



# Museum News

*Issue Thirteen - Summer 2017*

*(e-mailed newsletters are under review)*

## **Letter from the President, Diana Inselberg**

Over the past year, the Museum's board of directors has experienced unprecedented challenges. Our former curator, Naomi Fournier, was on sick leave starting in early October. Naomi accepted a settlement on March 23, 2017 and thereby terminated her employment with the Museum. From October to the present, the Museum has been kept open by dedicated volunteers. As we are still operating with volunteers, we will keep winter hours for this summer, i.e. Tuesday-Saturday, 12-4pm.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) normally held in late November, was postponed until January 12, 2017. A board was elected, but that election was challenged by two members and their supporters. New elections were held on June 15, 2017. Nine directors were elected by acclamation, as were the executive positions. The new board is described on the next page.

The new board met on June 26. Current issues were discussed, committees formed, and an orientation\tour of the museum for volunteers and directors was planned for early July. One of the most important issues is the revision of our bylaws to conform with the new B.C. Societies Act. We plan to present the new proposed bylaws at the November 2017 AGM. Another very important issue is the future staffing of the museum. A committee will explore various options and report to the board.

I would like to thank the general membership of the Society for their support, especially at our General Meetings in May and June.

A special thanks to Jon Turpin who assumed the duties of President for the past six months, and to John Brennan, as past President and currently Vice-President. Special thanks go to our new Treasurer, Gail Murphy, who, as a volunteer, has put in many hours keeping things running smoothly these last nine months. Thank you also to the six former board members – Jon Turpin, Faith Hudson, Peter Hudson, Herb Higginbottom, Sandy Thon and Joan Reid – for their past service.

The new board looks forward to maintaining the excellence of our Museum and moving forward in a positive manner.

We always welcome new volunteers in the museum. Please contact me at [44diana@telus.net](mailto:44diana@telus.net) or 838-2141 if you are interested.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

*Diana Inselberg, President*

### **Enderby and District Museum & Archives**

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Opening Hours: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Tuesday – Saturday

## Board Directors

Peter Vander Sar



**The New Museum Society Board** - left to right; Sue Weiss, John Brennan (vice-president), Judy Fischer, Joan Cowan,, Diana Inselberg (president), Marcy Peel, Bob Cowan (secretary), Gail Murphy (treasurer) , Margo Ludwig. (photograph courtesy of Jette, Rivertalk)

A New Museum Society Board was elected by acclamation at the special general meeting of the Society held Wednesday June 15. The board is very fortunate to have attracted this group of prominent Enderbyites. While most are well-known by name, here is a little bit of information about each of them (in order of appearance above).

**Sue Weiss** moved to Enderby with her husband Ron in 2009 from Beaverlodge, where she was director of the Cultural Centre and worked for 5 years as curator and administrator. She volunteers at the Enderby and District Arts Council, and has served as a director.

**John Brennan** ,Vice President still works for a living, servicing the draught beer machines in the area. He has volunteered for the local Lions Club for many years. John was president of the Museum Society from 2013 through to 2017

**Judy Fischer** has been involved with Enderby real estate for twenty years. Since being licensed as a realtor in 1997, she has specialized in properties in the Mabel Lake area, working out of the RE/MAX office since 2004. She is a member of the Kingfisher History Committee, publisher of the recent History of the Kingfisher area, and contributed several articles in it about the Dales, her ancestral family.

**Joan Cowan** started as a volunteer at the museum in 1978 and was curator/administrator from 1989 until she retired in 2012. She has held various positions with the Okanagan Historical Society, currently as secretary of the parent body and board member of the local chapter. She has returned to the museum as a volunteer.

**Diana Inselberg**, our new president, is a retired librarian who has volunteered in the museum for over 22 years and has been on the board since 2013. She is President of the Enderby & District Arts Council, and is the Museum representative on the Enderby Heritage Commission.

**Marcy Peel** is a long time resident of Enderby. She lives with her husband Randy in the Peel house, built in 1907 by Randy's grandfather. She has been a member of the Enderby Heritage Commission since its founding 20 years ago and served as director on the Enderby and District Credit Union board for a number of years.

**Bob Cowan**, Secretary of the new board has been involved with things historical for many years. With his wife Joan he wrote "Enderby an Illustrated History". He is treasurer of the Okanagan Historical Society (OHS) parent body and sits on the board of the Armstrong and Enderby chapter. He chairs the Enderby Heritage Commission.

**Gail Murphy** in her post as treasurer is back to doing what she did until 10 years ago (dealing with numbers in the financial sector), except now she is not being paid for it. She has volunteered at the museum since 2009.

**Margo Ludwig** is a long time resident of Enderby and a member of a pioneer family. Margo retired from a 33 year career as a Certified Education Assistant at A. L. Fortune High School in 2012. Margo has been involved with the community in many volunteer positions over the years, ranging from community sports to high school student activities.

## The Orientation/Tour ....

... mentioned in the President's letter happened on Wednesday July 5. The four directors relatively new to the Museum – Judy, Margo, Marcy, and Sue - all took the time to attend a familiarization session. Director Joan Cowan, assisted by fellow directors Diana, Bob, and Gail, reviewed major archives and acquisition processes and showed them "behind the scenes". The new board members also met with several volunteers who described their responsibilities (and stayed around to pick up some details from Joan).

