



Christmas tree hunting by automobile in 1913.
GVMA #897



E-NEWS

WINTER 2018

CULTURAL CENTRE IS ON THE HORIZON!!!



Countless volunteers, from all walks of life, came together this year to meet a common goal. Thanks to the effort of the Vote Yes for Culture campaign, 59% of Greater Vernon voted in support of borrowing up to 25 million dollars for a new Cultural Centre. Way to go Vernon!

We'd like to thank each and every one of you who graciously donated your time. To those who trained our volunteers, made presentations throughout the community, manned information booths, distributed signs and posters around town, were involved in marketing and communications, or in any other way, we are truly grateful.

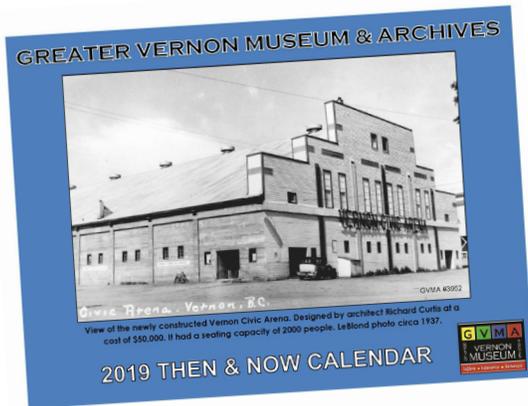
The outcome could not have been reached without our strong leaders: Roger Lamoureux, Dauna Kennedy, and Gale Woodhouse. These three worked tirelessly to promote the vote, alongside others such as Tannis Nelson, Red Head Copywriting and Gabriel Newman. Your efforts and expertise truly paid off! We cannot thank you enough!



With the referendum now behind us, the focus has shifted to grant writing and fundraising for the additional 15 million dollars required. Stay tuned for more information and how you can get involved!



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! GVMA THEN & NOW CALENDARS



This year's calendar fundraiser was spearheaded by Jean Manifold, Gift Shop Manager & Special Events Coordinator, however the calendars were a real team effort. Museum volunteer Vivian Elgie, with the assistance of Archivist Liz Ellison, poured over the museum's database of more than 30,000 digital images to select the historic photos you'll see in the calendar. The cover pays tribute to the Vernon Civic Arena with a photo dating back to 1937.

Vivian Elgie, Francois Arseneault, Lawrna Myers and Wayne Emde were tasked with taking the "now" photographs.

Polson Park, Kalamalka Hotel, Okanagan Landing, Coldstream/Kalamalka Lake, the Vernon Court House, the Internment

Camp, and Silver Star Mountain are featured along with a number of other locations and buildings located in the Greater Vernon area.

Ellison compiled the calendar, adding information about Vernon's first mayor W.F. Cameron, a brief early history of Vernon, as well as the story of the beginnings of the Vernon Museum.

The 2019 Calendars are just \$15.00 each and can be purchased in person at the museum up until December 21st, and then again after January 2nd. Calendars can also be found at Swan Lake Nurseryland during their regular hours, or through our website at <http://www.vernonmuseum.ca/>.

The museum staff and directors would like to express our appreciation to our printing sponsor, Wayside Press, for making this fundraiser possible. All money raised from the calendar sales will go directly to support the museum and its programs.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EDUCATION COORDINATOR!

