

Vancouver Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

ISSN 0042 - 2487

Vol. 43 No. 8

May 2004

Vancouver in View:

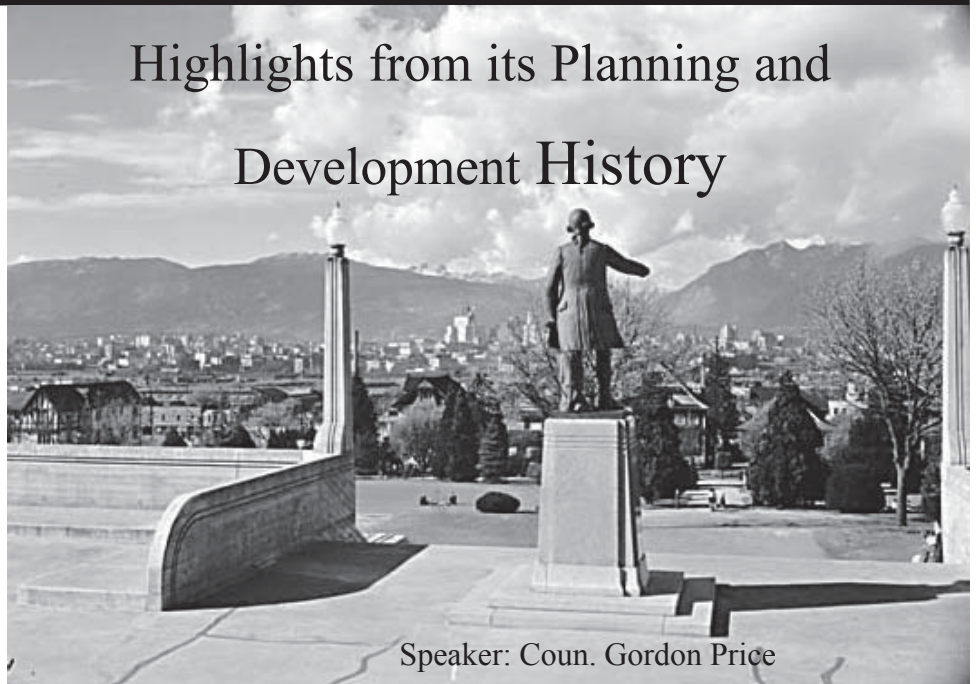
Our May speaker, Former City Councillor Gordon Price, will take a look at some of the turning points and key achievements in Vancouver's past, as seen from a planning perspective.

What decisions (or not) did Vancouver make that created the city we have today? What influences in the world affected the direction (or not) that Vancouver chose to take?

From the first surveys to today's mega-projects, Gordon will select some of the highlights, based on the course he teaches at UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning.

Gordon Price is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Community and Regional Planning at UBC, where he developed and teaches a new course: Vancouver and Its Times. In 2002, he finished his sixth term as a Vancouver City Councillor. He also served on the Board of the GVRD and was appointed to the first board of TransLink.

Highlights from its Planning and Development History



Speaker: Coun. Gordon Price

Statue of Captain George Vancouver surveying the Vancouver cityscape in 1940 from the steps of Vancouver City Hall.

He has written extensively on Vancouver and transportation issues (*The Deceptive City, Local Politician's Guide to Urban Transportation* - www.vtpi.org/localpol.htm) and has been published in numerous journals, including those of the American and Canadian Planning Associations. In 2003, he received the Plan Canada Award for Article of the Year - "Land Use and Transportation: The View from '56" - from the Canadian Institute of Planners - www.newcity.ca/Pages/price.html. He sits on the Boards of Northwest Environment Watch and the International Centre for Sustainable Cities. He is also a member of the Advisory Council of the Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

Thursday, May 27, 2004, at 7:30 pm, Upper Joyce Whalley
Learning Centre, Vancouver Museum

Preznotes

I spent this morning, Saturday, May 8, at Vancouver's first "Historica Fair." What a treat! For months, 92 Vancouver school pupils, mostly in the upper elementary grades, have been working on individual historical projects, which were on display today, May 8 and yesterday, May 7, at the Vancouver Museum. I arrived early enough to join the gathered entrants in singing "O Canada" and to catch some of their enthusiasm. Then I visited individual exhibits and talked with their creators. Believe me, Vancouver's legacy will be in good hands with this crop of future historians!

The Fair, to become an annual event here, we hope, as it is in some 800 Canadian communities, was co-sponsored by the VHS, the Vancouver and Maritime Museums, and the Vancouver School Board. We're indebted to Wes Knapp for representing the VHS on the organizing committee; to the VHS members who judged the entries; and to all who visited the Fair to meet and encourage the students.

