

MUSEUM NEWS

ISSUE TWENTY TWO | FALL 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

**MEMBERSHIPS
ARE NOW DUE**

Enderby & District Museum & Archives Society Annual General Meeting Friday, November 19, 2021

at 3 p.m. in the museum
Reports and Election of Officers
Nominations for the board must be received in writing
by 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, 2021
Slide presentation on the History of Enderby
Refreshments
*PHO mask and vaccination passport
requirements in place*

A Message from Museum President Sandra Farynuk:

Fall is upon us and the pandemic shows little sign of abating. We are all trying to keep our museum as normal as possible while maintaining COVID protocols. Jackie is doing an amazing job keeping our museum an active part of our community by posting interesting and timely articles daily to our Facebook and website pages. They have been extremely well received which shows us many people are very interested in the work we do here five days a week. Our volunteers as well are all working hard to update and digitize our many different collections. If it wasn't for our many members and generous donations, we would have a much harder time preserving our local history. Thank you to everyone and, once again, I invite you to come and visit us and bring a friend. I guarantee you will be amazed at how much is accomplished here so give yourself a bit of time to have a good look around or research your family in our files where we have collected newspaper articles and any other information we have under each family name. We are looking forward to actually having an in-person meeting for our AGM in November. Come and enjoy our presentation on the history of Enderby and participating in our election. There is always room for more directors on our Board. Hope to see you there.
Sandra Farynuk, President

Tune (My BONNIE)

Written by Theodore (Mosie) Adams

My BONNIE she works in the kitchen
Just serving the Curlers with grub
When I get home late for my supper
I get it myself (That's the rub).

My Bonnie went up to the new rink
Just one game of Curling to see
They gave her two rocks & a Besom
Now she curls more oftener than me.

A Boy Friend came in from Vancouver
I had to go Curling at SEVEN
My Bonnie said she'd entertain him
They were gone when I got home at ELEVEN.

Some Curlers are not very agile
When shooting they slip in the hack
They just flick around with their Besom
And stand with a post at their back.

We have a few curlers in Vernon
To watch it would just make you weep
To see the whole rink in a lather
They don't do a darn thing but SWEEP.

We have one poor curler in Vernon
And maybe he's not all alone
He plays for a Skip when he's absent
He wins every game BUT HIS OWN.

My Bonnie makes Coffee for Curlers
The Kiddies look after the HOME
The darn place don't look like it should do
I'm not kicking, for I'm not alone.

There's a Family of Curlers in Vernon
The father, his son, and a brother
They argue (WHO IS THE BEST CURLER)
Don't tell them we think it's their Mother.

They do work so hard at the Curling
Just losing and Winning a Cup
They get all pooped out in the Winter
Takes all Summer to get rested up.

There's a big husky guy on the Roll Book
His hands would not work with his eyes
He changed to his left for a tryout
And Gosh did we get a surprise.

The long tradition of curling in Enderby

Interest in the sport of curling in this area began in 1893. People would go onto the frozen river and use blocks of wood in place of curling stones. There is mention in 1904 of a rink being built in Enderby but it was not until 1905 that Audrey Baird had a skating and curling rink open near the brickyard. A club was organized in December 1905 with an elected board consisting of A.E. Taylor, president; H.W. Harvey, vice-president; D. Nairn, secretary-treasurer; and directors T.G. Bell, A. Matthews and F. Pyman. People joined the club for \$5.

In 1906, the club adopted the rules and regulations of the Kootenay Curling Association and paid Audrey Baird \$100 to use his rink for the season. This rink had skating ice in the middle bordered on either side by a curling sheet. It was not ideal, as skaters easily messed up the curling ice, which, along with the annual scramble to find a location for the rink, prompted the creation of a committee to look at buying some lots for a permanent rink.

In 1908 there was no difficulty in finding people to fork out \$10 to be a member of the club but they could not play without ice – business had called away the person in charge of building the rink. Ira C. Jones was tasked with the job of getting a rink built on the city's recreation grounds (Barnes Park) at the last minute.

