

**HERITAGE  
VANCOUVER**

# Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The new year is upon us and unfortunately the city has already lost an important heritage building to the demon fire. The Arcadian Hall on Main Street home to numerous arts companies and a superb rehearsal and performance space burned to the ground in an early morning fire. This east side landmark is one of a growing number of heritage buildings to go up in flames in the last few years. Somehow if it were natural causes you wouldn't mind so much, but when its arson the question is why?

The Mount Pleasant Area Network has started a program of identifying vulnerable buildings in their neighbourhood and notifying the owner of potential arson risks and suggesting ways to minimize those risks.

The Network is also exploring ways to monitor vacant buildings. Two different alarm systems are also being looked into. One uses infrared motion detectors wired so that power and monitoring comes from next door, the second option wraps the building in a fine wire that when disturbed sets off a number of electric roadside flares on top of the building.

According to the Network Seattle has reduced its fire losses by 47 percent through a program of rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of "fire bugs". Sort of a Crimestoppers for fires. And of course public education about arson awareness also works wonders.

These schemes along with the efforts of the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood go a long way to providing a solution to the threat of arson and vandalism that empty buildings seem to invite.

(My thanks to Charles Dobson for information on the above)

You know, it seems that heritage issues do not come singularly but in groups. As we enter the first weeks of the new year the heritage community is faced with a number of threatened buildings.

Not satisfied with succeeding to get the demolition of the 1889 Innes Thompson building on Hastings Street past the previous council, the firm of Aiken Wreglesworth are now gunning for the former B.C. Tel building on Seymour Street.

This building, popular with film companies as a generic police station/city hall set, was built in two parts. The grand entrance and southern portion of the building were done by the firm of McCarter and Nairne.

B.C.I.T. is interested in locating its downtown campus on this site and it would seem to be a good gesture to the neighbourhood and to the recently restored Sam's record store across the street (a heritage award winner) on the Institute's part to instruct its architects to find ways of retaining the building or at least its facade as part of any new development. Facadism is not necessarily bad heritage if care is taken and can work well as shown by the Cineplex theatres on Granville Street.

Too often the desire is to take the easy route and start with a clean slate but with a little bit of effort and creative thinking exciting things can and do happen. The B.C. Tel building may not be a "great" piece of architecture but it does reflect the nature of the development of Seymour. From a residential street it slowly developed into low scale wood frame commercial buildings, the B.C. Tel building was the first on the block to be built of brick. The eastward expansion of Edwardian office towers such as the Seymour building was cut short by the 1912

depression and the First World War. So we are left with this eclectic mixture of buildings that now line this block of Seymour.

If B.C.I.T. wants to contribute more than just students to the downtown it should look at building a memorable piece of architecture that both respects the past and looks to the future.

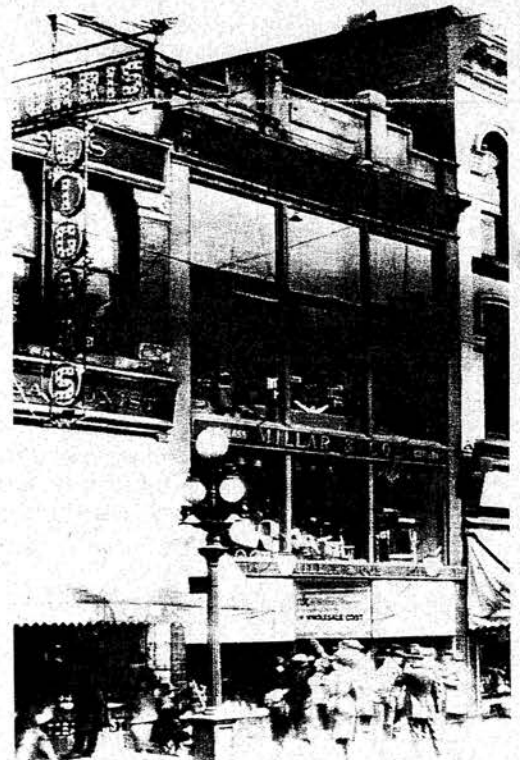
The photograph on the front page shows the Millar and Co store on Hastings in the 1920s. That remarkable building with its glass front still exists. But where you ask? Well, it lurks behind the pale blue steel siding that currently passes for a building facade. This and others in the same block are the invisible heritage of the Victory Square area and could be lost if careful study of the area's architecture is not undertaken. Its far too easy to dismiss a building's value if it isn't immediately visible.

Victory Square is unique to the city because of its intact street scapes along both Hastings and Pender. The value of such an area can't be calculated. The empty store fronts lead one to conclude that the street is dead but above the street are numerous artists studios and small design firms. Empty stores mean cheap rents which mean unique businesses open up and start the slow but eventual recovery of the street.

As Yaletown continues to move upmarket some firms are relocating. The Vancouver Film School is moving into the floors above Dunn's Tailors and the former CIBC bank at Hamilton and Hastings is now home to a photo studio. With all of the activity around Victory Square such as Concorde Pacific's International Village, the Downtown South area, the new library etc. this neighbourhood is poised to come into its own.

Of course, we could blow it and create another faceless redevelopment area and then wonder why, in ten years, it doesn't work. Pacific Centre showed that you can create more problems than you solve by destroying what makes a place different. Granville Street has been in trouble ever since the shopping mall opened (I know the other mall didn't help either).

Heritage Vancouver hopes that great care will be exercised in Victory Square. As part of Heritage Week in February H.V. will be highlighting the Victory Square area with a walking tour.



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 have started an informal "social/work" meeting that will get together the first Monday of every month at City Square Mall (12th and Cambie), upstairs at the coffee shop. 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 get under way at 7.00 p.m. and if you'd like more information, call Jo Scott B at 738-2419.

Hodson Manor, the house we meet at, is one hundred years old this year. We're looking for ways to celebrate this event. If you've got ideas let us know at the general meeting or at our first Monday of the month gathering.

Our T-shirt is now for sale at the Vancouver Museum Gift Shop along with our membership brochures. Members can of course purchase them from H.V. directly or if you worked at the Vancouver Sun in the Sun Tower and are attending the Homecoming event on February 4th., a special edition of our shirt will be on sale for participants. The reprint, in different colours than our original, is for sale with proceeds split between us and the Sun's Children's Fund.

I know we've been bugging you about membership renewals and I know most of you have renewed but for those few that haven't this will be your last news letter and you won't be included on the invitation list to the 1994 City of Vancouver Heritage Awards held at the Hotel Vancouver's Pacific ballroom.

On February 10th at 7.30 p.m. if you are at loose ends the Brewery Creek Historical Society will be holding another of their 2nd Thursday evening talks. The History of Scott Street with Charlie Christopherson will be the subject. Call the society at 255-0409 for the location since the Arcadian Hall has gone.

## HERITAGE WEEK

This year as in the past H.V. will be holding a series of walking tours. This year the tours look fascinating. They include; A Personal Look at Fairview Slopes, Growing Up On East Boulevard, The Vancouver Heights Area, Victory Square, and The Estates of South Kerrisdale. Call the trusty answering machine for further details and don't forget that members get discounts.

Heritage Vancouver was going to nominate the Vancouver Club for a Heritage Award based on the recent exterior renovations but they declined. The other nominations are all complete with an enthusiastic response from building owners. We (the executive) decided against the nomination of the Bank of Montreal at Pender and Granville because, even though the exterior restoration work carried out has been very well done, the contractor cleaning the exterior managed to remove the glaze from the terra cotta ornaments. This has both damaged the terra cotta and changed its colour so that it no longer looks like the cast stone it was trying to imitate. We only hope that the terra cotta survives somehow with out its protective glaze.

Good news from the H.A.C. St. Francis of Assisi on Semlin Street has applied to restore the front porch of the former Miller house which is now part of the church. They were inspired by the painting of the original house in Michael Kluckner's Vanishing Vancouver.

Lord Roberts School in the West End, the twin to Seymour School on the east side, is having an infill structure added to it. Other alterations include the restoration of the front portico and improved handicap access. Jo Scott-B our rep on the H.A.C. will present a full report at our meeting.

The value of our efforts to compile an interiors inventory can be shown by the concern over the fate of Shaughnessy Hospital. Our inventory lists the sculptural stone panels as important public art and with the hospital closed there is some uncertainty over what happens to the buildings and grounds. The main building rated an "A" in the Recent Landmarks Study. We'll be watching this one and if you have any interiors or interior features you think should be listed let us know.

H.V. member Deborah Rink is still interested in heritage trees and

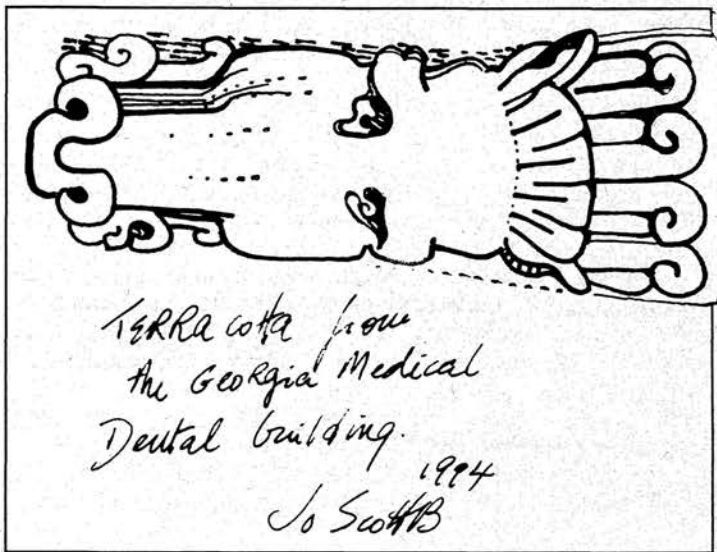
landscapes, two things that are very important to the heritage of Vancouver. Many houses are set into very special or unique landscapes and sometimes, the setting can be almost more important than the building. The debate in our single-family neighbourhoods is sometimes more a debate over the site coverage 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.

## UPCOMING

In January, the Vancouver Museum's new director, Wilma Wood, joins us to talk about the new directions that institution will take. As well Wilma will be discussing Heritage Canada and how that organization may change to become relevant to the West Coast.

Our February meeting will have H.V. Past President, author and artist Michael Kluckner talking about his latest book, the self published, **British Columbia in Watercolour**.

Jo Scott-B will be doing a drawing of a building detail for each newsletter and starting with this issue. This drawing is of a detail from the Georgia Medical Dental Building that now sits in her garden.



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

**THE LIONS GATE BRIDGE – OPINION**

The more words I read and hear about the current condition and future of the Lions Gate Bridge, the more confused I become. But I'm confused on only one question: is engineering a science, or is it an art? Whereas I can accept science's inability to predict earthquakes and other doomsdays, due to the large numbers of variables involved, I cannot understand why one set of engineers state categorically that the Lions Gate Bridge is falling down and another says it is both okay and, if given the maintenance envisaged by the original designers, will last a long time. The bridge is a built thing, after all, and the math that created it is still, one presumes, the math that will create the new one. To reduce the question to its essence, if we can't trust engineers, who can we trust?

For all of that, the debate about the *condition* of the Lions Gate Bridge has obscured most of the common-sense issues that a major transportation project ought to raise. Primarily, one has to ask where the traffic is going to go when it gets to Georgia Street on the Vancouver side and Marine Drive on the North Shore side; there is *no room* for increased automobile or bus capacity there.

