

# Vancouver Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

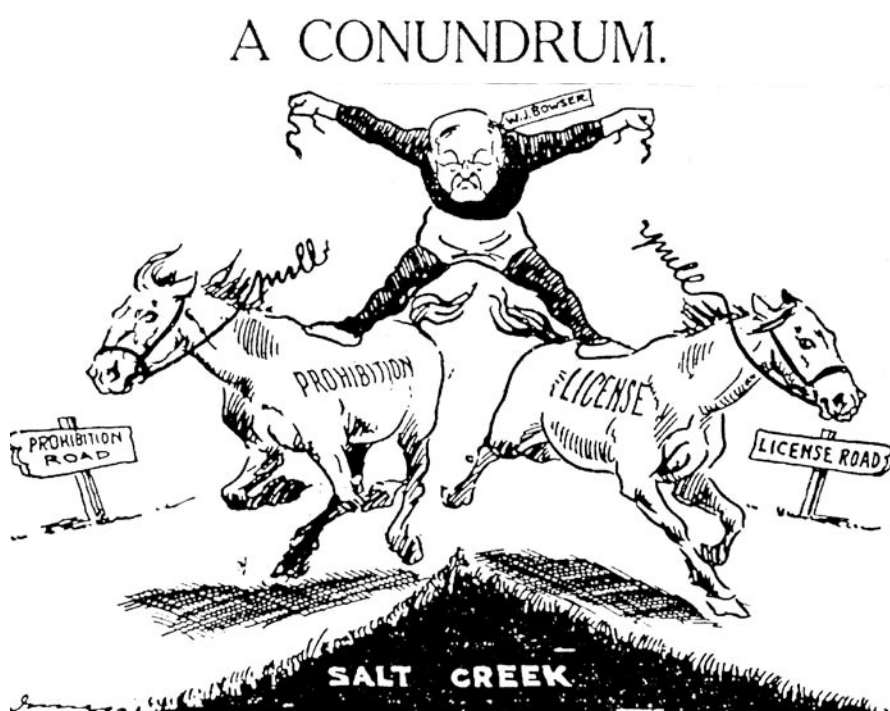
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### Political Cartoons: Their History in Canada

*Speaker: Charles Hou*



The editorial cartoon is sometimes described as mightier than the sword for the incisiveness of its political commentary. Our speaker this month, Charles Hou, reaching back more than 100 years in his research into graphic satire, will show some of Canada's most provocative editorial cartoons. Relying on caricature and allusion, the political cartoonist has come to have widespread appeal and influence on public life. The visual protest depicted in political cartoons in Canada's past has been met with anger and admiration but has seldom been ignored.

Vancouver has been home to some of Canada's most respected editorial cartoonists such as Len Norris and Roy Peterson, both of whom have had their cartoons carried nationally and internationally. Roy Peterson from the *Vancouver Sun* will join us in this program on April 28. Also in attendance will be two

editorial cartoonists from *The Province*: Bob Krieger and Dan Murphy.

Charles Hou, an educator and the first recipient of the the Governor-General's award for excellence in teaching history, is the author of two books: *Great Canadian Political Cartoons - 1820 to 1914*, and *Great Canadian Political Cartoons - 1915-1945*.

Roy Peterson is western Canada's pre-eminent editorial cartoonist. Roy's work for the *Vancouver Sun*, as successor to the late Len Norris, chronicles his major contribution to the world of cartooning.

Dan Murphy has been an editorial cartoonist at *The Province* since 1984 and continues to provide the paper with two cartoons and a written column each week.

Bob Krieger is known primarily as an 'attack' or 'shock' cartoonist. Krieger has produced some startling images of politicians such as Brian Mulroney, Joe Clark, Glen Clark, and Gordon Campbell.

*PICTURE: This cartoon, dated May 29, 1916, had a caption that read: "His 'pull' is broken. He cannot control his horses. Where is the rider going to land?"*

Thursday, April 28th, 2005, at 7:30 pm in the Vancouver Museum

# Preznotes

VHS President Paul Flucke is travelling in South Africa, thus giving me the opportunity to tell you about our May 26, 2005 program, the final one for this season.

Instead of a speaker, we are going to feature singers. Yes, opera singers. The theme will still be history, with an emphasis on Vancouver history. The story is Joy Kogawa's dramatic telling of nine-year-old Naomi's journey, with her Japanese Canadian family, from Vancouver to an internment camp in the interior of B.C. during World War II. The singers are from Vancouver Opera which has commissioned this new opera to travel to BC schools beginning in the fall of 2005. The Vancouver Historical Society is delighted to be given this preview before it is presented to young audiences in our schools.

