



# NEWS - LETTER

## AROUND TOWN

### 1992 Heritage Awards

Don't forget, your nominations must be received by 5pm January 15th 1993, Planning Department, City Hall

Nomination Forms available at the Planning Department or phone 873 7344

**ARBUTUS GROCERY UPDATE:** Housing and properties department now says they are just painting the interior in preparation for new tenants ... pity they couldn't have told us this in the first place.

**CITY PLAN:** If you haven't already heard about or got yourself informed about City Plan then do so. This planning initiative by the City of Vancouver will shape how the city evolves over the next twenty years. Heritage is a BIG part of our city, and it needs a voice amongst all the other issues. If you are interested call Jo Scott-B 738 2419

In November, Heritage Vancouver co-sponsored with SFU City Program a Walking Tour of the Strathcona Neighbourhood that looked at current and past planning issues. It was well attended despite rain and cold temperatures. We look forward to future participation with the City Program at SFU.

**NEXT MEETING:  
20 JANUARY 1993**

### DON'T FORGET HERITAGE WEEK FEBRUARY 14 - 21, 1993.

As mentioned in the last newsletter a terracotta workshop with the international conservation consultant, Martin Weaver, A.A. Dipl., Director of the Center for Preservation Research, Columbia University in New York. It will be held Heritage Week and include four key topics:

- Terra Cotta as a Building Material
- Construction Methods
- Problems Associated with Deterioration
- Conservation Techniques

This workshop will be of interest to architects, engineers, contractors, building inspectors, government officials, Heritage Advisory Committee Members, as well as owners and managers of terra cotta buildings.

Co-sponsored by the City Program Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee, the Vancouver Heritage Conservation Foundation, and the Association for Preservation Technology International - Vancouver Chapter.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1993  
FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

AT  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY AT HARBOUR CENTRE,  
SAUDER INDUSTRIES POLICY ROOM 2270

REGISTRATION:  
WORKSHOP SESSIONS, LUNCH, AND WALKING TOUR, \$ 95.00  
OWNERS OF TERRA COTTA BUILDINGS AND STUDENTS, \$ 75.00  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT 291-5100

## WHAT'S UP

### SPEAKER SERIES

Our speakers and topics for:

- January Don Evans president of the *West Coast Railway Association* speaks on the railway history of B.C. and Vancouver
- February Bruce MacDonald, author of *Vancouver, A Visual History*. Bruce will be speaking on his book, its production and the history of Vancouver.
- March *The Port of Vancouver*, its history development and future.

A reminder that May is open projector night, bring your slides - boring, weird or fantastic - 5 or 10 slides are all you need.

### 1992 IN PRINT

1992 continued the trend for Heritage Books published locally about Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. Included in this list:

Heritage Walks in Vancouver, Kluckner & Atkin  
History of the Fraser Valley, Chessington  
Vancouver, A Visual History, Bruce MacDonald  
Vancouver and Its Region, UBC Press  
We hope to continue this trend with our own publications such as the Endowment Lands Inventory & the Bibliography of Vancouver Architectural History.

One to watch out for:

Robin Ward's Update of Exploring Vancouver.

### HEY ...

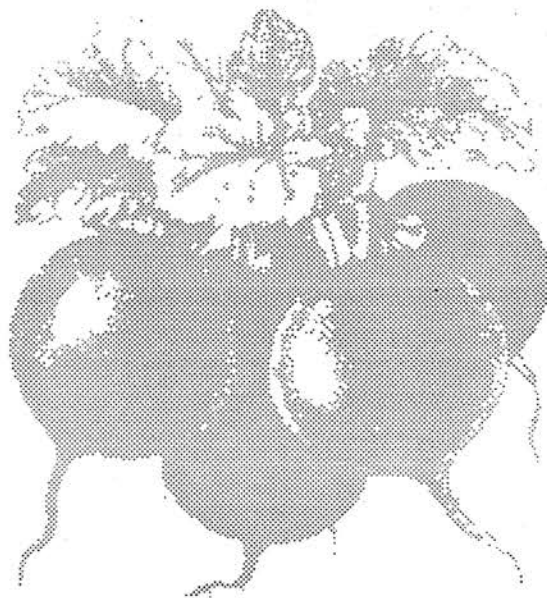
Got a book review or an article? Why not write it for the newsletter?

Tell us about yourself. We'd like to know what you're interested in and what you're working on.

Drop us a note ...

## Membership

Our membership fees remain unchanged at \$15 per year. If you are a corporate-type: \$50 / family-type: \$25. This gets you a monthly newsletter, discounts on all walking tours and monthly meetings.



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## Heritage Vancouver Society

Heritage Vancouver meets on the  
3RD Wednesday of each month at

### Hodson Manor

1254 West Seventh Avenue  
on Fairview Slopes

Information: ☎ 604 254 9411  
✉ PO Box 3336 Main Post Office  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3Y3

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# NEWS - LETTER

## WHAT'S UP

Hello and welcome to February and Heritage Week. This year we have our ever popular walking tours, 8 in all, and Bruce McDonald author of *Vancouver A Visual History* will be the speaker at our meeting. Bruce's talk will be getting a bit of promotion in Robin Ward's column in the Sun the weekend before so this could be a popular meeting.

Other events during the week include the Heritage Awards on the 15th being given out by mayor Campbell at the Hotel Vancouver, a photographic show at the Community Arts Council Gallery concerning development in Vancouver called *City on Fire* and the *Terra Cotta* workshop at S.F.U. that we told you about in the last newsletter.

Just after Heritage Week from March 5-7 is a neat sounding event, The Vancouver Story Telling Festival. This years event (its in its 2nd year) will take place in the West End. The festival with a grant from the Canada Council Explorations Program is working with students at City School in the West End to research and collect the stories of people, buildings and places in the area. The collected material will then be used in a Walking Story Tour of the West End. Judy Oberlander (H.V. member) is working with the students on the heritage aspect of the project and Vera Rosenbluth is helping students collect the stories. A story teller



THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
VANCOUVER  
STORYTELLING  
Festival

will assist the students in shaping their material into story form and after the festival a writer will assist in turning it into a creative written form.

If you are interested in this or any other part of the festival give them a call at 228-1274 for tickets and information.

An event that hasn't taken final form yet but one that will be interesting is the Music in Heritage Spaces program. Kevin Mooney is currently working with the Vancouver Courier, who is a major sponsor, in finding suitable heritage spaces in which to hold music concerts. This idea is based on the very successful and long running series in Los Angeles called *Chamber Music in Historic Sites*. Kevin is providing music for the Heritage Awards.

Our last meeting featured a fascinating talk by Don Evans who is the president of the West Coast Railway Association. He told us about the development of the society from its beginnings in the 1960s to today where they are ready to open the first phase of their museum in Squamish.

The society is always looking for new members and its only \$30.00 a year. Send your cheques to P.O. Box 2790 Vancouver B.C. V6B 3X2

While on the subject of transportation the other group that we've just found out about is TRAMS That's the Transit Museum Society. They are interested in the restoration of historic buses. Their work has been seen at Expo 86 and in numerous parades. Their address is TRAMS Attn. B.L. Kelly c/o Burnaby Transit Centre 3750 Kitchener Street Burnaby V5C 3L6. and the membership fee is only \$10.00.

In the summer we hope to be able to offer a Heritage Vancouver/TRAMS late night Brill Coach Trolley tour of downtown. Watch for details.



By now most of you will know that the rather interesting Queen Anne house at 12th and Fraser has suffered a bad fire. This house has been for sale for sometime with an approved infill scheme in place that would save the house yet make the restoration possible by allowing the density increase. What this fire does to that prospect we don't know.

The Marpole Museum and Historical Society has written to express interest in the soon to be closed Marpole Correction Centre on Hudson Street. This 'B' listed property would they say make a good home for their proposed museum. B.C. Buildings Corporation is the site owner.

Crosstown. If you've not heard this name before you soon will be. Crosstown refers to the area surrounding Victory Square bordered by Richards on the west Cordova on the north Dunsmuir on the south and Abbott or Carrall on the east. The people who live and work in the area are concerned about it and because it is currently the subject of a Planning Department study they have formed the Crosstown Association to plan, promote and generally provide a voice for the area. They have many interesting ideas about the area and heritage is definitely on the top of the list. If you are interested in this area why not call Ian Hunter at 682-4149.

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**NEXT MEETING:**  
**17 FEBRUARY 1993**

February	<b>Vancouver</b> A Visual History	Bruce McDonald
March	<b>Port of Vancouver</b> Ballentyne Pier	Joy Gornall Jim Crandles



Jo Scott-B, the Vancouver City Heritage Advisory Committee's latest appointee reports that the HAC has recommended that the CN Rail sign be retained as is. Consistent with HVS's point of view and normal heritage policies recreating a sign in similar fashion with different company name or logo is discouraged. Any work done to the sign should be for the purpose of maintenance. Now it remains to be seen how council will respond.

## Book Review

Vancouver books are just popping up everywhere right now and one of the latest is the long awaited update to that favorite Exploring Vancouver. This time Robin Ward with Hal Kalman and Ron Philips have taken on the project. Gone are irksome errors the rather dull photographs and layout and best of all the dull text. All this has been replaced with a snappy format and stylish photographs with a lively text. The selection of architecture in this new volume is not just the pretty house but things that make up our urban landscape, so the 2400 Motel on Kingsway is here as is the Seven Seas ferry boat restaurant in North Vancouver among other things. The new Exploring Vancouver is so good that it should be added to your bookshelf as soon as it is released on February 18th.

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📮 PO Box 3336 Main Post Office  
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# NEWS - LETTER

## WHAT'S UP

**WALKING TOURS** First off, Heritage Vancouver would like to say **Thank You** to all of our tour leaders this year: Mary McDonald, Peter Vaísbord, Janine Bond, Bruce McDonald, John Munn and Maurice Guibord. As well, our thanks to: *Lorenda Franklin* and the **Blue Horizon Hotel** for providing free Champagne & orange juice to those who had breakfast on Saturday before Mary's tour; and to *Stevie Smith & David Marsden* at **Coast 1040** for their PR efforts in the form of a lively and enthusiastic PSA, a ticket giveaway, and some pretty creative and wacky on-the-air antics by their DJ's - designed not just to announce these events, but to raise heritage awareness to their 'broad & hip' listenership.

All of Heritage Vancouver's walking tours were well attended this year, even though the Mount Pleasant and Downtown tours had to compete with the unexpected snow storm. We will be running the **Mount Pleasant** tour with *John Munn* and the **Downtown** tour with *Peter Vaísbord* on Easter Sunday and the **Brewery Creek** tour with *Bruce McDonald* on Saturday, April 10 due to popular demand. Tickets for walks will be available at the March meeting of HVS.

The **CITY PROGRAM** at S.F.U. Downtown has *Phyllis Lambert* the architect, urbanist, modernist, preservationist, community activist, and the founder/director of the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal coming to town for March 16-18 and will be the centre piece of Architecture in the City. If you are interested in attending give S.F.U. Downtown a call at 291-5100 or 291 5126.

Speaking of S.F.U., the **TORONTO DOMINION BANK** building at Hastings and Seymour is finally getting the respect it deserves. It will be turned into an international conference centre for the university. This means restoration of the building both inside and out. Built in 1919 for the Union Bank and



Mary McDonald points out the finer details of the B.C. Hydro Building on her West End walking tour on Saturday the 20th of February  
photo: Eliza Massey

designed by Somerville and Putnam to resemble an Italian renaissance palace, this poor building has suffered over the years while the developer tried to make a project work. This scheme, unlike previous ones, preserves the entire bank building, not just a facade, and puts a tower and lowrise shops on Pender that retains the bank's prominence on Hastings. The banking hall with its restrained decoration, is one of the great enclosed spaces in the city, and its great to see that this will be retained.

But, and there has to be a but, the **INNIS THOMPSON** building designed by C.O. Wickenden and built in 1889 as one of the first buildings outside of Gastown on the C.P.R. land grant, which signalled the westward shift of the business district, still does not get the attention of the architects, Aikens Wreglesworth. This is a very important building and it should be preserved. Early photographs show that there has been little alteration to the building. So... its time to get out your pen and paper and write City Hall. The Mayor and Council are waiting. Their address is **City Hall, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, V5Y 1V4**. There is no reason why something interesting and innovative can't be done with this opportunity.

