viewer. They will discover medical items throughout our museum exhibits on our scavenger hunt. Students will make crafts to take home such as a medical kit, X-ray activity, and stethoscope.

This program is aimed at children in kindergarten through grade 5 but could be adapted for older students if there is interest.

Duration: 75 minutes
Cost: $95 plus GST per class (max. 30 students). Adults are free of charge.
PROGRAM FEES ARE DUE BEFORE OR ON THE DAY OF THE PROGRAM.

An adult must accompany every ten students in an elementary class. We recommended more accompanying adults for grade three and under. It is the responsibility of the teacher and accompanying adult volunteers to maintain discipline throughout the visit.

Please note: This program is also available to come to your classroom for an additional $15 as long as your school is within a 15-minute drive of the museum. We do the driving and save you the hassle of arranging a bus to the museum. The scavenger hunt will not be part of the travelling version.

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One-Room Schools of the North Peace Program



What was it like to attend a one-room school in the North Peace about 50-100 years ago? Find out about the ups and downs of our early schools through photos, stories, and an interactive presentation. Learn how to write with pens dipped in ink. Hunt for (paper) mice around the museum… you don't want them eating your school books!

Students will make a 3D paper apple craft, a bookmark, and a schoolhouse mixup cut and paste activity to take home with them.

Duration: 75 minutes
Cost: $95 plus GST per class (max. 30 students). Adults are free of charge.
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Marvellous Mushrooms Program



Discover British Columbia's amazing mushrooms through this educational program. Learn about the life cycle and the anatomy of a mushroom. Find out how to identify different types of local mushrooms and how to forage for mushrooms through videos, photographs, and a presentation.

Vote for whether you think particular types of local mushrooms are edible (yummy), edible (non-toxic), or poisonous/deadly. Learn amazing facts about mushrooms from the enormous fungus to different uses for mushrooms. Did you know Adidas makes a pair of shoes out of mycelium?

Students will go on a mushroom hunt around the museum, searching for photographs of mushrooms and identifying them using a guide. They will make pipe cleaner mushrooms OR 3D paper mushrooms as well as complete a life cycle worksheet.

This program has two versions. One version is aimed at grades 1-4 (shorter presentation with story and crafts) and the other is geared towards grades 5-12 (longer presentation with activities and optional crafts).

Duration: 75 minutes
Cost: $95 plus GST per class (max. 30 students). Adults are free of charge.
PROGRAM FEES ARE DUE BEFORE OR ON THE DAY OF THE PROGRAM.

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Rodents of the North Peace Program



Rodents are scurrying around the Fort St. John North Peace Museum. Join us as we learn about six different local rodents: beavers, meadow voles, porcupines, deer mice, red squirrels, and western chipmunks through a presentation, photographs, and video clips.

Listen to a story about a porcupine. Create a beaver bookmark or notecard, a pinecone squirrel, colourful mice, and a prickly porcupine. Find rodents and rodent-related items in our scavenger hunt around the museum.

This program is aimed at younger students – primarily grades one through five. It's also a fun program for summer camps, clubs, and other organizations.

Duration: 90 minutes
Cost: $95 plus GST per class (max. 30 students). Adults are free of charge.
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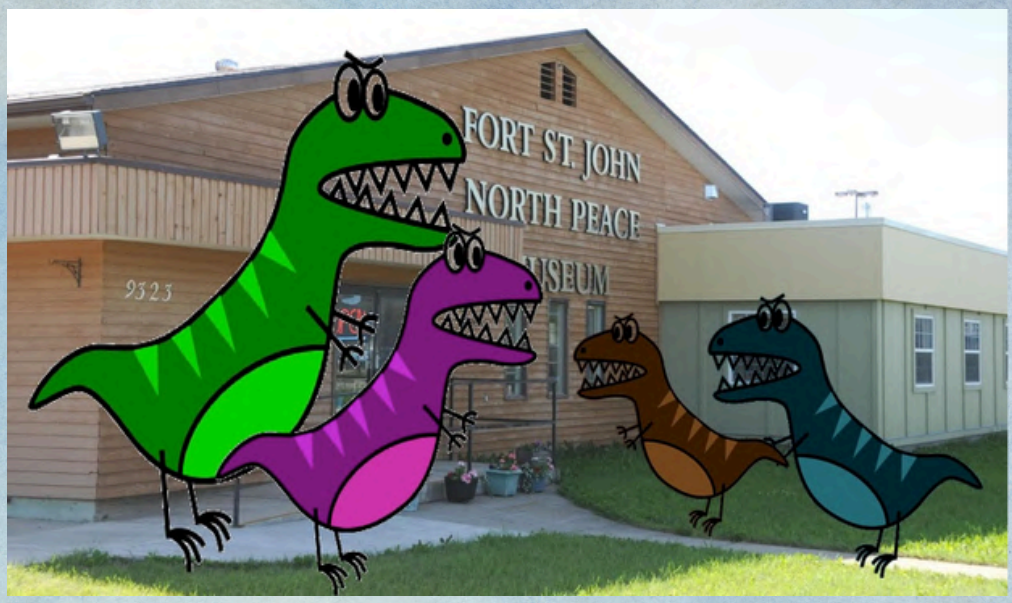
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A Date with Dinosaurs Program

