

**NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 1998  
VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1**

*This month's newsletter is prepared by  
Dominique Pilon and Jo Scott-B*

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

\*When Duncan Wilson changed the date of his meeting with HV from November to January (because of conflicting engagements), I was unaware the demolition permit application for the Food Building, submitted on November 12 by the Park Board, would have been due to be issued by early January. However, the demolition is not yet a done deal. **THIS IS ON THE PARK BOARD AGENDA Monday January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.** Information of this fact reached me via another interested group - neither the Vancouver Heritage Commission chair, nor Heritage Vancouver received notice. Why not? Especially given that Commissioner and Chair Duncan Wilson has been scheduled to be at the Heritage Vancouver meeting to discuss this subject since November 1997.

*Jo Scott-B*



**SPEAKERS PROGRAM**

**21 JANUARY** - Commissioner **DUNCAN WILSON**, Chair of the Vancouver Park Board, during the Business Section of this meeting at 7.30 pm, to discuss the Pure Food Building on the Hastings Park site. At 8:30 pm, **TAMMIE TUPECHKA** of the Institute for Humanities at SFU will speak about the project *Stories of Our Own Backyard*, which is recording and mapping the Grandview Woodlands area. There will be copies of the book for sale.

(Please note that contrary to previous scheduling, **Robert Watt**, Chief Herald of Canada, is unable to attend the January meeting due to a conflict. He will be speaking later in the year.)

**18 FEBRUARY**

The Lions Gate Bridge will be discussed during the Business Section at 7.30 pm. The Lions Bridge Project Office will bring their display panels.

At 8.30 pm, **SHANE O'DAE** from Heritage Canada visits Vancouver. We are delighted to welcome this speaker, who lives in Retreat Cottage in Newfoundland, to entertain us with his special brand of humour and heritage.

# Upcoming events

**Monday, January 12, 1998, 2:00 pm** - As a follow-up to the October Community Column, John Oliphant informs us that the Banfield - a three storey Art Deco apartment block - will be reviewed by the Development Permit Board of the City of Vancouver. Speakers can register at City Hall or call John Oliphant: 732-5600 or Chris Millward: 738-4436 .

**Wednesday, January 28, 7:30 pm**  
**The Vancouver Historical Society**  
John Cherrington speaking on his recent book: *Vancouver at the Dawn: A Turn-of-the Century Portrait*, a compelling account of daily life in Vancouver, circa 1900. Vancouver Historical Society meetings are held in the Whittick Lounge, Vancouver Museum, 1100 Chestnut St. Admission is free.

**Monday, February 16, 1998, 6:00 pm** - **City of Vancouver Heritage Awards** at the Hotel Vancouver. Michael Kluckner will be the keynote speaker

## The Community Column

*This space is reserved for members of the community who wish to express concerns or viewpoints regarding heritage. This month, we reprint excerpts of the speech given to Vancouver City Council on December 9, 1997 by Lauren Prentice, Executive Director of the Vancouver Heritage Conservation Foundation when she introduced the new Board of Directors.*

““We are here today to celebrate transition - specifically, a transition in leadership for the Foundation.

The Vancouver Heritage Conservation Foundation was created by the City of Vancouver in 1992 as a registered non-profit society, and was granted charitable status in 1993. Since that time, Vancouver City Council has presided over the organization as its Board of Directors, with the Mayor as Chair.

Today, a new Board sits before you in these Chambers, to be welcomed by you, and ready to carry on this important work.

The Foundation, under your leadership, has been involved in many heritage conservation efforts in Vancouver. These have included the sponsorship of walking tours, educational workshops, an independent film production on neon in Vancouver, the refurbishment of the Birks Clock, a Heritage Interiors Inventory for the City's Planning Department, and the documentation of a community effort to rebuild porches on heritage houses in Strathcona.

**August 1998. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the start of **trolley bus services** in Vancouver. The Museum of Transportation and BC Transit are planning events with the 1947 and 1948 trolley buses. Stay tuned.

**October 1-3, 1998. Heritage in the Big City.** Heritage conference co-hosted by Heritage Canada, Heritage Society of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver.



From these projects, we have gained knowledge and experience. This journey of knowledge and experience led us, this year, to a refinement of the vision for the organization. In a way, we came to a crossroads, where choosing the path ahead demanded some adjustment in thought and in action.

We came to realize that successful conservation of this City's built heritage depends on a web of interconnections, as well as on a complex set of needs and requirements which local government can not - and should not - be expected to carry alone.

When we speak of the need for heritage conservation, we echo and support a fundamental value in our society for all conservation efforts. This value in many ways is a response spawned by recent trends of perpetual change, built-in obsolescence and rapid technological development. As a society we have begun to look, more and more, for that which lasts and has meaning over time.

We have, for example, attempted to counter a throwaway mentality by developing conservation principles reflected by three "r" words: reduce, reuse and recycle. And so it is obvious that the restoration, rehabilitation and reuse of old buildings is abundantly "green" activity. But it is also apparent that heritage conservation efforts, as do all conservation efforts, require a bunch of other "r" words to really be successful.

Heritage conservation, additionally, demands **RESPECT**: respect for our communities and our neighborhoods, respect for local history, and respect for the legacy of what others have built before us.

Heritage conservation also demands **RECOGNITION**: recognition of what is important to us, at this time and in this place, recognition and codification of what is valuable, and recognition of what we need to do today to ensure its viability and existence in the future.

Heritage conservation, **especially** at this time and in this place, absolutely depends on **REALISM**. By realism I mean finding an approach to heritage conservation characterized by cooperation instead of conflict. In the face of escalating land values, incessant development pressures, and the declining ability of government to be the savior of every conservation effort; inspired, creative and collaborative realism is an imperative.

Conservation of our built environment also depends on adequate **RESOURCES**, both financial and human. Marshalling these resources is the primary aim of this Foundation, and the reason for its creation. I'd like to emphasize this point: **marshalling financial and human resources in support of heritage conservation is the primary aim of this Foundation, and the reason for its creation.**

And finally, successful heritage conservation depends on accepting appropriate **RESPONSIBILITY**. The responsibility for conservation of Vancouver's built heritage rests not only with civic government and the municipal heritage planning department. It also rests with the communities that benefit from the historical context and quality of life provided by intact neighborhoods. It rests with property owners who assume stewardship over the life and death of these precious resources. And - in addition and very importantly - it rests with the individuals and industries that benefit economically from conservation and restoration activity. These include architects, developers, contractors, renovators, realtors, consultants, manufacturers, retailers and tourism and hospitality operators, to name just a few.

So it is no surprise that we are here today to embark on a new path, given all we have learned. It makes sense to assemble a Board of Directors which reflects and will champion the respect, recognition, realism, resources and responsibility we need to build our foundation for the future."

# PANEL DISCUSSION

## LIONS GATE BRIDGE: rusty relic or civic symbol?

Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm to 8.30 pm  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY AT HARBOUR CENTRE  
515 WEST HASTINGS, VANCOUVER

Panel includes Pat Boname, Mayor West Vancouver; Arthur Erikson, & Don Luxton .  
Admission is free. Seating is limited so please call to reserve.

**Heritage Vancouver is a non-profit advocacy society whose mandate is to:**

- \* Encourage the study and understanding of heritage preservation with a local and regional perspective
- \* Support the conservation of the heritage that we have inherited
- \* Promote public awareness of heritage preservation through lectures, publications tours & newsletters
- \* Collect document and preserve records of heritage structures landscapes and urban design

**The officers of the Society are:**

Jo Scott-B. (President)	Sherry McKay
John Atkin (Past-President)	David Monteyne
Paul Bennett	Peter Vaisbord
Lynne Bryson	Susan Walker
Stephanie Clarke	
Susanna Houwen (Vice-President)	Mary MacDonald (Archivist)
Don Luxton	

**TIME TO JOIN HERITAGE VANCOUVER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**  
**(Charitable donation # 1073758-52. Membership fees are not tax deductible.)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual:	\$ 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting (no newsletters)	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family:	\$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate:	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation:	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patrons:	\$100

Annual membership runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Members receive monthly newsletter, free admission to monthly speakers' program and reduced rates for tours and other activities.

Return with payment to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, MPO, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3.

**ATTENTION: DUNCAN WILSON, CHAIR, AND PARKS BOARD COMMISSIONERS**  
**Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation**  
**2099 Beach Avenue**  
**Vancouver, B.C.**  
**V6G 1Z4**

**FAX: 257-8427**

I/We are writing to protest the demolition of the Food Building at Hastings Park.

I/We support the stand that Heritage Vancouver and the Canadian Art Deco Society have taken against the demolition of this B-Listed Heritage Building.

Please reconsider this action before it is too late!

**REMEMBER, HERITAGE IS A NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE,  
AND DEMOLITION IS FOREVER!**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:**

# **DEAR HERITAGE SUPPORTERS:**

We have several tough heritage preservation battles underway. We are extremely close to losing the Food Building at the P.N.E. (the demolition permit has been issued as of January 12th!), and it appears there may be a decision soon on the fate of the Lions' Gate Bridge.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!** Your attendance at the following meetings is **CRITICAL!!!** We also need as many of you as possible to send in the enclosed letter to the Parks Board before Monday the 19th - please fax it in or deliver by hand! We need as many people as possible to attend the following meetings:

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 1998 AT 7:00 P.M.  
PARKS BOARD OFFICES, 2099 BEACH AVENUE, VANCOUVER**

The Parks Board will decide whether or not to issue the contracts for demolition for several buildings at the P.N.E., including the Food Building!!!! We must be there in force, as the fate of the building will be decided at this meeting. Please make sure that you have sent your letter to the Parks Board **BEFORE THIS MEETING.**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 1998 AT 7:45 P.M.  
HERITAGE VANCOUVER GENERAL MEETING  
HASTINGS MILL MUSEUM, 1575 ALMA STREET**

Duncan Wilson, Chair of the Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation, will attend to discuss the decision to demolish the Food Building - which may already have been decided!!! We must turn out in **full force** to prove our concerns about the demolition of a City-owned listed heritage building!!!

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 1998 AT 7:45 P.M.  
HERITAGE VANCOUVER GENERAL MEETING  
HASTINGS MILL MUSEUM, 1575 ALMA STREET**

Representatives from the provincial Lions' Gate Bridge Project will be on hand to present the options for the First Narrows Crossing, which may involve demolition of the landmark Lions' Gate Bridge!!! We must have a strong turn out to show the importance of the heritage issue - which has been ignored in this decision-making process!!!

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH, 1998 FROM 7 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY AT HARBOUR CENTRE  
515 WEST HASTINGS STREET, VANCOUVER  
PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE LIONS' GATE BRIDGE  
RUSTY RELIC OR CIVIC SYMBOL?**

The Panel includes Arthur Erickson, Mayor Pat Boname of West Vancouver and Donald Luxton. Admission is free, but seating is limited; please call 291-5100 or e-mail [city@sfu.ca](mailto:city@sfu.ca) to reserve.

**NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 1998  
VOLUME 7 NUMBER 2**

*This month's newsletter is prepared by  
Dominique Pilon and Jo Scott-B*

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

**Heritage incentives, the "green door" policy.**

Are they working? This is an issue of growing concern to heritage advocates. When the incentives were first introduced, heritage became a bonus sought after by developers, particularly when these projects were expedited through the system. What has happened? In recent talks with architects and developers, it appears that heritage is once again becoming difficult to process; this bodes ill for preservation. Neighbourhood design guidelines are leading to heritage style *wannabes*: conforming and easy to build. At a recent Heritage Commission meeting, I was horrified to hear a local neighbour, opposed to the tabled project, state "*The old heritage house is too big to save..... we want heritage style, wooden houses with peaked roofs.*" Then later, I hear about an application delayed so long, I question when the owner will just ditch the project as the carrying costs must be astronomical. This should be of grave concern to everyone. The very guidelines which neighbourhoods want to have implemented are eroding the character which people are seeking to preserve and we end up with pseudo heritage instead of the real thing.

Meanwhile, at the **Vancouver Park Board (VPB) meeting on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**, Commissioners awarded the demolition contract for the **Pure Food Building**. Whilst continuing to regret the loss of this B-listed building, we are pleased that three buildings have been saved: **the Garden Auditorium (A-listed), the Forum and Rollerland (both B-listed)**. On the 21st, Chair Duncan Wilson attended the business portion of our January meeting to discuss heritage on VPB lands. I was joined by Don Luxton (Canadian Art Deco Society) and Debbie Day (Vancouver Heritage Commission). Piet Rutgers (VPB staff) was also present in the audience. The discussion was lively but time limited. So Duncan has invited us to the VPB offices to continue discussing

how heritage can be addressed early to avoid reactionary 11<sup>th</sup> hour confrontation. We look forward to this opportunity and thank Duncan for coming.

*Jo Scott-B*

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**SPEAKERS PROGRAM**

**18 FEBRUARY**

**The Lions Gate Bridge** will be discussed during the Business Section at 7.30 pm. The Lions Bridge Project Office will bring their display panels.

**At 8.30 pm, SHANE O'DEA**, Chair of the Board of Governors of **Heritage Canada** visits Vancouver. He teaches English at Memorial University where he is also the Public Orator and Chair of the Board of Newfoundland Studies. He has extensive Heritage credentials. Please join us for an evening with his special brand of humour and heritage.

**18 MARCH**

**VICTORY SQUARE** is this month's topic. Join us for a slide show of this historic area and a panel discussion which will include the city planner, an architect and a developer. The issues are complex, the solutions need public support if the heritage is to be saved,



# Upcoming events

## A focus on Heritage Week

### West Vancouver Museum & Archives

February 15 - North Shore Antiques & Collectibles

1:00-4:00 pm Sunday

Presented by the North & West Vancouver Museums and the North Shore News at the West Vancouver Seniors Centre.

February 16-22 - Exhibit: *Chapman Land Surveying: 90 years of Land Development in West Vancouver*

12:00 - 4:30 pm Tuesday - Saturday

February 16-22 - Heritage Photo Display

All week at the West Vancouver Memorial Library, 1950 Marine Drive, West Vancouver

February 16-22 - Park Royal Mall

Photo display of early Park Royal, all week  
Squamish Dancers, Park Royal, Friday evening.

February 16-22 - Heritage Dinners

Heritage Pub Week, all week

Dundarave Cafe, 2427 Marine Dr.

