

MUSEUM NEWS

Issue Twenty One | Spring-Summer 2021



How to Find Us

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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 2020-2021
President: Sandra Farynuk
Vice-president: Sue Phillips
Secretary: Bob Cowan
Treasurer: Diana Inselberg
Directors: Judy Fischer,
Joan Cowan

**Come visit
the museum
this summer!**



Ready for the season

The gazebo at Barnes Park, otherwise known as the Musebo, is now ready for the summer thanks to volunteers Sue Phillips, Sandy Farynuk, Joan Cowan, Bob Cowan and Peter Vander Sar plus Jackie Pearase and Tracy Ell (not in photo). The group gave the place a good cleaning and moved out the large display cases that were taking up room and gathering dust.

A Message from Museum President Sandra Farynuk:

Finally summer is here and, hopefully, the end of the pandemic is in sight. As with a lot of organizations, we have adapted our focus of promoting our museum to social media. Our administrator Jackie has done a fantastic job of highlighting past memories of events and pictures on our Facebook page, many getting well over 500 hits. We know the “What’s It” in the RiverTalk has lots of people guessing too. The displays we are arranging in the museum itself have also proved to be very popular so come and have a look at them as they will be changing every three weeks or so. We also cleaned up the “Musebo” in Barnes Park so go and have a look at some of our larger artifacts housed there. Perhaps if you can finally have extended family or friends come to visit this summer, bring them down to our museum for a look around as they should find it very interesting, as will you.

As always, we thank you for your donations and support to keep our local history alive and well.

Sandra Farynuk, President.

Museum notes

By Jackie Pearase



Hello museum supporters.

I have been at the helm here for just over a year now and all I can say is, 'Time flies when you're having fun!' Yep, I am still having fun getting lost down historical rabbit holes that take me in 10 different directions before coming together to make sense. That is how I come up with much of the newsletter content; it seems a shame to waste all that good research. With school finishing another year, I have a few articles on some of our local schools this issue. So, enjoy the summer newsletter and feel free to contact me with your suggestions and feedback. (I am currently researching logging in Grandview Bench/Larch Hills for a story requested by one museum member.)

Facebook

My posts on the museum's Facebook page are being very well received. People are enjoying the local history and photos; one of a six-foot diameter Douglas fir cut by Baird Bros. garnered almost 3,000 views. Who knew? I would love to see it translate into more museum memberships but that has not materialized yet, so I will have to be content with the fact that people are eagerly devouring local history. And one little boy did visit the museum with his mom on her lunch hour after seeing the Facebook posts, which I consider the best reward ever!

Enderby Public School 1901-1912

Enderby's first school was a wood building constructed in 1889 at 713 Russell on the north side of the street, in the middle of the block. Teacher John Bannerman had 27 students there.

When that school got too small, a two-room school was built in 1901 on the northwest corner of Cliff and Sicamous.

Enderby Public School had one room for junior students and the other side for senior students.

The school became graded in 1903. Teachers Mr. J.A. Rowe and Miss MacDougald had 71 students in those two classes.

Miss Mabel Violet Beattie joined the staff in 1905 (and continued teaching until 1945, with all but 12 of those years working as principal).

Hugh "Bulldog" McDonald was principal at the school in 1905. He was a severe disciplinarian with the strap but also a superb teacher. Improvements in 1907 included a new stone foundation done by J. Johnson and a second floor with two more rooms added by F.H. Barnes.

The construction was \$123.70 over the budget of \$4,000 set aside of the project.

The school's low ceiling made hot weather a trial for teachers and students.



Enderby Public School in 1907 after the second floor was added. [edms 4929]

There were 76 students attending in 1906-07 with teacher Mabel Beattie, another strict disciplinarian but excellent educator. Another 64 students were in the first division class.

By 1912 there was a total of 206 students at the school and some classes were being held at the Methodist Church down from the school on Cliff. The church hall was rented for \$15 per month for 18 months for the classes.

