

### **1 – Cowboys (completed in 2002)**

"Home on the Range" was what the Okanagan Valley was for the cowboys and their herds of cattle from the 1860's until the mid-1890's. Cowboys could be seen tending to their herds of cattle which grazed all over the valley. The best ropers and riders were said to be the Okanagan Aboriginal cowboys. The 1<sup>st</sup> villages of the Okanagan were cow-towns – places for cowboys and ranchers to purchase supplies and socialize.

The dominance of ranches ended in the 1890's, as ranches were being sold off to make room for orchards, which became vastly important to the Okanagan's economy in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Possibly the most famous ranch in the Vernon area was the Coldstream Ranch. In 1863 Captain Charles F. Houghton received a war military grant of 1450 acres. This land formed the beginning of Coldstream Ranch. When Captain Houghton was elected to the House of Commons in 1871, he sold the ranch to brothers Forbes and Charles Vernon, and moved to Ottawa. The Vernon brothers began expanding the ranch to an astounding 13,641 acres before selling it to Lord and Lady Aberdeen in 1891. It was then subdivided and the Coldstream Ranch became the site of the very first commercial orchard in the Okanagan.

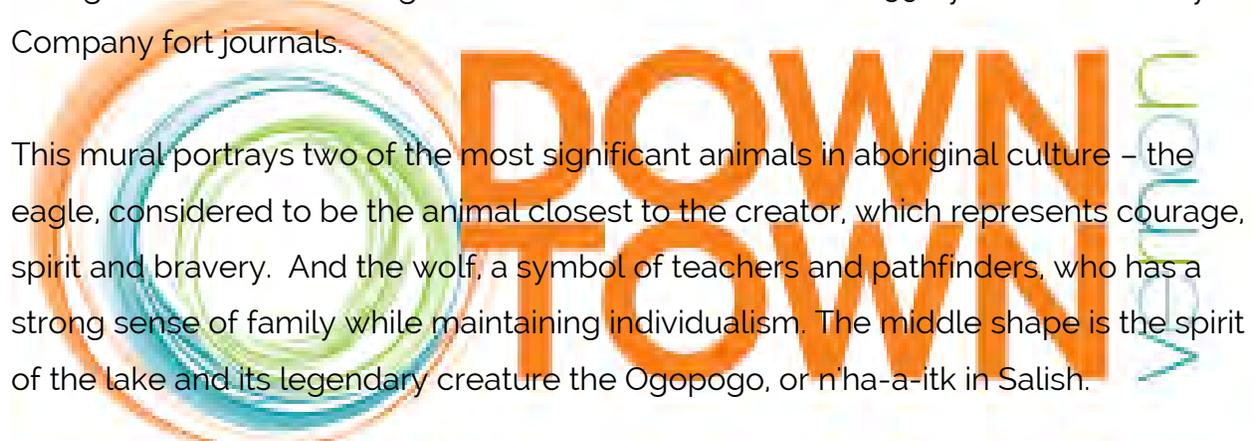
The town of Vernon is named in honor of Mr. Forbes Vernon who spent 15 years as part of the provincial legislature and then went on to become the agent general of British Columbia in London, England. Before this the town was known by several names such as Priest's Valley, a name still present on the Gym and Arena in the Vernon Recreation center, Forge Valley, and the less popular "Centreville"

### **2 - Okanagan Indian Band (completed in 2001)**

Vernon is located on traditional Okanagan territory, and this mural is in honour of the rich aboriginal culture that Vernon is steeped in.

Okanagan is the "Anglicized version of Suqnaqinx and refers to the Indigenous people of the Okanagan territory, it translates as —takes to the head or mind" (Cohen 2010: page xiv).

The early 1800s was the time of first contact between present day Okanagan Indian Band memberships' ancestors and European fur traders. As a matter of fact, the present day Westside Road is situated both on and adjacent to the Okanagan Trail that is widely known as the Hudson's Bay Brigade Trail. From the perspective of the Okanagan people, the name, Hudson's Bay Brigade Trail is not an accurate name; rather, present day Okanagan members call the Okanagan Trail, Nkwala's Trail. Chief Nkwala, was not only an Okanagan Indian Band Chief, he was also an important Okanagan Nation Chief whose life is chronicled from adolescence by George Dawson and through adulthood until his death in 1859 by the Hudson Bay Company fort journals.