Heritage night at the Beach House at

Dundarave Pier 150-25th St. Thursday.

February 17-22 - Exhibit: Heritage Plants Art Display

Opening: Tuesday, February 17

Ferry Building Gallery, 1414 Argyle Avenue

Info: 925-7290

February 18 - Presentation by Doreen Armitage on her book *Around the Sound*

7:00 pm Wednesday

West Vancouver Historical Society public meeting at the West Vancouver Seniors Centre, 695 - 21<sup>st</sup> Street. Info: 925-7299

February 19 - Parks Department Slide Show

7:00 pm. A slide show and discussion of the design, construction and maintenance of a native beach side garden.

February 21 - District of West Vancouver Heritage

Achievement Awards - 2:00 pm Saturday

The District of West Vancouver's annual event recognizing heritage achievements by individuals, groups and organizations who contribute to heritage awareness and preservation in West Vancouver.

February 22 - Hollyburn Family Snowshoe Adventure

& BBQ. Cypress Bowl. Complimentary snowshoe equipment, instruction & tour. Info: 922-0825 for times & registration.

### Roedde House Museum

February 15 - Walking Tour & Tea

2:30 pm - music by Roedde House Trio

3:00 - 4:00 Block Tours

4:00 music by Roedde House Trio

Tea and homebaking

Tickets \$5 - Info: 684-7040

### City of Vancouver Heritage Awards

February 16 - Monday 6:00 pm - at the Hotel

Vancouver. Michael Kluckner keynote speaker. Music by Roedde House Trio.

### Mole Hill Walking Tours & Tea

February 22 - 1:00 pm walking tour

Meet at Thurlow & Comox

By donation (\$3 to \$10) Info: 253-7189

## Other upcoming events

### The Vancouver Archives

February 1-27

The Vancouver Archives recognizes Black History Month from Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup> until the end of the month with a display on the subject of Blacks in Vancouver.

1150 Chestnut Street. Weekdays only.

Info: 736-8561

### The Vancouver Historical Society

Vancouver Historical Society meetings are held in the Whittick Lounge, Vancouver Museum, 1100 Chestnut St. Free entry.

February 25 - 7:30 pm - Black History Month:

Yvonne Brown from the Faculty of Education at UBC and Brooke Milles, SFU anthropology graduate.

March 25 - 7:30 pm *Top Cop on the Take*

Ian MacDonald and Betty O'Keefe

### Seedy Saturday at Van Dusen Gardens

February 28 - 10 am to 4 pm

Heritage seeds. Admission by donation.

Bring your own special seeds to swap.

Speakers: Herb Barbolet at 11 am, Maya Levy at 12 pm, Susan Campbell at 1 pm.



**August 1998. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the start of **trolley bus** services in Vancouver. The Museum of Transportation and BC Transit are planning events with the 1947 and 1948 trolley buses. Stay tuned.

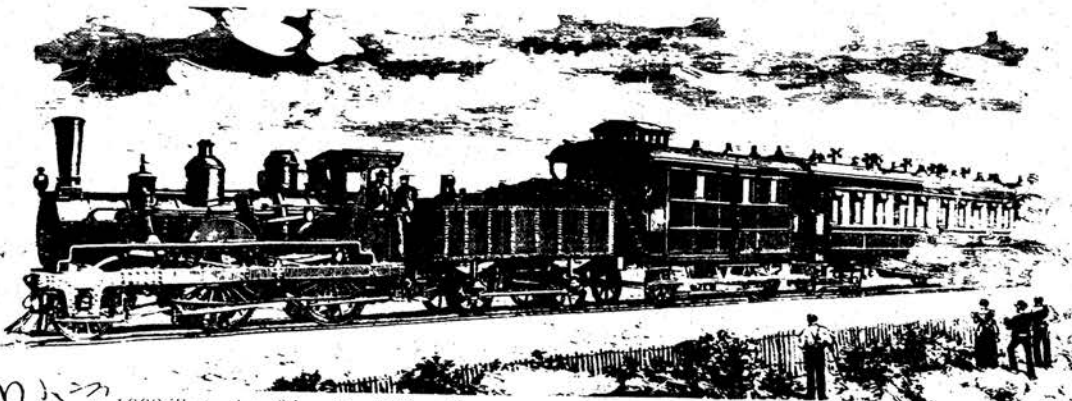
**October 1-3, 1998. Heritage in the Big City.** Heritage conference co-hosted by Heritage Canada, Heritage Society of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver

### **The Community Column**

*This space is reserved for members of the community who wish to express concerns or viewpoints regarding heritage. This month, we presented instead the expanded list of events taking place during February, around Heritage Week.*

*Because space did not allow, last month we did not include the new directors of the Heritage Conservation Foundation. We are pleased to include it now.*

Joost Bakker, Principal, Hotson Bakker Architects  
Lynne Bryson, Business Manager, Rositch Hempill Architects  
Peter Eng, Chairman, Allied Holdings Group  
Marguerite Ford  
Ana Maria Feuermann  
Jacquie Forbes-Roberts, Director of Planning, City of Vancouver  
Penny Graham, Realtor, Macdonald Realty  
Lynne Kennedy, Councillor, City of Vancouver  
Michael Kluckner, author  
Robert Lemon, Principal Robert G. Lemon Architect  
Don Luxton, Principal, Donald Luxton & Associates  
Dale McClanaghan, President & CEO, VanCity Enterprises Ltd.  
Julie Molnar, President, Seventh Avenue Designs  
Ian Powell, General Manager, Hotel Vancouver  
Pearl Roberts, Principal, Iris Communications  
Gavin Robinson, Director, The Brentwood Campaign  
Peter Simpson, Executive Vice-President COO, Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association  
Raymond Young, Barrister & Solicitor, Lidstone, Young, Anderson



*an 1883 illustration of the original Orient-Express*

# PANEL DISCUSSION

## LIONS GATE BRIDGE: rusty relic or civic symbol?

Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm to 8.30 pm

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY AT HARBOUR CENTRE

515 WEST HASTINGS, VANCOUVER

Panel includes Pat Boname, Mayor West Vancouver; Arthur Erickson, Councillor Lynn Kennedy, Vancouver & Don Luxton, President of the Canadian Art Deco Society .

Admission is free.

Seating is limited so please call City Program: 291 5100 to reserve a seat. (fax 2915098)

E-mail: [city@sfu.ca](mailto:city@sfu.ca)

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**The officers of the Society are:**

Jo Scott-B. (President)

Sherry McKay

John Atkin (Past-President)

David Monteyne (Treasurer)

Paul Bennett

Peter Vaisbord

Lynne Bryson

Susan Walker

Stephanie Clarke

Susanna Houwen (Vice-President)

Mary MacDonald (Archivist)

Don Luxton

**TIME TO JOIN HERITAGE VANCOUVER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**  
**(Charitable donation # 1073758-52. Membership fees are not tax deductible.)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                          |                    |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual: \$ 20  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting (no newsletters) \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family: \$ 25      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Corporate: \$ 50                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Donation: \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | Patrons: \$100                  |

Annual membership runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Members receive monthly newsletter, free admission to monthly speakers' program and reduced rates for tours and other activities.

Return with payment to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, MPO, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3.

**NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 1998  
VOLUME 7 NUMBER 3**

*This month's newsletter is prepared by  
Dominique Pilon and Jo Scott-B*

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**SPEAKERS PROGRAM**

series: "THE VALUE OF HERITAGE"

**18 MARCH**

**VICTORY SQUARE** is this month's topic. Join us for a slide show of this historic area and a panel discussion which will include developer Chuck Brook, HV Board member Peter Vaisbord, who has done extensive work on the area and senior planner Nathan Edelson, responsible for Central Area. The issues are complex; the solutions need public support if the heritage is to be saved.

**15 APRIL**

**GRANVILLE STREET**

A look at the area's history, unique character, proposed changes and the heritage impacts.

**20 MAY**

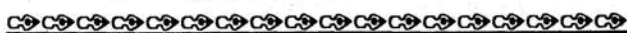
**THE NEW CONVENTION CENTRE**

The impacts on surrounding areas, social implications and where heritage fits into the picture

**17 JUNE**

**HERITAGE HOTELS**

Join us for a look at some of our landmark hotels from the Hotel Vancouver to the Georgia and Niagara - their histories, changes and what's ahead.



This month's HV business meeting has no guests. Recognizing the frustration of members who did not pose their questions due to time constraint, a letter to the guests, with those questions -or any comments -, would achieve the desired impact and even elicit an answer. ☺ ☎ ☒

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:**

February and Heritage week have drawn to a successful close. **The Heritage Awards** were the expected "event" at the Hotel Vancouver. The Hotel Vancouver ballroom is a perfect venue; we are looking forward to the Hotel Georgia's restoration and a possible change of location. Less awards this year; the jury wished to recognize only high quality which directly contributed to heritage preservation, differentiating from projects already bonused under the city's heritage incentive program. (See inside page for this year's Heritage Award winners)

On Friday February 27<sup>th</sup>, a group of concerned citizen's gathered on the **Canron Building** site to intercede as bulldozers moved in for the demolition of the main hall. Following a peaceful dialogue, this group retired to allow Quantum to stabilize the area for the weekend. I have been told the demolition is postponed until March 5 or 6 and rumours are an injunction is being pursued.

All this serves to once again focus attention on the City and heritage buildings. Whilst developers and private owners are buying into the city's own incentives program, the city continues to devalue its own heritage stock, preferring to treat it as an inconvenient commodity on marketable land. Let's work on re-evaluating structures for their potential worth and adaptive re-use. I still fail to understand why the Canron building's potential value as a landmark industrial heritage structure was not balanced against the cost of soil clean-up (a cost which had to be met regardless) instead of selling the scrap to help defray demolition costs. The area, only just starting the concept plan process, has now lost one of its prime character sites.

**The Lions Gate Bridge discussion** was a highly successful event and we plan a follow-up in the fall. Thanks to **SFU's City Program and the panelists.**

*Jo Scott-B*

# 1998 City of Vancouver Heritage Awards

## Award of Honour

The rehabilitation of 2237 East Pender Street.

The ongoing efforts in restoring Kensington Place, 1386 Nicola Street.

The exterior restoration of the Dominion Building, 207 West Hastings Street.

The restoration and rehabilitation of the Dick Building, 1490 West Broadway.

The restoration of the St. Francis of Assisi Rectory, 1020 Semlin Drive.

## Award of Merit

The rehabilitation of 2546 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (the Cherub Inn Bed and Breakfast).

The exterior rehabilitation and interior renovation of Shaughnessy Elementary School, 4240 Marguerite Street.

The adaptive re-use of the Warehouse Studio, 100 Powell Street.

Bruce Macdonald for his efforts to preserve the Isaac Russell House, 1723 Grant Street (advocacy).

*Our Own Backyard Project*, Walking Tours of Grandview Woodland.

## Award of Recognition

The rehabilitation of 3699 Ash Street.

The adaptive re-use of 1811 West 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The adaptive re-use of the Roundhouse Community Centre.

The rehabilitation of 2142-2146 West 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

The rehabilitation of 347 East Cordova Street.

(For further details, please contact City Hall at 873-7056)

# Upcoming events

## The Vancouver Historical Society

Vancouver Historical Society meetings are held in the Whittick Lounge, Vancouver Museum, 1100 Chestnut St. Free entry.

March 25 - 7:30 pm *Top Cop on the Take*  
Ian MacDonald and Betty O'Keefe.



## The City of Vancouver's Heritage Commission for 1998:

Terry Brunette  
Deborah Anne Day  
Hal Kalman  
Roger Koodoo  
Rick Kozak  
Janet Leduc  
Julie C. MacDonald  
Paolo Pela  
Jo Scott-B  
Donna Tilley

Our congratulations to:  
Hal Kalman, Chair  
Janet Leduc, vice-Chair

## The Community Column

*This space is reserved for members of the community who wish to express concerns or viewpoints regarding heritage. This month, we print a report from Michael Kluckner, B.C.'s Governor for Heritage Canada.*

### Heritage Canada Foundation information

For the benefit of Heritage Vancouver members who were unable to attend the last meeting, I want to go over some of the matters discussed by the Heritage Canada Foundation chair, Shane O'Dea, and give some membership information. We had a limited number of membership application forms and magazines there, all of which were picked up quickly.

Shane O'Dea, the member of the Board of Governors from Newfoundland and Labrador, was on a cross-Canada speaking trip and, in addition to the Heritage Vancouver meeting in Vancouver, he spoke in Victoria and held meetings with provincial government officials. In essence, he was talking about the reinvention and refocusing of Heritage Canada, a process that began before I was elected to the Board as the B.C. member nearly two years ago. Heritage Canada is about to celebrate its 25th anniversary, having been established as a private charitable foundation with the sponsorship of the federal government in 1973; over the years, it has managed to restore and recycle with protective covenants about 70 buildings (during the 1970s) and run the Main Street program in about 130 communities (during the 1980s). In recent years, its focus had drifted away from built heritage and cultural landscape issues toward a broad focus on "heritage," including multiculturalism, a move that cost it many of its early members.

Last fall, the Board of Governors agreed on a new role statement--"to foster and encourage the understanding, protection and sustainable evolution of Canada's cultural landscape, in particular of the architectural heritage of that landscape." The current priorities of the Foundation include lobbying for reform of the federal income tax policies to end the long-standing discrimination against revenue-producing heritage buildings, and to improve its communication network among heritage interests and organizations across the country. The latter includes a new, colour magazine to be published four times a year, a web site, and an "information clearinghouse" that will bring together heritage information from across Canada and elsewhere. There is, in addition, some ongoing work with the federal government on the creation of a true National Trust for Canada, in which Heritage Canada may be able to play a role.

Annual membership in the Heritage Canada Foundation costs \$25 (or \$50 for a "sustaining membership"). For that fee, you get a subscription to "Heritage" magazine, an income tax receipt for the full amount of your membership, eligibility to vote in the election of the Governor in B.C. (next election, fall of 1999), and free admission to National Trust properties in England and Scotland. Please consider joining--as a national organization, we need all the members we can get in order to continue to have influence with the federal government; as well, it helps me, as the B.C. governor, to represent a large number of members who are interested in built-heritage issues.

