

HERITAGE Vancouver

N e w s l e t t e r

Spring 2004 Hot Spots

We predicted a year of lively discussion — and so it is to be. Already two burning issues — Woodward's and Hastings Park — are on the public agenda and tight timelines are attached to each decision-making process. The items below bring you the latest news as we go to press. Please stay tuned the HV website for updates on public meetings and other events at which you may voice your opinion.

Woodward's

No surprise to have the Woodward's site in the headlines. It Topped the February 2004 Endangered Sites list. Things have moved swiftly since then: on February 24, City Council identified the seven short-listed proposals — four developers and three non-market housing sponsors. As well, the City defined its role in the redevelopment as “that of a Participating Investor which owns and operates space in the Project.”

The immediate next step is issuing the Requests for Proposals to the seven short-listed applicants. Council has stated that “heritage retention and restoration of the Woodward's 1903/1908 building” is a mandatory requirement. However, this only protects a very small portion of the building. The Heritage Vancouver position, which has been made clear in a letter to Council, is that we will oppose any proposal that demolishes any part of this historic building. While the NW corner of the building at Hastings and Abbott Streets is the oldest portion of the building, we find significant historical symbolism in the building as a whole. Retaining only this corner would ignore the role of the Woodward's building, not just as a historical reminder but also as a significant part of the Hastings Street streetscape.

There will be public open houses in June and early July 2004 to review the proposals; at the same time, the City will consult its own urban design panel, the heritage community



Illustration: Robin Ward's
Vancouver/Harbour
Publishing

The Future of the PNE in Hastings Park

In 1997, under the assumption that the PNE and Playland would be relocated to a new exhibition / amusement complex elsewhere in the region, the City undertook a plan to restore Hastings Park to (predominantly) green space; the plan was prepared in consultation with the neighbourhood residents and other stakeholder groups. The Hastings Park Restoration Plan was approved in 1997. Although Heritage Vancouver advocated strongly for retention and re-use of all buildings with heritage value (the Garden Auditorium, Forum, Women's Building ['Rollerland'] and Agrodome will remain), other buildings were slated for demolition. Work began in the fall of 1997 and two phases have been finished, including the 'Sanctuary' (which involved demolition of Ron Thom's 'BC Building' and removal of the 'Challenger' map), and the 'Italian Gardens' along Renfrew, for which two B-Register structures — the Art Deco 'Pure Foods' Building, and 'Showmart', the last of the original PNE structures — were destroyed. Under the Restoration Plan, most of the remaining structures (except the Coliseum and Race Track) were also slated for demolition, including the Livestock Building and all of Playland — including the Giant Dipper Roller Coaster, a small portion of which was to remain standing as a kind of sculptural ruin.

Both these structures should be retained. To be demolished would be a tragic fate for the Coaster. For two years running, the Coaster was on the HV Top Ten list of endangered sites: the ride, built in 1958, is rated by enthusiasts to be one of the ten best examples in North America, and by some among the top three.

The Livestock Building is of historic and heritage significance.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tours & Expeditions

Spring means it's time to consider some travel possibilities, both within The city and elsewhere.

March 19

Walking Tour of Vancouver 12:00-1:00 p.m. Rain or shine. Meet @685 West Hastings (Royal Bank Building)
Join Don Luxton, preservation consultant, educator, author and Art Deco expert for a lunchtime tour of Vancouver's glamorous Roaring 1920's architecture. \$10 / \$5 for Museum members & Threepenny ticketholders

March 21 & 28/April 4 & 18

Sunday Blossom Tours@ 10 a.m. from Vancouver Museum.
Pay tribute to the arrival of spring, and to an element of Vancouver's heritage, with one of Vancouver Museum's blossom-viewing tours. These Sunday morning excursions explore the spectacular display of Vancouver's cherry blossoms – do you know that Vancouver has over 18 different varieties of flowering cherries on its streets? The tours include walks along various streets looking at blossoms and highlighting the neighbourhood's history, and then stopping at the Dr Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden to view its flowering trees and enjoy some light refreshment. The 30-minute garden tour will identify the spring blossoms and the symbolism and cultural significance of eastern blossom festivals such as the Cherry Blossom Festival in Japan and the Plum Blossom in China. Price (\$20 to Museum members; \$35.00 for non-members) includes admission to the garden. Reserve tickets by phoning 604-734-7368.