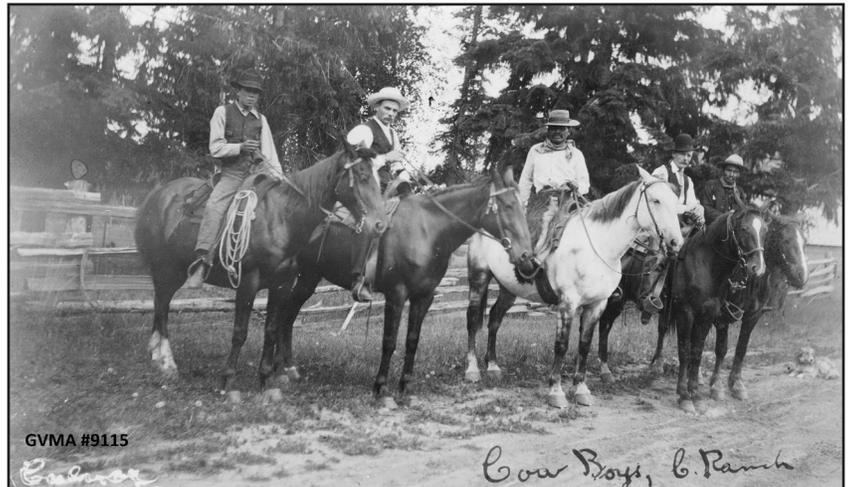


We are pleased to introduce our new Education & Outreach Coordinator, Steve Fleck. Steve and his wife are new to the Vernon area, having recently relocated after three years of living in Yunnan Province in southern China. He is a certified BC teacher with decades of experience in public and private education, recreation and tourism. Prior to his time in China, Steve lived and worked in Victoria, Mackenzie, McBride and Prince George since coming to BC in 1983. In the coming months Steve is looking forward to connecting with education and culture stakeholders to engage the community and collaborate to support learning for people of all ages. This is an exciting time to build on the past and create our future together. Steve is eager to meet with anyone interested in discussing culture and education. Feel free to contact him at steve.fleck@vernonmuseum.ca or 250-550-3150 or drop by his desk in the Museum to share stories and ideas.

STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

A valuable addition to our archival records recently arrived in the mail from England, in the form of a

personal account of the early Coldstream Ranch operations, by F.E.R. "Fluffy" Wollaston. Born in 1873 in Clifton, England and educated at Winchester School for Boys, Francis Edward Richmond Wollaston came to Canada in the early 1890's and found work as a labourer at Coldstream Ranch. Progressing to farming in the Kelowna area, he was hired in 1912 to manage the Kelowna Belgo-Canadian Fruit Lands orchards. Within two years he returned to Coldstream Ranch, where he was offered the position of assistant manager in 1914 and then ranch manager in 1918, a job he held until his retirement in 1939. A confirmed bachelor with strong opinions and an aversion to criticism, he was generally seen sporting a Stetson hat and a red neckerchief, and a beard which gave rise to his nickname of "Fluffy" Wollaston.



In his 35 page operational history of the ranch, Mr. Wollaston covers all aspects of ranch operations, from water supply and the subdivision and sale of lands, to agricultural crops and fruit sales, finances and taxes. Much of the history is devoted to the problems of water supply for irrigation and for domestic use. Mr. Wollaston's viewpoints on various issues of concern, for example the demands and expectations of the many new owners of subdivided ranchland properties, who he deems "persons of unlimited wants", are also expressed throughout the document.

This early history of the Coldstream Ranch operations makes very informative and interesting reading, and adds significantly to our archival records.

FEATURE PHOTOS

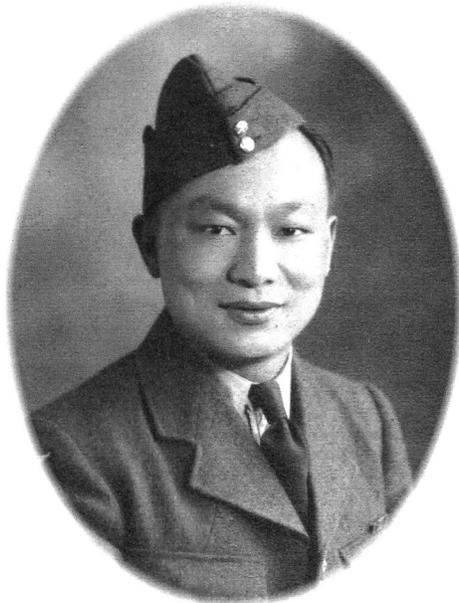
Hazel Chong (nee Joe) recently donated some wonderful early photos of the Joe family to the archives. Hazel's father, Stanley Joe, was born in Canton, China in 1862. He married Constance On Lee of Yale. Hazel and her brother, Walter, came from a family of thirteen. Walter was born in Vernon in 1916 and spent all of his life here. During WWII he served with the Royal Canadian Air Force. Walter married Yasuko (Yosh) Chiba of Vernon in 1954. Walter was affiliated with many service groups including the Rotary Club. Walter was a businessman for many years starting with Joe's Market, Valley Taxi, Joe's Texaco, and lastly, Joe's Happy Acres. He was honoured by the City of Vernon as a Good Citizen in 1983. Walter and Yosh had three children, Vicky, Brian, and Donna. Yosh died in 1997 and Walter died in 2005.



Chinese Studies: This photo is of a Chinese language teacher, who was dispatched from Vancouver, teaching the local Chinese children. Edith Joe is in the back row far left, Helen Joe is in the back row far right and Henry Joe is the third from the left in the front row. Photo circa 1920s.



Sunday School Class: The Joe family lived beside the Chinese Anglican Church. This photo shows the visiting Anglican missionaries with the children. Helen Joe is the first from the left in the back row, Edith Joe is in the front row far right. Photo circa 1920s.