The VHS has a strong interest in how history is presented to young audiences. Admittedly, it is a self-serving interest in that we hope young people will embrace history. Presenting history through performance is, in our opinion, a viable way to get students excited about the past. Moreover, this particular opera will lead to discussions of racial profiling, ethnic cleansing, and cultural tension, all of which are current issues facing our world today. Although Naomi's Road brings up such troubling issues, the opera features two young people who develop resilience and compassion, forces that paved the way for a hopeful future.

New curriculum material will accompany this opera into the schools, material prepared with the help of members of the Japanese Canadian community in BC. Masako Fukawa will be with us to provide an overview of this new material.

Please mark your calendars for May 26 for this performance. The VHS Annual General Meeting will take place at 7:30 with the opera beginning at 8 pm. For this program, we will be in the theatre at the Museum. Don't hesitate to bring school-age children to this performance with you. After all, it is being presented with young audiences in mind. Admission, as always, is free. We hope you will join us.

*Wes Knapp*

*Vice-President 604-873-6602*

## Highlights from:

### The Incorporation Day Luncheon

Celebrating Vancouver's  
119th Birthday  
University Golf Club,  
Sunday April 10, 2005



*ABOVE: Vancouver Historical Award Winner Sue Baptie, Retired Archivist, City of Vancouver with Chuck Davis, Luncheon Emcee.*



*LEFT: Left to Right, Reuben Ware, Director of Records and Archives, City of Vancouver; Vancouver Heritage Award Winner, Sue Baptie; Mayor Larry Campbell.*

*RIGHT: Guest speaker John Mackie, Author of Vancouver the Unknown City and Vancouver Sun columnist. John showing us some of the 'insulation' he found behind the walls of homes demolished in Vancouver.*



*LEFT: VHS youngest member Calum MacKinnon-Kwan, with mother Donna Jean MacKinnon, right, and proud aunt and uncle: Kathleen MacKinnon and Wes Knapp.*

Many thanks also to Chuck Davis, Wes Knapp, Elizabeth Hawkins, and Barbara Coles for their assistance before and during the event. Thanks to Donna Jean MacKinnon for taking the photos.

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## Welcome New Members

Eric and Joan Jamieson  
of North Vancouver

## Our History, Our Heritage

Celebrating Kelowna's 100th Anniversary  
B.C.'s Historical Federation Conference  
May 12 - 15, 2005

We hope to have a good turnout of VHS members at the B.C. Historical Federation Annual Conference in Kelowna. Remember you must register as a VHS delegate to have a vote at the BCHF Annual General Meeting on Sat. May 14th. I will have our delegate list for members to sign at the opening reception. See you there.....*Barbara Coles.*

(For more information on the conference check out the conference site on the B.C. Historical Federation website: <http://www.bchistory.ca/conf.html>)

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### History Scholarship Essay Deadline Soon

The B.C. Historical Federation offers two scholarships annually to B.C. college or university students for essays written on a topic relating to B.C. History. The deadline for entries is May 15, 2005. For detailed information check the BCHF website: [www.bchistory.ca](http://www.bchistory.ca)

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### Breaking News Receives 2005 Vancouver Heritage Award

A City of Vancouver Heritage Award went to Fred Thirkell and Bob Scullion for their book *Breaking News, The Postcard Images of George Alfred Barrowclough*. Barrowclough was said to have 'the eye of an artist and the nose of a newsman'. His images, taken in and around Vancouver between 1908 and 1919, are people-centered and action-oriented. Congratulations Fred Thirkell and Bob Scullion.

### Don't Forget the Heritage House Tours

Hosted by the Vancouver Heritage Foundation

Sunday, June 5, 2005 10 am - 5 pm

Tickets \$35.00

For more information call 604-264-9642



or check out their website at [www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org](http://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org)

## Coming Up

### Reminder: VHS AGM

Thursday, May 26, 2005,

Vancouver Museum

7:30 AGM

8:00 Program

### Naomi's Road: A New Opera by Vancouver Opera

Excerpts performed by  
Vancouver Opera Singers

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### At the Vancouver Museum

Sunday, May 8, 2005, 1:30 pm

### My Mother's Mother's Mother: A Mother's Day Show and Tell

In the style of the "Antique Road Show," you are invited to bring an item, memento, maybe even a photo that relates to your mother, grandmother, or great grandmother. Even better, bring Mom or grandma to tell the story themselves.

