

# MUSEUM NEWS

Issue Thirty | FALL 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!**



## Fall labour

George Meeres snapped this idyllic photo of a large hayfield with haystacks in front of a large house in 1938. Though picturesque, the photo also denotes a lot of work done. [edms 1594]

## President's Message

*Hello to all our museum members. Fall has come and we have had a busy year with our 50th anniversary celebrations and a few more to come before the year is done! Thank you all for the tremendous support we received this year for our fire truck project and our gala banquet. We were proud to showcase the fire truck at Friday Night Lights and excited to see it in its new home at the gazebo in Barnes Park, so go check it out when you have a chance. Next up will be our AGM in November which I hope most of you will attend as we are having a special presentation about the (legendary!) Legionnaires ball team. Once again, I will remind you that we are constantly receiving new artifacts so come and check them out. And again, thank you for both your monetary and personal support of our museum.*

~ Sandra Farynuk

## Museum notes

By Jackie Pearase



### Volunteer picnic

Smoke from nearby forest fires was not enough to cancel the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch at the Lions Gazebo at Riverside Park on Aug. 20. Understandably, the turnout was a bit less than we expected but everyone who attended had a wonderful time. Members of the Enderby & District Lions Club cooked hamburgers for everyone and a few salads and a yummy carrot cake rounded out the meal. Joan Cowan gave an overview of the museum's history and the important role volunteers have played in its creation and keeping it open over the years. Pinning down the exact number of volunteers and the hours they put in was difficult – Joan quit counting at over 100 volunteers and 7000+ hours. We did make a special recognition of Gerrie Danforth, who was presented with a 2023 Ruth Nobbs Distinguished Service Award honourable mention from Heritage BC. The award recognizes volunteers who have made a life-long commitment and who have shaped heritage in their community through significant contributions and leadership.

## Bank has 118-year history in community

The history of the Bank of Montreal in Enderby is as old as the city. The City of Enderby was officially incorporated by the province on March 1, 1905 and the Bank of Montreal opened in an annex of the Enderby Hotel on April 1, 1905 with A.E. Taylor as branch manager.

“...This is the third branch the Bank of Montreal has opened in the Valley in less than a year, and makes the fourth in the Okanagan. This speaks volumes for the Valley; it illustrates in a positive way the permanency of our prosperity, for it may be set down as a sure thing that the Bank of Montreal is not establishing banks where they are not needed,” reported the April 5, 1905 Endenograph. The population of Enderby was about 600, employees of the Columbia Flouring Mills and Okanagan Saw Mill quickly became bank customers, and the city opened an account on June 5, 1905. By January, the bank was looking for a new location and on Nov. 23, 1906, the local newspaper reported that the bank had purchased the vacant corner lot on Old Vernon Road and Cliff Street from Webb Wright.

The new bank of white pressed brick from Seattle opened in February 1911. It had massive oak doors, a large foyer with swinging plate glass doors, high ceilings and several cages and wickets. It boasted large front and back yards with large shade trees where



The brick Bank of Montreal on Cliff Street in 1938. [edms 1501]





The Bank of Montral with its new flag, circa 1963. [edms 3814]

lawn bowling was popular. Enderby's bank was characterized as being one of the "most striking banking offices" in the Okanagan.

A.E. Taylor, who was the stepbrother of former Bank of Montreal general manager Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, stayed on as manager until 1914. He was succeeded by E.J. S. White, who was replaced by Cecil White in 1915. James Leslie did the job from 1919-23. He was followed by Alexander Grieg, who stayed until 1945. Grieg was a tall, bald Scotsman known for his punctuality and love of whisky. Subsequent managers included Ivor Solly, George Anderson, H.S. Woodd, T.K. Smith, Peter Buxton-Carr, Ron Weir, Chris Sykes, Richard Bugslag, Tom Brackett and Penny Lockwood.

In 1932, the Armstrong branch closed and transferred all its books and records to Enderby.

In 1936, the vault door refused to open and the lock was drilled out to get inside the vault.

A failed early morning bank robbery in 1943 left the vault door twisted but unopened after "a heavy dose of nitroglycerine" was used to explode the lock. The lock was once again drilled out to gain access.