The real estate market has been busy as always and the **VICTORIA BLOCK** at Homer and Pender and the **VICTORIA ROOMS** around the corner on Homer have been sold. The Victoria Block was built in 1908 to the design of W.F. Gardner and is connected on the second floor with the 1898 Victoria Rooms. Also on Pender the **HARTNEY BLOCK** has been sold. Both buildings are in the **Crosstown Area**. In **Strathcona** interest is up in this historic area. One house recently renovated is on the market for \$329,000! On Granville Street there is a small revival going on on the block between Smith and Nelson Streets. First it was the old Pizza Patio that was renovated into **The Planet** an interesting restaurant with a great piece of signage. Now its the return of the **VOGUE THEATRE**. On March 12th the lights go back on for a show by C.B.C.'s **Kids in the Hall**. After that plans call for it to be used as a concert venue, but movies and stage productions are a possibility. Soon Diana will be glowing from her perch high above the street. Now does anyone need a 1000 seat theatre on south Granville with a lovely neon sign?

The last two houses on the eastern end of Robson at Bute are about to go. These along with the one storey grocery and Japanese restaurant will be replaced with a tower scheme by **Paul Merrick Architects**. The two Edwardian Builders have seen a lot of uses over the years including restaurants, beauty parlours and the photographic studio of Vanderpant one of Vancouver's early photographers.

The other letter you can write to Council while you remind them about the Innes Thompson building, is the preservation of the 90 year old **HEATHER PAVILION** at V.G.H. This the original hospital building and it is intact under some later additions and it should not be allowed to be torn down to provide baseball diamonds or in Park Board talk that's called active recreation space. Send your letters to the same address and tell them you belong to Heritage Vancouver.

Just a reminder to those of you interested in working on the annual **STUDENT HERITAGE ART SHOW**. Please contact **Jo Scott-B (738 2419)** by month's end.



The **March** meeting will be about ships and the **PORT OF VANCOUVER**.

**Jim Crandels** will be talking about the **Ballantyne Pier** redevelopment and **Joy Gornall** will be talking about the port in general. Join us for this at 8.30pm.

In **April** we will be looking at **LANDSCAPE** issues. **Elizabeth Watt**, the landscape architect who brought attention to the Eriksen Gardens will be speaking. Landscapes are heritage, they can give a building context, they can be natural or man made. Its an interesting topic.

**Bruce McDonald** gave a very interesting talk about his book **Vancouver, A Visual History** at our last meeting that was attended by over 80 people! We think this set a record. Books were sold and lots of new memberships too.

A final note: HVS member and heritage renovation specialist **Donna Cottell** will be running an informative workshop on heritage restoration for homeowners. Issues such as: suitability, cost, design considerations, contractors ...and other concerns of the participants will be addressed in this half day session. Information: **Kits Community Center 734 4974**.

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# The Canadian National Sign

**S**igns by their very nature are transitory, therefore it is important that original signage in its original location and original configuration be preserved.

In 1923, in Los Angeles, a Packard Motor Car dealership ordered a neon sign from Paris France. This is the first documented neon commercial sign in North America. In 1925 a few merchants on Granville Street had also ordered signs from France and by 1928, under one of the three original patent licences, the domestic production of neon was begun by a company that has since grown into one of North America's largest sign companies, Neon Products Ltd.

The Canadian National sign erected in 1928 dates from this first period of neon sign production that soon saw Vancouver become known around the world for the sheer number and variety of neon that adorned its buildings. The Canadian National Sign is a rare survivor from this period.

The preservation of historic signs has been recognized as important to communities across North America. The National Park Service in Preservation Brief #25: The Preservation of Historic Signs says that *"historic signs give continuity to public spaces becoming part of the community memory, they sometimes become landmarks in themselves."*

The Canadian National sign has that landmark quality and that has been recognized by a municipal heritage designation in 1980 by the City of Vancouver and more recently the Federal Heritage Railway Station Protection Act the sign was referred to as a strong character defining element and states that it... *"has a long association with the building and should be retained in service and in place."*

When a building has retained multiple historic signage it can indicate several periods in its history and use. The original carved letters of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway that were on the frieze over the entrance are to be restored, so it would make sense that the original neon sign be retained and restored. Preservation Guidelines from the National Park Serv-

ice state that signs should be retained when they are significant as evidence of the history of the product, business or service advertised, reflect the building's history or characteristic of a specific historic period such as gold leaf on glass, neon or stainless steel lettering and when they are popular focal points in a community.

Heritage Vancouver understands that there is a possibility that the Canadian National sign could be replaced by new signage that reflects the station's new name. While this maybe understandable from an advertising view it does not fit well with heritage conservation principals. Heritage Vancouver feels that the history of signage on the station building could be examined and that this could provide an opportunity for new signage.

In the 1960s the neighbouring Union Station was demolished for tax purposes and the Great Northern railway moved to the C.N. station and added its name over the entrance pediment. This location would be ideal to re-introduce new large scale "heritage" signage that would respect and complement the Canadian National sign and deal with the requirements of the new name.

The other opportunity is the very strong design legacy of Greyhound Lines, one of the new tenants of the station, throughout this company's history it has had a strong and enduring design history and examples of their signage and bus terminal architecture are being preserved by communities across the United States. New signage that draws on this history would also complement the existing neon.

The last option is to re-use as much of the existing neon sign as possible in creating the new name. There are eight letters that could be re-used and this option would at least ensure the same form and scale would be present in the new name.

Any additional signage or any change to the Canadian National sign must show respect for the heritage value and landmark quality that the existing sign has.





# NEWS - LETTER

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is interesting to have been away for a long time (we spent the winter in Europe) and to return to the coast, but, instead of moving into our tidy little heritage house in sweet Kerrisdale with chirping birds and roaring bulldozers, we decamped to a farm in South Langley. From here, at night, there is the glow of the metropolis to the northwest and a bit of a perspective on the city and its heritage policy, its successes and its failures.

Of the events of the past few months, the one that really sticks in the craw is 2030 Whyte Avenue — the Evans house, built in 1910 as a show home for the CPR and the first house erected on Kitsilano Point (not counting the the native buildings at Snaug, and Sam Greer's 1890 shack). It is an A on the heritage inventory. The story was well-enough covered in the press, but the important details bear repeating: a developer, David Birch, bought the house and worked on plans last fall with the Heritage Advisory Committee and the planners to incorporate the house into a new scheme; he played by the rules all the way along; however, many neighbours objected to the proposal, and at a public meeting with council, presented a petition that so bowled over the councillors that all but one (Lynn Kennedy) forgot that the city had invested millions in the Heritage Management Plan during the past seven years; after he had invested many thousands in his own proposal, David Birch was told by council to reapply to build standard duplexes on the lot and to demolish the heritage house; since their pyrrhic victory, many neighbours have expressed dismay at the new proposal, to (it's change, that's why). Perhaps, if this is to be the fate of Kitsilano Point, we all should have listened to Tom Campbell in the late 1950's, and zoned the area for high rises. At the civic elections in the fall, remember this one when the politicians of

COPE and the NPA talk about vision, and trust, and consistency, because all but one of them voted against what they have often claimed to be one of the cornerstone's of the city's future.

As for the house itself, it will probably end up being moved. Christine and I have investigated to the country, but will probably give up because it is too big to move so far along public roads; however, there are others who are interested, so with any luck this little debacle won't end up with a Gradall clawing at its pedigreed sides.

On a brighter note, the parish of St. Francis on the Napier Street in Grandview is about to commence the restoration of "Wilga," the very fine 1908 William Miller house which was shoddily renovated and converted into a church office and residence about fifty years ago. We had a tour of it the other day with Father Ian Stewart, who is leading the campaign to restore it to its former glory. Soon, they will be selecting a firm of architects to do the work, and it looks like they will choose one with much experience and sensitivity, which we will duly report.

Michael Kluckner

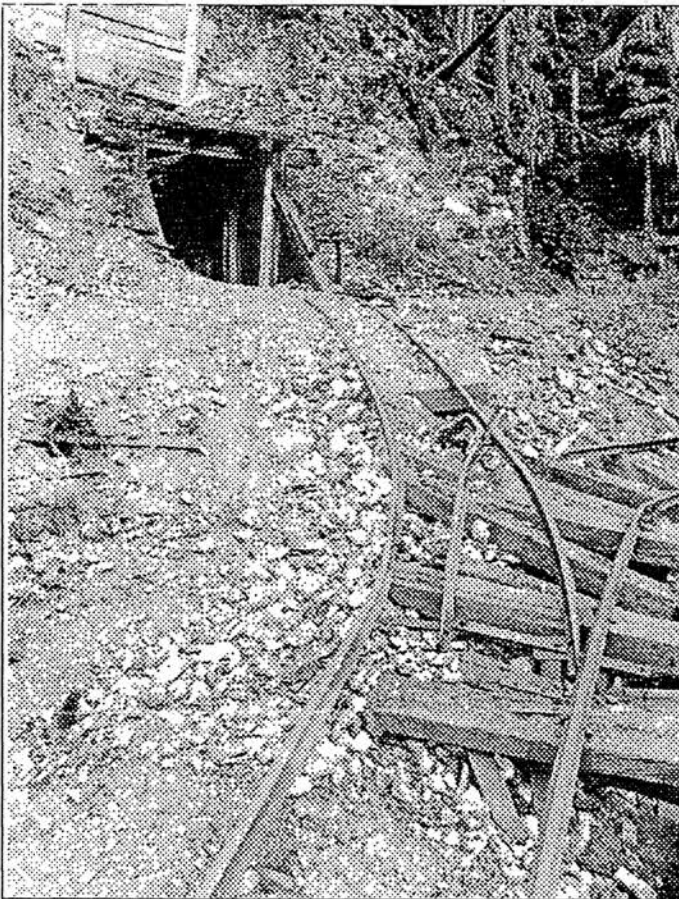
### HV's CITYPLAN SUBMISSION

As a contribution to the CityPlan process, Heritage Vancouver submitted a succinct brief which, for the record, is reprinted here.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### HERITAGE BC CONFERENCE JUNE 3-6 1993, QUESNEL

Come with us on BC Rail to Quesnel: **Special Heritage Vancouver package 127.50 return** includes two picnic lunches onboard (regular fair 144.50). If enough people sign up in advance, we will be able to reserve our own carriage. Depart Vancouver Thursday, June 3; return Monday, June 10. Please arrange your own accommodations and conference bookings. The weekend promises to be fun, whether or not you attend the conference.



### UPCOMING

#### PROGRAMMES

APRIL 21	ELIZABETH WATT LANDSCAPE AS HERITAGE
MAY 19	OPEN SLIDE
JUNE 16	EXPLORING VANCOUVER HAL KALMAN, RON PHILLIPS, ROBIN WARD,

### CANADIAN NATIONAL SIGN

Maurice Guibord talked on French CBC National Radio on Monday, April 5th, about the Canadian National station building and sign. It is our understanding that the fate of the heritage landmark sign will be determined by Vancouver city council in May.

### ANNUAL STUDENT HERITAGE ART EXHIBIT

Once again, City Square is donating exhibition space for this event. We plan to install this exhibit during the last week of May. There will be a closing reception on the afternoon of Sunday, June 13 (following Vancouver Day).

Jo Scott-B, working with Youth Plan and Susan Anderson has been giving Heritage Art workshops in public schools.

### HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**TORONTO DOMINION BANK** 526 West Hastings The most recent proposal is to convert the former bank into an international conference centre, restoring the two main façades to their original conditions and using the banking hall as a conference room. The proposal would demolish the Innis-Thompson Block, which the HAC strongly opposes.

**STANLEY THEATRE** A development proposal would create two theatre spaces and two retail units. The upper balcony would be extended to provide a platform theatre, seating ~230 people, while maintaining the existing dome and interior arches. The building façade was considered by the HAC as an important feature of the building and must be restored and maintained, but discussion on signage and window openings was deferred to a later date.

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Submitted by Michael Kluckner, President  
Heritage Vancouver Society  
April 2, 1993



P.O. Box 3336 (M.P.O.)  
Vancouver B.C.  
V6B 3Y3

### A VISION FOR VANCOUVER'S FUTURE

The new Vancouver city plan will be successful if it incorporates heritage, in all its aspects, into the general planning process for the city.

"Heritage" is trees and buildings, landforms and landscapes, the physical legacy of the past and the community spirit it creates--in short, the respect for and adaptive re-use of the existing city fabric.

