

# MUSEUM NEWS

Issue Twenty Eight | SPRING 2023



## 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

**Renew your  
membership  
today!**



### 1928 flood

This photograph shows Bill McSherry and Tom Kneale standing on a piece of floating boardwalk on Baird Street in 1928. Tom was the city foreman and Bill's father, Dave McSherry had a house at 307 Baird St. that he constructed in 1913. Tom's service to the city started in 1911; he was waterworks superintendent, general city foreman and cemetery superintendent when he retired July 31, 1955. Unfortunately, Tom did not enjoy retirement long as he passed away Oct. 18, 1955. The museum has a colourized version of this photograph framed with bubble glass that is on display in the living room. [edms 527]

## President's Message

*Hello to all our museum members. Summer is soon upon us and it will be an especially busy time with all the festivities we have planned for our 50th anniversary celebrations. We will be attending several events and I hope everyone will come out and support and celebrate with us. Plan to bring your summer guests in to visit us and I know they will be amazed at all we do to preserve and catalog every item in our collection. Have a great summer season everyone! Sandra Farynuk*

## Museum notes

By Jackie Pearase



### 50th anniversary

I have put together photo display boards on the fire truck project and the museum's history. These boards will travel around with me to various community events to promote our anniversary and the work done at the museum. My first event will be the Father's Day Pancake Breakfast at Putula Park in Mara on June 18. If you know of an event I should attend, give me a call. We are hosting a 1970s themed dinner and dance Sept. 16 at the Enderby Drill Hall to officially mark our anniversary. We have music and food lined up so get those outfits ready. Bring on the bell bottoms, pantsuits, matching outfits, wide lapels and sideburns!

### Enderby: an illustrated history

Bob and Joan Cowan spent the winter working hard to complete a revised version of their 2005 book, Enderby: an illustrated history. The new book will include much of the same material that is in the first book, with some articles shortened and some removed. The book will also include new articles (and photos) to add more recent history to the story. It will be an excellent follow-up to the first book. The book was sold out some time ago and people continue to seek out a book on local history, so we figured the museum's 50th anniversary is the ideal time to give the people what they want. The new book is expected to be ready for our AGM in November.

## Volunteers are the museum's lifeblood

We are celebrating our volunteers – past and present – with a picnic Aug. 20 so I want to introduce the exceptional volunteers who currently work diligently behind the scenes at the museum.

Katherine does the Whatsit?! feature in RiverTalk, which involves choosing an artifact, photographing it and doing research. She converts interviews and speeches in our Oral History Project into Word documents that can be stored on the computer. She is also adept at touring visitors around the museum on Tuesdays.

Peter oversees the front desk on Tuesdays (my day off). He books the Drill Hall, tours visitors and is always ready to assist someone with a research project. He also works on a Ruttan-Wheeler family research project.

Diana works Tuesdays, updating the computers and doing data back-up, bookwork and other office tasks.

Gerrie is here almost every day we are open organizing our historical reference files, which are added to each week. She recently finished going through the people files – from A to Z – putting all the clippings into chronological order and gluing them onto paper for easier review by users.

Linda, who works on the very important project of adding photographs to our database on Wednesday mornings, has weathered our computer changeover in stride. Changes can be frustrating but she has coped with humour.

Faith works Wednesday afternoons on photographs – scanning and editing them for the photo collections. A diligent worker who always has a story to tell and information to share, Faith is currently on a three-month stay in England.

Sandy can be counted on to do whatever task is required on Thursdays. She adds information to the Property Index, stores and catalogues textiles, clips and files information into the historical reference files, and changes displays.

Marilyn adds unaccessioned books to the collection list – no small task – and helps with smaller projects as needed on Thursdays.

Vivian, though prone to disappearing for a spontaneous road trip, continues to transcribe the diaries and writings of Theodore “Mosey” Adams. Some days, all the Thursday volunteers are peering at his scrawl, trying to determine what is written on the page. A difficult but rewarding task.