A Dec. 31, 1908 newspaper article: "Ira C. Jones completed the erection of the curling rink Monday evening, and Enderby can now boast of as handsome a rink as there is in the Valley. It is 32x50 feet over all, with a dressing room 10x28. Two sheets of ice are being made. A 4-foot



Two teams in a 1950 Vernon bonspiel: (front) Art Dill, Sid Speers, Pat O'Connor, Ed Coulter, (back) Ernie McMahon, Howard Logan, Jack Palmer and Bud Pieper. [edms 0400]



Rink and agricultural hall in 1924. [edms 0137]

sidewalk down the centre leads from the entrance to the dressing room. Windows are so arranged that spectators can view the play from the warm room. Mr. Jones finished the building with the neatness and dispatch characteristic of his work.”

The game was hugely popular with all ages, with some accessing the rink during off hours, as reported in this article from Feb. 17, 1910: “Last Sunday some boys and olders entered the curling rink and got the stones out and had a round of the roarin’ game. Sunday evening they became brazen at the sport and had another game by electric light. Two Sundays ago, they left two stones on the ice, where they froze and had to be chopped out. This rink is on city property. If it were on private grounds the curling club would have someone police it. Isn’t it up to the city to afford the club some protection?”

Enderby hosted its first bonspiel in 1910 with four local teams participating alongside one team each from Armstrong and Revelstoke and two from Vernon.

In 1911, Enderby teams took on names indicating the skip of the team and his occupation: Dill’s Pickles, Mack’s Tinsmiths, Reeves’ Pillpounders, Murphy’s Spuds, E. Evans’ Haberdashers, J. Evans’ Bronchobusters and Keith’s Convalescents. The game was getting so popular that housewives were warned to keep any new brooms under lock and key lest they get snagged for curling.

Nine curlers, along with their wives, attended a bonspiel in Vancouver in 1914 but did not fare well, as reported in the local newspaper: “The Enderby rinks are not accustomed to the Vancouver ice. All were beaten in the first competitions entered.”

The sport continued in popularity into the 1920s, with the club scrambling to get experienced players to help with all the new recruits. There was also a new focus on teaching people curling rules, regulations and terms.

The formation of the Enderby Rink & Agricultural Hall Association in 1921 and the sale of shares led to the construction of an agricultural hall and covered rink for skaters and curlers at 1507 Kate St.

The Depression brought in lower fees of \$3 in 1932 then down to \$2 until 1936 when it rose to \$3 and then rose again to \$4 in 1941 then back to \$5 in 1943. Fees rose to \$10 in 1950, with students paying



Theodore Adams, circa 1930
[edms 5512]

Sing Me a Song (My Bonnie)

By Theodore (Mosey) Adams

Sing me a song of ice that is keen,
Of fast rock running free,
Of the brooms swift play as it clears the way,

And of the hack
And the hog
And the tee.

Sing of the shot through a narrow port,
Of the shot that could never be,
Of the wick that’s made by a rock well played,

And of the hack
And the hog
And the tee.

Sing of the thrill of the knock out shot,
Of the draw that’s a joy to see,
Of the smashing shock of a hard thrown rock,

And of the hack
And the hog
And the tee.

You can sing of the South and its sunny climes,
Of the surf and the sparkling sea,
But I, for one, will take my fun,

Around of the hack
And the hog
And the tee.

So, sing me a song of ice that is keen,
Of a fast rock running free,
Of the broom’s swift play as it smoothes the way,

And of the hack
And the hog
And the tee.

Museum notes

By Jackie Pearase



AGM

The museum is hosting its annual general meeting on Nov. 19 and we are looking for new board members. The responsibilities are not arduous and there are good people already at the table. After the business of the meeting is complete, Bob Cowan is ready to entertain and educate with a slide presentation on the history of Enderby. We will be renewing memberships at the meeting as well.