This mural portrays two of the most significant animals in aboriginal culture – the eagle, considered to be the animal closest to the creator, which represents courage, spirit and bravery. And the wolf, a symbol of teachers and pathfinders, who has a strong sense of family while maintaining individualism. The middle shape is the spirit of the lake and its legendary creature the Ogopogo, or n'ha-a-itk in Salish.

On the left side, the man with the cowboy hat is a well-known rodeo rider Tommy Gregoire. On the right side, the woman beside the horse represents the strength of women, and the people in front of her are the Chief of the Okanagan Indian Band from 1932-59, Pierre Louis, and his wife.

### **3 - World Wars (completed in 2001)**

Vernon has a long and proud military history. This mural is a striking testament to Vernon's dedication and involvement in the armed forces. In 1911, the City of Vernon leased land on Mission Hill to the Department of National Defense at no cost, for the establishment of a military camp. In 1913, the 1<sup>st</sup> militia summer camp was held, and by 1915 there were 3500 men, and by 1916 around 7000 men trained at Camp

Vernon. This was twice the population of the town at the time! It is easy to imagine how the military presence dominated the city. The camp was again used in WWII as the first Fighting in Built Up Areas training facility in the world. Even today, cadets still use Camp Vernon. The federal government constructed an armory near camp Vernon for \$20 000. There was also a prison on what is now W.L. Seaton Secondary. There were only two of these prisons in BC, and the one in Vernon held German and Austrian Prisoners of War. At one time, the prison held up to as many as 400 internees.

*World Wars (Wall facing Salvation Army)*

In this mural we can see the tent city of Camp Vernon on the far left side. Beside the tents are soldiers from the battle school creeping through trees as they train for D-Day. Below Camp Vernon are lines from the war poem "For the Fallen." The large soldier looks over the devastation of the Battle of Passchendaele, which was a major battle for Canada. In this battle, it was the Canadians who finally fought and defeated their opposition in one of the bloodiest, battles of WWI. The 5 month campaign claimed 140 000 combat deaths for only 8km of territory. This factors to be about 5cm per soldier lost. Just to the right is the Royal Air Force Captain William McCluskey. The nurse in this mural is the first aboriginal nurse to serve during WWI. The many coloured maple leaves represent the unity of the cultures and nationalities that make up Canada.

