

Historical Notes: Alberni & Port Alberni, 1918 & 1968

In recognition of our rich community heritage, carrying on from the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1967 amalgamation of the Cities of Alberni and Port Alberni, the Alberni Valley Museum, on the recommendation of the Alberni Valley Heritage Commission, has prepared these *Historical Notes*. They summarize some of what was occurring in the Alberni Valley 100 and 50 years ago, to offer a snapshot of life in the region. They are taken from newspaper and other sources, including those held by the Alberni District Historical Society Community Archives.

For the week of January 7, 2018

1918 – Campaigning was active in the provincial by-election for the Alberni riding – one of four ridings holding a by-election in January 1918. Conservative candidate Richard Wallis already had travelled to the west coast, while Liberal J.F Bledsoe had been strategizing in Victoria before returning to the riding to campaign.

World War I proceeded, with the Russian Revolution one of the primary stories, as the Bolshevik government turned down peace offers from the Germans. The war was affecting Canada, as rationing was being suggested, and Victory bonds had been introduced in 1917 to raise money for the war effort. Conscription was enacted in the fall of 1917, and the departure of drafted soldiers meant there was a shortage of workers in the forest industry in the Alberni Valley.

1968 – This section may be prepared when the ADHS Archives newspapers are available next week.