The Bank of Montreal installed a new alarm system in all its branches in 1947 after a wave of hold-ups swept the country. A combination posting machine that automatically recorded withdrawals, deposits, balances, dates, etc. provided faster, more convenient service in 1954. Passbooks were phased out and replaced by bank statements.

### Anniversary gala

The Enderby & District Museum Society's 50th anniversary party at the Drill Hall Sept. 16 was a good success. About 75 people attended, with many donning outfits from the 1970s, and enjoyed a delicious roast beef dinner before Rule 857 from Armstrong provided music from the 1970s to 1990s. There were some great door prizes provided by local businesses and a small but enthusiastic group stayed to dance after dinner. Prizes were awarded for best costumes to Janette and Doug Clark for best couple, Diane Bylsma for best female (she wore her prom dress) and Tom Baird for best male (he wore the suit his wife Carine made for him in 1978 for her brother's wedding). It was a lot of work but well worth it. Special thanks to our president Sandy Farynuk for her planning expertise that helped the event go off without a hitch.

### Visitors to the museum

I cannot say enough good things about all those who have had a hand in creating this little museum. Visitors to our museum constantly remind me of what a gem we have in our community. They are impressed with the number of artifacts in the museum and the fact that everything has been donated and has a local connection. Our creative and storytelling displays always draw positive comments, as do the stories shared by me and our volunteers when they tour visitors around the space. The fact that we have items they can hold and touch always seems to amaze people and is especially appreciated by our young visitors. So next time you are looking for something to do or a suggestion for visitors, think of the museum.

### Christmas at the museum

Christmas plans are in the works at the museum. Volunteers will meet Nov. 27 to decorate for the holidays followed by a potluck lunch. The Silent Auction held each Christmas is a lot of work, but we will give it a go again this year with some antique items we've put aside for that purpose. It runs Nov. 28 to Dec. 18. If you have an antique you think would suit the auction, give us a call or drop in at the museum. The always popular bake sale runs Friday Dec. 1 from 3-7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. until the goodies run out. We welcome your baking donations toward this fundraiser. You can drop them off anytime on Friday or Saturday morning.

### Closed for the holidays

The museum is closed for Christmas between Sunday, Dec. 17 until Monday, Jan. 1. We re-open Tuesday, Jan. 2 at 10 a.m.

### Come to our AGM

The museum's annual general meeting is being held Saturday, Nov. 25 at 2 p.m. in the museum. We will do the usual AGM business of reports, financials and election of officers before a presentation on the Enderby Legionnaires baseball team. Our current board members whose terms expire this year have all agreed to let their names stand but we are still open to one or two new board members. If you would like to join our board, you must submit your name for nomination in writing by Friday, Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. We are working to pull together some people involved with the Legionnaires over the years to add some colour to the AGM presentation. If you know someone who may be appropriate, let me know at the museum. I understand that not everyone is comfortable with public speaking so I am ready to interview anyone about their involvement with the baseball club so we can add it to the presentation.

"The ancient and honorable – but laborious – practice of keeping ledgers up to date by hand will become a thing of the past," the newspaper reported.

The bank became crowded for bank staff and patrons by 1960 so a new building was constructed on the same lot, on the grass area once used for lawn bowling.

The bank's first customer from 1905, Reg Hadow, cut the ribbon at the June 1961 opening of the new bank, which was deemed "one of BC's finest" by the local newspaper.

The new 2,500-square-foot bank was a glass, concrete and steel edifice that cost \$100,000 to construct. It had a streamlined counter for three tellers and wickets plus upstairs space for a kitchen, cloak rooms and bathrooms for staff and a basement housing the furnace, janitor's rooms, vault and offices. The interior was decorated with original art by Dorothy Garner and Shirley Salt and prints by A.Y. Jackson.

The 1905 bank building was demolished for a parking lot the same year.

A new, lighted, revolving clock was erected outside the bank in 1963.

Staff of the day were required to look professional, which meant skirts or dresses for the women (until late 1960s when pant suits were OK'd) and business attire for the men.

"Clean clothes, sports jacket and a haircut every 10 days. And your shoes polished," noted former employee John Neil at the bank's centennial dinner on April 1, 2005.

A computerized banking system was installed in 1978, for which space was included in 1961.