Suzanne has clipped local newspapers and filed articles and photos under the appropriate people and historical reference files for



Suzanne Personnier tutors Nancy Baxter on the job of clipping and filing newspapers for the historical reference and people files prior to her moving back to Switzerland.

many years – a time-consuming and important job. Unfortunately for us, Suzanne moved back to Switzerland in May. We will miss her smile and funny stories but wish her much happiness in her new abode close to her sister.

Nancy is here Fridays to file my Facebook posts and also took on Suzanne's job of clipping and filing the newspapers. Nancy also dusts and cleans when time presents itself.

Joani works Fridays. She finished organizing and cataloguing the artifacts in the back room; with most transferred to Springbend Hall. Now she is organizing archival material onto the empty shelves as the back room gets transformed into our fire-resistant vault area. Joani is also my go-to person when I start spinning my wheels on a project.

Dallas comes Fridays or Saturdays to work on the Property Index. She reviews entries in the files, organizes them by date, enters the data onto the computer, and prints off the sheets for the books. The task seems very straightforward but can get quite confusing on some of the more active properties and streets.

Bob works Saturdays and I usually give him free rein to do whatever research project he is working on. When not doing that, he clips and files old newspaper clippings, transcribes taped interviews, and provides interesting tours for visitors.

This great group is supplemented by Diane doing the financials and adding to the Property Index, and Pauline who is always willing to repair old books with great skill.

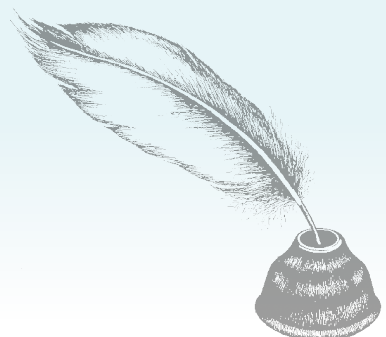
I am indebted to those who donate their time to the Enderby Museum and extend my heartfelt thanks to each one.

## Fire truck

We are taking donations for the project to restore Enderby's first fire truck. The 1930 Chevy Maple Leaf truck is once again looking like the fire truck it was converted into – with proper fenders, a repaired radiator and a working engine. The goal is to have it in the July 1 parade – finished or not – to let people see it, and generate interest and more donations. Twice But Nice has generously provided \$1,000, for which we are very grateful. We even have a museum member who will match the highest individual donation made for the fire truck project.

## The vault

The back room, which is constructed of cement and concrete blocks, is quickly becoming our new fire-resistant vault area where archival material is being stored. Moving stuff around in the back room has freed up space for more textile boxes. This job, spearheaded by Joani, is a monumental task that will result in a list of all artifacts and much of the archival material in our collection. The addition of fire doors and the closure of an unused door will be the final tasks to make the room safe for these precious holdings.



### Volunteer appreciation

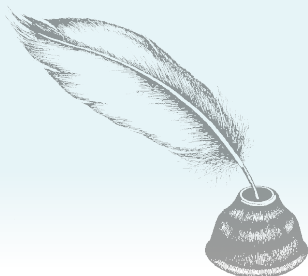
The museum is celebrating its past and present volunteers with a BBQ lunch at the Lions Gazebo at Riverside Park on Aug. 20. We have put together a list of people who have donated their time to the museum since we started 50 years ago. It is a long list. Invitations will go out soon to give people time to plan for the event.

### Whatsit?! trunk

The museum is inviting young people to visit the museum on the last Saturday of the month throughout the summer to check out the Whatsit?! Trunk. They can look at and touch a selection of artifacts displayed in the trunk and learn more about how they were used.

### Parkview Place

Parkview Place invited me to visit with some artifacts that residents could look at and touch. I visited in April and May with a few items and had some interesting conversations. The idea is that the items may spark some memories for residents, many who struggle with dementia and memory loss. The sessions went well; the residents were engaged and some even shared stories/memories. A couple of new people attended in May and I expect at least one more new one in June, as one gentleman asked to join us in June after watching the May session with great interest from his table off in a corner. It is fun discovering what types of artifacts will generate a conversation or spark a memory.



