

Vancouver Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

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June 2006

Keep in Touch with the Summer Program

As part of the Vancouver Historical Society's summer program, we are presenting two field trips, one in July and the other in August. This is our last newsletter before the summer so please keep it as a handy reminder of these programs.

City History Mountain View Cemetery

Saturday, July 22 - 10:00 am



Fraser at 33rd about 1911 showing one of the Mountain View Cemetery gatehouses. Photo CVA A-15-66 City of Vancouver Archives.

Vancouver's premier historical walk man, John Atkin, will conduct a walking tour of Mountain View Cemetery for VHS members on Saturday morning, July 22. The tour will start at 10:00 am at the corner of Fraser and 41st Avenue.

Mountain View Cemetery, the only cemetery in Vancouver, began operation in 1887 with the acquisition of a parcel of land now known as the Old Cemetery bounded on the east by Fraser St., on the south by 37th Ave., on the north by 33rd Ave., and on the west by a row of tall trees, which now stand well within the present boundaries of the site.

The VHS cemetery tour will look at the history of Mountain

View, its development over the years with its various sections and we'll look at what the current plans for revitalization are, and we'll be talking about some of the more well known people buried there.

We'll be walking a good portion of the site so bring walking shoes. A donation of \$5/person is requested.

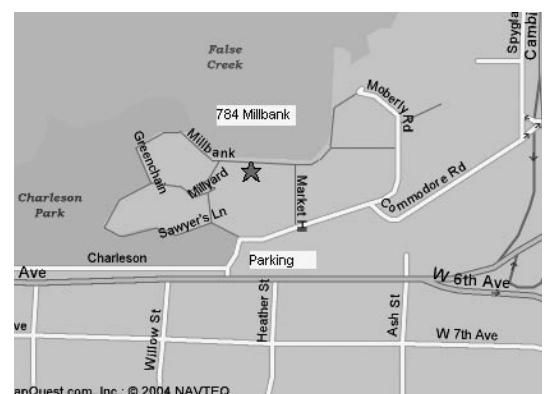
Leg-in-Boot and Area Walking Tour

(South Shore of False Creek)

Saturday August 19 - 2:30 pm

Flowing parallel to Burrard Inlet, and in close proximity, False Creek has always played a prominent role in Vancouver's history. From the First Nations peoples who wintered on its shores hunting and fishing, to 20th century industrialists, to the social planners and innovators of the 1970's to Olympic planners for the year 2010, the south shore of False Creek continues to play a role in Vancouver's evolution.

Join Donna Jean MacKinnon in a walking tour of the south side of False Creek in the vicinity of Leg-in-Boot Square (creek shore near foot of Heather Street, west of Cambie St. Bridge) on Saturday August 19, 2:30 pm. A donation of \$5/person is requested. Parking is available on Moberly Road (see attached map).



Speaker Series resumes Thursday, September 28, at 7:30 pm in the Vancouver Museum

PREZNOTES

What a nice evening!

Nearly fifty of us gathered at the Museum on May 25 to enjoy our “VHS Show-and-Tell” and a brief Annual General Meeting. The program featured three presentations (see page 4 of this newsletter) on VHS work in progress, followed by lively discussion. Nine members signed up to help with research on William Harbeck’s 1907 film for our City Reflections DVD project, others offered to help in a new Stanley Park Plaques project, and thirty of us agreed to send postcards to the premier in support of a new Simon Fraser provincial park.

The AGM included brief annual reports and the election of officers and Executive members for the year ahead. Incidentally, at its first meeting the new Executive decided that Executive members not holding specific offices (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer) should henceforth be referred to as “directors,,” as in most other societies. Heretofore, the VHS has denoted them “at large,” a murky term more often applied to criminals and cougars. Director seems, well, more direct. You’ll see that change reflected in the list at the bottom of page four.

