

MUSEUM NEWS

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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

AGM

Friday, Nov. 15 at 3PM

Topic: Grindrod Players



Winter is coming...

The Farmers' Almanac is calling for lots of snow in central Canada and a reprieve from cold and snowy conditions for the coastal provinces. Only time will tell. This photo of the Shuswap River near the Skookumchuk rapids shows winter conditions in 1898. [edms 1202]

President's Message

Hello to all the members of our museum. Once again, we have had a very busy summer with so many people, both locals and tourists, coming to visit us and be amazed at the archives and artifacts we have accumulated in our collections. If you haven't physically been here yet please make the extra effort to pop in and have a look around or get a guided tour. We were excited to have our newly refurbished fire truck in the Canada Day parade then get it housed in the extended enclosure at the Museum Gazebo in Barnes Park. As always, our amazing volunteers have been working diligently recording and filing masses of information into permanent files into our computers, shelves and filing cabinets. Thank you to them all! Jackie will be telling you of activities and histories participated in and around Enderby, both past and present so be sure to read our newsletter cover to cover! Also, a big thank you to everyone who has so generously given both items and monetary donations to ensure the longevity of the museum.

Sandra Farynuk, President of the Board

Museum notes

By Jackie Pearase

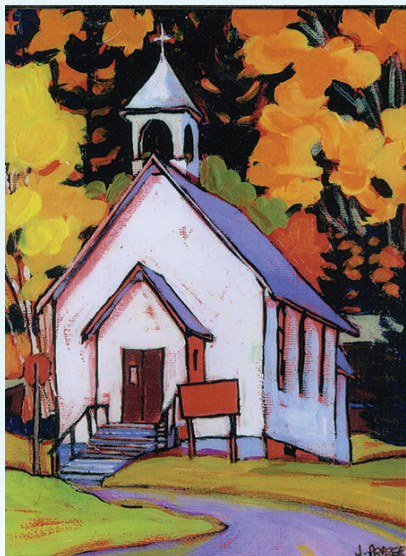


Enderby, an illustrated history

The second edition of the Enderby history book written by Bob Cowan and edited by Joan Cowan makes a great Christmas gift. Bob sold the book, *Enderby, an illustrated history*, at the Enderby Farmers Market this summer and sales were good.

Other gift ideas

The museum has a wide selection of non-fiction, historical books for sale that are ideal gifts for the history buff on your list. We also have mugs created by Kingfisher artisan Sue Saloka; greeting cards, magnets and small artworks by Jamie Frazer; the newest and past copies of the Okanagan History Report; a nice selection of postcards; and other artisan cards.



First drive-in theatre had brief life

Before the Starlight Drive-in on Hwy. 97A south of Enderby, locals had one brief summer of movies under the stars.

The Enderby Drive-In Theatre Ltd. was a project financed by local businessmen to support the city by retaining local trade while also drawing in more from outside the area.

The drive-in was located 2.25 miles past the “Grindrod junction” – which today is the intersection of Hwy. 97A and Hwy. 97B – on the Sid King place on the “Salmon Arm highway” (Hwy. 97B) between Enderby and Salmon Arm.

It had a capacity for 300 vehicles.

Construction of the drive-in started in June 1953 but a shortage on the cement order delayed the opening until August.

An Aug. 14, 1953 article in the Enderby Commoner noted that the drive-in was not quite finished but “when completed it will be a duplicate to the Lions Theatre in West Vancouver and the finest drive-in this side of Vancouver.”

The first movie was shown Aug. 14, 1953 with Okanagan-Revelstoke MP George McLeod giving the opening address where he called the project “a milestone in the growth of the Valley.” P.G. Farmer also spoke, giving special thanks to George Lane for “his untiring efforts in keeping the project moving toward completion.” The movie on screen was *The Quiet Man* in technicolor starring John Wayne, Maureen O’Hara and Barry Fitzgerald.