Send your name, address, and postal code to:

Heritage Canada Foundation Membership

PO Box 1358, Station B

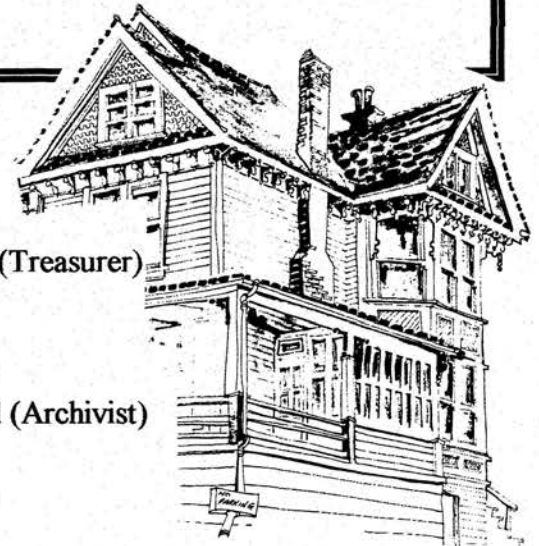
Ottawa Ontario K1P 9Z9

or fax to (613) 237-5987. For further information, you can also email

<hercanot@sympatico.ca>, or you can contact me, Michael Kluckner, at 532-9831, or at <killara@axionet.com>

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- Encourage the study and understanding of heritage preservation with a local and regional perspective
- Support the conservation of the heritage that we have inherited
- Promote public awareness of heritage preservation through lectures, publications tours & newsletters
- Collect document and preserve records of heritage structures landscapes and urban design



**The officers of the Society are:**

Jo Scott-B. (President)  
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Susanna Houwen (Vice-President)  
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**TIME TO JOIN HERITAGE VANCOUVER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
(Charitable donation # 1073758-52. Membership fees are not tax deductible.)**

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Return with payment to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, MPO, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3.

**NEWSLETTER**

**APRIL 1998**

**VOLUME 7 NUMBER 4**

*Heritage Vancouver meets at  
Hastings Mill Museum, 1575 Alma St.  
7.30 pm business meeting followed by*

*8.30 pm speakers program*

*This month's newsletter is prepared by  
Jo Scott-B*

---

**SPEAKERS PROGRAM**

series: "THE VALUE OF HERITAGE"

**15 APRIL**

**GRANVILLE STREET**

A look at the downtown area's history, unique character, proposed changes and the heritage impacts.

Guest speakers are:

Joyce Drohan, architect, Hotson Bakker Architects

Mike Naylor, Vancouver's Central Area Planning

Karen Peterson-Ivanic, Secretary of the Theatre Row Business Association.

**20 MAY**

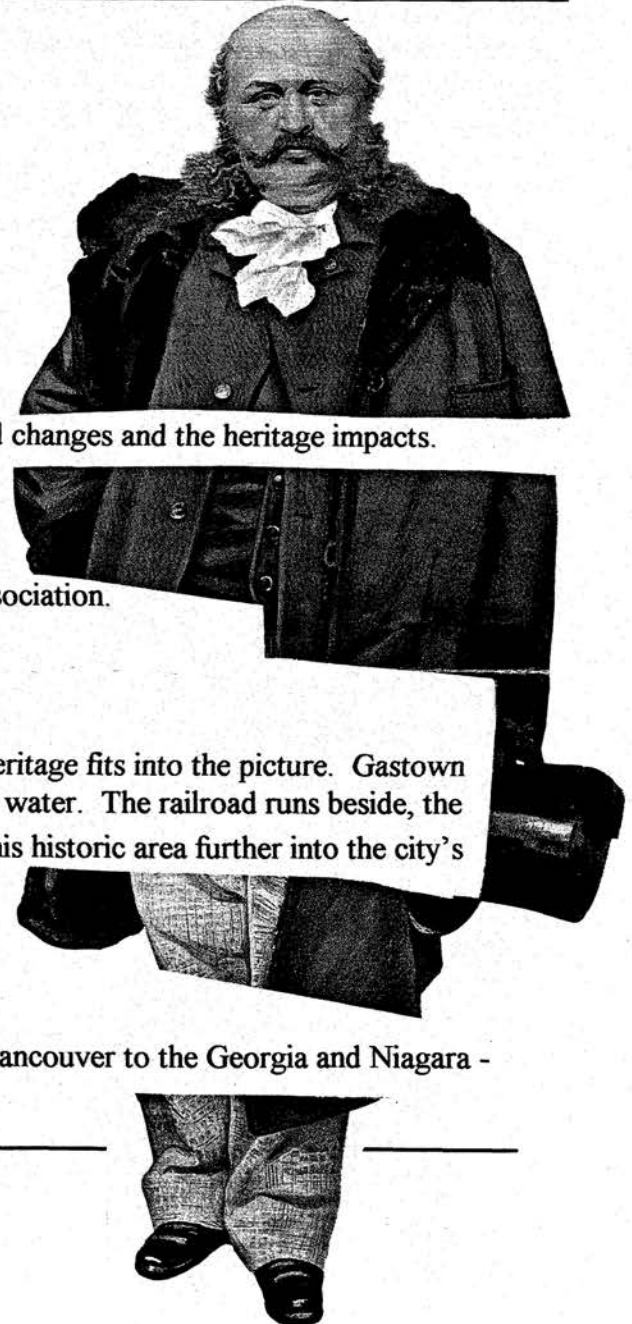
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The impacts on surrounding areas, social implications and where heritage fits into the picture. Gastown was once a waterfront area, it is now totally disconnected from the water. The railroad runs beside, the port has reclaimed lands and now a large new complex will push this historic area further into the city's fabric.

**17 JUNE**

**HERITAGE HOTELS**

Join us for a look at some of our landmark hotels from the Hotel Vancouver to the Georgia and Niagara - their histories, changes and what's ahead.



## Upcoming events

### The Vancouver Historical Society

Vancouver Historical Society meetings are held in the Whittick Lounge, Vancouver Museum, 1100 Chestnut St. Free entry.

#### Wed. April 22 - 7.30 pm

Colin Preston introducing films produced in Vancouver spotlighting the city in the 1950s

#### Wed. May 27<sup>th</sup> - 7.30 pm

Mark Leier, "Lies, Spies and Macho Guys: Portrait of a Labour Stool Pigeon"

The Vancouver Historic Society invites you to join a walking tour on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 12.30 pm. The tour includes the Heather Pavillion, Vancouver City Hall and Old Mount Pleasant.

The tour is free. Please call 878 9140 to register.

### Chinese Cultural Centre Museum and Library

555 Columbia Street - hours Tuesday - Sunday: 11- 5 pm

An exhibition of historical photographs of Chinese Vancouverites.

March 29 till May 31

### UBC School of Architecture, Downtown Studio

319 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

"The Architectural Photographer, Vancouver in Black and White" - a century of images through the lenses of architectural photographers - showcasing Vancouver's cityscapes, streetscapes, buildings and detail

March 18 till April 4



## NOTES ABOUT HERITAGE VANCOUVER:

### Budget

\*\*Membership fees cover the costs of producing and mailing the newsletter plus a donation to the Native Daughters of B.C. for use of the rooms at Hastings Mill Museum for our monthly meeting space. Funds for special projects are raised through other sources: grants, tours, T-shirts, donations etc.

### Staff

\*\* There is no paid staff. HV is a non-profit society dependant totally upon volunteers for all tasks. We regret any inconvenience caused by the editing and publishing errors, clerical errors and omissions etc.

The Executive rely on the membership for help and support in dealing with all "tasks".

### PLEASE CONTACT US:

\*\*If you are happy and things are going well

Or

\*\*If you can volunteer to:

supervise the membership list and mailing labels for the newsletter

take minutes

or assist in other ways...

we are open to suggestions

Or

\*\*If you have any great ideas about publicity for our monthly guest speakers

Or

\*\*If you have another heritage issue about which we should be aware.....

### Newsletter

This month's newsletter comes to you via a new mailing list system. Please advise us of any errors or omissions in your address label. Thank you



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Heritage is the historic legacy of a city. This was the strong message in Beverly Cramp's article on the Canron building: "**Industrial Waste**", in the Vancouver Courier on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1998. Whilst I do not advocate wasting the City's money, I regret the loss of the Canron building from the list of city's assets. We preserve for continuity, connection to the past and stability. A rapidly expanding city means jobs and a buoyant economy, but it also brings an element of unease to its citizens, who wonder if change may be too fast, too disposable and too foreign. We lately have witnessed the over-reaction to change (i.e. demolition and non-sympathetic replacement) sweep through neighbourhoods. This has resulted in strict design guidelines in the interest of "preservation"; in fact these decisions encourage heritage replication. Doesn't this smack of cutting pretty people out of magazines and claiming them as ancestors in a family album?

The same Courier article quotes Norm Hotson of Hotson Bakker Architects as saying: "*Leaving a cluster of original buildings is important, not just for emotional security and comfort that comes from knowing what the roots of a place are it's knowing that you are not living in an instant town. It seems the redeveloped area that work are those where efforts have been made to maintain historic artifacts and buildings...*" I hear this message very clearly and shall have it foremost in my mind when Hotson Bakker come to HV on April 15<sup>th</sup> to present their proposed vision for Granville Street. I look forward to a lively discussion at this month's meeting.

Jo Scott-B



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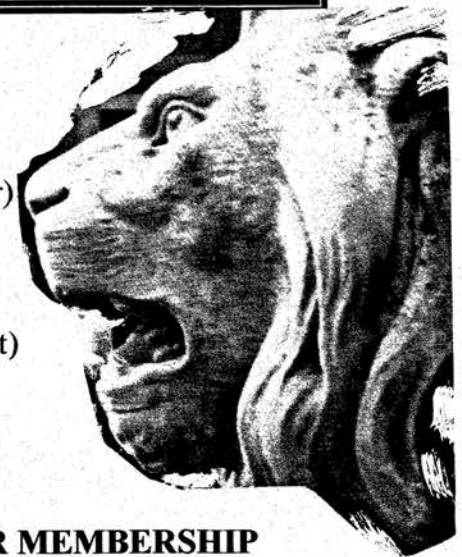
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Heritage Vancouver - P.O. Box 3336, MPO  
Vancouver B.C. V6B 3Y3  
Telephone: (604) 254 9411  
Web page: <http://home.istar.ca/~glenchan/hvsintro.shtml>

HERITAGE  
VANCOUVER

**NEWSLETTER**  
**MAY 1998**  
**VOLUME 7 NUMBER 5**

*This month's newsletter is prepared by  
Jo Scott-B*

***Heritage Vancouver meets at  
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***7.30 pm business meeting followed by***

***8.30 pm speakers program***

**Non-members welcome by donation**



**SPEAKERS PROGRAM series: "THE VALUE OF HERITAGE"**

**20 MAY**

**HERITAGE HOTELS**

Join us for a look at some of our landmark Hotel Georgia - the history, changes, economics and what's ahead.

***Guest speakers:***

Herb Whiteway, General Manager, Hotel Georgia  
Yardley McNeil, Heritage Planner, City of Vancouver

**17 JUNE**

**THE NEW CONVENTION CENTRE**

The impacts on surrounding areas, social implications and where heritage fits into the picture. Gastown was once a waterfront area; it is now totally disconnected from the water. The railroad runs beside, the port has reclaimed lands and now a large new complex will push this historic area further into the city's fabric.

***Guest speakers:***

Murray McKinnon - Project Manager, Greystone Developments  
Alastair Kerr - preservation consultant, Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, Prov of B.C.  
Jon Ellis - preservation consultant  
Rob Jenkins - Central Area Planning, City of Vancouver

**summer meetings:**

**15 JULY**

Picnic in the Park at Hastings Mill Museum. The museum will be open for tours and talks about the exhibits. Bring your own picnic supper and a blanket to sit on... get to know your fellow members. This is an evening when people arrive anytime after 6.30pm - everyone welcome: friends, family and new members.

**19 AUGUST**

in the past, this has been an evening to visit the North Vancouver Museum. Any members interested in doing this again, please advise HV at the meeting, or by telephone and arrangements can be made to co-ordinate the evening with the North Shore if enough people wish to participate.



# Upcoming events

## New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society Annual Homes Tour

**Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> 1998**

Tickets to this very popular annual event go on sale **Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am** at Vintage Lighting, 615 12<sup>th</sup> Street, New Westminster - visit the interiors of many buildings, including the "Millenium" house.

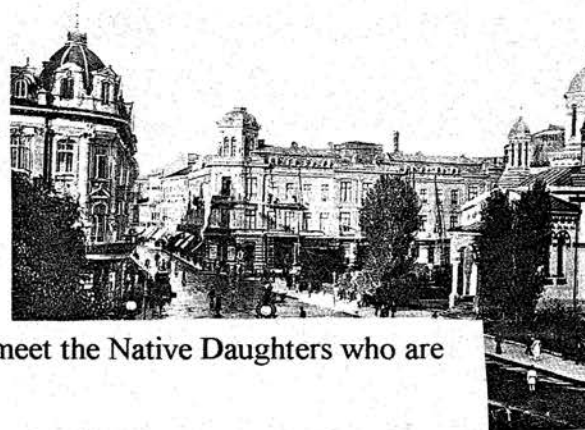
(HV no longer purchases tickets for this event)

## Hallmark Society

**Awards Night: Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm at St Ann's Academy, Victoria**

July - proposed tea and tour fund-raiser

September 28: Annual General meeting



## Hastings Mill Museum:

**Native Daughters of B.C. Tea on May 23 from 1 - 3 pm**

Home baking in great quantities, door prizes, raffle and an opportunity to meet the Native Daughters who are custodians of our monthly meeting space. **Tickets at the door.**

## The Vancouver Historical Society

Vancouver Historical Society meetings are held in the Whittick Lounge, Vancouver Museum at 1100 Chestnut St. Free entry, non-members welcome.

**Wed. May 27<sup>th</sup> - 7.30 pm**

Mark Leier, "Lies, Spies and Macho Guys: Portrait of a Labour Stool Pigeon"

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The tour is free. Please call 878 9140 to register.