Heritage Vancouver has long supported the city's Heritage Management Plan, and feels that it achieves a reasonable balance between the desire to save heritage buildings and the need for the city to be flexible to the needs of a growing city which must nevertheless become more environmentally sustainable. The Heritage Management Plan generally responds well to individual buildings with private owners. Problems which have arisen with heritage building retention schemes have most often involved the inability to subdivide land, and the resistance of neighbourhoods to added density in return for preservation. The city must reinforce its commitment to the HMP and support a long-term vision of the look of the city.

An aspect of heritage preservation which must be directly acknowledged in the future city plan is that of the re-use of existing buildings. For environmental reasons, including energy and landfill use, cities must make better use of their existing stock of buildings. There should be zoning and taxation disincentives for demolition, and a broad range of potential code and usage relaxations which, when combined with the innovative structural advances being made across North America in response to earthquake threats, will make the re-use of existing buildings and their incorporation into new developments the norm, rather than the exception. Tax relief for heritage restorations, which is a common policy of American cities and is available in the City of Edmonton, should be introduced in Vancouver. Obviously, there are cultural benefits to the city in retaining some of its old fabric; in this case, these benefits are matched at least by the environmental ones. The city's long-term policy on the Victory Square area is an example of how zoning and incentives can support the re-use of an existing neighbourhood. Throughout the city, the desire of some owners to demolish existing buildings so that they can be replaced by look-alike new ones should be resisted.

Heritage Vancouver supports the retrofitting of existing communities to add population and focus them onto the public transit grid. The fabric of the traditional Vancouver streetcar suburbs, which survives best today in the mixed usages of Commercial Drive, Main Street, South Granville, Kitsilano and Kerrisdale, should be enhanced with zoning which encourages retail usages on main floors and apartments above, pedestrian-oriented commercial streets with no parking lots between sidewalks and buildings, low-rise and some mid-rise apartments on adjoining streets, and the potential for innovative subdivisions and infills such as "granny cottages" on the surrounding residential streets. The important thing is to focus these communities' density and activity around the crossroads created by intersecting transit lines at locations such as Broadway and Macdonald or Main and King Edward. A flexible and innovative approach to these residential neighbourhoods will support the retention of the city's heritage buildings, as well as the creation of new ones, and the community identity which is one of the city's great strengths.





# NEWS - LETTER

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Perhaps not surprisingly, the politics of Vancouver heritage have intruded upon the normal business of worrying about and restoring buildings. Firstly, I must apologize to Councillor Gordon Price: in last month's newsletter, I wrote that only Counc. Lynn Kennedy had voted against the demolition of 2030 Whyte Avenue in Kitsilano; not true, as Mr. Price did, too. Thank goodness he did, as he has been consistent in his support for the preservation of heritage buildings, and it would have been a shame to see him waver now.

Secondly, Mayor Campbell's announcement that he is seeking the Liberal party leadership and will not be running again for mayor is quite interesting, at least partly because of whom he is running against: Gordon Gibson. One of the few times I have seen Gordon Campbell actually look defeated and dismayed was the rainy spring day a year ago when he stood on the steps of "Glen Brae" to announce the formation of the Heritage Conservation Foundation and the city's acceptance of that house as a gift. He was justifiably proud, and deserved his moment in the figurative sun, but was torpedoed by a cadre of neighbours who were parading around with signs opposing city ownership and public use of "Glen Brae." Naturally, the assembled press and TV scuttled away from the good-news press conference to interview the protestors, who were led by none other than Gordon Gibson, neighbour of "Glen Brae." For the mayor, it was a public-relations disaster. (Meanwhile, CKVU news edited some film clips contrasting the city's "Glen Brae" plans with the deterioration of the city-owned Nelson Park houses in order to advance the rather spurious contention that the city was only interested in grand heritage, not little buildings; the next day, word came from the mayor's office that "heritage is too hot to handle.") To add insult to injury, Gordon Gibson et al then went to court to challenge the stipulation in the "Glen Brae" bequest that a lot be subdivided from the main property for the benefit of the late owner's relatives. The court challenge was eventually dismissed, the HUGS group materialized to convert "Glen Brae" into a children's hospice, and everyone eventually felt okay, but I can't help but wonder what Campbell feels about Gibson now. The third Gordon is

already spitting and clawing at the other two, so it should be an interesting leadership race.

What would a Gordon Campbell-led provincial government be like, at least as far as heritage is concerned? Well, it couldn't be worse than the current NDP one. Premier Harcourt's attitude towards Vancouver heritage was exemplified in 1988, when he was the leader of the opposition: he demolished a "B"-listed 1912 house at Trafalgar and 31st, subdivided the lot, and built two houses, one of which he sold, the other of which is his Vancouver residence. The NDP appears to believe that heritage preservation is elitist, and has not thought about it deeply enough to make the connection between the preservation of buildings and broader environmental conservation issues. Nonetheless, we await the tabling of a new Heritage Conservation Act this spring, and wonder what the minister responsible, the Hon. Darlene Marzari, will say at the Heritage Society of B.C. conference next month.

In their apparent delusion that heritage preservation is an aesthetically motivated hobby of the elite, the provincial NDP has some allies in Vancouver's COPE party, and one COPE councillor, Harry Rankin (who apparently will not be seeking re-election this fall). Rankin's attitudes are not shared by COPE Councillors Pat Wilson and Libby Davies, but the question of neighbourhood objectives versus heritage preservation needs some exploring by us, and explanation by them. A proposed heritage development a year ago by Actual Developments in West Point Grey was opposed by COPE (and most of the NPA), largely because the neighbours were against it. This also happened at 2030 Whyte (in that instance, Counc. Davies was absent). So it is fair to ask how COPE will respond to neighbourhood attitudes to such heritage developments. Needless to say, it is difficult to figure out the NPA's response to this question, because that party has under its umbrella heritage advocates (Price and Kennedy), opponents, and a couple of swing votes, most notably Counc. Phillip Owen, who has been an advocate of design control and preservation in Shaughnessy, but does not seem to be up to speed on such issues elsewhere in the city. More next month.

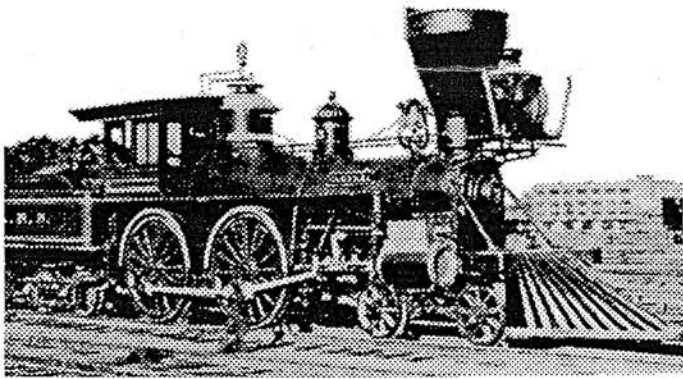
-Michael Kluckner

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### HERITAGE BC CONFERENCE

June 3-6 1993, Quesnel

Come with us on BC Rail to Quesnel: Special Heritage Vancouver package 127.50 return, includes two picnic lunches on board (regular fair \$144.50). If enough people sign up in advance, we will be able to reserve our own carriage. Depart Vancouver Friday, June 4; return Monday, June 10. Please arrange your own accommodations and conference bookings. The weekend promises to be fun, whether or not you attend the conference. Contact the Heritage line: 254-9411 by May 25.



## Upcoming

- |      |    |  |
|------|----|--|
| May  | 19 | Open Slide Night<br>Bring your own slides -personal favorites, issue-oriented, or just fun shots from home   |
| May  | 20 | Arthur Erickson Garden Visit<br>Liz Watts, April guest speaker, has arranged a tour for HVS Members of this unorthodox city garden. Donations for the campaign will be accepted. |
| May  | 26 | Celebrate our City - Student Art Show  |
| June | 12 | Closing reception 2 -4 pm<br>Meet the Artists<br>City Square, 555 West Twelfth Avenue  |
| June | 13 | Vancouver Day<br>Surprise 10 am event in Gastown with Michael Kluckner sponsored by HVS  |
| June | 16 | Exploring Vancouver authors:<br>Hal Kalman, Ron Philips, Robin Ward,<br>Books will be available for sale.  |

### VANCOUVER DAY

June 13, 1886 -

The day of the Great Fire, which destroyed the city. It started at 10am in Gastown.

In 1926, a group of citizens established Vancouver Day, the Sunday closest to June 13th, as a day to recognize outstanding citizens and in memory of those who perished in the fire. This date gradually was forgotten and was revived as Fire Day for Vancouver's Day of Nations during Expo 86.

HVS is in the process of reviving this celebration, with an annual event in Gastown and the Celebrate Our City Art Show at City Square.

## Clayburn

Friends of Clayburn, the former brick-making town north of Abbotsford which has been under siege by traffic from the surrounding megaburbs, will be pleased by the news that the District of Matsqui has purchased the old brick-plant site for park land. A walking trail through the site and the vestiges of the brick works will be officially opened on the fourth annual Clayburn Heritage Day, Sunday, July 25th between one and five pm.

In her May 3rd newsletter, Sherry Green of the Clayburn Village Community Society, writes about the proposed highway by-pass, which was to divert nearby suburban traffic from the Sumas Mountain developments around the old village: "The Agricultural Land Commission has apparently rejected the three options submitted by the [Matsqui] Planning Department. One of the options proposed was simply widening Clayburn Road to four lanes [this option would effectively demolish the historic community]. This was not acceptable to the Agricultural Land Commission and it is clear that they are not in favour of upgrading existing rural roads through the Agricultural Land Reserve . . ."

Clayburn has friends throughout the Lower Mainland, including a number of Heritage Vancouver members. We will be soliciting drivers with cars to take Vancouverites to Clayburn on the 25th.

## HERITAGE VANCOUVER SOCIETY

Heritage Vancouver meets on the  
3rd Wednesday of each month at

**Hodson Manor**  
1254 West Seventh Avenue  
on Fairview Slopes

Information: ☎ 604 254 9411  
✉ PO Box 3336, Main Post Office  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3Y3

## Canadian National

In an effort to give members some insight into the goings-on at City Hall, included is an abbreviated account of the Planning and Environment (P & E) committee meeting where the fate of the Canadian National neon sign was determined.

First to speak was Robert Lemon, Heritage Planner. He presented an outlook that favoured the proposal to remove the existing heritage designated sign, to be replaced with a 'knock-off' item.

Lynne Bryson, chair of the HAC, presented the recommendations of the HAC. They advocated the full retention of the sign in situ. If this is impossible, the sign should be removed and nothing should replace it.

George Dochuck of VIA Rail gave a succinct accounting of the economics of the rehabilitation and how their image supported a new sign.

We were quite disappointed at the lack of discussion and opportunity to respond to the issues and statements made in the presentations. The key points made in this 'discussion' by the opponents of the proposal were as follows:

- 1) This is the only designated sign in the city,
- 2) The heritage designation of the building specifies the historical importance of the sign, which has been in place since 1928.
- 3) The sign is designated and moving it off the building does not de-designate it nor does it warrant the designation of the new sign.
- 4) Instead, the developer has manipulated Council in approving new signage in violation of present Vancouver signage laws.
- 5) Canadian National is strongly identified with transportation. Therefore, the building remains as a transportation centre. Tourists recognized the words "Canadian National" but "Pacific Central" is a generic term which will always remain local.
- 6) It is the only remaining "Canadian National" sign on a station in Canada.
- 7) The sign was made in Vancouver during the first year of neon sign manufacturing in Vancouver.
- 8) The VIA representative gave the erroneous impression that when they acquired the building, it seemed about to collapse, despite all the work done prior to Expo.

Deliberation before voting :

Gordon Price stated that the correct thing to do would be to preserve the sign, but that would compromise the commercial viability of the building.

George Puil and Harry Rankin believe that no matter what the lettering, people will call it the Canadian National station.

The vote: Puil. and Wilson voted for retention. All others voted for the new scheme. (Lynne Kennedy, former HAC chair, was absent.)

This means that the new sign is designated, which Gordon Price underlines by stating that we are creating heritage for the future. The true historic sign thus becomes a de facto non-entity.

Another note: the speakers got the distinct feeling that P & E committee members were not listening and came to the meeting with their minds made up. Indeed, some even stooped to heckling.

