

# Vancouver Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

ISSN 0042 - 2487

February 2014

Vol. 53 No. 5

### The Rise and Fall of the Pacific Hockey Association 1911-1926

Speaker: Craig Bowsby

Ice hockey was not a natural fit for mild Vancouver as it was for Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal or Quebec City. The reason? Rare is the winter that is cold enough to create ice suitable for individual skaters let alone strong enough to allow a team playing outdoor hockey. Enter the hockey loving Patrick brothers. Brilliant young Montreal hockey stars Lester and Frank had followed their father Joe to Nelson, BC to join him in his logging business.

In 1911 when Joe sold the business for a princely sum, the Patricks decided to risk the money on a new professional league on the quickly growing coast. Creating teams in Vancouver (Vancouver Millionaires), Victoria (Victoria Senators) and New Westminster (New Westminster Royals), the Patricks built giant structures such as the Vancouver arena at Denman and Georgia. At a cost of \$250,000 with artificial ice, the giant structure seated 10,500 spectators. A similar but smaller one was built in Victoria. Raiding

the National Hockey Association (NHA) for players, such as Newsy Lalonde (who scored the first ever goal for the newly formed Montreal Canadiens in 1910), the Pacific Coast Hockey Association (PCHA) came into full form at the end of 1911. The PCHA and the NHA began to act together in 1913-1914 and in 1914

Millionaires won the Stanley Cup in 1915, Vancouver hockey's crowning achievement which has not been equaled since. The crowded arena roared with approval at seeing their team win.

By creating American teams, the Patrick brothers and PCHA brought in the

first American teams to fight for the Stanley Cup. Their new rules modernized professional hockey and forced a faster game before the Association's plummet in the mid 1920s. Consequently, the story of the PCHA has become an important part of the hockey story today for Canada as well as this city. All Vancouver hockey fans as well as non-hockey fans will find this a fascinating talk.



**The 1911-1912 Vancouver Millionaires with "Newsy" Lalonde second from the left and Frank Patrick third from the right.**

Photo: Stuart Thomson, photographer, Vancouver Public Library Accession No.16292

the PCHA expanded to Portland, Oregon (Portland Rosebuds), in 1915 to Seattle (Seattle Metropolitans) and 1916 to Spokane (Spokane Canaries). Each one created artificial ice arenas to accommodate the game. With players such as Cyclone Taylor, the Vancouver

Craig H. Bowsby, an avid hockey fan, is author of *Empire of Ice: The Rise and Fall of the Pacific Coast Hockey Association, 1911-1926*, Vancouver: Knights of Winter Publishing, 2012.

Bruce M. Watson

Next Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, February 27, 2014 at Museum of Vancouver

## President's Notes

### “Sixty years a member!”

Emphatic outbursts come naturally when I talk to Elizabeth Walker about her participation in the Vancouver Historical Society (VHS), which she joined in 1953. Past president Neil Sutherland is not certain if Elizabeth is the longest serving member of the VHS, but he figures she must be. Elizabeth was already making her influence felt within the Vancouver Branch of the British Columbia Historical Society when Neil joined in 1956, a time when the Society — which met at the Grosvenor Hotel — was small and struggling to survive.

Elizabeth's interest in Vancouver began as a librarian at the Vancouver Public Library (VPL) where she later headed its local history collection. She joined the VHS to learn more about the city and has been an engaged member ever since, serving as president from 1962-63. For years she compiled a list of recent publications about Vancouver for the *Newsletter*. It was her idea in the 1980s to expand this list into what became the *Vancouver Centennial Bibliography*. Neil Sutherland remembers that Elizabeth was always a thoughtful contributor of programme ideas, among which were suggestions for VHS field trips. She in turn recalls fondly the summer bus trips that she and her sister Mildred took with the Society to locations around Vancouver such as Fort Langley and Britannia Mine.