Christmas at the museum

If pandemic conditions and accompanying restrictions stay the same or improve, the museum is hosting a bake sale and loonie tree to celebrate the Christmas season. It is unclear at this time if Enderby will have any Christmas celebrations but we decided to go ahead with these two fundraising events regardless because we have been unable to do any such events for too long. We will have the loonie tree out from Nov. 30 to Dec. 18. The bake sale will be held Dec. 11 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Volunteer summer potluck

The darn forest fires and accompanying smoke put the brakes on our picnic potluck this summer. I was not comfortable with the uncertain situation and opted to postpone the event. Then fall settled in, making any outdoor event very iffy. So we decided to host a volunteer get-together in December when we get the museum decorated for Christmas.

\$2. The general fee stayed constant in 1952 but there was also a reduced rate of \$5 for beginners and \$3 for students.

There was no lack of enthusiasm for the game (and associated activities) through the 1930s as shown in this March 4, 1937 article: "Curlers and friends witnessed the game of the season here on Saturday night when a rink consisting of G. Duncan, P. Farmer, W. Panton and C. Horrex, coached by Fred Ellington, competed with an Armstrong rink of F. Murray, F. Johnson, C. Brown and H. McCallum. Coach Fred says they were playing for the 'Buchanan Trophy.' Incidentally Enderby experienced its first organized sit-down strike in this game, for at the end of each 'end' the boys sat on their ends until Fred met their demands. What they were striking for isn't mentioned but was probably to have 'them' stronger and more often. The 10-end game started at 9 and finished about midnight. Oh, yes, the visitors won."

In 1947, a 40x10-foot curling rink was at 608 Russell, the same year the club became a society. Curling remained there for five years, until the city took it over for its works yard. Curling then shared the Kate Street facility with other user groups until a new arena opened in 1968 on the lot next door at 1605 Kate St. and the curling club took over the old facility.

Female curlers are first mentioned in the club's minutes in 1950 when their fees were set at \$2 and "consent was given to the lady curlers for the use of the ice every afternoon and one sheet of ice every night at either 7 or 9 o'clock." The men passed a motion that the women form their own club but that did not seem to happen. In 1951, Enderby curlers Aileen Farmer and Edna Montfort joined Mrs. William Siglet of Vernon and Armstrong's Beverly Phillips in a women's bonspiel in Vernon. The first mixed bonspiel was held in Enderby the same year.

The rink got a new roof in 1977, was renovated to provide more room in 1984 and upgraded in 1986 with a BC Gaming Grant of \$30,000. A lack of membership prompted the club to consider closing in 1993 but effort was instead focused on attracting more beginners, kids and seniors. The leaky roof continued to be an issue until a \$70,000 metal roof was installed in 1997 with a grant from Fortune Parks and Recreation, \$10,000 from the club and \$15,000 in volunteer labour.

The club has hosted a number of important events in recent years including the BC Mixed Curling Championships in 1999, Provincial Ladies' Masters Curling Championships in 2005, Zone Masters Men's 60+ Playdowns in 2011, BC Stick Curling Championships in 2013, BC Mixed Doubles Championships in 2016, and Senior BC Women's and Men's Championships in 2018. Curl BC named Enderby the Curling Centre of the Year in 2018 because "with an eagerness to help host events, this club has demonstrated their dedication to curling in BC."

Local curling was curtailed for the past two seasons due to COVID-19 but rock throwing and sweeping is back on track (so far) for the 2021-22 season.