Annual General Meeting

After its initial postponement in November, we hosted our 2020 AGM on March 19 with just enough people in the room to meet quorum. We kept it simple with reports from the president, administrator and treasurer and the election of officers. Elected to a two-year term are Joan Cowan, Sandy Farynuk and Judy Fischer, with Bob Cowan, Diana Inselberg and Sue Phillips in the second year of their terms. Positions of the board were determined at a subsequent meeting, with everyone continuing as before: Sandy, president; Sue, vice-president; Bob, secretary; Diana, treasurer and Joan and Sue, directors. Sandy and her granddaughter Erica Williamson also gave an interesting presentation on the United Empire of the Loyalists in Canada, complete with period costumes. It would be great to have a few new faces join the board when our 2021 AGM is held this fall, hopefully in person.

Donations

While Facebook is not resulting in a membership boon, it has brought in at least one donation. Maye Hebditch made a generous donation in memory of her parents, Ossie and Gretta Baird, after seeing the wedding photo and information I posted to promote our bridal display. Donations were also received this spring from Joan Cowan and Marie Stickland in memory of George Hawrys while Violet Ardella Bauder (nee Bush) was memorialized with a donation from Gail Slavik. We also received an unexpected grant from the Community Foundation of North Okanagan that we can use for operating expenses. With such grants a rarity, we are very grateful for the assistance. Thank you to all our donors for your support.

Thomas Calder was principal and upper grades teacher in 1912-13 when it was determined a new, larger school was needed. The new school was opened Dec. 27, 1913 and named Fortune School.

In the 1920s, the old school site was used by students to grow various crops under the instruction of J.B. Munroe, an agricultural teacher in Enderby and Armstrong.

The large trees at the site now were planted at that time. Enderby Public School was demolished by Dick Blackburn in 1934 and several houses now stand in the location of the old school.

North Enderby School 1906-1946

North Enderby was served in the past by one school – in two locations.

The first Grade 1-8 school was at 673 Enderby-Grindrod Rd., on the east side of the road at the end of the lane to the Honeyman farm.

The school served children on both sides of the river “from the boundaries of Enderby north including Grindrod to the boundaries of the Mara School District,” recalled former student Mary Woollam in the book, *In the Shadow of the Cliff*.

With the Grindrod Bridge not yet built, some students had to paddle across the river after walking two or three miles. These students may have thought their journey was less arduous than some of those on the other side who had to walk four miles to school.

Construction of the bridge in 1911 resulted in more people settling in Grindrod and a little log school was built.

With fewer children attending North Enderby School in 1912, the community petitioned the school board to have the school moved to a more central location.

A roadway was cleared across private land to haul the building to a plot of land donated by George Folkard at 400 Enderby-Grindrod Rd., at the foot of Inch Logan Road.

The 24x36-foot building constructed by Ira Jones was winched along at a painfully slow pace – eight feet on Nov. 12, 1912, 40 feet on Nov. 18 and 75 yards on Nov. 22 before injuries and winter weather forced Ed Mack, Walter Mack and Walter Johnson to give up the effort.

“It is known that the school had to be sawn in half to get it moved, and when it was sold in 1958 and moved across the fields to (Hans) Neilson’s place, that it took two TD 9s to move it,” Woollam said. Enrolment from 1906 to 1913 averaged about a dozen, with a high of 20 in 1908.

Numbers rose into the 20s after the school was moved, reached an all-time high of 32 pupils for the 1922-23 school year and then

Bridal display

Sandy Farynuk and I changed up the bridal display in mid-April with dresses from the Buratinsky-Mikalishen wedding of 1908 and the Osechuk-March nuptials in 1948. We had people related to Borstel-Pozer dress come in to see the last display and, in April, members of the Mikalishen family dropped in to have a look at the dress of their grandmother/great-grandmother. Word of the display also resulted in the loan of a wedding dress and photos from another wedding. So we changed one of the mannequins into the dress from the 1956 Sicotte-Holmes wedding. Sandy and I worked to change up the display this month to some 1950-60s fashions from our textile collection using the two mannequins plus another Jamie Frazer painted for us.

Photograph collection

The museum now has over 8,000 photographs in its collection. Volunteers are working to enter the photos into the database and ensure all photos are scanned – a huge job but very worthwhile. Pictures are something everyone loves. The photos are cross-referenced with people, events, buildings, etc., making it easy to help someone looking for a specific photo. Those looking at family photos often help us fill in blanks about names, dates and places, thus further enhancing our archives. We welcome new photographs from Enderby and area. We accept them as donations or we can scan them so we have a copy and you keep the original.



