**Words to Know**

To help you become familiar with the language and content of the fur trade exhibit, here is a list of commonly used terms. We will have a QUIZ on WED MARCH 26 on these terms.

**Voyageur**

French word for “traveller” refers to the contract employees who worked paddling canoes and carrying packs for fur trading companies.

**Nor’wester**

A person who worked for the North West Company (NWC).

**Pemmican**

This lightweight and nutritious food was the staple of the voyageur diet, providing some 5,000 calories a day if needed. The dried meat could be preserved almost indefinitely, a perfect meal for long trips into the wilderness.

**Portage**

Carrying packs and canoes overland to bypass waterfalls or very rough waters. From the French word porter, “to carry.”

**Allants et Venants**

Translated as “comers and goers,” this refers to voyageurs who primarily travelled back and forth between Montreal and Fort William.

**Canot du nord**

French for “canoes of the north,” this refers to the 7m (23ft) canoe used on shallower northern rivers.

**Homme du nord**

French for a “man of the north.” A voyageur who wintered in Fur Country.

**Pitch**

Tree sap used for sealing canoes and making them waterproof.

**Coureurs des Bois**

French meaning “runners of the woods.” Essentially they were unlicensed, independent fur traders who were gradually replaced by licensed voyageurs.