

MUSEUM NEWS

Issue Thirty THREE | SUMMER 2024



How to Find Us

Box 367
901 George Street,
Enderby, BC V0E 1V0
250-838-7170
enderbymuseum@shaw.ca
www.enderbymuseum.ca

Hours of Operation

The Museum is open
Tuesday - Saturday
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Who We Are

Administrator – Jackie Pearase

Board of Directors 2022-2023

President: Sandra Farynuk

Vice-president: Sue Phillips

Secretary: Bob Cowan

Treasurer: Diana Inselberg

Directors: Judy Fischer, Ted Morrison

Joan Cowan, Desiree Roell

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membership
today!**



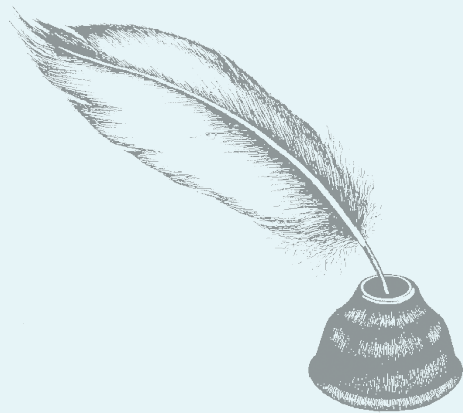
This beautiful photo of the Shuswap River was taken from the boat launch by Ron Harder in 2022. [edms 8564]

President's Message

Hello Museum Members,

It's hard to believe fall is coming while we are enduring all this heat as I write this letter! Busy times continued through the summer with visitors from far and wide. As to be reported elsewhere, our administrator Jackie attended several functions in the city and around the district displaying, besides our working fire truck, artifacts, articles and pictures to the great interest of those checking them out. Many thanks to Jackie for all the work that entails, from setup to pull down to enduring the heat and giving her time as these were mostly holidays! Volunteers have been very diligent coming in and doing the many jobs that need doing but, remember, we can always use more. Please bring in your family and friends visiting as I know they would enjoy a visit to our museum.

Sandra Farynuk, President of the Board



Museum notes

By Jackie Pearase

Correction

The caption in the last newsletter with the photo of the museum's new D&E Drive-in display contained incorrect information. The old restaurant was purchased in 2022 by Don and Jan Koenig, not Fred Koenig, who passed away in July 2022. Sorry for the mistake and thanks to Jean and Don, who corrected me.

Fire truck

Enderby's first fire truck made its second appearance in the July 1 parade, this time with its nice paint job and a few more accoutrements. It spent some time at Williamson Automotive to get the mechanical in better running condition prior to the parade. The rad also needed to be re-cored. The expense of these fixes was made less painful with the \$3,000 provided to the museum by city council for the project. Next up is getting the wood in the box secured and a seat created so Santa and Mrs. Claus can use it for the Christmas parade.

A long history of business support

Enderby's business community gave themselves a voice soon after the city was incorporated.

The Enderby and District Board of Trade was formed in 1908 with the goal of promoting business and tourism in the city and rural areas. It adopted a constitution and bylaws on Jan. 18, 1909. The organization operated sporadically in the 1930s and 1940s. Renewed interest in 1945 revived the organization and it met monthly.

The name changed to the Enderby and District Chamber of Commerce in 1961 and it was officially incorporated Nov. 15, 1979 under the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

The chamber took an active role in highlighting important issues in the community including the Enderby bridge (1980 and 1982), forestry office closure (1982), access to the Enderby Cliffs (1983, 1987, 1988 and 2000), Hwy. 97A (1989), the post office closure (1991), hospital closure (1992) and railway closure (2010). The board wrote letters to government bodies, and produced promotional material and reports on downtown revitalization, tourism, outdoor recreation and the Shuswap River as a heritage and tourist destination.

Over the years, the chamber operated a Business Information Centre (BIC), Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and the campground at Riverside Park in consultation with the city.

A VIC was established by the chamber in Barnes Park in 1979, with youth hired to work there in the summer months. It moved to a small log building in the Howard Johnson parking lot in 1984.

The chamber began operating a BIC under contract with the provincial government in 1982 with the mandate to encourage new business in the area and provide information to existing businesses about available contracts and clients.

The BIC was first located in the Enderby Lands Real Estate office. A new office at Enderby City Hall in 1990 provided a more neutral location and more grant opportunities.