Museum notes

hovered around 25 students until it closed after the 1945-46 term. Teachers came from England, Scotland, the Maritimes and Ontario until there were BC-trained teachers in the last few years.

Almost all the teachers were unmarried women, with Mr. William Cameron being the only male instructor from 1912-15.

Most teachers stayed for two or three years. Miss E.R. Cary stayed the longest at four terms, from 1917-21.

The end of the Second World War brought more changes to the school district; small community schools closed and students were bused to Enderby.

The school board sold the school to the local community for \$2 in 1950 with the stipulation that a residents' association be formed to legally hold title to the land and premises.

The North Enderby Residents' Association formed and made repairs to the building.

In spring 1954, a news item says NERA decided to "finish acquiring the property to be used for community purposes" and membership fees of \$1 per family were set.

The building was officially community property in September 1954.

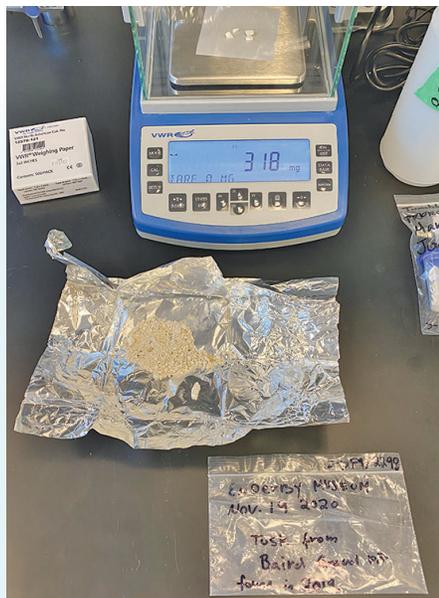
In July 1955, Mr. Couch and Mr. Laquement had leased the building for the year, were doing repairs and planned to "conduct services there."

In 1957, NERA voted to sell the school after deciding it would be too hard to make a community centre successful so close to Enderby.

Hans Neilsen had the building moved to 520 Enderby-Grindrod Road the following year and it burned down some time after the move.



The North Enderby School after it was moved to the Neilson property in 1958. [edms 4834]



Mammoth tusk

Josh Baird brought in a mammoth tusk fragment late last year that was dug up at the gravel pit in 2019. With the tusk crumbling, I took action to prevent any further loss by simply wrapping it in plastic wrap and poking holes in it so the tusk has some air flow. Before wrapping it up, I collected some of the crumbling material and sent it to Laura Termes of the Mega Fauna Project at Simon Fraser University to see if it has enough collagen to be tested. Lab technician Reba MacDonald did Mass Spectrometer Isotope work on a sample of the tusk, identified as S-SFU 2298, and determined that it was good enough to be radiocarbon tested. The sample headed to Oxford, England for testing on May 10. The next step will be to have the tusk evaluated by the Kelowna Museum so we can find the best way to preserve and display the artifact to go along with the mammoth molars, also donated by the Bairds, currently displayed.

Museum notes



NERA continued to meet regularly and undertook a centennial project at the site in 1971, constructing a camp kitchen to go with the picnic area there.

In 2005, NERA extended its thanks to various government representatives and local businesses that helped refurbish the site.

In 2007, the group requested that the Regional District of North Okanagan take over site maintenance with costs paid through Area F.

Fortune School 1913-1975



This photo of Fortune School, circa 1939, is taken by Erksine Burnett. [edms 5176]

Fortune School, named after Alexander Leslie Fortune, was built in 1913 and 201 students moved from the old school on Cliff to the new one in December of that year.

When selecting a site, the city had a choice: three acres across the tracks on Howard at \$600/acre or three acres on the corner of Knight Street and the new Salmon Arm Road at \$1100/acre.

A referendum in 1912 asked residents if they supported being taxed for the new school as the city had to borrow \$24,000. Just five of the 97 voters said no.

People were also asked which site they preferred and the vote was 2 to 1 for the more expensive site.

