

MUSEUM NEWS

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How to Find Us

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The Museum is open
Tues. - Sat. 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

President's Message

I don't know if any of us have ever experienced a winter like this before! It certainly didn't slow down any activities at our museum. We've had visitors coming in and enjoying looking at all our artifacts-many of which we remember as being in our house or yard "way back when"! A big thank you to all our members who have donated items or money to further enhance our collection or projects we are working on. Our Christmas fundraisers were a huge success and a special thanks to all who donated baking. We are pleased to have completed several projects in our building to make more room for more displays. Our dedicated volunteers, along with Jackie, did our yearly deep clean after cleaning up Christmas displays, which is a huge job moving articles to get behind everything. As always, Jackie's Facebook posts are extremely well received by members and the general public, mostly those who grew up here and love the memories. Once again, thanks to all our volunteers-your assistance is invaluable to the running of our museum and to Jackie, our dedicated administrator who goes above and beyond her duties to make this museum the best it can be.

Sandra Farynuk, President of the Board



Games night for Heritage Week

We invite you to celebrate Heritage Week (Feb. 17-23) with some fun and games. Embracing the 2025 Heritage Week theme of Pastimes in Past Times, the museum invites the community to an Old Fashioned Games Night at the Enderby Drill Hall on Friday, Feb. 21. It will be an evening of board games, active games, word games, party games, prizes and treats. People are invited to bring their own games to share with others or just take part in the games offered. The event runs from 4-7 p.m. and people are welcome to drop in anytime or stay for the evening. Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to museum programs. [edms 2073]

Museum notes

By Jackie Pearase



Christmas fundraising

The museum's holiday fundraising events were a great success in December. The Toonie Tree brought in \$254 for the museum and the same for our winner, Sue Mann. Last year's Toonie Tree winner took home \$187. Thanks again to Jim Illot of Trinity Valley Christmas Trees for the donation of the beautiful tree (which was scooped up by someone when it was put outside the museum on Dec. 20 with a 'free' sign on it).

All 22 items in the Vintage Silent Auction had bids, with the 1984 Wheeler Dealer Game of Enderby bringing in the top bid of \$55. Other items in the auction included a 1963 Cram's 12-inch world globe, a collection of 15 Perry Mason DVDs, rhinestone jewellery, two Stanley tools and a 1946 Viking radio. The auction raised \$345 for the museum.

Just under \$200 was raised the previous year. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the auction. We are always looking for suitable items for this auction so give us a call, email or drop in if you have something to add, because every little bit helps when it comes to being a non-profit organization.

The annual Christmas Bake Sale was just one day this year, on the Friday of the parade and downtown festivities. We also reached out for donations of baked goods from our membership with phone calls and the public with an article in RiverTalk, and the response was astounding. The tables were bursting with holiday deliciousness, allowing us to raise \$1,764. That is the highest bake sale revenue to date, topping last year's high of about \$980. It sets the bar high, but we feel up to the challenge. Thank you to everyone who baked items for the sale or who came and supported the fundraiser by buying baking.

Finding a home for Enderby's government

The City of Enderby was incorporated in 1905 but it did not get a home for local government until 1910.

Settlers began coming to the area in 1866 and the flour mill and post office were established in 1887. There was a small school in 1888, a hotel in 1890, a railroad through town and a brickyard in 1892. A public school and sawmill were added in 1898 and the first bank opened in 1904.

When incorporated, business in the city included a second hotel, another blacksmith shop, a handful of general stores and restaurants, a butcher shop, livery barn, jewellery store and newspaper. The growing population of 500 was served by three churches and one doctor. There was water from Brash Creek and electricity provided by the sawmill.

The first people elected to represent the city on March 22, 1905 included Mayor George Bell and aldermen R.P. Bradley, J.W. Evans, N.H. Kenny, George Sharpe and E.T. Smith.

City council originally met at the provincial police office/courthouse, a small one-room wood building located at the end of Mill Street on the riverbank. They met there until relocating to a vacant store at 600/602 Cliff St.

"Well do I remember the meetings of the City Fathers in that crude little Council Chamber, lighted as it was in the earlier part of its occupancy, by a single kerosene lamp," wrote City Supervisor Graham Rosoman in 1948 on the occasion of his 1,000th consecutive council meeting. "Those earnest citizens would sit, hour after hour – often into the early hours of the morning – planning and discussing the Enderby that was to be."

