

CALLING ARTISTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DUMOINE STOPPING PLACES COLLECTION

In 1840 lumber camps began to emerge



in the pine forests of the Dumoine River.

These camps were connected to the outside world by very basic roads called Tote Roads.

“The word tote road is derived from the verb "tote" meaning to carry .It describes a rough, often temporary, road used for hauling supplies, materials, or goods to remote work sites like lumber camps.”

The local farming communities often presold their crops for much needed cash to the lumber companies in the spring with a promise to deliver the goods that winter to the companies depot.

In December the farmers hitched their hand hewn sleighs to the farm horse(s) and proceeded up these roads as soon as the ice and snow allowed. A horse

pulling 2000 lbs through heavy snow could only travel ten miles a day.

The main Dumoine Tote Road originated in the village of Rapides des Joachims and had two branches .Both routes used the same road for sixteen miles as described in the Chapeau Boys song. The road split here with the west branch headed for Lac Dumoine and the east for the Black River.The base of the Lac Dumoine Road is essentially the same base as the road from Rapides des Joachims to The Dumoine Club used today

Of the 8 stopping places from Swisha to Dumoine Club

The eight were Tait's/Madores/Demells/Chouinard's/Bouchers(Rettys)/Rowanton

(Hawkesbury or EB Eddy Farm)/Lances/
Sauve's (Dumoine Club).

Only one building ,the Dumoine Club, still exists.All the rest are open fields or forests.

I have photos, surveys, descriptions and other references for all of them as well as their waypoints.

[FYI there were four more on the way to Lac Dumoine but the road is overgrown Alma Farm/Buckshot/Boudreaus and Dumoine Depot]

I`m hoping to find adventurous artists and writers who will team up and help recreate images of these historic sites.

I`m imagining a series of cards, prints and a calendar to celebrate the collection in

2027 and also raise funds for Friends of Dumoine.

You can access each of the eight sites by road to get a sense of the landscape but its been 60+ years since most of these buildings existed.

Friends of Dumoine is willing to help with a little funding, research, a guide ,accommodations at our Grande Chute Volunteers cabin and logistics in exchange for a good image and reproduction rights.

The timetable is yours between May 1 2026-May 1 2027

We would like to display the art at different shows throughout the Ottawa

Valley in 2027 but you would own the originals and the option to sell copies.

DUMOINE TOTE ROAD FROM THE OTTAWA RIVER TO GRANDE CHUTE

The was a busy tote road beginning at a Farm settlement at the mouth of the Dumoine and proceeding up the west side of the river to Grande Chute where it eventually linked up with the main route from Swisha.

This road ,built between 1840-1850, is now the Dumoine Hiking Trail.

It had five unique communities

1.The HBC post/Sweezy/Dufoe Farm at the mouth

2 The lower river drive camps

3.The Bertrand Stopping place at the junction of the Fildegrand and Dumoine Rivers

4.The Potvin Farm just below Red Pine Rapids

5.The Grande Chute community including a farm, a slide masters house ,the longest timber slide in the world, a saw mill, a river drive camper fire tower site and the foreman's cabin.

Aside from these special places the road is full of interesting adaptations made to make the tote road more functional

A keen artist could spend a lifetime interpreting this Tote Road which unlike the other has returned to wilderness ,except for the hiking trail we have reopened.

Still life artists could enjoy a week or two painting the artifacts on display in our new museum at Grande Chute.

The lower two sites Dufoes and Lower River Drive Camps, are accessible by boat across the Ottawa River from launch points on Highway 17.

The Bertrands is accessible by ATV, 5 km hike from a parking site ,by mountain bike or by a eight km flatwater paddle and one portage. This site has a small cabin for shelter

Potvin's is an eight km hike from a parking spot

The Grande Chute community is accessible by road from the village of Rapides des Joachims.

We would like to put a separate collection of paintings interpreting the buildings and lifestyle that existed here more than a century ago.

The same terms, support and timeline exist for this project and priority will be given to artists working on this portion of the project.

If you are interested in participating please send an email to dumoinefriends@gmail.com with your specific site interest and a resume.

Refer to our website friendsofdumoine.ca for more images, maps and history

For insurance reasons and to use the Grande Chute Volunteers cabin you must be a member.

Looking forward to interpreting history through art.

Friends of Dumoine



We headed for Des
Joachims and got there
all right
We walked sixteen miles
up to Retty's that night
Where we were made
welcome, the truth for to
speak
It was our desire to stay
there a week.