

Vernon and District Family History Society

Commemorating the end of Canada's First National Internment Operations 1914 - 1920

June 20, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary

THIS HAPPENED AT YOUR BACK DOOR!

During Canada's First national internment operations of 1914-1920, thousands of men, women and children were branded as "enemy aliens". Deprived of their freedom, stripped of what little wealth they had, some were forced to do heavy labour and all suffered various other state sanctioned censures including disenfranchisement; not because of anything they had done but only because of where they had come from, who they were. The plaque pictured below is dedicated to the memory of the men, women and children who were interned at Vernon's internment camp on this location, now known as MacDonald Park between 18 September 1914 and 20 February 1920.



Thousands of Ukrainians and other Europeans, including Bulgarians, Croatians, Czechs, Germans, Hungarians, Italians, Jews, various people from the Ottoman Empire, Poles, Romanian, Russians, Serbians, Slovaks, Slovenes, among others were needlessly imprisoned in 24 internment camps across Canada. Many were located in the country's frontier hinterlands, in some cases internees were without adequate food and clothing to suit the conditions. Some women and children were held in two camps across Canada, one in Vernon and the other in Spirit Lake, Quebec. In other areas, women struggled to support their families while their husbands were interned.

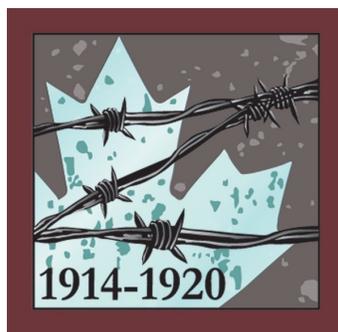
There were internment camps at Vernon, Mara Lake, Monashee, Mt. Revelstoke, Field and Edgewood. Vernon was the permanent internment camp for British Columbia.

Vernon and District Family History Society will present the documentary “That Never Happened” at a later date. Two seasons of You Tube vignettes can be viewed at “The Camps”. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG3CJ4pIVDxFUJBxYKLJDsw>)

VDFHS has valuable resources available to research your ancestors. During the isolation access to Ancestry is available online. For membership enquiries contact verfamhist@shaw.ca. You will find access to free resources on our web site VDFHS.com. You may have ancestors who are connected to the Internment.

This project has been made possible by a grant from the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund.

For further information contact verfamhist@shaw.ca



www.internmentcanada.ca