

# MUSEUM NEWS

Issue Twenty Five | Summer 2022



## 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 2021-2022  
President: Sandra Farynuk  
Vice-president: Sue Phillips  
Secretary: Bob Cowan  
Treasurer: Diana Inselberg  
Directors: Judy Fischer,  
Joan Cowan, Desiree Roell

**Come visit  
the museum  
this summer!**

## Mara internment camps

While the war continues in Ukraine, we should recall Canada's internment of people considered to be aliens of enemy nationality during the First World War.

Canada had 24 camps and stations across the country to intern prisoners of war of Austrian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Turkish and German nationality. Of the 8,579 people interned in Canada, only 817 were classified as POWs or members of the enemy army; the others were civilians considered to be agents of their respective countries under The Hague Regulations.

A camp established June 2, 1915 on Mara Lake at Two Mile next to Sicamous Creek housed approximately 400 enemy aliens. Most of the men were Ukrainian immigrants interned because of Ukraine's links to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They were guarded by 80 members of the 102nd Regiment of the Rocky Mountain Rangers.



The summer internment camp at 6 Mile in Mara in June 1916. [edms 4255]

They lived in wood frame and tar-paper buildings. Supplies were brought in daily and included fresh vegetables, eggs and meat supplied by local farmers.

Prisoners supplied the labour for two years to build a road along the eastern shore of Mara Lake south from Sicamous. The men received 20 cents an hour minus 50 cents for food.

A summer tent camp at Six Mile (now Hummingbird Resort at Swansea Point) was built in spring 1916 so the workers could more easily access the southern section of the road. This camp was encircled by a double barbed wire fence with a catwalk between for sentry patrol. Despite the barriers, seven prisoners escaped one night by tunnelling under the barbed wire. An alarm sounded, the soldiers formed a circle around the area and waited until daylight when they closed in and recovered all seven prisoners.

The internment camp closed July 29, 1917.



## Museum notes

By Jackie Pearase

Welcome to the summer newsletter. I hope you enjoy the content as much I enjoyed putting it together. I never really know what I will include in the newsletter; I just try to find interesting topics or a theme to go with a series of stories. This time I was looking for a summer related story, which resulted in a history on MacKenzie Camp. The other stories are on topics I hope you enjoy.

### Summer at the museum

We are in the midst of summer now, which means more visitors to our little museum. Some days have been quite busy with people dropping in while passing through or staying in Enderby. Other days have few visitors, which presents the opportunity to get more work done. Those who do come in are always impressed by the quality of the displays and the sheer amount of artifacts on display. The hands-on aspect we provide is much appreciated by everyone. I especially liked one young man and woman who were trying out the old typewriter and asked me to show them how to make the ink work. When I demonstrated, they realized they had to strike the keys quite hard to have them make an impression. Quite different from what they are used to with computers and phones. And just about everyone loves to see rope being made, and I love making it. So, if you have visitors this summer, bring them by the museum so I can give them a tour.

## MacKenzie Camp continues camping tradition

A camping tradition at Mabel Lake celebrates 75 years this season. According to newspaper articles, camping for youth at Dolly Varden Beach at Mabel Lake had been organized for many years, including C.S.E.T. (Canadian Standard Efficiency Training) and Boy Scouts in 1928, R.E.C. (Religious Education Camp) in 1929 and 1931, and National Forestry Training camps in 1939.

MacKenzie Camp on the east side of the lake had its beginnings when Rev. Guy MacKenzie of St. Andrew's United Church undertook a 10-day camping trip with 32 boys, including more than 20 from Enderby, on July 13, 1947.

MacKenzie, an experienced camper who had run camps in different parts of Canada and the U.S., offered an outdoor experience with good food, swimming, boating and fishing that was inexpensive and cooperatively run.

Campers slept in tents, with an old barn providing space for indoor activities and a lean-to serving as the kitchen.