Planter boxes were added along Cliff, next to the parking lot, during the city's revitalization project in 1984. The planters were refurbished in 1999 when the bank received a makeover that included new heating and air conditioning, exterior upgrades, and paving the parking lot.



Retired BMO bank manager Peter Buxton-Carr demonstrated his continued community involvement by taking on the role of Constable Bob Bailey in the 1999 community play, *Not the Way I Heard It*.

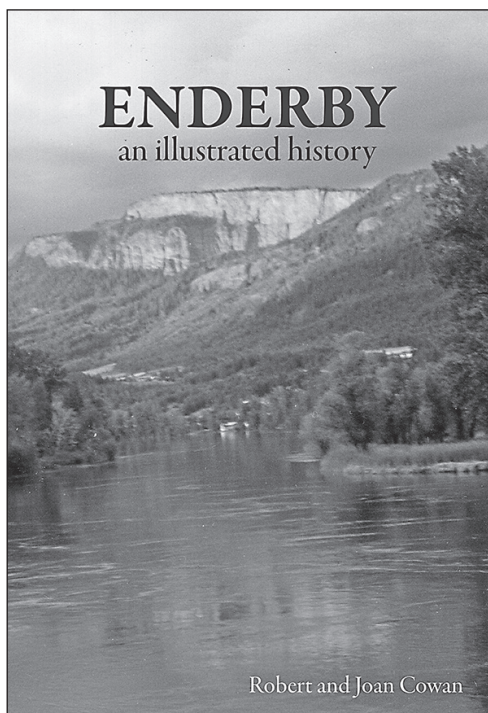


Penny Lockwood recalls the bank having 21 staff members in 1974; there were nine staff working in 2005 with a total of 141 years of employment and many clocking more than 20 years at the bank.

BMO, as it is known today, recently informed its Enderby clients that it will be closing the Enderby branch in April 2024, marking an end to 118 years in the community.

This most recent turn of events brings special meaning to the following written by local historian Bob Cowan in his column, Valley Dew, in the April 9, 1980 Enderby Commoner:

*"Maybe that is one of the secrets of the Bank of Montreal's staying power through all these years. The officers of this branch have been encouraged to live in Enderby and become active in local affairs. Certainly it seems true that folks in a small community like to view with familiarity and friendliness the people who oversee their financial destiny. Unlike other endeavors where individuals from outside the community are transferred here to positions of authority but live out of the area or choose not to become involved with its internal working, the officers of the Bank have set another example. With such a history of service, the Bank of Montreal will probably continue here successfully for another 75 years."*



### Local history revisited

Bob and Joan Cowan have revised their 2005 book, Enderby An Illustrated History to coincide with the museum's 50th anniversary. The second edition contains most of the same articles on Enderby's early history plus many more to bring it up to the present day. The book is available this fall and will be for sale at our AGM Nov. 25, with the Cowans available to sign your copy.

### Where in the world?

People who visited the museum between last October and this September came from: Russia, Salmon Arm, Devon (UK), Naramata, Sechelt, West Kelowna, Armstrong, St. Albert (AB), Vernon, Aylmer (QC), Sorrento, Kelowna, Kamloops, Prince George, Costa Rica, Vancouver Island, Terrace, Red Deer, Calgary, Brampton, Lake Country, Victoria, Edmonton, Princeton, Ashton Creek, Grindrod, Monkdale (ON), Regina, Vancouver, Mara, Burnaby, Toronto, Lavington, Chilliwack, Telkwa, Surrey, Slave Lake, Fort Nelson, Rotterdam, New Jersey, Abbotsford, Langley, Penticton, Winnipeg, Sicamous, Springbend, Maple Falls (Washington), Hamburg, Drayton Valley, Maple Ridge, Somerset (England), Australia, New Zealand, Burdett (AB), New Brunswick, Swansea Point, Ohio, China, Airdrie, Williams Lake, Cochrane (AB), Edmonton, Chestermere (AB), Spallumcheen, Fort Fraser, Meaford (ON), Bad Munder (Germany), Hong Kong, Nakusp, Gibsons, Cobble Hill, New Westminster, Saskatoon, Byron Bay (Australia), Canoe, Richmond, London (ON), Port Coquitlam, Tsawwassen, Courtney, Mission, Prince George, Vineland (New Jersey), Comox, Kingfisher, Merritt, North Vancouver, Sisters (Oregon), Richmond, Prince Albert, Splatsin, Oliver, Falkland, Hullcar, Celista, St. Catherines (ON), Canmore, Chase, Quesnel, Oliver and Enderby. And this only includes those who signed our guest book!