You will have the opportunity to show your item and briefly share the story behind it... or just come & listen. To book your time, register at the door on May 8. Limited space so sign up early. For more information check out the museum website at: [www.vanmuseum.bc.ca](http://www.vanmuseum.bc.ca) or call (604)736-4431.



# Blackstage Vancouver: Entertainment Legends in Our City

## March Speaker: Red Robinson & Greg Potter

Reviewed by: Chuck Davis

A fresh new light has been thrown on the history of entertainment in Vancouver with the publication by Harbour Publishing of *Backstage Vancouver: A Century of Entertainment Legends*. Red Robinson, a legend himself, and writer Greg Potter collaborated to bring us this funny, entertaining, and sometimes surprising look at the entertainment notables who passed through the city. (Or, in the case of Errol Flynn, who passed on in the city.)

On March 24, Red and Greg entertained another capacity VHS crowd at the Vancouver Museum with readings from the book and personal reminiscences.

The Flynn story, now nearly half-a-century old, still had the power to hold the audience's attention. (Many of us, after all, grew up watching Flynn's films.) Greg Potter read an excerpt that detailed how the 50-year-old actor, accompanied by his teenage companion, Beverly Aadland, arrived in Vancouver to discuss the sale of his yacht, *Zaca*, to local businessman George Caldough. "By the time he turned up in Vancouver . . . Flynn's excessive lifestyle had rendered him alcoholic, virtually penniless, and with the body of an 80-year-old man."

The date of his arrival was October 9, 1959. "On October 14," Greg continued, "Caldough and his wife were taking the pair to the airport for a return flight to Los Angeles when Flynn, who'd been feeling ill for several days, asked for a doctor." They ended up at the West End apartment of Dr. Grant Gould . . . where, a few minutes later, a kind of party ensued! Liquor was served and Flynn amused his little audience with impressions of Bette Davis, John Barrymore, and W.C. Fields.

Then Flynn lay down in Dr. Grant's bedroom, but not before promising to take everyone out later for dinner. It was a promise he didn't keep. He died there on the bedroom floor.

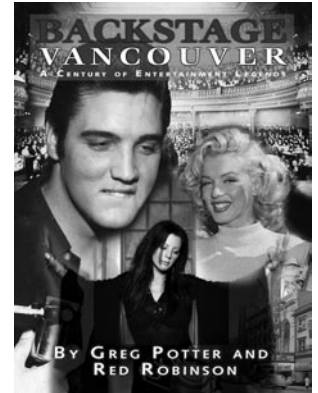
Another entertainment icon, Gary Cooper, was the subject of a funny story in which the visiting Cooper and Orpheum Theatre manager Ivan Ackery came stumbling out onto Seymour Street very early one morning after a theatre staff party. He and Cooper hitched a ride to the Hotel Vancouver on a street-cleaning machine!

Red talked about his emceeing the shows of several giant names in rock music: Bill Haley, the Beatles, Elvis Presley. It seems not quite believable that next year will mark 50 years since that Bill Haley concert at the Kerrisdale Arena, Vancouver's first exposure to live rock and roll.

Other names dotted their reminiscences: Dal Richards, Hugh Pickett, Robert Goulet, Bryan Adams, Mitzi Gaynor . . .

Vancouver has had, as Red and Greg's talk showed, a vibrant and interesting showbiz past. If Red gets his wish, Vancouver will be the beneficiary of a fine idea: "It is my dream," he says, "to start a BC Entertainment Museum, whether as a stand-alone institution or part of another museum. Britain, France, and the United States preserve their entertainment heritage why are we so far behind?"

A good question.



### Vancouver Historical Society - Executive, 2004 - 2005 (elected May 27, 2004)

#### EXECUTIVE:

President	Paul Flucke
Vice President	Wes Knapp
Treasurer (Vacant)	(Paul Flucke pro tem)
Recording Secretary	Judy Maxwell
At Large (Newsletter Mailing)	Barbara Coles
At Large	Imbi Harding
At large	Elizabeth Hawkins
At Large	John (Jack) Spibey
At Large	Wayne Norton
At Large	Chuck Davis

#### OTHERS:

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Webmaster	D.J. MacKinnon
Info Line	Nancy Stubbs
Archivist	Elizabeth Walker
Newsletter Editor	Kathleen MacKinnon
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