

about the artist



"As an author, I understand storytelling to be an art form, and as a versatile creator, I enjoy merging together earthly elements, concepts, and words to craft a colourful narrative. The use of rag-rug braiding and red willow weaving are important traditions I desired to highlight. This exhibit is a tribute to my family, who endured life on the Road Allowance, and a testament to the unique perspective we bring. I believe in the power of truth to bring about reconciliation and the role of stories in fostering empathy. I hope you've found resonance in the artwork of my sister, Andrea Haughian, and me as we share a glimpse of the lives of the Road Allowance Métis."

Arnolda Dufour Bowes

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"...the name Road Allowance People was coined by white government officials and landowners to describe the dispossessed Métis people who, having nowhere to go...built their homes on unoccupied crown lands, more often land that had been set aside for highways or roads. As these crown lands were developed and roads were built, the people were chased out, their homes burned..."

Maria Campbell, *Stories of the Road Allowance People*, 2010



APPLES & TRAIN TRACKS

ARNOLDA DUFOUR BOWES



MAY 18-JUNE 23, 2024

WANUSKEWIN GALLERIES



share in a family's story

Arnolda reclaimed pieces of her father's Road Allowance home, still standing in Punnichy, and repurposed them into unique pieces of art. Many of her pieces tie a connection to the land and culture.



Along with her compositions of poetry, attendees will have the privilege to enjoy a short narration film written and directed by Arnolda. Plus, original artwork from the book 20.12m by artist Andrea Haughian, and some recent pieces she has created specifically for this installment.



They are delighted for another opportunity to share their father's experiences and are honoured to share a small piece of the history of the Road Allowance Métis through art and story.



immerse yourself in history

The ability of Métis men and women to overcome tests of intellect and strength characterizes what it means to be Métis, especially through all the struggles they endured over the years – including the Road Allowance Métis. They are versatile, persistent, physically, emotionally, and culturally resilient.

Life on the Road Allowance was difficult, but the Métis' resilience shone as they worked diligently to save their culture and way of life.

Arnolda desires you to enjoy a combination of history through art expression.

thank you

Arnolda extends heartfelt gratitude to the following people for their assistance and generous sharing of knowledge in the making of this art exhibit:

My parents, Arnold & Louise Dufour, my husband and children, and my Haughian and Ahenakew family.

Basil Quewezance, friend and narrator.

Elder Georgina Martin, Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation, Manitoba, for Rag Rug teachings.

Lyndon J. Linklater, Traditional Knowledge Keeper from Thunderchild First Nation Treaty 6 with roots in Couchiching FN (Treaty 3) for Red Willow Weaving teachings.

Tim Bratton, sound engineer.

Jackson Welygan, video editor.

Yvonne Richer & Suzanne Richer for Road Allowance Métis family photos.

Ken Folden, Punnichy, Sask. for access to reclaiming our family's Road Allowance pieces.

Shanks family for heirloom blanket.

Steven Santelli and CN Rail for the donation of the railway.

Carleton Trail Railway for the railway hardware.

And a special thank you to our Creator for the gifts of storytelling and art.