*Ian Fisher, Jim Lowe, Jo Scott-B*

### ABOUT TOWN

## Happy Black Birthday!

On Sunday, May 2, 1993, about 70 People dressed in black gathered at the Mitchell House, at the corner of Fraser and 12th Ave to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the house. Sadly enough, they were toasting a burned-out shell that used to be a beautiful Queen Anne-style house which has twice been the victim of arson this year.

The event was organized by the East Mount Pleasant Restoration Committee (EMPRC) as a protest over the lack of heritage protection in Vancouver. This house is one of eleven structures with an A or B designation on the city's heritage inventory that have been set on fire in the past two years.

Built in 1893, the house is named after Alex Mitchell, who lived there with his third wife, Elizabeth, and three children. While its interior is completely charred, it surprisingly remains structurally sound. The EMPRC is recommending to City Hall that the house be relocated without penalizing the owner by altering his zoning permit. It is ironic that without that provision, the double-sized lot is worth more with the damaged house on it.

The city is in the process of organizing a task force to address the arson issue.

Maurice Guibord

## Langara

Latest news is that things look good for saving the Langara clubhouse. Some of our resources seem to be making a difference.





# NEWS - LETTER

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The English language certainly took a beating at the City Council (Planning and Environment Committee) meeting last month, when the Canadian National sign was voted into oblivion. According to council, the retention of only two letters from the original sign and their re-use in a sign which says something different constitutes a restoration. They have must have learned a lesson from the clever architects and builders in Shaughnessy who take out a permit to renovate and restore a house but end up rebuilding it entirely with new materials: the "jack up the chimney pot and put a new house underneath it" school of rehabilitation.

The other word which has taken on a new meaning is "designation," which formally meant a legally binding covenant to preserve an object in perpetuity. It now evidently means a fluid and expedient decision to suit the moment. "PACIFIC CENTRAL," which has never meant anything in this country, now has a sign with a heritage designation. Counc. Gordon Price claimed that the city was creating the heritage of the future, and he is right: it is instant heritage, the perfect thing for the McDonald's generation.

I read in the newspaper that some councillors felt that people would be confused by the idea of taking a VIA train or a Greyhound bus from a Canadian National station, and it was time to make a new start. However, I have since heard someone ask (perhaps on a TV report) why they had to go to Pacific Centre now to catch a train or bus. Ha Ha. "Pacific Central" is certainly an improvement, isn't it?

[Congratulations to Counc. George Puil and Counc. Pat Wilson for voting for retention of the Canadian National sign. Saanich Council is right up there with Vancouver City Council when it comes to understanding what "designation" means: it voted recently to de-designate an historic church to allow for its demolition.]

The Hon. Darlene Marzari, Minister of Tourism and responsible for heritage legislation in the provincial cabinet, spoke on Friday, June 4th in Quesnel to the annual conference of the

Heritage Society of B.C. The good news is that the long-awaited Heritage Conservation Act, albeit so weak it will probably be printed with disappearing ink, is to be introduced into the Legislature before the end of June. The bad news is the lack of money: there will only be \$800,000 this year for maintaining and improving heritage buildings.

She talked in some detail about forging new coalitions based around culture and language, and specifically avoided any references at all to private property and heritage buildings thereon. Perhaps not surprisingly, the NDP's vision of heritage is becoming ever more a cultural one, and her warm and fuzzy little chat indicated that, in future, government programs and legislation would pay only secondary attention to the preservation of buildings.

This drift away from built heritage was confirmed in an afternoon session given by Dr. Colin Campbell of the Heritage Conservation Branch. The subject of his talk was the links between heritage and the environment, which I took to mean the relevance of conservation in all aspects of life: buildings, landscapes, trees, recycling of materials, you name it. Instead, he spoke at length about new definitions of heritage, and stated that, as close as I can remember it, "heritage is what we feel about objects and sites." Not the objects and the sites themselves, but the cultural attitude towards them. One example he gave was the need to preserve the "tools" that gave us heritage objects—for example, the skills of totem-pole carving, rather than the poles themselves. It was pointed out to him that, because of building codes, the traditional ways of building and the designs created by them are now illegal.

Without doubt, the provincial government and its Heritage Conservation Branch have launched themselves down the slippery slope of Heritage Canada-style touchy-feely Ecomuseums. I think a lot of us who attended the conference would be willing to expand our horizons and definitions of heritage conservation if we felt that the government had done even a modestly successful job of preserving objects and landscapes—the primary focus of grass-roots preservation efforts in the province for the past 25 years. Instead, they have done a mediocre job, and are now asking us to trust them as they sally forth into dubious future efforts.

—Michael Kluckner

## ABOUT TOWN

**OPEN SLIDE NIGHT** - June 19th was another successful look at a variety of interests and images (overheard at the B.C. Conference: "those guys at HVS have this really neat idea: people are invited to bring their own slides and it's a fun evening....")

**ERICKSON GARDEN** On June 20th Elizabeth Watts arranged for HVS to visit Arthur Erikson's garden which charmed us all in its wildness. Liz helped us understand the subtleties of the design and appreciate the exotic planting. Thank you Liz - and good luck with the project of saving and restoring the residence and gardens.

**CELEBRATE OUR CITY** - the student art exhibit at City Square was installed despite the school strike which has delayed some work until next year. Drop into City Square any time or attend the reception on Sat. June 12th 2 to 4 pm

## HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

As Michael already reported, the B.C. HERITAGE CONFERENCE in Quesnel was a positive experience and I strongly urge you to attend next year as New Westminster promises to be an interesting venue. Mark the last weekend of May 1994 on your calendar now - delegates will tour New Westminster Heritage the homes. I thank Quesnel for hosting this year's conference. I am enthused, optimistic and full of new ideas: I have met a great group of people and seen new places.

As a participant in the Heritage Advisory Forum, I appreciated the opportunity of interacting with committees from dense urban and small town communities. The Province is proposing that committees become "commissions": to continue "advising" and also undertake projects or implement programmes, raise funds, prepare applications and reports and promote public awareness. Municipalities will have the option of establishing several HACs to better serve neighbourhood interests.

Just to remind you: the public can observe Heritage Advisory Committee meetings: Come and see the issues presented, look at proposals etc.

Time: NOON the 2nd Mon. of every month  
Where: CITY HALL

The Vancouver HAC has been looking at continued plans to turn the B.C. Hydro building into a residential/office complex. This should provide an interesting and challenging architectural and zoning precedence for adaptive re-use.

-Jo Scott-B

## VANCOUVER DAY

Sunday, June 13th

The Gastown Business Association and Heritage Vancouver are co-sponsoring a walking tour of the Gastown Waterfront. Michael Kluckner will lead the tour which starts from Maple Tree Square, corner of Carell & Water Streets at 10 am. Lets hope the sun shines for this one.

## BRILL TOUR

Friday, June 18th

Join us for an evening tour of Vancouver aboard coach 2416, a 1954 Canadian Car & Foundry Brill trolleybus.

We will be meeting at the Oakridge Transit Centre (41st & Oak) at 7pm for a 3-hour tour of Vancouver by twilight. An additional stop will be made for passenger pick-up at 10th and Fir at 7:30 pm. Breaks for photos of the bus and neon signs will be made. Arcs and sparks will liven the evening. A meal break will also be provided.

Co-sponsored by TRAMS & HVS. For more details contact VHVS at 254-9411. Cost: \$7.50

## Upcoming

- |        |    |   |
|--------|----|---|
| June   | 12 | Celebrate our City - Student Art Show<br>Closing reception 2-4 pm<br>Meet the Artists<br>City Square, 555 West Twelfth Avenue |
| June   | 13 | Vancouver Day<br>Surprise 10 am event in Gastown<br>with Michael Kluckner<br>sponsored by HVS                                 |
| June   | 16 | Exploring Vancouver authors:<br>Hal Kalman, Ron Philips, Robin Ward,<br>Books will be available for sale.                     |
| June   | 18 | Brill Trolley Tour<br>with the Transit Museum Society   |
| July   | 21 | Picnic in the Park  |
| August | 18 | Our annual visit to the North Shore's<br>Presentation House Gallery   |

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# HERITAGE VANCOUVER

## News - Letter



### PRESIDENTS REPORT

It's not often that the councillors of a 107-year-old city get the opportunity to demolish a 105-year-old building, but Vancouver's did recently with the Innes-Thompson Block on Hastings Street. They took to the task with relish and unanimity, turning their backs on a report from their own Planning Department which recommended retention.

This news, and recent heritage-related decisions from the city council in which the elected officials ignore advice from the Planning Department, came during the week when Mayor - and B.C. Liberal Party leadership hopeful - Gordon Campbell was being attacked by Vancouver business owners for raising business taxes by twenty-five percent or more. Campbell's rationale for the higher business tax was, one presumes, that the citizens are demanding more services which have to be paid for; one of

the main recipients of the taxpayers' largesse has been the Planning Department, which has expanded at a great rate with boodle such as CityPlan. But what is the point of having a Planning Department if Council is going to be so capricious about accepting its advice?

The Innes-Thompson fiasco is the second time in the past few years that a heritage building has come up against the formidable architectural corporation Aitken-Wreglesworth & Associates. The last time was when Aitken-Wreglesworth, on behalf of C.N. (something to do with railways? an old station somewhere?) was justifying the replacement of the Customs House at Burrard and Pender. In that case, the architects *liked* C.B.K. Van Norman's design and, though they were unable to argue without too much difficulty that the existing building could not be renovated to a new office use, they mimicked its International Style design with "references" in the new edifice. However, this time the architects *disliked* the Richardsonian Romanesque style of C.O. Wickenden's 1888 effort, and were



able to argue successfully that the retention of the facade, although it made no difference to the operation or internal design of the redevelopment, would be unfeasible. They made in addition a veiled threat that retention of the other significant heritage building on the site - the Union Bank Building at Seymour and Hastings - could be jeopardized if Council dug in its heels and insisted on the retention of the Innes-Thompson facade. How can you have a heritage policy, and the retention of buildings from all eras of the city, when current likes and dislikes play such a strong role in the decision-making process?

The Mayor and Councillors, who in general have as deep an understanding of their Heritage Management Plan as they do of the works of Stephen Hawking, did not waste any time before agreeing with the architects. They knew what a heritage building was (the Union Bank Building) and what was just an old junker (the Innes-Thompson). The fact that Innes-Thompson was one of the oldest buildings left in the city did not impress them; as a legacy of an early Vancouver architect, it did not impress them; as one of the few examples in the city of that architectural style, it did not impress them; even as a recommendation of the Planning Department, it did not impress them; even as a recommendation of the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC), it did not impress them. So why do we bother with a Heritage Management Plan, a Planning Department, and public consultation?

The public hearing process is usually a farce, both in Vancouver and elsewhere, as the elected officials are overloaded with paper and underloaded with understanding. Too often in Vancouver, any heritage development, which may be the culmination of a century's history and months or years of work by owners, developers and citizens, is considered quickly in a confrontational, absurd atmosphere, often punctuated by Harry Rankin's heritage story (how one of the Pacific Street houses fell over while being moved) and his heritage opinion (Tudor Manor is bad). Even the most sophisticated of the councillors, Gordon Price, was able to convince himself that changing a sign which read "CANADIAN NATIONAL" to one reading "PACIFIC CENTRAL" was a renovation and not a new sign. Oh, well. Elsewhere, most notably at Bamberton on Vancouver Island and at Vernon, proposed developments which represent new directions and potentially have major impacts on their communities are being considered by city councils and regional

districts at the eleventh hour in what can only be described as a rumpus room or schoolyard atmosphere.

Setting aside all of the political arguments about elitism, and of planners and heritage advocates being on high horses, there is evidently a real flaw in the process wherein new developments are considered. I hear this all over the place, from developers who are considering "good" projects as well as those who aren't, from "ordinary" citizens, and from advocates and experts; councils, who claim they have to make decisions because they are the only ones accountable to the electorate, seem to be incapable of supporting long-term civic policies because of short-term popularity concerns. I have listened to many politicians claim that their "we know best" attitude towards development is inevitable and good. Nevertheless, councils permit many decisions to be made by their Development Permit (DP) Board, consisting of a few top civic officials who are not, in any realistic sense, accountable to the electorate. These same councils do not appear to be willing to empower committees consisting of citizens appointed for short terms.

