



Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival
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“Where the Trappers Mix in 2026”

Media Release

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The Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival Board of Directors wants to extend a thank you to the Sam Waller Museum for their work to bring the history of Festival alive in their current exhibit. The exhibit - The History of Trappers' Festival - has been on display since the beginning of December and runs until March 7th. “The Board of Directors had an opportunity to view the exhibit and I can only say it was such a remarkable journey down memory lane,” 2026 Trappers' Festival Chair Lorie Stevenson commented. “I really enjoyed seeing all the old posters, the fur crowns from Festivals long ago and unique and different pieces of Festival memorabilia.”

The exhibit highlights all aspects of Trappers' Festival including old buttons, posters, booklets, photographs, a beautiful beaded jacket, dog race and Fur Queen history, as well as some unique items like an old Festival seal. According to David Makepeace, the Museum's Education & Programming Coordinator the Museum was motivated to do the exhibit because the staff is relatively new to the community and it felt appropriate to do an exhibit on what they were told by many was the premier event for the community and surrounding area. “We chose the items through a loose process of digging through our collection and grabbing basically anything we had in relation to Trappers' Festival, only after we had everything did we begin parsing it down to what we had room to display,” Makepeace explained. He added, “we are hoping visitors get an understanding of both how long Trappers' Festival has been running in our community, the deep history behind it, and how important it has been as part of community identity here in the north. Many places have winter festivals, but there is only one Trappers' Festival,”

In addition to the board of directors, the reigning Fur Queen court and this year's Fur Queen contestants also had an opportunity to view the exhibit. “The display overall was fascinating and I loved seeing the history behind the festival we all love so much,” reigning Fur Queen Autumn Graff commented. “Seeing how much things have developed over the years was so interesting.” Graff added her favourite part was seeing all the Fur crowns from the early days of Trappers. “Seeing the exhibit makes me so honoured to be the Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival Fur Queen and being a part of what will become history. As I looked at the exhibit, it made me think that one day that will be me and people will be so fascinated by Festival history.”

“I really want to encourage everyone in the community to take some time and visit the Museum. This exhibit highlights our Festival’s history and has some really cool things on display,” Stevenson commented. In addition to the exhibit, the Sam Waller Museum is also hosting an event during Trappers’ Festival week - You Are Living History #2 - Can you Hear the Trappers’ Call. The event is being held at the Museum Tuesday, February 17th, with presenters Dr. Keith Hyde and Connie Wyatt Anderson. Both bring a wealth of historical knowledge and an ability to guide conversation around Trappers’ Festival history.

“One of the most unique things about our Festival is the amount of community support we receive annually. This exhibit and the upcoming Trappers’ conversation are another example of this support. The Museum has worked hard to ensure that our Festival’s history is on display and not forgotten and we strongly encourage people to come out and support these efforts,” Stevenson said.

The Northern Manitoba Trappers’ Festival will be celebrating its 79th Festival this year, February 18-22nd. Trappers’ Festival is the longest running winter festival in Manitoba and the second longest winter festival in Canada. Trappers’ Festival is proud to host the World Championship Dog Races, King and Queen competition as well as more than 20 events for people of all ages. Check out Northern Manitoba Trappers’ Festival Facebook & Instagram pages or visit our website at www.trappersfestival.ca

