

Vancouver Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

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June 2005

VHS Summer Field Trips: *Bowen Island and Chinatown*

Wednesday June 22 - Bowen Island Museum and Archives

Meet at the Archives on Bowen Island at 11 am

Logistics:

Get the 10:05 am ferry from Horseshoe Bay arriving at Snug Cove on Bowen Island by 10:30. The Museum and Archives are near the top of the main road from the ferry slip. If you have trouble walking, it would be advisable to go by car as the hill up is a bit steep, but most people will not find it a problem. When you get to the cross road leading to Miller's Landing, turn right, the Archives and Museum are close to the turnoff.

Going to the ferry by car?

VHS member, Peggy Keene lives in Horseshoe Bay near the Ferry terminal, and has kindly offered a couple of parking spaces at her home for members who wish to park and walk onto the ferry. Her phone number is 604-922-2991.

It costs \$18 return for cars on the ferry so if you can car

pool with 4 people it is about the same price as a return bus fare. Park at the museum or on the road.

The ferry returns to Vancouver from Bowen at 3:05, 5:05, and 6:05 pm; the express bus leaves for Vancouver every half hour from the ferry terminal.

Going to the ferry by bus?

The Horseshoe Bay Express bus, No. 257 leaves the Hudson's Bay (Georgia and Granville) at 9:19 am and drops you off right at the ferry terminal in time for the 10:05. Phone 604-953-3333 for other downtown stops.

The Archivist will give us a talk about the history of Bowen Island and we will tour the old Union steam ship cabins. There are numerous short walks through the woods in Crippen Park and plenty of picnic sites. Bring along a picnic lunch or enjoy lunch at one of the eateries in the Cove.

For more information call Barbara Coles: 604-733-2650.

Thursday, July 14 - Chinatown Tour

Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Meet at the Chinese Military Museum, Chinese Cultural Centre, 555 Columbia Street

The Vancouver Historical Society is pleased to announce a unique opportunity to participate in a tour of Chinatown with the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC (CCHSBC) <http://www.cchsbc.ca/>.

Please join researcher Judy Maxwell, CCHS Vice-President Hayne Wai, and Edgar Wickberg, CCHS Past-President, as they share their knowledge and experiences of this very

important part of Vancouver's history. We will meet at the Chinese Military Museum for a briefing, followed by a tour of historic Chinatown. The program should conclude by 12 noon; participants can remain in Chinatown for lunch if they wish. Chinatown has had a unique historic relationship to Vancouver, dating back to the City's incorporation in 1886. Our resource leaders will share their community perspectives and local histories, and also discuss Chinatown's evolving relationship today to Greater Vancouver's 300,000 plus Chinese Canadian community. A bibliography of books, websites and videos will be provided.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 22, 2005, 7:30 pm in the Vancouver Museum

Preznotes

It's a Wrap!

The VHS 2004-5 season is all wrapped up, and it's been a good one, with outstanding programs and an influx of enthusiastic new members. Let's do it again next year!

The Annual General Meeting on May 26 elected a full slate of officers and at-large members for the year ahead. On June 2, the new Executive held its first meeting, with all ten members present, and confirmed several key appointments. Charles Hou is our new program chair replacing Wes Knapp, and new vice president Wayne Norton, also replacing Wes Knapp, has taken over our Historical Researcher Referral Service from Helen Shore. Donna Jean MacKinnon, Nancy Stubbs, and Elizabeth Walker continue as Webmaster, Info Line contact, and Archivist, respectively. See page 4 for the updated VHS Leadership roster.

In the vital post of Newsletter Editor, Kathleen MacKinnon completes her service with this issue. Thanks, Kathleen, for your skill and dedication this past year! In September, former vice present Ian Hunt will take on the editing for three months, and in January, new Executive member Jim McGraw will take over for the balance of the year.

Many thanks also to Wayne Norton who coordinated our involvement in the 2005 Historica Fair which was a great success again this year. Read the article on the fair in this issue.

Our Speaker Series will resume in September with a schedule of strong presenters on intriguing topics. Meanwhile, over the summer, Wayne and Kathleen continue the quest for a new VHS logo. Also ongoing, with leadership from Wes and new Exec member Mary-Lou Storey, is the creation of a visual history DVD built around the 1907 Harbeck film shown at our November meeting.