GVMA #29503 - Walter Joe in his WWII military uniform.

RE-ORG



Before



After

Beginning in June, the GVMA undertook a major restructuring project for the collection. With assistance from the Canadian Conservation Institute's RE-ORG Canada West program and funding from Canadian Heritage's Museum Assistance Program, staff reorganized and inventoried over 5000 artifacts, located in one of our behind the scenes collections rooms.

This massive project was undertaken to further preserve and document the artifacts within our museum's collection, and to improve storage conditions and access. Artifacts were organized and cleaned, then were placed in conservation grade boxes and put on storage shelving. While there is still a little work to be done to complete the project, including the reorganization of the museum textile collection, the plan is to finish it before the end of the year.

NEW DISPLAYS



Make sure to drop in to see the new festive case Jesslyn Jarvis and Gwyn Evans created, featuring images from past Christmases.



EARLY LAND SURVEYING: GILBERT C. TASSIE

Archivist Barbara Bell designed a new display entitled, “Early Land Surveying: Gilbert C. Tassie” to showcase Vernon’s early land surveying. With many items on loan from Peter Tassie, the display features plans, maps, and surveying equipment from days gone by, as well as a section of the Grey Canal wood stave pipe. Interactive components, such as the *Grey Canal History Blocks* and *The Road Travelled Map Drawing* station complement the display.



UNDERGROUND VERNON

Ever wonder what lies beneath the streets of Vernon?
Are there tunnels?
Are there ghosts?
Are there forgotten stories?

Gary McLaughlin wants to answer those very questions in a new and exciting project entitled “Underground Vernon.”

The goal of the project is to explore under the City of Vernon and see what mysteries lie there, with the assistance of the Greater Vernon Museum and Archives.

To do this project, Gary has partnered with Dane Storey, owner of Reel Honkey Productions, and wants to build a team that will dare to venture into the depths of Vernon’s underground.

Gary McLaughlin and Dane Storey are current RCMP Members who investigate for a living and want to use those skills to bring back some of Vernon’s forgotten history.

Gary McLaughlin has extensive historical experience working for several years on Cenotaph investigations and currently with the Lumby Museum on restoring their rediscovered fire truck.

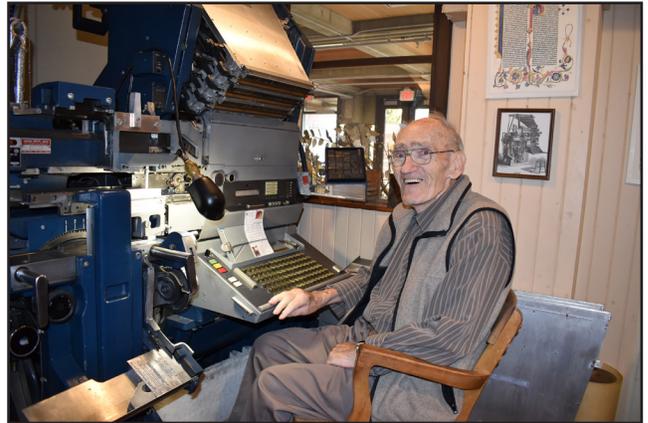
Are you ready to rediscover Underground Vernon?



RECENT EVENTS

MUSEUM ALIVE! OPEN HOUSE

This free Cultural Days event saw participants explore the collections; take in a talk and demonstration of the restored Post Office Clock and Captain Shorts' steam engine; join in a behind the scenes tour of the Archives; watch the linotype in operation; and participate in our scavenger hunt, interactive activities, and What is it? Contest! Plus, hot dogs and a drink for a suggested donation of \$4.00 were enjoyed! Special thanks to our demonstrators/guides Bodo Niedballa, Garry Garbutt, Barbara Bell, Jesslyn Jarvis, Gwyn Evans, June Mitchell, as well as all the volunteers who helped with the BBQ, referendum information tent, etc.