What about the idea of special transit lanes in each direction, which is an appealing aspect of the "heritage option" touted by the Paul Merrick Architects group, and presented to HV members a few months ago? Well, if you read the misnamed "Freedom to Move" report commissioned by the provincial government and the GVRD a few years ago, it is very evident that North Shore residents have no intention of taking public transit by road into Vancouver; the report dismisses as foolhardy any major infrastructure improvements for transit from North Shore into the city, and supports only the addition of a few new Seabuses on the existing Lonsdale-to-Gastown route and the possibility of a small passenger ferry from Ambleside. Besides, where is the demand going to come from for more road space and transit seats? There is little evidence that either West Vancouver or the western part of North Van District will redevelop or grow to any extent; GVRD growth projections for the Lower Mainland show the North Shore with a population almost frozen, and you can bet your hard currency that the residents there have little enthusiasm for more people and congestion, and have in addition the political clout to get their way.

What about traffic to Whistler? That doesn't make sense, because every realistic suggestion for a new highway to the Pemberton area sends it eastward up Indian Arm, along the route perhaps of the 1910-era Port Moody, Indian River & Northern Railway. And, Mayor Owen is on the record as being opposed to suburbanites

using Vancouver neighbourhoods and roads to jackrabbit their way across the region. What about cost? The \$175 million construction cost of a new bridge translates into a \$2 per trip toll each way which, although many commuters may be willing to pay it, would be better invested in the nightmare in the northeast part of the region, including Coquitlam and Pitt Meadows. A tunnel? Much more expensive. How about a tunnel paid for by an "island of privilege" in the harbour? Doubt it; Vancouver city would not likely go for it, and the Harbours Board's opinion on any matter relating to port capacity and navigation would be a thumb's down. Anyway, where would the tunnel traffic go once it hit city streets?

There is little need in this newsletter to sing the praises of the Lions Gate Bridge as a heritage structure. Most people in the region recognize that, even though in many cases they would be willing to let the bridge go in order to gain a band-aid solution to the problem of automobile congestion at the First Narrows. The Merrick Group use the existing bridge towers as the basis for their proposal, which is admirable, but they have no solutions to the congestion problems at Georgia Street and Marine Drive.

The HV executive's position is that the Lions Gate Bridge, properly maintained, potentially with its sidewalks hung from the outside of the bridge deck in order to widen the lanes for safety (and entice everyone to drive faster, har har), is a functional part of an integrated, environmentally responsible transportation system connecting the North Shore with downtown Vancouver. The problem is the *lack* of the "integrated, environmentally responsible" part of the system—a combination of public transit, water transit, and a change of attitude in North Shore commuters. That is what is needed, not the replacement and expansion of the bridge.

-Michael Kluckner

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

**MICHAEL KLUCKNER**

SPEAKING ON HIS BOOK:

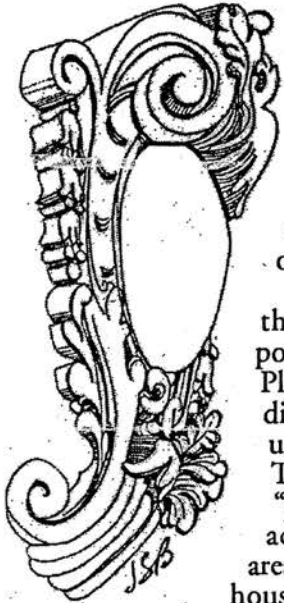
BRITISH COLUMBIA IN WATERCOLOUR

8:30 WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17 HODSON MANOR

NON-MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR  
MONTHLY SPEAKER'S SERIES

## VICTORY SQUARE

Victory Square is more than the 48 of its buildings currently listed on the city's Heritage Inventory. With its continuous turn of the century streetscapes surviving largely intact, this is a character district of major heritage significance.



The City of Vancouver is conducting a study of the area and council will soon decide on the direction which will dictate the fate of this historic district.

Cities evolve successfully when they change with the needs of the population, both users and residents. Planners who attempt to over-dictate direction have been known to make unintentional errors in judgement. This almost happened when it was "planned" to demolish Strathcona to accommodate a freeway because the area was "full of health hazardous slum housing". Other neighbourhoods have effectively killed street life by paving front yards and putting two car garages on lot fronts.

Victory Square needs a renovation and conservation approach, and the very least, a "slow go" approach. The surrounding areas have been approved for major development (the International Village starts at Pender Street, next to the Sun Tower, and contains major retail/residential spaces), or are in the planning stages (the Port Lands plan another major cruise ship terminal, hotels, casino?? and office/residential towers). And, let us not forget, Coal Harbour is in the process of being built up to higher density.

The Victory Square area study originally focused on heritage and character preservation, but has now changed direction. If "revitalization" emphasises redevelopment, historic façades presently hidden under false fronts will be irretrievably lost and the continuous streetscapes will be fragmented by towers. I feel uneasy at the suggestion of a "façaded" streetscape with infills. A Tudor Manor streetscape? Aughhhh!

Please write and tell Mayor and Council how you feel.

-Jo Scott-B

## HERITAGE ADVISORY

New faces on the City of Vancouver Heritage Advisory Committee: Joost Bakker, ARCHITECT; Wayne de Angelis, DESIGNER; James Kershaw, LAWYER. Outgoing: Judith Reeve, Carol Lee, Ravinder Uppal.

## RURAL HERITAGE

Jay Jay Rogers has alerted us to the sad situation of the twelve-sided barn at #9 Road and Westminster Hwy. Recently featured in Robin Ward's weekend column, the barn has merit as both a piece of architecture and as a Richmond landmark. Apart from its distinct shape, distinguishing features include pinned mortise and tenon joints and faceted roof.

As with many rural sites in Richmond, development seems inevitable and this historic barn will be threatened. When this does occur, it would seem appropriate that the barn be incorporated into the development scheme or as a community facility reflecting the rural nature of the area. Richmond seems to lack the incentives and necessary mechanisms to direct the fate of this inventory listed building. Maintenance seems to be non-existent and the weathering has taken its toll on the structure. Without intervention, this may become a case of death by neglect.

Please direct your concerns to Richmond City Hall  
Jay Jay Rogers may be reached at 732-6591.

## HERITAGE WALKS

For Heritage Week, HVS presents 4 walking Tours:  
Estates of South Kerrisdale Michael Kluckner  
1pm Saturday, February 19 at 41st & MacDonald  
A WALK THROUGH FAIRVIEW SLOPES Bud Kerr  
1pm Sunday, February 20 at Hodson Manor  
KERRISDALE & ARBUTUS RIDGE REMEMBERED Ray Baynes  
1pm Saturday, February 26 at 37th & E Boulevard  
VICTORY SQUARE John Atkin and Mary MacDonald  
9:30am Sunday, February 27 at Clock Tower,  
new BC Hydro Building on Dunsmuir Street. \$8.00

To reserve a space, please phone 254-9411

\$6.00 members

### HERITAGE VANCOUVER

MEETS AT

7:30 PM

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, British Columbia V6B 2Y3

Yearly memberships to the Heritage Vancouver Society are \$15-individuals \$25-family \$10-students \$5-corporate \$50.00  
Memberships expire on September 01 of each year and includes a Newsletter subscription.

HVS Board members: John Atkin, president; Jo Scott-B, vice president; Maurice Guibord, secretary; Janine Bond, Treasurer/Archivist (appointed); Laurie Carlyle, membership; Michael Kluckner, past-president; Peter Vaisbord, James Lowe, Shirley McColl, Mary MacDonald, Don Luxton, David Nimo, board members at large.

Victory Sq.

Fraser TV Sunday 5pm



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

# Newsletter

March 1994 Volume 3 No.3

## HERITAGE WEEK

Heritage Week has come and gone for another year. The 15th annual City of Vancouver Heritage Awards were given out on the 21st of February in the Pacific Ballroom at the Hotel Vancouver. The audience for this year's awards, one of the largest yet, were fed on an amazing array of food supplied by the hotel. Michael Lambert, the hotel's General Manager, gave an informal presentation on Canadian Pacific's recent restoration efforts in many of its hotels across Canada. This was followed by an interesting and sometimes funny, sometimes serious presentation from Paolo Pela, who heads up Novam Developments, on the role of the developer in heritage preservation, renovation and restoration. We hope that the councillors who did attend the awards evening (there were many) listened to his talk carefully. Mayor Philip Owen, before presenting the 1994 Heritage Awards, announced that the new head of the Heritage Conservation Foundation would be Christopher Richardson, which means the Foundation can get down to business at last. As the last event of the evening, Heritage Vancouver President John Atkin and Vice President Jo Scott B presented the Mayor with a Heritage Vancouver T-shirt. We had promised the candidates who came to our October "debate" evening that the winner of the election would receive our shirt and we were quite pleased to be able to present it at the awards.

The weather played havoc with our walking tour program this year with rain on most tour dates. Nevertheless each of the tours enjoyed respectable attendance. Our thanks to everyone who helped on the tours and especially to the tour guides who conducted very interesting walks.

## STREET LIGHTING

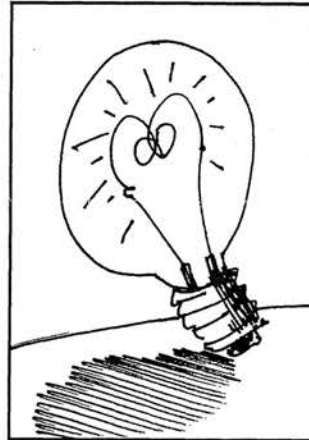
The City of Vancouver, with assistance from BC Hydro's PowerSmart programme, has converted much of our city's street lighting to the orange-yellow glow of sodium vapour light over the past several years. This programme has shown little concern for the aesthetic and historical value of the previous light sources and fixtures in its overzealous emphasis on energy conservation.

The City has pledged to be more sensitive on this issue in the future and will consult with residents and businesses in affected with areas with heritage value. The problem is that city engineers decide whether or not the lighting is of historic value and so prejudice the process. As an example, the lighting on West 16th just west of Dunbar was predominantly incandescent in acorn fixtures. This lighting was probably the first installation of modern lighting on this street yet it is considered by the city to have no heritage value! These lights have now been replaced with a forest of sodium vapour cobrahead lights on ugly standards. "Cobra-head" is the name for the modern street lighting fixture which bears some resemblance to its namesake and is usually associated with the venomous orange glow of sodium vapour lighting.

Just over a year ago, the Gastown Business Improvement Society discovered that the city had replaced the incandescent bulbs in the street light nearest the steam clock with cool white compact fluorescent. This action was taken without consultation and has given the lamp a ghoulishly cool appearance. When a member of the association discovered

this and contacted the City, they were told that they did not think the change would be noticed. The action was not reversed despite the strongly negative reaction of the society.

*(Editors note: this is not the first time that the Engineering Department has disobeyed a Council directive on the type of light to be used in Gastown. You'd think they would learn their lesson).*



Even when there is public consultation, citizens rarely have enough information to make wise decisions

on this seemingly esoteric subject. The results of this can now be seen in Shaughnessy where the concrete post-top lamps have had their light source changed from the warm glow of incandescent to the harsh industrial appearance of sodium vapour.

In another case, the engineering department insisted on the use of sodium vapour lighting for the new post-top lights on 10th Avenue west of Main Street. While the special colour-corrected lamps used provide a very good emulation of incandescent lighting, they are costly, troublesome and of questionable efficiency. All the residents wanted were incandescent lights and they were prepared to pay for the extra cost. The engineers, however, insisted on the use of sodium vapour.