In 1990, the chamber received grants to construct a log building to house the chamber offices and VIC. The site along the Shuswap River next to the bridge had been purchased by the provincial government after Crown Zellerbach closed its mill in 1974; the government then leased the lots to the City of Enderby. The con-

struction project fit nicely with the city's five-year plan to develop the site into a day use park and boat launch.

A Canadian Job Strategy grant employed six people to get hands-on training in log building construction at Highland Logs in Swan Lake. The completed building was disassembled and trucked to Enderby where another CJS grant was used to employ seven people to re-construct the building on the site. The second crew consisted of Ivan David, Brian Zak, Kelly Moore, Cathy Hooper, Tim Burton, Derrick Holtz and Chris Melville. Jack Jensen was project foreman and chamber president Chuck Haddock oversaw the project.

"Besides housing the chamber office, the building will also be home to the Business and Tourist Information Centres and possibly exhibits for various industries," reads a Dec. 29, 1991 Enderby Commoner article. "The structure also has a three-quarter length mezzanine which can be used for meetings."

A grand opening of the new building held June 30, 1992 included attendance by Mayor Terry Fergus, MLA Shannon O'Neill and MP Lyle MacWilliam.

In addition to the CJS grants, the project was assisted by the City of Enderby, Go BC, BC Gaming, Enderby and District Lions Club and 33 donors of funds and labour.

The 1,200 square foot structure took 18 months to complete and was valued at over \$170,000.



The tourist information booth operated by the Enderby & District Chamber of Commerce situated in the parking lot of the Howard Johnson, circa 1985. [edms 3306]

Canada Day

I spent time in the gazebo at Barnes Park after taking the fire truck in the July 1 parade. People enjoyed touring the artifacts inside, even if the band made it difficult to share a conversation. The gazebo was also a popular spot when the rain dropped in for a bit.

Cemetery cleanup

A small group worked in the Enderby Cemetery in June to clean gravestones. The city is responsible for ensuring gravesites are maintained (ground not slumping or stones falling into the ground), but family members are responsible for upkeep of gravestones. Great care is taken to ensure the gravestones are not marred by any work done to clean them. Plastic scrapers, toothbrushes, water and mild detergent are the tools of choice. Sandy Farynuk makes regular visits to the graveyard and does a little work each time. We are still looking for people who want to get involved with this project; contact Sandy if you can help.

Grindrod Days

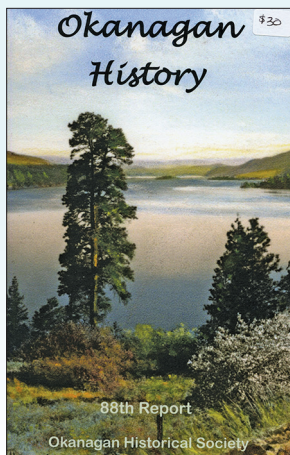
The museum took part in the 15th annual Grindrod Days held July 20-21. I brought along some Grindrod artifacts and photographs for people to peruse – plus all the information I gleaned about Grindrod while researching the items and photos. Volunteer Peter Vander Sar came along and we had a hot but wonderful day sharing the museum's collection and information. At least one person left in high spirits when she saw a photograph of her grandfather John Pada's bodyshop where she spent summers as a child. She followed up with a visit to the museum where she got copies of photos of her grandparents. I absolutely love making people's day like that!

Springbend Hall

The museum board did a spring cleanup at Springbend Hall in June. They cleaned up inside the hall, dusting away spiderwebs and mouse droppings, fixed some shelving and got the place looking spiffy. The grounds were also tended to with some mowing and clipping. Extra thanks go to Desiree Roell for her ongoing maintenance of the place, getting some small repair jobs tended to and making sure the grass is mowed. With the new outside lights installed last year, the place no longer looks abandoned or uncared for.

Okanagan History book

Okanagan History, the 88th Report of the Okanagan Historical Society is now available for purchase. The front cover is a hand-coloured photo by George Meeres. The book contains articles on people, places, businesses and events of the Okanagan region. There are submissions from Oliver/Osoyoos, Summerland, Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon, Similkameen, Armstrong, Salmon Arm and Enderby. Local historian and museum volunteer Bob Cowan wrote the two articles on Enderby titled Enderby's Golden Years and Enderby and District Community Play. The book is for sale at the Enderby Museum for \$30.