A peek into the city's financial statements show office expenses (less the clerk's salary) of \$110.18 in 1905, which included utilities and other miscellaneous items. In 1906 the city spent \$190.50 on city hall office expenses. Rent of \$72 was added to office expenses in 1907 in addition to fuel, electrical fittings, utilities, cleaning and stove repairs for a total of \$140.47. Rent in 1908 was \$96 and utilities and cleaning were \$13.68. In 1909, the city hall site was selected and construction started but expenditures still included rent of \$96 and other office expenses of \$41.44.

These statements show there was a cost to the running of city council, albeit minimal, even without an actual city hall. Rent

became a regular cost after moving from the government owned building on Mill in 1907.

Council enacted a bylaw in May 1909 to construct a city hall and approved a \$5,000 debenture for construction. The building was to have a council chamber that would also serve as the courthouse, a committee room which would also be the public library, a city clerk's office, a fireproof vault that would also be used to provide a public safe deposit service, prisoner cells and fire department headquarters.

Council's discussions culminated with a decision to move forward with construction in mid-August 1909. A public meeting was held to discuss two possible locations: the corner of Cliff and George streets, and the Worthington site, 1106 George Street. A third site, at the corner of Cliff and Belvedere streets, was also considered but failed to garner support. A vote on the two sites at the public meeting ended with 17 preferring the Worthington lot and nine voting for the Cliff Street location. A subsequent referendum on the question held in late August resulted in a different vote: 52 for Cliff Street and 33 for the Worthington site.

The city's 1909 financial statement includes a City Hall Construction Account that includes receipts of \$5,487 from the sale of debentures and a premium of \$487 on those sales. The disbursement side of the sheet includes preliminary expenses of \$77.35 for holding a referendum on the site selection, printing and other sundries; purchase of the site for \$737.39 (which was borrowed from the Sinking Fund and then returned to city coffers); payments on the building contract of \$2,455.30; and sundries of \$266.75, which included vault doors and freight for



All hands on deck

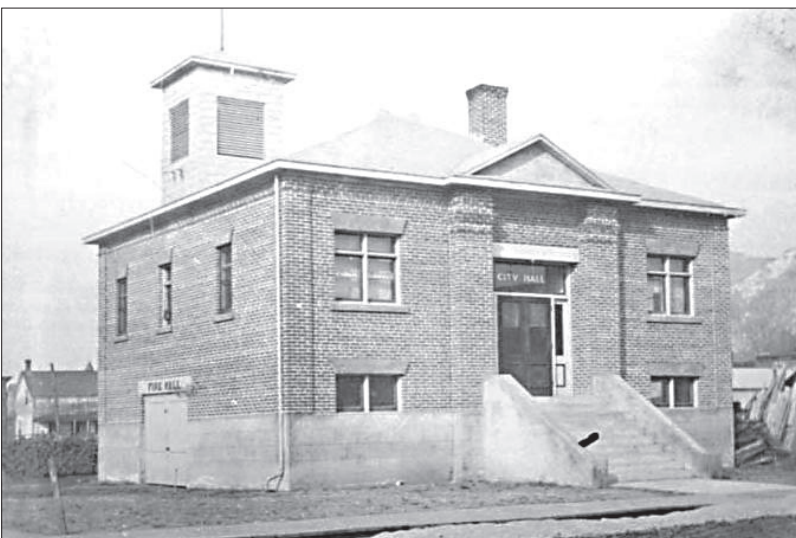
Volunteers were integral to the success of the Christmas Bake Sale, providing baking, preparing the goodies for sale and handling sales all day. Well done, all!

Museum upgrades

Marc Ferland visited the museum over our Christmas break to undertake a small project. With permission from the city and the fire department, we had a removable cedar plank screen inserted over the double glass doors on the south side of the museum. While the doors did provide some light in that side, they also restricted the usability of the space for display. Work is now underway to re-imagine the space with new artifacts, photographs and textiles.

Cleaning

The dust was flying and spiders were on the run when a group of volunteers did a major cleaning of the museum on Jan. 13. We got rid of the dust bunnies on top of, behind and under displays, wiped down artifacts, washed glass and vacuumed the nooks and crannies. The result may not be obvious to visitors but for those of us here all the time, the difference is like a breath of fresh air. Many thanks to everyone who helped.



Enderby City Hall in 1911. Note the fire hall doors for the fire department leading to the basement, the bell tower and the cord wood stacked behind the building. [edms 216]



Museum notes

Displays

We have been diligent in trying to keep the museum interesting for visitors. Sandy regularly changes outfits on the mannequins to fit the season, which means a wool outfit for one and curling attire for another. The front display case is changed every few months; it now has a display of Original Artwork. People often comment on our professional, interesting displays and their ability to tell stories of the past. Our lovely mannequins also got new outfits after the holidays, with our “greeter” Lila sporting a lovely curling ensemble at the entrance to the museum. So, if you have not been in for a visit recently, come down and see the changes.

