

MUSEUM NEWS

Issue Thirty SEVEN | SUMMER 2025



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 2024-2025

President: Sandra Farynuk
Vice-president: Sue Phillips
Secretary: Bob Cowan
Treasurer: Diana Inselberg
Directors: Judy Fischer, Ted Morrison
Joan Cowan, Desiree Roell

**Renew your
membership
today!**



Cookhouse on the water

This is the Wannigan, circa 1910. Up until the 1970s, the Wannigan was the only boat known to have navigated the entire length of the Skookumchuk rapids, a distance of about two miles on the Shuswap River. The 30x10-foot scow covered with canvas served as a cookhouse for river drivers shuttling logs from Mabel Lake to the mills in Enderby and Grindrod. In 1910 it was Angus Woods and Sam Derry of Lumby who piloted the watercraft through the rapids. [edms 6040]

President's Message

Happy summer to all our museum members! We have had a very busy summer with many locals and tourists coming in because they have heard what a great little museum we have here! It is always fun to engage with them, hear their stories and fascinate them with how much information we have about the history of Enderby and surrounding district. Jackie has done some outreach with our display boards at functions in the area this summer and we have a couple of projects in the works for later this summer and into fall. So watch for notices about these events. Once again, thank you for all the generous monetary donations and artifacts and archival material that help us improve our collections! If you are looking for something to do with your summer guests, please make the museum a definite stop.

Sandra Farynuk, President of the Board

Museum notes

By Jackie Pearase



Springbend celebration

The museum is celebrating the community of Springbend with a come-and-go-tea. Our late-great volunteer Gerrie Danforth lived in Springbend and this is one way we can acknowledge her contribution to the museum without putting her in the spotlight, which is something she did not like at all. We are inviting former and current Springbend community residents to come to Springbend Hall on Saturday, Aug. 23 between 1-4 p.m. We will have some photo displays, clipping binders and some artifacts related to the community. We will also have some refreshments and goodies. Tables and chairs set up outside under the trees should provide a comfortable venue. Let us know if you plan to attend.

Volunteers

We gained some new volunteers at the museum after our Volunteer Introduction Tour held in May. We have five people come for a tour and everyone filled out an application. Welcome Patti Stinson, Jean Clark, Karen Genthon and Ted Morrison. Patti and Jean (who came aboard earlier this year) are working on histories of people buried in the Enderby Cliffside Cemetery in preparation for a cemetery tour we would like to do, hopefully this fall. Karen is learning how to input photographs into the database, which is a complicated task she is determined to master. Ted is reviewing and reworking museum policies, a task everyone is thrilled he has taken on because dry toast is an unappealing dish. Even with some fresh faces at the museum, we still need a few more dedicated people to keep the place populated during open hours. Give me a call if you want to help.

Long history of post office association

A post office was generally deemed a necessity when people settled an area, which also meant rules and regulations from a governing body.

Enderby's first post office was established at Harvey's General Store on the riverbank in 1887 with Oliver Harvey as postmaster. Mara obtained a post office in 1893 with Soames Appleby the postmaster, but Mary Rosoman took over the position in 1896. Mike Hupel was the first postmaster in Hupel/Kingfisher when that post office opened in 1910. Grindrod's post office opened in 1911 in the Monk house, with Jack Monk the postmaster.

The postmasters were overseen by the Canadian Postmasters' Association, and we have a photograph in the museum with George and Kathy Halksworth, Grindrod postmasters, at the association's convention in 1959.

The history of the association is found on the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association website.

In 1902, rural postmasters in Canada were politically appointed and earned less than \$1 per day. They were responsible for providing the premises, all related expenses, all equipment and paying any additional staff required. They worked long hours and had no input on employment standards, conditions or pay. They could be fired immediately for alleged political activities.

Manitoba postmasters united and formed the Manitoba and North West Accounting Postmasters Association in 1902. They went to Ottawa with their complaints and obtained a 10% wage increase by the end of 1903. Other provinces followed suit and by 1904 Ottawa was paying heed.

The first national meeting of the Canadian Postmasters Association was held in April 1906 with 21 delegates from six provinces. A petition signed by 6,000 postmasters asking for increases in salary, rent, heating and lighting allowances was presented to the Postmaster General Rodolphe Lemieux.

In 1907 branches were organized in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. By 1910, Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC had also organized branches.