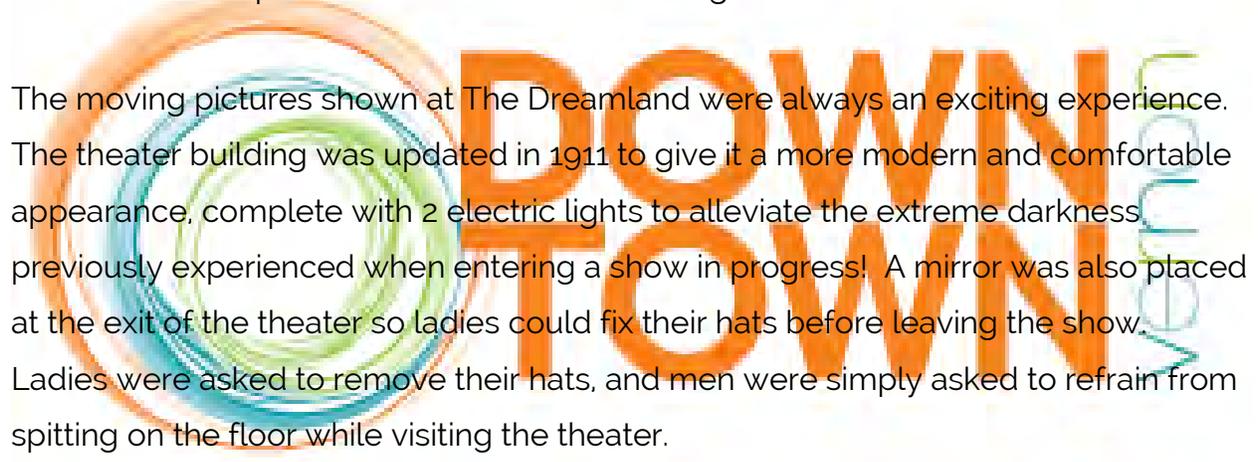
*World Wars (Wall facing Dreamweaver)*

At the far corner, you can see RCAF wireless operator Joyce Nosh who stands and represents all women who fought and served in the World Wars. Vernon sailors work behind a newsboy near the center, while women keep the factories in production. Nurse G James turns away from Europe and in front of her stands flight Lt. Art Sovereign. While a BC Dragoon Tank operates in the Italian campaign. The BC Dragoons originally had their headquarters here in Vernon, with men from Enderby and Penticton training here for their groups. On the far right a soldier looks out over

the battles. Note that he is wearing an American issue helmet, as Canadian ones were in short supply. The wide red band that runs the length of the mural represents the blood lost during all wars, while the thin line symbolizes the flat line of a heart rate monitor.

#### **4 – Geisha (completed in 2003)**

The best way to spend an evening in Vernon during the early 1900's, and I would say even to this day, was going to see a concert, a play or a moving picture! This mural depicts the 1<sup>st</sup> production by the Vernon Musical and Dramatic Society, "The Geisha." Two performances were given at the Empress Theater, and opening not only filled every seat, it filled all standing room available as well. This was a comic tale of British Sailors, Japanese Nobles, and of course, geishas.



The moving pictures shown at The Dreamland were always an exciting experience. The theater building was updated in 1911 to give it a more modern and comfortable appearance, complete with 2 electric lights to alleviate the extreme darkness previously experienced when entering a show in progress! A mirror was also placed at the exit of the theater so ladies could fix their hats before leaving the show. Ladies were asked to remove their hats, and men were simply asked to refrain from spitting on the floor while visiting the theater.

Each one of the small posters was done by individual members of the assistant painting team.

#### **5 - Sovereign Lake (completed in 2005)**

This painting is our first and only winter mural. This mural is a tribute to the development and success of the Sovereign Lake Nordic Club. The man on the left hand side of the mural, leaning against the log cabin, is Carl Wylie – one of Silver Star's earliest pioneers.

In 1938, Wylie organized the Nordic Club. The skiers would hike in and spend four hours doing short runs, on a hill barely 1000ft long. In 1939 the City of Vernon donated a log cabin to the cross country ski club, which was located on Vernon Lake. Vernon Lake was later renamed Sovereign Lake, after Art Sovereign who was a well-known local bishop and pediatrician, as well as an avid skier and Flight Lt. during the war, who is also featured on the World Wars mural. Since its conception in 1938, the Sovereign Lake Ski Area has been in a constant state of growth.

In 2005, the FIS (Federation International de Ski; International Ski Federation) World Cup Cross Country Skiing Championship was held at Sovereign Lake. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 10 yrs that the World Cup was held in Canada.

The mural is not only a tribute to the success of the Sovereign Lake Nordic Club, but to the mural project itself. This mural was constructed and painted by 2 former students of Michelle Loughery's – Steven Stoka and Tyler Toews, who participated earlier in the Vernon Mural Project in 2000. They were commissioned to paint this mural under their newly formed company "Canadian Murals."

### **6 – Multiculturalism (completed in 2000)**

This massive mural is one of our most remarkable. It embodies the diverse cultures represented by the citizens of Vernon. Each individual in this mural was specifically selected because he or she was one of the earliest pioneers for his or her culture in this region. From left to right, the cultures represented are Chinese, Eastern European, Scandinavian, English, Aboriginal, East Indian, Japanese and Belgian. The Canadian flag stands behind them as a symbol of unity. The cloth at the bottom of the mural represents social fabric and how it is sewn together.