April 24-25

The Vancouver Island Bus Tour.
The Vancouver Museum is taking the Speaking of Design series on the road. Join the Museum for this weekend on Vancouver Island and Powell River. Participants will tour little known neighbourhoods in Nanaimo, visit historic Cumberland and tour the rich architectural legacy of Powell River. \$220 +GST for members \$250 + GST for general public. Contact Vancouver Museum at www.vancouvermuseum.com for full details

May 21-24 (proposed dates)

Art Deco Exhibition Tour/Fine Art Museum, San Francisco.
The Vancouver Museum and the Canadian Art Deco Society is proposing a group trip to San Francisco to see the grandest presentation of the Art Deco style ever staged. The "Art Deco 1910-1939" exhibit was mounted by London's Victoria

& Albert Museum in spring 2003; the show opened to rave reviews. More than 300 works Mark Your Calendar capture what is widely considered to be the most popular style of the 20th century: highlights include the specially restored foyer of London's Strand Palace Hotel, fashion by Lanvin and Schiaparelli, Tiffany silver, and paintings by Lempicka, Delaunay, and Stella. If you are interested, please contact Donald Luxton at donaldluxton@telus.net. Proposed costs include return airfare, hotel and admission to the exhibit. A minimum number of people is required to organize this trip. For further information on the exhibition see: <http://www.Art-Deco.Org/About/Events/Otherdeco.Htm#Museum>

June 6

Open Vancouver 2004
The second Open Vancouver annual tour of heritage homes explores exciting neighbourhoods from Point Grey, Shaughnessy, Southlands and Strathcona. Tickets go quickly, so don't miss this rare chance to get inside these unique private homes. Tickets \$35 including GST and mailing of guidebooks and are available from Vancouver Heritage Foundation www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org or by phone 604-264-9642

Ongoing events and attractions

Hidden Treasures Tours. Explore the depths of the Vancouver Maritime Museum basement, where 95 per cent of the museum's artifacts are stored. Tours take place most Tuesdays and Thursdays from January to April. Free. 4:30-5:30 p.m. 1905 Ogden Ave. Contact Marian Toft to preregister: (604) 985-7566 or donorrelations@vancouvermaritimemuseum.com www.vmm.bc.ca/programs_hidden_treasures.htm

Chinatown Walking Tours. Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. \$6 adults, \$4 seniors, students and kids. Chinese Cultural Centre, 50 East Pender St. Call (604) 658-8883 to confirm. www.cccvan.com

Roedde House Museum, 1415 Barclay St. Tour this 1893 Queen Anne Revival house. Wed.-Fri. 2-4 p.m. \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, students and children, free for kids under 5. Phone (604) 684-7040 to confirm, arrange group tours or inquire about concerts and special events. Afterwards, walk along Barclay Heritage Square. www.roeddehouse.org

Irving House, 302 Royal Ave., New Westminster. Tour an 1865 home. Sat.-Sun. 12:30-4:30 p.m. By donation. The adjacent museum opens the same hours. www.city.new-westminster.bc.ca/cityhall/museum

Fort Langley National Historic Site. Take a onehour tour of this restored 1840 HBC fort. Phone

for tour times: (604) 513-4777

http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/bc/langley/index_e.asp

The surrounding township features several late 19th — and early 20th-century heritage buildings.

www.seefortlangley.com/heritage/heritage.htm

London Heritage Farm, 6511 Dyke Rd., Richmond. Tour an 1898 house and 4.6-acre farm. Closed through Jan. 31. Starting Feb. 1 open Sat.-Sun. 12-4 p.m. By donation. Contact (604) 271-5220 or londonhf@telus.net to inquire about weekday group tours or teas. www.city.richmond.bc.ca/cultureheritage/heritage/londonfarm_index.htm www.city.richmond.bc.ca/planning/HeritageInventory/HeritageInventory_Details.asp?ID=59

Britannia Heritage Shipyard Park www.city.richmond.bc.ca/cultureheritage/heritage/britannia_index.htm

Gulf of Georgia Cannery www.city.richmond.bc.ca/cultureheritage/heritage/cannery_index.htm

Steveston Museum www.city.richmond.bc.ca/cultureheritage/heritage/steveston_index.htm

Steveston Village www.steveston.bc.ca

HERITAGE Vancouver PRESENTS

And Who Are They?

Thursday, March 18th

Vancouver's Heritage Commission is an all-voluntary body which offers advice to council on heritage issues. Did you know they have influence in other ways? Aget together of former chairs of the commission (you'll be surprised at who's been at the helm over the years) will provide a lively discussion.

The Future: Where Do We Go From Here?

Thursday, April 15th, 2004

A panel discussion with various experts in the field on what the future holds for heritage in Vancouver, BC, and Canada.

and other participating groups. July 20, 2004 is targeted as decision-day for identification of the Developer and the Non-Market Housing Sponsor. Please stay tuned to the Heritage Vancouver website for further information on these public events. Be ready to voice your opposition to the demolition of yet another Vancouver landmark.

Related web sites:

<http://www.heritagevancouver.org/>
and follow the links in the item re: Woodward's.
www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/woodwards
Woodward's Hotline: 604-871-6198
<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20040224/ph20040224.htm> for City Council Feb. 24 minutes.
<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/ctyclerk/citynews/citynewsindex.htm>

Heritage Fairs

May 1-8 Heritage Fairs. Learning to value heritage starts early: the Historica Fairs begin as hands-on classroom projects. Students research an area of Canadian history, often of local or family interest, and present their discoveries using the medium of their choice. Projects can include heritage sites and buildings; students' original presentations range from tabletop dioramas to performance pieces to web-based projects.