The City of Toronto, led by one councillor, has followed an entirely different route. It has decided to replace its incandescent lights with a type of metal halide lamp which very closely matches the existing incandescent light in colour, yet is nearly as efficient as sodium. Near-replicas of the original acorn fixtures will be used so the appearance of streets will not change. A Vancouver example of the result of converting incandescent fixtures to sodium vapour can best be seen at the Sinclair Centre. On the Hastings Street side sodium vapour lights have been installed in the acorn-type fixtures, while on the Howe Street side the incandescent lights remain. The difference is nothing less than striking.

While the majority of the conversion has already been accomplished, we must remain vigilant to ensure that the night-time atmosphere of the city is not further diminished. There are still pockets of incandescent lighting which need to be saved. As well, there are some examples of more aesthetic modern light sources in place around the city, particularly for pedestrian lighting. These are of merit, if not for heritage purposes, then for their urban design benefits. The omnipresence of street lighting makes it a civic amenity which is too important for citizens to take for granted.

**Ian Fisher.**

YOU CAN JOIN HERITAGE VANCOUVER FOR ONLY 15 DOLLARS A YEAR!

## BIRKS ON THE MOVE

The Vancouver Sun business section carried a brief story on the Birks store at Georgia and Granville and saying that the company would be moving to their new location at Granville and Hastings, the old CIBC bank building now owned by Novam Developments. Birks is counting on the continued shift of the high end retail market to that part of the downtown. Of course the clock will be moving too. It will be across the street from its original location when the clock was the advertising for Trorey Jewellers. The company is looking to capture the high-end market and sees the heritage building as part of that marketing strategy. Too bad they didn't think about image years ago.

## VICTORY SQUARE UPDATE



*Some of the participants on the Victory Square tour in the lane behind the Victoria Block and the new Hydro building.*

We walked the streets in the Victory Square neighbourhood on two weekends with some of the City Councillors, members of the Heritage Advisory Committee and members of the public to look at the area. We looked at the buildings, the streets and the details that make the area special. There was strong agreement from both tours that the Victory Square Area should be treated with care and that the area's streetscapes be retained and respected. There was concern that new development could be disruptive, especially at high FSR'S. On March 3rd the Planning Department took Council and various community groups on a tour of the area to discuss issues and to hear people's views on the neighbourhood. Unfortunately the "roundtable discussion" at the Central City Lodge that everyone was looking forward too did not take place. We hope that discussion does take place so that the senior planners involved in this project understand that there is a strong voice for sensitive intervention in Victory Square and little support for the sledge hammer approach to area revitalization. Judi Finch, our representative on the Planning tour, will be providing us with a briefing of what her impressions were.

## OUT ON A LIMB...

A small committee is beginning to develop which is focusing on heritage-related issues specifically dealing with the landscape. The intent of the group is to support, encourage and facilitate the conservation of Vancouver's urban forests, unique heritage trees and landscapes through creating an attitude of community awareness, stewardship and understanding by the citizens of Vancouver.

As a starting point, the group is compiling a list of resources which could be used as a means of accessing organizations and/or information

which could assist in information leading to the promotion of Vancouver's heritage trees and landscapes, including project funding.

We have begun what we think are some exciting projects for increasing the understanding of heritage trees and landscapes in the City. We have begun with a video interview with Clive Justice, a pioneer of landscape architecture in the City of Vancouver and a founding member of the B.C. Society of Landscape Architects. He is also the recipient of many awards including a City of Vancouver Heritage Award in 1984 for the Heritage Tree Inventory. The first of a series, the video was conducted on February 26 in Clive's home, with Beth Harrison of the Video History Group in Marpole, volunteering her services as an amateur Cameraperson.

At this time we would like to put out a request for anyone who is adept with a video camera, to volunteer some hours one sunny afternoon in April/May, to video Clive in his garden, and various locations throughout Vancouver, where heritage trees will be in leaf. It promises to be a lot of fun!

We are also in the process of organizing a "Heritage Tree of the Month" plug in the Courier. The Heritage Trees will be chosen from the Heritage Tree Inventory and will appear with a picture and biography, hopefully to be used for a calendar of Heritage Trees of Vancouver the following year. The intent would to get information and interest generated throughout the community.

Another project we have brewing is a collection of various heritage seeds of Vancouver for the purpose of propagation and distribution throughout the community. Again this is a promotional effort to increase awareness. We are considering selling them at the annual Van Dusen "Seedy Saturday" in February.

## CONTEST TIME!

We are accepting competition submissions for this newly formed "HV trees and landscape group". Please leave your idea for a name for this subcommittee of Heritage Vancouver on the HV telephone message machine. Don't forget to leave your name and phone number so we can identify the WINNER! The winner will receive a specially selected tree seedling from the gardens of Clive Justice and Arthur Erikson.

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## COMING UP...

Our April guest will be Jim Wolf from the New West Preservation Society talking about stained glass. In May Leonora Sali of the Gastown Business Improvement Society will be talking about... Gastown!

June is the Heritage Society of B.C. annual conference. This year its in New Westminster. Much more next issue. Our heritage bus tour too.

**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.**



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

# Newsletter

April 1994 Volume 3 No.4

## HERITAGE VANCOUVER CRIES WOLF!

Many of our readers may have read that the very interesting Jim Wolf from New Westminster would be speaking to us about stained glass and the Bloomfield Family at our April meeting. Well he did speak but at our March gathering. These minor mix-ups happen occasionally and we do apologise.

To make it up to our members the April talk will be *Ornament and Shadow*, a presentation by Barry McGinn, an engineering and preservation consultant, who is currently involved with the restoration of the Union Bank at Seymour and Hastings and the Coburne House down in Marpole among other projects. *Ornament and Shadow* is a look at the art and science of lighting fixture design in the period from 1910 through to the 1930s. The use of light not only for illuminating purposes but to pick out the decorative plaster work by throwing dramatic shadows that highlighted a buildings architecture. Barry's fascinating talk will be illustrated with slides of fixtures from Vancouver, Victoria and many designed by Frederick C. Baker for a number of Oregon's public buildings. So join us for *Ornament and Shadow* at 8:30 p.m. April 20th.

## H.A.C. SPEAKS OUT

As the Heritage Advisory Committee continues to re-invent itself so that it can not only offer top notch advice to council, the committee is also looking at keeping its own members well informed about current issues. To that end they have had presentations made by various members on a variety of topics including historic signage. Now to further broaden the horizon outside speakers will be invited to give presentations before the business portion of the meeting. The April presentation will be a slide show by structural engineer Robert Smith on the damage caused by the Los Angeles earthquake and as an added bonus Hal Kalman, Heritage Consultant, will be giving a short talk on the importance of interiors in heritage buildings. The Planning Department's Heritage Assistant, Marco D'Agostini will be presenting his well received and informative Recent Landmarks talk in May. Other topics will be announced soon. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings that happen the 2nd Monday of the month at noon at City Hall.

## WHAT'S UP...

Speaking of the H.A.C., it recently recommended that the Watson house on Comox be designated. That designation came to Council recently and get this... Housing and Properties, that well known real estate arm of the City, told council members that to designate this recently restored City-owned building would jepordize efforts to maximize the development potential of the so called Nelson Park site. Council deferred the designation.



*If you take the elevator to the floor below the main lobby of the Hotel Vancouver this delightful art deco detail from the elevator doors is revealed.*

The Nelson Park site is one very important issue and we must not lose the opportunity to be creative in finding ways to preserve this block of important West End homes. The conventional thinking of opening up space for development by moving buildings or by demolition can and should be avoided here. But if the usual methods are used by Housing and Properties we may all lose in the long run. Heritage Vancouver will be putting alot of effort into ensuring this block does not disappear

Engineering continues to try and get past previous policies in Gastown by trying to install non incandesent lights in the fixtures. Time and time again these guys have been told by Council that the lights do not get changed, yet here we go again! So even though it may seem like an esoteric issue to some, Gastown deserves our support in retaining the original light source of the area. Get those pens out and write to our friends the Mayor and Council.

YOU CAN JOIN HERITAGE VANCOUVER FOR ONLY 15 DOLLARS A YEAR!

Gastown will be the host this year of Heritage Vancouver's Schools Art show, Celebrate Our City. The show will be presented at the Landing on Water Street and in a number of the Gastown merchant's windows. The show should receive a good profile this year. Along with the art Heritage Vancouver is, again presenting, in conjunction with the Gastown Business Improvement Society, our Vancouver Day Gastown Boundary Walk. This year Heritage Vancouver Past President Michael Kluckner will give a historical sketch of the Gastown Area before leading the group out, in piper fashion, on a walk to re-establish the boundaries of Vancouver's original townsite. Watch for a variety of other related Gastown events that will follow the walk and make for an enjoyable day spent amongst the brick and stone.

Later that same day the Roedde House Museum and Heritage Vancouver will be hosting a tea at the house and there will be a walking tour of the area concentrating on the threatened Nelson Park houses.

There will be further details of both the Gastown and Roedde House events soon. But remember to mark June 12th in your calendar.

## WAGONS HO...

Last year Heritage Vancouver along with the Transit Museum Society took a 1950s Brill Coach trolley bus out for a wonderful three hour tour of Vancouver. Our driver Angus McIntyre and host Ian Fisher made the evening so much fun and we learned a lot about buses, electricity and of course sparks on that tour. This year we are pleased to announce the 1994 School Bus Tour, brought to you by Heritage Vancouver and the Transit Museum Society. We will be taking a restored heritage motor bus from the collection and with the able assistance of Janine Bond we will be touring heritage schools, some which are threatened and some which have been restored. We will be offering brown bag lunches (no ordinary lunches these) as part of the ticket price. The bus tour takes place on May 15th at 1:00 p.m. So call the phone machine to reserve your spot now since the space is limited.

## MOUNT PLEASANT CELEBRATES

April 22 and 23 the Happy Choristers of Kamloops will be presenting two evenings of entertainment complete with a vintage fashion show and "turn of the century" song and dance numbers. On the Saturday evening the Mount Pleasant Commercial Improvement Society will be presenting the first ever Mount Pleasant Heritage Awards.

For tickets and further information call 874-9816

## STILL TIME TO COMPETE!!

### CONTEST TIME!

We are accepting competition submissions for this newly formed "HV trees and landscape group". Please leave your idea for a name for this subcommittee of Heritage Vancouver on the HV telephone message machine. Don't forget to leave your name and phone number so we can identify the WINNER! The winner will receive a specially selected tree seedling from the gardens of Clive Justice and Arthur Erikson.



## COMING UP...

Our April guest will be Barry McGinn, talking about historic lighting, fixtures and light.

In May Leonora Sali of the Gastown Business Improvement Society will be talking about... Gastown!

Our heritage bus tour is on May 15th. Call to book now!

June is the Heritage Society of B.C. annual conference. This year it's in New Westminster. Much more next issue. It is also time for the Open Slide Projector meeting where your slides are the presentation!

## HERITAGE VANCOUVER

meets at

**7:30 P.M.**

on the

3rd Wednesday of each month at

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Information: 604 254 9411

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# Newsletter

May 1994 Volume 3 No.5

## WE MAY WISH... BUT.

In the perfect world we would not be faced with change. Our neighbourhoods would remain as they had been built. The houses would reflect the nature of the community and they would be lived in and maintained forever. Taxes and property values would not rise. Developers and builders would only build lovely cute houses that fit on the lot and came with a landscape that looked fifty years old. Well folks that just doesn't happen.