On the far left are Mr. and Mrs. Ng Shu Kwong. Mr Kwong, who lived from 1866-1929, panned gold at Cherry Creek, worked at S.C. Smith Lumber and then opened Kwong Hing Lung General Store. Many of these new settlers were immigrants from around

the world. Charles Vernon, Forbes Vernon, Price Ellison were from England and Lord and Lady Aberdeen from Scotland, were just some of the immigrants to this area who became very well known. Their names live on in places like Ellison Park, or on Aberdeen Rd. Lord and Lady Aberdeen started an orchard in the Okanagan. Lord Aberdeen became the Governor General in 1893 and in the same year Lady Aberdeen was elected the President of the International Council of Women. Many Belgian families purchased land near Swan Lake. They built their own houses and furnished them with Belgian furniture and Tapestries

The man in the top hat in the middle of the mural is Vernon's 1<sup>st</sup> mayor W.F. Cameron. This mural is completed by a picture of the former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. He is featured here on the far right side of the mural. Trudeau passed away during the construction of this mural in 2000, and he was added to the mural as a tribute to his legacy in Canada.

### **7 – The Captive Artist (completed in 2010)**

This mural, completed in 2010 is titled The Captive Artist. It depicts local artist Sveva Caetani, born Sveva Ersilia Giovanella Maria Fabiani, hard at work. Sveva Caetani came to Vernon from Italy in 1921 at the age of 4 with her father Leone Caetani—Duke of Sermoneta and Prince of Teano, and her mother, Olfeia Fabiani. Leone Caetani—with a noble background that went back to the Roman Republic and included former popes—fled post-war Italy due to the dangers relating to the rise of fascism. The Caetani's made it to Vernon safely, and bought a home in the neighbourhood of East Hill, and began their new life. They made frequent trips to Europe, where young Sveva was able to learn the art of painting from a highly-respected tutor.

Sadly in 1934, Sveva's father passed away when she was only 18, and her mother Olfeia suffered both physically and mentally. Choosing to live a reclusive life, Olfeia forced Sveva to remain in their home. In the beginning Sveva wasn't even allowed

outside, until on the advice of a doctor and -due to a near mental breakdown- she was allowed in the fenced off garden.

Sveva was allowed only to read while under her mother's mandated captivity, as for some reason Olfeia found the idea of painting or other artwork to be threatening. Sveva tried to paint in the 1950s however her mother's protests finally dashed her work until her mother's death in 1960. By 1978 Sveva began a catalog of 56 spectacular watercolours that reflected the story of her life.

As well as being a talented and respected artist, Sveva also became a local teacher after her mother's death. She became a French teacher at St. James School where she remained for 5 years. In 1965 she attended the University of Victoria to get her high school diploma and her teaching certificate. She completed her education in 1972 and began teaching at Charles Bloom in Lumby where she stayed until her retirement in 1984.

Upon her death in 1994, Sveva Caetani left her home and property to the City of Vernon to be used for the benefit of the arts in the community. Today the building contains 4 apartments for the purpose of housing deserving artists. In fact the lead artist for most of the murals, Michelle Loughery, once lived in the residence, and the painting holds special significance for her and the community in this respect.

### **8 - The Allure of Clay (completed in 2011)**

Axel Ebring was born in a small village in Sweden in 1874. His father and grandfather were both potters, a trade they passed down to Axel. As a young man, Ebring immigrated to the United States and took on a variety of hard labour jobs, such as logging, prospecting, mining and railroad work, as he roamed throughout the mid-west United States and Canada.

By the late 1920's he settled in an area north of Salmon Arm to farm. As fate would

have it, he discovered a clay deposit near his farm and shortly returned to his craft, building his own kiln and kick wheel.

His pottery business did well but, within ten years he had used up all of the good clay. Around the mid 1930's he found a promising new deposit in Vernon, on land where a brickyard once stood. Ebring bought two acres from the owner, Morris Middleton, built a small house and set up a potter's studio along a stretch of land now known as Pottery Road.

Ebring worked in the traditional manner and never abandoned his foot-powered potter's wheel. Nor did he ever use a thermometer for his wood fired kiln saying, "The best thermometer is an old man with enough experience." He also never married; during an interview in 1947, when asked what his age was, he replied "Can't say, might spoil my chances of getting a wife". Axel Ebring died in 1954 and is buried in the Vernon Cemetery.

