

# Salmonella outbreak under investigation

By Katelyn Dingman  
Free Press Staff

Interior Health (IH) is currently investigating a salmonella outbreak in British Columbia that is related to contact with live chicks from a commercial hatchery in Alberta.

To date, there have been 13 cases of salmonella infections across B.C., nine of which were in the IH region.

Two hospitalizations in B.C. are also connected to this outbreak, according to an IH press release issued May 27.

Several other cases have been reported in the IH region and IH is currently collaborating with the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), B.C. health authorities, BC Ministry of Agriculture,

Public Health Agency of Canada and provincial partners to investigate the outbreak.

Of the outbreaks, IH doctor Althea Hayden said "All of [those infected] have been people that have handled their baby chicks. The people most at risk are backyard farmers."

She added, "The thing they can do to make sure they don't get sick is to take proper handling precautions."

Those who have been in contact with live poultry and/or have eggs from

hobby farms, non-commercial organic farms and backyard flocks are advised to avoid handling live chicks.

Individuals who have purchased poultry from a hatchery in Alberta and are concerned they may be affected by this outbreak should contact their supplier or their local health protection unit for more information.

The BCCDC is notifying individuals that the most effective strategy to get rid of Salmonella in a

flock is to depopulate, clean and disinfect the premises thoroughly and start over with new chicks.

Hayden said that the main reason for this is because if a bird infected with salmonella lays eggs, those eggs can become infected.

"We want to make sure this doesn't turn into a bigger problem," she added. "The safest thing to do to make sure you don't end up with a problem, if you do own a backyard flock that has been effected by the outbreak, would be to kill your birds, clean out your barn and start again with fresh birds."

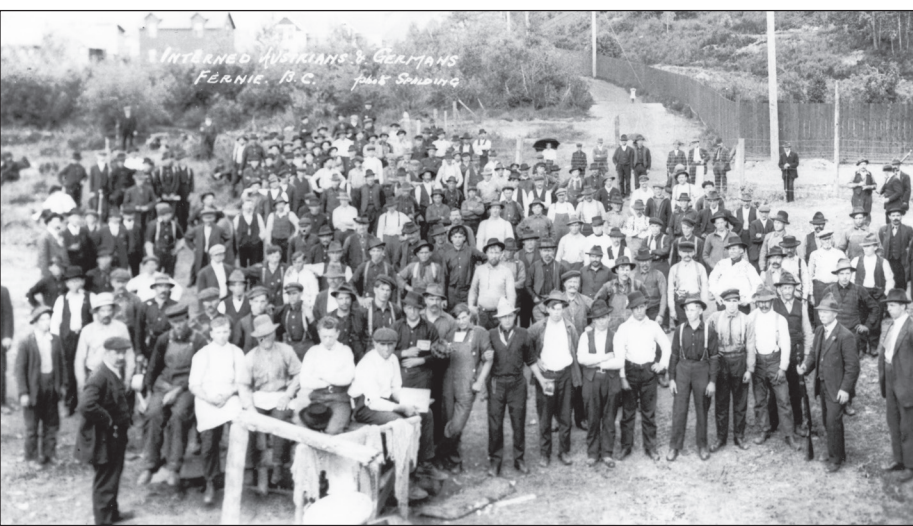
The Ministry of Agriculture, however, is also providing free testing to small flock owners who have been affected by the outbreak, Hayden added.

For more information on the available testing, contact the Animal Health Centre at 604-556-3003.

**"The thing they can do to make sure they don't get sick is to take proper handling precautions."**

**Dr. Althea Hayden**  
Interior Health

# Museum to commemorate Morrissey Internment



German, Ukrainian and Eastern European prisoners at the Fernie Skating and Curling Rink. The rink was the site of a makeshift internment camp for "enemy aliens" from June 9 to October 1, 1915. Internment operations moved to Morrissey in two phases between September 28 and October 1, 1915. A plaque marks the site today and is located near the boat launch along the Elk River in Fernie.

Photo credit: Fernie Museum, 1183

By Sarah Kucharski  
Free Press Staff

An exhibit on the history of the Morrissey Internment Camp will open soon at

the Fernie Museum.

The exhibit will coincide with the centennial anniversary of the internment operations in the Elk Valley and will make use of internationally conducted

research.

"The museum has been working closely with Fernie resident Daniel Ste-Marie and Sarah Beaulieu, a PhD candidate researching the Morrissey internment operations," said museum director Ron Ulrich. "This exhibit in many ways is a completion of the first phase of that research and will tell the story in ways that it hasn't been fully told before with the cooperation of archives nationally and internationally."

In light of the War Measures Act of 1914, which enabled the registration and internment of "enemy aliens", Elk Valley internment operations saw

approximately 800 prisoners interned in Morrissey from June 1915 to October 1918.

Most internees were former citizens of Ukraine and other parts of Eastern Europe, while some were naturalized Canadian citizens.

Ulrich said that there are also plans for the project to become a major travelling exhibit between the 24 British Columbian and Albertan internment locations and beyond.

Ulrich said that Burnaby-based Simon Fraser University has already booked the project to appear in their gallery.

"Even though it's a very difficult and painful part of our past we feel that it's important to delve into these experiences and these events that happened in order to allow us to understand our community better," said Ulrich.

In addition to the exhibit, the museum will benefit from \$24,500 in funding that will allow them to put on a symposium highlighting

the international research conducted for this project.

The funds are derived from the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund and the Consulate-General of Switzerland in Vancouver.

"What the symposium will do is it will bring all the researchers who have been looking at the Morrissey Internment camp story from various angles to present their papers and provide an opportunity for dialogue around the camp and its operations," said Ulrich. "A lot of us know the research that's being done but we've never all sat collectively in the same room together. With this it will also afford us the opportunity to understand the gaps that may still exist in terms of historical records and research."

The museum will host a preview night for Historical Society members on Friday, June 5 with the general public opening of the exhibit on Saturday, June 6.

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A partnership between Doctors of BC, Ministry of Health and Selkirk College.

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## Senior Citizens Club of Fernie & District

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

Date: June 16, 2015  
Time: 1:00 PM  
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