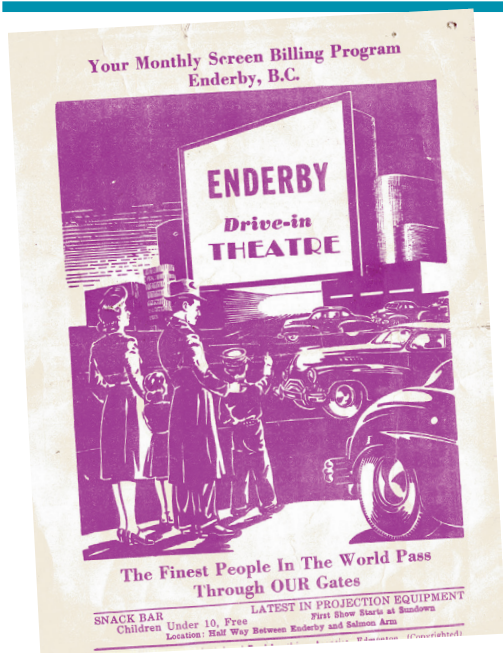
Subsequent movies included *Gunsmoke*, *The Lady Wants a Mink* and *The Woman They Almost Lynched*. Movies were shown every day except Sunday.

Unfortunately, the theatre was not a success; the opening of the Starlight Drive-In Theatre in Salmon Arm the same year may have played a role in its quick demise.

The final program of movies in October 1953 featured 14 different movies, each showing for two days.

The drive-in was sold in May 1954 to Egisto Beggatini of Rutland. He dismantled the theatre and moved it to Grand Forks where he and Bill Nimilowicz created the Grand Forks Drive-In Theatre for 350 cars in 1954.

That drive-in opened on Aug. 6, 1954 but burned down Sept. 27 after a fire started in the snack bar. The projector and some machinery were saved but \$3,000 worth of equipment went up in smoke. The building sustained \$7,000 in damages.



The front cover of the October 1953 movie program for the Enderby Drive-in Theatre.

It re-opened June 7, 1956 under the ownership of Matt Harrison of Summerland, who leased it to Joe Altomare for a year.

Harrison sold to Peter Abrosimoff on March 11, 1957 and it was renamed Starview, or Star-View, with room for 200 cars.

The Starview operated until the end of September 1961.

Abrosimoff sold the equipment in 1965 and subdivided the property and turned into the West Grand Forks Mobile Home Park.



This is the cabin at Falls Creek in Kingfisher in 1910 when it was occupied by Joe St. George. The falls seen behind the cabin are now known as Isobel Falls. A flood took out a barn on the property in 1935 and fire destroyed the home in 1957. The bridge spanning the creek for many years was a stopping point for travellers going to Mabel Lake. [edms 6041]

Christmas bake sale

This year's Christmas celebrations in Enderby take place Dec. 6-7. The museum is once again joining the celebration with its fabulous bake sale but it will be for one day instead of two. We have found sales to be lackluster on Saturdays (and people are disappointed to find the table almost bare) and last year I had people coming in Friday morning when we did not start until 3 p.m. So, this year's bake sale is all day Friday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. We are asking for donations of baked goods from museum members to help with this important fundraiser. Items can be dropped off at the museum from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5 or on Saturday morning.

Museum decorating

We will get the museum ready for the holidays with a decorating party on Monday, Dec. 2, starting at 10 a.m. This is when we hang up the old decorations and Christmas cards, Bob sets up his old train set, the tree is decorated and the kitchen is readied for Christmas. We finish with a little potluck lunch. All interested members and volunteers are welcome to attend.

Toonie Tree

The Christmas tree will once again serve as our Toonie Tree fundraiser. For \$2 you can hang a Swedish heart on the tree and get a raffle ticket to win half the toonies. Last year's winner took home \$187. As always, thanks to Trinity Valley Christmas Trees for donating the tree.



Vintage silent auction

We will host a small silent auction over Christmas, Dec. 4-19, during business hours. We are restricting the sale to items that are vintage or antique. If you have something to donate to the sale, bring it by or give me a call and I can pick it up.