#### **9 - Vernon Fire Brigade (completed in 1999)**

The original brigade only had leather buckets to fight fires. However, the insurance companies of the buildings that the brigade protected found the bucket service to be sorely lacking. To ensure a basic level of fire protection, a pump engine was purchased second hand from San Francisco. The new fire engine had to be hand drawn and hand pumped, which soon became the best way to get your exercise in Vernon. Everyone was eager to join the brigade and be one of the twelve men needed to operate the pump (6 on each side). The fire brigade eventually upgraded to a motorized engine, where at first horse teams would race the fire engine to the fire, and the horses won every time. The horses also drew some of the pumps behind them. At the sound of the alarm the horses would come out of their stalls and stand underneath the harnesses which dropped down on them.

Another interesting note is that the Fire Brigade organized many successful parades

and sports events, their motto being: "Better than Ever". Also, when the City Band lost their instruments in a fire, the fire brigade took over sponsorship and the band was known as the Vernon Fire Brigade Band as they played at provincial exhibitions and throughout town.

The man on the left is James J. Hull – the 1<sup>st</sup> fire chief of Vernon. He was chief from 1899 until 1903. He was survived by his wife and their nine children. His youngest daughter is still living in Vernon today. She is extremely happy with her father's portrait and she believes the muralist captured the exact blue of her father's eyes. The man who replaced Hull in 1903 is the gentleman on the right hand side of the mural – Thomas Crowell. The yellow building in the background of this mural is Vernon's original federal building and post office. Remnants of the old clock on top of the post office can be found in the Vernon Museum today.

#### **10 - Frank S. Reynolds (completed in 1999)**

This warehouse was a part of a carriage and farm equipment outlet on the main street of Vernon from 1905 until 1912. The business was operated by Frank S. Reynolds- Vernon's original "Man of Machines." When Reynolds moved his business across the street, this building became the dreamland theater (today it is the Towne Theater). At the time the picture was taken, staff and an automobile from the Vernon Auto Company were included. The 1<sup>st</sup> car arrived in Vernon from San Francisco where Judge Spinks purchased it and had it shipped to Vernon. At the time of this photo, automobiles weren't very popular because they scared the horses and were viewed as a nuisance. But – by 1919 there were several hundred cars on the streets of Vernon. More than half of the cars sold in North America from 1908-1927 were Ford Model-T's. This simply constructed car was only \$600, making it affordable for many families. To get even more value out of their cars, people would use the engine's power for more than just driving around at the top speed of 64-72 km/h. They would use the motor's power for various jobs such as hitching up a wheel and attaching it to a belt driven machine, for example to haul hay into a loft.

Another interesting detail about the model T was that it relied on Gravity to get its fuel instead of the fuel injection we have today. This meant that if the car was low on gas it couldn't make it up hills like the steep suicide hill at the top of Main Street (Barnard Avenue). The immediate solution adopted by many was to simply go up hills in reverse until they could get more gas. In Vernon, everybody drove on the left hand side of the road. All motorists in BC drove on the left hand side until 1922. Over time, the automobile grew in popularity, so saddle, carriage and blacksmith businesses, like Reynolds', closed down. Instead, garages and car dealerships took their place.

The photo on the right of the mural is Reynolds' family. The original building for the Land and Agricultural Company is where the Bean Scene is today.

### **11 - C.E. Perry (completed in 2000)**

The railway built the west—it was a forced to be reckoned with—and the Shuswap and Okanagan railway, also known as the "S & O", is no exception. This mural recognizes the railway that brought so much life to the city of Vernon. The Shuswap and Okanagan railway is a spur line off of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which makes it way down through the Valley. The importance of the railway is exemplified by the fact the neighboring city of Armstrong moved its town site just to be closer to the route.

It's hard to imagine the back breaking work of building a railway without heavy equipment, and the long journeys that followed the ribbons of steel through the Okanagan. The entire railway's grading was done by pick and shovel, wheel barrow, and horse scrapers – making the work very long and difficult. It was subsidized by the Provincial Government at \$4000/mile and by the federal at \$3200/mile.

