

Vancouver Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

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From Labour to the Theatre

Summer Field Trips and Tours

From loggers to longshoremen, Vancouver has a rich labour history. We have seen strikes and lockouts, intrigue and unrest, boom times and recessions – the story of Vancouver’s working class is the story of Vancouver’s highs and lows!

The Pacific Northwest Labour History Association has invited the Vancouver Historical Society



Longshoremen working at Pacific Terminals in 1945

Photo: City of Vancouver Archives CVA CVA 586-4004

to explore this integral sector of our city with a Labour History

Walking Tour on Saturday, July 23, 2011. We will meet at 10:00am at the “Angel of Victory” sculpture outside Waterfront Station (601 West Cordova Street). The tour will take about two hours. Please wear comfortable walking shoes.

The Pacific Northwest Labour History Association is a non-profit association dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of workers in British Columbia, Oregon, and Washington.

This tour is for members of the Vancouver Historical Society only, and will be limited to 30 participants. Please call or email the VHS Info Line by Monday, July 18, 2011 to reserve your spot!

In August, another tour will take us to one of Vancouver’s best loved heritage buildings and one of B.C.’s architectural wonders — the Orpheum Theatre. Its superb acoustics make the Orpheum the venue of choice for musical and celebrity performances, while its magnificent architecture has made it a favorite location for film productions. Built in 1927, the Orpheum served as a picture

palace, vaudeville theatre and big screen cinema for over four decades. Acquired by the City of



The Orpheum in 1946

Photo: City of Vancouver Archives CVA 1184-2304

Vancouver in 1974 and reopened in 1977 completely restored and refurbished, it is the home of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and has been designated a National Heritage Site.

The BC Entertainment Hall of Fame has invited the Vancouver

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Next Meeting: 7:30 pm, Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011 at Museum of Vancouver

Preznotes

This marks the beginning of my second term as president of the Vancouver Historical Society. Thank you for your support. I'm excited to serve the Society for another year, and to work with the team of volunteers that make every year a success.

As I said during our 2011 Annual General Meeting, our regular activities – the monthly speakers, the field trips, the incorporation luncheon, our newsletter and web site – continue to speak to the high standard our Society expects and deserves. And we continue to be busy with projects, and within our community.

As the Society is such a stable, well-oiled machine, I saw this past year as an opportunity for assessment, without the need to tinker. I had the luxury of talking to you about our Society, of what you'd like to see, what you feel works, and what you think we may wish to examine. Thank you for having, and continuing, that conversation. Please never hesitate to contact me if you have an idea or opinion to share. We may not be able to implement every suggestion, but your input is an important consideration.

I believe we are well-positioned to continue our success into the future, and have outlined some of the challenges to address over the coming year. The slight decline in our membership and finances are my two immediate concerns – though I must stress using the word “concern” is sort of like using the word “monsoon” to describe one of Vancouver's light spring rains! These are areas of opportunity to explore, not existential threats!

If you were unable to attend the Society's 2011 Annual General Meeting but would like to review the reports that were distributed, please let me know and I can email a PDF copy, or have a package available for you to pick up at a monthly meeting.

Scott Anderson, President
sanderson@vancouver-historical-society.ca

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Thank You Paul Flucke

A volunteer organization can only work if there are volunteers who are prepared to work for the organization. One such person has been Paul Flucke.

Paul is taking a much deserved rest after having been on the Vancouver Historical Society Executive for over a decade. In that time, Paul has worn several hats, often at the same time.

Paul moved to Vancouver from Seattle in 1997 to marry and work in fundraising. Two years later, to learn more about his adopted city (and country), he joined the VHS. In 2000, Paul was elected Treasurer. At the same time, he took on the role as membership chair until it was taken over by Elizabeth Hawkins in 2003.



Paul became President of the VHS in 2003 and continued to serve as Treasurer during that time. In his roles as President (2003-2007) and/or Treasurer (2000-2011),

Paul oversaw several major VHS projects and initiatives like setting up a new “Research and Publication Fund” to be used to support Vancouver history-related projects. (Over the years since, outreach grants of nearly \$50,000 have been made.)

Paul was instrumental in the development of a greatly expanded VHS website. He oversaw the repatriation to Vancouver of the long lost Spencer's time capsule.

The *City Reflections* DVD was another project in which Paul was involved from the very beginning in early 2005 until it was released in 2008. Revenues from sales have since funded several projects.

Paul vigorously supported the installation of VHS historical markers in Devonian and Stanley Parks and Victory Square.

In typical modest Paul Flucke fashion, he expresses his “deep appreciation and downright awe for the labours, over these years, of so many capable and hardworking colleagues and volunteers.” In truth, it is Paul's uncanny knack of instilling the idea of teamwork that has taken the VHS to its present healthy and productive state. Great work! Thank you, Paul.

Bruce M. Watson

Tours and Field Trips Continued From Page 1

Historical Society to tour the Orpheum, the 'Grand Old Lady' of Granville Street, on Saturday, August 20, 2011. We will meet at 10:45am by the Orpheum's Smithe Street Entrance. This two-hour tour consists of a fascinating exploration of the theatre's hidden spaces including: the lobbies, theatre, backstage area, under the stage and above the ceiling dome. Touring patrons are warned that theatre phantoms occasionally rise to the occasion!

