



CANADA'S FIRST READING CAMP

ESTABLISHED 1899 BY

ALFRED FITZPATRICK

FRONTIER COLLEGE



Literacy:
Learning for Life.

L'alphabétisation,
Une leçon pour la vie.

Did you know?

- In mid-February, 1899, a young minister and educator boarded a train from Toronto and set out to find a logging camp near the town of (Algoma) Nairn Centre.
- The loggers were already at work. By the time the men returned that evening they found something new in their rough settlement, a tent. But it was not just any tent. A large banner on the tent proclaimed: *Reading Tent: All Welcome*
- The minister, Alfred Fitzpatrick, and young university volunteers sat in the tent at tables piled high with poetry, history, mathematics, and philosophy texts.
- This began one of Canada's boldest adventures in education. Fitzpatrick's mission was simple – education for all. Every Canadian, not just a privileged few, must have access to basic education and the opportunity to study at the university level.
Bring education to the people, not the people to education.
- Literacy is an essential skill in today's world. Frontier College believes it is a fundamental right. Frontier College continues to this day helping to improve literacy levels amongst children, youth, and adults across Canada. Learn more by visiting www.frontiercollege.ca
- *****Please note that a banner honoring Frontier College founder, Alfred Fitzpatrick and recognizing Nairn Centre as CANADA'S FIRST READING CAMP has been placed at both entrances of our very historic town.**
- If you have any other questions or want to know more please feel free to contact:
- Evelyn C. Diebel, resident of Nairn Centre, Professor of Adult Literacy at Cambrian College Espanola Campus and an Adult Education —Community Development Master's Student @ St.FX University diebel@persona.ca or 705-869-5149.
- O'Leary, J. (2004). *The City is the Classroom: Excepted from Light Onwards/Light Onwards: Living Literacies*. Text of the November Conference at York University. The Coach House Press.