The weather was rainy to start but everyone had a wonderful time watching movies and being busy outdoors. The camp finished with a mini sports day with high jump, broad jump and log rolling. Mrs. Mary Charlotte Kirkpatrick kept all the campers fed with her excellent cooking.

MacKenzie's 1948 camp had help from Mr. Gamble, a sportsman from Heywood's Corner in Spallumcheen, who brought his boat, motor, extensive fishing gear and carving tools. Twenty-nine boys attended the camp.

A separate girls' camp, with 23 girls, had help from Mrs. MacKenzie as camp mother, Mrs. Baird as cook and junior leaders Cleo Malpass and Tena Skelly (who also served as swimming director).

Camp always finished with a solemn service in the outdoor 'cedar chapel' followed by placing the camp record under the altar. The record remained buried until the next season, when a first-time camper had the honour of unearthing it so the record could be read out along with any message from the last campers. This tradition continues today.

The site belonged to Rusell and Alice Large, who had struck up a friendship with the reverend after purchasing the tourist camp at Dolly Varden Beach and property across the rivermouth in 1937.

The site's suitability as a youth camp had the AOTS (As One That Serves) Club looking to buy or lease the property in 1949. One newspaper article from Dec. 16, 1949 cites a five-year lease for \$50 per year with the option to purchase for \$500. In November 1950, an article talks about a draft 99-year lease being presented to the club by Cyril Large.

Efforts got underway to raise funds to purchase and improve the property as camps continued to be held there each summer.

The camp, noted as 'the camp at Mabel Lake' in newspapers, first gained the moniker of 'Camp MacKenzie' in 1951.

The AOTS ran a camp in 1953 and 1954 with boats and supplies from Russel Large who had "always shown a personal interest in the camp and has done a lot each year to make it successful," according to a June 11, 1954 article in the Enderby Commoner.

The United Church was operating Camp MacKenzie in 1955 and fundraising efforts allowed for construction of a 12x20-foot cook-house and 7x12 cabin for the cook and assistant.

By 1965, there were camps for junior boys, junior girls, intermediate boys and girls and teenage co-eds.

Rev. MacKenzie officially dedicated the camp in a special ceremony on July 24, 1966 attended by 125 people from Enderby, Armstrong, Grindrod, Sicamous and Malakwa.

A crew of over 30 worked about 700 hours to transform the camp in 1966. Construction included a new recreation and crafts building, sick-bay and staff room, screened dining hall, screened kitchen with hot and cold running water, sleeping quarters for kitchen staff, utility shed with storage, and flush toilets. The grounds were levelled for play areas and tenting space, a new pump house was added for a new pressure system, all areas were electrified, and three new boats added.

More camps were added in the 1970s including family, hiking and open camps. A camp manual was developed in 1987 by the Presbytery Committee of Camp MacKenzie, Camp Hurlburt and Camp Grafton.

The camp maintained its popularity but funding has always been an issue. Fundraising and government grants kept the camp maintained and operational until 1998 when it shut down for the summer due to a lack of funding, staff and volunteers.



Russell and Alice  
Large in 1954.  
[edms MS116-104]

## Summer potluck

The museum is once again hosting a volunteer appreciation potluck barbecue. This will be my first one as the last two had to be cancelled because of that stupid COVID thing. We will have a little picnic at Herb and Linda Higginbottom's place on Monday, Aug. 22 from 11:30-3 p.m. We will be providing the hamburgers and smokies and everyone is bringing along an appetizer, salad or dessert to share. There should be some games, tours of the fabulous Deep Creek Tool Museum and lots of chatting. The volunteers work different days and times, so they don't generally get to meet each other. The picnic will be a great way to get everyone together and express thanks for their generous donations of time, effort and skill.