Holiday closure

The museum will be closed for Christmas holidays from Dec. 22 to Jan. 6. We close at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21 and re-open at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

Volunteering

We have a wonderful group of volunteers who donate their time and skills to help keep the museum open. They undertake many different projects that are key to our growing archives. I am grateful for their time and everything they do here. Most people come for a few hours one day a week, a couple are known to show up less often depending on other commitments, and one person is here four or five days a week. We are always looking for new people to join the museum as volunteers. We try to match people's likes and skills to the work done at the museum. If you want to help preserve local history, give me a call or come by for a tour.

Donations

We continue to add to our collection with items donated by the public. These donations include photos, books, archival material and artifacts. We recently received a circa 1970s record player that still works and one family's family history with photos, newspaper clippings and more. Not everything is suitable for our collection, but you never know unless you ask! So, consider your local museum when cleaning out those closets and sheds.

Snowmobile group at home on the Range



The HRSA's Family Fun Day at Hunters Range, ca. 1975. [edms 7834]

Snowmobiling at Hunters Range has been a popular recreational pastime with locals since 1965.

Hunters Range is accessed by sledders via the Ashton-Brash trailhead seven kilometres up Mabel Lake Road and the Laforge trailhead 30 kilometres east of Enderby off Mabel Lake Road. There are four trails to choose from and over 100 kilometres of groomed trails with a wide variety of terrain – meadows, tree riding, chutes, alpine, drainages and more.

The Hunters Range Snowmobile Association is a volunteer-run non-profit organization registered on Aug. 31, 1977.

The association is funded by membership fees, sales of day user passes, corporate partnerships, contributions from local businesses, donations, fundraising events and grant funding.

Its 2023-24 board includes 11 directors, and it has nine employees: three part-time trail collectors, four part-time groomer operators, a bookkeeper and a seasonal, full-time administrator.

The HRSA's volunteer base contributes between 3,000 and 5,000 hours each season. There are currently about 380 HRSA members. The HRSA operates under an agreement with Rec Sites and Trails BC and works closely with the Ministry of Forests. This partnership allows them to manage the area and collect fees from recreational users. Day user fees are \$25 per day per sled.

There is a main chalet 24 kilometres from the parking lot/staging area, at an elevation of 1,670 metres. It was constructed in 1980-81 to replace the old trailer used for many years as a shelter.



Snowmobiling in the 1970s involved a lot of digging out as seen here with Jean MacPherson and Sandra Farynuk (and the pair in the distance). [edms 8676]

Many renovations and improvements were made over its lifetime. The loft was removed to open it up, the kitchenette was removed and replaced with picnic tables, the windows were replaced, an outhouse added, the deck was removed, rebuilt and extended, solar lighting and a charging station were added, and it's been repainted.

The chalet is the meeting place for events hosted by the HRSA, which, over the years, has included Snowarama, Poker Rally, Bingo Rally, Family Fun Day and Ladies' Ride.

In 1992, the old log tourism booth, constructed by Charlie Bubar in the early 1970s, was purchased for \$100 and moved 11 kilometres past the Ministry of Transportation site to an area called The Saddle. The Dekker brothers hauled the structure for a case of beer.

The 33-kilometre trip up the mountain took some time, as the load was too heavy to get up the hill so parts of the building were dismantled then re-assembled at the site.

This chalet, located at an elevation of 2,064 metres and used for emergency shelter, is named after avid Armstrong snowmobiler Gordon Sydney.

It, too, has seen upgrades including paint and some straightening to correct a concerning lean.

The HRSA added a temporary warming shelter to the LaForge trail in 2023-24 while it waits for government approval to make it permanent. An application is also in for a permanent structure at the Kingfisher end.

The club has amassed a small fleet of groomers to keep the trails in top shape for users.

