



Museum News

Issue fifteen - Summer 2018

Enderby Museum & Archives

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2018 Museum Opening Hours
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Tuesday - Friday

June 12 - September 15
10 am - 4:00 pm, Tuesday - Saturday

Curator – Kristina Parkes

Board of Directors

President: Diana Inselberg

Vice-president: Margo Ludwig

Secretary: Bob Cowan

Treasurer: Faith Hudson

Directors: John Brennan, Judy Fischer, Neil
Bylsma, Marcy Peel, Sue Weiss

Letter from the president

Since our AGM in November, your board has been working hard to optimize operations within the museum. In September we hired Joani Cowan as interim curator; in addition to her many tasks, she has produced a detailed procedures manual, an invaluable resource for our new curator and our volunteers. Margo Ludwig and Judy Fischer have drawn up a strategic plan which gives the board a road map of goals and timelines within which to achieve them. Thank you so much Joani, Margo and Judy.

In early March we interviewed six finalists out of the 25+ applications we received for the curator position. Kristina Parkes started on April 4th. To provide comprehensive training, Joani worked

alongside Kristina for the month of April and will do so again for the month of June. A profile of Kristina follows my letter in this newsletter. Please drop into the museum and introduce yourself to her.

On March 1st we lost our dedicated volunteer and Treasurer, Gail Murphy. More about Gail later in this newsletter. She will be sorely missed.

Details on fundraising and donations also appear in this newsletter. I would like to particularly acknowledge, with thanks, the first generous annual donation from the Pat & Jim McQueen Legacy Fund.

We have recently welcomed two new volunteers – Suzanne Personnier, and Sandy Farynuk. Please keep in mind that we are always looking for new volunteers to assist with many projects. Please contact Kristina (enderbymuseum@shaw.ca) if you are interested. Also, please do not hesitate to contact Kristina or myself with any questions or concerns.

Have a great summer. Bring your summer visitors to the museum!

Diana Inselberg

Traditional or Electronic?

While some folks much prefer to sit or even lean back to look at a printed document, others prefer to receive communications, including newsletters electronically.

In order to reduce postage and printing costs, the board decided that, starting with this issue, we would send the newsletter electronically to those museum members for whom we have an e-mail address.

Please let us know - by phone or mail or e-mail - whether and how you would prefer to receive subsequent newsletters.

Our new Curator, Kristina Parkes ...

joined the museum in April, after volunteering since January. She is the widowed mother of three boys, who range in age from nearly four to eleven, and looks forward to the good fit between the Museum's working hours and raising her children.

Kristina has lived in the area on and off for over ten years, and worked locally with the Partners in the Horn of Africa, and last year coordinated the efforts of volunteers in the operation of the Harvest Hut. These efforts should serve her well at the museum, another non-profit dependent on volunteers.

She has presented several ideas to the board about possible new activities at the museum. The main challenge - volunteers, or rather, the lack thereof. She hopes that Museum members – on an off the board – will be able to increase awareness of the Museum in the community, with more volunteers being the hoped-for result. To that end, she has made up posters for distribution: to the Senior's Centre and Library so far, with other locations in the future.

Kristina's major project focus at this time is on cataloguing collections of photographs that have come to the museum recently. After deciding to incorporate it into the archives, a photograph is scanned, incorporated in the photograph repository, indexed under several categories (people, industry, etc.) for access through our traditional index cards as well the repository. Linkage to an overall database (so that a single search brings up objects, documents, and photograph related to the person or object being researched) would be a great project

But that would only be possible if we have more volunteers. Did we say we need more volunteers? .



Kristina's photograph courtesy of Jackie Pearase, from an interview with Kristina published in the May 4 2018 Issue of Enderby's Rivertalk,

Gail Murphy 1942-2018

After living in several places in Alberta (her province of birth) and British Columbia, Gail moved to the Enderby area, where she worked for the Credit Union in Grindrod and Enderby. She worked with the local dairyman's association, and volunteered at Twice But Nice, the Enderby Charity re-sale store, and also did pro bono income tax work for seniors.

Gail joined the museum as a volunteer in 2009. For many years she was the Museum Tuesday volunteer, and worked on the museum's Inventory of Properties in Enderby. Later she worked both Tuesday and Saturday, and in 2017 she voluntarily assumed management of the daily chores in the museum, "practically single-handedly keeping the doors open" according to one board member.