The implementation of rural routes added more work and expenses to the job, forcing 88 post offices to close by 1913 due to financial losses. By 1914, only Ontario and New Brunswick branches were still functioning.

Before WWI, men held all postmaster positions but, as men joined the war effort, women replaced men at the job. This was the start of the CPAA's predominately female membership, with 95% of CPAA

members now women. However, the organization did not elect a woman to any position until 1950 when Jennie Cruickshank was elected in the Maritime Branch.

After WWI, only Ontario had a functioning branch. So, in 1919, it worked with postmasters across Canada to develop the first constitution and elected national positions for president, vice-president and secretary-manager.

The aim of this group was to reactivate postmasters nationwide to lobby the government for compensation for providing premises, equipment and supplies, as well as better pay and reduced hours of work.

Over the ensuing decades, the association fought schemes from the government, such as salaries based on office revenues or on the number and value of money orders issued.

During the 1930s, the association lobbied for postmasters to be included in the civil service. While some politicians agreed and promised support, once elected, they preferred their own patronage appointments.

Yet 363 postmasters were fired because of allegations of political “partisanship” and all postmasters were required to pay 10% of their gross earnings back to the government, as was the law under the Civil Service Act.

At this time, postmasters worked seven days a week, starting at 4 a.m. to meet the train, and finishing at 11 p.m.

If they had too much work and needed an assistant, they had to pay that wage out of their own pockets.

Supplying facilities, heat, light, equipment and all the supplies needed to run the office were still the postmaster’s responsibility.

The association obtained Christmas Day and New Year’s Day as statutory holidays, but, when they requested a shorter work week



A photograph of the British Columbia Branch of the Canadian Postmasters' Association's 24th annual convention in Qualicum Beach, BC taken by Van Isle Photos in June 1959. Second from the right, front row, is Kathy Halksworth and first on the right, back row, is George Halksworth. [edms 6744]

Volunteer appreciation

The museum is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on Aug. 20 from 4-6 p.m. at Herb and Linda Higginbottom’s place at 91 Deep Creek Rd. It is a potluck affair, with the museum providing the burgers and hot dogs and Herb doing the cooking. We ask the volunteers to bring along an appetizer or dessert to share. Herb can give tours of the Deep Creek Tool Museum to anyone interested. We extend the invitation to any former volunteers who would like to come; just let us know you are coming so we can plan accordingly. The picnic is a great time to relax, meet the volunteers you do not know, and enjoy some good food.

Donations

Interesting donations to the museum recently include a crib used by the Ruttan family since at least 1926; maps from the regional district showing potential development plans for the west side of Enderby (the Knoll); personal items from Dominico Miletto’s Grindrod barbershop; a Remington Standard 11 typewriter; 1974 graduation photo of Enderby students at Salmon Arm Senior High School; a painting by Mabel Gall that was in the Enderby Library for many years; and a bunch of photographs.

Canada Day in the park

The museum brought some artifacts to Riverside Park for Canada Day. We had about 80 people stop to look at the items and try to guess what they were used for. The dental float – a giant rasp used to grind down the spurs on horses’ teeth – was an eyeopener for most people. The typewriter was especially popular with the youth, who had great fun typing out their names and learning how a typewriter works.

Heal farm artifacts

Keyna Burden, senior archeologist with Yucwmenlucwu (Caretakers of the Land) at Splatsin, visited the Enderby Museum recently to view the artifacts donated to us a few years ago by the Armstrong Spallumcheen Museum. The artifacts were originally donated to them by the Heal family, whose farm was on Fortune Road. The stone artifacts include arrowheads, pestles, adzes and other pieces. Keyna identified those that are just rocks within the collection and provided some insight into the uses of the actual artifacts. She was especially impressed by an obsidian scraper she said was the clearest she has ever seen. Keyna told me that obsidian is one rock that can be dated. All volcanoes and each volcanic eruption have a specific “footprint” that can be traced to determine which volcano a rock came from and which eruption from that volcano. Keyna and I will be working together to put together a “teaching kit” from the artifacts that she can use to educate others about archeology. The remaining artifacts will be used to create a new display. The artifacts, which rightfully belong to Splatsin, will be kept in the museum’s collection until Splatsin has its own museum to house and display them.