Youth in service The cadet corps in Enderby was thriving after the war as this picture from 1951-52 shows. Both males and females joined the corps to learn a variety of survival, outdoor, marksmanship and team-building skills. Shown are: (front, l-r) ??, Vern Steele, Jim Tomkins, Richard Rahn, George Malpass, Barry Gerlib, Malinda Stenquist, (2nd row) Margaret Faulkner, Roberta Rogers, Delores Schulte, May Lott, Helen Large, Florence Skelley, Jean Tomkins, (3rd row) Bert Dill, Herb Karras, Hugh Polson, Neils Pada, Jim McAusland, Ken Zutz, Larry Baird, Bob Gerlib, Ernie Bradford, Jim Eadie, Terry O'Connor, Mike March, (rear) Elmer Davyduke, ??, Ken Jones, David Bell, Ken Andersen, John Revel, Roy Altmeyer, ??, and Alex Roberts. (edms photo 6088)



Post war effort The Rocky Mountain Rangers is a primary reserve infantry regiment of the Canadian Army. Enderby and Splatins First Nation men that joined No. 12 "D" Company in 1953 included: (front, l-r) Mike Halvorson, Roy Halvorson, Paul Billick, Alec Duteau, Ernie William, Pat Doron, (2nd row) Bunny Gardner, Willie Thomas, George Wolfe, Bob Nelson, Dick Nelson, Capt. Harold Palmer, Sgt. Billy Edwards, John Darbyshire, Dan Phillip, Raymond Joe, (3rd row) Raymond Charlie, Tommy Dennis, Christian Dominick, Mike Hawrys, Harold McAlister, ??, George Hagardt, Ernie Nelson, Charlie David, George Ryder, (rear) Romeo Edwards, Joe Sorochinski, Pierre Felix, Ray Vinje, Stan Karpowich, Tony Anchikoski, Jerry Schulte and Bill Allen. (edms photo 0873)

Museum technology

While our displays are firmly rooted in the past, we recently took some aspects of the museum into the 21st century. We now have a Square point-of-sale terminal to receive payments with a tap or swipe. The system is very handy and allows us to receive donations and payments for things like books and memberships, which is becoming more necessary as fewer people carry cash these days. We are also saving our information to the Cloud so if we have some type of disaster, such as a fire or computer meltdown, we will not lose important data including digital copies of our photograph collection.

New filing cabinets

The museum board decided to purchase two fire resistant filing cabinets to house all of our original photographs and negatives. The forest fires this summer really underlined the need to take every precaution to protect what has taken over forty years to accumulate. There were many times in that timeline that the museum was too strapped for cash to have copies made of every original photo we received; they ended up in the photo albums instead of being put in an acid-free envelope and filed away for safekeeping. So the long term goal is to get those original photos copied and housed with the others in the filing cabinets. In the meantime, the original photos already in the new cabinets are much safer than they were a few months ago.



Volunteers

The museum is running along nicely thanks to the dedicated volunteers who show up every week to help keep ongoing projects on track. That said, we can always use more people to help with things like transcribing letters and other correspondence, research, adding to the property inventory, adding to the museum database, cleaning and more. If you know someone interested in history who has some free time, let them know about the museum.

Vault

Speaking of protecting the museum's archives, we are still on the road to getting a new vault constructed. We have explored a few options with little luck but are now looking into using engineered wood to provide a fire resistant enclosure to house archival material that is currently stored in various parts of the museum. The trouble is getting the necessary information on the products we would like to use so we can get a cost and then find a contractor to do the work.

Museum in the Park

The gazebo at Barnes Park is looking quite spiffy these days now that the large glass cases have been removed. These dust collectors took up too much space without providing an effective way to display artifacts. The items in the gazebo can now be easily viewed and there is still room for more. I recently added the stapler from the Ashton Creek box factory along with some materials used to make the boxes. The goal is to have the city's first fire truck in the gazebo next year.



Home for the holidays in Enderby



Downtown Enderby at Christmas, circa 1950. [edms 0488]

Enderby has celebrated Christmas as a community since before the turn of the century.

Holiday festivities mentioned in a Dec. 6, 1890 newspaper article do have a fundraising component as the new Presbyterian Church was raising funds for an organ. The event included singing, readings and musical performances and raised approximately \$400. The same year, the Enderby Quadrille Club hosted its first dance with 20 couples in attendance on Dec. 13 and then a grand ball on Christmas night. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church then hosted a concert on Dec. 13 at the town hall.

