



BIA/Chamber of
Commerce
Monthly
Newsletter for
November 2025

Message from Heather and Rhonda...

As we move into the second newsletter, we're excited to continue to share the many things happening in our community. This month we are highlighting upcoming events, new business spotlights, and community incentives to help keep our local economy strong and welcoming.

We encourage everyone to stay involved - attend an event, shop local, and spread the word about the great things happening right here at home.

Thank you for your continued support in building a stronger, more connected community. Let's grow, celebrate, and make Fort Frances shine together!

Upcoming Events and Networking Opportunities

Chamber of Commerce and BIA Tree Lighting Event

On November 21, please join us at the Market Square for our first annual Tree Lighting Event. The BIA has purchased a 20 foot Christmas tree that will proudly show our community spirit throughout the holiday season.

We are planning some great activities with local support from many businesses and organizations who are all excited to help celebrate Fort Frances and make some family memories and traditions.

Countdown to the Tree Lighting Event for both children and adults will occur in the month of November as well!

Member Spotlight

Featuring Hometown Furniture & Appliance Store!

There's a familiar name on Scott Street that's been part of life in the Rainy River District for generations. Hometown Furniture & Appliances, formerly known as Howarth's Home Centre, has been serving local families since 1950, building a strong reputation for friendly service, knowledgeable staff, and a genuine commitment to its customers and community.

In February 2025, the business entered an exciting new chapter when Alex McQuarrie and Travis Green of Fort Frances took over from Mark Howarth and family. While ownership has changed, the heart of the business remains the same – the same long-term team members continue to greet customers with the same familiar faces and trusted advice that have defined the store for decades.

Community involvement has always been at the core of Hometown's identity. From local fundraisers to supporting charities and events across the district, the store has proudly given back to the community that has supported it for more than 70 years. Alex and Travis are dedicated to carrying on that tradition of local support and engagement, ensuring Hometown Furniture & Appliances continues to play an active role in the region's growth and spirit.

Upcoming Events and Networking Activities

Tree Lighting Event

November 21 - 6pm Market Square

Join us as we kick off the holiday season with our FIRST ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY. Gather your family and friends for an evening filled with community spirit, festive lights and holiday cheer. This year's celebration will feature a variety of fun activities for all ages, including:



- *Elf training sessions include
 - Elf Dancing Lessons - Deb Hebert and Margie Gibson
 - Elf identification and naming - Rikel from NCDS
 - Elf exercises -Muskie Hockey Teams
 - Elf Games - Fort Frances Senior Centre
 - Elf Candy Cane Fishing - Rainy Lake Sports
 - Elf Cookie Decorating - Shelter of Hope and Safeway
 - Elf Face Painting - Jill Caul, Phoenix Debenetti, Frankie Logue
 - Elf Ornaments - Fine Line Gallery
 - Naughty or Nice - CIBC Bank
 - Elf Graduation - Kirsty Sinclair



- *Caroling with Diane Maxey and her Cantata
- *Smores in the Square - Couchiching Fire Dept
- *Gingerbread House raffle - Donated by Meagan Spooner with proceeds going to Couchiching Christmas Hamper fund
 - *Music by the Fort Frances High School Band members
 - *Photography opportunities - Backdrops provided by __
 - *Photographer Alyssa Jae-Lynn to preserve those memories
 - *Photobooth - Fort Frances Library and Technology Center
 - *Hot Cocoa - New Gold
 - *Coffee - McDonald's Restaurant
 - *Gingerbread house
- *Ice Resurfacing Rides and Reindeer food- Causeway Insurance
- *Singing by Jennifer Thorpe
- *Duet with Brittany Strachan and Ken Kellar
- *Ladies Hand Drumming - Couchiching First Nations
- *Food Donations - Salvation Army
- *Opening Ceremonies with Chief Richard Bruyere, Mayor Hallikas and BIA Member Pam Williams
- Lighting of the Tree - Volunteer of the Year Robert Horton
- *Firetruck and Firefighters
- *OPP Car and Officers
- *Santa



AND MORE!!

This year you can make the tree lighting event even more special by purchasing a MEMORY BULB. Each bulb represents a cherished memory, a loved one or a personal wish for the season - and once it is placed on the tree, it will shine bright. Bulbs will be available for purchase at Victim Services, Northwood Gifts, and Causeway Insurance prior to the event or can be purchased until 6 pm on the day of the tree lighting. Monica Armour will be available to offer an opportunity to have your message written in script.

On the 21st of November visit participating businesses on Scott Street for the Great Holiday Elf Hunt!

Businesses will have an elf hiding in their stores, take a selfie, show it to us at the Tree Lighting event and put your name in to win local gift cards for the businesses on Scott Street! 1 selfie = 1 entry - 4 selfies = 4 entries.

Holiday Survival Basket

Visit stores and leave your entry to win the holiday survival basket. The basket will help get through the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. A mix of cozy comforts, sweet treats and self care must haves...Enter for your chance to win a few surprises to help relax, recharge and enjoy the season!