The AGM concluded with thank-you’s to departing Exec members Imbi Harding, Mary-Lou Storey and Jack Spibey, to Charles Hou for his service as program chair during the past year, and to Ian Hunt for editing our newsletter during the fall of 2005. And now, at last, we thank Barbara Coles for the delicious refreshments that concluded the meeting. It was, indeed, an enjoyable evening – and we’ll probably try it again next May.

Paul Flucke, President
604-732-7742; paulflucke@shaw.ca

Welcome New Members

April

Fay Fergusson, Vancouver
Forston Tylor, North Vancouver

May

Barry Magrill, Richmond

June

Scott and Amber Anderson, Vancouver
Sarah H. Tobe, Vancouver

Recent Donations

THANK YOU!

to the seventeen VHS members who made special contributions during March, April and May, including \$845 for general VHS operations and \$500 for our City Reflections (Harbeck) DVD project. Their gifts helped us set a VHS record in the year ended April 30 and give us a great start on the year ahead.

Celebrating the Simon Fraser Bicentennial - with a New Park

Anderson’s Brigade Trail in the Fraser Canyon was used by the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1848–49. A park surrounding the trail would be an ideal way of honouring Simon Fraser and the native people who helped him reach the Pacific Ocean in 1808, thus completing the water route from Quebec City to Musqueam.

The most difficult and most dramatic part of the route was the section through the Fraser Canyon. A park at this site would be an ideal location for educating students, the general public and visitors to the Winter Olympics in 2010 about the history of British Columbia. Here are a few points that might be highlighted:

- the Nlaka’pamux use of a major salmon spawning river and surrounding area
- Simon Fraser’s trip down the Fraser River
- the Hudson’s Bay Company fur brigade trail, which traversed the canyon
- the Fraser River Gold Rush and a narrowly averted war between native people and miners
- the building of trails and roads in the canyon
- the building of two transcontinental railways and a highway through the canyon
- the harvesting and management of forest resources in the area
- the construction of the Hell’s Gate fishway, which enabled salmon to pass a man-made obstruction in the river
- the construction of two major hydroelectric transmission lines in the canyon

As part of our campaign we are asking interested people to mail a post card to either Premier Campbell or Barry Penner. Your help in doing so would be greatly appreciated. If you would like a postcard, please phone Charles Hou at (604) 266-2214.



Two New Exhibits Open at Vancouver Museum



On Thursday June 8, the Vancouver Museum officially opened two new exhibits covering the period from 1900 to the 1940s.

Entitled Gateway to the Pacific and Boom, Bust and War, the imaginative display starts with Vancouver's brash, young affluent golden years when a real estate boom was in full swing.

Newspaper headlines and stories screamed out the news: "Real estate men reap a harvest."

"Eight years ago a woman bought a house and lot in Vancouver for \$1,780. A few weeks ago she sold it to a Vancouver investor for \$17,700 cash."

A Hearst Newspapers Financial Editor wrote: "Vancouver is considered to be the London of the next century."

It all collapsed by 1913. Land values wouldn't recover their pre-bust value until the 1950s.

The Great War comes and goes but returning soldiers see a different city. There are few jobs and most public events are banned in an attempt to limit the spread of the Spanish influenza, which had killed 800 Vancouverites and 20 million worldwide.

By 1931, Vancouver's unemployment rate at 28% is the highest in Canada. There are protests and occupations of government buildings.

World War II finally drags Vancouver out of the Depression and people from smaller towns and rural areas flock to Vancouver to work in the wartime industries.

As war in the Pacific breaks out, Canadians of Japanese descent are registered by government officials. They are sent to internment camps and their properties are confiscated.

These are the stories told in the two exhibits.

Photos, appliances, clothing and many other items tell the story of everyday life during those years. A ladies' hair salon of the 1930s with its frightening "permanent wave" machine received many amused comments at the opening. Other highlights include a part of the original Wing Sang Building in Chinatown and a 1906 Oldsmobile.

Plan to spend a few hours enjoying these two new permanent exhibits, which now complement the Museum's 1950s and 1960s displays.