The new provincial Heritage Conservation Act, should it ever be proclaimed, will give municipal councils the ability to empower Heritage Advisory Committees actually to make decisions concerning developments, decisions which now only the DP Board, and council itself, can make. Would that be a good thing? As a veteran of the HAC and of numerous council punch-ups, both in Vancouver and in places like Victoria and Vernon and the Cowichan Valley, I think we on the HAC made well-considered, rational recommendations to applicants about their developments, and had a positive effect on the quality of the city's buildings. However, many of our recommendations were overturned by council, undercutting what was supposed to be ironclad city policy. If those HAC recommendations had been actual decisions, there would not be as many cheesed-off developers (such as David Birch and Actual Developments, to name two) and the anti-heritage types such as Aitken-Wreglesworth (who always claim to care about heritage) would perhaps be doing more interesting buildings. I only wish that the architects, developer, and council could have made an inexpensive (to the taxpayer) visit the Hotel Pulitzer in Amsterdam, to see how modern architecture can complement an broken line of historic facades, before they made their decision.

MICHAEL KLUCKNER

## CHINATOWN ISSUES

Probably many HV members saw the June 21st article in The Sun, in which supporters of Chinatown heritage buildings were branded as colonialists and racists. I wrote a letter to the editor of the paper because I do not like the idea of such scurrilous allegations standing unchallenged. Here is that letter. M.K.

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TTA NAGEL  
Richmond

# History is the key to profitability

THE JUNE 21 article on the antagonism many Chinatown merchants feel towards its heritage buildings puzzled me (Emphasis on heritage preservation called racism in reverse). It seemed to indicate both that the area was dying due to its restrictive heritage policy, and that you can't find a parking space because it is so popular.

The problem, according to the story, was the city planning department, which slapped heritage zoning on Chinatown. In fact, it was W.A.C. Bennett's provincial government that did the dirty deed in 1972.

That legislation was not in itself a straitjacket, any more than is heritage zoning in New Orleans or Seattle or Sydney. However, it became one when combined with restrictive national building codes and unsympathetic city inspection practices and taxation policies, to the point where even a heritage fanatic could feel some sympathy for the plight of Chinatown building owners.

It is especially interesting that Mayor Gordon Campbell claims to be an ally of the merchants after years

of refusing to consider tax relief for owners of heritage buildings.

Is the flavor of Chinatown the people, not the buildings, as consultant Allan De Genova claims? Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that it is a combination of the two, which is why the best solution for Chinatown will be the preservation and restoration of as many of the old buildings as possible, some sensitive infill and the easing of some of the restrictive and punitive codes and taxation policies that have plagued owners.

A significant part of Chinatown's financial success is its appeal to tourists, who are coming at least in part to see the buildings — if not, why don't they flock to Richmond's new Chinese malls?

Nobody wants a ghost-town Chinatown, but in the long run it will be the historic Chinatown flavor that will make the businesses profitable and ensure their ability to compete with the flashy new suburban ones.

MICHAEL KLUCKNER  
Heritage Vancouver Society

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# ITS SUMMER!

## PICNIC!!

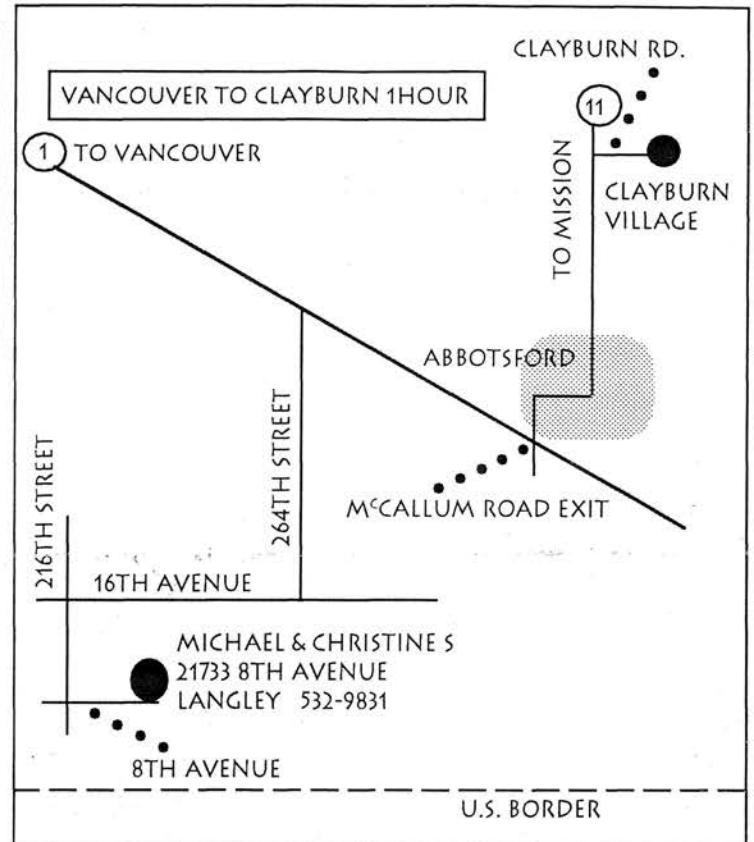
It's time for the annual Heritage Vancouver Picnic and this year, we're holding it on south shore of False Creek down on the grass near the school and the marina, just west of Charleston Park. Bring your summer eats and drinks. The picnic will be at the regular meeting time, 7:30pm., and will go until the sun sets or people go home. If it rains, well, we'll meet at our usual place and pretend we're outside and that it never rains here in the summer. (There will be a notice on the door of Hodson Manor in case people forget.)

## CLAYBURN HERITAGE DAY, ETC.

Just a reminder that Sunday, July 25, is the fourth annual Clayburn Village Heritage Day, featuring heritage tours and sites, live theatre, a wonderful old store, and a keynote speech by Janet Bingham, whose book *Samuel Maclure, Architect* was one of the first to bring Clayburn's architectural legacy to public attention.

The events run from one to five in the afternoon. Refer to the map below and, if you have a car with space in it or need a ride, phone the HV number so we can attempt to put together carpools.

As an added incentive to a summer Sunday in the country, return to Vancouver via Michael Kluckner and Christine Allen's farm in south Langley. They will be returning there at about 3:30, and HV members who have made the trek to Clayburn are invited to come by for cookies and lemonade. The map has all the details.



## FUN ON BUSES

June 18th was a night to remember for all those who took part in the great Heritage Vancouver Brill Coach Caper. We, along with the assistance of Ian Fisher and Angus McIntyre from the Trams Society, took a 1954 Canadian Car and Foundry Brill trolley bus out for an evening on the town. With Angus as our driver, the evening started with a tour of the Oak Street Garage and then off down 41st Avenue and up Arbutus on our way to pick up passengers at 10th and Fir. After a meal break at Metrotown and a neon tour of Kingsway, we spent the

evening cruising the streets of Vancouver. We discovered streets and routes unknown to most of us. At the 29th Street bus loop, Angus and Ian gave us a demonstration of how the electrical system works (it's a lot more interesting than you'd think). The highlights for many were the sparks generated in Chinatown and on Columbia Street from travelling on some of the unused wires. And, of course, the sparks generated by the bus and Angus at the Blanca loop were spectacular. We ended the tour back at Oak Street at midnight. A tremendous evening was had by all and we are looking forward to the next trip. Heritage Vancouver would like to thank Angus McIntyre and Ian Fisher for their time and enthusiasm.



"Say Bus Tour"...The group gathers for a photo opportunity



# GASTOWN

The annual Vancouver Day Gastown Boundary Walk was held this year on Sunday, June 13th, in brilliant sunshine. Michael Kluckner, joined by three-piece band laid on by the Gastown Business Improvement Society, led the walk along Water, Cambie, Hastings and Carrall Streets. The turnout was very good and the interest level high.



## AUGUST IS MUSEUM MONTH

Our August meeting will be held on the North Shore during our annual visit to Presentation House and the North Shore Museum. John Stuart, the curator and HV member, opens the museum especially for us on August 18th at 7:30pm. We'll tour the current show and then have an informal meeting. So don't forget to be on the North Shore for August's meeting. Presentation House is located at 333 Chesterfield Avenue. (Many of us will be at the Seabus terminal at 7:00pm. for the ocean voyage across and a brief walking tour up to the museum.)

## B.C. HYDRO BUILDING ISSUES

*(excerpted from a letter originally done for the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting of June 14, 1993)*

I strongly support the recycling of buildings and urge council to do the same and especially the B.C. Hydro building. I commend the developer for the proposed upgrading of the lobby, the added garden court, amenity space and interior and exterior planting.

However, our mandate as a Heritage Advisory Committee must be to support heritage retention. Too often in recent years, heavy compromises have been made and token retention deemed a victory. But do we really like the nurses on Cathedral Place, should the "new" Pacific Central sign be designated? And I'm tired of having Tudor

Manor cited everytime we go to council on a heritage issue.

The B.C. Hydro building has many outstanding features: it is a strong 1950s presence on the Vancouver skyline, the unique tapered shape, the B.C. Binning tile work and most importantly the curtain wall.

In a masonry building, you can alter the windows with double glazing or new windows in new materials without substantially affecting the overall design of the architecture. Not so with a curtain wall. The curtain wall of the Hydro building is of such strong visual character and importance in terms of how we see the building that any significant alteration would ruin the building. There is an established pattern and grid to the wall and this is the significant design feature of the building, just as the stone is to the Hotel Vancouver. If we severely compromise the design, is it heritage retention?

Therefore while I support the recycling of the building, as a member of the HAC, I cannot support the proposed alterations as they damage one of the principal design features of the building.

JO SCOTT-B

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## Upcoming

- July 21st Wednesday Don't forget our meeting is a picnic at 7:30pm., down at False Creek west of Charleston Park.
- July 27th Sunday It's the Clayburn Village Heritage Day and lemonade at the farm.
- August 18th Wednesday Our regular meeting at 7:30pm., but it's on the North Shore at Presentation House.

Don't forget that the Heritage Advisory Committee meets at noon on the 2nd Monday of every month at City Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and observe, see the proposals and hear the issues.

## HERITAGE VANCOUVER

meets at

**7:30P.M.**

on the

3rd Wednesday of each month at

**HODSON MANOR**

1254 West Seventh Avenue

on Fairview Slopes

Information: 604 254 9411

PO Box 3336, Main Post Office

Vancouver, B.C. V6b 3Y3





*Its time to think about renewing your membership. Memberships expire in October and that's not too far away! :-)*

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

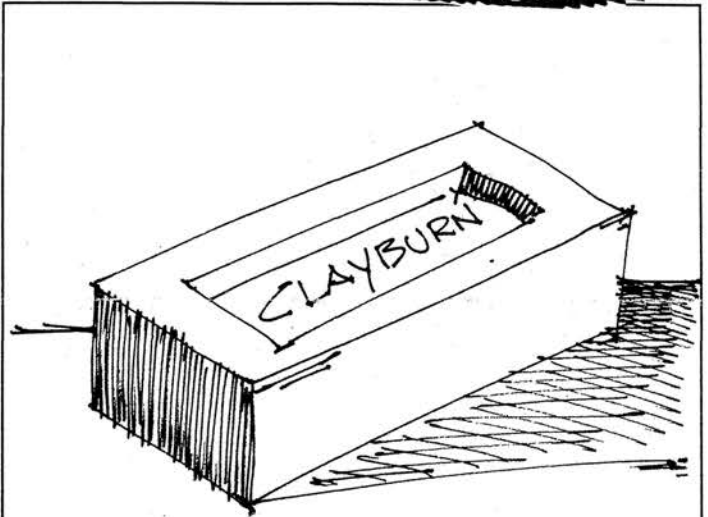
The old B.C. Hydro Building—more properly, the B.C. Electric Building—at Burrard and Nelson is to be adaptively re-used by conversion into condominiums, and while the debate goes back and forth between Heritage Advisory Committee, planners, developer, and council about the extent to which the old curtain wall will be retained, it is worth reflecting on what the building meant to Vancouver in the 1950s.

I clearly remember its official opening, on March 28, 1957, and being taken up to the top floor to gaze out over the treetops and peaked roofs of the residential West End. My father's office had moved from the old headquarters at Carrall and Hastings; his heavy wooden desk had been replaced by a steel one, and the oak swivel chair by a steel and vinyl model which stood on a plexiglas sheet, allowing him to scoot around without becoming bogged down in the carpet (a change in itself from the linoleum of the old office).