## Drill Hall nears 110 years of community service

Use of the Enderby Drill Hall has evolved since it was built in 1914 for the BC Militia to recruit and train soldiers for the First World War.

Fred Barnes donated the lot and the city purchased the adjoining lot to ensure there was enough room for the 42x92-foot building made of Enderby brick.

“...Enderby will have a Drill Hall equal to the best erected in the various parts of Canada,” stated the Oct. 23, 1913 Enderby Press. Contractor Bill Russell began work on the hall in October 1913 and completed construction in June 1914, just a few weeks before the war started.

The hall had a birch floor, three large storage rooms, a mezzanine with three offices and a reading room opening off a balcony running the full width of the structure, and a shooting range and ammunition storage in the basement. It had just one entrance, no bathroom and no steps at the entrance, just a five-foot bank that was muddy when wet. The cost was \$15,000.

“The design of this Drill Hall is known as the Sam Hughes Plan. That was named after the minister of the militia at the time, the Honourable Colonel Samuel Hughes,” explained consultant Brian Anderson of Reid/Crowther Associates during a 1995 presentation. “It’s a style that you see all over Canada. In fact, it is a style of building that you will see all over the world... There are many examples locally. There’s one in Vernon. There’s one in Armstrong.”

The hall was used for training by 30th BC Horse C Squadron, the 172nd Battalion of the Rocky Mountain Rangers (RMRs) and the Enderby RMR Cadets.

The main use of the building was for the military but Col. Hughes also wanted to see it used for community purposes.

By 1924, rental income from community events like dances and dinners went to the cadets and RMRs for gymnasium and hall equipment.

The hall remained in military hands until 1959, when the Canadian Army issued a request for offers on the building. The City of Enderby submitted a bid, after much debate by council, and took ownership the same year with a payment of \$5,250.

The city operated the hall for almost four decades.

A change came in 1997 after much public debate and input on the city’s concerns over the cost of running the hall.

Repairs done over the years included installing washrooms on both floors and hot and cold running water in 1946; new light fixtures, paint and benches around the walls to accommodate heating in 1964; modernizing the kitchen in 1966 by the Enderby Lions and women from the Anglican and Catholic churches; removal of the pea green exterior paint and a new two-tone beige paint job in 1979; recarpeting of the benches and new interior paint done by Donlea Woodruff and Dorothy Doorn in 1983; and a \$7,200 renovation paid by the city in 1994.

The 1995 presentation at the Enderby Museum's annual general meeting by Anderson and Thomas Gaffney of Thomas Gaffney Architects outlined the history of the hall, its condition and ideas to allow it to continue serving the community in the future.

Anderson said the hall is a structurally sound building on a solid foundation with superficial exterior brick damage. He noted that the rear of the building (west side) has a lane that is considerably higher than the front, leaving the building to act as a retaining wall.

"It wasn't originally constructed or probably wasn't designed like that," he noted. "However, it hasn't suffered for that from a structural viewpoint. It's still holding adequately. It's not in any distress. But what it is doing is letting in water. It's exacerbating the water ingress."

Water in the basement had always been an issue and would continue.

Gaffney spoke to updating the building to meet BC Building Code requirements for mechanical, electrical, structural and architectural requirements.

He said developing a strategy and implementing it over time would preserve and protect the building.



The Enderby Drill Hall in 1994 with its two-tone, lead paint job that would be removed in 1998. [edms 4488]

## Business After 5

The museum hosted a Business After 5 event on May 17. The museum was packed with business people so it was an ideal time to share how the museum works, what the volunteers do and the projects we are working on. I was able to promote the fire truck project and our 50th anniversary being celebrated this year.

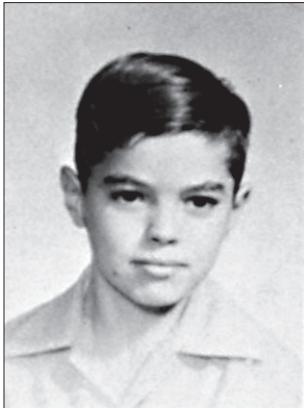
## Computers

Diana Inselberg has almost completed the task of installing new computers at the museum. It has been a long time coming – as there was quite a bit of footwork, then waiting, to get a system that will work for the museum's needs. There are still a few glitches she and our computer guy are working through but we now have the museum database on all the computers, allowing for easier research (that used to involve jumping back and forth to different computers).

