
WEST VANCOUVER MEMORIES



The West Van I Like to Remember

This 1936 photo of Larry Hughes and his dog fishing in the old Ambleside Slough is my favourite photo in the Archives. It says so much about the community before the War and the Lions Gate Bridge. Before Park Royal, apartment towers, the Upper Levels Highway, and development.

This photo, and others like it in the archives, reminds us that this simpler, more rural time actually did exist even if it was 82 years ago.

Baby Mountain (Sentinel Hill) was devoid of multimillion-dollar mansions; the Slough was, just that: a tidal backwater. The forest grew close to the water's edge. A boy could fish with a stick, a bent pin and a worm.

This is what we have to preserve and extend: the physical mementos of our memories. This is what *West Vancouver Memories* and the Archives attempt to do.

West Vancouver Memories

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We gratefully acknowledge the support of
the District of West Vancouver through its
Community Grants Program.

Leane Neufeld is New Editor

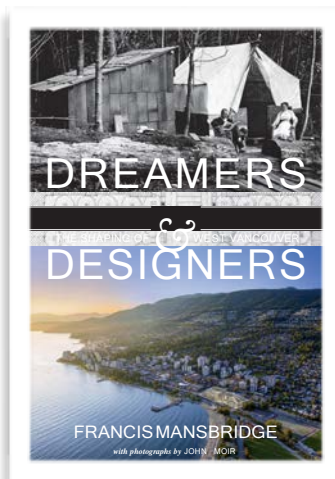
Leane Neufeld, a retired librarian at Point Grey and Britannia high schools, has volunteered to be the new editor of "Memories". She has been a volunteer for Pumpkin Fest and is a Library Trustee in North Vancouver. She brings with her a keen interest in local history and a love of research. Her first issue should be in the spring of 2019. The Board welcomes her most warmly.

2019 Membership Dues

Why wait for Spring - DO IT NOW (as the saying goes)! Membership dues are basically the only income the Society has. They are needed to pay the everyday expenses of the Society. Money from book sales is not used for this purpose. **Please pay your dues by December 1st.** Chasing you up causes the Board money and time. Please fill out the enclosed form, add a cheque and mail it in before the Christmas rush. Don't forget to indicate email or print version.

Places Where You Can Purchase "Dreamers and Designers"

There are many places in **West Vancouver** where you can purchase "Dreamers and Designers" after November 1st. *It will also be available at most Book Stores in BC and on Amazon and Indigo websites.*

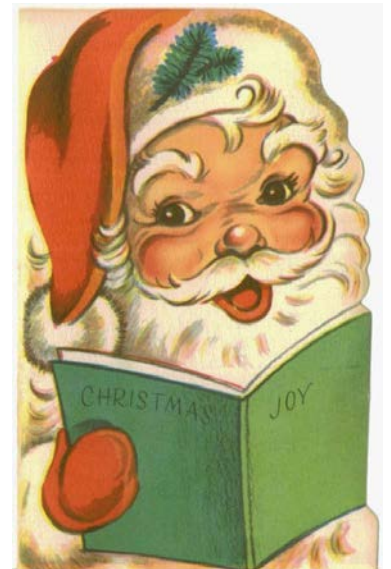


- The West Vancouver Library
- the West Vancouver Museum at Gertrude Lawson House on 17th.
- The Ferry Building Gallery
- Ambleside Animal Hospital 1455 Marine Drive
- Home Hardware in Ambleside
- Pharmasave in Caulfeild Village
- Red Horses in Dundarave

the Spirit Gallery in Horseshoe Bay

- West Bay Wellness #101 - 585 16th Street

Christmas Card Memories



World War I

The following was written by noted Canadian historian Desmond Morton for the Canadian Encyclopedia.

The First World War of 1914-1918 was the bloodiest conflict in Canadian history, taking the lives of nearly 61,000 Canadians. It erased romantic notions of awe, introducing slaughter on a massive scale, and instilled a fear of foreign military involvement that would last until the Second World War. The great achievements of Canadian soldiering on battlefields such as Ypres, Vimy and Passchendaele, however, ignited a sense of national pride and a confidence that Canada could stand on its own, apart from the British Empire, on the world stage. The war also deepened the divide

between French and the English Canada, and marked the beginning of widespread state intervention in society and the economy.

The Canadian Parliament did not choose to go to war in 1914, the country's foreign affairs were guided by London. So when Britain's ultimatum to Germany to withdraw its army from Belgium expired on 4 August 1914, the British Empire, including Canada, was at war, allied with Serbia, Russia and France against the German and Austro-Hungarian empires.

Canada's pop. 8 million

630,000 men and women served

60,661 died

172,000 wounded



top left: Canadian soldiers returning from Vimy Ridge, May 1917, courtesy of W.I. Castle, Canadian Dept. of National Defence/Library and Archives Canada

top right: Canadian soldier looking through a shell hole in the Cathedral in Ypres, Belgium, November, 1917. Canadian Dept. of National Defence/Library and Archives Canada

left: Laying trench mats over the mud during the Battle of Passchendaele, November 1917, courtesy of William Rider-Rider/Canadian Dept. of National Defence/Library and Archives Canada

West Van in World War I



The Memorial Cairn beside the Memorial Arch at its dedication on July 5, 1925, listing the names of the West Vancouver residents who lost their lives in World War I. 0160.WVA.RAH

As small as it was, West Vancouver's citizens played a role in the Great War. Our population is listed as about 850 in 1914. The numbers are a bit "iff y" as few were permanent residents. Many lived here in summer, and in Vancouver during the winter.