With the building complete, the chamber turned its attention to further development of Belvidere Park. The city requested a cost proposal for park upgrades in March 1994 before it would release funds for the project. The city agreed to take responsibility for maintaining the park. City funds and donations from the public for benches, trees and tables were used to complete the park.

The chamber undertook other projects over the years, including development of the Riverside RV Park & Campground; creating plaques for Belvidere Park and Riverwalk; cleaning of the Shuswap River and Riverside RV Park; publication of business and service directories, newsletters, brochures and Exploring Enderby; and building a caretaker's house and office in Riverside Park. The chamber ceded operation of the Riverside RV Park to the city in 2020.

The chamber became inactive in 2021 but was recently revived by a concerted effort by local businesses. A newly elected board of directors hosted a relaunch and membership drive April 23, 2024 and garnered about 30 members.

This new chamber crew is ready to build on the 116 years of hard work invested into Enderby's business community.



The Enderby & District Chamber of Commerce Building, 700 Railway St. in 1996. Note the size of the tree to the left of the building. [edms 5347]

Over 100 years of local library history



The Enderby branch of the Okanagan Regional Library in 2008. [edms 6750]

Enderby's first library was established in 1900 with a donation of books from Mr. Heggie, the manager at Stepney Ranch.

Mr. Appleton, flour mill manager, found space for the books in the provincial courtroom by the river. It was open as a reading room three nights a week for residents to use free of charge; those wanting to borrow books had to pay a fee of \$1 per year. Donations of more books and magazines from local residents enhanced the collection.

When Appleton left for another job, he asked city clerk Graham Rosoman to take it over. But Rosoman found the system to be a poor one without a proper librarian. As a result, the library, now known as the Stepney Library, was tied to the local government and housed in Enderby City Hall.

The Enderby Library Association was formed, a librarian hired at \$25 per week, and rules developed. People could borrow one book per week and fines of 10 cents per week were levied for overdue books. A lack of interest in the library resulted in its loss.

In 1920 a provincial library system was introduced. Ten members were required to form a local library. The Enderby Library was formed and an annual fee of \$1 implemented.

The library was open Saturdays from 2-4 p.m. at city hall. Mr. Welch offered to be the volunteer librarian. The province charged a fee for sending books; it pro-

posed exchanging 50 books four times per year. By 1924, the Enderby Library reported a 45% increase to its membership.

The Okanagan Union Library was developed in 1936 and municipalities and school boards were asked to vote on joining the system. It cost \$150 to join. The vote in Enderby was 51 against and 27 for; other communities to vote no were Revelstoke, Hedley and Penticton.

By April 1936 Enderby asked to join the system but had to provide its own building and collect funds to send to the Union Library.

In 1937, Enderby was only able to raise \$100 and was granted eight months of service from the library system.

Those in the system had to remain for a minimum of three years; 56 communities opted into the system. The system experienced many issues and after three years, Coldstream, Vernon, Armstrong, Mara, Eagle Bay, Sicamous, Salmon Arm District, Hillcrest and Spallumcheen pulled out.

New provincial legislation to amalgamate school boards in 1946 resulted in a huge increase in library membership as school districts were required to join if a majority of its communities were members, and vice-versa.

The Okanagan Union Library became the Okanagan Regional Library in January 1953.

In 1959 the city opened a 12x20-foot building next to city hall with room for 1,300 titles, twice as many as were in the city hall library.

In 1966, the library was open Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

Amenities were consistently added over the years. A computer-printed book catalogue was added in 1970 and a taped book service in 1976. A donation of 29 titles resulted in a video service in 1988, which had grown to over 2,000 titles by 1995. The local branch got a new computer system in 1991.

The library moved to 509 Cliff Ave., next to Reimer's Department Store, in 1980. A fire in March 1985 razed the building and it moved to Maud Street, next to the grocery store.

A 1987 renovation at city hall resulted in another move for the library. As a requisite of getting a grant for the project, the city had to include a cultural component so the library and museum moved into the lower level of the new city hall complex.

A push for more space began in 2000, initiated by patrons and the recently formed Enderby Library

Friends. Flooding at the library/museum helped underline the need.

In 2002, a new location was chosen in the old hardware store at 514 Cliff Ave. Its grand opening was Feb. 21, 2003.