Incidentally, the Executive has approved Wes' suggestion that we send letters of appreciation to the 12 VSB teachers who had students participating in the Fair, and offer each of them a complimentary one-year VHS membership. They'll be hearing from us shortly.

Draw two circles around Thursday, May 27, on your calendar. That will be our last public lecture meeting until September. Before the speaker on the 27th, we will hold our brief VHS Annual General Meeting: receiving reports on the year's activities and electing officers and Executive members for the year ahead. (The nominees are listed elsewhere in this newsletter). We need a quorum of 25 members to do official business. Please arrive at 7:30 to be among them!

With no fourth-Thursday lecture meetings, the summer months are a good time for field trips, and we have three of them in the works. A June visit to the Marpole Midden is described in this issue. Details about a visit to the historic Hastings Mill Store (July) and Hycroft (August) will be in your June newsletter.

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

**Welcome to the Vancouver
Historical Society!**

New Members: Andre and Suher Mazawi and
Wayne Norton, all of Vancouver.

VHS - 2

Nominees for 2004-2005 VHS Officers and Executive Members

The VHS Executive, in its role as nominating committee, is pleased to present the following slate of nominees for next year's executive. The new executive will be elected at the Annual General Meeting on May 27, 7:30 p.m. (* denotes incumbent).

Officers:

President: *Paul Flucke

Vice President: Wes Knapp (program chair)

Treasurer: no nominee (Paul Flucke, pro tem)

Secretary: *Ellen Ramsay

We hope to find a qualified treasurer during the year; meanwhile, Paul Flucke will continue as treasurer pro tem.

At-large members of Executive (six to be elected)

* Barbara Coles (BCHF liaison)

• Chuck Davis

* Imbi Harding

* Elizabeth Hawkins (membership secretary)

• Wayne Norton

* Jack Spibey

Chuck Davis and Wayne Norton both joined the VHS recently and have volunteered to stand for at-large positions on the Executive.

Additional nominations for any of the above positions may be made at the AGM, provided that the nominee is a VHS member in good standing and is present at the meeting.

In addition to the elected officers and Executive, the VHS has five key volunteers who do not serve on the Executive but are appointed to their positions by the Executive on an annual basis. We're pleased that all five have agreed to continue for the 2004-2005 year:

Newsletter Editor:	Kathleen MacKinnon
Research Service Coordinator:	Helen Shore
Webmaster:	Donna Jean MacKinnon
Information Line:	Nancy Stubbs
Archivist:	Elizabeth Walker

Hycroft House Tea on the Terrace Sunday, June 20 2:00 pm

All are welcome to the second annual Hycroft House Tea on the Terrace², June 20, 2004. Yes, we know it's Father's Day so bring him along! Hycroft House is a much sought after location for weddings, movie sets, and tea on the terrace. Come along - with our without dad.

Tickets are \$15. Cost includes tea and a tour of the house and gardens.

The Past has a Promising Future Historica Fair 2004

The past certainly has a future, given the results of the recently concluded Historica Fair. Vancouver students in grades 4 to 7 presented their historical projects at the Vancouver Museum on May 7 and 8, 2004, revealing a depth and breadth of history that the adjudicators found, not only astonishing, but promising, for the future of Canadian history.

Some 92 student projects were presented by Vancouver students, many of whom were in period dress. Students explained their historical research in passionate and compelling terms. Pauline Johnson, Chief Dan George, Sir John A. MacDonald, and Emily Carr, to name only a few, came to life in the hands of the student historians. As well, several family histories were revealed, Vancouver landmarks celebrated, and Canada's rich and diverse cultural heritage unfolded in original and innovative ways.

Some of the other projects included: *Amor de Cosmos*, *Canada's Eccentric Genius*; *The History of Woodward's Department Store*; *Determined Dreamer: The Life and Buildings of Arthur Erickson*; *The Second Narrows Bridge: The Legacy of the Iron Workers*; *My Grandpa: the Runaway Soldier*; *Haida Masks*; *World War Two Fashion in Canada*; *The Greening of Grimmitt Park*; *The Chinese Workers on the CPR*; *City Hall, Past and Present*; *Girl Guides of Canada: The Sisterhood*; *Japanese Canadians*; *Dionne Quintuplets*; *Niagara Falls Daredevils*; *Canadian Wolves*; *Sri Lanka to Canada*; *The Canadian Beaver*; and *Underground to Nova Scotia*.

