Bicentennial Events Schedule 2025

May	15 - 18	Grand Re-opening Kettle Falls Historic Center
May	15 - 18	Fur Trade Festival
June	20	Salmon Ceremony (annual event)
October	18	HBC Fort Colvile Summit, Mistequa Hotel



Shaun Deller has completed this painting of a Columbia Boat. We are having copies printed and plan to make it available any place where it can promote bicentennial events.

Activities are finally scheduled for 2025. Three notable events are centered at the Kettle Falls Historical Center right off Hwy 395 before it crosses Lake Roosevelt into Ferry County.

The center has undergone a huge transformation since the disastrous freeze, thaw and flood from the overhead heating system in 2022. Since then, the artifacts have been preserved; the building has been cleaned out; a new heating system, carpets etc. have been installed and best-of-all; new murals and exhibits have been created. They include panoramic murals of Native encampments, a full-sized pinto pony, several boats and a tule-covered lodge that can be explored.



The official grand opening is Wednesday, May 15th. This event will coincide with the Fur Trade Festival from May 15th to May 18th. The Fur Trade Festival is an annual event that hosts hundreds of school children who are bused in from around Northeast Washington. They visit a series of camps between the museum and the re-built St Paul's Mission building north of the museum. There are many historical locations on Mission Point where the museum and St Paul's Mission are located. (You can watch an 18 minute **video tour** of Mission Point done by Jeremy Rogers of Big Horn Media. (Note: I claimed that the cemetery on the point is native in this video but it is really the McDonald Family cemetery and they were only partly native.)

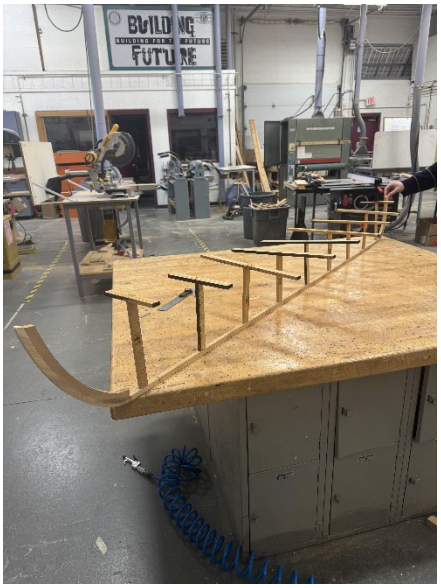
The Fur Trade Historians will talk to school children on Wednesday thru Friday during the day. They were formally known as Friends of Spokane House. Their **new website** is very nice and worth a look. They will feature the usual topics such as herbs, camps, drying furs, bows and arrows and sign language, but also some coverage of Hudson's Bay Fort Colvile, which was a short walk from this encampment but is now underwater.





On October 18th at 10:00 AM, we will convene a Hudson's Bay Fort Colvile Summit and gather authors and historians in a roundtable event. They are encouraged to give short presentations on what they think are the lasting effects of the fort on the ecology, economy and culture of the region. This will be followed by a lunch at the hotel, probably with a

keynote speaker. Details have not been worked out. We hope to make it also an online meeting and record the proceedings.



One last note: Honor students, Dallas Burt, Dane Hoogstad, and Ian Horrocks are building an 8 ft. long model of a Columbia Boat. Over a hundred of them were built at the fort which was the only source of these boats on the Columbia. David Thompson designed and built the first of these boats at Boat Encampment during the winter of 1810-1811 using crude tools. Colville High School has access to computer design, a computer-driven router and a laser-cutting machine. It has been a huge learning curve for everyone involved. Mark Weadick of the Fur Trade Historians arranged for the Kettle Falls Historic Center to have a smaller model of the boat built by Clyde Rau using the same design. The students studied is while working on their model. Like many others of these bicentennial events, getting to this point is a story of its own.

We hope you can attend some of these opportunities and learn more about the fort.

Joseph Barreca

President of the Heritage Network