

# Museum News

Issue eighteen Winter 2019 - 2020

## *Our Upcoming Events and Dates to Note*

### *Photobooth Flashback Fundraiser – Saturdays*

*Oct 19<sup>th</sup> – Nov 9<sup>th</sup>* Advanced booking IS required. Email [enderbymuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:enderbymuseum@shaw.ca) or call 250-838-7170 to book your spot!

### *Silent Auction November 14<sup>th</sup> – December 14<sup>th</sup>*

Please bring in your best items for the Silent Auction as soon as possible. Don't forget to come in and place your bid!

### *Annual General Meeting – Friday November*

*15<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.* The AGM will be held in the museum with special guest speaker Barry Fawcett on the building of the Memorial Terrace & Tower.

*Memberships are now due!!* Please ensure you come into the museum and get your membership! It is \$10 for an individual or \$15 for two voting members of the same household. Memberships are a great way to support the museum, and help preserve local history. You will be first in line to receive any museum news and you have the opportunity to vote at our AGM.

### *Toonie Tree December 6<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>*

\$2 will get you a decoration on our tree and a chance to win half of all the proceeds!

### *Bake Sale December 6<sup>th</sup> & December 7<sup>th</sup>*

Please bring in your best baked goods by Friday December 6th between 10 a.m. and noon. The bake sale will begin at noon on both days until we sell out. Board members will be making phone calls ahead of time as a reminder.

*Calendars for sale* 2020 "Then & Now" calendars should be for sale for \$10 in the museum and at locations around Enderby shortly.

**Enderby & District  
Museum & Archives**  
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Enderby, BC V0E 1V0  
250-838-7170  
[enderbymuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:enderbymuseum@shaw.ca)  
[www.enderbymuseum.ca](http://www.enderbymuseum.ca)

**The Museum is open**  
Tuesday through Saturday  
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Curator – Kristina Parkes**

**Board of Directors 2018-  
2019**

**President:** Diana Inselberg

**Vice-president:** Sandy  
Farynuk

**Secretary:** Bob Cowan

**Treasurer:** Melanie Baylis

**Directors:** Neil Bylsma,  
Judy Fischer,  
Faith Hudson, Sue Weiss

## *BC Megafauna Project*

Laura Termes, PhD student and osteologist for the BC Megafauna Project at Simon Fraser



University Archeologist Department, came to museum on June 18<sup>th</sup> to take samples of three separate mammoth teeth specimens on loan from the Baird family. All three specimens were found in the Baird Bros. Gravel Pit over the last 30 years. After initial testing at SFU labs (to ensure there is enough collagen



in the samples to proceed) the samples will be sent to an Ontario lab for radiocarbon dating. The turnaround for the results is approximately six to eight months. A big thank you to Tundra and Josh Baird for making this partnership possible by giving permission for samples to be taken. Check out more of what the BC Megafauna Project

is doing at <https://www.sfu.ca/megafauna.html> Come into the Museum to see these molars up close!

## *Binders for the reference shelves*

Chief Organizer Vivian has been working very hard at reorganizing our reference shelves for a more intuitive approach for the public to find what they are looking for. Working with what we have on hand she has put the clipping binders into categories and grouped them together in the same colour binders. For example, all of the 'Schools' are in blue, the 'Communities' are in black, the 'Health' in white, etc. We ran out of binders during this process and have seen a need to get better quality binders. If you folks have any 2 inch or 3 inch binders in blue, black, white or burgundy that are in good working condition please bring them into the museum, we could really use them! Vivian has once again proven her organizational skills are positively super-human!

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Photobooth Flashback Fundraiser:** Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> (advanced booking IS required)

**Silent Auction** Nov 14<sup>th</sup> – Dec 14<sup>th</sup>

**AGM** Friday Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m. in the Museum

**Toonie Tree** December 6<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

**Bake Sale** Dec 6<sup>th</sup> & Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

Museum open 12 noon – 8 p.m. Fri Dec 6<sup>th</sup> (Please bring in your best baked goods between 10 a.m. and noon)

**Memberships are now due!**

**Annual Museum Closure** Dec 21<sup>st</sup> - Jan 6<sup>th</sup>

## *North Columbia Trading – Interview by Bob Cowan*

The Enderby and District Museum has a number of very important on-going projects. These include The Property Index which identifies every property in Enderby and Area F by street address and provides as much information as can be gleaned from BC Assessment and local newspapers. Another important project is up-dating the files of every family that has lived in the Enderby area. My personal project has been interviewing residents and transcribing the tapes. The transcriptions are then placed in a binder and the appropriate file. In the early 1980s I met with Ted Peel and Ruby Lidstone weekly for six months, listening to them recount the early part of the 20th Century in Enderby. Most recently I interviewed Lee Starrett who along with Walt Velardo and Bruce Hedden established North Columbia Trading, a manufacturing company in the location of the recently closed Ashley Furniture store in the late 1970s.