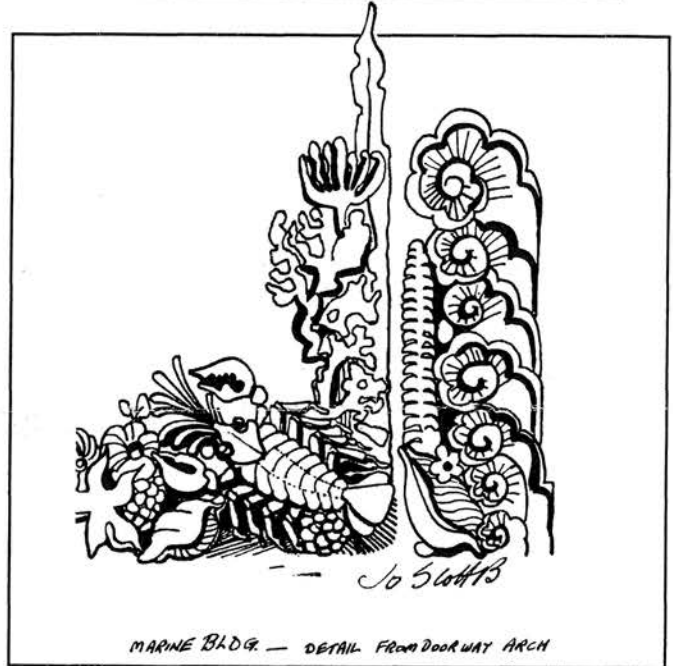
So, when a property developer shows up with the intention of making a profit but building a project that tries to take into account many of the issues that we all wish they would, we should applaud. Right?

Consider the current debate over the fate of the one and a half acre property at 6120 MacDonald. In this case the developer could build three rather huge houses of over 5000 sq. ft. each on this property as an outright use under the current RS-1 zoning. This would mean that the existing heritage house, a "B" on the inventory, would be demolished so that the existing three lot subdivision could be built on. Building in this manner would probably result in a massive loss of trees on the site and three fairly ugly "mega" homes along MacDonald. So, it was with great surprise that when the developer and his architects presented an attractive alternative it was met with a fair degree of negativity from the neighbourhood.

Simply, the architects have rearranged the allowable floorspace on the site. Five new houses would be built, arranged in the garden behind the heritage house, positioned to minimize the loss of trees. There is no increase in the density, floorspace or units per acre on this site. The idea seems to be to use the property more efficiently and build smaller houses. To achieve this the property would have to be rezoned CD-1. This allows the Planning Department and for that matter the neighbourhood to exercise a large degree of design control over the project.

Still, you can be surprised. A petition *against* the rezoning was organised and initially 200 people signed. A closed meeting for those opposed to the project was held and the phone calls to City Hall started.

The Planning Department organized its own information meeting which was held on May 11th at Ryerson United Church. Two things became immediately clear; the public for the most part still have a distrust of the civic government and the basic rules that govern our city such as zoning and subdivision are not well understood. There was a lot of confusion between zoning, rezoning, and subdivision at the meeting. The planners didn't help matters by explaining things in long, sometimes over qualified, and complicated terms. The heritage aspect of the site became clear during a brief slide show from Robert Lemon in which he



also showed slides of successful retention and infill schemes elsewhere in the city. Particularly effective were the slides showing the aftermath of the Mitchell house debacle with the two very charming pink duplexes that replaced it and the Whyte Avenue house sailing away to Bowen Island aboard a barge. Equally effective was the initial presentation of the property owner whose passion for the neighbourhood and his commitment to the project became quite clear.

Also clear from the meeting was that some people will object and object no matter what the facts. Others get so hung up on the detail items such as driveway placement that the larger picture is completely missed. Still others live with a fantasy where they believe that the world will stand still and nothing will change because they say so. But the meeting was fairly evenly split between the yay & nay forces and as the evening progressed converts were made from the nay side.

It became clear from this meeting that the proposal to rezone the property at 6120 MacDonald to CD-1 to allow the density to be rearranged on the site along with the heritage house and landscape retention was the best option for the site.

This is the type of project that we as an organization hope to see, but rarely do, given the hassles involved. There will be a public hearing on this project and the council must get the message that heritage is important (time to write those letters!) and that there is a large base of support out there. A few people with chips on their shoulders should not be allowed to appear as the collective voice in a neighbourhood.

*Thanks should go to Jo Scott B who has been handling this issue and taking time to get a number of people interested in this debate as well as dealing with the media.*

YOU CAN JOIN HERITAGE VANCOUVER FOR ONLY 15 DOLLARS A YEAR!

## THE STORY OF THE DAVIS HOUSES.

Beautifully restored heritage houses set among charming gardens adorn the 100 block of West 10th Ave. in Mt. Pleasant. Many of us know that the Davis Family saved and restored almost all of these houses, and that the family received the 1981 Regional Award of Honour from the Heritage Canada Foundation for their work.

But what is the real story behind this extraordinary pioneering effort?

Recently, in a presentation sponsored by the Brewery Creek Historical Society, John Davis spoke about the houses, his family and other special people, heritage and pressures on Mt. Pleasant (then and now) during a highly personal and evocative slide show. John's audience found out what started the family's restoration efforts: a wooden staircase, beautifully crafted and "rock solid". The family went to work, painstakingly rebuilding the foundation and structure of their home, and patiently stripping many layers of paint from the fire place and old woodwork. While they worked, however, character buildings in Mt. Pleasant were being demolished at an astonishing rate.

Then four houses came up for sale as a single development site. The family, fearing their demolition and redevelopment as a modern apartment block, bought the site. That was the beginning of a series of more renovation nightmares and financial worries, but in the end, they created a wonderful streetscape of beautiful homes.

That supreme effort became the catalyst for preservation of character homes in the neighbourhood, and residents efforts to retain the unique identity of the neighbourhood. Today Mt. Pleasant's special quality is recognized by others, such as film makers who choose the Davis houses and the neighbourhood as movie locations. Why then, John wonders, does Vancouver continue, heedlessly and recklessly, discard its character buildings? Why indeed.

**Angela Lyson**

## GASTOWN AND THE WEST END CELEBRATE VANCOUVER DAY

June 12 is the day that should be marked off in your date book. Its time for the annual Heritage Vancouver Gastown Boundary Walk. This year past president Michael Kluckner will give a history of Gastown at Maple Tree Square then we march off with Michael and retrace the original Granville townsite boundaries. As you walk, you will also see the art work from the H.V. Students show Celebrate the City. This year

## STILL TIME TO COMPETE!!

### CONTEST TIME!

We are accepting competition submissions for this newly formed "HV trees and landscape group". Please leave your idea for a name for this subcommittee of Heritage Vancouver on the HV telephone message machine. Don't forget to leave **your** name and phone number so we can identify the **WINNER!** The winner will receive a specially selected tree seedling from the gardens of Clive Justice and Arthur Erikson.

we are hanging the show in Gastown's store windows. Later that day The Roedde House Museum will host a tea and croquet match at the house in Barclay Heritage Square. Prior to that Michael Kluckner will be giving a walking tour of the endangered houses next to Nelson Park and after the tour there will be an informal tour the finds its way back to Roedde House in time for tea. Join us for both events. Further details soon.

## H.V. COMMITTEES ARE ACTIVE

Our committee dealing with the Lions Gate Bridge is always looking for new members. Call the H.V. phone and leave your number so we can contact you for the next meeting. 1000 of our post cards calling for the retention of the bridge were mailed out with the Heritage Society of B.C.'s newsletter. And we are getting requests from other groups who would like to distribute the card.

The first Monday of the month is the time to join others from H.V. to brainstorm ideas and put together programs for the society. The Monday Group meets at City Square, 12th and Cambie, at the upstairs coffee bar each first Monday of the month.

## HAVE BUS WILL TRAVEL

A big thank you goes to Janine Bond for her schools tour on Sunday the 15. It was a lot of fun. Thanks go to Ian Fisher and Angus McIntyre (our bus driver) for helping to organize the heritage bus and to Jo Scott-B and Laurie Carlise for doing the lunches. It all helped to make the tour a success. So, what about the 1937 Hayes Teardrop bus on a trip to Clayburn next year?

## COMING UP...

June is the Heritage Society of B.C. annual conference. This year its in New Westminster.

The June Meeting is also Open Slide Projector meeting where your slides are the presentation! So once again dig out those quirky slides and bring them along to the meeting.

July is the annual Heritage Vancouver Picnic. The location will be decided shortly and we will let you know where.

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# Newsletter

June 1994 Volume 3 No.6

## ITS JUNE ALREADY!

The Heritage Society of B.C.'s conference in New Westminster is over, our Vancouver Day activities including the Gastown Boundary Walk, the students art show, Nelson Park tour and Michael Kluckner's debut as a championship croquet player will be finished. That can only mean one thing, H.V.'s summer fun is about to begin.

First off, it's the open slide projector meeting for our regular June get together. That's where you, the membership, are the program. Bring five to ten slides on any subject, load them up in the projector and show them and if you've never done this before, don't be shy, it can be a lot of fun. Then it's our summer picnic in July. So instead of coming to Hodson Manor for a meeting when you'd rather be outside, we take it outdoors. This July we will be picnicing at the Fraser River Park at the foot of Angus. Pack your basket with goodies, bring a blanket, and join the gang at 7:00 pm on the river. August is of course the month where we take our meeting to the North Shore Museum to see what the exhibits are and catch up on the heritage issues across the water.

## HERITAGE CONFERENCE WRAP UP

This year's Heritage Conference was held in New Westminster at Douglas College June 3rd-5th. The main theme of the conference was urban issues. On the Friday morning our motion regarding the Lion's Gate Bridge and its preservation was presented and with a minor amendment passed by the Heritage Society.

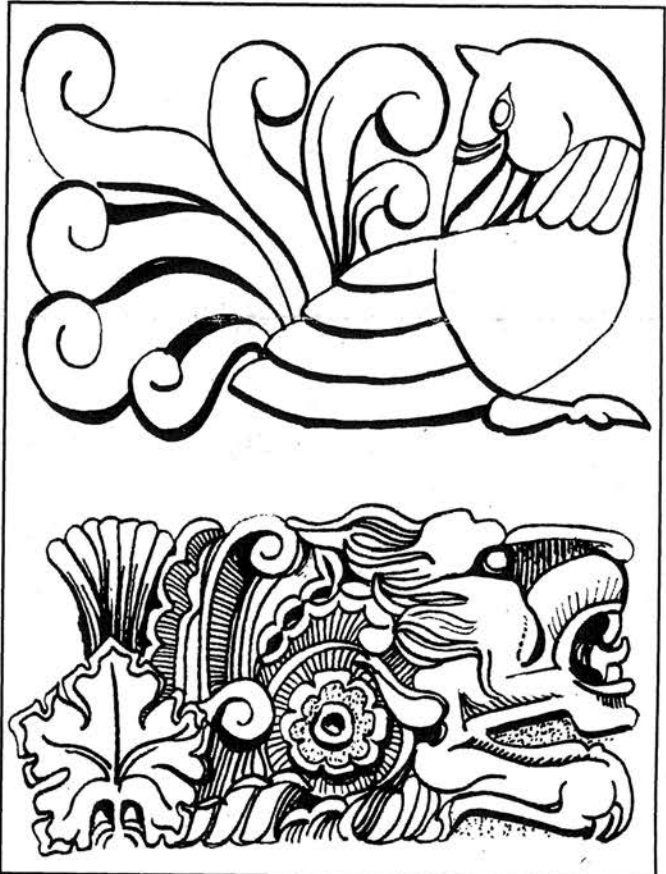
On the Saturday, the morning session was taken up with a presentation on the Province's new heritage legislation, soon to become law. Then a presentation and slide show on the Strathcona Porch Project, an innovative neighbourhood solution to heritage preservation. The last presentation was the proposed Vancouver Museum Urbanarium. An exhibit that would explore city issues using a variety of display techniques.