## Thank you to Heather Edwards



Heather painted - gratis – the picture above on the Museum Window. It's a copy of Museum Photograph 711 of a Salt family picnic taken in the early nineteen hundreds. (photograph courtesy Diana Inselberg)

## Okanagan Historical Society (OHS) Report 80

... is available at the museum for \$25.00 and no tax. "Report" is a bit of a misnomer: It used to contain the reports presented at the Annual General meeting: Now it's a collection of articles on almost any aspect of items of historical interest in the OHS area of interest, which ranges as far north as Salmon Arm.

## Junior Volunteer

On Thursday April 27 thirteen year old Leith Webster, probably the youngest volunteer since the Fournier youngsters helped out, visited the museum .

Leith is a student at Shuswap Middle School in Salmon Arm, where grade eight students such as himself are encouraged to volunteer four to six hours as part of "social responsibility day".

Leith assisted Gail Murphy with the transcription of photograph related records. Some of the records were printed, while others were hand-written. That produced a bit of a challenge. Leith, like most students today, has

relatively little familiarity with and exposure to written or cursive, rather than printed, writing. As most museum records are hand-written, sometimes very poorly, that can be a challenge –now, let alone in the future.

Leith stated he found his volunteering "a valuable learning experience". This museum and others will have to incorporate learnings from his experience as well.

## Acquisitions

Peter Vander Sar

Some material the museum is offered we have to refuse because it does not fall into our geographical or material sphere of interest, or are duplicates, or we lack room.

The other day Carol Ross came in from Mara to donate a book which fits in our collection. It is copy number 2641 of the 1921 version of the "Reference book containing ratings of .. (businesses) ... throughout the Dominion of Canada" from R. G. Dun & Co., a predecessors of today's Dun&Bradstreet . The book lists the net worth and credit worthiness of all businesses in Canada: three are listed for Mara, three for Grindrod. and 22 for Enderby (Population 836). It adds a financial perspective to the information in our Business Archives.

There was no indication which person or business the book was "loaned" to, though it contains an earnest notice it "be returned when the subscription expires". Carol tells us it was part of her mother's book collection. It likely belonged to Hugh McFarland, Carol's stepfather's father, who is reported to have owned lumber yards in the prairies.

Thanks Carol!

## OHS Annual General Meeting

The Okanagan Historical Society held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 30 at the Summerland Waterfront Resort. The formal part of the meeting included presentation of reports and election of officers. Enderby's Joan and Bob Cowan were elected as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

A cheque was presented to Penticton's Hannah Clark, a most impressive winner of the student essay contest on Okanagan's Path to Native Education. Guest speaker Dave Hill had a most interesting presentation about Summerland Historical Lower Town, right around the meeting location. Several buildings are still standing – it's worth driving along the lake there.

## BC Canada 150 Grant



This past winter the Museum Society made two grant applications to the “British Columbia | Canada 150: Celebrating B.C. Communities” fund created for museums to “create meaningful legacies honouring the province’s unique and diverse histories .. ....( including) .. conserving historic places and heritage sites”. Applications were made for reroofing the Springbend Hall and for improving the Museum in the Park ( “Musebo”).

The funding request for re-roofing the Springbend Hall has been re-submitted with a budget of \$15,000. A grant for \$12,000 was approved, with the proviso that the Museum contribute \$3,000. This amount will be funded from the Jean Emeny Schubert Legacy Fund, which was earmarked to be used for Springbend Hall. We hope to receive the grant in time for the work to be done before the snow flies.

## The OHS Armstrong Enderby Branch Annual General Meeting ....

..was held in the Enderby Museum on Sunday May 7. Reports presented included one by president Carmen Kirkland about the condition of the gravestones in Lansdown Cemetery which branch volunteers maintain. Directors elected include OHS Life Members Rob Dale and Bob and Joan Cowan and Peter Vander Sar, all active Museum Society members.

The four speaker’s talks centred on the original cabins on Mabel Lake’s Dolly Varden Beach. They were Helen Brandt, George Rands, Gordon Woods, and Hew Kidstone. As the minutes of the meeting state: “All mentioned multigenerational heritage and idyllic summers on the water, along the shore, and with families, despite rustic conditions”.

The talks were supported by several exhibit boards including many pictures loaned by Helen Brandt, and panoramic pictures of the cottages as they were in 1996 taken by Wayne McLeod.

## Kingfisher Book “unveiling”

Peter Vander Sar

It was a full house on Saturday, May 27 in the Kingfisher Hall, complete with cake and sparkling wine. The occasion? The unveiling (literally) of the book “Flowing through Time –Stories of Kingfisher and Mabel Lake” published by the Kingfisher History Committee.

Weighing in at 348 pages, the book is a most interesting compendium of things historical, geographical, industrial, and recreational, with most of it given to histories of the families who settled in the area, spanning the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, there are many items of general interest. Did you know there was a communal group that manufactured log buildings for sale to like-minded folks across the province? Or that the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre had its start at the Fink Farm?

Copies of the book are available at the Museum for \$25.00. Here is your chance to buy a tax free present – and the book is a very popular item, judging by sales at the museum.

C’mon down.

## Enderby and District Heritage Commission

Bob Cowan

Four member of the Museum Board sit on the board of the Enderby and District Heritage Commission, which was created by the City over twenty years ago to provide guidance to Enderby City Council in heritage matters.

The Commission created the brass plaques installed on various residential and commercial buildings in the city, as well as the interpretive signs that are set along the Riverwalk.

This summer’s project is the installation of three new signs along the Walk between Regency on the River and Riverside Park. Unlike the others, they face away, not towards the river, and include pictures and stories relating to the Arena and the King Edward Hotel.

So go take a walk!