During the construction of the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway in the 1880's, about 7000 male Chinese laborers immigrated to the Okanagan. Many thought they

would only be here for a short while, planning to bring lots of money home to china. However, with their wage at \$1/day, and having to pay for their own food and repay the CPR the \$40 transport costs to Canada, most stayed after the railroad was complete. Many moved to the built up areas of Victoria and Vancouver, yet approximately 1000 men remained in Vernon, adding to the diverse culture we now enjoy today.

The railway began operating in June of 1892. Leaving Sicamous, the train traveled the 54 miles to the Okanagan landing area in Vernon. The engine was followed by one antiquated passenger car, a mail and express car, and a caboos. Once a week there was a flatbed freight car for a leisurely ride through the valley. The train was nicknamed Molasses Limited because some people thought they could walk faster than the train traveled.

The gentleman featured on the left hand side of this mural is C.E. Perry, the construction engineer for the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway.

With the railway, Vernon became a primary site for the Okanagan and Land Development Company Ltd. As well the Okanagan and Kootenay Railway Co. were granted land grants of 20,000 acres per mile of railroad they developed. Land developers were eager to sell the land for \$10-\$20/acre, or give free sites to those parties who planned to establish industry in the region.

### **12 - Indian Motorcycle (completed in 2003)**

Born in Goderich Ontario, W.R. Megaw came to BC in 1878. He established a trading business in the Nicola Valley and opened up branches as the CPR extended its line towards Sicamous. Foreseeing that Vernon would become a distribution center, in 1885 he opened a general store which made little progress until the railway lines reached Okanagan Landing. The Megaw family became very prominent and Mr. Megaw became Vernon's 3<sup>rd</sup> mayor. This mural is dedicated to the Megaw's family's

impact on the community. For more than 40 yrs the Megaw family ran the largest mercantile operation in the region. Their motto was "we sell everything from threshing machines to needles." The family owned the 1<sup>st</sup> McLaughlin-Buick Dealership in the area making them the first to serve the growing automobile needs of the region. This mural features the Indian Motorcycle which had an all chain drive, making it superior to any other models in its day. This mural is an ad for the Megaw dealership and the motorcycles they sold. Unfortunately, his business went under due to external pressure in the mid 1900's.

### **13 - Dr. Reinhard's House and Office (completed in 2000)**

This is the home and office of doctor Willhelm Reinhard, the 3<sup>rd</sup> doctor to practice here in Vernon. Dr. Reinhard originally came from Germany but immigrated to the US before moving to Vancouver. There he was struck by tragedy when his wife Mary died. In 1892, Dr. Reinhard moved to Vernon with his 5 children to run an already established medical clinic. Being a busy doctor, his late wife's youngest sister Caroline moved into the home to care for his children. Dr. Reinhard considered himself a proper gentleman and found it very inappropriate to live in the same house as his un-married sister-in-law, so he moved to the boomtown of Barkerville. Yet, within a year, he had moved back to Vernon, married Caroline and set up his own medical practice across from the train station. It was this location that served as both clinic and home for him and his family. He eventually moved and became the Director of the Government Hospital in Bella Coola where he died of a heart attack in 1922 .

### **14 - Alice Park Diaries (completed in 2002)**

Day to day life in Vernon at the turn of the century is permanently preserved in ink, thanks to the detailed diaries kept by Alice Barrett. Miss Alice Barrett grew up in Port Dover, Ontario in the 1860s. She came to BC in 1891 when her brother, Harry Barrett, asked her to help him and his uncle run their household. She moved into the house which was located on a ranch, north of Otter Lake and Spallmacheen, just a

20 minute ride to Vernon by house drawn buggy. A visitor to the ranch, Harold Park, became very interested in Alice. After several proposals, Alice and Harry married in 1893 at Port Dover. After they married, they made their home here in Vernon where Alice involved herself in the various aspects of her husband's work. Alice was an independent woman who contradicted the traditional roles of woman at the time. She helped her husband in many areas such as aiding in the duties of postmaster, policeman, jailor, city assessor, district road foreman, and BX Rancher. She often helped with required paperwork and sometimes traveled with her husband to do inspections.

