

# *Heritage Organizations in Enderby District*

## **Enderby & District Museum Society**

901 George St., Enderby, B.C.  
250-838-7170

*Open year round.*

*Faith Hudson ~ President*

*Joan Cowan ~ Curator/Administrator*

## **Armstrong/Enderby Branch of the Okanagan Historical Society**

*Meetings - Spring & Fall*

*Don Moor ~ President*

*Eleanore Bolton ~ Treasurer*

## **Heritage Advisory Commission of Enderby & District**

*Meetings - Monthly*

*Bob Cowan ~ Chairman*

*Marcie Peel ~ Secretary*

## *Credits*

*Published by:*

The Enderby & District Chamber of Commerce  
& The Enderby & District Museum & Archives

*Photographs and text courtesy of:*

The Enderby & District Museum & Archives

*Graphics and layout by:*

Rebecca Shuert of Pure Graphics



Enderby & District  
Chamber of Commerce



# HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR *of Enderby*



## *The Naming of Enderby*

In 1887 the townsite on the Spallumcheen River was known variously as Steamboat Landing, Lambly's Landing, or Belvidere. With the post office scheduled to open in November, the residents questioned the name to appear on the postmark.

At a literary gathering at the home of Mrs. Lawes, the ladies looked down on the Shuswap River at flood, wondering if it would flow into Harvey's Store, Lambly's warehouse, or Lawes' new grist mill.

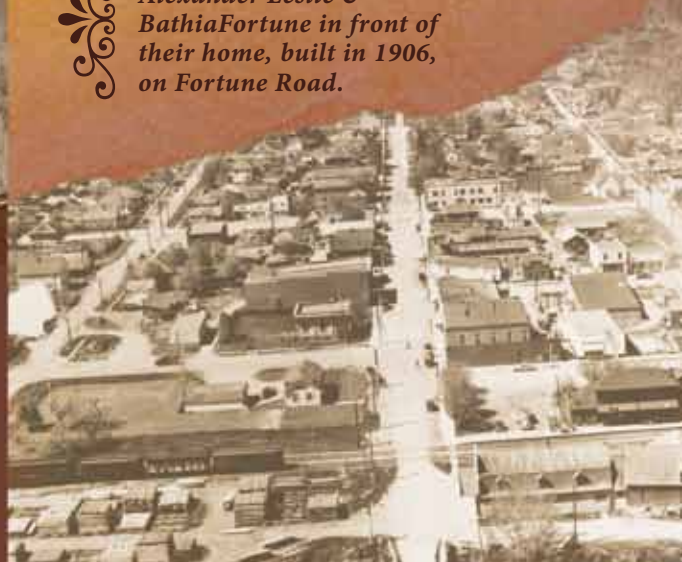
Mrs. Oliver read a poem to the group entitled High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire, an epic fantasy describing the great peril advancing on the town from a monster tide of water. The church bells warned the town with a tune entitled Brides of Enderby:

*"What danger lowers by land or sea?  
They ring the tune of Enderby."*

The young ladies at the literary gathering identified with the dangers advancing on the town; why not call their own town, "Enderby"?

## *Cover Photo*

*Alexander Leslie &  
Bathia Fortune in front of  
their home, built in 1906,  
on Fortune Road.*



Thompson  
Okanagan  
REGION



# HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR *of Enderby*

★ *indicates that the building has received special heritage recognition by the Enderby & District Heritage Advisory Commission and honoured with a brass plaque.*



## **1.**     **600 Railway Avenue**

Belvidere Park is named after the 1878 government navigational reserve, Belvidere Townsite, which stretched south along the river from the bridge to the Splatsin reserve. The building housing the Tourist Information Centre and Enderby & District Chamber of Commerce was designed by Highland Log Homes and assembled by local contractors in 1991 using lodgepole pine. This was the site of several large sawmills from 1896 to 1973. The Enderby & District Heritage Commission has erected signs of historic interest along the Jim Watt Heritage River Walk both north and south of the park.