Countdown to Christmas Tree Lighting For the month of November

We have limited spots available so register soon!

Children's Activities

Fort Frances Museum 6-8 pm
Register by calling (807) 274-7891

November 3 - Gingerbread house decorating with Meghan Spooner and letters to Santa

November 10- Christmas ornament making with SML

Adult Activities

location---

Register by calling (807) 274-5773



November 12 - Paint Night

Instructor Lois Faragher, from Fine Line Gallery will guide participants in creating their own masterpieces at our watercolor paint party! Let your creativity flow!
6:30-9 pm



November 20- Card Making Class

Josie Miller and Joyce Witherspoon will lead us in making beautiful handmade cards and Christmas tags to share with loved ones for the holidays.
7-9pm

November 27 - Ladies Night Shopping Evening -

Visit your local businesses on Scott Street for exclusive deals and enjoy a Caramel Kiss Cocoa from Turtle Island Cafe.

December 11 - Men's Night Shopping Night

Gifts, Deals, Guidance and even wrapping and enjoy a Campfire Cocoa from Turtle Island Cafe.
December 11 till 9pm

Family Christmas Party

November 30 - Metis Hall 1 pm

To register call (807) 274-1172

Join us for fun, games, laughs and memories as we celebrate the holiday season with partners, Rainy River District Shelter of Hope, the Hebert Family, Sunset Country Metis, Oh For Fudge Sakes and the Chamber of Commerce.

That wraps up the Chamber and BIA events, but wait...there's more coming .. Watch for the December calendar!!



Around Town

November 28th Christmas Parade

Jesse Roper Tour De Fort - Tuesday, November 4, 2025
7:30 pm - Townsend Theatre



Christmas Craft Sale - UNFC
Couchiching Multi-Use Building
10 am to 2 pm

November Trivia- Hallett Brewing
Nov. 1 - Name that Tune
Nov 5 - General Knowledge
Nov 18 - Name That Tune
Nov 27 - Classic Video Games

Christmas Hamper Applications for the Salvation Army
Apply for a hamper prior to Nov 28 to ensure you receive the support you need for the holidays. Call (807) 291-0012 for more information. They are also looking for volunteer bell ringers if you are available to help.

Memory Lane Cafe - Alzheimer Society
Nov 5 - Senior Centre 1pm
Call (807) 468-1516 for more info

Holiday Hoedown - Scott Woods - Fiddle Champ and his band
November 30 7pm
Knox United Church Call 1-855-726-8896 to order tickets

Community Health Awareness Event For Body & Mind - Nov 3
Keynote speaker Tyler Smith, Humboldt Broncos Survivor and Mental health advocate
Contact CMHA for more info

NCDS Babysitting Course - Nov 7
Email Cathy at cm3@ncds4obs.ca for information

Nov 2 - Legion Remembrance Day Tea 2-4pm
at the Fort Frances Legion

Nov 22 - Knox United Church Christmas Luncheon and Bake Sale
11:30- 1:30

Nov. 6-8 Row i Theatre
101 Dalmatians
Knox United Church

Should you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to email fortfranceschamber.com or call (807) 274-5773.

If you have an event you would like featured in our newsletter please email us the information and a contact name and number prior to the last Monday of the month.

This newsletter is purely for information and does not reflect the opinions or policies of the Fort Frances and District Chamber of Commerce or the BIA.



In the West end of the District...

Christmas on the River Holiday Market
November 22 - 10 am to 2 pm

Rainy River Regional Abattoir Fundraising Dinner
Diamonds and Denim
Nov. 1, 2025
Contact Kelsey at 289 459-9933

Backroad Boundary 5th Annual Christmas Vendor Event
Saturday, November 29 - 10am to 5pm
Barwick Hall

Crafting at the Emo Seniors' Centre
Tuesday afternoon - #3 Roy Street, Emo (Knox United Church Site)

Nov 7 - Emo Legion's Cornhole Tournament
Doors open at 6pm - Games start at 7 pm

Dec 13 - Lake of the Woods 3rd Annual Christmas Market
10am to 2pm Bergland Hall

Ongoing Events and Networking Activities

Fort Frances Library and Technology Centre-
-Lego Club -Thursdays 3:30-5pm
-Pokemon Club - Fridays 4pm
-Fireside Yarn Club Wednesdays 5:50-7:50
-Rainy Lake Readers Club - 3rd Tuesday of the month 6pm
Stem Saturdays -10:30-11:30

Fort Frances Senior Centre
Yoga & Tai Chi - Monday and Wed mornings
500 Cards//Canasta - Monday 12:30
Line Dancing - Tuesday and Friday mornings
Smear card gams - Tuesday afternoons
Bridge - Wednesday and Saturday afternoons
VON Exercise - Thursday mornings
Craft Time - Thursday afternoons
Bingo- Friday afternoons

Billards, Workshop and Socializing - Monday to Friday 8-4pm
Pickleball at the Memorial Sportsplex - Mondays and Thursdays 8:30-11:30. Bring your own equipment. (if you don't have some, you can borrow them from the Fort Frances Library and Technology Centre)