Visitors

As Sandy said in her message, the museum has been busy. Many people come to do research. They also come to visit, discover our extensive archives and end up doing family or property research. Since this spring, people have used our archives to research multiple people and topics. People searched addresses on Enderby-Grindrod Road, Sicamous Street, McNabb Road, Trinity Valley Road, Mill Avenue, Old Vernon Road, Regent Avenue and Stroulger Road. Topics of research included the Lansdowne townsite, Enderby Hotel, Splatsin history, Splatsin cemetery, King Edward Hotel, St. Andrew's United Church, Bell Block, Enderby schools in the 1970s, Grindrod Sawmill, Rogers Sawmill, logging, paddlewheelers, Columbia Flouring Mills and Ashton Creek Store. People have sought out photographs of Kingfisher and Sicamous in addition to numerous families. Families researched this spring include Hutchison, Lavigne, Skelly, Folkard, McEwen, Skyrme, Simard (three times), Karras, Green, Luff, Fenton, Chatterson, Sherlow, Jamieson, Naylor, Lynes, Woods, McDonald, McLeod, Kinbasket, Alexander, Parkinson, Spencer, Frederick, Uyeda, Wejr, Van Solkema, Kral, Reiter, Doubek, Brash, Tokairin and Joe. Specific people researched included Rev. Sealy, Hezekiah Elliot, James Eillison, Catherine Schubert and Cecil Piper.

Thanks

The Enderby & District Museum Society board of directors extends a big thank you to the Enderby Area F Services Commission for their continued annual financial support that helps us keep our doors open.

Its first machine, a Thiokol Snowcat, was purchased in the 1980s and used until the 2000s, when it was sold and a PistenBully 240 purchased. A Mogul Master drag purchased 40 years ago is still in use.

The trails are currently maintained with three snowcats, two drags and a packer bar. The newest groomer, 2010 Prinoth BR350, joins a 2001 Bombardier BR275 and a 1987 Bombardier BR400 that was built for the 1988 Calgary Olympics.

In 2022-23, \$17,567.69 from the Outdoor Recreation Vehicle Trail Fund was used to fund 50% of the purchase for two insulated, heated Sea-Cans with solar lighting. These now serve as collection huts at the two trailheads.

Also last season, the organization received \$89,044 from the British Columbia Snowmobile Federation (BCSF) that was used toward its new snowcat, groomer maintenance, a pre-cast concrete outhouse for the main parking lot and a fuel tank with a battery-powered pump for the groomer.

Another \$2,800 from Rec Sites and Trails BC went toward map kiosks at the trailheads.

The HRSA received monetary assistance from the Vernon Snowmobile Association for construction of its main chalet, so it provided \$7,500 last year to the VSA for its new chalet.

The club supports community through a high school scholarship and a school-wide pizza day at M.V. Beat-tie Elementary School.

The hard work done by the current executive in recent years has not gone unnoticed.

The HRSA earned the BCSF's 2020-21 Excellence Award for Outstanding Snowmobile Club and was named the 2021-22 Outstanding Snowmobile Club of the Year by the Canadian Council of Snowmobiling Organizations.

The ongoing efforts to make Hunters Range an ideal winter destination are working, with approximately 8,000 people passing through the trailheads in 2022-23.



Early health care

The Enderby Health Centre was constructed at 706 Stanley by the Enderby & District Lions Club. The group diverted efforts already underway to build a pool at Barnes Park to help fill the community's need for a health centre. The project took six months, from July to December 1952, using volunteer labour – all except the plumbing and electrical work. The four-room building cost \$7,800 to build, with one-third raised by the Lions. It served as a sub-office of the North Okanagan Health Unit and permanent headquarters for all public health personnel. Mae Conn was the first public health nurse there. One office was reserved for the public health nurse and the other two were shared by the medical health officer, sanitary inspector and public health dentist. Organizations like the hospital auxiliary, Red Cross, Cancer Unit and more used the reception room. The building had an annual renewable lease held between the provincial government and City of Enderby, with no charge for rent. It is shown here in 1985, the year it closed and moved to the old forestry building on Cliff and Old Vernon Road. The building was sold for \$18,000 and an electrical business set up shop there. It was torn down in 1992 to make way for an expansion to the Red Basket. [edms 3198]

Why Belvidere Park?