## 2. 409 Cliff Avenue

This is the site of Enderby's first general store and post office, built in 1890. It continued as a general merchant until destroyed by fire in 1966. The building was rebuilt in a similar style, renovated in 1998, and has been a restaurant for 15 years.



## 4. 801 Vernon Road

This was Enderby's first forest office, built in 1945 on Cliff Avenue. After it was moved to this location in 1965, it was converted to a bunk house for fire fighters. The government sold the building in 1985.



## 5. 709 Vernon Road

This was originally a two-storey building with a gable roof and a fire proof vault, built in 1904, and served as offices for Okanagan Lumber, A.R. Rogers Lumber Company, and B.J. Carney Pole. In 1952 the top storey was damaged by fire and removed. The building was sold in 1991.



## 6. 602 Hubert Avenue \*

Andrew Paul hired Andy Baird and Mr. Ferguson to construct this brick two-storey gabled ell cottage in 1906. Mrs. Sarah Inch operated a boarding house here for many years. Frank Treat, well known for his Travelling Talkies and for bringing the first "Talking pictures" to the community, lived here until his passing in 1962.



## 3. 506 Cliff Avenue

The Enderby Forest Service moved into this "modern building with its clean lines" in 1965. In 1985 it became the Enderby Public Health Office, and today it houses the storefront alternate school. This was the site of the first hotel in Enderby, built by the Lambly brothers to serve boat passengers. When the Shuswap & Okanagan railroad was completed in 1890, the trains passed right next to the hotel. It had a Chinese restaurant, barbershop, ladies' sitting room and beer parlour. The building was torn down in 1937.



## 7. 701 George Street

R.P. Bradley, hardware store owner and alderman, built this two-storey brick house in 1905. The Enderby Legion occupied the building from 1928 to 1945, then it was renovated for the Pasemko and Beebee families. In 1994 the stucco was covered with siding and the building enlarged to house a restaurant and art gallery.



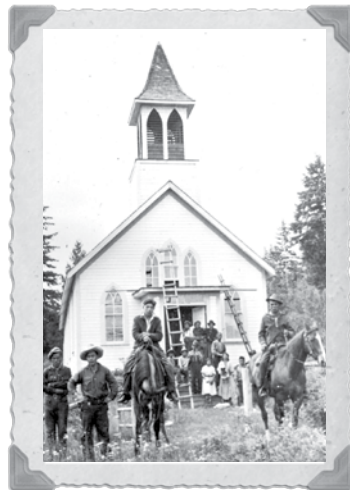
## 8. 602 George Street

Barnes Park, a four-acre parcel, was purchased from Fred Barnes in 1906 for \$1,000. The recreation grounds were the centre of activities for May 24th celebrations, with a ball diamond, lacrosse field, and grandstand. The Enderby Lions Club took over maintenance of the park in 1952 and built the swimming pool and children's playground. In 2010 the Lions Club built a log gazebo, the Museum in the Park, to house Enderby's first fire engine.



## 9. 208 George Street \*

The federal government contracted Bill Russell to build a Armoury in Enderby in 1913. It was used to train members of the B.C. Horse, the Rocky Mountain Rangers, and the Enderby Cadets. Washrooms and a kitchen were added in 1946. Paint covering the bricks was removed in 1998 and new windows were installed. It is now a community hall operated by user groups and owned by the city.



## 10. Canyon Road \*

St. Mary's Catholic Church was built by men from the Splatins community under the guidance of a priest in 1918 to replace the original church which was located next to the cemetery and struck by lightning. The church was renovated in 1939 and continues to be used by community members.



## 11. 709, 713, 715, 721 Hubert Avenue

These hipped-roof bungalows were built in 1909 and 1911 for employees of A.R. Rogers Lumber Co. The mill was the most important industry in Enderby at the turn of the century, employing approximately 300 people at the mill and in the bush. The mill buildings stretched along the river from the bridge to the Splatins Reserve, lumber was piled high along Vernon and Granville streets and large boarding houses were located throughout the town.





## **12. 724 Russell Avenue\***

This house has been in the Peel family since it was built by Robert Peel, manager of Enderby Trading Company, in 1906. It has a gambrel roof in the Dutch-Flemish style, with a deep-set front porch and a rock and mortar foundation. The interior features an oak fireplace, nine-foot ceilings, and French doors. The house was restored in 1990.