Stay tuned—and stay in touch by joining in the summer field trips described in this issue. See you soon!

Paul Flucke, President
Phone (604) 732-7742;
e-mail: paulflucke@shaw.ca.

Thanks

THANKS!! to the five VHS members who gave us special donations totalling \$320 during April and May. The \$275 received in May was a one-month record! Special gifts are very welcome--and you're rewarded with a donation receipt..

Welcome New Members

April - May 2005

Patricia Hanna	Vancouver
Jim McGraw	New Westminster
Dolores A. Signori	Vancouver
George R. Elliott	Vancouver
Dolores de Paiva	Richmond
Tom Pappajohn	Vancouver
Mrs. Toshiko Quan	Vancouver
Captain Billy Sampson	Vancouver

Celebrate Kitsilano's 100th Birthday

Here are two events hosted by Heritage Vancouver to help celebrate Kitsilano's 100th Birthday.

1. Thursday June 23rd, Vancouver Museum, 7 - 9 pm

An illustrated talk by author, historian, and heritage advocate John Atkin. John has explored Vancouver like few others have and offers an interesting and offbeat insight to the city's architecture, history, and neighbourhoods. He has created and conducts a number of unique and popular walking tours throughout the City of Vancouver. Members Free, Non-Members \$5.00.

2. Saturday, June 25th: 10 am A Walking tour of Kitsilano with John Atkin.

Meet at the corner of Yew and Cornwall for a walk through the neighbourhood. Members \$5.00, Non-Members \$10.00.



Historica 2005 Fair A Success

Building on the success and experience of last year, the Historica Fair held on May 6th and 7th at the Vancouver Museum and the Vancouver Maritime Museum was a busy and exciting day for students, adjudicators, parents, and teachers. Many of the schools and sponsoring teachers were participating for the first time. We had early indications that this year's fair would be a success; nearly 900 students turned out to participate at the school fairs held in two dozen schools during March and April, more than triple the number of participants in 2004!

The school fairs determined that 103 students in Grades 4 to 7 would present their projects for adjudication on May 6th and 7th at the Vancouver Regional Historica Fair. Many of the students were dressed in costumes appropriate to their topics which included: immigration, Emily Carr, Oscar Peterson, Rick Hansen, Canadian horses and dogs, Vancouver's leaky condos, and the debate over the adoption of the Canadian flag. And that list just scratches the surface!

Though there were many similarities to last year's fair, there were differences too. Six students presented projects in French (we had eight adjudicators proficient in French); First Nations students and adjudicators took part for the first time; and students in gifted and special programs presented projects this year.

Selected to represent Vancouver at the National Fair in Saskatoon this summer were Chantelle Verde, a grade 6 student at McBride School, whose project was about Gitksan Spiritual Beliefs, and Adrian Kan a grade 7 student at Tecumseh School for his presentation of the Great Canadian Flag Debate.

We are proud to be one of the sponsors of this event and very pleased to see that six of our members volunteered to serve on the adjudication team. We realize that dedicating a full day is a very significant contribution of time and effort and we extend our thanks to John Atkin, Peggy Beck, Jolene Cumming, Chuck Davis, Donna Hassock, and Gwyneth Jones. Thanks also to Neil Sutherland and John Atkin for their contribution of book prizes.

Congratulations to all participating students for their commitment to excellence and for their active interest in Canadian history. They are a model for us all.

B.C. Historical Federation Annual Conference

Kelowna, May 12-15, 2005

Sixty-seven participants from historical societies throughout BC, including 14 from VHS, helped celebrate Kelowna's centennial by attending the BCHF Annual Conference organized by the Kelowna Branch of the *Okanagan Historical Society*. The Kelowna Historical Society members spoil us shamefully with endless offerings of cold and hot drinks, fruit, cookies, muffins, and other delightful calorific goodies to keep us going during our 3-day visit to this beautiful city on the lake.

Today 'Kelowna' (early aboriginal for grizzly bear) is a city of over 150,000 people. The first European settlement took place in 1859 when Oblate missionaries, under Father Pandosy established a mission, now a Heritage Site called Father Pandosy Mission. After a bus tour of the city and surrounding countryside, we were treated to a sumptuous picnic lunch at the Mission and later a visit to a local wine shop to sample the wares.