## Clayburn village Heritage Day:

**Sunday July 19, 1998** - mark your calendars for this special day with walking tours, displays, Shakesperean plays and music, tea and scone sale. (Clayburn is the site of Susanna Houwen's thesis)

## NOTES ABOUT HERITAGE VANCOUVER:

**HV has been experiencing problems with the answering machine.** We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused to people leaving messages which have not been retrieved. We were unable to change the message on the phone and therefore the problem became compounded. Thanks to the generosity of Jane Edwards, we now have a new machine. Once again, we apologize for any inconvenience

### Newsletter

This month's newsletter comes to you via a new mailing list system. Please advise us of any errors or omissions in your address label. Thank you

### Executive position open:

David Monteyne, HV's treasurer is on a leave of absence. This position is not onerous, the monthly transactions are few but require a reliable custodian. Please call Jo Scott-B or Susanna Houwen - or leave a message: 254 9411 - if you can help.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**Gastown Lighting:** This report is being written and I am trying to track down the information given to HV regarding '*shock absorbers*' which can be attached inside the fixtures to prevent adverse traffic vibration damaging the incandescent bulbs which we are fighting to retain. I was given this information in 1996, but it has been mislaid. If anyone remembers or knows: **Please contact me, HV or Jeanette Hlavach** (Heritage Planner at Vancouver's City Hall)

HV has just hosted a tour for the BOABC (Building Officials Association of British Columbia) conference. Don Luxton and I took a group on a tour of the Early Financial and Institutional District. Sites included Conference Centre being built in the old TD Bank(1919-20) at 580 West Hastings (thanks to the architect Malcolm Elliot, Architectura , the English Language School at 409 West Hastings- *parts of the basement pre-date the fire of 1886* - (Thanks to architect Don Stuart and his team) and the new AIBC premises at Victory Square. We also visited, amongst others, the Standard Building at 510 West Hastings(1913) , Lola's Restaurant in the Canada Permanent Building at 432 Richards (1911-12) The B.C. Permanent Loan Co. Building at 330 West Pender (1907). With the Victory Square Concept Plan about to be released, it was exciting to visit the area and sense the upbeat atmosphere which surrounds positive change. Don put a lot of effort into this tour which is one we should do again for a wider audience - despite being a weekday afternoon, there was no problem with excessive noise, people etc...

It was a great thrill to be in 409 West Hastings, a site where the owner recognizes the value of a heritage building. This C listing was dropped from the register but now the City is being returned a jewel. This shows an excellent potential for the building next door: Millar & Co is presently hidden by blue metal cladding. What lies hidden? Don found an 1890 image of the Mrs Abbott block which may still exist intact.

Congratulations to Peter Busby. Robin Ward's column April 29 praises this architect and the AIBC premises are a highly successful blend of modern and heritage. Take a walk into their foyer and appreciate the full effects. A good candidate for the 1999 Heritage Awards.

This is my farewell column. I have resigned as president after fulfilling my two years, a job I undertook with some trepidation and fulfilled with great pleasure. I wish to take this opportunity to thank both the executive and all the HV members for their warm support. Susanna Houwen is your new president and I wish her - and HV- continued great success.

*Jo Scott-B*



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**NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 1998  
VOLUME 7 NUMBER 6**

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Jo Scott-B*

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---

HV will be conducting a telephone survey of our membership during the month of June. The purpose of this survey is to ask members for their reactions to program format/subject - place and times of meetings and to address any other concerns which the membership may express. A telephone call gives us a more immediate and detailed response. We apologize if this is felt by any member to be an intrusion and thank you for your co-operation. It is time for us to move our meetings to a new location.

## Upcoming events:

### **Vancouver Day: June 13<sup>th</sup> at 11 am**

**Roundhouse Community Centre**

The Vancouver Historical Society invites everyone to join together in commemoration of the great fire of 1886.

Heritage Vancouver will be recognizing the date by launching the HV Award for Heritage Advocacy.

This year, Vancouver Day events will take place at the Roundhouse Community Centre, the approximate site of the brush fires that grew to be the Great Fire that swept through the small settlement of Vancouver. Master of Ceremonies for the day will be Chuck Davis, author of the Greater Vancouver Book, with special guests and the Firefighters Band opening the event. In the afternoon, local historians will lead walking tours that follow the route of the Great Fire. At the Roundhouse site, we'll present tales from the Great Fire in the old dramatic form known as the Tableau Vivant, an ongoing slide presentation documenting the Great Fire will be shown, and publicity tables will provide visitors with information about participating organizations. The Vancouver Fire Department will also exhibit historical fire equipment, uniforms, and paraphernalia at the Roundhouse.

Come down to the Roundhouse to learn about this dramatic event in Vancouver's history and commemorate the pioneering spirit that saw the city rise from ashes just 24 hours after the inferno. All events are free!!!

**SATURDAY JUNE 13, 1998 - 11:30 am  
- 5 pm**

**at the ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY  
CENTRE**



### **Clayburn village Heritage Day:**

**Sunday July 19, 1998** - mark your calendars for this special day with walking tours, displays, Shakespearean plays and music, tea and scone sale. (Clayburn is the site of Susanna Houwen's thesis)

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**May 27<sup>th</sup> - 7.30 pm:**

Mark Leier: "Lies, Spies and Macho Guys: Portrait of a Labour Stool Pigeon"





## President's Column

As most of you know by now, Jo Scott-B stepped down as president of Heritage Vancouver in April, and I have agreed to take her place. From now on, the position of president will be filled in April, rather than in October along with the rest of the board, to maintain continuity. Thank you, Jo, for kindly agreeing to carry on until May, while I completed my M.Arch. thesis. Jo will stay on the HV board as past-president and much needed support.

It was with some uneasiness that I agreed to take on this tremendous responsibility. I have some big shoes to fill! I feel that Heritage Vancouver serves a very important role in preserving heritage structures in this city, and that its vitality is essential. This is where you come in: please help me to ensure that HV continues to be an important force in heritage preservation in Vancouver.

An organization like Heritage Vancouver is successful when all its members work together as a team. HV gains much of its clout by the number and intelligence of the people it represents. The membership body provides important financial support. It is the effort and ideas of its members that are translated into exciting projects. Walking tours are researched, written, and given by members. Speakers for our monthly meetings are engaged by members. The newsletter is compiled,

folded, and mailed by members. Fundraising products are designed and commissioned by members. Press releases are typed and faxed by members. Interviews with the press are given by members. Letters advocating the retention of buildings are written by members. HV is represented at public hearings by members. It is members who facilitate all of the activities which help increase appreciation in the community for the old buildings we regard so fondly and help to preserve portions of our built fabric for future generations.

With a view to attracting more members, and better fulfilling the needs of our current members, we are reviewing our meeting location and the structure and content of our monthly meetings. The layout of our newsletter is also in transition. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions you might have.

In addition, we are still looking for a treasurer and a recording secretary for our board meetings. Even the un-glamorous work helps preserve heritage!

*Susanna Houwen*

734-2933  
schouwen@unixg.ubc.ca

## NOTES ABOUT HERITAGE VANCOUVER:

### Executive positions open:

**Secretary:** to take minutes and help with correspondence. This is a good time to fill this slot and "try out the job" prior to the elections of a new board in October.

David Monteyne, HV's **treasurer** is on a leave of absence. This position is not onerous, the monthly transactions are few but require a reliable custodian. Please call Susanna Houwen - or leave a message: 254 9411 - if you can help.

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# HERITAGE VANCOUVER

## Newsletter

July 1998  
Volume 7 Number 7

**Heritage Vancouver meets on  
the third Wednesday of each month  
business meeting 7:30, program 8:30**

### Summer Meetings

#### July 15 – Annual Picnic!

Picnic in the Park at the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum. The museum will be open for tours and talks about the exhibits. Bring your own picnic supper and a blanket to sit on...and get to know your fellow HV Members. This is an evening when people arrive anytime after six-ish. Everyone is welcome, including family, friends and new members. There will be trivia and a prize!

#### August 19 – Museum Visit

In the past, this has been an evening to visit the North Vancouver Museum. Any members interested in doing this again, or with suggestions for other possible destinations, please give Susanna a call (734-2933), and she will coordinate a group outing.

#### September 16 – Stuart Howard

Well-known for his work adapting historic structures for new life, Stuart will speak about the special challenges of working as an architect in heritage preservation, and the survival of old buildings in the new marketplace.

*Please Note: HV may have a new meeting location for September, depending on the results of the survey included in this Newsletter. Watch your mailbox for updates.*

#### October 21 – Annual General Meeting

Usually routine for our informal group, we will be tackling some serious issues this year. We will discuss the results of the members' survey, and whether HV should apply for casino funds.



### Upcoming Events

#### July 19 – Clayburn Heritage Day

The entire village of Clayburn, about 2 1/2 miles north of Abbotsford, was made a Heritage Conservation Area in 1996. It justifies this status by its impressive display of brick-veneered houses and other buildings. Brick is an unusual cladding for a small town, but it was once a company town for the Clayburn Co. Ltd., a brickworks which operated from 1906-1930. Many of the houses were designed by Samuel Maclure for his brother, Charles, who started the brickworks.

The current residents are very proud of their town and work all year to put on a really terrific day. There are free walking tours of the village and the site of the now-demolished brick plant. For a small fee, you may tour some of the houses. There will be artifacts from the brick plant and historic photographs of the village in the schoolhouse. It is also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the flood of 1948, so there will be a special exhibit of photographs in the village church.

#### Ongoing – Historic Weddings

Continuing through the summer is an exhibit in Irving House on weddings. Various items have been taken from the New Westminster Archives and assembled into an exhibit in the house museum.

#### August 1 – Walking Tour in New Westminster

A walking tour will meet at 3:00 on BC Day at the Fraser Cemetery and move through the city. Phone the New Westminster Museum and Archives for more information.

#### Heritage Vancouver

P.O. Box 3336, Main Post Office

Vancouver BC V6B 3Y3

(604) 254-9411

[http://mindlink.bc.ca/glen\\_chan/hvsintro.html](http://mindlink.bc.ca/glen_chan/hvsintro.html)

## President's Column

During the Canada Day week, I went to an open house about the proposed new Trade and Convention centre on the port lands east of Canada Place. The proposal for this new projects is of interest to Heritage Vancouver because of its inevitable impact on adjacent heritage properties, most notably in Gastown and the downtown east side.

The new elements of the Trade and Convention centre, which will form an addition to the current centre housed in Canada Place, are: an extension to the Canada Place prow, an exhibition hall, a 1000-room hotel, a retail pavilion, an extension to Canada Place Way with a new road to connect it to Cordova Street, a new SeaBus terminal, and a *major* plaza. The development runs roughly from where Cambie Street would be, if it went all the way to the water's edge, west to Canada Place. Those of you who came to the June meeting will already have seen some of the display panels illustrating the design concept.

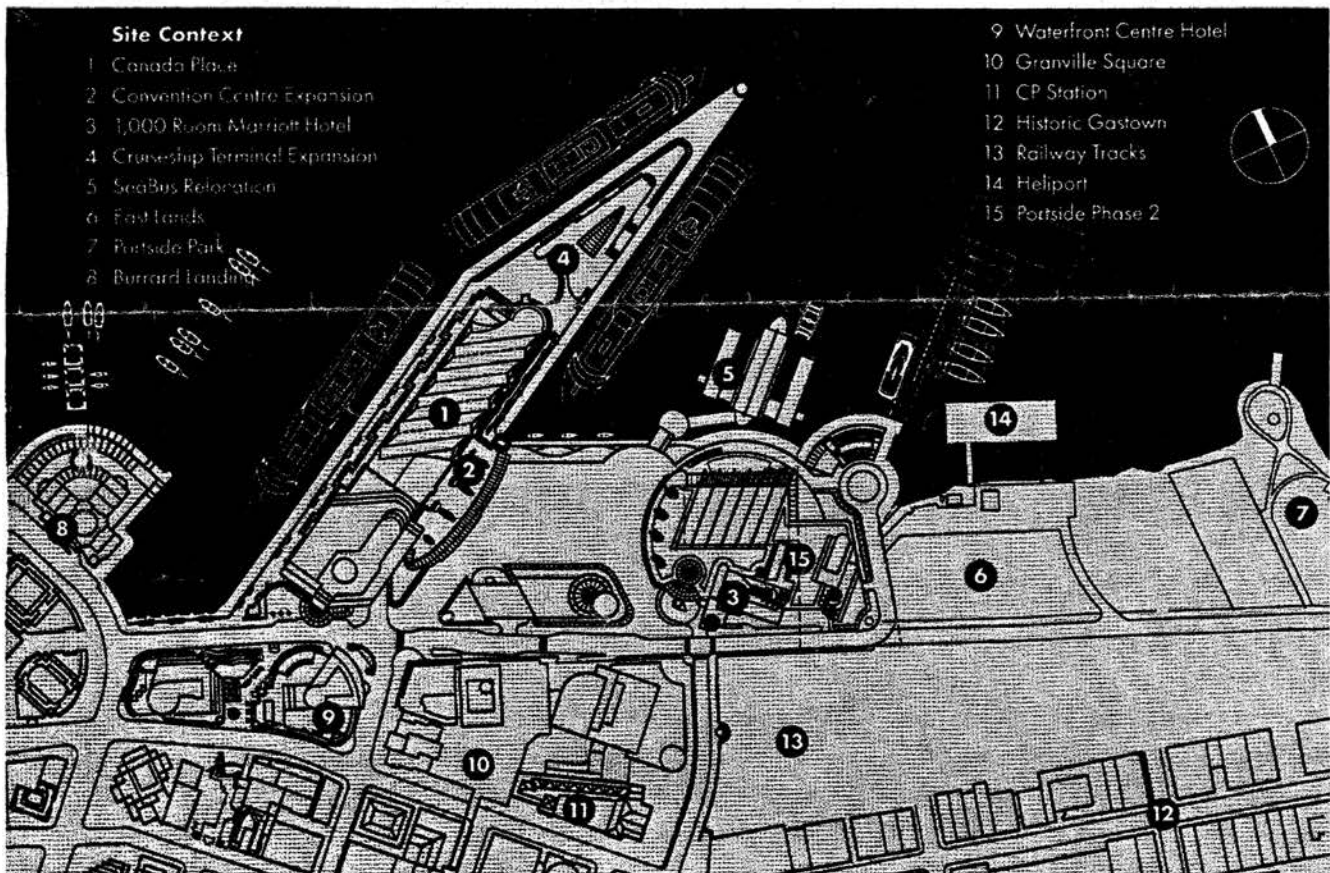
Interestingly, the debate about the new design did not hinge upon the height or size of what will be the largest hotel in Vancouver. Having the experience of other waterfront developments under our collective belt, perhaps we have come to believe that controlling building and view corridors is not everything. The debate instead

centred on other issues, such as what exactly the pedestrian experience would be like, how much park land there will be and what it will be like and the possible provision of social housing.

