

The Vernon Military History Society working towards a larger facility.

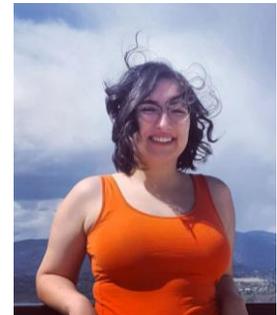
“The Vernon Cadet Camp Museum stands as a monument to the historical journey of the Cadet Program. In order to embrace change and continue to develop, we can never lose sight of where we have come from and the changes that have impacted our lives. Our shared history needs to be preserved and embraced.”
— Brigadier-General K.L. Woiden

We would like to thank you for your generous support and hope to see you at the museum!

Summer is Here

Opening June 15th

We are so excited to welcome Marina Craig back again this year as our Assistant Manager of Marketing and Sales for the 2019 summer season. Marina came to us last year for the first time as our Assistant Curator, and while she will be assisting François again this summer, her main roles and responsibilities will fall under applying for grants, creating marketing materials, and ensuring that we provide an excellent visitor experience.



Marina enjoyed working with the museum so much last year that she changed her major and is now specializing in outdoor recreation and tourism with interests in heritage and accessibility.

Summer Hours: June 15th-August 24th, Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-6pm

New in the Kit Shop

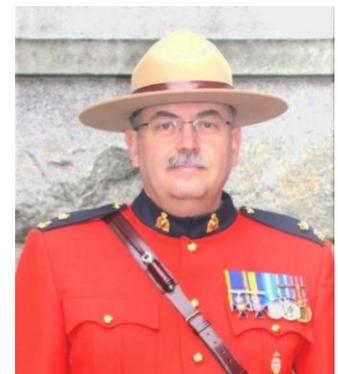
We have added several new items to our Kit Shop this summer, including the pennant featured below. We are expanding to include items that visitors have asked for - we have plenty of lapel pins and decks of cards in stock for our opening day!



You will also be able to find *The Cucumber Tree*, a self-published book from our featured cadet, Bob Ross. A copy has been reserved in our library for cadets and visitors to read while visiting us this summer.

Featured Exhibit

With the passing of LCol Terry Kopan, the Vernon Military History Society felt it was important to pay tribute to the man that inspired and paved the way for us to become the museum we are today. Our memorial exhibit is dedicated to his years of service to the camp and community.





Featured Cadet - Bob Ross

Bob grew up in Vancouver, in a family with a long tradition of military service. Mr. Ross became a cadet in 1954, when he joined the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders and attended weekly parades in the Seaforth Armouries. In 1956 Bob attended the Vernon Army Cadet Camp. It was the first summer that the cadets performed the famous Searchlight Tattoo in the hills above Kalamalka Lake. Over 800 cadets staged this gigantic spectacle of lights, colourful bands, simulated warfare and the precision of marching men, all set against a background of open hillsides and pine trees. An audience of 12,000 people watched the one-night performance (a staggering number since the entire population of Vernon at that time was less than 9,000 people). Bob feels that his summer at Vernon Cadet Camp was a valuable step in helping him grow up. At 15 years old, it was his first summer away from home, and he suffered terribly from homesickness. But with the support of his new friends he overcame his anguish and gained the confidence to enjoy the camp experience. He credits the self-reliance that he learned at Cadet Camp for giving him the confidence to take on later challenges.

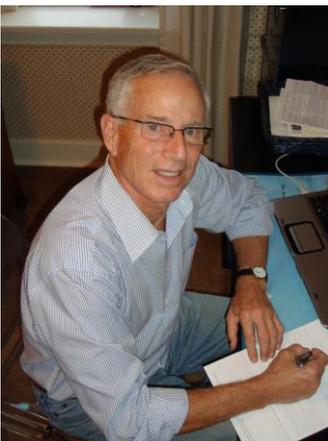
But contrary to his family tradition, Cadet Ross did not pursue a career in the military. After graduation from UBC in 1963 with a degree in Civil Engineering, he spent a couple of years wandering around the world. In a time when the far side of the planet was not yet crisscrossed by airlines nor trampled by tourists, he worked on sheep stations in the Australian Outback and on coastal freighters in the South China Sea. He hitch-hiked up the Mekong River before the War broke out in Viet Nam, before most Westerners had even heard of Laos and Cambodia. Four times he found himself at gunpoint. He was smuggled over the Himalayan passes into Kathmandu in the back of a coal truck and hitch-hiked alone up the Khyber Pass into Afghanistan and beyond, through Iran and Turkey to Berlin, where he worked for a short time in 1965 as a construction worker.



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*Next issue coming
July 2019*



For the next 32 years Bob was employed by the City of Vancouver as Streets and Traffic Engineer. After getting married and raising two daughters, Bob and his wife Sandra have enjoyed walking, hiking and barging holidays together in Europe, and many trips to visit their daughters and grandchildren who live in Australia and Mexico. Inspired by curiosity and a thirst for adventure, Bob has cycled in China and Japan, mushed dog-sleds in the Yukon, horse-packed in the Chilcotin, toured the Serengeti and hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. He has visited Flanders Fields and discovered the previously unknown grave of his uncle killed in WWI, and waded ashore at Juno Beach in a reenactment of his father's WWII landing in Normandy on D-Day. In September 2017, Bob visited the Hermit Kingdom of North Korea.

Although Bob had a long and fulfilling career as a professional engineer administering the traffic and street activities of a major city, he says his proudest accomplishment has been his ability to balance his working career with his family life and his lust for adventure.