For the afternoon everyone was loaded onto buses and taken to four walking tour locations, we did the short walks and then back to the bus and the next location. The format worked very well and provided a good glimpse of very different parts of the city.

That evening the Awards Banquet was held where Michael Kluckner was presented with the society's top award. Congratulations!!

For the Sunday morning breakfast it was Show & Tell, where participating groups told everyone what they were up to. Our own team of "Guibord & B" did a wonderful job of showcasing H.V.

Next years conference will be in Cranbrook B.C.



*Details from the Royal Bank at Granville and Hastings by Jo Scott B.*

## MORE THINGS TO DO

If you are interested in purchasing a heritage home you might be interested in this workshop we found out about during the conference. In a 1920s vintage Shaughnessy home you can learn how to perform an inspection prior to purchase, see and appreciate features common to the area, and learn about building materials and their environmental impact. Each session is limited to 20 people. If you're interested call 270-7585.

After the workshop if you're still interested in purchasing a heritage home, the Queen Anne style school principal's house in Strathcona is for sale for the tidy sum of \$419,000.

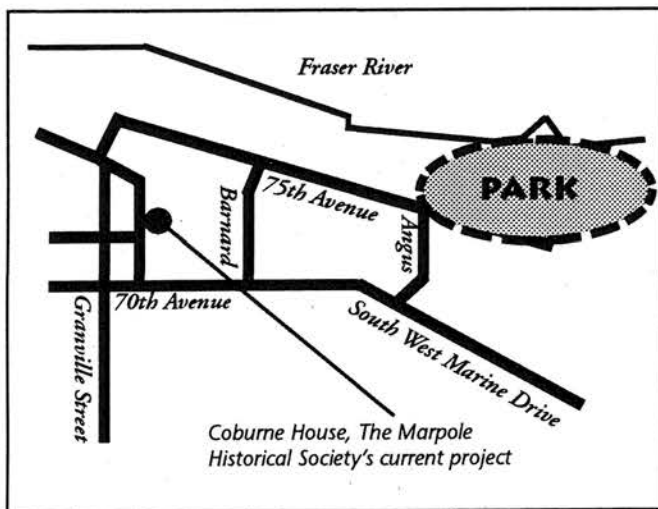
July 24th is Clayburn Heritage Days. The village of Clayburn in Matsqui celebrates each year with house tours, walking tours, music and lots more. The ruins of the brick plant and the restored General Store (with the greatest collection of candy) are highlights of the day.

YOU CAN JOIN HERITAGE VANCOUVER FOR ONLY 15 DOLLARS A YEAR!



The gang in front of the 1947 Fagel Twin Coach at a photo stop at University Hill Elementary School. Watch for next years highway adventure.

## HOW TO GET TO THE JULY PICNIC



The Fraser River Park is at the foot of Angus on 75th Avenue. While your down in that neck of the woods go by the Coburne House at take a look at the project.

## INTERESTING THOUGHT

The newspaper recently had an article about the Terminal City Club building their new premises. They will be rebuilding on the same site as part of a larger office and residential project. The current club has a lawn and garden at the back on the one remaining piece of the bluff that was the shore line of Burrard Inlet. I would think that this would be something that the developers and the club might consider saving. Maybe our landscape committee might look into this.

The Terminal City Club was originally the Metropolitan Club started by those that had difficulty or had been refused membership by the Vancouver Club. Their current building, the heavily renovated Metropolitan Building, recalls the former name.

## COMING UP...

**June :** Open Slide Projector meeting where your slides are the presentation! So once again dig out those quirky slides and bring them along to the meeting.

**July** is the annual Heritage Vancouver Picnic. The location this year will be the Fraser River park at the foot of Angus. So remember don't go to Hodson manor this month.

**August** is the meeting where we travel to the North Vancouver Museum, via Sea Bus, to see what's up on the North Shore.

**September:** John Atkin will be presenting *Strathcona: Vancouver's First Neighbourhood*, the subject of his new book along with Jo Scott B who will be opening her latest show, paintings of Strathcona, that month at SFU Downtown.

**October:** Yes, its the Annual General Meeting and elections to the board of directors. Look for our special guest speaker



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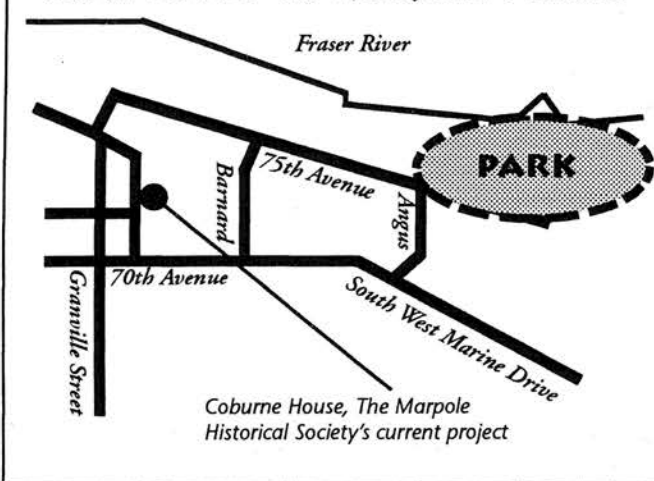
# Newsletter

July 1994 Volume 3 No.7

## THIS MONTH, ITS OUR SUMMER PICNIC AT THE FRASER RIVER

Instead of coming to Hodson Manor for the usual meeting on Wednesday, Heritage Vancouver members will be at the Fraser River Park at the foot of Angus Drive, for our third annual picnic. Pack your basket with goodies, bring a blanket, and join the gang at 7:00 pm on the river. The Fraser River Park sits below Southwest Marine Drive. It has a variety of habitats such as marshes, forests, grass lands and of course the river shoreline. The park is an excellent viewpoint for watching the tug boats, log booms and other marine traffic.

### HOW TO GET TO THE JULY PICNIC



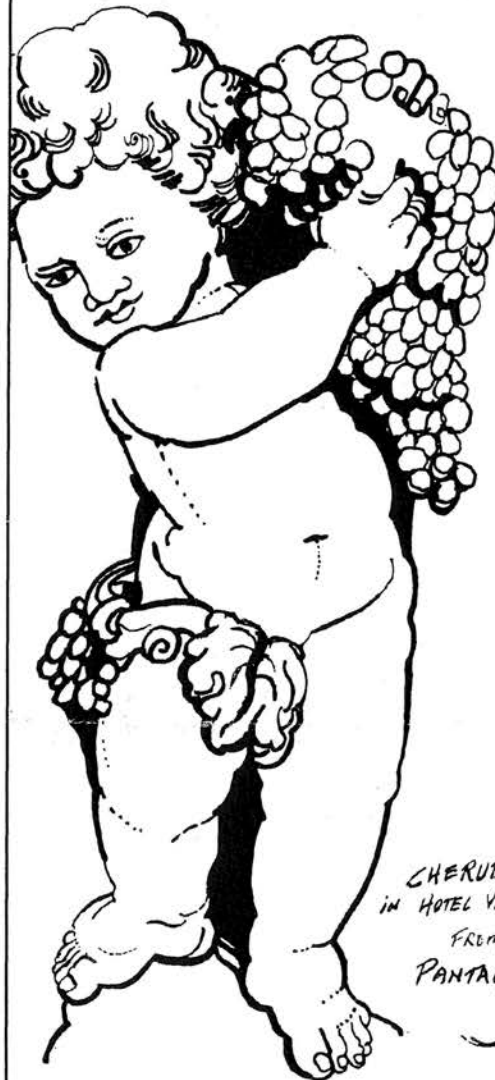
## KUCERA FAMILY HONORED AT CITY COUNCIL

During the July 26th Council meeting, a ceremony will be held to thank the Kucera family for donating the Watson House to the City of Vancouver. The Watson House, repaired and painted, now sits on the Nelson Park site after moving many times. We hope to see the house designated very soon too.

## DON'T FORGET

July 24th is Clayburn Heritage Days. The village of Clayburn in Matsqui celebrates each year with house tours, walking tours, music and lots more. The ruins of the brick plant and the restored General Store (with the greatest collection of candy) are highlights of the day. This year the emcee for the event will be Michael Kluckner. If you need details on how to get there call the H.V. phone machine and we'll get back to you.

## THIS MONTH'S ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL



CHERUB  
IN HOTEL VANCOUVER  
FROM  
PANTAGES THEATRE

*Scott H.*

YOU CAN JOIN HERITAGE VANCOUVER FOR ONLY 15 DOLLARS A YEAR!

## BYE BYE B.C TEL BUILDING?

Apparently BCIT is back with their downtown campus building for the corner of Seymour and Dunsmuir and as expected the former B.C. Tel building on Seymour does not survive in this plan. In recent years this building has been used extensively by the film industry as the generic U.S. police precinct /government building. While this building is no show stopper in architectural terms it is one of the earlier commercial buildings on that street and relates well to the restored Sam The Record Man store across the street. It would be nice to see some effort to incorporate the facade into the new development if only as an architectural folly.



## COMING UP FOR H.V. ...

July is the annual Heritage Vancouver Picnic. The location this year will be the Fraser River park at the foot of Angus. So remember don't go to Hodson manor this month.

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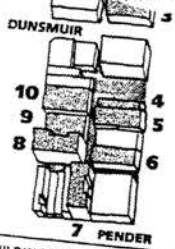
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### ORAL NOTES/SOURCES

by: *Patricia*

## VANCOUVER HERITAGE RESOURCE INVENTORY

HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LTD./THE EIKOS GROUP INC



"B" BUILDINGS ON THE INVENTORY

### 4.) 558 GRANVILLE (1901)

Most recently this was home to the Singer Sewing Machine Company. It is a clean and simple example of a turn-of-the-century three-storey commercial structure that, apart from the ground floor, is little altered. The original ground floor tenant was the Wait Piano Company. Singer had been a tenant since 1947.

Building for... Securities Limited, ... clal companies in B.C. (1888) and the B.C. Shire Insurance Company, it is the third building in this block designed by the firm. Ten storeys high and faced in white terra cotta, this building is considered a very high "B" on the Heritage Inventory. The empty niches at the second storey were for sculpture that was not completed.

### 9.) 541/543 SEYMOUR (1929)

**S.M. EVELEIGH**  
This building was home to the Georgian Club before 1940. CKWX radio was a tenant until 1955. Most recently it has been the home of the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre. The basement garage was built for David's Garage, where you can park and get your car serviced.

### 10.) 555 SEYMOUR (1908) EXTENSION (1922) MCCARTER & NAIRNE

Built for the B.C. Telephone Company this is a straightforward three-storey brick building. When it was built, Seymour Street was still mainly houses with few commercial structures. Architects McCarter and Nairne extended the building to the north, added a cornice and provided a decorative entrance. Until the early 1980s the telephone company was the sole tenant of this building. Today it is often used to portray American police stations on television and in film.

### 5.) THE ABBOTT BLOCK (1890) 554 GRANVILLE

One of the first buildings in the 500 block. The original facade was altered in the 1920s. Recently it has been renovated as a Marks and Spencer store, this building was home to Maison Henri Beauvais from 1926 until the 1940s. The upper floors were offices.