## Volunteers

I have to give a big shout-out to Tuesday volunteers Peter Vander Sar and Katherine Gooch for the extra time and effort they put in to aid a local family. The Mowat family had a family reunion recently and asked to come into the museum to look at material related to the family. They gave us plenty of time to prepare and Peter and Katherine went above and beyond. They had material laid out for the family to peruse and spent three hours with them. This is another example of what makes our volunteers so special and our museum such a wonderful place to visit.





## Canada Day

I spent a few hours hanging out in the Museum in the Park for July 1 celebrations. A few dozen people came into the gazebo to check out the artifacts. The music made talking and hearing difficult but those who came seemed to enjoy their visit and the information provided. I think we will find a different location in the park for next year, perhaps with some hands-on stuff for people to do.

## 50th anniversary

Canada Day will be one of many events we hope to be a part of next year when the museum celebrates its 50th anniversary. We want to be out in the community in 2023, attending events with small displays and hands-on activities. This will result in a need for a few extra hands to help. If you are interested in helping with any anniversary events next year, give me a call at the museum.

## Springbend Hall

We have installed metal shelving along one wall in Springbend Hall for artifact storage. Joani continues work in the back room of the museum, sorting through the artifacts to determine what can be stored at the hall, packing the items up, making up labels for the boxes with a list of contents, and creating a master list for what is being stored in the hall. It is a huge task that will take time but is certainly worth the effort. The end result will be empty space in the back room where we can create a fire resistant vault for archival material.



Some of the campers at the first MacKenzie Camp outing in 1947. [MacKenzie Camp photo]

A revitalized committee brought the camp back in 1999 with an environmental education focus. Ninety-nine campers attended that year. The 2000 camp included swimming, canoeing, kayaking, wall climbing, crafts, hiking, singing, drama, games, astronomy and archery.

A heated cabin built in 2001 brought the total number of cabins to seven. The camp served over 200 campers that year and began a campaign to raise \$320,000 for a new dining hall and dormitory. The Vancouver Foundation provided \$20,000 and a total of \$185,000 had been raised by the following spring.

In 2002, there were seven camps with 445 campers, construction started on the new hall, and a golf tournament began as an annual fundraiser.

The new dining hall was named the Alice Large Hall to recognize the gift of the land she made to St. Andrew's United Church after her husband's death in 1964. The United Church of Canada took over ownership in 1966 with a payment of \$4,000.

The 600 campers in 2004 represented a 300 per cent increase over five years.

In 2005 the camp offered counsellor training and junior, intermediate, junior-intermediate, teen, drama, family, whitewater kayaking and circus camps plus a canoe trip and quilting camp for adults.

The same year, the United Church of Canada began talking about selling some of its camps, including MacKenzie. The following year, representatives attended the grand opening of the Alice Large Hall and no further moves were made to sell the camp.

The 5,200 square foot Alice Large Hall seats 99 and includes a commercial kitchen, storage space and washrooms. The dormitory sleeps 48 campers in eight rooms.

The kitchen was dedicated to long-time camp cook, Janke Verlinden, who left a sizable donation to the camp for a new kitchen upon her death. The kitchen is known as Chez Janke.

The camp added a pontoon boat, the MacKenzie Cruiser, in 2006 after the operator who ferried campers each summer stopped offering the service. Six hundred campers attended that year.

A ropes challenge course added to camp fun in 2008, school programs were ramped up and outside workshops and retreats added to the camp's programming.

Linzy Lunkwist began an annual production in 2009 to raise funds for sponsoring campers. The shows have provided many laughs and ample funds for the camp over the years.

programming continued to evolve and camper numbers and camper-ships increased each year.

Despite this success, a lack of volunteers on the board of directors once again threatened the camp's future in 2013. The mainly senior board recruited some younger members and the camp continued the following year with renewed energy.

The pandemic shut down in-person camps in 2020 and 2021, so virtual camps were offered.

Now in the aftermath of COVID, MacKenzie Camp is working to rebuild with a full range of camps offered this summer and efforts are ongoing to recruit new board members to ensure a bright future.