## Online resources

Did you know you can find digital versions of Enderby's earliest newspapers online? UBC's Open Collections has 279,693 unique digital objects. The collection includes BC Historical Newspapers from 1865 to 1989. You can find *The Edenograph*, which becomes *The Enderby Progress* and *Northern Okanagan Herald*, from 1904 to 1907 plus *The Enderby Press* and *Walker's Weekly* from 1908 to 1921. Visit <https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcnewspapers> to explore. The Enderby & District Museum & Archives has a complete collection of hard copy newspapers from 1904 to present day. Much of the material is collected in our Historical Reference Files but people can still go through the newspapers – with much care and a pair of cotton gloves (provided).

## Once a poet...



Geordie Roberts wrote the following poem in 1972-73, when he was in Grade 7. The poem appeared in the Aug. 24, 1973 Enderby Commoner:

### Enderby

In the western part of Canada,  
In the province called B.C.,  
There's a little town by a river  
That town is Enderby.  
When the leaves are gold in autumn,  
And the apples all are red,  
And nights are getting colder  
And the bears are all in bed.  
Then the snow will soon be coming,  
And the valley will soon be white,  
That's when I like Enderby,  
For it's really quite a sight.  
And I like Enderby,  
When the mountains are all green  
And the sun shines high in the bright blue sky  
Over the valley called Spallumcheen.  
And the Shuswap's pearly waters  
Flow free to Sicamous,  
And the apple blossoms are in bloom,  
Houseboats are out on a cruise.  
Then Enderby's a pretty place,  
(It is the whole year round)  
And a nicer place to visit than here.  
There never has been found.

"...[the hall] has served this community for nearly a hundred years and there is no reason why this fine building should not go on to serve this community for at least another hundred years," Gaffney said.

The city, on the other hand, saw the hall in a less favourable light.

Mayor Gordon Dale likened the hall to a "bottomless pit" because by 1997 it was costing the city \$10,000 annually with revenues of less than \$5,000. Additionally, the hall required about \$300,000 in upgrades to bring it up to code.

After a public meeting in April and much debate, the city negotiated a plan with the newly formed Drill Hall Committee (DHC) to address the issue.

The city agreed to have the Drill Hall Committee take over management of the hall for one year on a trial basis starting Jan. 1, 1998.

The committee set fees at \$10/hr or \$75/day for non-profits, which could provide labour in lieu of rent, and \$15/hr or \$180/day for other users. There was a \$400 damage deposit and a \$100 cleaning deposit. Rentals were done via the museum. Multiple fundraising events were held by the DHC over the years to generate funds for upgrades including a new kitchen, washrooms, windows, heater, floor and stage and buying tables and chairs.

The city obtained a grant for the major job of removing lead paint from the exterior in 1998.

In 2021, the Drill Hall got a new roof with \$70,000 to the city from the Unique Heritage Infrastructure funding stream of the Community Recovery Infrastructure Program.

Activities in the hall over the years have included cadets, church services, kids' play groups, recreation programs, ukelele group, dances, dog training, banquets, summer antique show, weddings, and sports like karate, badminton and basketball. Rental fees are used by the DHC for general maintenance and snow removal.

The DHC provides an annual fee-for-service of \$1,500 to the museum (from rental fees) because it still provides booking services for the group.

Currently, the hall is experiencing its busiest time in decades thanks to the city hiring Sheryl Hay as manger of Enderby & District Recreation Services in 2013.

With continued support for this community amenity, the Enderby Drill Hall is sure to make well beyond next year's milestone birthday.