### 6.) THE IMPERIAL BANK (1899) 526 GRANVILLE

This grey stone building was built as the Imperial Bank and later was occupied by the Quebec Bank. It then became home to the Monteluz Piano House in 1919 and later was the home to Eaton's catalogue store before they moved to their larger premises on Hastings in 1948. The facade continues down the lane.

### 7.) 626 WEST PENDER

## ORAL HISTORY

Heritage Vancouver and the Heritage Program at city hall get calls from people who have interesting stories to tell about their neighbourhoods or the city. It would be interesting if we could collect these stories as part of an informal oral history project. So often the caller has such a wealth of information that it is hard to do justice to it in one call. The Heritage Program isn't set up to collect this information and its not really part of their job either. So, is there someone out there interested in doing a project for H.V.? If this sounds interesting call the machine at 254-9411 and we'll set something up.

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# Newsletter

July 1994 Volume 3 No.7

## HV POSITION ON LIONS GATE BRIDGE

### Background

- For over half a century, the Lions Gate Bridge has been Vancouver's most important civic landmark, and the most enduring symbol of our City.
- Like symbolic structures in other cities – the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, the Space Needle in Seattle – the Lions Gate Bridge represents our city to the World.
- The Provincial Government, through the Heritage Conservation Branch, recognizes the importance of historic bridges and supports bridge restoration incentives. The Lions Gate Bridge is arguably the most important historic bridge in British Columbia. However, the Ministry of Transportation and Highways has chosen to ignore the heritage importance of this bridge.
- The bridge is structurally sound, with proper maintenance could last well into the next century. The bridge requires roadbed repair and a proper ongoing maintenance program – it does not need to be replaced.
- Bridge repair would cost only a fraction of the cost for a new structure. The large expenditures required to build a new vehicular crossing would be better spent on regional transit improvements.
- Additional auto capacity across First Narrows will simply cause increased congestion at either end of the crossing, as existing municipal road systems cannot accommodate higher traffic volumes.
- Additional automobile capacity across First Narrows is not a regional priority as outlined in recent policy documents such as Clouds of Change (City of Vancouver) and Creating Our Future (GVRD)
- Expansions for vehicular capacity only relieve traffic congestion temporarily, as traffic volumes increase to fill the available capacity

### HV position

*The Lions Gate Bridge must be recognized as an important heritage structure of civic, provincial and national significance. We call upon the Ministry of Highways to conduct a proper and independent heritage assessment of the bridge. This is the minimum requirement for the highway construction projects in the United States.*

*Any modifications to the bridge must involve minimum intervention, be designed to maintain the form and appearance of the present structure, and be limited to addressing issues of structural maintenance and adequacy, traffic safety, and improved access for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit.*

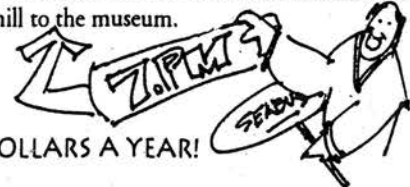
*The current automobile capacity of the bridge should not be increased, and the provincial and regional, and municipal governments should develop an integrated transit plan designed to alleviate vehicular congestion on a region-wide basis, rather than pursuing piecemeal automobile-based solutions.*

## THIS MONTH'S ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL



## THE H.V. AUGUST CRUISE

Join members of Heritage Vancouver when we take to the high seas and travel via Seabus to North Vancouver and the North Vancouver Museum located at Presentation House. This August tradition has always proved interesting. Its a chance to check out the exhibits and explore heritage issues from a different perspective. We'll meet at the Seabus ticket machines, beside Starbucks Coffee at the Station and once across its a short walk up the hill to the museum.



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## SAVING THE PAST PIECE BY PIECE

Try as we might, to preserve our existing architectural landscape, we at Heritage Vancouver do not always succeed. Last year over 1500 residential structures were destroyed, to make way for new development. Each of these units, (most in excellent structural condition) were demolished in a matter of hours and shipped off, contributing 20 to 40 tons each to the land-fill.

There is a solution that has been used since ancient times that is environmentally friendly, saves a bit of the past and is cost efficient. Architectural Recycling is not a new industry, but it is slow to catch on here in Vancouver. Older houses can be a treasure trove of architectural fixtures and fittings, that could be used again in renovations, additions and new construction. Westside Demo Depot located at 2685 Maple Street, owned and operated by Gary Darychuck is one such firm that caters to this new industry. Gary will consider most fixtures and fittings salvageable but concentrates on hardwood floors, windows, doors and fireplace surrounds. Most of the wood in these buildings are first growth and is irreplaceable.

The major problem for the recycling industry, according to Gary, is there is more customers than product. The reason for this is that salvaging takes time, and once the demolition permit has been issued, demolition takes place almost immediately. Even when the owner of the building could make extra profit from the salvaged materials they are usually reluctant to allow time for their removal.

The way around this problem is to change the legislation so that salvage assessment could be carried out as part of the demolition permit. This could be done with incentives for the owner or demolition contractor, such as reduced permit fees. The City can also benefit from the amount of reduced waste going into our dwindling land-fill sites. This is a win-win situation as good quality material is reused thus diminishing the need to clear-cut our forests to replace old growth timber that has thrown away.

David Nimmo

## DID THEY FLY AWAY?

Remember Larwill Park, that became the temporary bus station in 1948? How about the cast concrete winged horses, symbol for Pacific Stage Lines? When the station building was demolished it was agreed to save the horses by cutting them away from the building. Now that the new city owned parking lot (~~is~~ on the site of the city's first park and parade ground) is just about completed, where are the horses? Since the parking people said they would lose too many spaces because of the horses they have been removed. They are said to be in storage. We hope they are safe given that the Housing and Properties Department are responsible for them. One wonders if they will be seen again.

## FIRE HALL 18 GOOD BYE?

During the last civic election voters approved the Capital Plan. Part of that plan included the money necessary to replace the fire hall 18 on 38th Avenue. Did you know that? This building is one of only two fire halls listed on the Heritage Inventory. The other is No. 6 in the West End.

This rather fine building is slated for demolition with no ideas or options for retention and upgrading because it is in such poor condition. If that's the case how come it got to this state in the first place?

## DELAMONT PARK DEMO ALLOWED

The Parks Board has voted to demolish 2027 West 6th Avenue. Notice of this item arrived far too late for anyone to respond properly or even get to the Board in time for the meeting. The whole Delamont park enclave will be up for discussion soon so watch it closely.

## WATER AIR EARTH FIRE

The annual conference of the Association for Preservation Technology will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Seattle this year from October 2-8 1994.

APT is an alliance of the many professions involved in preserving built and natural environments and the theme of this year's conference is "... to remind us of the environment we live in and our impact on the four elements." H.V. has a copy of the program and if you're interested give us a call on the machine.

## APPEARS TO BE A PIER

A project that seems to be worthy of further investigation is the rebuilding of the pier beneath the Arthur Laing bridge next to the Canfor Mill. There would seem to be a number of possibilities for future use and broad community support. There is a meeting soon with various organizations to see if this project will fly and we'll keep you posted.

## COMING UP FOR H.V.

August is the meeting where we travel to the North Vancouver Museum, via Sea Bus, to see what's up on the North Shore.

September: John Atkin will be presenting *Strathcona: Vancouver's First Neighbourhood*, the subject of his new book along with Jo Scott B who will be opening her latest show, paintings of Strathcona, that month at SFU Downtown.

October: Yes, it's the Annual General Meeting and elections to the board of directors. Look for our special guest speaker.

Seattle will be the host of the 1994 APT Conference. October 2-8th



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  
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# Newsletter

September 1994 Volume 3 No.9

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
TIME IS HERE!!!!**

## NELSON PARK SCRUTINIZED AGAIN

Two of Vancouver's potential park sites—blocks of deteriorating heritage houses which the Park Board would like to flatten—are in the news again. Not surprisingly, all of the issues concerning them, which were debated round and round and over again two years ago, are the same today, but perhaps city council is now in a decision-making mood.

During the summer, the Park Board considered the fate of the house at 2027 West 6th on the Delamont Park site, which has been boarded up for the past several years. Two years ago, the then Board agreed to defer the house's demolition so that they could study the site and come up with a master plan; little study evidently took place, but the Board voted on July 18th to demolish and yet deferred a recommendation to allow the local community garden to expand onto the lot. Apparently, the house will go down on Sunday, September 11th.

This month, City Council, which is the final arbiter on all park and land matters, is taking a look at the second parksite—Nelson Park, the houses on the block bounded by Thurlow, Pendrell, Bute and Comox, all but a couple of which are publicly owned. Two years ago, or was it three?, some members of council appeared to be quite open-minded about a mixed restoration/park solution there; on the 15th of September, Council will appoint consultants to study the houses again and to weigh their retention and restoration against the needs of the tenants there and the Parks Board's "requirement" to clear land for open space. It has been a hard sell convincing some council and park board members that the houses there are really "heritage" and thus worth the effort. They are old (the houses, that is), but so what?, some say. We say that it is as streetscapes and, especially in the case of Nelson Park, as a collection of the housing styles built in the West End between 1890 and the First World War, that the houses really come into their own. Last year, a film crew saw that potential, and painted the exteriors of the four houses at the east end of the Comox Street block.

Council's decision is made all the more difficult at both Delamont and Nelson because the houses are homes, too, for a tight community of renters who are adamantly opposed to any change beyond cosmetic renovation and mechanical fixing-up of their ramshackle buildings. At Delamont, there has been very little turnover of tenants, and many have resided there for a decade or more, and are organizing under the banner of the East Kitsilano Concerned Citizens Committee. At Nelson, every time HV gives a walking tour we are exhorted by tenants to support their struggle to save their homes and community.

It's hard not to be sympathetic to the tenants, although it is certain that the houses are falling apart due to lack of maintenance, and that any significant renovation would have to dislocate them. The houses have provided affordable accommodation for years, much as Kitsilano, Grandview and Strathcona houses once did, because they were in a state of controlled crash—nothing was falling apart so quickly that huge

## THIS MONTH'S ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL



house gable  
Strathcona

No. 500 AB

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Heritage Vancouver Society will take place on October 19 at Hodson Manor 1254 West Seventh Avenue.

Elections to the board of directors will take place including the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary.

Memberships are also due for next year.

quantities of money had to be spent. Eventually, though, houses reach a state where the neglect can't be neglected any longer. That's what has happened at both Delamont and Nelson, and it is hard to imagine how the rental rates and existing tenancies can endure, regardless what use council decides for the buildings. It's like the sign in my dentist's office: "Ignore your teeth and they'll go away." The Delamont and Nelson houses are about to go away, and that would be an irreplaceable loss.

*(There is some very interesting history about the houses and occupants on both parksites—it is in Heritage Walks Around Vancouver, by me and John Atkin.)*

Michael Kluckner

YOU CAN JOIN HERITAGE VANCOUVER FOR ONLY 15 DOLLARS A YEAR!

## A SNEAK PREVIEW

The colours and history of Strathcona, sneak previews of new projects are presented by John Atkin and Jo Scott-B, at the next Heritage Vancouver meeting on September 21.

John Atkin is the author of the new book *Strathcona, Vancouver's First Neighbourhood* to be published by Whitecap Books in October 1994.

Jo Scott-B's new paintings: *Strathcona, "An Urban Tapestry"* will be on view at Simon Fraser Downtown from October 4 to December 17 and expanded at the Federation Gallery on Granville Island from October 25 to November 6, 1994.