The question that has consumed local conversations about attracting business has always been “Why Enderby?” Lee didn’t just pick Enderby out of a hat. He and his partners were from Southern California and by the late 1960s they had determined that they wanted to leave urban California. They were

part of a popular “back to the land” movement of that era. Invariably Lee and his family toured the western states in a VW bus. A business associate of Lee’s suggested the Vernon area of British Columbia. Almost purchasing in Coldstream, they met Enderby real estate agent, Gordon Dale, whom they found to be the most focused and personable of the agents they had thus far dealt with. At that very time, the land along the river from Cliff to the Spallumcheen Band Reserve was traded from the former mill owners to the Provincial Government for timber licences. It was then leased to private enterprise for 99 years. Since the land was already zoned industrial, Lee and Walt saw the site as a perfect manufacturing possibility.

They initially built a Steiner Arch building, and began manufacturing gift ware. At first, as with most businesses, it was difficult to break into the market. But they persisted and by the late 1980s, they had built another building and had two shifts producing gift ware. They were a success. Lee emphasized that whatever profit they accumulated, they put it back into the business.

Lee, Walt (and Walt’s parents) along with Bruce moved to the rural area, and have been here ever since. Tragedy struck in 1992 when fire destroyed the buildings. They had insurance and announced in the local media that they would rebuild. Then their accountant suggested they do something else since they had not really made money manufacturing because they kept putting the money back into the business. That’s when Dennis Case stepped in and suggested a new furniture store in that location.



So to answer the above question “Why Enderby?” The answer appears to be a personable real estate agent, Gordon Dale, reasonably priced land, and a determination to succeed.

*The entire transcript is available in the Enderby Museum.*

## *The Photobooth Flashback Fundraiser is back!! - Book today!*

The Photobooth Flashback Fundraiser is a fun memory-making activity to do with your family, friends, co-workers, anyone you want a picture with, while supporting your local museum and crossing off Christmas gifts at the same time!

The digital image(s) will be emailed to your inbox so you can get them printed at the location of your choice in whichever manner you choose - last year people had mugs, t-shirts, mouse-pads and photo-cards made. Some put photos in frames, and others emailed their photos to their family and friends. The ideas are endless!

With only 4 Saturdays this year I highly recommend to book early, last year we were booked solid.

This really is a wonderful fundraiser for the museum, it's not only a great way to raise money but also a great way to get the community excited about the museum again. People have this idea that museums are boring, but they



don't have to be. I always get a kick out of watching people dragging their kids in here, like they don't want to be here but within minutes you can't get them to stop their excitement. In the end they don't want to leave. Museums are still relevant and I want to bring that awareness back to people, especially to the young families.

This fundraiser doesn't really give you a chance to check out the full museum, like you won't be able to make rope or grind wheat, but you will be able to dress up in old-time costumes and gear up with amazing props, lent to us from our fantastic sponsors. We have an amazing team of volunteers to help you get into costume. You get 15 minutes with a local professional photographer and I'll be there to help you pose.

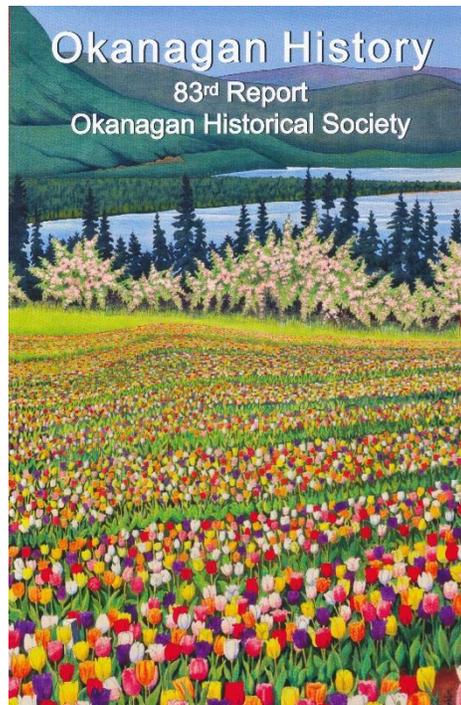
Dads and kids, make mom happy - come in and get your photos done - it's less than an hour of your life to give mom the family photo she's always wanted!

The fundraiser is running on Saturday October 19, October 26, November 2 and November 9. Advanced booking is required!

