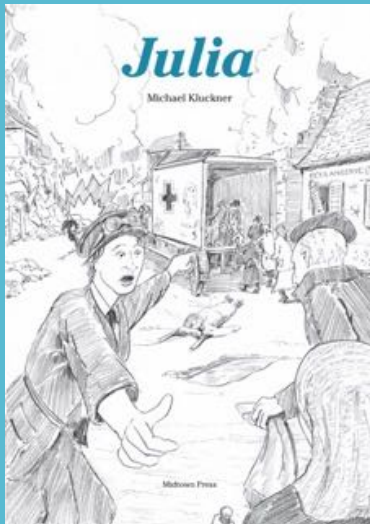


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# WEST VANCOUVER MEMORIES

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## Upcoming Speaker Series: The Extraordinary Life of Julia Henshaw



**Michael Kluckner**  
**Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00-8:30pm**  
**West Vancouver Seniors Activity Centre**

The life and adventures of Julia Henshaw, an early resident of Caulfeild, is the subject of an illustrated lecture by Michael Kluckner at West Vancouver Historical Society's March meeting. Julia Henshaw and her husband established their home in the Caulfeild area in the early 1910s. Her garden on Piccadilly North was well known in the 1920s and 30s, and was one of the first on the West Coast to feature alpine plants.

Author and lecturer, botanist and explorer, socialite and war-time volunteer, Julia Henshaw was awarded the Croix de Guerre for her services as an ambulance driver in World War I. Her views of women's roles and voting rights, of racial and class issues, and of Canada's relationship to Great Britain and the United States, contrasted frequently with the values of her contemporaries in the early years of the last century.

Michael Kluckner wrote his graphic biography, *Julia*, after more than 30 years of piecing together her truly extraordinary life. Even after the book was published in 2018, details of Julia's adventures continued to emerge.

Michael will tell how he was able, post-publication, to make contact with the Henshaws' great granddaughter in England and obtain photographs and images of hand-coloured magic lantern slides Julia used to illustrate her lectures. The slides, primarily from Julia's explorations and botanical studies in the Rocky Mountains, have not been seen since. They were featured at those lectures more than a century ago.

Vol. 36 No. 1  
March 2019  
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West Vancouver Community Foundation  
We gratefully acknowledge the support of the  
District of West Vancouver through its  
Community Grants Program.

## Membership Dues

We wish to extend a big "Thank You" to all who have sent in their membership dues for 2019. If the holidays were busy or you forgot, there is still time to send in your renewal.

## Volunteer Opportunities

From time to time the Society would like to undertake projects that require more people than we currently have available. Examples are: helping on Community Day, with the BBQ, and becoming a Volunteer Organizer.

Contributions to the Newsletter are also always welcome.

Please watch our website for these opportunities or let us know by email if you would like to help.

## Upcoming Events

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Local Voices  
May 15<sup>th</sup> – Annual General Meeting

Check the Website ([www.wvhs.ca](http://www.wvhs.ca)) for details on upcoming events, WVHS books, news, articles on pioneers, projects WVHS is involved in, and more.

## Bookshelf

Books you might enjoy reading:

Glimpses: World War II, West Vancouver Through the Eyes of the Papers and the Paperboy. Tom Taylor. 2004. (Past President of the West Vancouver Heritage Society)

Echoes Across the Inlet. Dawn Sparks; Martha Border; ed. by Damian Inwood. 1989.

Capilano: The Story of a River. James W. Morton. 1970

# Point Atkinson vs. The Storm

By: Elaine Graham

Storm wave  
breaking dock

Dec. 20, 2018



High waves during the storm of December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 destroyed the mid-section of the dock at Point Atkinson. Fisheries & Oceans Canada (FOC) engineers inspecting the damage after the storm said the dock will be rebuilt.

The Canadian army constructed the dock in 1941 to supply the coastal defense garrison and naval signal station at Point Atkinson during WWII. The dock was also essential to the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) for delivery of annual supplies to the light station and the technicians who serviced the light. After the light station was automated in 1996, use of the dock declined until September 2017 when a Coast Guard helicopter dropped off technicians. The landing prompted an alert to Fisheries & Oceans Canada and West Vancouver Parks that the dock looked unsafe for continued use.



Lighthouse keepers Gerald Watson (at winch), and Donald Graham, (facing) on Point Atkinson dock awaiting delivery from CCG supply tender. photo: Elaine Graham ca.1980s

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When confronted with storm damage in January 2018, FOC declared they had no further use for the dock and would demolish it. West Vancouver Parks agreed, citing a proposed 2018 upgrade to the Caulfeild dock as adequate wharf access for the community. In response, the West Vancouver Historical Society submitted a formal request on behalf of the community to FOC, WV Parks and West Vancouver's Mayor and Council to postpone their decision. The Society requested a comprehensive evaluation of the proposed demolition, and consideration of the cultural, heritage and educational values for retention of Point Atkinson's dock now and into the future.