In 1999 Elizabeth won the VHS's Award of Merit for her contribution to the Society and for her book *Street Names of Vancouver*, a remarkable compilation of information on 773 current and 400 disused street names that tells us much about the city's history. Who better than Elizabeth Walker, then, to serve today as the Society's representative on Vancouver's Civic Assets Naming Committee, which vets and approves the names given to city-owned assets such as streets and cycling lanes. Yes, sixty years and still an active, contributing Historical Society member and volunteer. Congratulations and thank you, Elizabeth!

Bob McDonald, President  
[bobmcdonald@vancouver-historical-society.ca](mailto:bobmcdonald@vancouver-historical-society.ca)

## Looking to Add to Our Resource List

On occasion, the Vancouver Historical Society is asked to recommend speakers, writers, researchers or historical tour guides for coming events or projects. The person's work might be part of a project, the central feature of an event, or a component of a larger program.

While the Society cannot recommend one person over another, we would like to have a list of people along with their experience and qualifications as a resource available to anyone asking.

The organizers of the event or project would themselves then be responsible for looking over the list, screening potential speakers, writers, researchers or guides, contacting them and making arrangements for remunerations, honorariums or other conditions.

While there are many talented and qualified speakers, writers, researchers and guides specializing in the history of Greater Vancouver and area, this list would only include Vancouver Historical Society members.

If you are interested, we ask you to submit the following information to: [info@vancouver-historical-society.ca](mailto:info@vancouver-historical-society.ca) with the subject line “Resource List.”

- your name and contact information (phone number, email address, mailing address)
- specialty (speaker, writer, researcher, guide, or all that apply)
- area(s) of expertise (architecture, social history, popular history, crime, etc.)
- a short bio (100 words or less) listing your qualifications which could include past experience in the field, educational background if helpful, courses taught if relevant, books or articles published, blogs, events or groups where you were a featured speaker or guide and so on.

We would please ask only those who have had previous experience to respond. Again the Society cannot recommend anyone over another. The list is just a resource for potential engagers of qualified speakers, writers, researchers and guides specializing in local history. It will be up to the engagers to vet the list, choose someone for the engagement and make every other arrangement as well.

---

## Welcome New VHS Members

Kijo Domai  
Stan Hack

Melanie Harbottle  
Sam Yahav

Rob Brownie & Michelle Parzenty

## Peek into the Past

*Continued from Back Page*

The bridge is a medium height bridge with a movable section over False Creek to allow marine traffic to pass. Look carefully and you can spot that section. Note the streetcar tracks, one set veering off to Fourth Avenue.

When today's Granville Street Bridge opened in February 1954, it was a much higher bridge at 27.4 meters (89.8 feet) above the water. The view however was remarkably the same except for the old Hotel Vancouver, which had been demolished in 1949. During the past 20 years, the view has really changed. Every one of those early landmark buildings which still exist have been completely hidden by high-rise condominiums, hotels and various commercial buildings.

---

## Vancouver Celebrates in Kodachrome

Author and VHS board member Michael Kluckner will narrate a selection of amateur films from the City of Vancouver Archives of parades and celebrations, beginning with the civic parade on Hastings Street for the 1936 Golden Jubilee and including memorable footage of the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1939 — 75 years ago this May. It concludes with Queen Elizabeth II's very brief visit to her mother's namesake park in 1959. The films are a feast of pretty girls, handsome soldiers in uniform, vintage cars and views of the city as it once was.

It's all part of this year's Incorporation Day Luncheon as the VHS commemorates the April 6, 1886 incorporation of the City of Vancouver 128 years ago. This year's Luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 6th, at 12:30 pm at the University Golf Club, 5185 University Boulevard.

Besides the film presentation, there will be door prizes, the Award of Merit presentation, and as always, a terrific menu. The Luncheon is also a fun opportunity for members and friends to meet others in the community who are interested in the history of Vancouver.

We would like to have a good advance estimate of attendance so please buy your tickets early. Tickets for the Luncheon will be \$35 each and you will be able to buy them at the February and March monthly meetings, or by mail. For mail orders, please send a cheque to: Vancouver Historical Society, PO Box 3071, Vancouver BC, V6B 3X6, Attn: Luncheon.