By 1908, Enderby was inviting the community to "turn out to the Christmas tree entertainment in the K of P Hall tonight. The usual exercises will be given by the children," as reported in a Dec. 24 article. Christmas continued to be a low key affair through the 1930s, with decorations, church concerts, children's performances and dances but no community-wide event.

The Second World War hampered festivities as men left town to serve or came back home for the holidays. Sunday school performances for Christmas and New Year's Eve dances hosted by the Hospital Auxiliary kept people's spirits up during these tough times.

Local businesses have long celebrated the season by dressing up their windows and adding extra lights. People could even vote for their favourite yuletide decorator. In 1949, the city added 41 lighted Christmas trees along Cliff along with the usual stringer of coloured lights across the street. One business stood out that year, as reported in a Dec. 16, 1949 article, "...the Monarch Theatre has outdone itself. Topping the building, 45 feet above Cliff Street, is a lighted star which is visible from far down the road toward Armstrong. From it arcs of colored lights come down to the edges of the building on both sides; on the east side the lights continue along the top of the building occupied by Victor Samol's Men's Furnishings and Billing's Apparel Shoppe. In all 70 light bulbs are used in the decoration."

Kids were the main focus of holiday celebrations through the 1950s, with Santa coming for a visit and distributing treat bags. The events were quite popular, with 300 kids coming to see Santa in 1957 and 500 in 1958 and 1959.

A Santa Claus parade was introduced around 1979, when it had a much more circuitous route than today. It started on West Salmon Arm Road to Sicamous Street, down Sicamous to Cliff then on to Old Vernon Road to Knight and ending in the hospital parking lot. The return route went from King to Old Vernon to Cliff to Belvedere to Knight and back to West Salmon Arm Road.

Community Christmas celebrations included carols and a shopping party in 1981, an old fashioned theme in 1983, a youth dance in 1984, and a full slate of events from the mid to late 1980s that included baby races, a hockey game, wagon rides, shopping, music, draws and bed races. The church walk came about in 1994. The 1990s saw a return to the old fashioned theme and new events such as the gingerbread house contest, carol sing along, fireworks, parade, old fashioned dress-up contest, light-up ceremony, breakfast with Santa and the Lions Children's Christmas Auction.

Residents got in on the season with a residential light-up contest in 1997. Midnight Madness was introduced in 1999 and then there was the Passport to Christmas in 2001. Santa and his reindeer were strung across Cliff in 2001 and the gingerbread men signs, chili contest, Elf land in the breezeway, and scavenger hunt were part of the festivities in 2005. That same year the parade took a detour to give Parkview Place residents a peek.

Christmas celebrations were cancelled in 2007 due to a lack of people willing to organize events. It was Winter Wonderland at Riverside RV Park the following year, with sleigh rides, a passion play, concession, soup, bonfire, carols, Santa, ho-ho-ho contest and pictures with Santa. This kind of celebration has continued since then, with variations to the theme and location. The Community Christmas Dinner, prepared by volunteers and offered to the community for free, started in 2012. Runway Moon Theatre added performances of A Small Miracle in 2013, M.V. Beattie students began adding downtown decorations in 2015 and there was a Kris Kringle Outdoor Market on Cliff in 2016.

The pandemic cancelled community Christmas celebrations in 2020 but there was still some effort to keep the holiday spirit alive. The Christmas dinner went take-out, people could win prizes by taking a selfie with the Enderby Elfie and local toy drives ensured needy kids still got gifts.

The extent of this year's Christmas celebrations is anyone's guess but the tree at city hall is sure to go up and local businesses will welcome local and out-of-town shoppers with open arms and lighted storefronts. No matter how we celebrate, there really is no place like home for the holidays.

Vernon Daily News, December 1891: Enderby items

Christmas comes but ones a year.

And when it comes it brings good cheer.

Is a very old couplet whose truth has been well proved during the last week in our little town of Enderby.