Following this request, FOC and Parks managers visited Point Atkinson on March 22, 2018 and agreed to review the matter and give their final decision by May 2018.

The Historical Society heard nothing more - that is until nature took affairs into its own capable hands in December 2018! We await official news, and will keep you posted.



Broken dock at Point Atkinson Light Station. December 20, 2018

## Read All About It! West Van. News now Online.

By: Reto Tschan, West Vancouver Archivist

'Shortage of Apartments'. 'The Belt Line Bus'. 'North Shore Amalgamation'. 'Work on Lions Gate'. The headlines from the day's news in West Vancouver. But what might surprise you is that these are just some of the articles published in the local newspaper *The West Van. News*, back in 1926. Some things, it would appear, never change. Now, thanks to funding from the West Vancouver Historical Society, this rich treasure-trove of local news is available online.

*The West Van. News* was a weekly newspaper first published in 1926 by Harry Hodgson and F. Francis Lovegrove. The paper was an unabashed promoter of West Vancouver and its issues are filled with reports of growth and development in the District. Along with perennial concerns around housing, transportation, and local politics, the newspapers are also chock full of more intimate personal details. Notices record visiting relatives, personal illnesses and tragedies, along with weddings, parties and other social events. These, along with the numerous advertisements for local shops and businesses, combine to create a fascinating window into the past of our community.

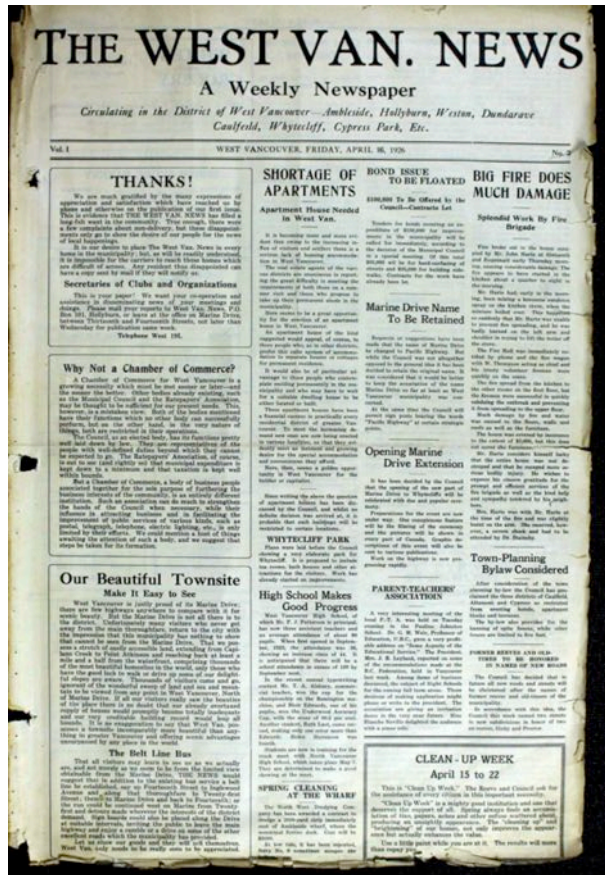
And as the western world moved from post-war reconstruction, through economic hardship, towards the threat of another European conflict, this wider reality is reflected through this uniquely local lens.

The newspaper remained in print for over 30 years, with its last issue appearing on July 19, 1957 before it was acquired by the *Lions Gate Times* the following year.

Thanks to the foresight of Rupert Harrison, former District Clerk and West Vancouver's first archivist, the West Vancouver Archives holds a fairly complete run of early issues of *The West Van. News*. Like all newspapers, however, these were never intended for long-term preservation. The highly acidic paper has become brittle over the years, and consulting the papers risks further damaging them. The newspapers had also been stapled together into monthly bundles and bound together with masking tape. Before they could be scanned, these bundles had to be carefully disassembled. While microfilm copies of the newspaper do also exist, their coverage is patchy and they too have begun to show the signs of wear and tear.