It was almost dazzlingly bright compared with the old building, and all the windows had vertical fabric Venetian blinds to cut the glare. (It was very strange to hear about the plans of the building's current owners to increase the window area, and by so doing to eliminate the carefully considered rhythm of window and spandrel that was part of the original design; in their offices, employees' family photos, for example, faded very quickly in the glare.) On a typical office floor, no employee sat more than fifteen feet from a window.

In 1957, for the opening, B.C. Electric published a handsome booklet entitled "Tomorrow's Tall Building," featuring on its cover the blind-embossed silhouette of the building, and quoting *Architectural Forum*: "Today's skyscrapers are elaborate steel cages on which are hung walls, floor and service shafts. Tomorrow's tall buildings may reverse this arrangement by making the service shafts large hollow cores or backbones, like tree trunks, from which floors branch out like limbs and walls become almost vestigial curtains, light and transparent as gossamer, enclosing space."

Everything about the new building was a radical departure for Vancouver architecture: compressing the elevator shafts, stairs, washrooms, heating and ventilating ducts, piping and other services into the least possible space resulted in the diamond shape of



### CLAYBURN HERITAGE DAY

For the fourth year in a row, the sun shone on Clayburn and its heritage day. A number of HV members including John Atkin, Jim Lowe, Robin Naiman, Mary MacDonald, Lyn Hainstock, Janet and Alec Bingham, Janine Bond, Michael Kluckner, Christine Allen, and Bruce MacDonald and family made the trek and supported the Clayburn residents who have done so much in the face of so much adversity. Very much in evidence was the Mayor of Matsqui, who formerly an adversary of anything old that casts a shadow but now, apparently, has become a supporter of the town's preservation.

the core; surrounding the core with office blocks in rectangular form created the building's elongated-diamond or lozenge form. Thus the building's external form, according to B.C. Electric vice-president Tom Ingledow (who personally directed the project), resulted directly from efficiency and operational concerns—a true example of form following function.

According to the B.C. Electric booklet, "much of the practical success of architectural and engineering toil which went into this building won't show in the finished product, but had a tremendous impact on design and

cost. Piping, ducts, wiring and the other sinews of any office structure were compressed into very compact areas above and below the cantilevered membranes. With conventional installation of these necessities, two additional stories would have been required, or the area of the building substantially enlarged." It was to be very safe in high winds and earthquakes, swaying only three inches at the top in a 90 mile-per-hour wind (only half as much as the allowed movement of skyscrapers in New York, said the booklet).

The building was an extraordinary advertisement for B.C. Electric in the late 1950s, both during the day when it seemed so modern and fresh and far from the grubby, heavy old buildings of the established downtown, but especially at night when it was a blazing beacon of electric light—the normal office lighting, left on all night, supplemented by a few floodlights and spots. Ahh, the Fifties—cheap hydroelectric power and a bountiful future. B.C. Electric employees were charged a flat dollar-a-month for their electricity then. The head-office building was dubbed Grauer's Power Tower after Dal Grauer, B.C. Electric's president.

Then, in 1961, the W.A.C. Bennett government took over B.C. Electric (ironically on the day of Dal Grauer's funeral—he died of leukemia) and incorporated it into the B.C. Hydro & Power Authority. Interestingly, the diamond blue-and-green mosaic pattern on the exterior near street level, designed by Knoll's International and the artist B.C. Binning, fitted in and/or inspired the stylized "H" logo of B.C. Hydro. It is all still there today, thirty-six years after the building opened, and we would do well to keep as much of it as possible while adapting the old office building to its new use.

*-Michael Kluckner*

### Goodbye Farmhouse

The Alexander Mitchell house, which has occupied the southeast corner of 12th and Fraser for a century, will one way or the other exit its lot within the next few weeks. One way would be in pieces on the back of a truck; the other, which is more of a long shot, would be as a house, in transit to a new location somewhere else.

Following several torchings, and the removal of all of its mouldings and most of its fretwork, the house is little more than a shell with most of the roof destroyed. Because of fire damage and gutting, restoration costs would evidently work out at about \$95 per square foot on a 2,200 square-foot house, so, with the addition of \$15,000 to move it and about the same amount for a new foundation, it has become a quarter-million-dollar orphan.

Replacing it on its double lot will be two bare-bones, stucco-sided duplexes—the best that money can buy for \$55 a square foot.

## Goodbye Robert Lemon

We are very sorry to hear of Senior Heritage Planner Robert Lemon's decision to leave the city's employ and return to private architectural practice. For the past couple of years, Lemon's expertise and calm persuasiveness have been beacons in the fog of the Vancouver Planning Department.

It is possible to infer that his decision has a lot to do with recent council decisions which have undercut heritage planning, most notably the twin fiascos of the Innes-Thompson Building and the Evans house (2030 Whyte in Kitsilano). It would be very understandable if a highly skilled and knowledgeable person such as Robert Lemon felt he was wasting his time offering advice and attempting to administer the city's Heritage Management Plan when each decision coming from council appears to be on the basis of wetting a collective finger and holding it up to the breeze, rather than the result of their careful consideration of long-term objectives.

Lemon's return to private architectural practice will be a boon to owners of heritage buildings. Having wished in vain that he could have the support of his departmental supervisors and city council, we now wish him well in his future efforts.

## AUGUST IS MUSEUM MONTH

Our August meeting will be held on the North Shore during our annual visit to Presentation House and the North Shore Museum. John Stuart, the curator and HV member, opens the museum especially for us on August 18th at 7:30pm. We'll tour the current show and then have an informal meeting. So don't forget to be on the North Shore for August's meeting. Presentation House is located at 333 Chesterfield Avenue. (Many of us will be at the Seabus terminal at 7:00pm. for the ocean voyage across and a brief walking tour up to the museum.)

Don't forget that the Heritage Advisory Committee meets at noon on the 2nd Monday of every month at City Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and observe, see the proposals and hear the issues.

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Information: 604 254 9411  
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*It's time to think about renewing your membership. Memberships expire in October and that's not too far away!*

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

A friend came to dinner last week, bringing with her a copy of the Vancouver west-side edition of the Real Estate Weekly. Seizing the opportunity to look for endangered heritage houses, and being somewhat out of touch now that we live in the bucolic Fraser Valley, we eagerly read it from cover to cover.

Unlike a few years ago, when very few realtors thought there was any market for old houses, many are now aware of the "heritage fact"—that they can sometimes make money by selling an old house as a house, rather than as a potential hole in the ground. They use all the available lures while trolling for a buyer, not knowing, of course, what a prospective purchaser is going to want to do.

If we were to give out prizes for this sort of thing, the winner in the "Heritage Mis-Awareness" category might be realtor Alix Brown of Dexter Properties, a Kerrisdale-based agency specializing in homes for people with deep pockets. Her advertisement for the house at 1551 Angus Drive in First Shaughnessy covers all the bases: "Originally Lord Shaughnessy's Hunting Lodge! Venerable old house on exceptional land. Infill? Rebuild? . . ." Old Sir Thomas did a lot of things to Vancouver, but he never hunted for anything except real-estate profits among the stumps and bracken of the CPR's land grant.

Much cagier is the ungrammatical advertisement for the home at 1712 Cedar Crescent, a comparatively modest Craftsman dating from about 1915. "Charming 5 bdrm character Tudor offering elegance and spacious. Bonus: plans & development permits for luxury 7 bedroom home are included."

Another of the houses advertised for sale is the bungalow at 6061 Macdonald Street in Kerrisdale. It is a low Tudor cottage, designed in 1921 by the architect Arthur James Dalton—probably the son of William Dalton, the designer of several 19th-century Gastown buildings and partner with Sydney M. Eveleigh on many Edwardian-era downtown projects. The little house won the Ideal Cottage Award of 1921, and was built for the sales manager of the Hanbury sawmill, which stood at the corner of 4th and Granville on False Creek and holds a certain distinction in that it was the first sawmill in Canada to be powered by electricity. A later occupant was Dorothy Somerset, the actor.

The house was on the market last fall and, with its relatively small size (about 1,300 square feet on the single above-ground floor) and 66-foot lot, it looked to be a candidate only for the landfill. While it was on the market, Western Living

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magazine featured it on its back page, with an illustration by Drew Burnham, lamenting the reality of the Vancouver real-estate market wherein a sweet little house like this evidently could not survive. The house did sell, and someone did move in, but it turned out to be a developer who was in the process of completing a very large house in Burnaby and wanted somewhere to camp in the interim; according to our sources, 6061 Macdonald was to be the site of his next dream home. However, at least in part because of the glut of "monster homes" on the west side of Vancouver, 6061 Macdonald went back on the market in June, and has sat empty through the summer with the grass uncut and the garden unweeded, looking decidedly forlorn.

It has not sold, and its owner appears to be unwilling to proceed with a new house. So now, surprise surprise, the Ideal Cottage is being marketed as a "rare find character home"; ironically, the Real Estate Weekly advertisement notes that the house was "showcased in Western Living Magazine"!

Another house which has come back onto the market is the pseudo-Victorian at 4575 West 7th Avenue in Point Grey. Advertised now as "the prettiest home in Point Grey," it was the house which, with the adjoining property to the west, was the subject of an application by Actual Developments a couple of years ago to restore the "Victorian" into the Craftsman it originally was and build design-controlled infill. Council rejected the application following strong protests from the neighbours who objected mainly to the additional house which Actual wanted to include in the scheme, but also thought the Victorian style was more attractive than the original Craftsman one. The "Victorian" is available along with the 66-foot lot to the west; the two can be had for just under a million-and-a-half.



All cynicism aside, there is some evidence in Vancouver that heritage sells. But what is "heritage"? So far, it is usually the houses in traditional or period styles. By contrast, there is C.B.K. Van Norman's own home, an International-Style 1939 building at 1840 West 61st, which is being advertised as a potential subdivision as it sits across two lots. Its heritage value is not even acknowledged, as in "home of famous architect . . . ." But traditionally styled houses are still subject to demolition: watch for the demise of 2443 West 49th Avenue, the 1912 Cunliffe house, which is one of the most historic in that part of town; its demolition, should it happen, will almost inevitably mean as well the loss of a few of the finest trees in that part of the city.

**Michael Kluckner**

## AUGUST WAS MUSEUM MONTH

Our August meeting was held at the North Shore Museum where about 25 Heritage Vancouver members had a preview of the new exhibit *From Logs to Lumber: Our First Industry* which chronicled the logging industry on the north shore and the various ways the trees were harvested. (You've never seen meaner looking chain saws). John Stuart, the curator, then treated us to a slide show on the restoration and rehabilitation of Lampson School in Victoria. The school was a winner of the Hallmark Society Award and the slide show was the award presentation. The Vancouver School Board should be on the next ferry to take a look at this project that came in with a budget substantially less than new construction. (Funny how that seems to work). The presentation sparked a lively discussion about bureaucrats, heritage, heritage funding and the reuse of buildings. Our thanks to John Stuart and the Museum for allowing us the opportunity to visit on what is becoming a Heritage Vancouver tradition.

## TRANSFER OF DENSITY A GO!

At a recent Council committee meeting heritage in the city got quite a boost: the long awaited transfer of density policy was approved. This will now allow building owners to transfer unused density to other sites that are not within the same zoning district. The immediate benefit of this new policy will be the retention of the old library building and most likely the Stanley Theatre and help make the restoration of the Vogue Theatre a viable proposition. By selling the unused portion of the allowable density off the site to another location the retention of heritage buildings in the downtown suddenly becomes an affordable option. Heritage Vancouver Prez Michael Kluckner was one of the speakers supporting the policy.

## ON A SERIOUS NOTE...

You've all probably thought at some point that you would want to wear a Heritage Vancouver T-Shirt on your back, right? Well it's coming. With a Robin Ward drawing of the Sun Tower on the shirt produced in only extra large and in a limited edition these shirts are going to be popular (and with Christmas just under 4 months away...)

We will have all the details at the September meeting or you can use the handy and convenient coupon appearing soon in the newsletter.

Something else to keep an eye open for will be the upcoming Heritage Vancouver Walking tours. A number of tours of a variety of neighbourhoods will be offered. The dates had not been set when this went to the printers, but look for them in early October.