Of interest to heritage advocates is the debate about where exactly Vancouver's waterfront should *be*. Water Street in Gastown once actually ran very near the water. It is now about two blocks away. The proposed design will create an additional 15 acres of land in Burrard Inlet, thus pushing the waterfront even further away. John Ellis spoke very eloquently at our last meeting about the importance of the relationship between Gastown and the waterfront, and about how a semblance of that relationship might be recreated. One specific design aspect he spoke against was the continuation of the city street grid and street walls into the port lands. This strategy would deprive Gastown of its quality of "edgeness" by imbedding it in the city fabric. Depriving historic structures of their context deprives them of some of their meaning.

Unfortunately, the recent announcement by City Council that incandescent bulbs in Gastown would be replaced with fluorescent does not suggest that City Council values Gastown very highly.

Susanna Houwen



# HERITAGE VANCOUVER

## Newsletter

August 1998  
Volume 7 Number 8

**Heritage Vancouver meets on  
the third Wednesday of each month  
business meeting 7:30, program 8:30**

### August 19 – Museum Visit

In the past, this has been an evening to visit the North Vancouver Museum. Any members interested in doing this again, or with suggestions for other possible destinations, please give Susanna a call (734-2933), and she will coordinate a group outing.

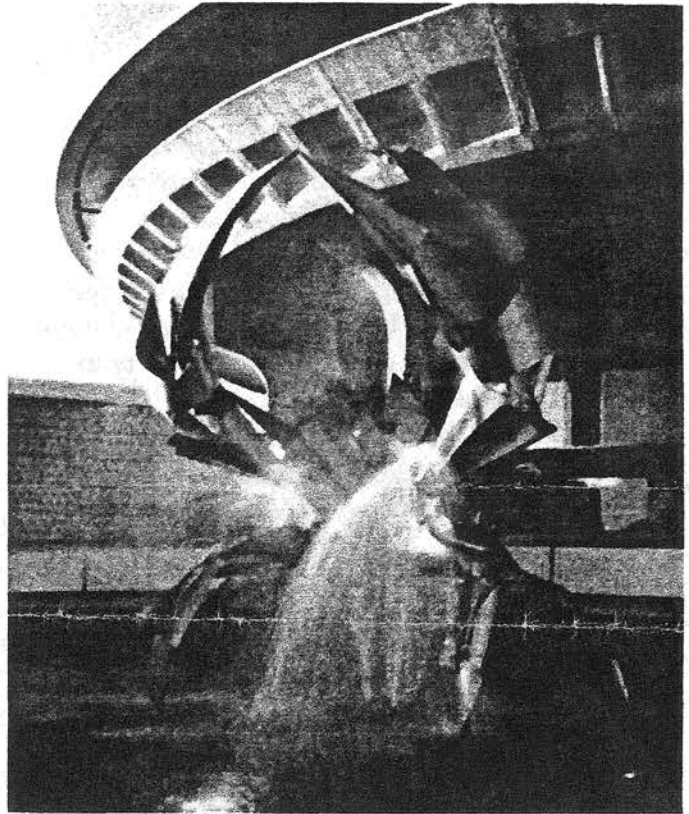
### September 16 – Stuart Howard

Well-known for his work adapting historic structures for new life, Stuart will speak about the special challenges of working as an architect in heritage preservation, and the survival of old buildings in the new marketplace.

**Please Note: This meeting will be held at the Vancouver Museum a.k.a. Planetarium. Our space is down the stairs which are directly opposite the main entrance.**

### October 21 – Annual General Meeting

It's that time of year again! Time for annual reports, election of the new executive board, and membership renewals. Usually routine for our informal group, we will be tackling some serious issues this year. We will discuss the results of the members' survey, and whether HV should apply for casino funds. In addition, as something new this year, we will be recognizing all those volunteers who work so tirelessly to keep our organization running. There will be no guest speaker.



### Members Surveys

Have you filled out and returned your survey? Your responses to these surveys are important! The responses will be reviewed at the AGM.

**Correction: The fax number offered for returning the survey is slightly wrong. It should read 730-9624. Sorry for any inconvenience.**

### Heritage Vancouver T-shirts

There are plenty of HV t-shirts remaining. These durable extra-large t-shirts are comfy and moss-green, coloured right for your autumn wardrobe.



## President's Column

Trader Vic's, also known as the Polynesian Room at the Bayshore Hotel, is threatened with possible demolition. As part of the agreement to develop the waterfront lands on Coal Harbour adjacent to Stanley Park, the developer allowed the Parks Board to take one step further toward its dream of a lengthened Sea Wall. Unfortunately, Trader Vic's was somehow not flagged as a heritage property in the path of the lengthened Sea Wall.

Built in 1961, the current Polynesian Room was the location of the Vancouver franchise of Trader Vic's, a restaurant chain owned by Vic Bergeron. Trader Vic's typifies the Polynesian craze which swept through North America in the 1950s and early 1960s, in the optimistic and idealistic post-World War II era. Extremely elegant, for many years Trader Vic's was *the* restaurant to be seen at in Vancouver.

The Polynesian Room (Trader Vic's) is by far the best intact example of this style. Its interior has been cited on the Heritage Interiors Inventory. The unique swooping A-frame, copper-clad roof is a landmark in the City of Vancouver. It is a complete piece: no aspect of the integrally designed exterior and interior has been changed, right down to the carpets. When the International Art Deco Society held their banquet there last summer, it elicited expressions of awe from delegates from Australia, New Zealand, England, Europe and the United States.

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- Encourage the study and understanding of heritage preservation with a local and regional perspective.
- Support the conservation of the heritage that we have inherited.
- Promote public awareness of heritage preservation through lectures, publications, tours, and newsletters.
- Collect, document, and preserve records of heritage structures, landscapes, and urban design.

### Heritage Vancouver

PO Box 3336, Main Post Office

Vancouver BC V6B 3Y3

(604) 254-9411

<http://home.istar.ca/~glenchan/hvsintro.shtml>

## Upcoming Events

### July and August—AIBC Walking Tours

In July and August, free walking tours of downtown Vancouver and Victoria. Led by UBC architecture graduate students, the tours reveal the heritage of BC's largest metropolitan centre and capital. For more information, please contact the AIBC (Architectural Institute of British Columbia) at (604) 683-8588 or (800) 661-2955.

### August 9-September 20—Rail Heritage Days West Coast Railway Association's Heritage Park in Squamish

Join them any Thursday or Sunday between these dates and receive free admission. Ride a vintage steam train from North Vancouver to the park (fare charged). For reservations and information call 984-5246 or 631-3500.

### September 26—Architecture and Landscape Design (in Seattle)

This Seattle lecture is organized by the Arts and Crafts Guild Lecture Program and features Bruce Smith on *The Beautiful Necessity: Decorating with Arts and Crafts* and *Greene & Greene: Masterworks*; and David Streatfield on *The Landscape Design of Greene and Greene Residences*.

### October 1-3—Heritage in the Big City Heritage Society of British Columbia Conference, SFU Downtown

The Heritage Canada Foundation and the Heritage Society of British Columbia are holding a joint conference in Vancouver this year to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Heritage Canada and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BC Heritage Trust. Contact Jan Thomas at the Heritage Society of BC (604) 582-1332 or by e-mail [hsbcjan@bc-alter.net](mailto:hsbcjan@bc-alter.net) for a brochure or registration information.

### October 26-November 4—Hallowe'en Tours

Once again, Heritage Vancouver is participating in a joint project with the Vancouver Museum to produce Hallowe'en Bus Tours. This represents one of our major sources for funds, so lend your support by conducting a tour, greeting passengers, or just going for a ride. You'll have a ghoulishly good time!

September 1998

Volume 7 Number 9

**General Meeting: third Wednesday of each month  
business meeting 7:30, speaker's program 8:30  
Visitors Welcome**

## **An Architectural History of Vancouver 1865-1965 Part 1**

by Peter Vaisbord

Vancouver is a relatively young city, its origins dating from the early 1860s as one of the many small lumber milling ports of the Pacific Northwest coast. The city's oldest surviving building is a simple frame structure built in 1865 as the Hastings Mill company store. The store was moved in 1930 to its present location in Pioneer Park where it serves as a museum.

In 1886, the Canadian Pacific Railway chose Vancouver as the western terminus for the transcontinental railway and base for its trans-Pacific shipping lines. In the same year, a fire swept through the town, destroying most of its vernacular wood buildings. The city council reacted by passing a by-law requiring all new buildings in the town centre to be of masonry construction. Some of the oldest buildings in the historic Gastown district date from the reconstruction period between 1889 and 1889.

The boom period from the late 1880s through the 1890s saw the emergence of identifiable architectural styles, drawing both from British and American influences. Among Gastown's commercial buildings are Victorian Italianate and Richardsonian Romanesque structures dating from this period, as well as bay-windowed facades—evidence of San Francisco's architectural influence. More exotic is the

oriental influence in the architecture of Vancouver's Chinatown, as evidenced by tiles parapets and characteristic recessed balconies.

Vancouver's early residential architecture reflects modest versions of styles prevalent in other North American centres at the turn of the century, particularly the decorative Queen Anne homes which are commonly associated with San Francisco neighbourhoods. Thousands of these homes were demolished as the downtown expanded, but well-preserved examples can still be found in Strathcona and in the West End's Mole hill neighbourhood.

Much of Vancouver's architectural legacy dates from the Edwardian building boom of approximately 1905 to 1913. Vancouver's finest private residences were constructed during this time, including 'Shannon,' a Georgian Revival mansion, and 'Hycroft,' built as an Italianate villa between 1909 and 1911. Vancouver's first 'skyscrapers' also date from this period, including the Beaux Arts influenced Dominion Trust Building and World Publishing Building (Sun Tower), each successively the tallest structures in the British Empire for a short time. In common with many commercial buildings of the era, both buildings make extensive use of terra cotta to add decorative detail, the Sun Tower being locally famous for the "nine maidens", a

flank of terra cotta caryatids which support its cornice.

The city's finest surviving Beaux Arts structure, the old Main Post Office (1910), is located at the corner of Hastings and Granville Streets. In an award-winning reincarnation, the structure has seen new life as 'Sinclair Centre,' a complex which combines retail uses with Federal Government offices. Significant landmarks from the early part of the century include several neo-classical temple banks, including the Grecian-inspired Bank of Montreal, which continues to be used as a bank, and the Bank of Commerce (1906-1908), which has been converted by Birk's Jewelers as its downtown flagship store. Another financial landmark is the 17 storey Royal Bank Tower (1929), notable for its cathedral-like Romanesque Revival interior.

Part 2 next month.

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The Heritage Vancouver Society's AGM will be held October 21, 1998, at the Vancouver Museum, Ray Whittick Lounge.

### **New Meeting Place**

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Well-known for his work adapting historic structures for new life, Stuart will speak about the special challenges of working as an architect in heritage preservation, and the survival of old buildings in the new marketplace.

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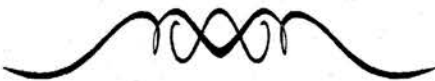
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Our speaker Paul Freems will outline a plan to mark False Creek's forgotten heritage using historic photographs which will help visitors visualize what has gone before.

### December 16 - Open Slide Night

An annual tradition. Bring your favourite slides from the past year and share local and foreign sights with your fellow HV members. This is traditionally a night to relax and take a break from Christmas shopping (ack!) and share a few laughs.



## Mark Your Calendar

### September 18—"How Modernism Built the North Shore"

7:30 p.m. at the West Vancouver Museum and Archives 680 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Slide show and discussion by Rhodri Windsor Liscombe.

### September 19—Community Heritage Workshop

The Heritage Preservation Society of New Westminster presents Blair Petrie, heritage advocate and author, who will enthrall workshop participants with his account of the preservation of the historic Mole Hill neighbourhood. This will be a history of Vancouver's oldest intact block of heritage homes and the efforts undertaken to preserve it. There will also be mini-workshops on determining the period and style of your old home along with various ways of having your old house recognized as a significant heritage asset in New West. Open to non-members for \$5. RSVP to Christopher Bell at 524-9502.

### September 20—North Shore Heritage Home and Garden Tour

Opportunity to visit homes such as the Binning Residence and Smith Residence. Limited number of tickets are available for \$10 and will be sold at the West Vancouver Museum and Archives (925-7295) and North Vancouver City Hall (983-7351, ask for Bea Houston).

### September 23—Vancouver Historical Society Meeting

At the Vancouver Museum in the Ray Whittick Lounge. For the latest on programs, events and membership, call the VHS Hotline at 878-9140 or browse their web-page, <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/vhs>.

### September 26—Architecture and Landscape Design (in Seattle)

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### September 30—docomomo

The British Columbia Working Party of the international group for the documentation and conservation of monuments of the modern movement will meet from 5:30-7:00 in Committee Room No. 3, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall 453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. RSVP Marco d'Agostini at 873-7727.

### October 1-3—Heritage in the Big City Heritage Society of British Columbia Conference, SFU Downtown

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7:00 p.m. in the lower meeting hall of the New Westminster Public Library.

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Once again, Heritage Vancouver is participating in a joint project with the Vancouver Museum to produce Hallowe'en Bus Tours.



## News

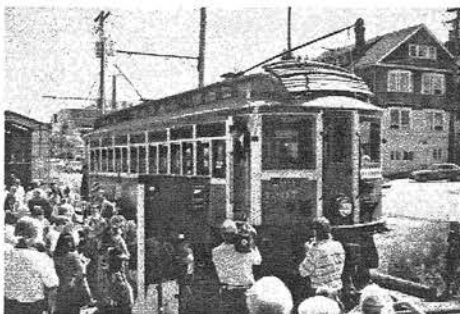
### New Westminster's Guided Heritage Walks

by Brock Piper

Recently New Westminster celebrated the 100th anniversary of their great fire of September 1898 by making available informative heritage walks. For instance there was the Labour Day Weekend walk of the downtown area where the fire took place. I had the pleasure to take the August 1 holiday weekend Fraser Cemetery walk with Archie Miller as the guide, a very active New Westminster historian coming from a family of heritage activists who are involved with the Irving House Historic Centre and New Westminster Museum. The view of the Fraser River is simply magnificent from the cemetery site.

