

Settlers' Effects on the Classroom

Using the Website

The *Settlers' Effects* website contains 10,000 images collected from museums and individuals in Mackenzie, McBride, Prince George and Valemount, British Columbia (see map). Each image is accompanied by a short description and, in many cases, additional information can be found in the associated museum's archives. Although the images support the well-documented local history of paddlers, railways, and forestry, they also provide stories from other perspectives. For example: Robin Millar writes to his mother in Dumfries, Scotland of harrowing trips past Fraser River whirlpools known to drag down boats and men... on her own, a woman tracks two thieves who had raided her cellar, all the way to their hideout... Ella Frye makes a life for herself trapping in the Rocky Mountains during the 1930s and 1940s. The images and descriptions presented on the *Settlers' Effects* website are a powerful and vivid link to our past.

Four museums collaborated in the development of this website: Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum; Mackenzie & District Museum; Valley Museum & Archives (McBride); and Valemount & Area Museum. Within the website, images are organized by region, then by categories relevant to the history of each region. The website's search function accesses the entire collection of images.

Using the Timeline

A corresponding Timeline provides additional historical context for the images. The Timeline was compiled from newspaper articles appearing in the *Fort George Tribune* and the *Prince George Citizen*, from 1909 to 1946. This is not a comprehensive listing of all the news events of the day. Rather, each year listed in the Timeline is followed by a selection of the year's news highlights.

Suggested Themes

The website includes a number of distinct themes organized by region. They are as follows:

Region: Mackenzie

Themes:

- Trading Posts: Fort Grahame, Fort Ware, Finlay Forks, Fort McLeod and individual trappers
- By River and Trail: river freighting and pack trains
- W.A.C. Bennet Dam: clearing the reservoir and building the dam
- The Instant Town: building Mackenzie and local sawmills and pulpmills

Region: McBride

Themes:

- A Fertile Valley: trapping and agriculture in the Upper Fraser River valley
- Train Town: McBride's position as a railway divisional point and the social role of the train station
- Main Street; early businesses, parades and picnics
- Forest for the Trees: logging and the role of the Forest Service

Region: Valemount

Themes:

- The Robson Valley: early settlers and how they made their living
- Along the Tote Road: the communities of Lucerne, Red Pass, Tete Jaune, Albreda, Valemount and Croydon
- High Country Life: Mount Robson Ranch and women trappers
- That's a Nice Tie!: tie-makers, logging and sawmilling

Region: Prince George

Themes:

- Hudson's Bay Fort: first nations, trapping and trading
- From 'There' to 'Here': paddlewheelers, the first roads and automobiles, and Giscome Portage
- The Three Georges: development and relationship of South Fort George, Central Fort George (also called Fort George) and Prince George.
- The Crossroads: constructing the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, Pacific Great Eastern Railway, Highway 16 and Highway 97.
- 'Building' Foundations: construction of homes, businesses, churches, schools and community facilities
- Prince George Style: cultural events including parades, rodeos, exhibitions, parties, dances, sports and recreation
- People Make a Community: children as settlers, pioneers, community organizations, scouts and guides
- Military and Aviation: military base, airplanes and the Prince George airport

Developing a Theme

The search engine accesses the entire collection of images. To develop a theme, use a general term in the search engine. Images pulled up by a search can be used as a starting point. The Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum archives, or the archives of participating museums, are available (see Terms of Use) for development of additional historical content.

Terms of Use

Students are encouraged to use the images available on the *Settler's Effects* website. It is expected that the source of the images will be acknowledged since this is appropriate and conventional for research papers. High school students can access the archives at the Fraser-Fort George Regional Museum free of charge, and some research assistance can be provided, staff time permitting. Students must appear in person to access the archives.