



Theresia (Terry) Hurst

April 23, 2035 – December 12, 2025

The North Okanagan Naturalists' Club (NONC) lost one of its longtime members in December of 2025. Terry Hurst worked for Dr. Douglas Ross, the NONC founder and head of the Dominion Forest Insect Laboratory, then located in Vernon in the early 1950s. When Dr. Ross decided with a few colleagues to start a natural history club in the North Okanagan, Terry naturally came along and her association continued from that date in 1951 to 2025.

The obituary in the December 18, 2025 edition of the Vernon Morningstar for Terry notes that she lived her entire, long life in Vernon. She married and raised four children, but her outside-the-home career included at various times being a legal secretary, owning a book store, and managing the family's property holdings (an apartment block) for nearly 50 years after the death of her father.

Terry will be remembered by many in Vernon for her published works on local history. 'Vernon and District Pioneer Routes: The Stories Behind our Street Names' was published in 1997, and 'Vernon, a Brief History' was a B.C. centennial project in 1958. There have also been numerous articles researched and written by Terry for the Okanagan Historical Society's annual reports.

In her mid-80s Terry volunteered to take on the daunting project of developing an index for the extensive collection of Newspackets, the Club's journal. These were collected in tranches of 10 to 15 years and delivered to her home. Terry developed the index to allow all manner of articles, reports on Club activities, bird counts, monthly talks, walks and outings, to be accessed with the use of a creative cross-referencing system. Missing copies of the Newspacket were found in members' homes and the task was completed up to the year 2022. Terry's unique talent, dedication and computer skills allowed her to take on this project and complete it over a short period of time - and she was in her mid-80s!

As a matter of interest this very index lists articles that Terry herself researched and submitted over the years. These include: Bats in the Belfry in April, 1994, the Bruntland Report in February, 1988, six reports on specific bird species over the years 1960 to 1992, one report on easy tick removal, one on hiking in the Monashees, and another on the Eastern Grey Squirrel. One can appreciate Terry's range of interest in nature. Theresia Hurst, widely known as Terry, passed away in Vernon on December 12, 2025. We honour her long membership and volunteer endeavours in the Naturalist Club, and her contributions to the preservation of history in the greater Vernon community. Submitted by Rod Drennan - January 12, 2026