Belvidere Park, shown in 1997, was part of the city's original townsite. [edms 8152]

The Enderby and District Museum provided the impetus for naming the site next to the bridge Belvidere Park.

Then museum curator Joani Cowan and local historian Mary Woollam won a city-sponsored contest to name the new park in 1992.

The pair's explanation for their chosen name is surmised here.

The word belvedere, also spelled belvidere in an 1894 dictionary, literally means a fine or beautiful place, making it an ideal moniker for the site. The word also has important historical significance for the City of Enderby.

The park is located in the original Belvidere Townsite, which was designated as a government reserve for navigational purposes in 1878. The parcel of land stretched from the bridge south to the Splatsin Reserve and from the river to Old Vernon Road.

The Lambly brothers built a warehouse on Lot #3 of the townsite, just south of where the Visitor Info Centre sits. The building served paddlewheelers docking there while transporting goods and passengers between the Shuswap and Okanagan lake systems. In 1881, Enderby's first frame house was built on Lot #2 for Robert Lambly.

In 1884 the government reservation in the Belvidere

Townsite was rescinded and subdivisions of the site were offered for sale at a public auction. With little done to advertise the sale, Thomas and Robert Lambly purchased 15 of the lots and their brother-in-law William Postill purchased the remaining five lots.

In 1885 H.F. Keefer built the first store on Lot #4 and sold it to Harvey and Bailey, who opened a post office there in 1887. Oliver Harvey built a new store next to the newly constructed bridge shortly before the S&O railroad pre-empted a right-of-way through part of the Belvidere Townsite.

Steamboat traffic and the importance of the site for navigation dwindled with the new railroad.

S.C. Smith eventually purchased the property and built a sawmill on the riverbank in 1896. The first four lots in the Belvidere Townsite saw a succession of sawmill owners until Crown Zellerbach closed its mill in 1974.

The provincial government then purchased the property and leased it to the City of Enderby.

Work on the site to create a day-use park began in July 1991. The park was completed in 1992-93, after the new chamber of commerce and info centre were constructed at the site.

So why is Belvedere Street spelled without the 'V'? That is a question for people who can no longer answer the question.

AGM features Grindrod theatre group



The cast from Grindrod Players production, *Wanted, A Housekeeper* performed in 1959. Shown are: (front) Kathy Halksworth, Walter Bennett, Bobby Emeny, Frank Melin, (back) Alice Emeny, May Dangel, Diana Dombroski and Betty Ward. [edms 3916]

The Enderby & District Museum Society hosts its annual general meeting at the museum on Friday, Nov. 15 at 3 p.m.

This year's meeting features a presentation on the Grindrod Players theatre group.

Grindrod residents have presented dramatic productions since the end of World War I.

In the 1920s to 1940s, the productions took place in Grindrod before going on the road to Enderby.

The Grindrod Drama Club formed in the 1950s and plays were performed annually at the school by residents and students.

The Grindrod Players Club formed in 1968, one year after the very successful performance of *Charley's Aunt*.

The group's repertoire includes slapstick comedy, farce and melodrama. Plays are selected based on the people willing to perform that year.

Proceeds from the early productions went to Grindrod School.

The group has sponsored a scholarship at A.L. Fortune Secondary since 1978.

Productions were held at the high school theatre from 2011-19.

The 2023 production took place in Armstrong. There is a strong desire to bring the productions back to the Enderby area but finding a suitable location has been difficult.

Many of the long-time actors are now retired from the troupe but there are some "younger" actors who want to continue the Grindrod Players tradition.

The AGM presentation features a few Grindrod Players sharing the history and stories of the group.

We hope to have some video footage from past plays to add to the presentation.