PUBLIC OPENING OF FINISH THE FIGHT! VERNON IN THE GREAT WAR EXHIBIT



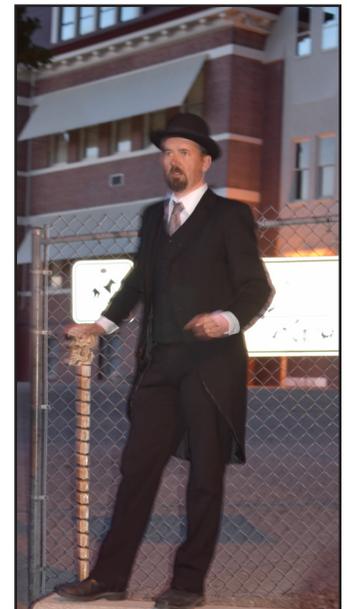
What a stellar evening! The official opening of Finish the Fight! Vernon in the Great War exhibition welcomed a crowd of sixty to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. Dignitaries; members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Vernon branch, British Columbia Dragoons, and Rocky Mountain Rangers; a Cadet Instructor Cadre; and the public were in attendance. Bugler Capt. Jason Paas and Cadet Camp Museum & GVMA Director Francois Arseneault opened the evening program, followed by speeches from RDNO Director Bob Fleming, GVMA board and staff. Guests were treated to Kalamalka Highland Pipe Band member Gord Mathers' stirring tribute, a moving four minute video featuring rare photos created by Francois Arseneault, a military trench fabricated by Graham & Maria Brunskill, as well as a number of interactive activities crafted by Registrar/Curatorial Assistant Jesslyn Jarvis & Gwyneth Evans.

Guests also had the opportunity to take in the new display, "Early Land Surveying: Gilbert C. Tassie" during the evening's festivities, and chat with Peter Tassie.

If you missed the opening you still have lots of time to catch this interactive exhibit, which runs through until March 30th, 2019.

HALLOWEEN GHOST TOURS

Ghost Tours of Vernon was another smashing success with 244 people attending over three nights this Halloween season. As Melissa C. of Vernon wrote on Trip Advisor, "I loved this tour. I've always been interested in different types of paranormal activities so when I heard about the Ghost Tours of Vernon I knew I just had to see what all the hype was about! The walking tour lasted about an hour and a half and was very informative. The guide is absolutely a delight to listen to and knows how to keep his audience interested. I would gladly go on this tour again."



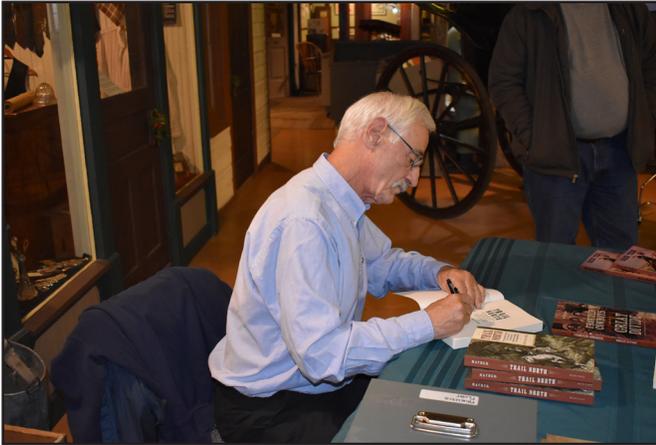
DEFEATING THE GERMAN ARMY IN 1918 PRESENTATION



Howard Hisdal kept the audience engaged throughout his presentation, "Defeating the German Army in 1918: The 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles and the Hundred Days Campaign from Amiens to Mons." Many stayed following the presentation and Q&A session to chat further with the Okanagan College professor.



TRAIL NORTH PRESENTATION & BOOK SIGNING



It was a pleasure to have Ken Mather return to speak at the museum, this time about his latest book, *Trail North The Okanagan Trail of 1858 – 68 and its origins in British Columbia and Washington*. The masterful storyteller shared stories surrounding the history of the trail, including the various groups who used this historic trail. The brigade trail was used by indigenous peoples long before settlement in the region.

UPCOMING EVENTS FAMILY PIRATE PARTY

Ahoy mateys! Join Kiki the Eco Elf, in pirate attire, for an afternoon packed with pirate and fairy-themed merriment! Dancing, pirate chanteys, a pirate adventure including a treasure hunt and even a little magic are on deck! Come dressed in your favourite pirate or fairy costume for a chance to win a prize. Swashbuckling fun for the whole family! The Family Pirate Party, sponsored by Kal Tire, is scheduled for Sunday February 10th, from 2pm - 4pm, and is part of the Vernon Winter Carnival festivities. Tickets are just \$5/person and are on sale now at the Carnival office.



Many thanks to the following contributors for their continued support of the Vernon Museum and its Satellite Museums.





Christmas Hours

CLOSED

Dec. 23, 2018 -

Jan. 1, 2019

RE-OPEN

Jan. 2, 2019

10:00am - 4:30pm

Merry Christmas!