### Enderby's fifth bridge

This photo shows the grand opening of the Bawtree Bridge held June 14, 1984. Remains of the Bailey bridge, a temporary truss span built to provide a safe crossing during construction of the new bridge, can be seen to the right of the new bridge. Minister of Transportation Alex Fraser attended the bridge opening attended by over 200 people. The bridge is named after the Bawtree family, early pioneers of the community; Len Bawtree, MLA from 1976-79, was involved in the early stages of the bridge's construction. The bridge was completed in just over a year at a cost of \$2,514,500. [edms 7828]

## Group provides umbrella of support

Local community groups have a history of helping each other. The Enderby & District Arts Council is one such group.

The Enderby Recreation Commission was established by Enderby city council with Bylaw No. 534 in 1958 with a mission "to support leisure opportunities within our community by encouraging recreational organizations and activities."

The commission focused on communication and public relations, coordinating existing community groups, and recruiting volunteers.

The organization organized countless events – variety nights, holiday celebrations, bonspiels, and courses and lessons for youth.

In 1991, the Enderby & District Arts Council was established and worked with the Enderby Recreation Commission to could host a community art show and research the idea of a community theatre.

A successful community art show was held at the Enderby Drill Hall in July 1991, which provided ample space over a three-day period.

Things went well for EDAC and the group was incorporated under the Societies Act on Dec. 13, 1991.

Its purpose is to "initiate, encourage, coordinate, and support the development of artistic projects and activities in Enderby and District, and to provide op-

portunities for the community to be educated in the work of the artists of the community."

When the city determined the Drill Hall no longer fit its needs, a group was formed to find a way to save the hall.

The Drill Hall Committee needed to partner with a charitable organization to issue tax receipts, so it became a group under the umbrella of EDAC, which depended on the Drill Hall as a venue for its many events.

The relationship worked well for the fundraising efforts undertaken by the DHC to do upgrades to the hall. After 10 years, the DHC went on its own and continued its working relationship with the city to operate the hall.

The arts council was instrumental in several community projects.

Local arts and cultural organizations joined as member groups and many applied for funding under the EDAC umbrella. This includes the Enderby & District Community Play Project in 1999, Wild Wallflower Mural Project in 2001 and Enderby in Bloom in 2003.

In 2020, EDAC and the Courtyard Gallery (Enderby Artists Initiative) merged to more effectively promote local arts and culture, again demonstrating its commitment to its mission and community.



Write a story about this lady in the museum's Flash Fiction Contest.

## The Lady in the Trunk Flash Fiction Contest

The museum has a slatted, dome-topped trunk that belonged to Howie Gillies' family; his maternal grandfather came to Canada from Sweden with his parents in 1875. The design is one of elegant craftsmanship while its shape was designed to prevent other luggage from being stacked atop them while travelling by ship.

Inside is a Victorian chromolithograph of a young lady. While these lithographs were not typically specific to the owner of the trunk, it is not far-fetched to think the owner might select something with meaning for her.

This lithograph includes jasmine, a spider and spider web, dragon flies, a rose and heather or another plant (on her dress), a steamboat and dancers – all of which could symbolize different meanings for someone travelling to a new country. To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Enderby & District Museum is hosting a fiction contest about the lady in the trunk. Write a story about this woman: Who is she? Where did she come from? Where was she going? What did she do when she reached her destination? What adventures, relationships and losses formed her life? Use your imagination and be creative!

**Categories: Children (6-12); Teens (13-17);**

**Adult (18 and up)**

**Contest period: May 1-July 28, 2023; winners announced in August**

**Word limit: 500 words or less**

**Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category; 1st place winners' stories to be printed in RiverTalk**



### Smell the daisies

Tis the season for wildflowers so this seems to be a good "pick" for the June newsletter. The photo shows an unidentified woman and a dog sitting amidst the daisies growing along the side of the road near Grindrod taken by George Meeres in June 1946. [edms 2173]



### Say it with a postcard

Visitors this summer? Don't forget to drop in at the Enderby & District Museum & Archives for a tour. They can also check out our little gift shop area where there are books on local history, mugs and artwork by our talented artisans, and this new collection of postcards featuring photographs of some of the local area's beautiful and interesting places.