Dinosaurs are invading the Fort St. John North Peace Museum! Come find out about the dinosaurs of the Peace Region from ankylosaurs to plesiosaurs through short video clips and stories. Discover what palaeontologists can learn from dinosaur trackways. Compare your hand size to a dinosaur footprint. Create your own dinosaur crafts to take home. Learn how to make dinosaur shadow puppets.



This program is aimed at younger students – primarily kindergarten through grade three. It is easily adapted for pre-schoolers. It's also a fun program for summer camps, clubs, and other organizations.

Duration: 75 minutes
Cost: $95 plus GST per class (max. 30 students). Adults are free of charge.
PROGRAM FEES ARE DUE BEFORE OR ON THE DAY OF THE PROGRAM.

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Marine Dinosaurs Program



Have you ever wondered what creatures lurked below the waters of the Peace Region in prehistoric times? Come learn about marine dinosaurs from ichthyosaurs to plesiosaurs through videos, stories, images, and fun facts. Make your own dinosaur related crafts to take home with you such as finger puppets, a paper plate ichthyosaur, and more!

This program is aimed at younger students – primarily kindergarten through grade four. It's also a fun program for summer camps, clubs, and other organizations.

Duration: 75 minutes
Cost: $95 plus GST per class (max. 30 students). Adults are free of charge.
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Explanation of Fees & Program Structures

The North Peace Historical Society, a non-profit society, owns and operates the Fort St. John North Peace Museum. The NPHS was founded in 1963. They have operated the Fort St. John North Peace Museum in its current location since 1984.

2025 admission rates are the same as 2024. In February 2024, our admission rates rose by one dollar each. This was the first time in fourteen years that we increased our student admission rate as we aim to keep the museum as accessible as possible. However, given the fact that non-profits in Fort St. John now pay property tax (including school tax) as well as the inflation of the past few years, the NPHS Board decided to increase admission rates by $1 (rates still include GST within that cost) as well as our program fee by $5. Our $95 program fee structures accounts for the time it takes for us to develop programs, prepare craft and activity materials, set-up, present, and take-down programs.

In order to minimize administration costs, payments for tours and programs are due before or on the day of the tour or program. Invoices will be emailed to the teacher or school following the booking of the tour or program. Cheques can be made to the North Peace Historical Society or payment can be made in person by cash, debit, Visa, or MasterCard. Any cancellations must be made by phone (250-787-0430) at least 48 hours in advance or a $20 cancellation fee will apply.

It is important to us that students come to know the history of where they live. At the same time, we need to charge program and tour fees so that the North Peace Historical Society can continue to operate the museum year-round and develop more quality programming.

Due to limited staff resources, we will only be offering one educational program per day. We may be able to offer multiple programs in a day for classes who travel more than 30 minutes to get here or on rare occasions for multiple classes doing the same program (depending on human resources).

We can do two hour-long (or shorter) guided tours immediately following each other in one day if we have enough volunteer tour guides available.



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Shape Your Learning Experience

We want to respond to the interests and needs of our schools and community. We welcome the opportunity to discuss a tailor-made learning experience for your group whether you are looking for an opportunity to have your class do research or learn about other aspects of the history of the North Peace. We are willing to work with teachers to help develop programs that fit in with what they are teaching. We will develop more programs in the future as staff time and resources allow.



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