There are different theme walks of the cemetery held at different times but that day concentrated on people involved in the great fire who are buried there. This cemetery came into use in the 1870s replacing other smaller cemeteries of that time. The cemetery was originally segregated into the Masonic, Oddfellows, Church of England and Catholic sections. Some of the more notable names and families found there are the Murchie's (tea), Burr's (Raymond Burr the actor) and Gassy Jack Deighton (founder of Gastown).

For a hot weather holiday weekend the amount of people on the tour was surprisingly large and undoubtedly they left more informed on a very important part of New Westminster's history.



False Creek Trolley #1207 opening.

### 1905 Interurban Begins Operation

by Ian Fisher

July 29 marked the return of BC Electric Railway interurban #1207 to Vancouver rails for the first time in 40 years. On that day the tram inaugurated service on the first phase of the Downtown Historic Railway, running 1.6 km from Leg-in-Boot Square to Anderson Street, at the entrance to Granville Island. The opening, officiated by Mayor Owen, was attended by in excess of 100 people, including several city councillors and many of the City and BC Transit staff, and Transit Museum Society (TRAMS) volunteers, responsible for returning the car to service.

The 1905-built car will be operated by TRAMS volunteers from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekends and holidays from June to September, with service in May and October, if the weather permits. The return fare is \$2, \$1 for children and seniors.

### Vancouver's Trolleybuses Celebrate 50 Years

by Ian Fisher

BC Transit, the City of Vancouver and trolleybus enthusiasts from as far away as England celebrated the 50th birthday of the Vancouver trolleybus system on August 16th, the same day that revenue service began on the Fraser-Cambie route in 1948. About 100 people attended the unveiling of a plaque to be installed at 29th and Cambie and a birthday party at the Stanley Park bus loop. On hand for the occasion were four generations of Vancouver trolleybuses: #2040, a 1947 Canadian Car & Foundry Brill T44; #2416 a 1954 Canadian Car & Foundry Brill T48A; a 1976 Flyer E800 (now converted to a diesel); and a 1983 Flyer E902. The two Brills retraced the original Fraser-Cambie route following the ceremonies.

The accompanying photo was taken at Kootenay Loop on the evening of August 15, when three of the anniversary buses travelled the city on a twilight trolley tour.

BC Transit produced a 60-page soft cover book to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the trolleybus system. Copies can be obtained for \$15 from Sheila Scott at BC Transit at 540-3253.



Trolleybus anniversary trip.

### Members Surveys

Member response has been really great! Have you filled out and returned your survey? Your responses to these surveys are important, and we thank you for you time in completing them. The responses will be reviewed at the AGM.

A reminder that the fax number offered on the survey form is incorrect. It should read 730-9624.

### Heritage Vancouver T-shirts

There are plenty of HV t-shirts remaining. These durable extra-large t-shirts are comfy and moss-green, coloured right for your autumn wardrobe.



Any ideas for a millennium year t-shirt design? Once existing t-shirts are sold we can begin to think about a 1999-2000 year design.

## Words from the President

Gastown has become the focus of attention for heritage advocates. This is for two reasons: the development of the Port Lands and the re-development of the Malkin Building on Water Street (a.k.a. the Spaghetti Factory).

Early this month, HV board members went to Paul Merrick's office to review the revised proposal for 55 and 65 Water Street. The proposal, in its present form, includes a three-storey glass atrium in the 33-foot wide lot to the west of the Malkin Building, two- and three-storey additions on top of the Malkin Building, and a tower on the 66-foot wide lot on the east side of the Malkin Building.

The issues surrounding this proposal are complex, and heritage is caught in the middle. The upper floors of the Malkin Building have been vacant for five years, because there is little market for the light industrial use for which the space is zoned. A change of use requires seismic and fire protection up-grading which is very costly. In order to make the project financially viable, the owners are proposing to add additional storeys to the building. It can be argued that adding

several storeys to a building compromises its historical integrity, but without the project the building may simply deteriorate.

This dilemma is facing many buildings in Gastown. Empty floors do not make a thriving commercial area, so business owners and residents would like to see efforts to make these floors marketable. On the other hand, it is the almost completely unspoiled nature of Gastown, with its buildings all of one tight time period and character, that is its charm.

No guidelines are currently in place to direct building owners on how they must treat these valuable pieces of our history. Since being saved in the 1970s, Gastown's built heritage has not been significantly threatened. With the development of the Port Lands, this will no longer be the case. Land values in Gastown will be pressured up, and land-owners will be looking to maximize returns. It is time to be pro-active in spelling out what are the qualities that we most want to preserve in Gastown, and grant incentives to allow owners to be recompensed for acting as curators of built heritage.

*Susanna*

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**Heritage Vancouver**  
PO Box 3336, Main Post Office  
Vancouver BC V6B 3Y3  
(604) 254-9411  
<http://home.istar.ca/~glenchan/hvsintro.shtml>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

- |                          |             |          |                          |                             |       |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual: | \$ 20    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting (no newsletters) | \$5   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family:     | \$ 25    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Corporate:                  | \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Donation:   | \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | Patrons:                    | \$100 |

Annual membership runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Members receive monthly newsletter, free admission to monthly speakers' program and reduced rates for tours and other activities.

Return with payment to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, MPO, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3.

**General Meeting is on the third Wednesday of each month**

(business meeting 7:30, speaker's program 8:30)

Ray Whittick Lounge, Vancouver Museum

**There's plenty of free parking – please join us!**

## **An Architectural History of Vancouver 1865-1965 Part 2** by Peter Vaisbord

One of Vancouver's best known buildings is the former Courthouse (1906-1911), a granite, domed, classically-inspired edifice designed by Francis M. Rattenbury, also the architect responsible for the Legislative Buildings and the luxurious Empress Hotel, both in Victoria. In a very successful exercise in adaptive reuse the Courthouse was converted as the new home of Vancouver's civic Art Gallery. Other classical landmarks include the colonnaded Canadian Pacific Railway Station (1912-1914), and the terra cotta encrusted Hudson's Bay Department Store (1913, 1925-26, 1948-50).

Residential architecture in the Edwardian era was strongly influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement in Britain and the United States. Accordingly, central Vancouver neighbourhoods derive much of their character from Craftsman-style homes built in the 1910s and 1920s. The British influence can be seen in the many half-timbered Tudor Revival/Craftsman hybrids, particularly in the mansions of Vancouver's exclusive Shaughnessy District. More modest Craftsman influences can be seen in middle class districts such as Kitsilano, where variants of the California bungalow were popular.

As in other North American cities, an eclectic array of 'historical' styles continued to be the architectural norm throughout the pre-WWII period. For example, the University of British Columbia continued to use the Collegiate Gothic style of its 1912 master plan as late as the early 1950s. The Orpheum Theatre (1927), now home to the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, is a late but grand and ornate exercise in 'atmospheric' move-house design, employing the exotic Spanish Renaissance Revival Style for its interior spaces. The Hotel Vancouver is a fine example of the Canadian Pacific Railway's Chateau style, a variant of the French Renaissance Revival style, complete with steep copper roof, stepped parapets, and menacing gargoyles. Construction commenced in 1929, but due to the Depression the building remained a steel shell until 1939 when work was finally completed. In the intervening time public preferences had changed, and the lobby, lower arcade and VIP suites were executed in the Art Deco style, rather than the originally planned historical style that was employed through the conference level and the guest levels to the 14<sup>th</sup> floor. Successive main floor renovations obliterated most of the legacy. Ironically the lobby areas have recently undergone a renovation to produce a retro-classical interior.

In the late 1920s, the young and progressive city embraced the new Art Deco style

to an extent not emulated by the more conservative eastern centres of Toronto and Montreal. Art Deco has been described as the first Modern architectural style. Unlike the mature Modernism which emerged in Vancouver in the 1950s, the style is highly ornate, but it shares with Modernism an avoidance of classical forms. Vancouver's Marine Building (1929), at Hastings and Burrard Streets, is arguably Canada's finest commercial example of the genre. Its elaborate interior and exterior maritime motifs, executed in terra cotta, are fully realized and its elevator lobby is one of the most impressive in the city. Also in the Deco genre, City Hall (1936), was a Depression Era civic works project. At the time it was completed, its stepped tower massing, and simple, sparsely adorned Moderne style surfaces were considered radically modern, and foreshadowed the transition to International Style Modernism after WW II. Two other Deco-inspired landmarks are the Spanish-Deco Burrard Bridge (1930-32) and the Lions Gate Bridge (1938-39).

*(Continued on next page.)*

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## **An Architectural History of Vancouver 1865-1965 Part 2 Cont'd**

With a few small-scale exceptions, International Style Modernism blossomed in the 1950s, brought to Vancouver by a handful of young Toronto architectural graduates seeking more fertile ground for innovation. Residential architecture was also strongly influenced by the work of Richard Neutra in California. By the late 1950s, Vancouver had become a leading centre of modern design, and had developed its own regional West Coast style, emphasizing inclined roofs, local materials, post and beam construction, and integration with the natural landscape.

Commercial and institutional landmarks from the period include the UBC War Memorial Gymnasium (1951), the Dal Grauer Substation (1955) and the BC Electric Building (1957), all designed by the firm Sharp & Thompson, Berwick, Pratt. The substation featured an all glass street elevation which exposed electrical machinery within. The office building is an elegant example of early glass curtain wall construction. To integrate art and architecture, local artist Bert Binning designed the motif for its tiled surfaces, using colours reflective of the west coast landscape. The building was recently saved through conversion to condominium apartments.

Another Modern landmark is the former Central Library (1957) designed by Semmens and Simpson, which involved a controversial recent conversion to a Planet Hollywood theme restaurant and Virgin Records Megastore. The Modern tradition was carried forward by Arthur Erickson with his Simon Fraser University Campus (1965), the MacMillan Bloedel office building (1969) and the glass atrium Law Courts (1975-77).

## **Autumn Meetings**

### **October 21 – Annual General Meeting**

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## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **October 15 – Heritage Preservation Society of New Westminster AGM**

7:00 p.m. in the lower meeting hall of the New Westminster Public Library.

### **October 24 – Native Daughters of British Columbia Fall Tea**

An annual tradition at our former location, the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum. This year, along the lines of a Tupperware party, there will be a demonstration by the kitchen-aids-distributor "The Pampered Chef" at 11:30, after which refreshments will be served. A percentage of the proceeds from sales goes to help run the museum. There will be a raffle of a hamper. Cost of the Tea is \$5.00 Please bring a friend and enjoy delicious refreshments and a social afternoon.

### **October 28 – Vancouver Historical Society Meeting**

At the Vancouver Museum in the Ray Whittick Lounge. For the latest on programs, events and membership, call the VHS Hotline at 878-9140 or browse their web-page, <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/vhs>.

### **October 26-November 4 – Hallowe'en Tours**

Once again, Heritage Vancouver is participating in a joint project with the Vancouver Museum to produce Hallowe'en Bus Tours. This year will involve a twist: a tour through 'haunted galleries' is included in the ticket price. Tickets may be booked through the Vancouver Museum. Ticket price will probably be approximately \$16.

Do you know of some upcoming events? Let us know! 254-9411

# News

## North Shore Heritage Weekend

by Brock Piper

The North Shore's Heritage Weekend was held September 18-20 and how could it not be a success with the wonderful late summer weather we were having. I took in a two of the several events. Friday night at the West Vancouver Museum and Archives (Lawson House, well worth a visit) was a rather formal lecture and slide show "How Modernism Built the North Shore" by UBC Professor Rhodri Windsor Liscombe, the curator of "The New Spirit: Modern Architecture in Vancouver 1938 -1963" held at the Vancouver Art Gallery last year.

The North Shore Heritage Home and Garden Tour was held on the Sunday. Try properly seeing eight houses in West Vancouver and North Vancouver in 3 hours! Of course you pick your favourites to visit first.

For me that was the Smith House by Arthur Erickson, out by Lighthouse Park. It is one of the masterpieces of modern West Coast design and is often called the most famous modern residence in Canada. I was profoundly impressed by its beautiful simplicity. Unfortunately it was not open to the public, but with so

much glass on the house you could clearly see everything inside. One comment later that day was that the house was built when there wasn't an energy crisis and no double-glazed glass, but someone replied, "I wouldn't care. I'd just put on another sweater if I could live in that house."

The second house on our tour was in another beautiful setting on the other side of Lighthouse Park. The Patterson Garden was featured in the spring edition of *Gardening Life*. This garden is regularly visited by horticulturists, landscape architects and gardeners from around the world.

Third on our list was the Binning House, one of the most influential modern residences in the Lower Mainland. Built in 1941 for a cost of only \$5,000, this small house is noted for its functional composition, its interrelationship of interior and exterior spaces and its open and flexible plan. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada has recently nominated this house for commemoration as a National Historic Site, the first modern residence in Canada to receive this recognition. The Binnings were the recipient of a West Vancouver Heritage Achievement Award in 1998. Bert Binning is often credited as being instrumental in the introduction of modern domestic architecture to

Vancouver. One of the many innovative things Bert Binning did was a recessed outdoor pot light that was not available in the early 1940s, that he created under a roof overhang.

Well, after these two West Vancouver home landmarks and a garden beauty it was time to zip over to North Vancouver. I left our last few choices up to my more knowledgeable North Vancouver native and friend. Our first stop was the Cornish House in the North Lonsdale area, a grand and imposing Tudor Revival style house built in 1914. The home was opened in 1996 as a bed and breakfast and was awarded the 1996 District of North Vancouver Heritage Award for heritage conservation.

Stanmore House was our next stop. Built in 1927 this home is listed as a primary heritage house in the District of North Vancouver Heritage Inventory. The present owners, the Deans, received a heritage award for their garden from the Heritage Advisory Commission of the District of North Vancouver in 1996. Their garden is frequently used for community events, and private family gatherings. It was the location of the 100th Anniversary of the District of North Vancouver Centennial.

