

Vancouver Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

ISSN 0042 - 2487

Vol. 43 No. 5

February 2004

Kitsilano Stories

speaker: John Atkin



From the beach to the Show Boat, the milk wagons and hippies, Kitsilano has a rich and varied history. Some of that fascinating history will be explored in a presentation by John Atkin through stories and recollections of former residents.

Many of these stories were collected for the City of Vancouver's Portrait V2K project, and from interviews appearing in an early video documentary of the neighbourhood.

LEFT: A beautiful day at Kitsilano Beach.

John Atkin is an author, historian and heritage advocate who organizes and conducts tours for groups and individuals throughout the City of Vancouver, including those in Kitsilano and his beloved Strathcona. He has explored Vancouver like few others have and offers interesting and offbeat insights into the city's architecture, history and neighbourhoods.

John is a co-founder of Heritage Vancouver and has served as its President. He has appeared on *Canada AM* and *Gabereau* and currently hosts his *Secrets of the City*, as part of the Shaw Cable program Feature Files. He has published several books, including: *Heritage Walks Around Vancouver* (with Michael Kluckner), *Strathcona: Vancouver's First Neighbourhood*, and his latest, *Vancouver Walks: Discovering City Heritage* (also with Michael Kluckner).



Thursday, February 26, 2004, at 7:30 pm, Lower Joyce Whalley
Learning Centre, Vancouver Museum

Preznotes

VHS Research and Publication Fund. Last fall I shared with you the guidelines for grants from this new Fund, which uses the income from our Vancouver Foundation endowment formerly directed to the Vancouver Bibliography.

Now I'm pleased to report that the VHS Executive has authorized the first three grants from the new Fund:

1) Support for initial planning of 'HistoryLink', the provisional name for a comprehensive website and database of Vancouver history. Our grant was awarded to the Vancouver Museum, which will oversee this phase of the project on behalf of several participating groups.

2) Support for the publication of *Vancouver's Western Edge, the Story of Dunbar*, a project of the Dunbar Residents' Association scheduled for release early in 2005.

3) Sponsorship of the forthcoming History of Metropolitan Vancouver, now being written by Chuck Davis for publication in 2007.

The three grants total \$4,700. Two other applications are being held over for further consideration when the projects are more fully developed.

From now on, the annual deadlines for new applications will be April 1 and Oct. 1. And speaking of the Executive... A new slate of VHS officers and directors will be elected at our 2004 Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 27, and the search for nominees has begun. Positions to be filled include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five at-large members.

The slate will likely include some incumbents, but new nominees are warmly welcomed for all positions, as long as they are VHS members in good standing (i.e. dues paid up). If you're willing to be nominated or if you'd like to suggest someone else, please let me know. Among other things, those elected will have the weighty privilege of giving away some more Research and Publication money!

Paul Flucke, President

VHS - 2 paulflucke@shaw.ca 604-732-7742

DON'T MISS

The Incorporation Day Lunch



Help us celebrate Vancouver's 118th birthday, Sunday, April 4th, 2004 at the University Golf Club. Dr. W. B. Chung, our honoured guest this year, will speak about the history of the Chinese people in Vancouver. Lunch for members and friends will be \$25 each up to March 26th; \$30 until March 31st.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and can be obtained until March 31st. Tickets will be available at the February and March monthly VHS meetings (the fourth Thursday of the month). You can order them from Elizabeth Hawkins, 3626 West 1st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V6R 1H2. Please enclose a cheque with your request for tickets. For more information contact Elizabeth at 604-737-8045.

The University Golf Club is located at 5185 University Boulevard, Vancouver. The #10 bus stops in front of the Golf Club on University Boulevard. There is also ample parking at the club. We hope that you can join us.

YOU ARE INVITED

INCORPORATION DAY LUNCH

DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 4

TIME: 12:00 PM

PLACE: UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB

WANTED:

Vancouver Centennial Bibliography

The Vancouver Public Library Special Collections Division is trying to locate an additional print copy of VHS's *Vancouver Centennial Bibliography*. There is only an archival copy left. Do you have a set you are willing to donate or sell to the library? If so, please call Andrew Martin, Special Collections Division at the VPL, 604-331-3778 or e-mail Andrew at andremar@vpl.ca.

Welcome Reuben Ware

New City Archivist for Vancouver

The Vancouver City Archives, long considered one of the best municipal archives anywhere, has a new archivist, Mr. Reuben Ware. On January 8, 2004 Mr. Ware was appointed Vancouver City Archivist and Director of the Archives and Records Division.

Since 1980 he has fostered and built programs in records management and archives for provincial and municipal governments and for a variety of cultural institutions, including the Provincial Archives of British Columbia. From 1989 to 1991 as Deputy Provincial Archivist for BC, he promoted the establishment of the Community Archives Assistance Program. In 1991 he became Director of Nova Scotia Records Management and served in that capacity until 1995.

Mr. Ware moved to the Harvard University Archives in 1996 and later assisted the San Antonio Symphony and the McNay Art Museum in establishing archives and records retention schedules. He was also Records Manager for the City of Austin, Texas and later served as a volunteer archivist at the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, Ontario.

A considerable challenge facing the new archivist will be to prepare the Vancouver Archives for effective and stepped-up use of electronic records and document management systems. We wish Reuben Ware all the very best as he undertakes the important job of enhancing Vancouver's records and archives.