In 2015 the Enderby Library had 45,000 visits, 16,000 program participants, 9,000 Wi-Fi sessions and a 37% increase on adult program attendance. The 2016 ORL annual report showed that the Enderby branch had over 3,000 card holders and 84,000 items circulated. Statistics from 2023 for the Enderby Library show between 3,000 and 3,300 visits each month, over 7,000 people attended 155 programs, and over 71,000 items were circulated.

The library has become more than a place to find good books. It is a community meeting place for individuals, clubs and organizations. It offers book sales, plant shares, music, magic, chickens and activities for all ages.

The local library has come a long way since its inception and considering the community's love of the library, it has a long history ahead.



Enderby's coal mine

This is a photograph of Ed Peacher at Enderby's coal mine in January 1955. Enderby Coal Mines Ltd. was established in 1904 and incorporated January 23, 1905 following the discovery of coal in the Logan Gulch area of Hunters Range southeast of Grindrod. Shares were sold to finance tunnel work into the mountain, but the coal seam proved to be illusive. The company ran out of money in 1908 and was unable to pursue a different vein in search of coal; employees and shareholders were unable to recoup their losses. There was renewed interest in the mine in the 1920s and again in 1930 but nothing came of it. Ed Peacher established Cliffview Colliery Ltd. in 1953 to mine the area again. The company was unsuccessful in its endeavors. In May 1956 all accounts payable were given in shares, and at the final meeting in October 1957 it was decided to give all equipment and assets to the Bank of Montreal. [edms 3021]

The illusive Okanagan oil hunt

The hunt for local oil stretches from the late 1800s to the mid-1950s.

In 1894 Frank Hassard invited a party of surveyors to hunt on his ranch south of Enderby. The group was camping near town after a long job looking for artesian wells for the CPR.

To repay Hassard's kindness, the group surveyed his land for artesian wells. They found two underground rivers but nothing closer than 200 metres below ground. They also reported to Hassard that his ranch was lying on a "sea of oil."

The Jan. 22, 1922 Enderby Commoner repeated the Hassard story because interest in oil had peaked again.

"These experts say, and appear to believe, that they have discovered surface indications within the territory under lease which convince them that a lake of oil underlies the Okanagan Valley of undreamed of importance," the article said.

Prospecting for oil was done on farms between Enderby and Armstrong and as far south as Larkin. Three test wells were dug in January 1922: about 1.5 miles from Enderby, two miles from Armstrong and at Swan Lake (where a well had been sunk in 1899).

The Okanagan Coal, Gas & Oil Company took out oil leases on the Hassard farm four miles south of Enderby on the east side of the valley. There were no reports of success.

Interest was revived again in 1925 and a 400-foot well was dug at a cost of \$35,000. No oil was found and the site abandoned. Plans to get another company to dig deeper were stalled by a quicksand problem and no oil was found.

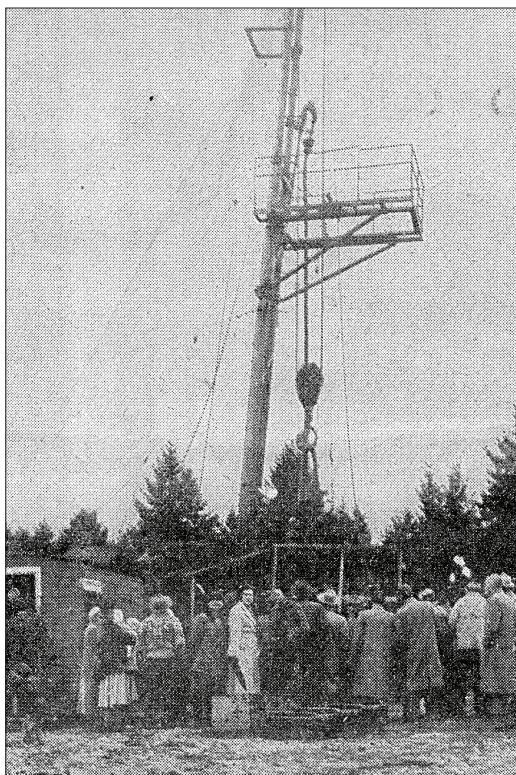
A report from C.E. Cairns, mining engineer with the

Department of Mines Geological Survey, appeared in the Aug. 7, 1930 newspaper. It read, in part: "A brief consideration of the geological environment of the

North Okanagan Valley should convince anyone of the utter improbability of either petroleum or natural gas being present in any of the rock formations represented."

He said the area contains igneous rocks that never contain oil, sedimentary rocks that have been so "squeezed and baked" that any oil has already been expelled and other types of non-oil-bearing rocks.