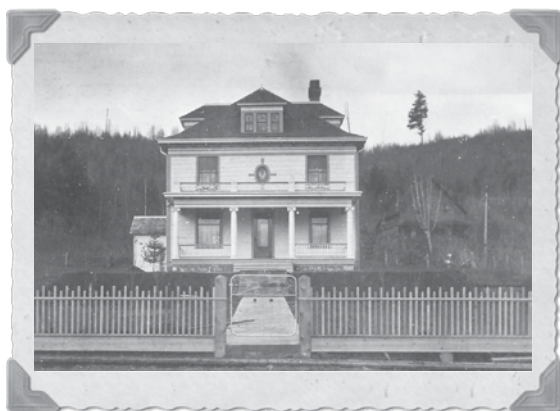
## **13. 706 Sicamous Street\***

A.R. Rogers Lumber Co., built this bungalow cottage for its accountant in 1910. It had two dormers and a large, deep-set porch. After the mill closed, the house passed through many families. In the 1970s the Watt brothers modernized the interior, complete with orange shag rugs, replaced the wooden siding with vinyl siding and connected the two front dormers. The house was purchased in 1998 and is now being restored.



## **14. 800 Sicamous Street\***

A.R. Rogers Lumber Co., built this bungalow cottage for its assistant manager in 1909. In later years it was home to the Horrex and Kineshanko families. It has retained most of the original features, including wood floors, high ceilings, large mouldings, and over-size windows. The house was purchased in 2005 and is now being restored.



## **15. 806 Sicamous Street\***

This was the largest and most ornate of the houses built by A.R. Rogers Lumber Co. for its employees. Built in the square classic box style in 1906 for the mill manager, it has a hipped roof, large dormers and nautical window, and deep porch. A tennis court in the back was shared by all of the employees. After the mill closed, the house has been home to the Danforth, Keith, Wilke, Salt and Vetter families. The house has been renovated and restored, with careful attention to retain the original heritage style.



## **16. 729 Cliff Avenue**

This two-storey gabled ell house was known as the doctors' house. Built in 1905 by Dr. Bentley, it included a doctor's office and rooms for sick patients. The house has been home to the Dill and Lidstone families, and has retained its heritage style.



## 17. 724 Cliff Avenue

Enderby's first mayor, George Bell, built this two-storey gabled ell house in 1892 when he was owner of the Enderby Trading Company. In 1905, when the city was incorporated, he added a south wing. When Bell moved to Victoria, the house passed through many families. It was remodelled to include two apartments in 1956 and to include a lawyer's office in 1992. The house was purchased in 2004 and is now being restored.



## 18. 714 Cliff Avenue

Art Reeves, local druggist, built this house in the classic box style with a deep porch and hipped roof in 1910. It remained in his family until 1965 when it was renovated by the new owners. The house was purchased in 2005 and is being restored.

## 19. 704 Cliff Avenue



The Enderby Opera House was built in 1911. It served as a theatre for plays, musical productions and silent movies. In 1935 the first Talking Pictures were shown by Frank Treat, when it was owned by the Knights of Pythias. Movies were shown here until a new theatre was built in 1948. It was an electronics store and bus depot until 2009.



## 20. 719 Cliff Avenue

This bungalow cottage served as a church manse from 1893 to 1950. The building was stuccoed and porch enclosed in the 1950s. The manse was built next to a small Methodist church, which was replaced by an imposing brick structure in 1909 with stained glass windows, an unusual bell tower, and a round Sunday School. The Methodists united with the Presbyterians in 1925 and the church was torn down due to flooding in the basement.



## 21. 900 George Street

The two-storey Enderby Hotel was built in 1945 to serve the increasing automobile traffic on the highway. It replaced a building with a similar design, built in 1910 for a furniture store and undertakers parlour. Later Sam Polson ran a hotel and restaurant.



## **22. 707 George Street**

Robert Jones, teamster and alderman, built this two-storey hipped-roof cottage with Enderby bricks in 1910. It was converted into an office building in 1984 and enlarged as a restaurant and art gallery in 1994.