Everyone appeared to be having a good time and not least among them might be mentioned the dominie from Vernon. Visitors were numerous and most of the bachelors enjoyed the hospitality of some kind-hearted family on Christmas Day.

On Xmas even the good old Christmases of our youth were brought back to mind by hearing the carols sung from house to house. Services were held in the churches on Xmas morning, and though the weather was very stormy it did not deter many from attending the English church, which was prettily decorated. Christmas hymns and the beautiful anthem "Nazareth" were sung.

In the evening a big dance was given in the town hall and the numbers that attended and the way dancing was kept up showed the popularity of the Enderby dances. At midnight a splendid supper was had at the hotel. Dancing was then resumed and kept up till dawn.



A building with many owners

You may recognize this as the building beside the Enderby bridge that now houses the Small Axe Roadhouse at 409 Cliff. That's because it is almost the same building seen here when it was Polson Mercantile in 1912. The general store opened in 1909 when Sam Polson purchased the property, stock and fixtures of the Harvey & Dobson estate. The business was located between the CPR tracks and the Shuswap River on the north side of Cliff. Harvey's General Store was first on the site, built in 1890-91, and housed the first post office in 1904. Polson operated the store until 1914 when he merged with S.H. Speers to form the Murrin Hardware Co. in 1914. Enderby Growers Association moved in the same year and the second floor was used for lodging. The building was renovated in 1918 to house the Enderby Masonic Lodge and other such groups. E.H. Coulter took over the building in 1938 and operated there until April 1966 when Jim Boots bought the store and opened J. Boots Hardware, which burned in October 1966. Norm Dack built Enderby Recreational Arcade at the site in 1976 (making it look just like before) and operated until 1978. Several businesses operated there until Classic Screen Doors moved there in 1996. Ross and Marilyn Newman sold the business to Dale Desjardins of The River Company in 1997. Bob Pringle owned the property from 1998-2005, operating the River Co. Station House. It became the Riverwalk Café around 2000 when Leah Barkley ran it. Jade Costley and Tundra Baird took over in 2002 then Jade teamed up with Quintessa Mydske from 2003-2004 when Molly Folliot and Desiree Mitchell took over. The Riverhouse Bistro opened in 2004 with Dora Graves and Dal Yagan. Several owners operated the bistro until Dora Graves re-opened it as the River Rocks Bistro in 2013. Dora sold to Tammy Porisky in 2014. It changed to the Small Axe Bistro in 2017 under the ownership of Jessie Lawrie and Bruce Hunchak. It was the Small Axe Bistro until 2020 when new owners came in, made a bunch of changes and re-opened as Small Axe Roadhouse. (edms #4996)

Fire truck

Restoration on Enderby's first fire truck continues. The search continues for a 1930 rear passenger side fender for the truck that went missing during a previous restoration attempt. If you can help with this project, give me a call at the museum.

Facebook

Interest in our little museum and local history is growing, with plenty of people checking our Facebook page. I have had numerous people tell me how much they are enjoying the posts, with many of them on the younger side of the hill. I am hoping this bodes well for our museum's future in that I will have plenty of folks wanting to volunteer in the coming years.

Okanagan History on sale

Okanagan History, the 85th Report of the Okanagan Historical Society is now available in the museum with its usual great line-up of Okanagan historical articles. Articles focused on our local history include Enderby's Fortune School by Len Gamble and two by Bob Cowan, Enderby's Great Bridge Debate and Enderby History Snapshot: Grindrod. There is also an article on Lansdowne by Jessie Ann Gamble and one on the history of Armstrong Elementary School by Mary-Eileen Johnson. You can read about the Grange Hotel in Vernon, Oliver and the Osoyoos Indian Band, and the Allison family in Similkameen. Or learn about Salmon Arm space pioneer Bruce Aikenhead, Vernon's Joseph Gabriel, Okanagan pioneer William Pion and the Osoyoos Dividend Mine and J.O. Howells. The book is just \$25 and a portion of the proceeds go to our local museum.