# Cenotaph provides lasting memorial to war dead

Enderby recognized its war dead with a monument even before Canada had one erected.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 98 in Enderby received its charter in 1928.

In May 1936, the local Legion asked the city to create a cenotaph on the corner of Cliff and Belvedere streets. City council rejected the request but presented an alternate site on the lawn beside Enderby City Hall.

A cenotaph committee formed in June with the goal to raise \$350 for the creation and erection of the monument.

By August the city hall grounds were ready and the cost of the monument was determined to be \$235.

An Enderby cenotaph was first proposed in 1918 but First World War veterans objected, saying they wanted “useful” public recognition.

The 1936 committee defended the monument. “When a thing is useful its usefulness becomes its chief purpose and any other purpose will be lost sight of. Better a thousand times no memorial than one that does not bid us to remember,” a member is quoted in the Oct. 8, 1936 Enderby Commoner. “...we need a memorial that can never become useful; that will remain forever a monument that will make our children’s children ask ‘Why?’. And then idealism may become a reality and ‘they’ shall not have died in vain.”

About 300 people attended the unveiling of Enderby’s cenotaph on Nov. 11, 1936.

Mayor Charles Hawkins and former mayor Fred Barnes (1919-20) attended the ceremony and spoke to the importance of the monument.

It was described in the Nov. 13, 1936 newspaper as “...commemorative not of war or the false glory of war, but in honor of the men of this district who gave their lives in defense of the principles of peace.”

The cenotaph committee – Eleanor Harvey, president; A.H. Woodley, secretary; and Graham Rosoman, treasurer; and directors Hazel Duncan, William Freeman



The city’s first cenotaph occupied the southwest corner of the lawn at Enderby City Hall. [edms 32]

and aldermen Patrick Farmer and George McMahon – wound up its affairs the following spring.

The group had collected \$242.15 for the memorial and paid the Vernon Granite and Marble Company \$235, leaving a balance of \$7.15. The balance was turned over in trust to the city to be used on completing the base of the cenotaph.

A plaque commemorating the war dead of the Second World War was purchased in June 1963 from Henry Birks Jewellers in Vancouver at a cost of \$365. The cost was shared equally between the Enderby Legion and city council.

Remembrance Day ceremonies were held at this cenotaph until 1968.

Alderman George Salt led a 1967 centennial project to create a park on the northwest corner of Mill and Belvedere streets. It became Centennial Park and the cenotaph was moved there from city hall in time for the 1969 Remembrance Day ceremonies.

The park’s designation was threatened in July 1981 when city council gave three readings to a bylaw that would rezone Centennial Park to commercial use as part of the city’s development plans.

Centennial committee chairman George Salt was quick to condemn council’s proposal, saying it was an “insult” to those who worked hard to create the park. In August, council received a petition signed by 168 people opposed to moving the park and cenotaph.



## Cenotaph facts

The word cenotaph comes from the Greek kenos taphos, meaning “empty tomb.”

A cenotaph is a monument to a person or group of people buried elsewhere.

On November 11 we pause for two minutes to pay silent tribute to the war dead.

The first poppies were distributed in Canada in November 1921.

The National War Memorial in Ottawa was unveiled in 1939 to recognize those who served their country in the First World War.

With no addresses accompanying the signatures, council deemed the petition illegitimate under the Municipal Act but promised to consider residents’ feelings when the issue came back to council.

The city moved forward with the plan, placing a public notice for the bylaw in the local newspaper on Sept. 9, 1981. The ad noted that any funds from the sale of the parkland would be used to acquire a new park in a different location.

Council received 11 letters and a 74-name petition protesting the bylaw at its Sept. 20 meeting, which were sent on to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in Victoria.

The ministry’s response to the city’s request, read at the Dec. 14 council meeting, was that a referendum was required to make the change. Council tabled the matter, saying it would be discussed at the first meeting in the new year.

No subsequent reports on the matter were found in the local newspaper, and we know the park is still a park, so we can guess that the proposal died on the table with the understanding that a referendum would not likely go in the city’s favour.