## **23. 619 Cliff Avenue\***

Enderby City Hall was built with Enderby bricks in 1910 to house the city offices, council chambers, city jail, fire department, city police, library, and city works. It was enlarged to include the museum and library in 1987.



## **24. 603 Cliff Avenue\***

The Monarch Theatre, built in 1948, seated 250 people and was one of the nicest theatres in the Okanagan. A popular bowling alley replaced the theatre in 1964, and in 1992 the building was renovated into a clothing store.



## **25. 602 Cliff Avenue\***

William Hancock built a two-storey harness shop in 1892. J.W. Evans purchased it in 1905 and added two wings and a false front to the building. There has been a restaurant in a portion of the building since 1921. In 1983 the east section was torn down for a walkway.



## **26. 514 Cliff Avenue\***

Andy Fulton's hardware store, built in 1911, had 14-foot ceilings with patterned tin tiles on the ceiling and a rolling ladder to access the tall shelves. An elevator at the back was large enough to convey machinery and buggies to the second storey, where there was a tinshop and showroom for buggies. This was a hardware store until 2003 when it was renovated to accommodate the Enderby library.







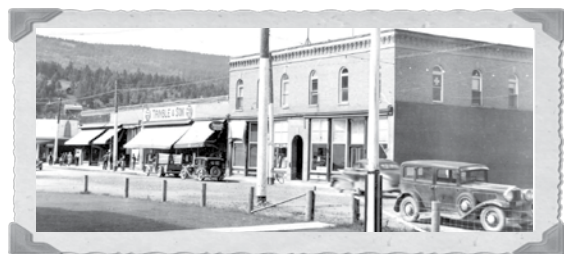
## 27. 510 Cliff Avenue

Bank of Montreal was the first bank to arrive in Enderby in April 1905. In 1910 they built a two-storey white brick bank with massive oak doors on the corner of Cliff and Vernon Road. It was located on spacious grounds with large trees and a lawn bowling green. The building was replaced by a modern bank in 1961.



## 30. 908 Maud Street

The Department of Transport built this one-storey concrete-block workshop in 1964 to house equipment to operate the telecommunications beacon on Hunters Range. It replaced the King Edward Hotel, a 1905 brick four-storey hotel with a fine restaurant, beer parlour, and ladies' sitting room. It was destroyed by fire in 1947.



## 28. 511 and 513 Cliff Avenue

George Bell built a two-storey brick building for Enderby Trading Post in 1904 on the corner of Cliff and Maud. In 1910 he purchased the rest of the block and built a one-storey brick building. The entire block, known as Bell Block, housed the drug store, post office, and general stores. Fire destroyed sections of the brick block in 1954 and 1985, and in 1988 the drug store expanded to encompass half of the block.



## 29. 904 Maud Street

In 1897 George Sharpe, butcher, built "a little brick shop the size of a bake oven" in this location. Over the years the building expanded to include two lots; it housed a butcher shop and grocery store until 2002. In 2004 the building was renovated into retail spaces. The original brick building is now deeply buried in the southeast corner.



## 31. Maud Street Parking Lot

This was the site of the Enderby Railroad Station. It was built in 1889 to service passengers and freight, replaced in 1952 by a freight station, and torn down in the 1970s when freight traffic decreased.





## 32. 513 Mill Avenue\*

In 1954 postmaster Pat Farmer initiated construction of a new Enderby Post Office to accommodate a growth in the city population and a change from train to truck mail delivery. The post office was closed in 1991 when Canada Post privatized the smaller community offices. It is now a professional building.



## 33. 1004 Belvedere Street\*

William and Emma Hancock had this pioneer house built in 1895. In 1909 they added a stone foundation and an addition to the rear, visible in this photograph taken from the park. Several families lived in the house until Ed and Bessie Coulter purchased the house and trucking business from Cap Livingstone. Coulters completely modernized the house in 1945, removing the front porch and covering the white siding with grey stucco. A corner of the property was sold to the city for a park in 1967.