Their talk and slide show will include historic photographs, sketches and paintings not included in the book or exhibition.

## WALKING TOUR, WALKING TOUR ALERT

It Fall and that means that Heritage Vancouver puts on its walking shoes and goes on a tour. This time we take a glimpse of times past when Kerrisdale featured big red interurban trams, streetcars and vacant lots. This was a time when many houses were architect designed.

Stories of these earlier times will be highlighted on this tour together with a detailed look at many of the areas heritage homes.

Your guide Ray Baynes, third generation Vancouverite and heritage enthusiast, will provide some personal experiences to describe what it was like to live in Kerrisdale and how the area developed over the years.

The walk will take about two hours. The route is not hilly. The pace will be leisurely with many stops as we look at more than 40 residential and commercial buildings.

The tour is Sunday September 25th, the group will meet at the southeast corner of 37th Avenue and East Boulevard at 1 pm.

Cost is \$10 non-members and \$8 members Come join us for what promises to be a delightful afternoon.

## FAIRACRES TOUR

Jim Wolf, who you all know from the New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society and from his always informative talks at H.V., will be presenting a slide show and tour of Fairacres, the H.T. Ceperley Estate (now the home to the Burnaby Art Gallery), and Deer Lake Park.

This tour will include not only a tour of the house but a walk through the park ending up at the Hart House Restaurant for a buffet luncheon.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 per couple luncheon included. Call the Burnaby Art Gallery at 291-9441 to reserve your spot.

Sounds like a lot of fun.

## EXTRA, EXTRA...

It is with great pleasure that we announce that our special guest speaker for our AGM will be Paolo Pela, President of Novam Developments. Paolo will be speaking about their company's latest project, Birks Place, which is the renovation of the former bank at the corner of Granville and Hastings. This project will be finished in October of this year at which time Birks Jewellers will have returned to the same intersection that their original Vancouver store occupied at the turn of the century. Part of Paolo's presentation, Birk's Place and the Damned Developer, will be about the financial challenges a developer such as Novam faces.

## NEWS BITS

The report recommending hiring a consultant to look at the Nelson Park site is going before Council and has been considered by the Parks Board.

The documentary film *Glowing in the Dark* about the history of neon in Vancouver has been shooting for the last couple of months and will be finished at the beginning of 1995

Don't be shy, you too can write for the newsletter. Be published. Give the machine a call or drop your article in the mail to our box number.

## COMING UP FOR H.V.

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# Newsletter

October 1994 Volume 3 No.10

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
TIME IS HERE!!!!**

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Heritage Vancouver Society will take place on October 19 at Hodson Manor 1254 West Seventh Avenue.

Elections to the board of directors will take place including the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary. Memberships are also due for next year.

### EXTRA, EXTRA...

It is with great pleasure that we announce that our special guest speaker for our AGM will be Paolo Pela, President of Novam Developments. Paolo will be speaking about their company's latest project, Birks Place, which is the renovation of the former bank at the corner of Granville and Hastings. This project will be finished in November of this year at which time Birks Jewellers will have returned to the same intersection that their original Vancouver store occupied at the turn of the century.

Part of Paolo's presentation, Birks Place, Heritage Preservation, and a Damned Developer, will be about the financial challenges a developer such as Novam faces.

Anyone who has had the pleasure of hearing Paolo speak will know that this will be an entertaining evening

#### Nominations for the board of directors

President: John Atkin  
Vice President: Jo Scott-B  
Secretary: Vacant  
Treasurer: Vacant  
At Large: Peter Vaisbord, Don Luxton, Mary MacDonald, Laurie Carlisle, Lynne Bryson.

## BURRARD BRIDGE

In 1927, Major Grant was commissioned to design a double tier span to carry cars and trains across False Creek. Public pressure led to a single span with a decorative concrete structure added by Sharp and Thompson, and decorative features by Charles Marega (who designed the Capt. Vancouver monument at city hall and the Joe Fortes fountain in Alexandra Park, among others).

A small article tucked in the bottom of section C of the Vancouver Sun has reawakened in me the need to examine the plans and options for the Burrard Street Bridge

## THIS MONTH'S ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL



Delcan Consulting Engineers have been hired at \$300,000 to develop architectural and urban designs for a project which could cost up to \$8.5 million - (and therefore may not be carried out).

These concepts will drive the decisions which will be made about the future of the bridge. The starting point is said to include "respect for the heritage value of the bridge"; but various issues such as traffic flow and volume, safe biking routes separated from pedestrians among others have led to Delcan being given a number of options to study. These include a 3m extension to the sidewalks on the outside of both sides of the bridge or one 6m extension off one side, or a 6m bike path or pedestrian pathway suspended from the underneath the bridge, or closing one or two lanes of traffic to provide cycle routes. How these new additions are added to the bridge will affect its "heritage value".

Let's hope this remains the top priority of the planners.

*Jo Scott-B*

## ITS A WINNER

Step forward Peter Vaisbord. You are the lucky winner of the name that committee contest. Peter's was chosen from a number of interesting entries. (In case your wondering the submissions were passed on to the committee with no names attached.) Your prize will be some lovely cuttings presented by the Landscape Branch (clever that) H.V.'s landscape committee at our AGM. Thanks to all who took part.

YOU CAN JOIN HERITAGE VANCOUVER FOR ONLY 15 DOLLARS A YEAR!

## WALKING TOUR

Our thanks to Ray Baynes for a delightful and well attended walking tour of Kerrisdale on Sunday Sept. 25th. Almost sixty people joined Ray on an interesting and informative tour. The weather cooperated with sunshine and the walk took about two hours (Ray got everyone back to the starting point just 15 minutes over the 2 hour mark).

## SEATTLE CONFERENCE

The Association of Preservation Technology annual conference was held in Seattle over the Thanksgiving weekend. Close to 300 professionals descended on the Sheraton Hotel to hear about keeping buildings standing up. In talking to some of the participants it seemed that everyone enjoyed themselves. I had the privilege of participating in a Saturday morning session, International Perspectives, organized by Robert Lemon.

This session looked at the diverse nature of heritage preservation projects. There were short presentations from Seattle on historic theatres and from Vancouver, the Hydro Building, Strathcona's Porch Project, and masonry conservation on the Marine Building. While it was a small session it was quite interesting to see the very different and in some cases the unexpected solutions proposed to problems.

In February it is hoped that this same session will be repeated at SFU Downtown with the same participants yet for a wider audience. Watch for it.

*John Atkin*

## NELSON PARK: ARE THESE PEOPLE SERIOUS?

Reading recent newspaper reports about what the Park Board Commissioners are saying about Nelson Park leads one to conclude that these people are out of touch with their world. Let's see, for example, Stanley Park is a regional park, so it can't be considered a park for the West End. That means the West End is short of green space! Of course West Enders don't use Stanley Park or English Bay, we know that. Instead lets demolish the last complete block of houses in the area to provide two acres of open space next to an already under utilized and poorly designed park because it is someone's twenty year wish to make more park here regardless.

Times change and so do priorities. Just because the land and homes were bought ages ago to be demolished doesn't mean that now has to be carried out. Instead of using arbitrary formulas of people per acre of park maybe a study of park use and design would be a more productive use of money. It might also provide better and more user friendly parks.

## H.V. MEMBER COMES UP WITH THE SILVER

Donna Cattel long time H.V. member has just been awarded two Silver Georgies for two of her recent projects. The Georgies are the home builders equivalent of the Oscars. Her awards were for a large renovation and for environmental awareness, since home renovation is the three R's in practice. Its interesting to note that she met one of her clients at an H.V. meeting.

Donna says that she's lobbying to have a heritage category added to the Georgie Awards since the renovation of older homes is growing. Congratulations.

## CONTRACTOR'S LIST

Do you know a good heritage minded contractor? Or have you had someone repair your wood windows? H.V. would like to put together a list of contractors that do heritage work. If you know of any give us a call on the machine.

## NEWS BITS

Don't be shy, you too can write for the newsletter. Be published. Give the machine a call or drop your article in the mail to our box number.

Holy Rosary Cathedral has decided that they will re-roof using slate. This will return the roof and steeple to their original appearance. This will be nice to see.

Don't forget to drop into SFU Downtown and their library to see Jo Scott-B's new show of paintings about Strathcona.



## COMING UP FOR H.V.

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**November 24** Everyone is invited to SFU Downtown for the launch of Strathcona, Vancouver's First Neighbourhood. Slides, coffee, cookies and books.

Don Luxton and Valda Vidners will be our speakers for this month.

**December:** Apart from Christmas the exciting event this month is of course the open slide projector at our meeting. By now everyone knows that you bring some slides drop them into the carousel and show them. It lots of fun.



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# Newsletter

November 1994 Volume 3 No.11

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
TIME IS HERE!!!!**

## EXTRA, EXTRA...

Here is the new board of directors for 1995

### The Board of Directors

President: John Atkin

Vice President: Jo Scott-B

At Large: Peter Vaisbord, Don Luxton, Mary MacDonald,  
Laurie Carlisle, Lynne Bryson, Michael Benson  
and Jim Lowe.

Our thanks go to Maurice Guibord, David Nimmo, Shirley McColl for their efforts over the past year and Janine Bond for her efforts as treasurer since the founding of Heritage Vancouver.

While we're giving thanks a big thank you goes to Maurice Guibord for his great efforts in organizing the very successful ghost bus tours and the cemetery walks. We raised our profile beyond expectations and these tours can only get bigger and better next year.

## WHAT'S NEW

Well, despite the efforts of Housing & Properties to be uncooperative over the Pitman sign at Broadway and Granville it looks like it will remain as a landmark for the corner. The leasing agents for the building, now in private ownership, say that the sign is a plus for any new tenant and it should remain. The sign's letters can be altered it seems without too much bureaucratic hassle.

Pity, that Housing and Properties couldn't have been a little less pig headed when we first brought this issue forward. Since it has meant a lot of work for our vice president and the heritage planner in Planning to get a satisfactory conclusion to something that shouldn't have required so much.

Now of course H.V. will be looking in to the Aristocratic sign across the street, so that when that site is developed we can ensure the sign's survival. Hopefully on site.

Birk's has opened its new store at Hastings and Granville and it looks good. The clock has been cleaned and repainted and there is a plaque on the wall next to it explaining its history.

The transformation of the banking hall into a retail store has been successful with the new staircase becoming the focal point.

Those of you that heard developer Paolo Pela's excellent talk last meeting know that he and his company are proud of this project.

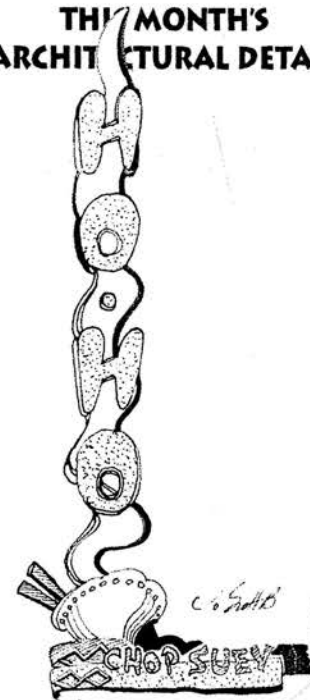
The Park Board is calling for ideas for community oriented uses for the old Family Court building that sits in Burrard View Park. They want some use or uses that would pay their way.

The building itself is a delightful structure that needs careful restoration. But all of the original building is there under a series of additions that could be removed. If you've got ideas give the Park Board a buzz.