## 1925 senior baseball team

A three-day baseball tournament in Enderby during the Labour Day long weekend in 1925 was held in conjunction with an interclub mixed tennis championship tournament. Tennis went Thursday to Saturday while the Senior B BC Championship Tournament ran from Saturday to Monday. People came from Revelstoke, Kamloops, Vernon, Salmon Arm, Shuswap and Chase to see the St. Augustines, winners of the Vancouver Senior B League, take on the Enderby team, Interior Senior B League champions. Adults paid 50 cents and children were 25 cents. Players on the visiting team were six to eight years younger than those on the home team but Enderby gave Vancouver a run for their money. Despite their ample skill and a few late game rallies, Enderby fell 3-2 in their first game and 8-5 in the second, ending the championship and sending Vancouver home with the BC title. Shown are (front) Harold "Scoop" Robinson, left fielder; Gordon "Corky" Rowlands, spare; Henry "Hank" Walker, starting pitcher/captain; George Jones, 1st base; Ernest "Nibby" Broome, 3rd base; Manuel Bercy, catcher (rear) Elmer Grant, right fielder; Pat Keron, 2nd base; Ed Dill, manager; George Sparrow, pitcher, George Graham, centre fielder; and Jack Jones, shortstop.

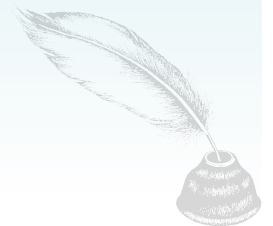
[edms 445]

## Displays

The Ukrainian display continues to get positive comments but its time at the museum is winding down. If you have not seen it yet, what are you waiting for? Sandy and I will be thinking of the next display for the space and are open to ideas. Is there some topic, item or idea you think would make a good display? Give me a call and I will see if it is something we can do in a display.

## Facebook

I am continually amazed at the number of people who are checking out my historical posts on the museum's Facebook page. In July I reached over 19,000 people with my posts and more than 750 people follow the page. A post on Gus Stankoven got more than 3,000 hits while one on the Legionnaires got about 1,800. I am not a Facebook fan but I have to say, I sure enjoy knowing that people are learning local history and loving it.







The Enderby Cliffs have always been something to tackle for local residents, even when it meant doing the trek dressed in a skirt as Louise Paradis did in 1922. This photo of her peeking over the edge at the top was taken when she hiked up with a group that included Eva Jones, Ruth Baxter, Loretta Woods, Edith Adams, Harold Bawtree, Alameda Oakes, Lorne Landon, Dot Dunwoodie, Josephine Paradis and Mr. and Mrs. Britton. [edms 2589]



### Summer pastime

Come on, honey, let's go canoeing. OK, dear, let me put on a most inappropriate outfit. Lovely!

This photograph from around 1909 shows Jimmie and May Martin standing beside a canoe in the Shuswap River. They do get in the boat, as we have another photo showing May paddling the craft. [edms 3729]

## IODE serves community with good works

The IODE has been part of this community for 95 years.

Enderby became part of the IODE on Dec. 12, 1927 as the Sir Douglas Haig Chapter, which was the group's first choice for a name. Second choice was Simon Fraser and Alexander Fortune was the third choice. The original executive included Elinor Harvey, regent; Beatrice Williams, first vice-regent; Rosamonde Bigge, second vice-regent; Hazel Duncan, secretary, Dorothy Keith, educational secretary; Margaret Cowper, Echoes secretary; Jean Mack, treasurer; and M.L. Henniker, standard bearer.

Elinor Harvey led the group for 13 years then acted as vice-regent for six years and was named honorary regent in 1947.

Some subsequent chapter regents were Frances Dickson for two years, Lora Rouleau for two years, Gertrude Peel for six years (and again for another three years) and Olive Kass.

The group's motto was "Deeds not Words."

