

# Vancouver Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

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May 2009

### The History of the Archdiocese of Vancouver

*May Speaker: Dr. Jacqueline Gresko*

This presentation on the history of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver is based on research for *Traditions of Faith and Service*, the recently published archdiocese centennial history book.

Pioneer French and Irish priests founded missions, parishes and schools in the late-nineteenth century. First Nations, Canadians, Americans, Europeans and Asians contributed to traditions of faith and service in the city. The twentieth century Archbishops from the Maritimes -- Neil McNeil, Timothy Casey and William Mark Duke -- gave new direction to Vancouver's Roman Catholic community. The three maritime Archbishops brought Anglo-Canadian ideas,

values networks, clergy, and religious orders. They promoted the building of Catholic institutions -- schools, hospitals, organizations -- and especially post-secondary education, a seminary and a university. Images from the 1953 BC Catholic newspaper special issue on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Holy Rosary Cathedral illustrate the contribution of the Maritime Archbishops, especially William Mark Duke, who led the Archdiocese from 1931 to 1964.

Jacqueline Gresko has taught at Douglas College since it opened in 1970. She has designed and taught Canadian, American and Women's History courses. She was the elected Chair of Arts and Humanities, 1988-1991. She has served on a wide range of College committees with recent service on the Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

Gresko also directed the Fraser River Harbour Commission History Project, working with



*May speaker Jacqueline Gresko*

the Commission and Douglas and Kwantlen students, culminating in the publication of *Fraser Port: A History* in 1986.

Dr. Gresko, born and brought up in New Westminster, attended the University of British Columbia where she received a BA Honours in History in 1969. In 1970, she completed her MA in Canadian Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa. Her thesis 'Qu'Appelle Industrial School: White 'Rites' for the Indians of the Old Northwest' became the base for several published articles. In 1999 she finished her PhD in Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia.

She recently wrote the *Traditions of Faith and Service*, which commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Archdiocese.



*Original St. Patrick's Church at 116 12th Avenue near Main was replaced in 2002 by a new church building.*

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 28 at 7:30 pm at the Vancouver Museum**

# PREZNOTES

The VHS has had another great year thanks to your hard working executive and other volunteers. Elizabeth Hawkins has been trying to keep up with the flood of new members while organizing and guiding us through our annual Incorporation Day Luncheon; Jacqueline Gresko has been chronicling our busy meetings and Chuck Davis reporting on the speakers.

Thanks to a myriad of people including Jim McGraw and Wes Knapp behind our *City Reflections* DVD, which continues to garner interest ever since its successful public launch. It has gone on to receive two awards, thanks in part to the educational component developed by Charles Hou. Revenue from sales has allowed us to finance two worthy digitization projects of the Vancouver Public Library and City Archives. Thanks to Paul Flucke for keeping track of the finances and Paul and Wes for distributing them to ever-eager sales outlets.

Another successful completed project was the erection of our two historical signs in Stanley and Devonian Parks. We are delighted with the interest in them as evidenced by the well-worn areas in front of each sign — lots of footprints with no grass remaining. We couldn't ask for more.

Thanks to Larry Wong and Scott Anderson who have engineered some great talks this year from the history of Punk Rock to stubborn women fighting City Hall. The talks have brought out record numbers. One speaker — Lisa Smedman, our busy novelist-historian — has also done wonders keeping the *Courier* readers informed of our events. Scott has put in a great deal of time organizing our very successful field trips.

Thanks to Elizabeth Walker for sitting in on the City's Park Naming Committee and thanks to City Hall for recognizing the value of the VHS and its members.

Paul Flucke and Barbara Coles have done wonders answering our website and telephone enquiries or referring them to appropriate sources. Through them, two more private collections of documents

*Preznotes continues at the top left of Page 3.*

## Nominees for 2009-2010 Executive

In its role as Nominating Committee, the current VHS Executive is pleased to submit the following full slate of nominees for the 2009-2010 Executive to be elected at our May 28, 2009 Annual General Meeting.

President	Bruce M. Watson
Vice President	Larry Wong
Treasurer	Paul Flucke
Recording Secretary	Jean Wilson
Director	Scott Anderson
Director	Chuck Davis
Director	Elizabeth Hawkins
Director	Jim McGraw
Director	Jean Mann

All terms of office are for one year beginning June 1, 2009. Additional nominations will be accepted at the AGM provided that the nominee is a current VHS member and is present.

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## Crime in the City

Bootleggers, brothels, riots, murder, the early drug trade - are all part of the seamier side of Vancouver's history. Discover more about this intriguing subject during the Vancouver Police Museum's "Sins of the City" walking tour.

This two-hour tour is being offered to VHS members free of charge on Saturday, August 15 as part of our summer field trip series. This tour begins at 10:00 am. The number of participants is limited so please sign up early. You can do so at our Thursday, May 28th Annual General Meeting (7:30 pm) at the Vancouver Museum.



*Weapons seized from Vancouver's "juvenile delinquents" in 1928.*

Photo courtesy of Vancouver Public Library VPL 9101

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## Welcome New Members

James C. Conwell

Michael Cox

## Preznotes Continued from Page 2

have found their way into the City Archives. Jim McGraw continues to turn out outstanding newsletters and Scott Anderson sees to it that they get to members.

Thanks are owed to Neil McBurney, Janet Venn, Valerie Whitehead and Shurli Tylor for volunteering at meetings and Jean Mann for agreeing to take on the updating of the website.

Lisa Smedman and Jacqueline Gresko's very busy schedules have dictated that they step down at the end of their terms and so we will be looking for other worthies to fill their shoes. Paul Flucke, who has been Treasurer for 10 years, will also be looking for an eventual replacement to train during the upcoming new year.