Sponsored by Historica, a federal agency, the Fair was planned and coordinated by the Vancouver Historical Society, the Vancouver Maritime Museum, the Vancouver School Board, and the Vancouver Museum. This was Vancouver's first Regional Fair, a fair that all hope will become an annual event. Prior to the Regional Fair, students presented their projects at school-based fairs. The national historical fair will take place in Montreal in August, 2004.

We would like to extend our appreciation to VHS members who served as adjudicators for the student history projects. Their assistance and knowledge were valuable components of the fair. It was a pleasure working with the other organizations in planning this event and, in particular, the Vancouver teachers and students who devoted so much time and energy to make the fair such a success.

Wes Knapp

Fire destroys two Heritage Buildings

An early morning fire destroyed a significant stretch of heritage buildings on the 300 West Hastings block on April 25th, 2004. Vancouver Fire Department staff confirmed that the cause of the fire, believed to have started in a dumpster in the back alley, was arson.

The pair of 1899 brick buildings involved in the blaze are on the Heritage Registry. They were the first buildings built on their sites and were considered to be in excellent condition. Heritage consultant and VHS member John Atkin is hopeful the building facades can be retained in a redevelopment scheme.

Fire Walk - A Tour of the Imagination

On June 13, 1886 the new city of Vancouver was burned to the ground - in just 20 minutes. Re-live the fire on this tour of the imagination, lead by John Atkin. Meet at 10:00 a.m., Sunday morning, June 13, at the Roundhouse Community Centre, on the turntable at Pacific and Davie (right across from Urban Fare). Rain or Shine! The tour should wind up around 11:30. The price of the tour is \$10 (\$5 for members of the Vancouver Museum).

Marpole Midden Tour with Terry Slack

Please join fellow members of the Vancouver Historical Society on a tour of the Marpole midden led by Terry Slack on [Father's Day] Sunday June 20th from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The walk will commence at the parking area of Fraser River Park, which is located at the south foot of Angus Drive.

Terry will lead us into the past, from 250 BC to around 1,000 AD, to a native village site. He will relate the findings at the Marpole midden as they were first recorded by the Vancouver Art, Historical, and Scientific Association excavation reports, from 1905 to later digs in the 1950's.

Terry Slack is a semi-retired Fraser River commercial salmon gill netter and an avid woodworker, gardener and sturgeon protector. In the 1950's Terry was introduced to archeology as a volunteer at the Marpole midden. He has since lobbied hard to protect the remaining Marpole midden sites. In 1998 Terry received the Vancouver Mayor's Environmental Group Award, for his work to conserve the Fraser River sturgeon. In 2002 he received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for his volunteer work with the Fraser River and with the community of Dunbar.

Congratulations! Congratulations!

Donald Luxton, respected speaker and friend of the Vancouver Historical Society, was honoured this month with two august awards for *Building the West: The Early Architects of British Columbia*. On May 1st he accepted the AIBC (Architect Institute of British Columbia) Special Jury Prize in Vancouver. The same evening, at Government House in Victoria, Donald Luxton won the Roderick Haig Brown Regional Prize at the BC Book Prizes Gala. A good day's work Donald!

VHS-3

House Geneology in Vancouver

APRIL SPEAKER: *James Johnstone*

Reviewed by: Ellen Ramsay



The VHS guest speaker for April, James Johnstone, spoke on the history of houses in Vancouver in a talk entitled "House Geneology in Vancouver: Uncovering the History of the Houses We Live In." Johnstone's presentation consisted of a series of interesting anecdotes about the houses he has researched, and a detailed discussion of the research methods he used to uncover the fascinating history of Vancouver's homes.

One of the observations our speaker provided was that some streets in Vancouver were built adjacent to workplaces; the original residents of these houses were employees of these workplaces. This was the case with the B.C. Sugar Refinery. Transplanted colonies of people from Newfoundland and other regions of Canada could be found in the same neighbourhood. Some of James Johnstone's findings contradicted traditionally received wisdom. He found an abundance of: mixed marriages being performed at an early date in the city's history; couples marrying in religious institutions to

which they did not belong; spouses being buried in separate cemeteries; and couples living common-law.

James Johnstone gave a comprehensive summary of the resources available to house researchers at the Vancouver City Archives. Interested researchers can begin their own house history by locating the following: city directories which date from the late nineteenth century to 1996; water records which indicate the approximate date the house was built; tax assessment records; architectural plans; and building permit registers. The Archives publishes a guide sheet with resources. An archivist can be consulted, Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., in person, or by phone at 604-736-8561.



Renew Your Membership

Heads Up! It's that time again.

If the renewal month shown on your VHS membership card is March, April or May, and you've not renewed this year, get your cheque in by May 27 to assure delivery of your June issue of British Columbia Historical News.

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>