***Calendar Fundraiser*** Volunteers Roy van Ryswyk and Kezia Kazmar have been working hard to produce a 2020 museum calendar of "Then and Now" photographs. The calendars should be for sale in the museum and at locations around Enderby shortly, for \$10 each, with all proceeds going to support the museum. Thank you to the many Enderby businesses who have donated to the project!

## *83rd Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*

The latest Okanagan History is available for sale in the museum for \$25. There is a new format this year. The articles are arranged by communities, starting with Salmon Arm and ending with Osoyoos. There are short histories of each community plus a short history of the Okanagan Valley by the editor. For Enderby there is a reprint from *Flowing through Time: Stories of Kingfisher and Mabel Lake*, namely W.O. Mitchell at Mabel Lake by his son Hugh. For Armstrong there is student essay contest winner Jessica Kruger's biography of C.W. Holliday, early photographer and historian of the North Okanagan. Also included is Carmen Kirkland and Dick File's *Brightlea Ranch Tragedy*, a love triangle that resulted in two murders. There is much more in the book including *Lives Remembered*. Local historian, Bob Cowan, was the editor of this edition. He was last editor thirty years ago.



## *Okanagan Historical Society's Annual General Meeting*

For the first time in the Okanagan Historical Society's 95 year history, its annual general meeting will be held in Enderby on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 10 am in the Enderby and District Seniors' Complex. The business of the society including the election of officers will be held at 10 a.m. It should be noted that in all probability Bob Cowan from Enderby will be re-elected treasurer of the society again while Joan Cowan will be re-elected secretary. They are both life members of the society and have a combined service record of 35 years in these positions.

### **ARMSTRONG - ENDERBY BRANCH OF OKANAGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

**Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019 at 2 p.m.**

in the Armstrong-Spallumcheen  
Museum

3415 Pleasant Valley Road,  
Armstrong

Topic: Armstrong Heritage

Speakers: Jessie Ann Gamble  
and Gail Salter from the  
Armstrong Heritage Society.

83rd Annual Report will be available  
for \$25 and includes OHS year  
membership.

There is no cost for the business meeting.

There is, however, a cost for the catered luncheon that will follow at noon. The guest speaker, Len Gamble, will speak about the 1975 fire at A.L. Fortune School and the subsequent challenge of being principal of that school destroyed by fire. No doubt the subject of the development of the new A.L. Fortune School on Bass Avenue will be considered. Tickets for the luncheon and presentation are \$25 each and will be available in March; please phone Joan, 250-838-5799 for reservations.

The Enderby Museum will be opened that Sunday afternoon for guests and visitors to view Enderby's history.

*Attendance* has remained the same from summer 2018 to summer 2019. Statistics show that people like to come into the museum earlier in the day. Many times in the spring and summer people were waiting for the doors to open at 10 a.m. Oftentimes we just open the doors early for those folks and let them enjoy the museum.

## *Research*

Joan Cowan reviews a record from the Museum's Archives with Dr. Dominique Clément,



professor of Sociology at the University of Alberta. Dr Clément visited the Museum June 8 to research material for his upcoming book on the history of Women's movement in British Columbia including women's organizations. Thanks to our Archives' extensive collection of records ranging from the Grindrod 4H sewing club to the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary, Joan was able to provide Dr. Clément with a plethora of research material. He stated he was impressed with the quantity, quality, and organization of our Archives, and plans to return to do more work here. Thank you Joan for taking a Saturday to host the professor.

## *Suitcase Whatsit!? at the library*

If you happened to be in the Enderby branch of the Okanagan Regional Library for the last two weeks of August you might have seen the Whatsit!? Suitcase full of artifacts from the past. Kids and adults alike were encouraged to guess what the items were and had the opportunity gain an extra ballot for the summer reading program.

*A.L. Fortune work experience student* Justine has been diligently working on the City Property Inventory Index since April. She loved it so much she even volunteered over the summer and decided to keep going for another school year! She is meticulous, hardworking, and extremely bright and has some very funny stories to share. We are delighted to have Justine as part of our team!

***NOTICE OF MEETING*** The Annual General Meeting of our Society will be held on **Friday, November 15th at 7 p.m. in the museum.** Elections will be held for 5-6 Directors. Nominations will be accepted in writing (by mail, e-mail or dropped off) until 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 9th. There will be no nominations from the floor during the AGM. If you are interested in joining the board, please contact Diana Inselberg at 250-838-2141 or 44diana@telus.net. You may nominate yourself!

*Thank You!* To Peter Vander Sar for his years of Newsletter writing and to all those who helped in preparation of this newsletter!