Gail's photograph courtesy of her daughter, Leah Wilcox

Gail was elected to the Museum's board in 2017, in the role of Treasurer. In early December of last year she stopped volunteering and submitted her resignation from the board for health reasons.

She was made an honorary life member of the Museum at the January board meeting. She passed away on March 1st after a brief struggle with ovarian cancer. We at the museum and the Enderby Community will miss Gail's feisty enthusiasm.

Changes and activities

If you've had a chance to visit the museum recently, you will note several changes in the "front" room at the museum entrance.

The heavy, fairly fancy living room furniture which came from the West Coast, ie not local, was donated to and is displayed at the Haney House in Salmon Arm. The Museum there is setting up another historic house, and were glad to receive the furniture.

Last summer and fall there was a display for Canada 150, and Remembrance Day, respectively. With a heavier focus on forestry and lumbering, that photo display was moved out front, as were the logging truck and functioning replica log loader. This made it possible to "unclutter" the far corner of the side room.

Fund Raising

Fundraising in **December 2017**, brought in well over 1500 dollars, \$1569.80 to be precise. Thank you to the donors of baking which brought in 478.80, and Toonie tree donations which added to \$ 84.00. (Gail's counting them was one of her last acts as Treasurer) Proceeds of the Silent Auction of items donated by Museum members was \$1007.00. Thank you to the donors, and the lucky and very generous highest bidders, who were Margo Ludwig and Gloria Morgan.

Since our Christmas Silent Auction was a huge success, we've decided to hold a one day **Dutch Auction** during the Enderby Arts Festival 2018 event to be held **on Saturday, July 28th**.

A Dutch Auction is where you put your maximum bid on a slip of paper that will then go into a gift bag that coincides with that item. At the end of the day, the highest bidder for each item/or service will then be contacted. We are hoping to collect about 30 items for this fundraiser.

Please drop off a description of the item you plan to donate to Kristina for use in upcoming advertising. We won't need the item dropped off until closer to the date.

Thanking you in advance from the Fundraising Committee

Donations

Julia Armstrong and Nola Seefreid made a generous donation to the museum in memory of their mother June Griswold. They requested that the funds be used to develop a larger forestry display in the Museum in the Park with more signage. They also donated a log dog, fid hook and lumberjack dictionary for the display. (you can check the dictionary for log dog and fid hook).

Marie and Glen Stickland gave us a Christmas donation in memory of Irene Stickland, who started the Christmas tradition many years ago. Thank you Marie and Glen.

The board would like to especially acknowledge a very generous donation from the **Pat and Jim McQueen Legacy Fund**.

In Memoriam

Eleanore Bolton made a donation in memory of **Judy Farynuk**.

Doris Shipmaker made a donation in memory of **Joyce Case**.

Diana Inselberg made a donation in memory of **Gail Murphy**.

Bob Cowan made a donation in memory of **Bruce Bolton**.

Their names will be added to our memorial plaque in the museum and In Memoriam on our website.

We shall miss these good folks.

Contest in RiverTalk

As part of our effort to increase community interest in the museum, have more folks visit, and perhaps even become volunteers, we are working on a contest with Enderby's RiverTalk newspaper. Every once a while, they will run a picture of an item from the museum, and challenge readers to identify it and its use. The names of those with the correct answer will be entered in a draw for a prize.

Contest details have yet to be decided – check RiverTalk.

Linda Higginbottom...

... shows off one side of the symbol sign she painted that is now safely hung underneath the museum sign on the highway.

The images are based on photographs in the museum's collection, On the side of the board she is showing Linda added a recognizable Enderby area background to a photo of the wagon pulled by three horses.



Linda, who is completely self-taught, painted the pictures over a period of three months while also working on other projects. A significant part of the job was the application of 12 finish coats, six to a side, including special varnish coats to try to stand up to the heat and cold of local weather.

Thank you Linda. By the way, we are glad your back operation went well, and hope to see more of you in the museum when you are able.

Giant's Castle Mountain

Don Bourdon, the Curator of images and paintings at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, contacted us as they have recently purchased the painting entitled *Giant's Castle Mountain: A.L. Fortune Farm, Enderby, BC Oct 6, 1882* by Grafton Tyler Brown. G.T. Brown, was an African-American artist who, in 1882, joined the Bowman Geological Survey as the travelling artist. A. L. Fortune commissioned Brown to do the painting of his homestead in 1882.