Alice and Harold left Vernon for Fort Saskatchewan after the death of their only child in 1901. Harold later became ill and the couple moved again – this time returning to Port Dover. Harold passed away there in 1915, and Alice remained there until her death in 1952.

Alice's 32 notebook journals have been compiled into a book titled "Hobnobbing with a Countess and other Okanagan Adventures: The Diaries of Alice Parke." by Jo Fraser Jones, who is one of the original members of the Powerhouse Theatre which recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Very few women's diaries have survived from that time, and Alice Parke evokes a period of transformation in a region newly opened to western settlement. She was an astute observer and her diaries provide valuable insights into women's lives in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

### **15 - In Memory (completed in 2001)**

Time spent in Cenotaph Park is meant for reflection. The mural and Cenotaph are monuments in memory of those who sacrificed themselves in the name of freedom. Starting on the left side of the mural, the large soldier represents the Korean War. (1950-1953). This image is based off of a photograph entitled, "Faces of War," which was taken by public relations photographer, Sgt. Paul J. Tomelin. At the time of the photograph, the soldier was waiting for medical attention after a night patrol near

Hill 166—the site of a daring Canadian commando raid.

The next scene in this mural represents the combat that all soldiers of all wars had to engage in. Behind these scenes flies the Union Jack – the flag of the United Kingdom. Canadian soldiers in the first and Second World War technically fought under the Union Jack, as we fought for the Commonwealth of Nations.

We were not able to have all divisions of the Canadian armed forces in our murals, so we would like to pay special tribute to the Canadian Women's Army Corporation who made valuable contributions to Canada's war effort. Further to the right, the mural shows the importance of the home front. The Red Cross was a common sight in Vernon, trying to recruit more volunteers for the war effort; they would also send bales of "field comforts" overseas that included hand knitted skirts, socks, scarves and mitts.

The different posters in the murals along the right side illustrate the different recruitment efforts, victory bonds, and shop advertisements. In the center of the park is the Cenotaph. The part of the memorial facing away from the cenotaph is covered in poppies – the international symbol of remembrance. Below the poppies are lines from the poem "In Flanders' Fields," written by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

### **16 - Okanagan Lake (completed in 2003)**

This gaff-rigged racing ketch was owned by T.W. Stirling and photographed circa 1905. The gaff is a spar that extends the uppermost edge of the four cornered mainsail. It was the only 2 masted sailboat on Okanagan Lake until modern times. Sailing on Okanagan Lake is still a popular past-time. At the Vernon yacht club, about 30 sailboats participate in weekly competitions. Okanagan Lake is also the home of the mysterious Ogopogo Lake Monster

### **17 - Creamery Truck (completed in 2000)**

H.W. Knight opened the Vernon Creamery in 1920. He already owned a suitable location and bought the equipment needed to churn butter. It started out small with the first churning producing 37 pounds of butter but eventually grew to produce 150,000 pounds annually. In the early 1900's the creamery truck was a familiar sight on rural roads in Vernon. Operated by the Okanagan Valley Cooperative Association, the trucks collected cans full of fresh cream from local dairy farms so they could deliver to local creameries, and then to local customers. One of Knight's main suppliers was a large scale dairy farm in Lumby owned by the very aptly named, Mr. Herbert Butters.

### **18 - Vernon Steam Laundry (completed in 2000)**

Cecil Johnston's foremost concern was customer service when Vernon's 1<sup>st</sup> commercial laundry began operation on Monday June 18 1908. Mr. Johnston insisted that his laundry service used the best dry cleaning system money could buy. Nothing less was good enough for his customers. The Vernon Steam Laundry and Dry Cleaning had the latest equipment including a telephone, and a covered delivery wagon so they could give prompt and satisfactory service to their patrons.

