The Fort McMurray Public School District has an interesting and exciting history, going back to the circumstances which brought it into existence in 1912. This story is currently being researched by John Gilpin in preparation for a centennial history. As part of his research, John would like to hear from anyone who has memories, photographs, documents and artifacts relating to the District. This information will be combined with documents from the Provisional Archives of Alberta, the District Office, the City of Fort McMurray and Heritage Park to provide a complete account of the events and people that make this history important. These materials, with the permission of the donor, may be retained or copied since it is also the intention to create permanent displays to complement the book.

In addition to the use of this website to pass on your information, John will also be spending considerable time in Fort McMurray particularly during the fall of 2010 when an open house is being planned. He will also be traveling to various other locations in Alberta during 2010 to conduct interviews. To ensure that no opportunity is missed for those who wish to participate, he is encouraging people to contact him directly by mail, through the Internet and/or by phone at:

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John Gilpin Bio

John Gilpin is a Calgary based historian and writer who has a number of northern Alberta roots. His mother's family homesteaded in the Peace River Country in 1917. His father worked on the former Northern Alberta Railway thus making frequent trips to Waterways during which times he was occasionally accompanied by his son. John has a PhD in history from the University of Leicester and has been employed by the University of Alberta as an archivist; by the Alberta Government as an archivist and historian; and by the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Lethbridge as a history teacher. His publications to date have dealt with the history of Edmonton, transportation in Western Canada and the development of Alberta's water resources.