In May, participating schools take part in regional fairs across the land — on May 1, North Vancouver's Sea-to-Sky Regional Fair is at North Vancouver Museum; on May 8, Vancouver holds its regional fair at the Vancouver Museum.

Last year, almost 200,000 students in grades 4 to 9 participated in Regional Fairs across the country. From there, students and their projects are selected to represent their province or territory in the National Fair, which takes place every July in a different community. Montreal is the 2004 venue. For further information contact www.historica.ca/fairs or call toll free at 1-877-739-4056.



1983 Vancouver Province



joyrides.com

It was built in two phases, the oldest section built in the late 1920s to replace an earlier structure, and the final section completed in 1941, the same year as the Deco/Moderne Garden Auditorium. Fairgoers normally only see the back of the Livestock Building. The front of the building faces north toward the racetrack and Miller Walk — at that time one of the PNE's primary thoroughfares. The north facade features a striking columned portico, and mirrors the 'streamline' late-Deeco modernism of the Garden Auditorium. The Livestock complex also has major historic significance as marshalling facility for the internment of Japanese-Canadians in 1942.

Now for the good news: The Hastings Park Restoration Plan is now being reviewed, because funding for relocation of the PNE was cancelled after the Liberal government was elected. As of January 2004, the government has devolved control/ownership of the PNE to the City. As new owner, City has recently embarked on a public consultation process to determine if, and how, the PNE or annual fair might continue at Hastings Park beyond 2005 in a way consistent with the overall 'greening' envisioned in the existing Plan. This process will be over in a flash — City Council will make its final decision in late May. The first phase of the process is already complete, with stakeholder 'visioning' (Heritage Vancouver was not invited) preceding a public 'Ideas Fair' held at the Agrodome on February 29; over a thousand people attended.

If the PNE is not 'history', and continues in some form as an annual fair, then there are cogent arguments for taking a second look at some of the structures currently on 'death row'. If the exhibition continues have a livestock component, then a building constructed for the purpose of housing livestock is still needed. If livestock are no longer displayed, the building could be adapted for year-round community uses convertible to exhibition uses during the Fair. Similarly, if an amusement park continues to operate annually, it seems almost self-evident that the Roller Coaster remain in place — and operational — even if everything else gets packed up at the end of the Fair. And judging from a multitude of responses at the Ideas Fair, there is strong public support for this proposition, as well as the idea that other 'heritage' rides remain as well. Although maligned for its expanses of asphalt and junk food, Playland's arcades and service buildings are a set-piece of 50s Modernism — most notably the circular post-and-beam cafeteria formerly known by the neon 'Eat' sign atop its roof, is adaptable as a year-round 'restaurant-in-the-park' even if the City gives 'thumbs-down' to an annual fair.

The City is now developing various options for the site. Further public consultation, technical reviews and surveys will narrow the options to a shortlist. Although some people envision an annual fair as, at best, a 'tent city' that disappears completely after the event, we believe that permanent structures and a greener Hastings Park can coexist. Hastings Park belongs to all Vancouverites. Be ready to voice your opinion in the next round of public meetings. We'll keep you posted — through the newsletter and website — about upcoming public meetings.

For more information about the Hastings Park/PNE project, check the following websites:

www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/pnepark
<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/pnepark>
Email: pnepark@city.vancouver.bc.ca
Phone: 604-871-6442

To receive project news by email from the City, subscribe to the mailing list: send an email to listserv@city.vancouver.bc.ca

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Open Tuesday-Sunday 10-5
1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver
(just over the Burrard St. Bridge)
tel: 604-736-4431 ext. 387
www.vanmuseum.bc.ca

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church destroyed by fire

Another of Vancouver's landmark heritage buildings was destroyed by fire early on the morning of January 6, 2004. Built 1909-1910, the church was located at 2600 Quebec Street. It was listed as an "A" category resource on the Vancouver Heritage Register and was included on the City's Heritage Interiors Inventory in 1996. Arson is suspected as the cause of the blaze.



Photo: Don Luxton

Rapid population growth in Mount Pleasant in the period just before the First World War necessitated the rebuilding of many of the area's churches and other services. This Tudor Revival structure replaced a small wooden Baptist church built in 1890. It was designed by Toronto architects Burke, Horwood and White, who also designed the First Baptist Church on Burrard Street and the Hudson's Bay Company store at Georgia and Granville Streets. Both the exterior and the interior of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church were in a very good state of preservation. The high hammerbeam and truss ceiling was an integral part of the roof design. The vast Mahogany Room was located directly north of the sanctuary, connected by sliding double doors; this room was named for its mahogany panelled wainscoting.

The loss of this building again points out the risk facing the many heritage buildings in our city that have not yet had fire-suppression systems installed. Any new construction must be sprinklered, but of course our older heritage buildings were constructed before this technology was available. Although sprinklers are an effective building conservation measure, where will owners find the money to pay for them?

This is a brutal reminder that any of our heritage buildings that are not sprinklered could be lost at any time.

Join Heritage Vancouver

Membership valid one year from date of issue. Members receive a monthly newsletter and reduced rates for tours and other activities.

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

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