Oldtimers remember that the painting hung in the Fortune house until Bathia died in 1930. Mr. and Mrs. Fortune did not have any children; all of their possessions were auctioned in 1931. George Halksworth of Enderby purchased the painting for \$10.00 at the auction. When George moved in the 1960s he gave the painting to his daughter Lois Roberts of Enderby. The painting hung in her living room until the family discovered the value of the painting and put it up for auction in 2013. The Royal BC Museum purchased the painting in March 2018 for \$44,000 from Uno Langmann Fine Arts Ltd., with funds from the Royal BC Museum Foundation and Friends of the BC Archives.

In 1883 G. T. Brown created a total of 22 paintings of BC in his studio in Victoria, all based on his drawings from a geological survey into the Southern Interior. The Royal BC Museum currently has the largest collection of Brown's Canadian works in the world. Dr. John Lutz of the University of Victoria has deemed this painting Brown's most important work as Fortune was "a major historical figure in the Okanagan as well as one of the Overlanders in 1862".

Originally it was hoped that the painting would stay in Enderby, but that was not possible. However, the Museum Board plans (or hopes?) to acquire a high quality photographic print of the painting, larger than the one currently displayed in the Parlor Room, for display in the Museum.

Volunteer



Diane Bylsma has been a volunteer at the Museum for about two years. She has taken on the job of transcribing hand-written property records into the computer database, focusing on the Twin Lakes area. Diane and her husband Neil (who himself volunteered to become a board member) retired there in 2013 from grain farming in Barrhead, Alberta. They are not strangers to the area, having previously lived in the BX. Welcome back to the Okanagan and the Museum, Diane and Neil.

New books available in the Museum

One is a photographic reprint of **Charles Holliday's "The Valley of Youth"** first published in 1948. It records his early travels around the world and reflects on many aspects of the Okanagan through his text, paintings and photographs, during the 48 years he lived here prior to 1937.

Much of the book focuses on the local area between Vernon and Sicamous. Until now one would have to come to the museum and read the original, as it may not be taken from the museum. Now, however, you can take home your own copy, to peruse at leisure – for a cost of only \$20.00 – for a most interesting read.

"Everything Shuswap" by Jim Cooperman speaks exclusively on the Shuswap. The first of a planned multi volume set on the subject, it includes descriptions of the geography, geology, and ecology of the area. Major chapters are devoted to Native peoples and European settlement in the area up until the First World War.

This most informative book includes historic black and white photographs, many from the Enderby Archives, supplemented by a plethora of colour images.

Autographed copies of the book are available for \$35.00. And of course there are still copies of "Flowing Through Time" and the 81st report of the OHS referenced in the previous newsletter, with the 82nd soon to come.

Visitors

With the move of the Friday Farmers Market to the Splatsin centre, it is logical to expect fewer visitors that day. However, with proper support and volunteer staffing, that would be as good a day as any to bring in the kids – both traditionally and home-schooled ones – such as happened recently



Joan Cowan explains details of butter making to a rapt audience of eleven youngsters from grades one, two, and three in the Mountain View Christian school on Gardom Lake Road who visited the museum on Friday April 27. Looking on, left to right, are Jody Esau, Nicole Johnson, Myrna Klassen, the children's mothers, and Rosemary Ratzlaff, their teacher, with Kristina Parkes, the Museum's new Curator.



A more recent visitor was Greg Kylo, our MLA, who visited the Museum on May 24th.

The photo, courtesy of Holly Cowan, his assistant, shows Diana Inselberg and Mr. Kylo holding the “The British Columbia/Canada 150: celebrating B.C. Communities & their contribution to Canada” program plaque, with Kristina Parkes, Faith Hudson and Vivian McIntyre.

Last year the Museum applied for and received a grant from this program to replace the roof of the Springbend Hall.

As the repair cost came in below estimate, there was money “left over”. The grant was earmarked, so we had to ask for permission to use the balance for other museum projects.

We are very pleased that we were able to use the balance to purchase badly needed archival newspaper and textile boxes, and other archival supplies. Bob Cowan sorted all the old Enderby newspapers into correct order and transferred them to the new boxes, and Sandy Farynuk is working with Kristina to move textiles to the new boxes in acid-free tissue.



Giant's Castle Mountain: A.L. Fortune Farm, Enderby, BC Oct 6, 1882 by Grafton Tyler Brown - the painting mentioned earlier. Image courtesy of Don Bourdon, Curator of images and paintings, Royal BC Museum, Victoria, B.C. brightened for greater detail and better reproduction.