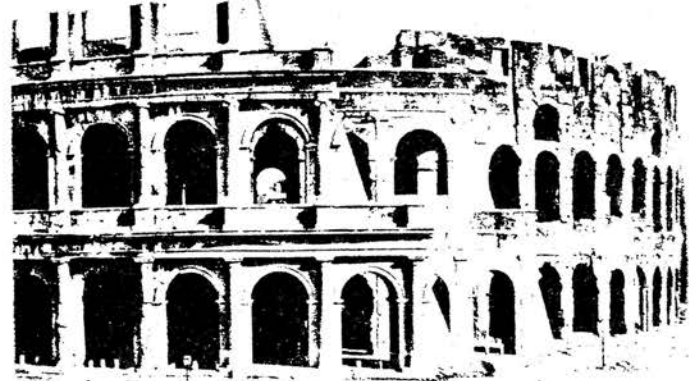
As well it's not too early to be thinking about the 15th Annual City of Vancouver Heritage Awards. The awards are given in February during Heritage Week and the public is invited to make nominations. Heritage Vancouver has nominated projects in previous years and this year we're looking to nominate a large group of good projects. While it may seem early, the nominated project does require clear documentation, ie: photos, plans, statements about the project etc. Call the Heritage Conservation Program at City Hall for the Nomination Forms.

That brings us to the North Shore Heritage Weekend on September 17th to the 19th. This growing event features walking tours, free harbour tours and tours of industrial, logging and waterfront sites. This event is a joint effort by the City of North Vancouver, the Municipality of West Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver. Call 987-7529 for further information.

## LOOK WHO'S SPEAKING

Our September speaker is the well travelled heritage planner Jeannette Hlavach. Jeannette has recently returned from a 6 month stay in the eternal city of Rome where she was studying heritage conservation issues. We will have an opportunity to see slides and hear Jeannette's impressions of one of the world's great cities. Join us at 8.30pm. for this presentation.

For the October meeting it is of course the AGM of the society but we are trying to arrange for candidates in the upcoming civic election to come and talk heritage issues with us for the 8.30pm. time slot. So watch this space.



Don't forget that the Heritage Advisory Committee meets at noon on the 2nd Monday of every month at City Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and observe, see the proposals and hear the issues.

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*It's time to think about renewing your membership. Memberships expire in October and that's now!*

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Heritage Vancouver is an important one this year. Not only do we have the elections for the Board of Directors, but this time we are electing a new president. Michael Kluckner, who has led the society through its first 18 months of growth, is stepping down to work on his farm and other interests in Langley.

Apart from the president's position, there are two spots on the Board of Directors that need to be filled. Most of the current board has indicated a willingness to continue their duties.

Nominated for **President:** John Atkin

**Vice President:** Jo Scott-B

**Secretary:** Maurice Guibord

**Members at Large:** Jim Lowe, Mary McDonald, Peter Vaisbord, Laurie Carlisle and Don Luxton. Nominations will be accepted for all positions from the floor at the meeting.

## THE CANDIDATES ARE COMING!

The AGM will be a short affair (last year's was all of 19 minutes) and after the meeting, we will break for coffee until 8:30 p.m., when the candidates for the mayor's chair join us for a forum on heritage issues. Each candidate will open with a short presentation and then we will have questions from the floor about heritage. The meeting should wrap up around 10 p.m. This is the one big chance for our members to talk directly to the candidates and get their concerns aired.

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Heritage Vancouver, though holding regular meetings since January, 1992 was officially registered in March of that year.

As we come up to our second AGM, it might be useful to take a quick look back over the past year.

Since October 1992, we have had many fascinating speakers at our meetings, including Jim Wolfe from the New Westminster Preservation Society; Don Evans of the Westcoast Railway Society; Bruce McDonald, author of *Vancouver: A Visual History*, the Port Corporation, Robin Ward, Ron Philips and Hal Kalman, authors of the new edition of *Exploring Vancouver*, Michael Rist of the B.C. Golf Museum, and Jeannette Hlavach talking about heritage concerns in Rome.

Along with our speakers, we have instituted a unique and refreshing presentation called Open Projector. First tried out at our December 92 meeting, members are invited to bring five or more slides on any subject and to show them. This has resulted in some fascinating evenings that are now part of our calendar for December and May.

Heritage Week is always a busy time for the society as we put on a number of very popular walking tours throughout Vancouver.

The Great Brill Coach Caper with the 1954 Brill trolley was a great way to begin summer. Our driver Angus McIntyre and guide Ian Fisher from the Transit Museum Society took the members of Heritage Vancouver on a night tour of the city along little-used transit lines in the restored 1954 Brill Coach. We hope to add this event to our regular calendar of events.

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Other regular events are our Heritage Picnic in July and our visit and meeting at the North Shore Museum in August, along with the Celebrate our City, a students' art show, with work from Vancouver area schools concerning heritage and the city, which will be mounted for the third time in June as part of our Vancouver Day celebrations. Also part of our Vancouver Day activities has been our Annual Gastown Boundary Walk, a joint project with the Gastown Business Improvement Society. This year's walk, which was free, had more than a hundred or more participants who listened to Michael Kluckner and a small marching band that escorted the group along its way.

We have had many heritage issues to deal with in the past year, among them, the Council and Planning Department recommendation to allow the demolition of the 1928 Canadian National sign on top of the C.N. Station on Main Street; the continued desire of the Park Board to demolish the Heather Pavilion at V.G.H.; the surprise reaction of the Kits Point neighbourhood that resulted in the 1910 C.P.R.-built show house at 2030 Whyte Avenue being shipped to Bowen Island; the incredible battle with the Park Board, again, over the redesign of the local golf links and the very real possibility that the Langara Club House would be demolished continued to be a subject of our meetings. (Many letters had been written along with donations to help fund the legal actions taken to stop the Park Board.). The T.D. Bank at Seymour and Hastings will possibly become a convention centre for the downtown campus of S.F.U.; unfortunately, this means the very important 1889 Innes-Thomson Block was dismissed by Council and will be demolished; the Park Board gets credit for allowing the Mitchell House to be moved to Robson Park but council members once again forgot to think beyond their noses and turned down the opportunity to create a real community project for east Mount Pleasant (the Housing and Properties Department gets a cream pie in the face for the nice piece of sabotage staged at the meeting which eventually sunk the whole idea).

On the positive side the Vogue Theatre reopened as a performing arts venue with music, dance, film and a host of other things; an



innovative proposal to save the Stanley Theatre as a theatre may yet come to fruition; the attendance at our meetings continues to increase as does our membership; and papers such as the Georgia Straight are beginning to write good in-depth articles on the city and its heritage. The recent Neon and Lions Gate Bridge articles among others are good examples. The next year will be an interesting one with our new P.R. Committee striving to raise our profile higher, a host of interesting events and of course the continued growth of Heritage Vancouver.

## WALKING TOUR SEASON IS HERE

Since it's Fall, the time has come to walk in our neighbourhoods, kick the leaves and enjoy Vancouver's unique heritage. It's that time when members of Heritage Vancouver will again offer a series of innovative Walking Tours on the weekends of October 16-17 and 23-24 1993. As always, these walks will prove to be popular and entertaining. Join us, rain or shine for:

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

#### MIDNIGHT CITY RAMBLE TWELVE MIDNIGHT

Vice-President John Atkin, co-author of *Heritage Walks Around Vancouver*; will lead the unusual but popular Midnight Ramble. This unique tour will feature architectural detailing on downtown buildings, an unusual viewing perspective in the quiet and not so quiet hours of the night.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

#### MOUNT PLEASANT TOUR EN FRANÇAIS ONE O'CLOCK P.M.

Maurice Guibord, from Heritage Vancouver, because of the success of his last tour, Chinatown in French, Maurice will lead a tour of the Mount Pleasant District, presented in French.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

#### ESTATES OF SOUTH KERRISDALE ONE O'CLOCK P.M.

President Michael Kluckner (author of *Vanishing Vancouver*, *Paving Paradise*, and co-author of *Heritage Walks Around Vancouver*) will lead a tour featuring Big Homes and Properties in and around McCleery Golf Course, site of some very early settlements and farmsteads.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

#### 405 TOUR OF DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER ONE O'CLOCK P.M.

In his first tour for HVS, Christopher Small, International Style afficionado and UBC Architecture student will lead a tour highlighting the numerous modernist buildings in downtown Vancouver.

Cost: \$8.00 for non-members, \$6.00 for members. For more information, reservations and more, importantly departure points, call Heritage Vancouver at 254-9411

## SERIOUSLY, FOLKS...

The Heather Pavilion, the original building of the Vancouver General Hospital, will be part of the discussion of the Hospital's Master Plan on October 21st at Council Committee. The possibility that this building will become baseball diamonds or some other form of "active recreation space" is very real. So please, if you can, get up to City Hall and speak up for this unique building. It's easy... just call the City Clerk's office and put your name on the agenda. Council Committees are not as formal as the regular sessions and though they like to think so, the members of council aren't all that formidable and if you don't speak up, they don't hear you.

Also watch for the attempts to bastardize the Public Library Building. The initial ideas from the architects begged the question why

bother saving it at all? The notion that we must always "improve" upon the original architect's work seems to prevail in the design community. It would be nice to see the egos put away occasionally and have the original dominate over the new work.

Heritage Vancouver is one of the sponsors of the Community, Neighbourhood and City Hall Forum that will take place on Saturday October 30th at 1pm in the Vancouver East Cultural Centre. It is an all candidates meeting, including the candidates for mayor, and will be moderated by Kevin Evans of C.B.C. The survival of the unique neighbourhoods of Vancouver faced with all manner of pressures is and will continue to be a big challenge for the politicians of this city.

Heritage Award nomination forms will be available soon from the Planning Department at City Hall. It's the 15th year that this award has been given and we should be out there finding the perfect candidates. The Heritage Awards are given out in February during Heritage Week.

## T-SHIRTS AND OTHER GREAT STUFF

The Heritage Vancouver 100% cotton, one size fits all, exclusive limited edition T-Shirt will soon be printed. Get your orders in now. These extra-large shirts feature Robin Ward's drawing of the Sun Tower on the front and the HVS logo on the back. At 20 bucks a shirt, they will go fast (I bought two!).

In other merchandising news... Maurice Guibord is selling on behalf of the B.C. Transit Archives a neat looking lapel pin of a Green 1930s Teardrop Bus. They're eight bucks each and the proceeds go to the Archives. Next up is Michael Kluckner's new book *British Columbia in Water Colour*, a delightful look at the province through his water colours. The text describes the scene and offers insight into the current heritage issues around B.C. The book is available to HVS members at a 20% discount. You can order by calling HVS at 254-9411 with your name and number or from our front table at the meetings.

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# HERITAGE VANCOUVER Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*After a year and a half of Michael Kluckner's insightful comments on this page, I have, I think, fairly big shoes to fill.*

Taking over the President's chair of Heritage Vancouver is a challenge, not only because of the big shoes, but as always, there is a lot of work to do. Apart from keeping up with numerous heritage issues, the continued development of the society so that it can manage and sustain the increasing membership and interest from the public will be very important for us. The new Board of Directors will be looking at a number of initiatives in the coming months, including the newsletter, publicity and programs to ensure that Heritage Vancouver continues to grow and respond to member's needs.

After our very successful annual general meeting (which was a full 17 minutes!) the new board of directors of the society is as follows:

President: John Atkin

Vice President: Jo Scott B

Secretary: Maurice Guibord

Past President: Michael Kluckner

Treasurer/Archivist: Janine Bond

Membership: Laurie Carlisle

At Large: Jim Lowe, Don Luxton, Shirley McCall, Mary McDonald, David Nimmo, Peter Vaisbord

The participation of H.V. members in the society's activities is important and to make it a little easier (joining a committee can be a daunting experience), we will be starting an informal "social/work" meeting that will get together the first week of every month. This will be an opportunity to drop in and check out the projects that the society is working on, help write a press release, lick envelopes, or help develop new focus directions for H.V. You might just want to drop by for a chat. Things will get under way in January and if you'd like more information, call Jo Scott B at 738-2419.

Recently, on a weekend trip to Seattle, I had an opportunity to see the Arts and Crafts Expo in West Seattle. The show was a collection of dealers in furniture, both original and reproduction, glass and ceramics and lots of hardware to complete that restoration, but what struck me, though, were the couple of real estate agencies represented. Their pitch was simply, if you want to buy an Arts and Crafts house, come see us. The brochures pointed out their commitment to heritage properties. Ah... dream land. There were even controlled subdivisions on one of the San Juan islands with design guidelines that ensured an Arts and Crafts feel to the project.