## 34. 1009, 1105 Belvedere Street

A three-storey colonial brick house, built by Columbia Flouring Mills for its manager, was the social centre of Enderby in the early 1900s. In 1925 it became the Palace Creamery, famous for butter making. The building was eventually torn down and replaced by two houses and a commercial building, but the pillars marking the entrance can still be seen.



## 35. 1110 Belvedere Street\*

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was built in 1906 with Enderby bricks. The Presbyterians united with the Methodists in 1925, and the two cornerstones can be seen in the corners of the building, above a monument dedicated to A.L. Fortune, the first white man in the area and a strong supporter of the church. An education wing was added to the west side in 1964.



### **37. 1100 George Street**

In 1916 two houses were combined to make the first public hospital in Enderby. A two-storey annex was added to the south side in 1937. It became an apartment building when a larger hospital was built in 1952.



### **38. 703 Knight Avenue**

The gabled ell house, with a wing projected at a right angle to the main block and a porch built into the corner, was popular in rural areas in 1907. Johnny Laforge, forest ranger, lived here for 36 years.



### **39. 723 Knight Avenue**

This pioneer house, like the two houses next door, was built in the open gable style by H.W. Flewweling in 1907 on a very narrow lot. Ted Sparrow, teamster, and his son Ed, owner of Sparrow's Drug Store, lived here for many years.



### **40. 807 Knight Avenue**

M.V. Beattie Elementary School was built in 2011 to replace the original brick school. Fortune School, built in 1914, was two storeys with eight rooms and a large auditorium, and had a boys' and girls' entrance. The second storey was destroyed by fire in 1975. The new school incorporates bricks from the old school to reflect the original arched entrance.



### **41. 182, 186 Salmon Arm Drive**

These 1 ½ storey bungalow cottages were built in 1911 by John Bogert on large acreages. The Miller family lived in one house for over ninety years and the Ellington family has lived in the other for almost 80 years.



### **42. 211 Salmon Arm Drive\***

This two-storey brick home with nautical windows was built by Sam Teece in 1908. Sam operated a large dairy on this acreage, and he partnered with his son Henry in a general merchant and bookkeeping business.





### **43. 1206 Sicamous Street**

In 1914 the newspaper reported “the J.A. Dougal structure is quite a step in advance of the usual cottage of the local bungalow type.” Unusual features include a partial porch and dormer on the long side of the house. Corky Duncan, general merchant, and various school principals and bank employees lived here. The Dugdale family has restored the home.



### **44. 906 Sicamous Street**

Dr. Kope commissioned local contractor Percy Rouleau to build this home in 1946. It is a modernized gable ell style, lacking the usual large porch in the corner and including a much steeper roof. The house was home to Dr. Dixon and hospital administrator Bruce Swan, who renovated the interior in the 1990s.



### **45. 719 Mill**

This plains cottage house was built by local contractors in 1912 for F. Fravel, a lumber salesman. The plains cottage or country cottage typically is a two storey-house with gable roof, an off-centred front door and small porch. A.O. Blackburn, a local blacksmith who specialized in artistic iron railings, lived here for 30 years.



### **46. 615 Mill**

The Cornerstone Garden was developed by Enderby in Bloom in 2003 and is maintained by the Enderby Garden Club. The Enderby telephone office and switchboard was located here from 1920 to 1956, until it was declared obsolete by the new dial phones. Enderby's public telephone booth is on the lot.



### **47. 611 Mill**

This is the original Anglican Church vicarage that was located at Lansdowne next to the Lansdowne Cemetery. In 1896 it was moved to Enderby, where it served as a vicarage until 1912. In 1946 the building was moved to a new foundation in the centre of two lots and completely renovated, with the second storey and porches removed and more rooms added in the back.



### **48. 909 Belvedere\***

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #98 built a new two-storey legion facing Mill Avenue in 1945, complete with a ladies' lounge, men's canteen, kitchen, men's cardroom, and hall. It was renovated in 1962 and replaced by a one-storey concrete block building in 1965.