Reserve today by buying a ticket. We hope to see you there!

---

## Upcoming Speakers

*The VHS invites everyone (including non-members) to attend our monthly talks. The talks are free and are held at the Museum of Vancouver, 1100 Chestnut Street (close to Vanier Park) at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month except June, July, August, December).*

Thursday, March 27, 2014

### **Images of Vancouver Through Time**

*Speaker: Jason Vanderhill*

Vancouver became a city when the age of photography was already well established. The city's very earliest and historic moments have been captured on film. Join Jason Vanderhill, an internet promoter of Vancouver, to watch a presentation featuring a variety of images which reflect the complexity of the city through the years.

Thursday, April 24, 2014

### **The History of Art and Artists in Vancouver**

*Speaker: Gary Sim*

Since the city's beginnings in 1886, Vancouver has had resident visual artists who have interpreted and presented the city to the rest of the world. While the contemporary artists may be familiar, few are aware of Vancouver surveyor Lauchlin Hamilton's early watercolours, or museum curator William Ferris's painting of Coal Harbour replete with Hawaiian Rancherie. Artist, printmaker, researcher, publisher Gary Sim brings to light the names and works of the artists who called Vancouver their home or who captured it in passing.

Thursday, May 22, 2014

### **The Story of the Vancouver Maritime Museum**

*Speaker: Simon Robinson*

From Captain George Vancouver's Arnold 176 chronometer to the boiler of the first steam ship to operate in the waters of B.C.; from the figurehead of the *Empress of Japan* to the NASA undersea research vessel *Ben Franklin*, they're all part of the maritime museum's collection. The story of the museum is one of acquisitions, adventures, educating the public and ups and downs over its 55 year history. Discover the whole story behind this city treasure.

# Peek into the Past

by Jim McGraw



Photo: Stuart Thomson photographer, City of Vancouver Archives CVA 99-4631

In February 1954 — 60 years ago this month — the new and current Granville Street Bridge opened and the old one closed. The old one had opened in 1909 and was the second bridge to take Granville over False Creek. Built just east of the current bridge, this second Granville Bridge replaced the original, which had opened in January 1889. That first bridge was on the same alignment as today's bridge although Granville at the time was known as Centre Street from False Creek to the city limits at 16th Avenue.

second Granville Bridge, the changes in the city are remarkable. The tallest visible building is the yet to open new Hotel Vancouver. The Marine Building is hidden behind it. The old Hotel Vancouver at Granville and Georgia is easily seen as is the Granville Block office tower. The large bulk of St. Paul's Hospital on Burrard is also seen to the left of the new Hotel Vancouver. The low-level Kitsilano rail trestle (once used by the "12 Kitsilano" streetcar) still crosses False Creek east of the Burrard Street Bridge. Granville Island is still a jumble of various industries.

Looking at this June 21, 1934 northward view of the

*Continued on Page 3 top left*

## Vancouver Historical Society Executive Board: 2013 - 2014 (Elected May 23, 2013)

### EXECUTIVE

President	Robert McDonald
Vice President (Programs)	Bruce M. Watson
Treasurer	Scott Anderson
Recording Secretary	Kellan Higgins
Director (Membership)	Elizabeth Hawkins
Director	Michael Kluckner
Director	Eve Lazarus
Director (Newsletter Editor)	Jim McGraw
Director	Florence Sung

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster	Quasar Data Management
Archivist	Alexandra Allen
Info Line	Bruce Watson
Newsletter Mailing	Margaret Dinwoodie

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Vancouver Historical Society Information Line: 604-878-9140  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3071 Vancouver, BC V6B 3X6  
Website: [www.vancouver-historical-society.ca](http://www.vancouver-historical-society.ca)  
Newsletter Editor: [jmcgraw@vancouver-historical-society.ca](mailto:jmcgraw@vancouver-historical-society.ca)