Enderby's first post office was moved from the riverbank to Harvey's General Store at 409 Cliff St. The addition added to the store in 1905 to house the post office is seen in this photo. [edms 266]

(closed on Sundays) the government imposed a one-hour opening on both Christmas Day and New Year's Day in exchange for the six-day work week.

Postmasters received a 10% cost of living raise in 1943 and in 1946 it was deemed necessary that rural postmasters had full-time staff and operated like a business.

In April 1948, all Canadian post offices were classified into two categories. Groups 1 to 30 were deemed revenue postmasters who had their offices, rent, heat, and light paid by the post office. Groups 31 to 35 were semi-staff offices paid by the Department of Public Works.

All postmasters in both categories became full-time civil servants entitled to superannuation, annual leave, sick leave, and expenses paid for by the government.

By 1951, more than 13,000 postmasters had been changed from commissioned agents to salaried employees.

In 1953, the Post Office Department underwent major changes and the unit of work survey was invented and implemented.

The Post Office Act was changed in 1966 to ban patronage appointments of postmasters. Postmasters now had to apply and be interviewed for employment.

On Oct. 17, 1966, the first contract was signed between the Canadian Postmasters Association, Canada Post Corporation and the Treasury Board, giving full-time employees an eight-hour workday with two 10-minute breaks per day, plus many benefits they have today.

A little store of lake memories

People were drawn to Mabel Lake as a place of recreation at the turn of the 20th century.

Ambrose Leighton of Minneapolis pre-empted 80 acres along the lakeshore in 1909. He cut off 10 acres for the A.R. Rogers Lumber Company and he utilized the remaining land.

Leighton encouraged locals to camp on his property and soon it was seen as public property, with families from Enderby and Armstrong coming to the lake each summer. They constructed tent platforms and small cabins along the beach.

Leighton wanted to establish a luxury hotel and lake resort, so he resisted any requests to portion off pieces of the property for private ownership.

Enderby newspaper editor Henry Walker envisioned things differently and eventually convinced Leighton to sell foreshore lots to ensure local people could enjoy the lake into the future. Leighton moved back to Minneapolis with his wife Zoe in 1918.

Walker became the agent for Leighton and had the property surveyed, creating 24 50-foot lots. The province approved the subdivision in December 1925.

Lots were originally sold for \$100. The price increased to \$150 in 1926 and to \$200 in 1929. By June 8, 1933 there were 12 lots remaining.

The beach was known as Dolly Varden Beach in the early history of the area, acknowledging the good fishing on the lake.

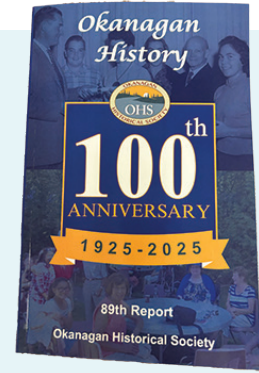
With so many people coming to the lake each summer, it was a natural step for someone to see it as an opportunity to earn money. Mary Jane Hall did just that.

Mary Jane and Albert Hall came to the Kingfisher/Mabel Lake area from Alberta in 1920 with their son Ray.

They first lived across the lake at Cottonwood Bay, then called Abbott's Bay. They moved a few years later to Hupel and Mary became the postmistress.



This is the Dolly Varden Store, the first store on the beach at Mabel Lake, circa 1928. [edms 1422]



Okanagan History Report

The 89th Report of the Okanagan Historical Society is now available. The 2025 issue celebrates the 100th anniversary of the OHS, which was founded Sept. 4, 1925. The book includes articles on the origins of the OHS and a 100-year chronology of the OHS written by Ken Mather. Clarence Louis, one of the longest serving chiefs in the Okanagan Nation, contributes an interesting feature article. Articles pertaining to Enderby include Palace Creamery 1925 by Bob Cowan, The First Fifty Years of St. Andrew's United Church by Doris Shipmaker and A History of Flooding in Enderby and District by Jackie Pearase. Doug Saba has a piece on the history of the Caravan Farm Travelling Theatre in the Armstrong section. A collection of natural history articles includes Okanagan Valley Basin Channelization by Frank Metcalf and Earthquakes in the Okanagan Revisited 2025 by Ken Murray. There are also articles on Salmon Arm, Vernon, Kelowna, Summerland, Penticton, Oliver, Osoyoos and Similkameen. You can pick up a copy at the Enderby Museum for \$30.