# A HISTORY *of Enderby*

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by Bob Cowan

Enderby played a pivotal role in the early development of the Okanagan Valley. Situated on the west bank of the Spallumcheen or Shuswap River, it is located at a point where the river changes its westerly flow to a northerly direction, emptying into Mara Lake.

It was in the vicinity of this river that the Spallumcheen tribe of the Shuswap Indians lived for hundreds of years, hunting and fishing along its banks. And it was just south of the townsite that Alexander Leslie Fortune, an Overlander, pre-empted land in 1866, thus becoming the first white settler in the North Okanagan.

The bend in the river made an ideal stopping spot for steamboats from Kamloops shipping supplies to settlers in the South Okanagan. It was from this point that goods could be transhipped to the head of Okanagan Lake, a distance of twenty miles. By the late 1870s there was regular steamboat service between Fortune's Landing and Savana or Kamloops.

Recognizing the importance of the river, Thomas and Robert Lambly pre-empted 320 acres to the west and north of the Spallumcheen Band Reserve in 1876. They built a long warehouse and a hotel near the riverbank. The site became known as Lambly's Landing or Steamboat Landing.

In 1887 a five-storey roller mill was established on the banks of the river, designed to mill the large acreage of wheat being grown on ranches to the south of Enderby. The flour was shipped by paddlewheeler to the mainline in Sicamous, a rather unreliable transport in the fall and winter. R.P. Rithet, owner of the flour mill, and Moses Lumby, owner of a large ranch to the south, became major shareholders in a company proposing to build a railroad line connecting Okanagan Landing with the mainline in Sicamous.

With the completion of the Shuswap and Okanagan Railroad in 1892, the small town of Enderby on the banks of the Shuswap River began to grow and prosper. The Columbia Flour mill expanded, and became the first flour mill in British Columbia to export flour to the Fiji Islands and Japan. Smith and McLeod located a large sawmill on the river, cutting timber from as far away as Mabel Lake and running logs down the Shuswap River to the mill in the spring. And Andy Baird began to operate and expand a brickyard, utilizing the excellent quality clay found along the banks of the river.

By 1905 the business district had expanded along Cliff Street, adding another hotel, the King Edward Hotel, another blacksmith shop, several general stores and restaurants, a butcher's shop, a livery barn, a jewelry store, and newspaper office. The community was served by one doctor, three churches, a public school, and a bank. With the population of 500 and growing, the townspeople

decided to incorporate. Water was brought to the new city from Brash Creek, and the sawmill provided electricity.

Enderby became well-known for its famous May 24th celebrations, with people travelling on paddlewheelers and the train to join in the events. The morning was filled with water sports, including log rolling, canoe races, and greasy pole. In the afternoon baseball and lacrosse teams battled while the children were kept busy with a parade, races and games in the recreation grounds. The events culminated with a grand ball in the evening.

World War I and the post-war depression marked an end to this glorious economic boom. The flour mill closed in 1914, when it couldn't compete with prairie wheat. The sawmill closed in 1922, when the prairie market began to slump. The brickyard closed in 1939 when its labour force went to war.

During the 1930s farmers switched to mixed farming and particularly dairy cattle. A creamery opened in the former flour mill manager's home, and by 1934 the Enderby Creamery was winning numerous B.C. and Canadian awards for its high quality butter. The pole industry maintained a slow growth throughout this period by selling cedar poles to the prairies and the east.