VHS Fall Speaker Lineup

Our fall program of talks is shaping up into another series of interesting topics. VHS Vice-President Bruce Watson is this year's program coordinator.

The first talk will be about early photographs of Vancouver. Although Philip Timms and Leonard Frank immediately come to mind as early photographers of Vancouver life, there was a third photographer who captured the young city in the decade between 1922 and 1932—Cyril R. Littlebury.

Littlebury, who lived from 1898 to 1936, took several thousand photos of which, 1,500 survive today.

Negatives of these were handed down to Dudley Booth in 1946, then a 14-year-old photographer.

Over the years, Dudley has been printing, digitizing and researching these photos. Dudley will be our first speaker on Thursday, **September 28**.

In **October**, we move ahead to the 1960s. Has it really been 40 years since those tumultuous times?

Hugh Johnston, an SFU history professor and former VHS president, will speak on the activism that marked the early years of Simon Fraser University. Hugh was there and speaks from the perspective of having taught at SFU for 37 years. His talk will focus on his latest book, *Radical Campus*.

In **November**, we will hear about the restoration of the Pantages Theatre on Hastings just off Main. It is the oldest surviving theatre in Vancouver and the oldest Pantages Theatre in North America!

Author John Atkin and Peter Fairchild, president of the Pantages Theatre Arts Society will bring us up to date on the restoration's progress.

Watch for more news on our speakers program in the September newsletter.

May Speakers: Wayne Norton, Jim McGraw, John Atkin, Chuck Davis

We had several speakers at our May Annual General Meeting. Each spoke about projects on which they were working.

Women's Hockey in 1920s Vancouver

Wayne Norton gave us a glimpse of the story of the Amazons, a women's ice hockey team that played in Vancouver for most of the 1920s.

Women before the First World War played the game in full-length skirts, but the Amazons of the 1920s dressed for their games in outfits very similar to those worn by the Vancouver Millionaires. The Amazons were part of a widespread network of teams that came together at Banff each year to play for a championship title.

Wayne wants to let people know that women's hockey is not just a recent development and would certainly like to hear from anyone who has any knowledge or photographs of the Amazons or any other women's team of the 1920s.



City Reflections Project Continues

The Vancouver Historical Society's *City Reflections* project continues in earnest. Jim McGraw, John Atkin and Mary-Lou Storey gave a short account of the logistics involved in re-creating William Harbeck's 1907 film of Vancouver streets.

Filming of the Granville portion of the film had to be done at the end of April before the street was closed due to construction of the new underground Canada Line rapid transit route. Permits, insurance, and police assistance all had to be secured on short notice for the filming to take place. The City of Vancouver and the Police Department were both extremely helpful and accommodating.

Fundraising continues for costs like film editing, equipment rental and other needs as the shooting schedule evolves for next year's filming and the project's completion—the 100th anniversary of the Harbeck film. Watch for more news in this newsletter.

The History of Metropolitan Vancouver

Chuck Davis brought us up to date on the progress of his forthcoming book, *The History of Metropolitan Vancouver*. The book will be available in the fall of 2007 and, Chuck told, us it will be very big. The Internet preview of the book is at www.vancouverhistory.ca, and if it was all printed out would be more than 1,000 pages.

LEFT: The Vancouver Amazons in the 1920s. Photo courtesy of B.C. Sports Hall of Fame.

Vancouver Historical Society - Leadership, 2005 - 2006 (elected May 25, 2006)

EXECUTIVE:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Paul Flucke |
| Vice President (Programs) | Bruce Watson |
| Treasurer (Vacant) | Paul Flucke (pro tem) |
| Secretary (Historica Fair) | Sidney Madden |
| Director (Newsletter Mailing) | Barbara Coles |
| Director | Chuck Davis |
| Director (Membership) | Elizabeth Hawkins |
| Director (Newsletter Editor) | Jim McGraw |
| Director (Research Service) | Wayne Norton |
| Director | Larry Wong |

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| | |
|-----------|----------------------|
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| Archivist | Elizabeth Walker |

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