Mary opened a small store alongside the post office, selling her baked goods, bread, pies and other supplies. She was known for her syrup cookies. They next lived at 3254 Mabel Lake Rd. where they built a log house and relocated the post office.

In the summer, Mary moved her store and the post office to Dolly Varden Beach, setting up in an old boathouse built by Louis Beckman, a Lusk Lake homesteader.

Janet Ritchie (nee Murray) recalled Mary's store in the book, *Flowing Through Time, Stories of Kingfisher and Mabel Lake*.

She wrote: "The little store was on the beach. It was a funny little log cabin, long but very narrow. The front door had a window where Mrs. Hall would line up her beautiful baking. The top of the door would lift up and make a roof over where you stood. The back of this log cabin was for the post office. They had the post office in their home, but in the summertime they had this little store and so you could get your mail there."

The Kass family ensured the store continued to play a role in Mabel Lake history.

Joe Kass came to Enderby in 1910 to visit his friend Jim Allen, who convinced him to stay. Joe found employment with the A.R. Rogers Lumber Company as a foreman for the Kingfisher Creek logging camp.

Joe married Alice Large in 1919 and they lived at the lake. Their daughter Marjorie was born in 1920 and Norman came in 1922.

In 1922, Joe bought the Mabel Lake Stage and the mail contract.

In 1928, he purchased three acres from Henry Walker, constructed two cabins and a kitchen and opened the Mabel Lake Tourist Camp.

Also in 1928, Joe and Alice Kass purchased Mary Hall's store on the beach. Mary continued operating it in the summer but by 1933, Alice and her daughters were running the little store.

The Kass family is well remembered for their ice cream, which was made daily, and sold at the store.

Helen Brandt (nee Large) provided her ice cream memories of Mabel Lake in the book, *Flowing Through Time: Stories of Kingfisher and Mabel Lake*: "Joe and Alice Kass made wonderful, tasty ice cream, made with real cream, milk, eggs, sugar and flavoring. It was made in a stain-



This is a photo from 1937 showing the store and gas pumps at Mabel Lake. [edms 1204]

less steel container which was placed in ice and turned by hand. When my parents, Russell and Alice Large, took over the Tourist Camp they carried on this tradition. The maker had progressed from hand-turning to being hooked up to a small engine to turn the mixture. Any children at the resort would recognize the sound of the ice cream maker and start lining up at the store. The large metal beaters would be lifted out, covered in ice cream. Everyone waiting would get a few tasty licks. I can still taste that wonderful creamy flavor! It was very disappointing when electricity came to the valley and we began selling commercial ice cream. Even though there were the choices of strawberry and chocolate as well as vanilla, it didn't compare to the homemade."

Joe and Alice operated their camp until 1937, when they sold it to Alice's brother Russell Large and his newlywed wife Alice.

Russell and Alice Large continued to improve the camp, building a new store with gas pumps out front and living quarters upstairs.

The Nobles took ownership in 1958 and renovated the store so that it now faced the road and had living space downstairs. A coffee shop was added in 1960.

The store was again renovated in 1961 when the Rings and Wittalls were owners. They also added a kitchen, two bedrooms, laundry room, washrooms and icehouse.

Today the Mabel Lake Resort & Marina still operates a store on the road beside Mabel Lake along with 90 fully serviced RV sites and a 260-slip marina (completed in 2015).

A park for the people by the people

Mara Provincial Park is a jewel of the North Okanagan that could have fallen out of public use but for the actions of the Mara community.

The site of what is now Mara Provincial Park was used as a relief camp from 1930 to 1938, providing a place to live and find work for men brought low by the Depression.

There were two such camps in Mara: Relief Camp #1 at Roger's Bay, and Relief Camp #18 at the site of what is now Hummingbird Resort.

In 1938, the province established Mara Recreation Park, a Class C (public) park, in the location of Relief Camp #1.

The province also appointed a group of trustees to oversee the site; it included Maurice Callens, Harry Kellett and John Robertson Sr.

In 1941 the park was leased by the local parks board to Vic Vickers, which was not valid under existing park regulations. Only park use permits could be issued in Class C parks.

Mr. Vickers built cabins and operated a resort there until 1949.

In 1950 Mrs. T.E. Glover purchased the assets from Vickers and began renovating the buildings and adding more to operate a fishing camp.

It was illegal to sell or transfer a lease under park regulations, so the parks board instead issued a park use permit to Mrs. Glover.