*Continued on next page.*

### Heritage Vancouver is a non-profit advocacy society whose mandate is to:

- Encourage the study and understanding of heritage preservation with a local and regional perspective.
- Support the conservation of the heritage that we have inherited.
- Promote public awareness of heritage preservation through lectures, publications, tours, and newsletters.
- Collect, document, and preserve records of heritage structures, landscapes, and urban design.

### Heritage Vancouver

PO Box 3336, Main Post Office

Vancouver BC V6B 3Y3

(604) 254-9411

<http://home.istar.ca/~glenchan/hvsintro.shtml>

## Words from the President

Heritage advocates from all over British Columbia and Canada recently attended the Heritage Society of British Columbia Conference, entitled "Heritage in the Big City," which took place from October 1-3 here in Vancouver.

The event was a joint conference to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Heritage Canada and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Heritage Society of British Columbia, so an emphasis was placed on looking back and looking forward. Veterans in the heritage conservation movement reflected on goals which had been set in the mid-1970s, whether they had been accomplished, and where to go from here. The AGMs of both organizations were held. The new board of HSBC was voted in by acclamation, including our very own John Atkin, and the society will now have a newly clarified set of by-laws. An important change was the enfranchisement of individual members.

The first day was devoted to CHCs, or community heritage commissions, and focused to some degree on the interface between heritage advocates and city hall, and how they could be more effective. Helpful advice was

given from a variety of viewpoints: a planner, a city councillor, a developer, and a CHC chair. The most important piece of advice? Present a solution to city council to which it is easy to say yes: show widespread support and the source for necessary funds. This is possibly easier said than done, but is a goal to aim for.

Of particular interest to this modernist were the session on neon lighting and the accompanying evening bus tour aboard a restored 1948 Fageol transit bus. Alan Hess and John Atkin, 'talking heads' in the award-winning film "Glowing in the Dark," were the two speakers, comparing the progress of neon signs in Las Vegas and Vancouver. Las Vegas is of course famous for its neon signage, but Vancouver actually had some of the earliest neon signs in North America and Granville Street eventually became known as the "great white way," because of the brightness of its many signs. The earliest of Vancouver's neon signs (1928) is still in use in Gastown on Winter's Hotel.

Susanna  
Howen

*Continued from previous pg.*

The last house we had time to visit was one of the three on the Grand Boulevard, designed to be a prestigious residential district in the first decade of this century. A streetcar track ran down the middle of the boulevard until it was removed in 1947.

The Ellis residence, built in 1910, is one of the oldest and most imposing homes on the boulevard. It was built in the Shingle style with Craftsman detailing. The owner of this house, Mr. Coltart, has meticulously restored the interior of the home to highlight its fine decorative elements. Mr. Coltart's lovely landscaped garden and extensive collection of antiques and furnishings contribute to the charm and beauty of this residence.

For a first-year event this has been deemed successful and a estimated 275 people went on the House and Garden Tour. It has not been decided yet if this will be a yearly event.

*Brock Piper is a board member of the Heritage Vancouver Society and a Professional Member of the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada.  
brock\_piper@helix.net or 604 266-2569.*

*Brock thanks the Tri-Municipal Events of the North Shore for supplementary information, as supplied for the tour.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$ 20  | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (no newsletters) \$5 |
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**Annual membership runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Members receive monthly newsletter, free admission to monthly speakers' program and reduced rates for tours and other activities.**

**Return with payment to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, MPO, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3.**

# CITY OF VANCOUVER BUILDING PERMIT DATABASE 1901 - 1914

A database of Building Permits issued in Vancouver, Point Gray and South Vancouver between the years of 1901 and 1914. Information includes owner, architect, builder, legal description, street address, year, building type, and notes (Information is as complete as available from archive sources).

The database is contained on a PC and MAC compatible CD-ROM, in a number of file formats, making it easy to search as a database file or read as a text document. Perfect for researchers, institutions or enthusiasts. Order now at the pre-release price of \$50CDN. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

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Produced by Heritage Vancouver.  
British Columbia Heritage trust has provided financial assistance to this program to support conservation of our heritage resources, gain further knowledge and increase public understanding of the complete history of British Columbia.

004198

# HERITAGE Vancouver

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 Number 11

November 1998

### The First ICBC Claim Centres

By Ron Simpson

The first ICBC claim centres were opened in 1975, so they have been there for over twenty years. Since their architectural merit appears to have received little recognition at the time I thought a few notes might shed light on an interesting piece of architectural history.

One of the key elements of the new organization were claim centres for the inspection and appraisal of damaged vehicles and the first 17 of these were constructed in just over two years. It was a massive program and together with the very tight schedule and inevitable complexities of site acquisition the architects managed to produce a group of buildings which I believe have made a significant construction to modern architecture in British Columbia.

This was an entirely new building type and initial research on demand and location soon showed that a replicated standard plan would be quite inappropriate because of site and accommodation variables. The eventual solution was based on the use of a "kit of parts" with the potential for infinite configurations.

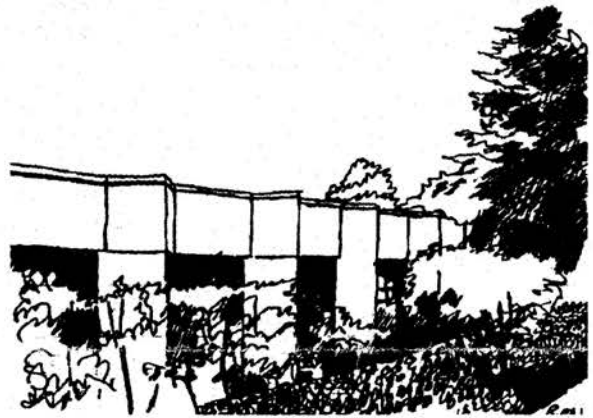
The adopted building envelope of a standardized steel frame clad with modular concrete panels allowed a fast building campaign to proceed province-wide. Exposed concrete is not the obvious choice for a fast track, it is typically labour intensive with a delaying impact on finishing trades. In the event the steel framework was quickly erected with its sealed metal roof deck providing early protection for the internal trades such as slabs, services, and partitions. This coincided with the manufacture of the concrete panels off-site in controlled conditions that were then transported to each site. Quality control was thereby assured and this is evident in the very fine even texture of the white aggregated that over the years has weathered beautifully.

The principal accommodation to each centre is strongly influenced by the motor vehicle, with internal inspection of vehicles, both drive-in and tow-in, together with clerical and support staff accommodation.

Architecturally, the several functions have been sensitively handled. For example, the day-lighting to the inspection hall is by a range of oriel windows reflecting the frequency of the inspection booths, a remarkably

friendly touch giving an almost domestic feel while revealing the works of the interior to public view.

Another distinctive feature is the way the external concrete wall plane is articulated with a 45 degree prow of varying magnitude, dominating the end of a block in an almost nautical fashion. This forms a subtle modulation flanking the large industrial doors, reducing their impact and generally adding a sensitive sculptural quality to the external face. Because the concrete panels are unusually large, the intermediate joints between them occur less frequently and consequently do not clutter the external face, resulting in a robust and sensitively articulated external skin.



The landscaping has now matured to produce a splendid background to each centre such that each site has its own ambience, setting a high standard of urbanism in the vicinity. For instance, at Cambie and Southwest Marine Drive, the building lies below a retaining wall with a park-like setting in the foreground. At Kingsway the building is on two stories because of site limitations, presenting a sophisticated urban face to the street screened by a fine row of hornbeam, and a circular concrete ramp providing a splendid sculptural event at the south end.

*This article is the result of a special partnership with docomomo. The BC Working Party of docomomo is part of an international group dedicated to the DOcumentation and COnservation of the MOdern MOvement. Members of the Working Party may from time to time include the results of their research in the HV Newsletter.*



## Upcoming Meetings

### November 18, 1998—"Trailblazing in the Concrete Jungle: Restoring a Sense of

**Place** to Southeast False Creek," by Don Alexander, SFU School of Resource and Environmental Management. His presentation explores the natural geography, social and cultural history, and the potential of integrating public art into the function and form of a "heritage trail" in Southeast False Creek as the City begins work on a sustainable plan for the area.

### December 16, 1998—Open Slides Night

An annual tradition with Heritage Vancouver. Bring your favourite slides and share local and foreign sights with your fellow HV members. This is traditionally a night to relax and take a break from Christmas shopping and share a few laughs. Speaking of holiday shopping, we have lots of HV t-shirts for everyone on your gift list.

### January 21, 1998—Public Spaces

The first in our three-part series on public spaces in Vancouver. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding content or speakers, pass them along to Peter Vaisbord. Stay tuned for details. We also welcome your ideas about the following three-part series, from April to June.

**General Meeting is on the third Wednesday of each month**

(business meeting 7:30, speaker's program 8:30)

Ray Whittick Lounge, Vancouver Museum  
There's plenty of free parking—please join us!

## Mark Your Calendar

### Ongoing to December 19, 1998—

#### Klondike Gold

After a very successful national tour, the West Vancouver Museum and Archives is proud to present Klondike Gold, a travelling exhibit created by the Dawson City Museum and Historical Society. Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Klondike Gold Rush, this bilingual exhibit tells the story of the gold rush from the point of view of the miners, First Nations, and the press. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 12:00-4:30 p.m. For more information call 925-7295.

### November 14, 1998—Preserving Textiles and Objects

Hosted by the West Vancouver Museum and Archives. Bring in your treasures and we will look at ways in which they can be cared for and stored for many years to come. \$16.05 To register, call 925-7270 or pick up a registration form at the West Vancouver Community Centre, 780 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

### November 15, 1998—Electric Generation

This exhibit at Haney House will explore the introduction of electricity in Maple Ridge. How was the consumption of electricity encouraged by the BC Electric Company? What did electricity mean to residents in the 1920s? The exhibit is ingeniously woven into the existing house museum, and is both fun and insightful.

### November 28, 1998—Wallace Chambers

Dr. John Graham Gillis will speak to the Vancouver Historical Society of the 1907-1915 diary and letters of Wallace Chambers. Dr. Gillis is a Vancouver historian. Vancouver Historical Society meetings are held at the Vancouver Museum at 7:30 p.m.

### December 3, 1998—Royal BC Museum, Leonardo da Vinci

West Vancouver Museum and are hosting a trip to travel to Victoria to see this exhibit at its only Canadian stop. This will be an all day trip, so please be prepared. \$58.85 fee includes: travel to and from Victoria and entry to the exhibit. Call 925-7270 to register.

### January 27, 1999—Mildred Fahrni

Nancy Knickerbocker will speak to the Vancouver Historical Society about her upcoming biography of the fascinating life of Mildred Osterhout Fahrni, one of Canada's pioneer peace-keepers. Vancouver Historical Society meetings are held at the Vancouver Museum at 7:30 p.m.

### February 25, 1999—Working Heritage: the Preservation of Industrial Sites

An all-day conference at SFU Downtown. Contact Heritage Vancouver (Susanna, Peter, or Jo) to reserve a seat.

### February 26, 1999—The Economics of Heritage Conservation

An all-day conference at SFU Downtown. Hosted by the provincial Heritage Branch and the SFU City Program, this workshop will provide an opportunity to examine specific techniques used to determine the real costs of adaptive re-use, building restoration and conservation. \$100. Call SFU City Program at 291-5079.

### June 24-26, 1999—HSBC Conference

Next year's annual conference will be held in the "northern capital" of Prince George. From Heritage in the Big City to Heritage on the Frontier!

Do you know of some upcoming events? Let us know! 254-9411

## News: Annual General Meeting

### Volunteer Awards

For the first of what I hope to make an annual tradition, Heritage Vancouver presented awards of recognition to some outstanding volunteers. Sometimes it's hard, when working away by yourself, to believe that your work is recognized. We wanted to let some volunteers know just how much we appreciate them! Recipients were: Mary McDonald—information table and archiving, Glen Chan—web-site, and Kathy Ellis—newsletter mail-out.

### Election of Board Members

First of all, I would like to extend the heart-felt thanks of Heritage Vancouver to out-going board members. Stepping down from the Board are: Paul Bennett, Lynne Bryson, Stephanie Clarke, Don Luxton, Sherry McKay, David Monteyne, and Susan Walker. Some of you were with us for a long time, some for only a short time; thank you for giving so generously of your time.

Some Board Members have decided to stay on for another term. These are: Susanna Houwen, Jo Scott-B, and Peter Vaisbord

Heritage Vancouver gives a warm welcome to our new Board Members, some of them new faces to the society. Introducing: Ian Fisher, Stuart Howard, Margot Keate, Hugh McLean, Justine Murdy, Brock Piper, Joanne Proft, Karen Russell, and Stéphane Hoffman.

### Survey Results

Thank you very much to those of you who took some time to return your members' survey. We appreciate your responses very much, and they will help form our direction for the next year. As for those of you who did not return your surveys—well then you can't complain if you don't like the results!

**Meeting Time and Location:** Results confirmed that it was the right choice to change location, and we will continue to meet at the Vancouver Museum for at least one year. There is plenty of free parking and access to transit by bus #22. Also, there is a bank of vending machines by our meeting space, so there is a wide variety of refreshments. The meeting time and date will remain the same.

**Speakers Program:** Reactions for proposed topics were good, reaffirming that we will stay Vancouver-focused. A need that seems to have been identified was to examine heritage theory. We will brainstorm about how we will introduce this important aspect into our speakers program, or whether it will be a separate presentation. In addition, we noted that a mixture of single speakers and panels was preferred.

**Membership:** Well, you think our membership fee is so reasonable that we may consider raising it next year! But you're not real chummy—there was complete apathy towards the idea of organizing social events among members, so that won't be happening. In regard to the availability of roles for members, there was a split. If you want to be more involved, please let us know by speaking to one of the board members, who you've let us know you feel you recognize. Also, keep your eye on the newsletter, as we post a request for help from time to time.

**Newsletter:** This sheet and our speakers program are our most important activities, and we are working to improve both. You expressed a desire to see a variety of writers. Guess what? That means *you* have to submit something! You also expressed a fondness for the traditional "black oval." We've revamped it a little, but will be keeping it. We're also working to polish the format of the newsletter, trying to make it readable and attractive. Please try to remember that it is put together by volunteers, so have some mercy for any typos, etc.

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- Collect, document, and preserve records of heritage structures, landscapes, and urban design.