My grandmother told me that many young males who enlisted from West Van were recent immigrants from Britain. Their ties were to the "mother-country" and they went "home" to fight for those they had left behind. She also told me that the men and women who remained raised money and knitted socks. It is interesting to note that the population had grown to 2,000 in 1918 and 3,700 by 1920.

The World War I cenotaph was dedicated on July 5, 1925 using funds raised by the citizens of West Vancouver. Located to the west of the Memorial Arch is the Memorial Stone commemorating those killed in the First World War.

Twenty-one names are listed .

C.R. Chaffrey	H. Hungerford	R.J. Spinks
W.F. Chaffrey	T. Lance	G.A. Spencer
J.F. Dougal	D. McD. Lawson	G. Stephenson
C.R. Dolling	J. Mahood	H.L. Simonds
J. Dowling	G. Marshall	J. Turner
A.J. Downey	G.W. Mitchell	I. Williams
F.T. Grafton	T. Peterson	F.H.L. Yates

The Cairn is still there and may be visited today



This was a large number for such a small community. Everyone was related to or knew someone who had fallen. John Lawson's son, Duncan Lawson was one of them. The local chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.) was named the Duncan Lawson Chapter and was a very important part of the community until the late 1960's, awarding scholarships to graduating students at West Van High.

photo to the left:

The Memorial Dedication Parade marching west on Marine Drive to the front of the Cenotaph on July 5, 1925.

John Lawson — the Man

by Reto Tschan - West Vancouver Archivist

“My Dear Christie...”

On October 9, 1916 John Lawson enlisted with the Canadian army. In this he was not so different from the many others who joined

age might prevent him from being accepted, he lied on his attestation papers, giving his age as 44. Always hoping to be near his son, John's wartime path followed Duncan's across Canada, to England, and eventually to France. Despite attempts to have Duncan transferred to his unit, father and son met only once overseas — in England just before Christmas 1916. Ultimately and tragically, John Lawson was powerless to protect his son amidst the carnage of war. Duncan Lawson was killed in action on September 28, 1918.



John Lawson ca. 1917 (332.WVA.LAW)

up to fight what was already being called “The Great War”. While doing his patriotic duty was undoubtedly a motivation for joining, John Lawson had another reason. Just over six months earlier his son and youngest child, Duncan Lawson had left his studies at UBC to enlist. Duncan was 18 years old; John Lawson was 56. fearing his



Duncan Lawson ca. 1918

John's experiences of wartime filled the many letters which he sent home to his wife Christina and his daughters Bessie and Gertrude at Hollyburn. His letters to Gertrude are full of reassurances that he is well and safe — John led teams of horses in the Canadian Forestry Corps some distance from the front. His letters to Christina are full of concern for Duncan, and include second-hand reports of his well-being from people he met, and his hopes to have Duncan with him soon. They are rich in anecdote and observation, and provide a very personal view of the conflict.

In the letter to the right, John thanks Christina for a parcel containing favourite items such as cake, Horlick's and peanut butter.

France Aug 24 1918
My Dear Christie
I received your letter last Sunday, and am glad to hear that you are all so well. I should see how rugged Will looks. I only wish he could remain where he is "for the duration". The big can of good things also arrived. Cake, Horlick's malted milk, coffee, Peanut butter, dates, raisins, gum, etc. everything to my taste and all in first class condition, but I think you should send Duncan my share of such things. I took a couple of trips last week looking for buttermilk and have some promised next churning which is on Mardi (Tuesday). We have been having a little rain lately and the weather is much cooler, in fact a little chilly.

989-066
CANADIAN
Y.M.C.A.
Nov 10th 1918
My Dear Christie,
Just a word or two. I have been out on the search and have been with some of Duncan's old comrades, had a good talk with a man who was within 4 yds when he fell. Duncan was section leader at the time (acting Sgt) and he went down in such a natural position that the rest of them all lay down thinking he just ~~meant~~ wanted to take cover then the man who was telling me wanted to say

On the left is a letter to Christina Lawson, November 10, 1918 (006.2.2.029) Written on the day before the Armistice, John Lawson recounts the events surrounding the death of their son, Duncan Lawson.

The collection of the letters in the West Van Archives includes a number of letters written by Duncan Lawson. To mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War on November 11, 2018, West Vancouver Archives is making this correspondence available online at archives.westvancouver.ca

The letters can be viewed both in their original form and in transcription. Using the Advanced Search, simply select "Lawson family" as the Creator, and "World War I 1914 1948" under Names/Places.

**West Vancouver Historical Society
GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday, November 14th.

7 pm at the West Van Seniors' Activity Centre



Unveiling of
Memorial for C.P.R.
Employees, April 28,
1922 at the Canadian
Pacific Railway
Station in Vancouver

**Isaac Vanderhorst
will give an
illustrated talk on
“A Visual Journey
through Vancouver’s
First World War
Heritage.”**



Santa says:

Shh - but the secret is out.

**“Dreamers and Designers” is
a great Christmas gift.**

And it is only \$30.

“Dreamers and Designers” will be on sale at the General Meeting.