The park and cenotaph were cleaned up by the city and Legion in 1985. Stairs and the names of individual soldiers were added in 1995. A rededication was held and the site was renamed Peace Park.

A revitalization project for the park was initiated by A.L. Fortune Secondary students Andrew Haak and Matt Briard in fall 2007. Their goal was to improve the park to better display the cenotaph and instill community pride.



The cenotaph was front and centre in Centennial Park in 1985. [edms 3310]

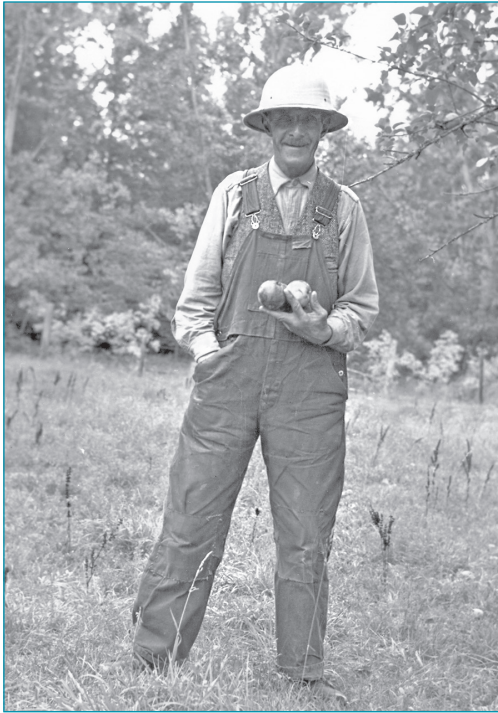
ALF staff member Margo Ludwig, the city, Legion and Enderby & District Lions Club worked with the students while numerous businesses and individuals supported the project with in-kind donations.

The project included enlarging the cement walkaway around the monument; adding lights, irrigation, new grass and a bench; removing and pruning trees and bushes; and adding flag poles to fly the Canadian, UN and NATO flags, Union Jack and Red Ensign.

The Legion later added plaques commemorating the Canadian Merchant Navy, Korean War, Boer War, United Nations Peacekeeping and NATO.

In 2015 Jean and Wes McCune gifted the city a new park sign carved by Lee Starrett that reads “Enderby & District Veterans Park Branch 98.”

The goal of local citizens to create a lasting memorial to Enderby’s war dead was successful, as hundreds continue to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies at the cenotaph each year.



### Fall fruit

George Meeres took this photo of Fred Hudson holding two apples in October 1946. Mr. Hudson lived in Mara for over 20 years in the 1930s and 40s. He married and had a daughter in England and worked for a well-known firm in London before being sent to Sierra Leone to work for the firm there. He came to Canada and farmed in Alberta before returning to England to join the British Army at the outbreak of WWI. He returned to Canada after the war and settled in Mara in 1930. "Always of a kindly disposition, Mr. Hudson was a good neighbour, and popular especially with the children," said a newspaper report on his death in 1951. [edms 1661]



### AGM material

A presentation on the Enderby Legionnaires is part of the museum's AGM being held Saturday, Nov. 25. This photograph of the team was taken July 24, 1991, the year the team won the Okanagan Mainline Baseball League title. Shown are (front, l-r) Russ Elsom, Larry Gauthier, Derek Webb, Lorne Hawrys, Doug Brown, Jon Hay, Ken Hawrys, (rear, l-r) Sheldon Tokairin, Shawn Sloan, Bill Hagardt, Greg Hamilton, Geoff Collins, Clint Skyrme, Steve Morrison, Sean L'Ecluse, Valley Bebee and George Kocsis. We would love to hear from any former player, coach, supporter so they add their memories to the presentation. [edms 5477]

## Enderby & District Museum Society Annual General Meeting Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 2 p.m. in the museum

Reports from Directors and Election of Officers  
Nominations for board members must be received in writing by 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15  
Presentation on the Enderby Legionnaires  
Membership renewal available at the meeting  
Refreshments served after the meeting  
Signed copies of Enderby An Illustrated History, 2nd Edition available



### Recognition

Long-time museum volunteer Gerrie Danforth was recognized for her contributions to local history with a 2023 Ruth Nobbs Distinguished Service Award honourable mention from Heritage BC.