Pre-conference workshops were conducted in the Kelowna Public Library; all other meetings, including the opening reception and final banquet, were held in the converted historical apple-packing house, Laurel Packinghouse, a designated heritage landmark. Laura Packinghouse also encompasses the BC Wine Museum (the only known museum in North America which sells wine!), and the BC Orchard Industry Museum which displayed over 150 different types of labels and old wooden apple boxes.

Lectures gave us an understanding of how, through massive irrigation projects allowing thousands of acres of grazing land to be converted to orchards, the Okanagan Valley was created as a fruit growing area between 1904 and 1914. The Kelowna Historical Society has a wonderful display of historic photographs that we enjoyed, especially the stories that accompanied their showing.

At the AGM of the BC Historical Federation Conference held on Saturday morning we learned that the BCHF now has over 9000 members in 107 historical societies throughout BC. We were impressed to hear of all the activities and ambitious programs going on in so many of the smaller communities .

We ended our 3 days of sightseeing and lectures with a wonderful banquet in the Laurel Building where the yearly book awards were presented. The winners will be published in the next issue of BC History.

The 2006 BCHF Conference will be held in Kimberly, May 4-6. Victoria will be our host in 2007.

Naomi's Road: Excerpts performed by Vancouver Opera singers May Presentation

Reviewed by: Wes Knap

This year's Annual General Meeting on May 26, 2005 experimented with a new approach to a meeting--an opera presentation. Actually it was a sneak preview of *Naomi's Road*, a new opera commissioned by Vancouver Opera which has its premiere on September 30, 2005 and then travels to BC schools and communities.

The opera, based on Joy Kogawa's novel *Naomi's Road*, tells the touching story of nine-year-old Naomi's journey, with her Japanese Canadian family, from Vancouver to an internment camp in the BC interior. Ms Kogawa was in the audience for the presentation, having arrived in Vancouver earlier in the week to see her novel *Obasan* named this year's *One Book, One Vancouver*.

Ms Kogawa spoke briefly at the end of the evening, expressing her deep appreciation for the attention given the events surrounding the internment of Japanese Canadians during WW II. She confessed that she never expected her works to generate such understanding and compassion.

The presentation provided insight into the evocative lyrics and intense emotions that the opera conveys. Students have much to look forward to when it arrives in their schools this fall.

To assist schools with the historical details of the opera, new resource materials on the internment and redress have been prepared and distributed by the Ministry of Education to all schools in BC. An overview of these materials was presented to the VHS audience by Masako Fukawa, the project leader for the resource guides. Included in the materials is Prime Minister Mulroney's redress settlement document of 1988 in which he acknowledges, on behalf of

the Canadian government, that "the treatment of Japanese Canadians during and after WW II was unjust and violated principles of human rights."

The Vancouver Historical Society commends Vancouver Opera for commissioning this work and taking it into BC schools. The history that it presents is of critical importance to all British Columbians and especially today's young audiences. Undoubtedly the opera will be contentious which is fine as history so often comes alive when it is hotly debated.

VHS Fall Speakers

As this newsletter is our last one until September, we thought you would like to know who our speakers are for the fall season:

• September 22, 2005

Speaker: Alan Twigg

Topic: First Invaders: The Literary Origins of British Columbia

• October 27, 2005

Speaker: Cameron Cathcart

Topic: History of Remembrance Day and Victory Square in Vancouver

• November 24, 2005

Speaker: Derek Hayes

Topic: A New Visual Perspective on Vancouver's History

Details of the presentations and speakers' backgrounds will be rovided in our fall newsletters.

Vancouver Historical Society - Leadership, 2005 - 2006 (elected May 26, 2005)

EXECUTIVE:

President

Vice President

Treasurer (Vacant)

Secretary (Membership)

At Large (Newsletter Mail-
ing)

At Large

At large

At Large

At Large

At Large

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Wayne Norton

Paul Flucke (pro tem)

Elizabeth Hawkins

Barbara Coles

Chuck Davis

Imbi Harding

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Newsletter Editor

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Donna Jean MacKinnon

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Elizabeth Walker

Kathleen MacKinnon

email: twoleos@gulfislands.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

Vancouver Historical Society Information Line: 604-878-9140

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3071 Vancouver, BC, V6B 3X6

Website: www.vcn.bc.ca/vhs