In February 1954, Mrs. Glover obtained a 21-year lease to the property from the parks board, another step beyond its authority.

In May 1954, with the blessing of the parks board, Mrs. Glover transferred the lease to G.W. Davy and sold him the camp amenities for \$12,800, despite her lease being invalid and non-negotiable.

The government was unable to recoup the funds from Mrs. Glover as she had spent the money.

With the government unable to pay out funds to Mr. Davy under Class C Park regulations and no funds available locally, the only solution was to legalize the arrangement and validate the original agreement.

An order-in-council was passed in July 1956 to put the park under the jurisdiction of the BC Land Branch, which could then issue a lease for the same time period. In August 1957 the Mara community held a meeting at

the Enderby Legion Hall to air concerns over the private leasing of the public park.

They subsequently invited Minister of Lands, Forests and Water Resources Ray Williston to attend another meeting to discuss restoring the park to the public domain.

Mr. Williston, Assistant Superintendent of Lands David Borthwick and MLA Hugh Shantz attended a five-hour meeting in October 1957.

The minister assured the community that the property would revert to the Crown once the 21-year lease ended.

He also proposed a few caveats for the new lease: no new buildings to be erected; free public access to the park; and public access to the beach and change houses maintained by the lessee. The lessee could charge for camp and trailer

These two photographs take us back to Mara in the 1940s before the creation of Mara Provincial Park. The first is a 1947 postcard of Mara Park Resort and the other shows the 10-foot-high sign for the camp on Hwy. 97A when it was operated by Vic Vickers (1942-49). [MS99-26 & MS99-190]



spaces; had to keep the park maintained; and had to supervise parking to ensure safe access to the park.

But the people of Mara wanted the government to use public funds to pay out Mr. Davy and re-establish the park for the public.

But Mr. Williston told them that such a solution was not so simple, suggesting that the situation existed in other BC parks and the province would be unable to reimburse all private operators in public parks.

When the formal meeting adjourned there was a round table discussion that lasted until well after midnight. The final resolution presented to the minister was as follows: "This meeting requests that the Minister of Lands, Forests and Water Resources have the Order-in-Council of July 27, 1956, rescinded and that the park be returned to its former status as of May 12, 1950, and that the public again be allowed free access and use of all parts of the said park."

The community also suggested that the park be overseen by the Minister of Conservation and Recreation.

The response was not immediate and Maurice Callens, who was president of the North Okanagan Liberal Association in the 1930s, used his political influence to speed things along in the community's favour.

A Feb. 21, 1958 article in the Enderby Commoner noted that John Robertson received a wire from Williston that the park property dispute had been settled. The wire stated: "Reference your letter of the 15th inst., re former Mara Park. Settlement has been reached with both parties to dispute with a view to re-establishing the area as a park in the general public interest. On this basis you may wish to cancel proposed meeting scheduled Feb. 10th."

The story goes on to say that Mr. Davy was expected to relocate elsewhere in BC.

The day-use park has since been known as Mara Provincial Park.



Motoring the Shuswap

This is Henry Harvey's first motorboat as he zips along the Shuswap River just downstream from the Enderby bridge in 1907. Looking at the number of people watching from the bridge, it would seem this was a momentous occasion that brought out a great number of onlookers. The June 17, 1907 edition of The Enderby Progress provided this tidbit on the event: "H.W. Harvey launched his gasoline launch, the "Je-Kite," on Saturday afternoon and she swam like a "duck," the boat making a satisfactory trial trip. This latest addition (the third) to the local fleet of motor boats is 18 feet six inches in length with a beam of 4 feet drawing 20 inches of water. She is driven by a 4 h.p. Canadian Fairbanks Marine motor and is therefore the most powerful and largest boat on the river. The boat is a pretty model and a credit to the builder, F.H. Barnes." [edms 1311]

Springbend-Celebration



Did you grow up in Springbend?

Did you or someone in your family
attend Springbend School?

Do you recall the Springbend Community Club?

**The Enderby & District Museum
is celebrating the community of Springbend!
You are invited to a**

**Come-and-Go Tea at Springbend Hall
SATURDAY, AUG. 23, 1-4 P.M.**

See photo displays, clipping binders and artifacts

RSVP: enderbymuseum@shaw.ca,
250-838-7170 or message us on Facebook