

# Report 50 - mountains2montreal – July 4, 2011

**Canoe trip of 4,500 km from Saskatchewan River Crossing Alberta to Montreal – 130 days estimated duration.**

## After Day 64 – July 3, 2011

- Last reported SPOT location – July 3 @ 18:39 PDT – 48.53197/94.62436 - campsite on the Rainy River, 25 km west of Fort Frances.
- Estimated distance traveled since last report two days ago - July 1 - 62 km.
- Distance traveled since start May 1 - 2,921km (estimated).
- Distance to Montreal - 1,579 km (estimated).

## Notes

1. No report issued yesterday because there was no SPOT report July 2.
2. Group should be having a relaxed trip up the Rainy River with minimum time pressure.
3. M2M voyageurs will be arriving in Fort Frances (population 8,000) /International Falls (population 6,500) later this morning.
4. Portage today around a dam and an electrical generating station right in the Town of Fort Francis associated with paper mills on either side of the river – will end up on Rainy Lake level.
5. Weather - today chance of rain and thunderstorms - sunny warm weather follows for the next two days.
6. Next planned re-supply/communications stop/crew stop – Fort Frances- July 4/5. - distance to Fort Frances - 25 km from last night’s campsite.
7. Today’s backgrounder – on the Town of Fort Frances– oldest western settlement west of Lake Superior – 1731.
8. **Last blog posting June 26 - <http://www.mountains2montreal.ca> - expect blog update later today or tomorrow with the extended stay-over in Fort Frances.**

## Weather Details

### Fort Frances

#### Current Conditions

[More info](#) +

<b>18 °C</b>	Observed at:	<b>Fort Frances</b>		
	Date:	<b>7:00 AM EDT Monday 4 July 2011</b>		
	Condition:	<b>Not observed</b>	Temperature:	<b>17.8°C</b>
	Pressure:	<b>101.3 kPa</b>	Dewpoint:	<b>15.6°C</b>
Tendency:	<b>falling</b>	Humidity:	<b>87 %</b>	
		Wind:	<b>ESE 9 km/h</b>	

#### Forecast

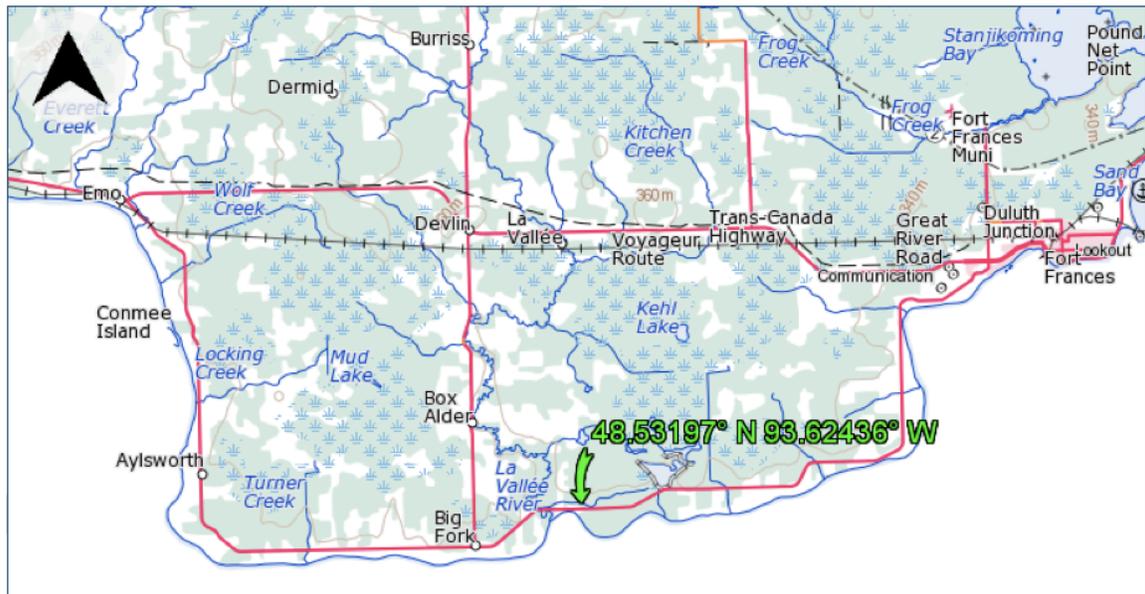
[More info](#) +

Today	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						
29°C	25°C 16°C	26°C 13°C	26°C 14°C 30%	25°C 15°C 40%	26°C 18°C 60%	28°C 17°C