### **19 - Office of the Vernon News (completed in 2000)**

Even to this day there aren't many better ways to keep your finger on the pulse of a city then by reading the local newspaper. The Vernon News was the first newspaper established in the Okanagan and the second in the interior in 1891. This man, who is hard at work, is Mr. J.A. McKelvie, the paper's 3rd editor. He came to be known as one of the best editorial writers in BC. Mr. McKelvie also acted as a federal M.P and jail warden, which sometimes pulled him away from his editor's chair. He remained as editor of the Vernon news until his death in 1924. The Vernon News was the first newspaper in the Okanagan and featured local and world news. It also had a popular column called "Town and Country" which detailed community life on a weekly basis. With the population as widely spread out and spaced as it was, news could be hard to come by so "filler" paragraphs could be found in articles such as

"Gossips are predicting another love match to take place in town before many weeks pass by." The paper ran for 105 years when it shut down in 1996. Its articles can still be read along Main Street where excerpts have been posted alongside the heritage buildings in the plaques.

### **20 - City of Vernon (completed in 2000)**

Vernon's hometown version of the "Wright brothers" created a stir in 1934. Eldon Seymour who was 17 and Jim Duddle who was 18 spent 10 months working on the construction of the small open cockpit model plane. They bought the plans for the plane out of a magazine and formed a partnership with Jack Taylor and Ernie Buffam. Eldon and Jim built most of the plane on the upper floor of the Kal Lake Store with Mr. Taylor providing the funding and Mr. Buffam performing the welding. A list of materials was made from the drawings and parts were purchased a few at a time from an American supplier as the boys couldn't find a Canadian supplier. The boys were only able to work on their plane in the evenings and on the weekend because they both worked fulltime (Jim at the Beatty Farmhouse for \$60/month, and Eldon with his father as a plumber for \$75/month). After 10 months of construction, the plane was completed and towed to the landing strip where they gave the prop its first pull. Test pilot Lowell Dunsmore came all the way from Drumheller, Alberta to test the plane. He gave the plane only one inspection before jumping into it, finding no need for adjustment. He quickly found that the plane flew effortlessly at 75miles/hr and was so perfectly balanced that no matter how he flew the plane, no matter what type of maneuvers he did, the plane would resume to an even flight level once he let go of the controls. The boys enjoyed three years of flying without a license. They flew over the Rocky Mountains, down the Coquihalla highway to Vancouver, and all over the province before Transport Canada caught wind of their flights and stopped them. Eldon received his pilot's license in Kamloops and eventually took over his family's plumbing business and expanded it. Jim joined the Air Force as soon as he was old enough and later became a flight instructor

## **21 - A Trompe L'oeil (completed in 2000)**

*\*\*pronounced Tromp doy\*\**

This mural is very unique because it uses a technique called trompe l'oeil, a French term for "trick of the eye." This mural is a mural hidden within another mural. This inner mural is one of women working in the orchards during WWI. With most of the men overseas, women were given a chance to work outside the home, and they took on roles that were traditionally filled by men. In 1933, a Mr. Robert MacDonald opened a fruit packing house and employed approx. 40 women. They picked, sorted, and packaged fruit. During the depression, women made 20 cents/hr and worked 10hr days. This is the equivalent to today's minimum wage. However, the jobs didn't last any more than 3 months.

The outer mural is one of a museum wall with a little boy looking inside. This mural was so convincing that car stops had to be painted on the mural to stop people from driving their cars into the side of the buildings as they had been doing. The community policing office also received calls about a little boy peeing on the mural.

## **22 - Fisher Family (completed in 2000)**

It's always a good idea to have something to keep little boys out of trouble. Fishing was a common hobby for children in Vernon's early years. The left side of this mural is a photograph taken by C.W. Holliday, a commercial photographer of the time, of a group of children fishing on the Shuswap River. Holiday later wrote the book titled "Valley of Youth", which was a history book largely involving Vernon.

The right side of this mural depicts Wally Fisher standing beside his station wagon with his son Herb, who is seated on the tailgate. Wally Fisher was the founder of Fisher's Hardware and he was in the business for 30yrs. The original photograph that this part of the mural was based off of was of Wally and Herb hunting, however it was considered to inappropriate for downtown and the setting was changed. The Fisher family still runs the hardware store located here to this day.