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The front page of the second issue. *The West Van. News*, April 16, 1926

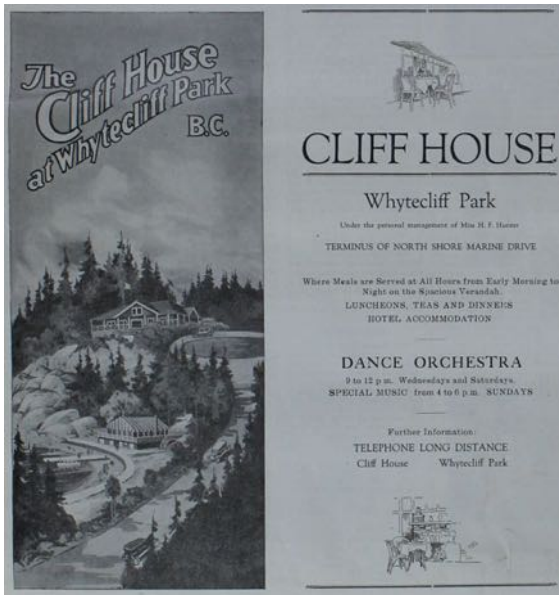


'Hollyburn Ridge' from a special illustrated issue. *The West Van. News*, July 26, 1929

It was therefore decided, in collaboration with the West Vancouver Memorial Library, to undertake a project to create digital copies of *The West Van. News*, and to make these available online.

Combining the resources of both the Archives and the Library would allow us to put together as complete a run of newspapers as possible. To date, over 200 issues, beginning on April 9, 1926 and continuing through to May 23, 1930, are available through both the West Vancouver Archives' and West Vancouver Library's websites. Just look for the link under the 'New Items' section of the Archives quick search page at [archives.westvancouver.ca](http://archives.westvancouver.ca), or visit the Library's Digital Collections page at [digital.westvanlibrary.ca](http://digital.westvanlibrary.ca). The newspapers are key-word searchable, enabling you to search for specific names and terms. More items are being added and a continuation of the project next year should see issues up to 1939 scanned and made available online.

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Advertisement for The Cliff House. *The West Van. News*, July 26, 1929.



Everyone's favourite topic of discussion in West Vancouver. *The West Van. News*, March 11, 1927.

## Participate in Local Voices

*What is it about West Vancouver that inspires our passion?*

Local Voices is a partnership of WVHS and the WV Memorial Library, and is inspired by the Local Voices program in Maple Ridge. We hope you will participate by proposing themes, topics, and speakers - if not yourself, perhaps you may recommend someone with a special interest.

### Here's how Local Voices works:

People talk about what West Vancouver means to them, relating that to a personal interest that has relevance to the community. Shared interests bring people together. Whether we live on Sentinel Hill or Horseshoe Bay, we can always learn more about the community we share, and about the people who choose to live here. We look forward to replicating the success of Creating a Garden, our first venture in this series of conversations featuring neighbours talking with neighbours about West Vancouver.

For more information about Local Voices, visit or call the West Vancouver Memorial Library Information Desk at 604.925.7403 and West Vancouver Historical Society at 778.279.2235 and [www.wvhs.ca](http://www.wvhs.ca).

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## Local Voices: Neighbours Talking with Neighbours

### Highlights from *Creating a Garden*,

Welsh Hall was at capacity on **January 9, 2019**, for *Creating a Garden*, the introductory presentation of a new series we call Local Voices.

The concept is simple. Three individuals from the community talk about what West Vancouver means to them, relating that to a personal interest that has relevance to the community. Lively conversation follows.

We liked the idea of neighbours getting to know neighbours, learning something specific about the community they share, and talking about it. We thought West Vancouverites would like this too, and it turns out that you did.

It helped that the garden was the theme for the inaugural event. First, because the subject gave us scope and second, because in January, gardening season is rising on the horizon.

Artist and author Michael Kluckner talked about the evolution of gardens and the neighbourhood character of our community, including a verbal portrait of Julia Henshaw, an early resident of Caufield.

Nora Gambioli, a third generation resident, talked about Remo, her father, and the vegetable garden he made in Horseshoe Bay.

Tish Davis told the story of the garden she created to bring pleasure to passersby on the well-traveled route along Esquimalt Avenue behind Memorial Park.

The stories and personal recollections, from the speakers and from the audience, were the high points of the evening. The conversation was lively, and opened rich paths of inquiry in connection with gardens, including protection from demolition.

### Themes for Local Voices 2019.

**April 3**      *Wild West Vancouver*  
**June 5**      *On the Water*  
**October 2**    *School Days*

**Location: Welsh Hall, W.V. Memorial Library**

*Wild West Vancouver*, next in the Local Voices series, takes on the theme of nature. Even in our small corner, the natural world is never far away. We look forward to hearing from individuals in the community and volunteer based groups with connections to, and interest in, the natural world in all its forms.

Send us your thoughts, ideas, suggestions for participants, and topics for additional themes. It's a big world. Your suggestions for subjects and speakers will help us narrow down future themes to create programs that will be as successful as *Creating a Garden*.