Volunteers

A few people have visited the museum in recent months with an eye to volunteering. I have created an application form to get a better idea of the interests of those wanting to volunteer. The return rate of people is low, though. They might come once or twice and then stop coming, which is frustrating but somewhat expected. We have lost a few volunteers recently and are seeking new people. We welcomed two young ladies in January. They are home-schooled and looking for volunteer experience so we are working together to see how we can help each other. In 2024 our volunteers donated 2,124 hours of their time to the museum. Board members also tallied another 144 hours at meetings. There are, of course, some hours volunteered that were not recorded.

Visitors

The museum welcomed approximately 1,637 people in 2024, which is down slightly from the previous year but still very much in line with previous years.



Enderby City Hall in October 1980. Note the barber shop in the annex to the right and the new fire hall building at the rear. [edms 3823]

them (\$210.06), an extra payment to the bricklayers, electric light fittings and the freight. The city was left with an unexpended balance for construction of \$1,920.21.

W.A. Russell was the building contractor; his final bill was \$3,725. A. Fulton received the furnace tender; the furnace price was \$235. Enderby bricks were used in the construction of city hall at 619 Cliff St., which opened Jan. 26, 1910. In the 1910 financial statement, the value of the new building and site was listed at \$5,677.23, with \$553.90 added for furniture. These sums remained relatively constant over the next four years. A line item for maintenance of city hall was added under disbursements in the financial statement in 1911, when it was \$243.18. That dropped to \$212.46 in 1912 before rising significantly to \$1,091.91 in 1913 and \$1,217.97 in 1914.

Mr. Russell was lauded in the Jan. 13, 1910 Enderby Commoner for his work on the project: “The new building is a credit to the city, and the builder...No possible fault can be found with the workmanship.”

Council chambers were filled to capacity for the first council meeting at the new city hall Jan. 26, 1910, with the Enderby City Band providing musical entertainment prior to the meeting. Mayor Bell, City Clerk Graham Rosoman and settler Alexander Fortune all spoke.

The local fire department stored its equipment in the basement (alongside the prisoner cells) and the fire bell on the roof rang a 9 p.m. curfew each night. Fire services operated out of city hall until a fire hall was constructed on the north side of the building in 1943. It would move to a free-standing fire hall on George Street in 1985.

The library shared office space in the building until a small brick annex was added to the east of the building for a new library in 1959. A renovation and enlargement of city hall in 1987 created larger city offices on the second floor and space for a library and museum in the basement. The library moved to a new location on Cliff Avenue in 2003, allowing the museum to expand into the entire basement level.

Now 115 years old, Enderby City Hall is about twice the size it was when first constructed and continues to hum with the business of running this little city.

City hall furniture likely a century old

Curiosity may have killed the cat but at the Enderby Museum curiosity can be a dive down a rabbit hole.

This is what happened when I came across the following in the city council report published in the Dec. 13, 1963 Enderby Commoner: "Mayor J.B. Smith returned his city stipend cheque of four hundred dollars to the Council, and advised them to spend the money on council chairs, as the present ones have been used so many years that they are no longer comfortable. A vote of thanks was passed."

It got me thinking about the two city council tables, seven councillors' chairs and the mayor's chair given to the museum by the city in 2020 when council chambers were renovated. I have often wondered how far back the items go in the city's history, thinking they were used by the first council. So, this tidbit renewed my curiosity and led me down the proverbial rabbit hole.

First, let us look at the furniture in question. There is a long table (6x3 feet) with an inlay of black leather on the top and three drawers on either long side with carved wood pulls. The legs are turned and decorated with carved horizontal lines on each side. The carved lines are repeated along the sides, top and bottom of the table. This table was used by the mayor and sat perpendicular to the second table.

The other table (8x4 feet) served as the council table. It is a dark, heavy oak table with two drawers on either long side with brass hardware. The legs have carved curved insets on each side. One of the drawers has a brass plate marked: "Quality Furniture made by Canadian Furniture Manufacturers Limited." On the bottom of one of the drawers in pencil is "CFM Seaforth."

Six of the seven chairs are of the same vintage, while the seventh appears to have been manufactured later and is an excellent copy of the



Some Valentine's poetry...

*To kiss is not unlawful,
To miss a kiss is something awful.
Kissing spreads disease 'tis stated,
Kiss me kid, I'm vaccinated.*

*Before I heard the doctor tell,
The dangers of a kiss,
I considered kissing you
The nearest thing to bliss.
And now I'm in Biology
I sit and sigh and moan.
Six million mad bacteria,
And I thought we were alone.*

*Girls when they went in swimming
Dressed like Mother Hubbard,
Now go in swimming
Dressed like her cupboard.*

Poetry from high school newsletters, 1949-50.