Service in the community took many forms and the Enderby women got busy quickly. They hosted dances, musical performances, fashion shows, speeches, a baby show with prizes, card parties, essay contest, field days for schools, teas and home-cooking sales. They sponsored fundraisers for the hospital, cancer and other causes, bursaries for high school students, and packages of food, cigarettes, knitting, gum and more for soldiers.

A second local group, this one in Ashton Creek, got its IODE charter on April 3, 1947 with 22 members. There were over 20 members in the Enderby chapter at the time.

The two groups supported national, provincial and local projects over the years.

Provincial and national IODE projects included sending powdered milk to Africa, food and clothing to South Vietnam, funds for a pediatric ward in India and funds for construction of a seniors' home in BC.

Locally, the groups sent cards to people in the hospital, visited the elderly, provided school awards, made Christmas hampers for needy families, made lap robes for seniors and layettes for babies, and offered an annual high school scholarship.

Some activities done by IODE members fell by the wayside over the years. The annual school sports days were taken over by the schools, the PTA began providing hot cocoa to students and Public Health took on baby clinics.

IODE members enjoyed taking field trips and learning about other cultures. They also took political stances: protesting the idea of changing road signs from Trans Canada Highway to B.C. Hwy. No. 1 in



The Sir Douglas Haig Chapter of the IODE, circa 1940: (rear, l-r) Peg Jones, Gertrude Peel, May Panton, Vera Walker, Lil Brash, ??, Katherine Palmer, May Hadow, Ruby Lidstone, Daisy Bush, Jean McMahon, Elizabeth Sparrow, Margaret Webb, (front) Marion Rands, Verna Shepherd and Mabel Peel. [edms 2295]

1971; boycotting products advertised on television programs portraying crime and violence in 1976; and petitioning against a rezoning application for property next to the Ashton Creek Store to operate a bar in 1980.

Membership was fairly constant over the years but finding new members became more difficult.

The Sir Douglas Haig Chapter held a special meeting Jan. 15, 1957 to decide if it should disband. The motion was defeated but membership continued to dwindle and the group ceased in 1958.

The Ashton Creek chapter continued its community work until 1992 when a lack of members forced it to fold. Members Audrey Bogert, Angela Bawtree and Ruth Bawtree continued with the IODE, joining the Silver Star Chapter, which started in 1953.

Angela Bawtree teamed up with Nancy Wilson in 1999 to resurrect the local IODE and obtained a charter for the Lambly's Landing Chapter on March 31, 2001. They were joined by members Joyce Mayes, Jean Nielson, Jane Bawtree, Audrey Bogert, Mary Drewry, Geri Kearns, Ina Fee, Cora Prevost and Eleanore Bolton.

The group did not seem to miss a beat, aiding a local family affected by fire and launching the Baby Think It Over program that uses electronic babies to educate teens about parenthood. The program started with four babies and had grown to 23 babies in 2005 being used by teens in Enderby, Vernon, Sicamous and Armstrong.

The group started an annual travelling bake sale in 2002 that continues to raise funds for the group. Funds are used for an annual high school bursary, emergency toiletry bags for the homeless, improvements at Parkview Place, books and backpacks for students and more.

Lambly's Landing members continue their good work today, ensuring a long history of the IODE in Enderby.

## The IODE in Canada

Social reformer and magazine editor Margaret Polson Murray formed Daughters of the Empire Federation in 1900 to supply comfort to Canadian soldiers and promote patriotism through service.

The group became known as Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire in 1901. The IODE played a major role in citizenship, education and service. It officially adopted IODE as its name in 1979 with a focus on children, education and community. It publishes a national magazine, *Echoes*.

In 1927, there were 30,000 members in 650 chapters.

By 1999, there were 8,000 members and 400 chapters.

In 2020, the organization had 3,000 members and 200 chapters in Canada and other Commonwealth countries.