"Overlying all previously mentioned formations are heavy deposits of unconsolidated materials of glacial and post-glacial age... These muds, sands, gravels, etc., cannot have given rise to oil and cannot hold oil, for there is no source from which the oil could have come."



A photograph from the Dec. 1, 1954 Kamloops Sentinel taken by Robert Steiner showing the No. 1 well of Enderby Oils at Stepney Road.

Attempts to discover oil in the Enderby area received no support from Cairns: "It is difficult to understand what encouragement was afforded this laborious and

primitive enterprise, but the well, which is about 30 feet deep, is a monument to the lack of knowledge and appreciation of the essential principles controlling the possible occurrence and mode of accumulation of oil." Despite such discouraging remarks, interest in local oil stirred again in 1953.

Enderby Oils Ltd. was formed in the spring of 1953 to drill for oil and natural gas in the North Okanagan. Murray Doyle was president, and shareholders included Pat Stroulger, Vic Samol, John Pritchard, Harry Rimmell and William Willard, all of whom became directors in the company.

The company secured leases for oil and natural gas from about 60 landowners for \$1 per year.

Three wells were dug in 1953 with negligible results.

Despite drilling problems and a lack of results, people were encouraged by reports from other experts as shown in this excerpt from a Dec. 31, 1953 newspaper report: “Mr. Frank S. Craver, geophysical engineer, of Tulsa, Okla., has reported to the Company that a commercial oil saturated horizon should be encountered at about 1500 feet in depth in this area.”

The tapping of a well at Stepney Road in November 1954 was attended by about 200 people, including company staff and civic leaders from Enderby, Vernon and Penticton. Oil was expected at 1500 to 1600 feet

but no gusher materialized.

Oil drilling continued in various sites until January 1955, with no reports of success. The company, which had been incorporated in BC, was never officially folded but ceased operating in 1955 and did not file annual reports as required.

N.E. Martin from Lumby made inquiries into the company in October 1970; he was looking to purchase a company with a major loss for tax purposes but Enderby Oils did not qualify.

Soda spring in Mara explored in 1950s

Mara was the site of an interesting discovery in the 1800s that led to the exploration of its potential in the 1950s.

Surveyor George Dawson first described a “boiling spring” in a personal diary entry on Aug. 7, 1877: “In the bay on the South side of the peninsula, a remarkable spring, bubbling up at this season through the water of the lake from a depth of four feet or so. The Indians call it Pil-pil-poopl and say if anyone goes near it, bad weather, wind or rain, is sure to follow.”

This spring, located on the west shore of Mara Lake, approximately six miles south of Sicamous, was carbon dioxide escaping. The bay to the south of Black Rock was called Bubble Bay by settlers and it is shown as ‘Pilpilpoopl Boiling Springs’ on old maps of the area.

In 1952, Charles Gorse of New Westminster spoke with the Enderby Board of Trade about his proposal to utilize the carbon dioxide in Mara. He formed the Gas-Ice (Canada) Corporation Limited with himself as president and managing director and Roy Logan as vice-president.

The company made arrangements with Mara Park operator Hazel Glover to feed and house a drilling crew and brokered a monetary agreement with Reino Koskima to travel through his property (currently the

Bruns property) to gain access to the drilling location. The goal was to find carbon dioxide in commercial

quantities for the production of dry ice for refrigeration. Drilling got underway by November 1952 and shares were sold to people optimistic of the outcome.

The endeavour generated much excitement in early 1953 when there was a blow of gas at the drilling site. Some thought they had hit natural gas but company vice-president R. Logan was convinced it was carbon dioxide that could be used for commercial refrigeration.

Gorse went to the coast to analyze the gas and the drilling outfit was moved up to the highway on the Kirshfelt property in February

1953. Nothing significant was found here and drilling stopped.

The company re-activated the site in July 1954, bringing on board geologist Aden Agnew, engineer C. MacDonald, field director Ernie Cairns and his assistant Hugh McKneale.

MacDonald ran tests that were “every encouraging” but it was not long before the equipment was moved and drilling ceased.

The pipes in Bubble Bay were cut off sometime in the 1960s but the drill pipe at the soda spring is still there.



A drilling rig at the soda spring in Mara in 1953 when the Gas-Ice (Canada) Corporation Limited was looking for carbon dioxide in 1953. [MS99-230]