

Port Blandford Historical Society

Keeping our history alive.



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Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015

Mission Statement

The Port Blandford Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization committed to researching, preserving and promoting the history of Port Blandford so as to share the knowledge with current and former residents, people interested in the community, and future generations.

Background of the Port Blandford Historical Society

Through an ad hoc group formed in January of 2013, it was identified that there were no organizations in the community that was devoted to researching, preserving and promoting the history of Port Blandford. It was decided that a public meeting would be called in March of 2013 to see if there was interest in creating a historical society. Fourteen residents of the community attended, and it was suggested that a corporation should be created. As a result, it was decided that the inaugural Annual General Meeting would be held on April 3, 2013 to adopt a constitution and by-laws, elect a board of directors, and incorporate the organization.

Environmental Scan

Through meetings of the ad hoc group from January 2013 to March 2013 and the public consultation on March 10, 2013, an environmental scan was performed, which included identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

In discussing the strengths of the community, it was identified that Port Blandford has a rich and diverse history that was supported by a variety of industries, organizations, and families. Many of the current residents have family ties to original settlers of the community, and there is a wealth of living knowledge pertaining to the history of organizations and businesses.

In looking at the strengths, many of the weaknesses and threats were clearly identified. Unfortunately, many of the buildings and infrastructure with historic significance have been destroyed, significantly altered or removed from the community. In addition, much of the living history is lost every year with the passing of residents, especially the eldest citizens. In addition, there currently is no organization with the mandate of preserving the history so there is the threat that if it is not addressed soon, it may be lost forever.

As a result, there are a number of opportunities for the Society. Collecting the stories of the past while residents can still tell them and encouraging the protection of the buildings and infrastructure that still exists will help in preserving the history. In addition, research can be conducted through archives and online sources about the history of the community as well as the industries that played vital roles, such as the forestry, railway and business sector. Also, partnerships can be created with tourism organizations to assist in the promotion of the community's history.

Goals

To research the history of Port Blandford.

- Produce a historic timeline of the community.
- Work with organizations, businesses, and industry participants to research their histories.
- Work with families to research genealogical lines in the community.

To preserve the history of Port Blandford.

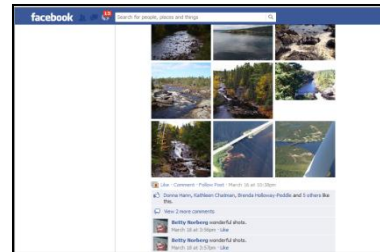
- Compile a written history of the community.
- Collect antiques, archival materials, artifacts, books, documents, records, and other items of historic significance for preservation.
- Provide a facility for preserving and displaying artifacts, documents and items of historic significance.

To promote the history of Port Blandford.

- Work with businesses, tourism organizations and other partners to develop a promotional strategy for the community.
- Work with the municipality to develop legislation and regulations pertaining to land, buildings and areas of historic significance.
- Partner with organizations to host tourism events in the community where the history of Port Blandford can be promoted.

Communication

In moving forward with the Port Blandford Historical Society, good communication will be very important. Through the use of social media, a Facebook page has been created to provide followers with updates and allow people to post pictures and comments. A website will be used to display the research and show pictures of the community that have been collected. In addition, members will receive email updates on the activities and events of the Society.



Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects

In completing the goals of the Society, the Board of Directors will meet once per month to monitor and evaluate the progress of the initiatives. Committees may be put in place to oversee certain projects, and as a result, the chair of each committee will provide a report to the Board of Directors. During the monthly meeting, each project will be reviewed to assess what has been accomplished, highlight any challenges, provide recommendations on future actions, and decide on whether the project continues as normal or needs to be reworked. At each Annual General Meeting, the membership will be provided an overview of each project completed the previous year and seek approval for proposed initiatives for the future.