An article in the June 11, 1971 *Enderby Commoner* highlighted the organization's need to upgrade its public image:

*"A new image for the IODE to dispel – the idea that 'all they do is drink tea' – is being promoted across the country. The old image may have deterred younger women looking for a way to help in this world from joining the club.*

*"Anyone involved in the club's work would certainly see the misconception. The effort to re-vamp the club in the eyes of the public will be kicked off this summer with car and window stickers proclaiming 'IODE on the move. Join Us!'"*

## Thank you!

To Kingfisher potter Sue Saloka for the donation of funds from the sale of her unique and creative mugs sold at the museum and the Enderby Art Centre. Your generosity is much appreciated!



# Telephone service evolves for community

The Okanagan Telephone Company first began providing telephone service in Enderby in 1908 out of Jas. Mowat's office in the Bell Block on Cliff Avenue.

It moved to the William Hancock property on the corner of Mill and George in 1911 where a complete telephone system was installed and operational by 1912.

The house at 615 Mill served as the office, switchboard and residence for the local agent.

Edith St. Barbé Robinson, known as Barbé, started working for the OTC in 1918. She was the longest serving agent with the company when she retired after 25 years to marry Clement F. Bigge (known as CF).

Barbé worked the switchboard, even keeping a telephone by her bed to serve overnight callers.

She worked with an assistant and relief operator, which included

over the years Phinell Garrett, Antoinette Paradis, Agnes Miller, Evelyn Scott, Betty Dale and Elizabeth Harvey.

In the Okanagan History Report #42, Antoinette Paradis recalled the extensive service provided: "The subscribers received many unofficial services such as the correct time, the time the CPR train was due, and the progress of the hockey game!"

Kitty Folkard replaced Barbé as the local telephone agent in 1943.

Agnes Miller replaced Kitty in 1946 and stayed until 1956 when the OTC converted from the switchboard to automatic dial service with new exchanges in Enderby, Salmon Arm and Revelstoke.

Other workers during this time included Thelma Kelway, Gerri Danforth, Phyllis Steele, Kay Steele, Pat Stevenson, Rita Schulte, Svea Johnson and Violet Bush.

The OTC had 60 subscribers in 1918 and Barbé increased that to over 100 subscribers one year later.

In fact, in 1920 Enderby led all the OTC exchanges in the percentage of subscription increases.

There were 121 numbers listed in the 1933 telephone directory, including Mabel Lake, Grindrod, Mara and Sicamous.

In 1955, a warehouse at the rear of the office was dismantled and the site set aside for a new OTC building.

Automatic exchange equipment installed in 1956 was equipped with 200 lines and capable of handling 400 terminals or stations.

The "cut-over" ceremony of the Enderby Dial Exchange took place at the Enderby Legion on Nov. 20, 1956.

The new dial office was unattended, except for periodic maintenance inspections, meaning an office was no longer required.

In 1968, the OTC unveiled a \$3.2 million construction plan to expand and improve telephone facilities throughout its service area.

Company superintendent S.R. Muirhead said the work was needed to meet growth in demand for telephone services.

In Enderby, \$97,400 was earmarked

for a building addition, power improvements in the central office, new central office facilities for long distance service, and cable additions. This work resulted in the building at 1003 Hwy. 97A (across from the credit union) that is still in use today by Telus.

Pat and Joy Farmer moved into the Mill Street house the same year after selling their farm on Waterside Road.

The City of Enderby purchased the Mill Street property from Jeanie and Doug Alexander around 1978 with the idea of building a civic complex on the site.

Those plans did not materialize and the city sold the property in 1987 to Elger Horst for \$24,000.

The property was listed again in 2002 for \$59,900 and the city bought the lot again.

The local fire department used the house for fire practice in January 2002 and the Cornerstone Garden was established the same year through the Communities in Bloom program.

The Enderby & District Garden Club now maintains the flower garden.



Edith St. Barbé Robinson was with the Okanagan Telephone Company for 25 years. [1689]