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### Capone's Hideout

If you live near Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, there's no doubt that you have heard about Moose Jaw's notorious history. Al Capone coming to Moose Jaw is one of the most known tales in the area, and makes a great tourist attraction. But, is it true?

During the 1920s and early 1930s the government issued prohibition, banning the intake of alcoholic drinks. Due to this law, a lot of gangsters who made their money off alcohol and drugs got really angry. One of these gangsters was the infamous Al Capone. Legend has it that Al Capone came to Moose Jaw and used the tunnels to run his gin running operation. Rumour has it that Al Capone paid the local cops to not bother him.

In order to understand this legend, we must understand the tunnels themselves. The tunnels were built around 1908. During the building up of Moose Jaw, they needed to be able to transfer heat and equipment between buildings without affecting the businesses inside. The tunnels allowed them to do that. Later, they were abandoned for more innovative ways of transportation. If not for these tunnels, the gin running operation would have fallen apart.

Starting in the twenties, the government had a brilliant idea. Everybody drank alcohol all the time. Besides the alcohol poisoning, they had an even larger problem. Every weekend, the men of the house would get their paycheck. Great, more food for the family, right? Wrong. The men would get their money, go to the pub, and drink themselves sick. To try to stop this from happening, the government banned alcoholic drinks. This worked, except for the fact that this made the illegal alcohol operations even more rich.

The high demand for alcohol is what brought gin running to Moose Jaw. There was a shut down whiskey factory nearby, and that factory was full of barrels of whiskey. The operation was simple, they would take the alcohol, water it down, and sell it at extremely high prices. The question is, "Did Al Capone actually come?" We have numerous reports of people who might have seen Al Capone. Did they really see him or did they just think they did. We know that new information can alter memories. If you see a man walking down the street and 20 years later they say it could have been Al Capone, it is the brain's nature to tell you that the man you saw was Capone. Whereas the matter of him actually coming here, I think not.

The legend of Moose Jaw is fun and makes for a great tourist attraction. Sadly, he didn't come. A lot of our fame has come from the tunnels, but the truth is, they were dug for the attraction. This legend could easily have been real, but it isn't. The legend is still cool, fun, and awesome. But the only truth is in the attraction.