Finn Slough has been in the news lately with the battle for preservation of this unique community against a developer who claims ownership of the land. Mary MacDonald from H.V. was able to attend the annual general meeting of the Finn Slough Heritage and Wetland Society on October 23rd of this year. Mary brought back their newsletter and newspaper clippings. One important thing for the residents was determined, despite the developer's complaints of unsanitary conditions and raw sewage being dumped directly into the river, Richmond's Health Department has given the Slough a clean bill of health and found that there was no cause for concern. Most of the homes use a composting toilet.

The F.S.H.W. Society needs and can use your support.

## THIS MONTH'S ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL



*The neon heritage of Chinatown has all but disappeared. The last great sign, pictured here, is in trouble. Vandals and idiots have caused severe damage. It needs to be cared for soon!*

## COMMITTEES ARE FUN

You may know by now that Heritage Vancouver is a group that has a wide variety of interests. To accommodate some of the more popular ones H.V. has a number of committees that meet outside of our regular meetings to discuss issues and ideas pertinent to them.

We have the Landscape Branch which is concerned with Vancouver's diverse landscape and urban forest. They have a number of projects on the go including an upcoming pamphlet on Kitsilano plants. If you're interested call Deborah Rink at 734-3281.

David Nimmo has expressed an interest in starting a committee concerned with the recycling of building materials from the many demolitions that occur each year in this city. So call David at 733-3110

Following our rather successful Mountain View Cemetery tours interest has been expressed in starting a committee concerned with grave yards and the issues that surround them. Give our answering machine a call and we'll put you in contact with others with the same interest.

There will be the need for a Nelson Park Committee similar to our Lion's Gate group that has been working on changing opinions about the bridge. [They made sure the premier got the message by producing a protest post card based on the success of our Victory Square card].

## PRESS RELEASE HELP

The current newspaper troubles notwithstanding, H.V. needs someone to help us with our press releases. The success of our events depends on the message getting out to the media and key to that is the snappy press release. If you can help us out in this area give the machine a call.

Now if press releases are not your cup of tea, how about book reviews. The newsletter could use a couple of reviews on books about local subjects that would be of interest to H.V. members. Anyone interested?

## DIRECTORS MEET

Each year after the annual general meeting the new board of directors get together for a day of work. We spend the day going over the previous year's activities, looking at opportunities for the coming year and spend sometime going over ancient history so that new board members are brought up to speed on a number of issues.

Coming out of this year's meeting was the need to look at fund raising for H.V. so that we would have money in the bank for some of our advocacy efforts and special projects. The success of the bus tours mean that we will be doing those again along with the cemetery walks. Our other walking tours were also recognized as a significant money earner for H.V.

We have now very few T-shirts left from our first effort that featured a Robin Ward drawing. Jo Scott B will be designing our next shirt and if there is enough interest we will be looking into sweat shirts too.

For the coming year Nelson Park was identified as the major issue. Our efforts will be directed towards ensuring that no demolition takes place and that the houses remain in their original locations. Delamont Park and the proposed changes to the Burrard Bridge were other concerns identified. Of course we will be responding to heritage issues as they appear.

## CONTRACTOR'S LIST

Do you know a good heritage minded contractor? Or have you had someone repair your wood windows? H.V. would like to put together a list of contractors that do heritage work. If you know of any give us a call on the machine.

## NEWS BITS

Don't be shy, you too can write for the newsletter. Be published. Give the machine a call or drop your article in the mail to our box number.

Don't forget to drop into SFU Downtown and their library to see Jo Scott-B's new show of paintings about Strathcona. The paintings are for sale and each sale benefits Heritage Vancouver. The show runs through to December.



## COMING UP FOR H.V.

**November 24** Everyone is invited to SFU Downtown for the launch of Strathcona, Vancouver's First Neighbourhood. Slides, coffee, cookies and books.

Don Luxton and Valda Vidners will be our speakers for this month talking about the trials and tribulations of heritage inventories we have done.

**December:** Apart from Christmas the exciting event this month is of course the open slide projector at our meeting. By now everyone knows that you bring some slides drop them into the carousel and show them. It lots of fun.

**January:** The new year! 1995 already.



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# Newsletter

December 1994 Volume 3 No.12

**RENEW NOW OR THIS COULD BE  
YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER**

## WHAT'S NEW

Years ago, it seems, Dirk Beck came to a meeting to ask if there was anything that could be done to save the Stanley Theatre. Well months later Dirk found himself co-chairing the Save Our Stanley Committee. This well run group raised funds to print T-shirts and flyers and generally raise awareness about the fate of the theatre. It peaked with a huge rally outside the theatre with local celebrities, searchlights, T.V and radio. It took Gordon Campbell about 30 seconds to torpedo the group's efforts in council chambers when he announced that he was tired of groups coming in at the last minute promoting schemes that wouldn't work. The S.O.S group had met with real estate professionals to work out the economics, they had the stats etc. But with a wave of a hand Campbell dismissed S.O.S's work as "back of the envelope economics" and approved a hastily put together scheme to convert the building to retail use. That scheme disappeared very quickly, something about economics I think.

Well after a couple of years and a lot of hard work on many peoples part, Dirk Beck's wish came true when the Province announced on Monday Dec. 11th that the Stanley gets funding to house the Arts Club and Theatre Sports. Let's hope Gordon Campbell choked on his toast as he read Tuesday's Sun.

In other news, one of our members Bruce Miller came up with a real gem and wrote this for us. (The Courier's Alison Applebee working with our vice president Jo Scott B did a one page article last Sunday using Bruce's research).

### THE LAST OLD SCHOOL HOUSE?

On the corner of Ash and 19th Ave. in Vancouver, behind a high laurel hedge, is the last old wood school house in the old district of South Vancouver. It was the first school in the area and was known as "472 School". It was built originally as a house in the District lot 472 and in 1908 was converted into a school. D.L. 472 was a pre-emption by William Mackie, a former Cariboo miner, and was the only pre-emption in the vast CPR land grant. The only way to reach the school was by way of the three plank sidewalk from Fairview to the north. It was heated by a cord wood stove and had running water and a septic tank. The playground was the surrounding bush. Deer were still in the area until 1915. Occasionally a cougar or bear was spotted in the forest beyond.

The school is located at 599 West 19th Avenue. The first teacher was Miss Margret Whitely and the average attendance in 1908 was 19 pupils. Soon after a second school was built for the older pupils but it is no longer standing. In 1911 Shaugnessy School was built (now Emily Carr) and in 1920 Edith Cavell School took over from the one room school house.

This property is now for sale and its future is in doubt (its not on the inventory) and it may be the last chance to see old "472. Bruce Miller



## RESEARCH UPDATE ON AN B-LISTED BUILDING BEING DEMOLISHED.

Research information is not always available when you need it. Sometimes it turns up by accident. In this case it became available too late to influence the retention of a significant building.

Little accurate information has been available about the brick structure at 555 Seymour other than its association with B.C. Tel. The date of its construction was ambiguous, and little else was certain about the history of its construction. Although a water connection was made in 1906, the permit registers for the City of Vancouver from 1905-08 have disappeared. It was known, however, that work was undertaken on this site in the 1920s.

The discovery of a reference in the *Contract Record* of March 28, 1906, however has led to the attribution of the building to well known architects Hooper and Walkins. It has been confirmed that the building was indeed built in 1906, and that it was the first purpose-built telephone exchange in the city, and possibly the province. The original entry was embellished by columns in approximately 1922. About 1949 the entry was moved and more columns added to the doorway that was so often used by movie companies as a set piece. Otherwise the building presented almost the same appearance it did in 1906.

555 Seymour is currently being demolished, to allow the construction of a downtown campus for BCIT. The architects Aitken Wregglesworth Associates Architects Ltd., were unmoved by appeals to retain, at the very least, the facade of this building as part of the new development.

*Don Luxton*

(Editor's note: These are the same bunch that couldn't be bothered to save the 1889 Innes Thompson Building facade on Hastings, itself now being demolished.

## C.N. SIGN VICTIM OF OFFICIAL VANDALISM

There are weeks that make you want to scream. This was one of them. The owners of the C.N. Station finally destroyed the 1928 Canadian National sign, a designated object under City of Vancouver bylaws. The sign was allowed to be "renovated" under some silly act of official vandalism that allowed only two letters of the original sign to remain (and even that's in doubt now) while the new and I repeat pointless and rather silly name Pacific Central is put up. To cap this exercise in stupidity the city is designating this new sign.

So to sum up... We can tear down a designated object, build a new object that's different and has no historical significance and... get that designated. Wow.

## COMING UP

Next up is Civic Theatres playing around with the Q.E. and Orpheum Theatres. We'll keep you posted.

## VOGUE IS A NATIONAL HIT

On happy note the Vogue Theatre has been designated a national historic site recently and there are plans to start a foundation to raise funds for its full restoration. The designation was made possible by the Historic Theatres Trust of Montreal who nominated the Vogue and other theatres across Canada. The designation made mention of the theatre's architecture and how intact that had remained over the years. The owners are excited by this turn of events.

## OTHER DESIGNATIONS

The Main Public Library is up at public hearing for designation. This is a coup because not so long ago the City wasn't prepared to see this building remain standing. Again the public and business seem to be years ahead of some of our elected officials in recognizing what is important to the city.

But this designation, as much as we should support it, has some problems with it. The major problem is we are designating part of this building but not all of it. We are not protecting the granite base at the north end or the shutters at the south end of the structure nor the mural by Lionel Thomas behind the book return desk. Why? Because the architect wants to make changes. So what are we designating here? And have we asked just what the defining elements of the building are. Once again it would seem that architects should learn to put their egos in their pockets and try to work with the existing fabric of a building and treat that with respect.

While this designation is important its too bad that the compromises are so great.

## BRIDGE CHANGES

The engineering Department has had public events showing the options for the changes that they want to make to the Burrard Street Bridge. Part of the problem of this sort of presentation was getting a sense of just what was planned. Some of the major traffic options were in plan view only and not illustrated, hence its hard to get a clear picture of the proposals. Other proposals like the ones for the pedestrians were, so obviously, done to turn people off and steer them towards Engineering's preferred option.

The bridge is an important landmark and changes will have to be handled carefully. We'll have more on this in January.

## COMMITTEES...

The Heritage Advisory Committee has some vacancies coming up. If you are interested in having your finger on the pulse of things, nominations are now open and you can contact the City Clerks Department. Heritage Vancouver will be sponsoring Jo Scott B again for a new term.

The Chinatown Historic Area Committee has had a position created expressly for Heritage Vancouver. Please let us know if you, as a current H.V. member, are interested in being our representative on this important committee. The next few years will be very interesting as Chinatown goes through a number of changes and adapts to its new zoning. Call us on the machine at 254-9411.

## HERITAGE AWARD ALERT

Nomination Forms are now available from the City of Vancouver Planning Department's 3rd floor reception desk in the east wing. Don't delay deadlines are January 12th.

Its been a more than usually depressing newsletter this month. But lets hope that the new year brings some fun and joy to things heritage and that over the holidays everyone has fun. If we don't see you at the December meeting, best of the season and we'll see you in the new year.

*John Atkin*

## COMING UP FOR H.V.

December: Apart from Christmas the exciting event this month is of course the open slide projector at our meeting. By now everyone knows that you bring some slides drop them into the carousel and show them. It lots of fun.

January: The new year! 1995 already and the start of our municipal heritage series. Watch for details next issue.

## NEWS BITS

Don't be shy, you too can write for the newsletter. Be published. Give the machine a call or drop your article in the mail to our box number.



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

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