"Beyond Coal"

British Columbia Historical Federation
Annual Conference

Nanaimo, May 6-8, 2004

This year's BCHF Annual Conference entitled, *Beyond Coal*, will be held in Nanaimo at the Dorchester Hotel, May 6-8, 2004. The conference includes: tours, lectures, workshops, and a display of British Columbia publications. Details of the agenda can be found at the BCHF website: www.bchistory.ca. Click on Annual Conferences and scroll down to the Nanaimo Conference where you will find the complete itinerary for the three-day meeting.

Conference fees are \$125 per person, including the banquet on Saturday, May 8th. Register by March 19th and your conference fee will be \$110. Registration forms will be available at upcoming Vancouver Historical Society meetings or you can download your own from the BCHF website.

On Thursday, May 6th, the BCHF is offering 2 FREE Pre-Conference Workshops: Workshop 1 - Family History (Genealogy), and Workshop 2 - Local Archives. You can sign up for only one workshop as each will occupy the full day. These workshops will also be held at the Dorchester Hotel in Nanaimo.

Pre-registration is required by April 12. Look for registration forms on the BCHF website or at a future Vancouver Historical Society meeting. For information, phone Barbara Coles, (604) 733-2650.

Meet you at the...

Student Heritage Fair

We are inviting all members and friends to join us May 7-8, 2004 at a student Heritage Fair at the Vancouver Museum sponsored nationwide by Historica, a federal agency. We are delighted to be one of the partners producing the First Heritage Fair in Vancouver.

Students in Grades 4 to 9 in Vancouver schools are now working on curriculum-related projects that underscore a personal connection with the past, either their own history or the community's past. Upwards of 80 students will be showing their history projects.

The purpose of the Heritage Fair is to create and promote students' interest in history. The Heritage Fair is modeled on the science fairs which have been so popular with students. Some students will be invited to

show their work in the Canadian National Fair held in Montreal.

VHS members are encouraged to step forward as judges for the student projects. Students will discuss their projects with the judges, as well as attend workshops on history-related events. We would like to encourage VHS members to step forward as judges for the student projects. If you are interested contact Wes Knapp at 604-873-6602.

We are eager to have a strong VHS representation in this new partnering arrangement. Just as important, is VHS's outreach to students in Vancouver schools. Their perspective on history is important to us.



VHS-3

From Opium Dens to Safe Injection Sites: A History of Drug Use in Vancouver

JANUARY SPEAKER: *Catherine Carstairs*

Reviewed by: Ellen Ramsay

January's speaker, Professor Catherine Carstairs, author of a forthcoming book on drug use in Canada between 1920 and 1961, spoke to the VHS about the history of drug use in Vancouver. Professor Carstairs raised some vital questions about the lessons learned from this history.

Drug use in Vancouver began with the opium trade in the 19th century. During this time opium was tolerated and sometimes openly sold. It wasn't until the early 20th century that laws were passed limiting the trade. These laws reflected a climate of growing anti-Asian sentiment amongst the law makers. In 1908, just one year after a racist mob rampaged through Chinatown, Mackenzie King came to Vancouver to offer government compensation to the shopkeepers. He was apparently appalled when opium merchants submitted their claims for compensation and he advocated a ban on the trade.

The result was the first anti-opium law prohibiting the import and export of the drug. The campaign against opium continued with the local newspapers blaming Asian dealers for addicting returning World War I veterans to drugs.

Stricter laws were introduced so users switched from opium to less visible drugs such as intravenous morphine and heroin. Vancouver addicts also developed a new specialty, smoking opium. Drug use

evolved during the post World War II period and by the 1960s marijuana became popular. By the 1970s Vancouver had the inauspicious reputation as the heroin capital of Canada. In the 1980s cocaine was popularized and continues to be popular to this day.

Dr. Carstairs concluded her lecture on the history of drugs in Vancouver by commenting that the limited results brought about by law enforcement indicate that as a society we need to address the marginalization of people, including those with addictions.

Coming up at the VHS

Thursday, March 25, 2004

• *Dreaming in the Rain: How Vancouver Became Hollywood North by Northwest.* Speaker: David Spaner, film critic, Vancouver Province.

Thursday, April 22, 2004

• *Stories in Stone: A Geological Tour of Vancouver's Buildings and Monuments.* Speaker: Peter Mustard, SFU Earth Sciences & Past President of the Geological Association of Canada.

Thursday, May 27, 2004

• *Vancouver in View: Its Planning and Development History.* Speaker: Gordon Price, UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, and former Vancouver City Councillor, 1986-2002.

Vancouver Historical Society - Executive, 2003 - 2004 (elected June 6, 2003)

EXECUTIVE:

President	Paul Flucke
Vice President	Ian Hunt
Treasurer -Vacant	(Paul Flucke pro tem)
Recording Secretary	Ellen L. Ramsay
Past President & Programs	Joanne Savory
At Large (Newsletter mailing)	Barbara Coles
At Large	Imbi Harding
At Large (Membership)	Elizabeth Hawkins
At Large	Wes Knapp
At Large	John (Jack) Spibey

OTHERS:

Research Service	Helen Shore
Webmaster	D.J. MacKinnon
Info Line	Nancy Stubbs
Archivist	Elizabeth Walker
Newsletter Editor	Kathleen MacKinnon
	twoleos@gulfislands.com

CONTACTS:

Vancouver Historical Society Information Line: 604-878-9140
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3071 Vancouver, BC, V6B 3X6.
Website: www.vcn.bc.ca/vhs.
Vancouver Bibliography Internet Address: <http://www.library.ubc.ca/vancouverbibliography>