Lastly, thanks to all the members for your unwavering support and enthusiasm. We all look forward to another great year.

**Bruce M. Watson, President**

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## Unique Museum Visit

One of the most unique museums in Vancouver opens its doors to VHS members as part of our summer field trip series. The Bowmer-Shoebottom Museum of Military Medicine — open only by appointment — will host VHS members for a free tour on Monday, July 20 at 10:00 am.

The museum features a large collection of military-medical memorabilia including surgical instruments, uniforms, medals, photos and more.

The Museum was named for Colonel E.J. Bown-er, M.C., who served as a Medical Officer in WWII and was awarded the Military Cross for bravery at Monte Cassino in Italy in 1944 and M.W.O. Shoebottom who served as a Medic in 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance in WWII.

Sign up for this unique visit at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 28 at the Vancouver Museum.



## Upcoming Speakers & Events

The VHS organizes a series of historical talks held on the fourth Thursday of every month except June, July, August and December. The talks, which start at 7:30 in the evening at the Vancouver Museum, are free to everyone including non-members. Our new 2009-2010 season of talks begins again in September.

On **September 24th** — our first meeting after the summer months — we team up with **Heritage Vancouver** to highlight the historic **Pennsylvania Hotel** at Carrall and Hastings. When it opened in 1906 as the **Woods Hotel**, it was an opulent establishment featuring an electric elevator and a chef hired away from San Francisco. We'll learn much more.

**Molly Watson** of the Jewish Museum will be our speaker on **October 22th** showing photos from their collection of works by photographers **Otto Landauer** and **Leonard Frank**. We will take a photographic journey through Vancouver's era of bridge construction, collapse and renewal between 1895 and 1980.

**Chuck Davis** hosts an evening with Vancouver's favourite bandleader **Dal Richards** on **November 26th**. Now in his early 90s, Dal has spent a lifetime entertaining with his big band. It will be a wonderful evening of Vancouver memories, stories and more.

After the Christmas holidays, we'll hear about germs, epidemics, clean drinking water and more when we learn about the **history of public health** in Vancouver. Our **January 28th** guest will be Vancouver's former Chief Medical Health Officer, **Dr. John Blatherwick**.

On **February 25th**, **Chuck Davis** will aim the spotlight on a Vancouver landmark — the **Orpheum Theatre**. When the Orpheum opened in 1927, it was Canada's largest vaudeville theatre with 3,000 seats. There are many wonderful stories about the building, the performers who played on her stage, and the films that played there when it was later converted to a movie theatre.

We take a very personal tour of Chinatown on March 25th through the stories of Larry Wong who grew up there. Larry's father, a tailor, emigrated from China in 1911 and eventually opened a business on Main Street. Larry's mother joined his father in 1921 and they raised a family of four.

Watch this space and our website ([www.vancouver-historical-society.ca](http://www.vancouver-historical-society.ca)) for more information on VHS talks and events.

# The History of the Port of Vancouver

*Last Month's Speaker: Rory Babin*

There was a lively night at the public meeting of the Vancouver Historical Society on Thursday night, April 24 at the Museum. Rory Babin, a young Community Relations Representative from Port Metro Vancouver (the entity that was formed in 2008 from the amalgamation of the three Lower Mainland port authorities) gave the audience of about 80 people a history of the Port, well illustrated by some good Power Point images.

He ran into some early (and friendly) flak with a few minor mistakes of dates and facts, called out helpfully by various people. We're a tough audience! Rory took it all in amiable style and promised he'd fix things. We heard a lot of interesting stats on the Port: 16 municipalities border on the Port; the Port trades with more than 130 different economies, and 114 million tonnes of cargo was shipped through the Port in 2008. We learned the Port is a private company accountable to the Federal Minister of Transportation, the difference between "bulk" and "breakbulk" cargo. Bulk cargo is poured into hulls, like wheat and coal, potash and sulphur, while breakbulk cargo is placed directly into a ship, like lumber and steel.

Some new container-carrying ships are too wide at 22 containers abreast for the Panama Canal, which can only handle 18-container-wide vessels. So those behemoths are

confined to trans-Pacific voyages, and they come in to our Centerm, Vanterm, Deltaport and Fraser Surrey terminals. (The Panama, incidentally, is being widened.)

News to many of us: Many Asian imported cars arrive at the Port, bare-bones basic, and are "value added" with features like air conditioning and iPod docks in workshops at the terminal to the dealers' instructions! (Workers can, by the way, unload about 4,000 cars in four hours.) Most RoRo (Roll on-Roll off) vessels carry between 3,000 to 4,000 vehicles.

Rory urged us to go out to UBC and look at the Chung Collection in the new library, which has all kinds of historic images of the Port and related subjects. And he also suggested we visit the Port's Interpretive Centre, located

at the north end of Canada Place for a free public presentation. The presentation can be booked at 604-665-9179 or by e-mailing: [community.relations@portmetrovancover.com](mailto:community.relations@portmetrovancover.com).

(Another great discovery: Japan's famous (and tasty) Kirin Beer is made from Canadian barley shipped through Vancouver.)

*Chuck Davis*



*CPR Wharves*

## Vancouver Historical Society - Leadership, 2008 - 2009 (elected May 22, 2008)

### EXECUTIVE:

President	Bruce Watson
Vice President (Programs)	Larry Wong
Treasurer	Paul Flucke
Recording Secretary	Jacqueline Gresko
Director	Scott Anderson
Director	Chuck Davis
Director (Membership)	Elizabeth Hawkins
Director (Newsletter Editor)	Jim McGraw
Director	Lisa Smedman

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster	Quasar Design & Data Mgmt.
Archivist	Elizabeth Hawkins
Info Line	Barbara Coles
Newsletter Mailing	Scott Anderson
Webmail	Paul Flucke

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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