Citizens were more concerned about the potential danger of the trains than they were about paying higher taxes. (Little did they know that, 80 years later, parents would be concerned about the potential danger of cars on the highway associated with the chosen site.)

The school cost \$58,000 and was made from the very best Enderby brick, using the same building design used in Vernon the year before. The design was altered, at an extra cost, to include modern heating and ventilation using a boiler system – state-of-the-art features at the time.

The roof was designed with large open trenches heated by steam to hasten snow melt and carry it off via interior drain pipes to drains below the basement.

Local soldier's grave cared for overseas



A family photo on Facebook has helped put a face to one long ago resident who died and is buried overseas.

Bob Smiet from The Netherlands contacted the museum this spring after seeing a photo of the McKay family of Enderby on Facebook.

He was seeking information on James Alexander McKay as part of his involvement with Project '44 and Faces to Graves.

L/Cpl. McKay died in Holland on April 17, 1945 and is buried at the Holten Canadian War Cemetery.

He was one of seven casualties in a battle fought that day by the Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment. The enemy retreated and 87 of their soldiers were taken prisoner.

L/Cpl. McKay was posthumously presented the Dutch Order of the Bronze Lion "...for distinguishing himself...by performance of acts of exceptional gallantry and tact, thereby setting a praiseworthy example under difficult circumstances, for which he paid with his life," reads the original citation signed by Queen Wilhelmina of The Netherlands.

This is why, when you look at photographs of the school in the winter, rarely is there snow on the roof.

The heat flues and drain pipes were between the inner and outer brick walls, a space of 18 inches, which posed a real problem for firefighters during the school fire in 1975.

There were four large classrooms upstairs, plus the assembly room which could be partitioned into two rooms if needed.

There were four more classrooms on the main floor, in addition to the many offices.

The floors throughout the building were 1x3 tongue-and-groove fir; the walls had wainscoting.

Added luxuries were built-in book shelves, cloakrooms, and drinking fountains everywhere.

Boys and girls left by separate entrances for lunch and recess; the girls' entrance to the south and the boys' entrance to the north. The children would play separately outside.

During inclement weather they would go down to the basement where they each had a playroom, lunchroom and washrooms.

The school served the community well until the period following World War II, when there was a population explosion in the city. The eight classrooms became 13.

In 1954 a one storey elementary school with a flat roof was built next to Fortune School. It was named after Mabel Violet Beattie, long-time teacher and principal at the school.

Grades 1 to 6 were housed in this new school, while grades 7 to 12 were held in Fortune School.

An addition was added to the south side of Fortune School in 1965, and a cement block gymnasium was constructed for the junior high students in 1968.

But the school was still crowded, and high school students were bused to Salmon Arm for 10 years.

The fire of 1975 changed everything.



The 1975 fire at Fortune School resulted in many changes for local students. [edms 3075]

Good neighbours, good times

This is the story of a little club that did a lot.

As her introduction to her new community, Marion Gates invited her neighbours to her home on Oct. 21, 1948. The ladies in attendance eagerly accepted her suggestion that they form a club. Agnes Roberts suggested the name, the Good Neighbour Club, on the second meeting held in early November.

The original founding members of the group were Myrtle Dingman (first president), Marion Gates, Agnes Roberts, Grace Bolton, Astned Elliot, Ida Teece, Minnie Kent, Audrey Murphy, Louise McKay and Kay Penner. Later members included Lois Roberts, Anna Bailey, Lillian McQueen, Beryl Wambolt, Eva Simard, Merle Armstrong, Bertha Gillies and Bertha Danbrook.

The twice monthly meetings followed the same format. They started with their creed (three were used each year, one every four months) and followed that with the roll call.

Roll call was always different, with each member required to answer in keeping with the decision made the previous meeting. Perhaps they had to recite a poem from childhood, tell an animal story, or provide a recipe. One time, they had to laugh in such a way as to make other members laugh and any laughing member was fined a penny. They quickly raised \$1. Another time, they had to answer with their view to the question: Why wasn't the museum referendum passed?

An annual schedule set out the parameters for each meeting: a theme, which member would host the meeting (determined on a rotating schedule going alphabetically), which two women would provide lunch and which two members would provide the social program.