Issued : 5:30 AM EDT Monday 4 July 2011

Source: Environment Canada

## M2M - Location Map Campsite – July 3



Source: *The Atlas of Canada – Natural Resources Canada*

### Background – The Town of Fort Frances

**Fort Frances** is a town in, and the seat of, [Rainy River District](#) in [Northwestern Ontario](#), Canada. The population as of the [2006 census](#) was 8,103 and Fort Frances' population peaked in 1971 at 9,947. Fort Frances is a popular [fishing](#) destination, it hosts the [Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship](#) annually. Located on the international border with the [United States](#) where [Rainy Lake](#) narrows to become [Rainy River](#), it is connected to [International Falls, Minnesota](#), by the [Fort Frances-International Falls International Bridge](#). The town is the third largest community of Northwestern Ontario after Thunder Bay and Kenora, the town offers many shopping and dining outlets. [AbitibiBowater](#) is the main industry in Fort Frances.

Fort Frances and International Falls is the setting for the fictional [Rocky and Bullwinkle](#) television series, created by Jay Ward in collaboration with Bill Scott and Alex Anderson. International Falls, in the series, was nicknamed "FrostBite Falls". The series continues today through syndication. Fort Frances was also where the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) fictional character [Dudley Do-Right](#) was stationed as an officer to combat the notorious Russian spies "Boris and Natasha" and his sworn enemy, "Snidely Whiplash".

### History

This was the first European settlement west of Lake Superior; it was established by [French Canadian Pierre Gaultier de Varennes et de La Vérendrye](#), first commander of the western district. In 1731 he built [Fort St. Pierre](#) near this spot as support for the [fur trade](#) with native peoples. In 1732 his expedition built [Fort St. Charles](#) on [Magnuson Island](#) on the west side of [Lake of the Woods](#). After some time, Fort St. Pierre fell out of use.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1817, following the [War of 1812](#) and redefinition of borders between Canada and the United States, the [Hudson's Bay Company](#) (HBC) built a fort here. Officials named the subsequent settlement after Lady

Frances Simpson, wife of then Hudson's Bay Company Governor [George Simpson](#), who visited the fort many times.<sup>[2]</sup>

Incorporated in 1903, the town held a big [centennial](#) celebration in 2003.

The main employer is a [pulp and paper mill](#) established in the early 1900s. It has had numerous owners over the years, notably [Edward Wellington Backus](#). Now owned by AbitibiBowater, the mill employs about 700 persons.

### **Transportation**

There are three airports in the area, one in the [United States](#). The two local airports are for general aviation and other a privately owned [floatplane](#) base.

- [Fort Frances Municipal Airport](#)
- [Fort Frances Water Aerodrome](#)
- [Falls International Airport](#)

[Ontario Highway 11](#) and [Ontario Highway 71](#) are two major roads in Fort Frances. Both are part of the [Trans Canada Highway](#) and the latter ends in Fort Frances. The town is connected to [Kenora](#) via Highway 71, while Highway 11 provides connections to [Devlin](#), [Emo](#), and [Rainy River](#) to the west, and [Atikokan](#) to the east.

[Canadian National Railway](#) travels into Fort Frances with freight traffic only and travels across the International Bridge into the US.

Train, truck and car traffic to and from the United States is via the [Fort Frances-International Falls International Bridge](#) over the Rainy River.

Fort Frances Transit operated until 1996 and Fort Frances Handi-Van Transit is a provincial funded service run by the Town of Fort Frances. Caribou Coach Transportation Company Incorporated runs a bus route to and from [Thunder Bay](#). This route was once served by [Greyhound Canada](#).

*Source: Wikipedia*

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