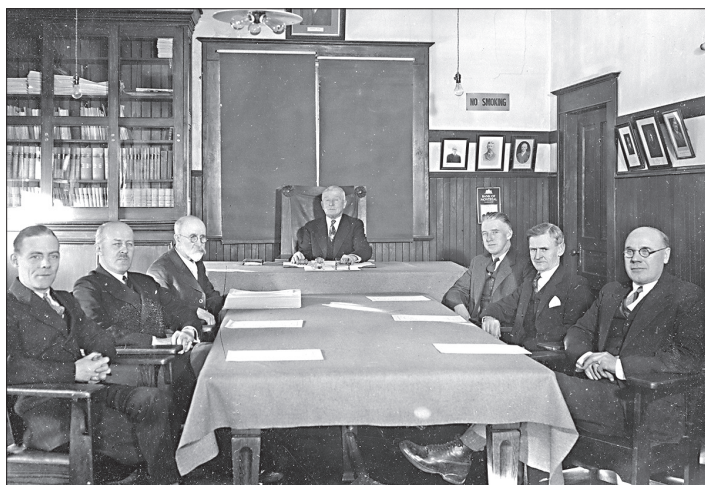
others, but of brighter wood because the others have a nice patina. The chairs are square in shape, with wide flat armrests, slatted backs and leather covered seats. Five of the six older chairs have been repaired with new leather seats and particle board panelling on the bottom of the seats. The sixth chair is also repaired as such, but a heavy board is used in place of the paneling.

City council was made up of five aldermen and a mayor until December 1958 when a sixth aldermen was added after a change to the Municipal Act. There was also a chair for the city clerk, so it makes sense that a seventh chair was added at some point.

The mayor's chair is a massive dark wood piece with a high back, leather seat and back, large brass rivets holding the leather, and slatted sides and back.

The oldest photograph in the museum's archives of Enderby City Council showing the furniture is from 1938. Examination of the photo shows wear on the corners of the chairs' armrests, indicating they had been in use for some time at that point. A city council photo from 1947 shows even more wear on the chairs.

Assessing the age of the furniture, the smaller table appears to be older than the larger table based on the wood drawer pulls and wear. It may have been used by council after incorporation in 1905 and prior to completion of Enderby City Hall in 1910.



The 1938 city council: L-R: G.E. McMahon; Cyril Richards; Graham Rosoman; Charles Hawkins, Mayor; Percy Farmer; Ed Dill; Gordon "Corky" Duncan. [Photo by George Meeres, edms 448]



This photo from 2023 shows the 1910-11 city council tables and chairs; the mayor's chair is seen to the far right.

The new city hall on the corner of George and Cliff streets opened in January 1910. A Jan. 13, 1910 article in the Enderby Commoner on the new building said, "The proper furnishings of this building will be the work of the incoming Council."

A peek at the city's financial statements for 1910 show a disbursement of \$406.93 for city hall furniture. There is a disbursement of \$280.97 for "furnishings, etc." at city hall in the 1911 financial year. In 1912, the sum for city hall furnishings drops to \$28.40. Listed under city assets for city hall furniture in 1910 is the sum of \$553.90; it goes to \$834.87 in 1911 and to \$863.27 in 1912. That value remains relatively constant after that point, with some reductions due to depreciation.

Canada Furniture Manufacturers Limited was a group of furniture companies based in Ontario with showrooms in Toronto, Ontario and Winnipeg. Cabinet-maker James Hay started Hay and Co. in Woodstock, ON in 1860. He was forced to sell the business during the depression in 1895 to Oliver Anderson of Walkerton. Canadian Furniture Manufacturers amalgamated with the Anderson Furniture Company in 1901. CFM was the largest Canadian furniture manufacturer at the time, with 21 Ontario locations. The Woodstock plant scaled back in 1911 and CFM closed in 1929.

Where the furniture came from remains a mystery right now, as I cannot locate any receipt(s). But there are council reports from 1909-10 that show the city purchased furniture from W.T. Holtby.

Mr. Holtby came to Enderby around 1904 and worked as a furniture dealer and undertaker in the Bradley

block, 609-611 Cliff Street. A Dec. 16, 1909 article describes his business venture: "In May of this year, Mr. Holtby put in a stock of furniture and undertaker's supplies, taking a small storeroom formerly occupied as a grocery store and bake shop by R.P. Bradley. Soon his business demanded more room, and as soon as he could get it, he occupied the entire Bradley block. Later, he purchased the block and now the building is filled with a complete stock of the choicest furniture from cellar to garret." He continued to grow and in July 1910 he erected a new furniture store and undertaker's parlour at 900 George Street. But he sold the building in December 1910 and left the city in 1911, moving to Vancouver.