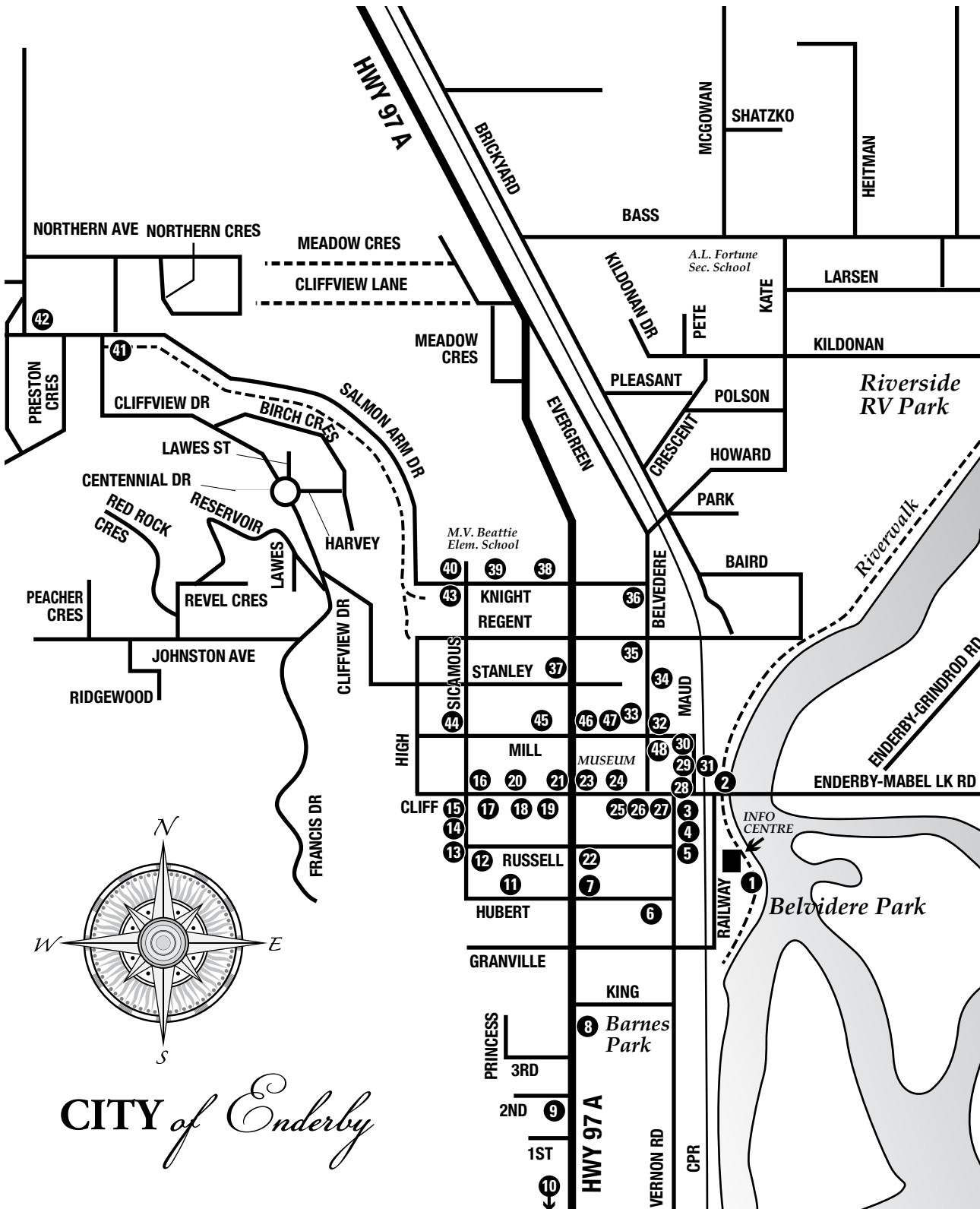
By the end of World War II, Enderby began to share in the general post-war boom that affected much of North America. Three large sawmills and two more poleyards established their operations along the banks of the Shuswap River and continued to use the river as a method of transporting logs from Mabel Lake. With the introduction of rural electrification and milking machines, farmers switched from the Jersey cow to the more prolific Holstein, and the cream check was replaced by a milk quota. Fruit farming continued to ebb and flow as it had in the past, while large poultry, beef, and hog farms were established and alfalfa hay provided a bonus crop.

Today much of the logging and mill activity has subsided, while secondary manufacturing of wood products is on the rise. The dairy and livestock industries continue to thrive, and are further enhanced with the introduction of exotic animals such as ostriches, fallow deer, bison, and llamas.

The Shuswap River has retained its importance as a navigable river, but canoeists and kayakers have taken the place of steamboats. The river now links the small developed communities in the rural district, from Kingfisher and Ashton Creek in the east to Springbend, North Enderby, Grindrod, and Mara in the north. And the City of Enderby remains the centre of services for the rural area.







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