



WEST RED LAKE MINING MUSEUM

OUR HISTORY OUR WAY

*EXPLORING THE LAND,
SHARING ORAL HISTORY
CELEBRATING US*



Johnny Drawson on McKenzie Island. July 1942

DOES RED LAKE HAVE A PERSONALITY?

A town's personality is its collective identity, shaped by its history, geography, and the shared spirit of its residents. The west end of Red lake attracted many eccentric and independent characters from many different cultures. Still today, look around, we all can think of neighbours who give our town flavour and make us think outside the box.

JOHNNY'S CABIN STILL STANDS

Our little museum was built around 1928 by Johnny Drawson, a carpenter and bootlegger. He also had rooms upstairs for rent and stories exist of women for rent as well. It hosted many parties and card games back in the 1930's. As a place to meet, it welcomed many characters to the West End.

The cabin became a part of Bow Narrows Camp. Then in 2005, local history buffs made a plan to move it, log by log, to Bill Brown's place in Trout Bay. It took many volunteers with muscles and passion to accomplish. Today, the little cabin continues to welcome characters to the West End and tell it's story.



Dale Lammi and Amy Newport at Cole Mine in July 2025

DALE, THE WEST END WILL MISS YOU

Dale Lammi (Sept. 2, 1950 - March 7, 2026) was a long time seasonal resident of West Red Lake, first coming up here in 1982. Dale was an important member of our community who was always willing to help others whether it was cutting firewood, repairing docks, cleaning fish or building our museum. He'll be remembered for his story telling, off key trumpet playing, bad jokes, bass singing voice and the exploits of the long lost Finlander.

Rest in Peace my friend, *Brain*



DR. REVELL AT THE WEST END

1934 - 1938

LOOK FOR THE MARKER

In 1934 Dan Revell married Bonnie Bailey, a graduate nurse from the Toronto Western. Together they traded the hospital environment for the more primitive one of a pioneer medical practice in the rugged mining country of West Red Lake. They spent the next four years making the rounds of seven mining areas on dog sled, skis, the Snowsedan or boat, depending on the season. *Thank you to the Red Lake Heritage Center for the following pictures.*



Dr. Revell's Snowsedan with Ole Einarson 1937



Red Crest Mine paid for the building of Dr. Revell's cabin in 1935



Dr. Revell's Cabin - dogs bringing in a boat and a canoe just after freeze-up 1937



Bonnie Revell bakes bread in a stone oven



FRANK'S CABIN AT WEST NARROWS

**STOP BY ON YOUR WAY
DOWN THE LAKE**

FRANK'S CABIN

The cabin now has a guest book and posters about Frank and the Paishk family.

At the entrance to West Narrows stands a cabin with a long story. Before the prospectors, long before the fur traders, the Paishk family called this point their home base. They were the caretakers of the land around here. The speared fish at Pipestone Narrows in the spring, picked wild rice on Indianhouse Lake, carved their pipes from soapstone found nearby, and held big feasts on this point. When prospectors showed up in the 1930's they were there to greet them. When tourism started in the 1950's, the Paishk crew found work guiding.

In the 1930's there was a group of 4 or 5 cabins here. Frank Paishk lived here until his death in 1978.



Standing, back row, from left: Frank Paishk, Tony Paishk, Chic King, George Trout, John Duck Strang

Kneeling, front, from left: Danny Cameron, Adam Paishk, Jim Duck Strang

FISHING REPORT

Since 2005, young lake trout (called fingerlings) have been stocked into Red Lake annually to support the population. The MNR stocking program started with 25,000 fish in 2005 and has grown to nearly 175,000 fish stocked annually. Anglers can easily identify stocked and wild lake trout, as stocked fish have small, unique fin clips indicating their release year. If you catch a fish with a clipped fin or tag, please report it to your local Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) office. Recent netting surveys show that natural reproduction of lake trout is occurring in Red Lake. *Matt Smith*



Tanna Gurski, releasing a 32 inch male lake trout that was caught on a spawning shoal in Pipestone Basin



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THE WAY WE OPERATE

- We are proud to be a completely volunteer project. We have no bank account, no government funding.
- Our volunteers pay for land use permits, insurance, dock repair, exhibits and newsletters out of our own pockets.
- People have donated artifacts and set them up at the museum on their own.
- The future of our museum depends on the Red Lake community.

BE PART OF THE PROJECT

- Visit any day, any season
- Visit often as exhibits change
- Download and print a 25 site tour from our website and explore the spots over time.
- Help keep our history alive. Keep it tidy, help with maintenance.
- Contribute pictures and stories
- Be respectful of private property.
- Watch for old mining hazards while exploring

GET IN TOUCH

- www.westredlakemuseum.org
- enid@redlaker.ca
- Enid (807) 727-0321
- find Brian Kreviazuk around town or exploring the west end



**JOIN US FOR
THE WEST END BOAT TOUR
AUGUST 1, 2026 12:00 TO 4:00**