

Sharing History Through Community



In 1894, a young widow with three small stepchildren became Mrs. Clara Cameron, wife to Vernon's first shopkeeper, William Cameron. As Vice-President of the National Council of Women, Clara advocated for the establishment of a hospital in Vernon. Her advocacy finally came to fruition with the first hospital, a small two-storey building, built on top of what is now known as "hospital hill" in 1897. Three years later, Clara lost her battle to cancer, but her legacy lives on.

Clara's story is just one of several that is shared at the Museum & Archives of Vernon (MAV). From Pierre Louis, respected syilx Chief & Elder and celebrated rodeo rider who was honoured by King Edward for his service to his community, to Luc Girouard, the first non-Indigenous resident of Vernon, who sorted mail on the floor of his tiny creek-side cabin, to Thomas Shorts, who operated the first steam engine on Okanagan Lake, MAV is honoured to keep their stories alive.

With a convenient downtown location, the Museum is an ideal place to begin your discovery of Vernon's past and present. Explore local flora and fauna in our Natural History section, before taking a swim or hike in the Okanagan's beautiful outdoors. Learn more about the Indigenous syilx People of Okanagan Nation. Cross the boardwalk and peek into the shops in the meticulously recreated streetscape. Take a tour of Vernon's 28 full-sized murals.

MAV also boasts a comprehensive research facility, where trained archival staff are happy to assist researchers of any age or interest. Peruse our Vernon Daily News collection to access the vital records of a family member, or frame a print of one of over 31,000 historical images to create a unique gift for a friend. In addition to providing education programs and public events, the facility is also available for private function rental, with a special priority placed on providing a safe space for diverse cultural groups and clubs, artists, writers, and historians.

This is your museum.

Steve Fleck, Executive Director
3009 – 32nd Avenue
250-550-3140 • www.vernonmuseum.ca



THE MUSEUM
& ARCHIVES OF VERNON