Armed with all this background information, I am certain the longer table, chairs and mayor's chair dates

from 1910-1911, with the leather-topped table likely being older by about five years.

But what about Mayor Smith's \$400 for new chairs in 1963? Perhaps the council wished to follow his example of being tight with the city's purse strings because they did not buy new chairs with the funds. "Enderby City Council used their renovated Council chairs at their meeting Monday night," reads the Sept. 11, 1964 Enderby Commoner. "The chairs had been completely refinished and re-upholstered and look new and fresh.

The wood is now a paler nut brown, polished finish which blends beautifully with the walls and the seats are re-upholstered in dark brown."

An excellent educator of local note

Mabel Violet Beattie was born December 6, 1882 in Ireland and emigrated to Canada with her parents in 1893.

The family settled in Kamloops; six of the seven Beattie children entered the teaching profession. Mabel first taught for two years in a one-room school on the North Thompson River.

Her long career of teaching in Enderby began in 1904. In 1907 she had 76 students in her class at the Enderby Public School.

The students and staff moved in 1913 to the new Fortune School for high school and elementary students.

Mabel was appointed principal of the elementary school in 1917, a job she retained for most of her remaining teaching career.

She taught grades 6, 7 and/or 8 and was known as a strict disciplinarian.

She returned to Kamloops after retiring in 1945. Mabel Violet Beattie died Sept. 13, 1971 in Kamloops.

The following poem was written by an unknown student for The School Crier newsletter in 1949:

A Tribute to Miss Beattie

We have a friend who taught us,
That life was real and true,
It was not only sunshine
But it had its showers, too.
Many were the examinations,
She's checked them by the score.
If it hadn't been for her prodding us,
We'd have "flunked" a good deal more.
This little verse would be but dismay
A greater poet of our day,
And yet we hope in some small measure,
Thoughts of us she, too, will treasure.



Mabel Violet Beattie

Findings in the rabbit hole

Research into the city council furniture revealed a couple of interesting items.

First, the \$400 offered by Mayor J.B. Smith in 1962 for new chairs marked the first time Enderby's mayor and council were reimbursed for their service. That is 57 years without payment!

The Enderby Commoner discussed the topic in a city council meeting report on March 23, 1962: "The subject of indemnities again came up. Enderby is the only organized city, village or municipality where the Council receives no remuneration for their work... The members of Council reiterated this week what they have said so often – they don't want pay, as such, it is recognition of service and worth. The sum they settled for was \$250 for aldermen and \$400 for mayor." (An interesting side note is that City Clerk Graham Rosoman bid on his job in 1905 and was hired on at \$16.66 per month. He soon asked for a raise and was earning \$75 per month in 1909.)

Mayor Smith's altruism sparked an interest in his history.

John Blanchard Smith served three years as an alderman in Enderby before being the mayor for six years, 1957-1962. He was also Enderby chamber president and actively involved in the construction of Enderby & District Memorial Hospital. He worked in the family sawmill business and in 1945 built a sawmill in Enderby in conjunction with the family-owned Armstrong Saw Mills Ltd. He and his wife Joan lived in Enderby until 1967, when they moved to Armstrong.

He continued his civic commitment there, being Armstrong mayor for six years and serving as an Armstrong-Spallumcheen Hospital trustee from 1971 to 1986. He was awarded Freeman of the City in 1978 and was active in the Masonic Lodge, Armstrong Board of Trade, Rotary Club and Lions Club.

While exploring the tables for clues to their provenance, a poem was discovered written on the inside of one of the drawers of the leather-topped table.



This photo from the 1958 Royal visit shows, Mayor J.B. Smith, ??, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. [edms 1228]

Scrawled in pencil is:

*Kings may be blessed
but Tam was glorious
over the hell of life victorious.
R.B.K.*

It took but a minute to find the Robert Burns poem, Tam O' Shanter, which details antics of a drunkard, Tom. The lines above were originally written thus:

*Kings may be blest, but Tam was glorious,
O'er a' the ills o' life victorious!
Written in modern English, the lines read:
Kings may be blessed, but Tam was glorious,
Over all the ills of life victorious.*

There is nothing to tell us who wrote the lines or when but perhaps it was during a long meeting where the councillor's mind was on what he might do after the meeting. And he changed "ills of life" to "hell of life" so perhaps it was a rather acrimonious meeting as well as a long one.