The BC Entertainment Hall of Fame honours British Columbians who have excelled in all disciplines of entertainment.

This tour is for members of the Vancouver Historical Society only, and will be limited to 30 participants. Please call or email the VHS Info Line by Monday, August 15, 2011 to reserve your spot!

Scott Anderson

Donations and Chuck Davis Fund

THANKS! to the eight members who made donations totaling \$585 during April and May.

During the month of May we also received \$400 in donations to the Chuck Davis Book Fund, bringing the total received for this special project to \$5,500. That amount has been forwarded to Harbour Publishing to help defray the costs of bringing Chuck's *History of Metropolitan Vancouver* to print. Well done, friends!

In addition to these donations to the Chuck Davis Book Fund, the Vancouver Historical Society, collaborating with Harbour Publishing, received a \$20,000 City of Vancouver 125th Anniversary Grant. This too will be used to assist with the book's publication costs.

The Society was one of 17 organizations that received a "large-scale" grant, out of 65 applications. We were one of three organizations to receive this amount, which was the largest total amount awarded to any group. For more on the book, which is expected to be available in October of this year, visit: www.harbourpublishing.com/title/ChuckDavisVancouver

Upcoming Speakers & Events

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 pm on the fourth Thursday of every month except in June, July, August, December). Special events may be held at other times for which there may be a fee.

Thursday, September 22, 2011 - 7:30pm

Canadians of Indian Heritage: Their History in Vancouver

Speaker: Sarjeet Singh Jagpal

In 1897 Sikh soldiers returning from having taken part in Queen Victoria's jubilee passed through Vancouver and as British subjects within the British Empire, liked what they saw and returned as immigrants. Now a significant presence in Canada, Canadians of Indian heritage have become vibrant contributors and very successful in all walks of the nation's life. Former educator Sarjeet Singh Jagpal, will reveal this Indian journey in Canada.

Thursday, October 27, 2011 - 7:30pm

Crime in Vancouver

Speaker: Kim Bolan

From 1865 when Tomkins Brew was given the job as Government Agent and Constable to maintain law and order in the Burrard Inlet area, Metro Vancouver has grown to include almost 2.5 million residents bringing with it unavoidable criminal activity. Veteran *Vancouver Sun* reporter, Kim Bolan who has reported in-depth on these activities, shares her extensive knowledge of crime in the Metro Vancouver area.

Thursday, November 24, 2011 - 7:30pm

Mildred Valley Thornton

Speaker: Sheryl Salloum

Learn more about internationally renowned artist Mildred Valley Thornton (1890-1967). The story of this distinctive artist is an important part of BC's history. Fiercely independent, adventurous and driven, Thornton was also a noted journalist, *Vancouver Sun* art critic (1944-1959), book reviewer, published poet, recipient of a Canadian Authors' Association Award for her book, *Indian Lives and Legends* (1966), and an advocate for social justice.

Before & After

This year we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Vancouver. As part of this special year, we look at different locations in the city as

they looked years ago and how they look today. VHS member Kellan Higgins visited the locations and took our present day photos.



Photo: Artray, Vancouver Public Library 81416



Photo: Kellan Higgins

Although these two photos were taken 61 years apart, there appears to be very little change. We are looking west from Cordova Street to Cambie in the distance. In the 1950 photo, workmen are busy removing the streetcar tracks on Cordova. This was part of Vancouver's first streetcar route in 1890. This two-block section of Cordova between Carrall and Cambie was the main commercial street of the young little city and where all the major parades and celebrations were held. Shot from the front of a moving streetcar in 1907, the earliest known movie footage of Vancouver features this section of Cordova in a film shot by William Harbeck of Seattle. Vancouver's first Hudson's Bay Company store opened in 1887 on the south side of this block of Cordova just left of the photo's edge. Commercial activity gradually drifted over to Hastings

one street south or further west to the new downtown developing around Granville and Hastings Streets much to the frustration of Cordova merchants. The prominent 1897 three-storey building on the corner in both photos was at one time James Stark's Glasgow House dry goods store. By the time of the 1950 photo, it was the Carlton Hotel and later the Cambie Hotel. The Dominion Building, opened in 1910, is just beyond the hotel in both photos. This section of Cordova is now one-way east and has a little curve at the intersection to more easily meet the rest of Cordova. The large new Woodward's mixed-use development now anchors most of the block on the south side to the left of the photo. Expect to see more changes to what had been a somewhat neglected block for the past 61 years.

Jim McGraw

Vancouver Historical Society Leadership - 2011 - 2012 (Elected May 26, 2011)

EXECUTIVE

President	Scott Anderson
Vice President (Programs)	Bruce Watson
Treasurer	Kristen Wong
Recording Secretary	Jean Wilson
Director (Memberships)	Elizabeth Hawkins
Director	Kellan Higgins
Director	Jean Mann
Director	Robert McDonald
Director (Newsletter Editor)	Jim McGraw

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster	Quasar Data Management
Archivist	Elizabeth Hawkins
Info Line	Barbara Coles

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