There were activities and demonstrations like cake decorating, hula hooping, wood carving, use of cosmetics, public speaking and plant and bulb exchanges.

The 30 minutes of social time ran the gamut from quizzes to musical performances to debating current events. They sang and played music, read poetry and articles they wrote on specific topics, and debated all kinds of topics including, "Our responsibility to the environment we live in", "Views on the space program", and "Should margarine be banned from Canada?"

In 1948, the women did a project that involved writing poems that were then put under patches on an apron. The poems were removed and read, with the writer of the best one getting the apron.

Project '44 volunteers have transcribed over 6,500 pages of documents from over 100 Canadian war diaries that are available online. The Project '44 web map covers all the major combat units that fought from D-Day to victory in Europe.

With over 70,000 points of data, you can see where and when any unit was fighting during the Second World War.

Bob got involved in dedication to his father, Cpl. P.B. McKay of the 22nd Armoured Regiment of Canadian Grenadier Guards, a Canadian connection he became aware of late in life.

Bob was seeking information and a photograph of J.A. McKay that he could add to the project but also so his photograph can be added to his gravestone. We happily obliged.

Bob placed a flag on L/Cpl. McKay's grave on Holland's Remembrance Day, May 4. He will also follow through with Faces to Graves to further memorialize the young man.

Check out the projects at <https://www.project44.ca/> and <https://www.facestograves.nl/>.



James McKay was killed in action during the Second World War but he is far from forgotten by those he helped liberate in Holland. [edms 1869]

One of the poems, by Ida Teece, relates to one of the debates above:

Oh, margarine; thou curse and snare/
Come to B.C., if thou dost dare/
The farmer's living thou dost take/
When his herd's production is at stake/
Saving pence a paltry few/
Makes living cheaper, it is true/
Oh! Cows buck up and do your best/
And prove that butter's best by test.

Another by Agnes Roberts typifies the club's sentiment:

The second Thursday comes around /
When we Good Neighbours meet/
A little sewing, a social hour /
and real good food to eat/
We enjoy each other's company/
Seem always full of cheer/
Let's hope our Good Neighbour Club/
Will last for many a year.

The club's annual Christmas party and summer picnic were highly anticipated events.

The picnics were held at Mrs. Kingbaker's cabin at Mara, at the home of Mrs. Carter (Mrs. Gates' sister) in Coldstream, or in the park at Armstrong.

A hobo theme for the 1960 picnic had members dressed up and eating a paper-wrapped lunch tied to a stick. One member received two dry chicken bones, another two toothpicks and another, a piece of bread. The 1950 Christmas party had a Toyland theme with members dressing up as "live" toys.

The club motto, "Learn a little, play a little, do a little, to make a life a little more worthwhile" was indicative of the role members played in the community.



Members of the Good Neighbour Club from Two Mile Crossing, circa 1950s: (front, l-r) Astned Elliot, Margaret Caret, Emmy Kent, Agnes Roberts, (middle) Louisa Preston, Grace Bolton, Myrtle Dingman, Marion Gates, Audrey Murphy, (rear) Louise McKay, Ida Teece, Annie Neilson, Kay Penner and Beryl Wambolt. [edms 4010]

The women focused on doing community work such as sewing for the local hospital and fundraising for various groups like the Red Cross and Bethany Home for Children. They supported the hospital auxiliary, March of Dimes, Kinsmen's Mother's March and cancer research.

The group considered disbanding in 1957 but instead opted to go with once monthly meetings.

The same discussion came up again in 1959 but it was not until 1983 that interest diminished and the club was discontinued, leaving behind good memories and good work.



This 6-foot diameter Douglas fir was the largest one logged by Baird Bros. The over 500-year-old tree was felled in 1987 by Jim Furlong with a Husqvarna chainsaw. Riverside Sawmill received 12 feet of the butt, and they gave it to Vic Hooper, who built a playhouse on it. The crew: Ian Wejr, Bert Johnston, Lester Pirnak, Murray Hooper, Jim Furlong, Arnold Kirschfelt, Wayne Tulak, Tom Baird, Willie Schad, Victor Hooper, Doug Abel and Norm Black (on log). This photo was viewed by 2,823 people on Facebook. [edms 6868]