**Heritage Vancouver**  
PO Box 3336, Main Post Office  
Vancouver BC V6B 3Y3

<http://home.istar.ca/~glenchan/hvsintro.shtml>

## Words from the President

An important event for me this month was the annual general meeting. Taking over the reins of Heritage Vancouver just as some of the more veteran members are taking a break is a little daunting, and I am looking for feedback that the membership supports the path Heritage Vancouver is taking.

We are going to focus our energies toward the speakers program and the newsletter, with the goal being to widen our audience and visibility. If nearly a hundred people will attend the MacBlo lectures, perhaps we can get half that many to our presentations, given that they usually address urban design in Vancouver. I am very excited about having the energies of Beverley Cramp on board, working to plan our speakers program for the next year, and this may be our best year ever. In support of these efforts, some new board members are interested in helping to market and publicize HV.

The HV Newsletter acts as the continuing communications link to those members who do not attend our regular meetings. My hope for the newsletter is that it act as a sort of clearinghouse for information about heritage activities throughout Greater Vancouver. I intend it to contain primarily three kinds of information: upcoming events, reports on past events, and stories of interest about local architecture. The quality of this information depends a great deal on members feeding in events and articles. Photographs will help to keep the newsletter from looking too dense and will add visual interest. In addition, we will continue to use the newsletter to keep members abreast of breaking news about local buildings, i.e. buildings that are threatened.

For those of you who did not come to the AGM, please stay in touch with your comments and insight.

Susanna

Susanna Houwen

## Vancouver Heritage Awards

The deadline sneaks up on us in January—let's get those nomination forms ready before Christmas! Our goal is to complete them by December 18, 1998. Forward ideas for nominations and offers to help compile them to the board by leaving a message on the HV answering machine or contacting a board member.

## The Great Fire in New Westminster

Just emerging from a period of depression, the Royal City was devastated by calamity when a massive fire razed seventy-five acres of the central part of the city. Nearly 600 buildings were destroyed. The history of the Great Fire of New Westminister has been recorded in a booklet entitled *The Great Fire of 1898: The Devastation and Rebirth of Downtown New Westminister* by Archie Miller and Dale Ker, that includes historical photographs. For information about this publication, call 526-6113.

## New Web-Site

Roedde House has joined the electronic age with its own web-site. Ironically, communicating electronically is the best way for us history and old-building buffs to stay in contact, thinly scattered as we are throughout British Columbia. Rhoeedde House even has its own domain-name: [www.roeddehouse.com](http://www.roeddehouse.com).



## Heritage Vancouver T-shirts

There are plenty of HV t-shirts remaining. These durable extra-large t-shirts are comfy and moss-green.

<b>Name:</b> _____			
<b>Address:</b> _____			
<b>City:</b> _____	<b>Postal Code:</b> _____	<b>Telephone:</b> _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Individual:</b> \$ 20	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Supporting (no newsletters)</b> \$5		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Family:</b> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Corporate:</b> \$ 50		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Donation:</b> \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Patrons:</b> \$100		
<b>Annual membership runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Members receive monthly newsletter, free admission to monthly speakers' program and reduced rates for tours and other activities.</b>			
<b>Return with payment to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, MPO, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3.</b>			

# HERITAGE Vancouver N e w s l e t t e r

## Threatened Buildings

### THE POLYNESIAN ROOM/TRADER VIC'S

#### Background Information

Built in 1961, the current Polynesian Room was the location of the Vancouver franchise of Trader Vic's, a restaurant chain owned by Vic Bergeron. Trader Vic's typifies the Polynesian craze which swept through North America in the 1950s and early 1960s, in the optimistic and idealistic post-World War II era. Extremely elegant, for many years Trader Vic's was the restaurant to be seen at in Vancouver. It holds a place among the fond memories of many Vancouverites to this day.

#### Current Situation

The Polynesian Room (Trader Vic's) is by far the best intact example of this style. Its interior has been cited on the Heritage Interiors Inventory in Vancouver. The unique swooping A-frame, copper-clad roof is a landmark in the City of Vancouver. It is a complete piece: no aspect of the integrally designed exterior and interior has been changed, right down to the carpets. That the building is not listed on the Heritage Register must not be an excuse for allowing its demolition.

#### Possible Future

We understand that the building is now located on a dedication to the Park Board for a continuation of the Sea Wall project. Unlike other heritage structures, context is not of great importance. We hope that a means of saving this unique structure be investigated, including the option of moving it to another site, or locating on or over the water.

### CPR TELEGRAPH BUILDING

99 Alexander Street

#### Background Information

This modest 900 square foot structure is located on a small corner of the ten acre Marathon lands. It is one of three buildings which were owned by the CPR in the city of Vancouver. Like many buildings in the Gastown area, this little building has been used by filmmakers, notably in the film "*Legends of the Fall*."

#### Current Situation

Improperly cared for by the film company that rented it, the building still bears the confusing insignia Lewis and Clark County Jail. What were once generous windows on the street have been narrowed considerably with false brickwork done in plywood. Possibly partially the result of a temporary second story, the roof has collapsed beyond repair and the structure is in need of a complete restoration. The cost of this restoration is such that it is not economically feasible for a commercial lessor to take this on by itself.

#### Possible Future

The Marathon corporation is willing to lease the building for a nominal sum, if a socially beneficial use can be found for it. We hope that city council will take the lease for 99 Alexander Street. However action should be taken quickly as the deadline to prevent demolition is December 31, 1998.

### THE MALKIN BUILDING (SPAGHETTI FACTORY)

55 and 65 Water Street

#### Background Information

Protected by Provincial designation in 1971, Gastown was the city's, and the province's first heritage area. Each of the buildings in the historic area is individually designated, that is to say, legally protected. However, legal designation does not protect a building from the forces of time or a poor economic environment, nor from the demands of the building code. While storefronts at the street level have marked the area as a favourite shopping area for tourists, upper floors have suffered, due to the costly requirement to upgrade to current standards if a change of use is proposed. Since many of the buildings, despite their grand appearance, were originally warehouses or used for other light industrial uses, this change of use is now generally desired. The Malkin Building is one of the structures faced with this dilemma.

# Upcoming Events

## VANCOUVER'S PUBLIC SPACES

**B**uildings do more than form interior spaces; they also shape streetscapes and other outside areas. What sort of public spaces does Vancouver have? Where are they? How did they evolve? Do they 'work'? Can successful public spaces be planned? An examination of the issues and context will be the focus of the next several talks.

### January 20

#### Spaces That Never Happened Donald Luxton / Rhodri Windsor

**Liscombe:** A look back at some of the Vancouver public spaces that have been lost either because they never got past the idea and planning stage or because of insensitive re-development. Will they reveal why Vancouver doesn't have a recognizable civic center?

#### Potential Speakers

*not confirmed*

### February 17

#### Re-inventing Vancouver's Waterfront Mythology

**Lance Berelowitz,** Urban Forum Associates. A cool-headed look at what is happening at Vancouver's waterfront. He will strip away the sentimental aspects of the evolution of these previously polluted and heavily industrialized areas into residential/commercial areas like Granville Island and North False Creek. These spaces are not benign—they are being programmed. Deal with questions like why are they happening at the edges of the city and not the center? A description and analysis.

### March 17

#### Transit as Urban Skeleton

**Chris Phillips,** Phillips Farevaag Smallenberg: Doing work on the new Skytrain stations. Do these areas have the ability to become vibrant public spaces? Maybe provide a look at how public transit lines have changed Vancouver's neighbourhoods in the past.

### April 21

#### Off the Beaten Track

**John Atkin:** Draws our attention to some of the weird, wonderful, out-of-the-way, and downright kooky public spaces in our fair city.

### May 19

**Gerry McGeogh:** What are some of the more famous public spaces in "world class" cities like New York, Paris, London, Montreal and Toronto. What are they like and why do they work? Lessons for Vancouver perhaps.

### June 16

#### Robson Square in Transition

**Arthur Erickson:** Designer for two of Vancouver's major public spaces—Robson Square complex and the upcoming 3 acre plaza at the new trade and convention center. He has been hired to re-design parts of Robson Square that don't seem to be working very well.

.....

### General Meeting third Wednesday of each month

Vancouver Museum  
Ray Whittick Lounge  
(business meeting 7:30,  
speaker's program 8:30)  
There's plenty of free  
parking—please join us!

New members are  
welcome by donation.

## Mark Your Calendar

*November 15, 1998* to continuing—  
Electric Generation, an exhibit on the history of the introduction of electricity to the Maple Ridge area at the Haney House Museum, south end of 224th Street in Maple Ridge.  
1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is by donation.

*November 19, 1998 to June 19, 1999* Unearthed From the Silence, an exhibit on the Japanese Canadian community of Steveston, BC, and the effects of the internment at the Richmond Museum, 7700 Minoru Gate. 9:00 A.M. to 9:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is by donation. 231-6457.

*January 8, 1999*

City of Vancouver Heritage Awards nominations due 4:30 P.M. Friday

*January 27, 1998*

Nancy Knickerbocker will speak to the Vancouver Historical Society on her upcoming biography of the fascinating life of Mildred Osterhout Fahrni, one of Canada's pioneer peace-keepers. A 1923 graduate of UBC, Mildred Fahrni walked with J.S. Woodsworth, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther King advocating people's capacity to transform themselves, and the world, through active non-violence. Vancouver Museum 1100 Chestnut Street, 7:30 P.M. Wednesday. Admission is by donation. 878-9140.

*February 25, 1999*

Working Heritage: The Preservation of Industrial Sites  
An all-day conference at SFU Downtown. Contact Heritage Vancouver (Susanna, Peter, or Jo) to reserve a seat.

## STORY BEHIND THE NEWS

Some of you may have been following the stories about the Sam Kee Building, 8 West Pender Street in the newspapers. What's the story behind the headlines?

### Background Information

(excerpt from Shane McCune article in the Province, Nov. 18, 1998, p.A4)

*"Only 1.8 meters wide, the building was built in 1913 for the express purpose of irritating city hall. Merchant Chang Toy was furious when the city expropriated most of his lot to widen the street but refused to compensate him for the leftover sliver. Out of spite, Toy built on the land. The tourist attraction fell on hard times until the mid-1980's, when insurance broker Chow spent almost \$250,000 to restore its tunnels, glass-block sidewalk and second-storey bay windows. Council applauded Chow at the time, but about five years ago the city slapped him with a fine for the former bathhouse beneath the street. Two years ago, the city finally took the penalty off the basement fine and switched it to the second-storey windows. If collected, the fee would boost the city revenues by \$260."*

Stay tuned next month for a special report by Justine Murdy

.....

See Threatened on page 3

## Threatened from cover

### Current Situation

We understand that a development group has decided to undertake the challenge of dealing with this dilemma. We understand that it will be costly. We do want the revitalization of the building to take place. What we don't understand is why it has been accepted that it will be done in the way proposed by architect Paul Merrick. Several bodies agree with this stance. Heritage Vancouver, the Vancouver Heritage Commission, City Planning Staff and the Gastown Heritage Area Planning Committee all agree that the height of the new tower, the extent of the additions to the historic Malkin Warehouse, and the new glass and steel materials of the tower and additions are all at odds with the historic character of the area. The Development Permit Board ignored the advice and removed conditions on these aspects of the development. This decision to allow this development to proceed is shocking. What message does this send out?

### Possible Future

We will be watching anxiously as city staff investigate ways to facilitate good heritage conservation in Vancouver.

## Heritage Vancouver Officers

**Susanna Houwen**  
President

**Jo Scott-B**  
Past-President

**Peter Vaisbord**  
Acting Vice-President

**Stephane Hoffman**  
Treasurer

**Beverly Cramp**  
**Peter Vaisbord**  
Speakers Program

**Brock Piper**  
Publicity/Newsletter

**Margot Keate**  
Recording

**Ian Fisher**  
**Karen Russell**  
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**Joanne Proft**  
**Hugh McLean**  
Corresponding Secretaries

**Justine Murdy**  
Telephone

**Glen Chan**  
Web Page

**Kathy Ellis**  
Envelope Stuffing/Mail-out

**Stuart Howard**  
Director at Large

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Vancouver BC V6B 3Y3

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<http://home.istar.ca/~glenchan/hvsintro.shtml>

# Letter Writing as an Advocacy Tool

Dear Members,

This month, in response to a request from the membership, we have included material on three threatened buildings to facilitate letter writing by our members. Some of this material has been transcribed from letters that the board has written to City Council to urge the protection of these buildings. In accordance with our mandate to educate, we inform City Council about the importance of certain issues, and sometimes offer solutions.

There is only one letter sent on behalf of Heritage Vancouver on any one issue. The founding members of the Heritage Vancouver Society hoped, through a large general membership, to represent broad-based support for a well thought-out and united position. The strength of Heritage Vancouver has been in taking a carefully considered, balanced, and respected stance.

You may also wish to write a letter on your own behalf, borrowing some of the information included here. It is important, if you choose to write, that the letter is from you as an individual. This has its own special power. It can be assumed that an advocacy group would write, but it is somewhat more unusual that an individual would write to help save a building.

With this in mind, it is very powerful to include some personal recollections of the building in question. Adding in a description of your favourite memory of that place helps show that you have an emotional attachment and carries a lot of weight with City Council. Remember that a concise, balanced missive is more likely to be read and taken seriously.

So that all parties interested in heritage preservation are in sync, it is a good idea to *carbon copy* to other groups, such as the Heritage Group in the Planning Department, the Vancouver Heritage Commission, and of course Heritage Vancouver. Other interested parties might be the architect and owners of the project. Address the letter to *Mayor and Council*, and list the *cc's* at the bottom. You can mail a single copy to City Hall, or fax to the councillors' fax line, and staff will make photocopies for each councillor. (Mail separate copies to the parties *cc'd*. The Heritage Group and the Heritage Commission are both at City Hall, as well.)

Address mail:

Vancouver City Hall  
453 West Twelfth Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4  
Council fax: 873-7750

I hope that these guidelines will help our members to write effective letters on their own.

Regards,

## Join Heritage Vancouver

Annual membership runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Members receive a monthly newsletter, free admission to monthly speakers' programs and reduced rates for tours and other activities.

Charitable donation #1073758-52. Membership fees are not tax deductible.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Individual: \$20       Supporting (no newsletter) \$5

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Please send cheque or money order to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3