Walking through the new West Lake Centre and other new areas of Seattle, it was interesting to note that the city had recast its delightful and distinctive art deco lamp standards and used them instead of inventing some new fixture. You had a sense of being in a place that belonged to a larger whole. Here in Vancouver, they have just unveiled a new light fixture for Downtown South that, if anything, looks like a castoff from Hector Guimard's Paris Metro stations. As many members of H.V. will tell you, Vancouver has some distinctive existing fixtures, but these keep disappearing from the streets to be replaced by fairly ordinary fixtures. I can hardly wait to see what happens in Victory Square.

## SERIOUSLY, FOLKS

Speaking of Victory Square, it's probably time for Heritage Vancouver members to start seriously paying attention to what is going on down in that part of town. The original idea of heritage and the retention of the low-scale nature of the neighbourhood seems to be slowly but surely disappearing under the idea of large wholesale redevelopment. Mary McDonald is our representative in the process, so talk to her at our meetings.

## H.A.C. NEWS

The Heather Pavilion has been saved, sort of. The building, which is the original hospital building at V.G.H., will not be demolished until 1997 unless a sound economic use has been found for the structure by that time that would restore it to its 1906 condition, so that it can function within the proposed park adjacent to the hospital.

Lions' Gate Bridge and Stanley Park are some issues that are also coming up for discussion, along with an examination of ways to address the huge costs that are associated with saving heritage structures from the wrecker's ball. (Tax relief?)

A reminder from the H.A.C. that Heritage Award nominations are due in early January! Forms are available from the Planning Department at City Hall.

## TO BRIDGE OR NOT TO BRIDGE (TUNNEL MAYBE?)

"The Heritage Choice", a solution to the crossing debate, will be presented by Roger Bayley and Harold Kalman at our meeting on November 17th, at 8:30pm.

The Heritage Choice proposes to use the current bridge as the basis for a new bridge that preserves the original within the new structure.

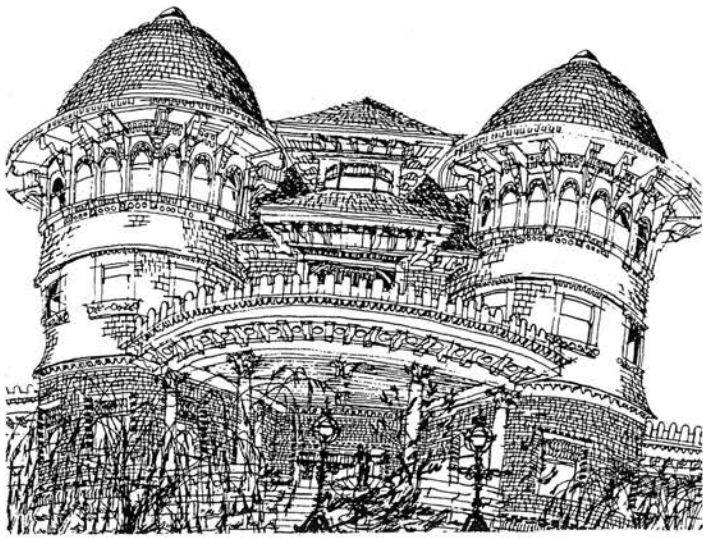
Our meeting will feature a presentation of the proposal and then a lively debate on the issues.

## I WANT TO BE MAYOR

The candidates for the mayor's chair (the serious ones, at least) joined us after our AGM for an interesting 90 minutes discussing their ideas about heritage in this city. All three participants displayed a reasonable knowledge of most of the issues presented to them and at least no one advocated demolishing the whole city. Councilor Owen wanted to be lobbied more, i.e. "Take me out to the site, explain the issue to me before the Council meeting". Councilor Davies spoke eloquently about neighbourhood preservation and the need to get the heritage conservation areas report (1986) approved! Bob Seeman talked about the need to look differently at how we use our land base with selected increased density to preserve heritage neighbourhoods.

The evening provided a good opportunity to look at who may lead the city. Next election, we hope to provide forums for both mayoralty and Council candidates.

***It's time to think about renewing your membership. Memberships expired in October!***



## NEW BOOK ALERT

Robin Ward, the chronicler of Vancouver buildings in the Saturday Review section of the Sun, has a new book coming out in November. **Robin Ward's Heritage West Coast**, from Harbour Publishing, is an appreciation of the intriguing historic buildings on the Pacific Coast in places such as Victoria, Britannia Beach, Seattle and other points between.

Born in Glasgow in 1950, he studied graphic design at the Glasgow School of Art, drew and wrote about Victorian buildings for the Glasgow Herald and published three books on buildings found in both Glasgow and Edinburgh. Settling in Vancouver and drawing his popular column, he is a two-time City of Vancouver Heritage Award winner.

Look for his new book in your bookstore in November.

## TREES AND LANDSCAPE

H.V. member Deborah Rink is interested in heritage trees and landscapes, two things that are very important to the heritage of Vancouver. Many houses are set into very special or unique landscapes and sometimes, the setting can be almost more important than the building. The debate in our single-family neighbourhoods is sometimes more a debate over the site coverage of the new house than over the architecture. Deborah would like to meet other members interested in the landscape of the city and to start a committee. Call her at 734-3281.

## MARPOLE HOUSE GETS TIME

The little house out in Marpole that we and other groups have been worried about got a reprieve at Council recently. The Marpole Museum and Historical Society was given one year to develop a management plan for the building and to show how funds would be raised for the restoration. The city will spend money on security and stabilization for the house.

## BYE BYE

Architect C.B.K. Van Norman's own 1939 house seems to be toast. The new owner does not think that infill and preservation is an option for this interesting house that sits on a double lot at 1840 W. 61st Too bad. It's another case where we have the incentives for preservation but no clout or method of persuasion for them to be accepted.

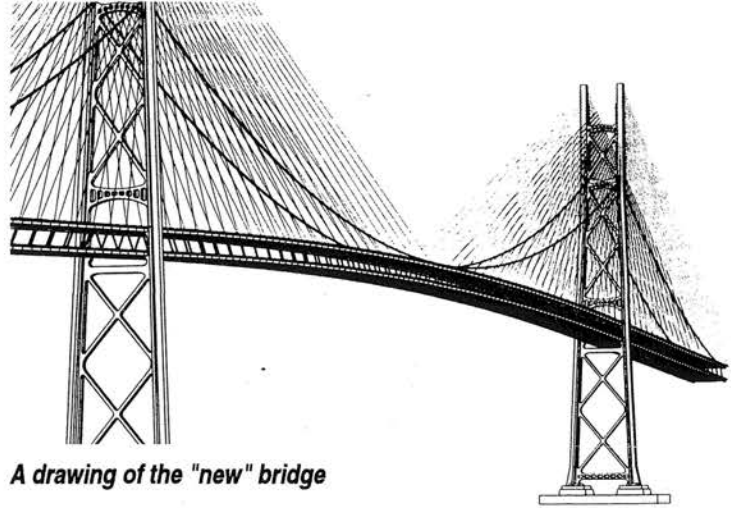
## GOODBYE, HELLO

Robert Lemon, heritage planner for the City of Vancouver, has decided not to resign his position. A cold chill was felt by many when, earlier, Robert had submitted his resignation. Sufficient changes are afoot in the department, however, to make him reconsider. Whew!

## WHAT'S UP?

November 17th is the Lions' Gate Bridge Option, at 8:30p.m.

December 15th is the ever popular December version of the Open Projector evening. Bring your slides and seasonal good cheer and celebrate.



A drawing of the "new" bridge

## T-SHIRTS AND OTHER GREAT STUFF

The Heritage Vancouver 100% cotton, one size fits all, exclusive limited edition T-Shirt will soon be printed. Get your orders in **now**. These extra-large shirts feature Robin Ward's drawing of the Sun Tower on the front and the H.V. logo on the back. At 20 bucks a shirt, they will go fast (I bought two!).

In other merchandising news... Maurice Guibord is selling on behalf of the B.C. Transit Archives a neat-looking lapel pin of a green 1930s Teardrop Bus. They're eight bucks each and the proceeds go to the B.C. Transit Archives. Next up is Michael Kluckner's new book, *British Columbia in Water Colour*, a delightful look at the province through his water colours. The text describes the scene and offers insight into the current heritage issues around B.C. The book is available to H.V. members at a 20% discount. You can order by calling H.V. at 254-9411 with your name and number or from our front table at the meetings.

Don't forget that the Heritage Advisory Committee meets at noon on the 2nd Monday of every month at City Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and observe, see the proposals and hear the issues.

## HERITAGE VANCOUVER

meets at

**7:30 P.M.**

on the

3rd Wednesday of each month at

**HODSON MANOR**

1254 West Seventh Avenue

on Fairview Slopes

Information: 604 254 9411

P.O. Box 3336, Main Post Office

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3Y3

# Heritage Vancouver

## Happy Holidays

### Its the end of the year already!

This news letter is a short one to keep you up to date. It returns to normal in January.

The December meeting will be our semi-annual Open Slide Projector Night. This is where you bring 5-10 slides from your personal collection, on any subject matter, and show them to the group. Its fun and surprisingly interesting.

Our January meeting will be quite interesting because we have Wilma Wood, the new director of the Vancouver Museum, coming to talk to us about that institution's plans and aspirations in the coming years. Wilma will also give us the low down on Heritage Canada now that she is the governor for British Columbia.

Another reminder to members not to forget that the Heritage Awards for the City of Vancouver are given out in February and the nominations have to be in by mid January.

In January Jo Scott B will hold the first of the drop-in meetings, as described in our last newsletter, at City Square mall (12th and Cambie) upstairs at Millieu. Meetings begin at 7:00p.m. and are held on the first Monday of each month.

Judith Reeve who currently sits on the Heritage Advisory Committee is working on a piece for the newsletter on the Southlands area. If you have any photos, memories or any other information of interest give us a buzz at 254-9411 and we'll pass it onto Judith.

The Heritage Vancouver T-shirt is ready. A number of the pre-ordered shirts still have not been picked up. They will be at the next meeting, or if you can't make it call us.

You can also order shirts by mail. They cost \$20 (post free). Make your cheque payable to Heritage Vancouver and sit by the mail box.

On a sad note, the Fire Department has ordered the freight houses on Station Street demolished (they are gone). These "B" buildings were the last reminders of the other railroad that once used that end of the creek. Too bad... now they're threatening to knock down that inventory listed fire hall too.

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#### Erickson's Vancouver House On the Block

A group led by design professionals has been formed to save Arthur Erickson's 1958 house and garden in Vancouver, threatened with demolition.

The effort began when Elizabeth Watts, a young landscape architect who lives nearby, passed the house and saw that it was being offered for sale by creditors of the financially troubled Erickson. She learned that the most likely potential buyers planned to clear the site for new development, a common occurrence in Vancouver, where land prices are drastically inflated.

Watts and others organized the citizens group to get heritage protection for the house and garden and arrange its purchase for use by the University of British Columbia or another suitable institution. The group proposes that the house be leased to Erickson for life; thereafter, it would be used for educational purposes, perhaps as a residence for visiting scholars, and made accessible to the public. Erickson has indicated his support for the idea.

The house is a converted garage at the rear of a 66 x 122-foot lot, overlooking a naturalistic garden nurtured lovingly by Erickson over the years. "The atmosphere is magical," the citizens group maintains. "Passing through the gate from a Vancouver suburban street, one has the feeling of entering a secluded forest clearing."

Phyllis Lambert, director of the Canadian Centre for Architecture and an adviser to the group, wrote



Arthur Erickson's secluded Vancouver house.

to Vancouver's mayor that the house and garden "deserve the highest respect" as the place where Erickson "experimented with ideas of building and landscape that have been highly influential." Lambert has pledged \$100,000 toward the purchase of the house, which could sell for over \$600,000.

The preservation effort has received widespread public support, there being great pride in British Columbia in Erickson's international fame. Erickson, meanwhile, has been through bankruptcy and is now doing small projects with a former associate and acting as design consultant to a large Vancouver firm.

The house is heavily mortgaged, but the citizens group has negotiated foreclosure of sale or foreclosure for the moment. **Donald Canty**