



MORRISSEY INTERNMENT CAMP SYMPOSIUM

AUGUST 21 to 23 | Fernie, BC

The Morrissey Internment Camp is a Canadian WWI internment camp that imprisoned Austro-Hungarian and German PoWs during the First World War. 2015 marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of internment of “enemy aliens” in Fernie and Morrissey. This history is being recognized with an exhibit and a symposium by the Fernie Museum in partnership with the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund and Simon Fraser University.

The symposium, hosted by the Fernie Museum and Simon Fraser University from August 21 to 23 in Fernie, BC., is a forum to present new research and examine the next steps in preserving the Morrissey internment camp story and its historic sites.

In 1954, the Federal Government destroyed many of the archives pertaining to the Canadian WWI Internment operations and until recently, very little was known about the internment operations in general and Morrissey Internment Camp specifically. For first time, researchers who have been diligently working to piece together the Morrissey internment camp history will come together at the symposium to discuss new work and present their findings to the public. In addition, presenters will showcase work undertaken to preserve historic sites and material culture related to Canada’s WWI internment operations in Canada as well as at Morrissey. A round table discussion will wrap up the symposium addressing the next steps needed to create a fuller understanding of the story as well as how to best preserve documents, artifacts and historic sites related to the Morrissey internment camp.

The exhibit and symposium are extremely important to the various stakeholder communities: the local community, descendants of the PoWs and guards, the various ethnic communities as well as the research community, in order to shed light onto this dark part of our Canadian history. The symposium will create and support open dialogue that examines this grave social injustice and create a platform for the important issues of reconciliation and preventative measures in an effort to discourage this type of internment from reoccurring in Canada.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

August 21

7:00 to 9:00 pm Welcome Reception | Fernie Museum

August 22

8:30 to 9:00 am Continental Breakfast

9:00 to 9:30 am Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:30 to 10:15 am ***Overview of the Canadian WWI Internment Operations and an Overview of the Redress***

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk

10:15 to 10:30 am Break

10:30 to 11:15 ***Local events leading up to the Fernie and Morrissey Internment Camps***

Wayne Norton

11:15 am to noon ***Morrissey Camp Conditions with Regards to Privation and Discipline***

Daniel St. Marie

Noon to 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 to 1:45 pm ***Preserving the Vernon Cemetery***

Lawrna Myers

1:45 to 2:30 pm ***First World War Internment Operations Historic Sites | Parks Canada***

Steve Malins

2:30 to 3:15 pm ***Remembering the Forgotten: Archaeology at the Morrissey WWI Internment Camp***

Sarah Beaulieu

3:15 to 3:30 pm Break

3:30 to 4:30 pm ***Preserving Morrissey: The Next Steps***

Round Table Discussion

August 23

9:00 to noon Field Trip to the Fernie and Morrissey Internment Camp historic sites

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

Registration for the symposium is required. Participants can register online at ferniemuseum.com or by calling the Fernie Museum at 250.423.7016, ext 1. The nominal registration fee of \$25 includes

- Opening reception at the Fernie Museum the evening of August 21st
- Breakfast and lunch at the symposium hosted at the Park Place Lodge on August 22
- Field trip transportation to the three historic sites related to the internment camps on the morning of August 23.

A limited block of rooms are available at the Park Place Lodge in Fernie; call 250.423. to make reservations.

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk

Lubomyr Luciuk, PhD, is a professor of political geography at the Royal Military College of Canada, a member of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, and the author, editor, co-editor or compiler of over 25 books and hundreds of opinion editorials published in all of Canada's major newspapers. He serves on the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund. His research as a graduate student in Geography at Queen's University, in 1977-1978, initiated the Ukrainian Canadian community's campaign for recognition of Canada's first national internment operations.

Daniel Ste-Marie

Daniel Ste-Marie has a D.E.C. in Social Science from Champlain Regional College, Longueuil, Que. and a B.A. in Psychology from Concordia University, Montreal. Que. During his year in the War Studies Graduate Program at the Royal Military College, he specialized in Intelligence. In June 2010, after twenty-four and a half years of service in Ottawa, Ontario, he retired from the RCMP with the rank of Sergeant I. His work with the RCMP included: Executive and Diplomatic Protective Service, the Anti Drug Unit, the War Crimes Section specializing in the Rwandan Genocide and the Immigration and Passport Section investigating immigration corruption cases. Additionally he was the Human Trafficking Awareness Co-ordinator for 6 years and also trained as an Intelligence Analyst. In September 2010, Daniel and his wife moved to Fernie to enjoy its beautiful mountain scenery and active lifestyle.

Wayne Norton

Wayne Norton was for many years a teacher in British Columbia and then a research consultant for the Indian Residential School Resolution process. He has written on a wide range of topics, most recently about the Vancouver Women's Hockey team of 1914-1919 ([BC History](#), Spring 2014) and about patriotic sheet music published in British Columbia during the First World War ([BC Studies](#), Summer 2014). He is the co-editor of two collections of historical essays about the communities of the Elk Valley and the Crowsnest Pass ([The Forgotten Side of the Border](#) and [A World Apart](#)). He is pleased to be able to say the end is in sight for work on his book about the history of Fernie during the years of the First World War. Wayne lives in Victoria.

Lawrna Myers

Lawrna Myers was born and raised in the Vernon area of British Columbia. At an early age she became fascinated with her family's genealogy discovering roots in Russia, Bessarabia, Prussia, Germany, Switzerland, France, England, Scotland, Ireland and the United States, as well as the Doukhobors and Huguenots. This journey has turned into a lifelong passion for research not only in genealogy but heir tracing, cemetery burial list reconstruction and media. Lawrna earned an Honours Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Saskatchewan and completed the Professional Development Program at Simon Fraser University. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Vernon & District Family History Society and the Cherryville & Area Historical Society. Lawrna is employed by the Government of Canada.

Sarah Beaulieu

Sarah Beaulieu is a PhD graduate student at Simon Fraser University working in the field of historical archaeology. Her interests include conflict archaeology, community archaeology, heritage and commemoration as well as the conservation and preservation of threatened archaeological sites. During her archaeology masters program she examined the changing perceptions of the Morrissey Internment Camp over the past century. Today, she continues her doctoral research with the Morrissey Internment Camp further examining the daily lives and activities of the prisoners and guards during the camps operation.