

## FOREWORD: WHY THIS AND WHY NOW?

I was born in The Pas in 1936, and finished high school in The Pas in 1954. I spent grades 1 to 6 in the classrooms in one of the annexes on either side of the red brick building where I completed grades 7 to 12, except for a few months in the new collegiate facing Third Street. As a teen I worked in my Dad's store. From 1955 to 1959 I was only in The Pas for short visits, mostly over the Christmas season. In my late teens I worked at a couple of summer jobs around The Pas: on a railway extra gang between The Pas and Hudson Bay Junction, and in Churchill where I worked on the grain elevator expansion.

In 1982 I returned to The Pas for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary homecoming, and again briefly in 2004 while returning from a family reunion in Cumberland House which marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Keddie family there in 1904.

Since leaving The Pas in the fall of 1954 I lived in Winnipeg on two occasions for a total of about 8 years, in Madison, Wisconsin and Auckland, New Zealand, and, since 1967, in Guelph, Ontario. But if asked where I am from I respond "I live in Guelph, but I'm from The Pas, Manitoba".

In 2008 - 2009 I put together a small book about The Pas titled "A Sunset View of Our Teen Town: The Pas in the Early 1950's". I had about 30 copies made and mailed them off to a bunch of high school friends living all across Canada, and who had shared with me the experience of being a teenager in The Pas in the early 1950's.

In undertaking that account I realised how little I knew about the town in which I was born. Since I am now retired from being a geography prof. at the U. of G., I decided that I had the interest and the time to pursue the matter. I also appreciated that those who have lived in The Pas since the late '50's were in a much better position to write about the town's more recent history.

I have long been puzzled why I know so little of The Pas in the period before I was born - so little about the town the Keddie family moved to from Cumberland House, the town where my dad took on joint ownership of the Keddie and Fowler general store, and where my parents were married in 1934.

My first vivid memory is of one of my uncles running along the beach at Clearwater Lake shouting that Germany had invaded Poland. It was September 1939. I was only three at the time and did not know what he meant, but I understood that it was important. Canada entered WWII soon after. No surprise, perhaps, that few adults in my youth were talking about the boom years that The Pas enjoyed in the late twenties, or the hardships so many in town endured in the thirties. What must the town have really been like back then? I had little idea.

This prompted me to put together the following account of Boom and Depression: The Pas and District in the Late Nineteen Twenties and Nineteen Thirties. It is my contribution to the town for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.