

The West Vancouver Historical Society has a unique role in the community

The Society exists to preserve and promote awareness of West Vancouver’s history. Membership is open to any individual, association, company or professional group interested in enjoying, celebrating and preserving the history of West Vancouver.

The mission of WVHS is to:

- Promote awareness of the history and development of West Vancouver
- Foster an appreciation of West Vancouver’s past
- Encourage community participation in celebrating West Vancouver’s history
- Use a variety of methods to tell the story of West Vancouver and members of the community both past and present.

The Plan

In the next three years, the West Vancouver Historical Society will fulfill its mission and ensure a sustainable organization by focusing on the following 6-point plan:

1. Offer diverse event programs to increase member and community engagement
2. Publish and promote West Vancouver historical information
3. Support preservation of historical materials
4. Support and advocacy for Point Atkinson Lightstation
5. Increase awareness of WVHS initiatives and WVHS influence through representation on municipal and local committees
6. Maintain WVHS sustainability with a strong board, membership and financial resources

Key Initiatives and Implementation of the Plan

1. Offer diverse programs to increase member and community engagement

Programs that are relevant and interesting to members will increase community participation and the celebration of West Vancouver history. Engaged Members also contribute to the development of programming, enhance outreach and encourage new membership.

What	How
1.1 Develop an Events program that appeals to a broad audience and different segments of the population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver three WVHS speaker events and three Local Voices events/yr • Seek feedback from participants and members for future topics. • Partner with the Library, Ferry Building and others on events to increase participation from a broader audience and use their meeting space • Organize an annual social appreciation event (Barbecue) for members • WVHS members to speak on historical topics to community groups.
1.2 Increase member involvement in WVHS projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Project Updates at Member meetings and ask for volunteers • Clearly define Projects and volunteer roles, responsibilities and time commitment, seek out volunteers for specific roles
1.3 Engage Youth - School Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage teachers and youth through projects (eg. Oral History project, Neighbourhood Story project etc.) that align with their curriculum. Possible target Grade 5. • Establish School projects or an award for a student (eg: to study history at university, or for a project on West Vancouver History etc) • Docents to visit schools to deliver historical talks, engage in public education.

2. Publication and promotion of historical information

Publishing of historical information is a key platform to promote West Vancouver history. There are many more book opportunities and additional storytelling platforms (oral histories, YouTube, other media). WVHS can be a strong supporter and a catalyst to bring these to life and to promote WV history.

What	How
2.1 Encourage publication of books and other media to promote WV history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish or support the publication of books on WV history • Partner with WV Memorial Library to display history books, • Publicize books about WV history on website and in Newsletter • Distribute pamphlets on WV History (~1000 in stock currently) • Update posters at John Lawson kiosk and install displays of the Powerhouse at the Point Atkinson Lighthouse
2.2 Capture and publish oral histories of West Vancouver residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement and complete West Vancouver Stories project for which WVHS received funding to collect, process and publish oral history stories

3. Support Preservation of Historical Materials

WVHS has assisted local organizations (Museum, Library, Archives) with grants and support to promote and preserve artifacts and historical knowledge of WV. The WVHS will continue such support in the future as resources allow.

What	How
3.1 Provide Financial Support to WV Art Museum, Library and Archives or selected other organizations for special projects that preserve and promote WV history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant applications accepted and reviewed annually from the organizations noted.
3.2 Diary of Current History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • * tbd

4. Support and advocacy for Point Atkinson Lightstation

WVHS, through its sub-committee PALS, is a strong supporter and advocate to preserve and promote the Lighthouse and its future position in the community.

What	How
4.1 WVHS and PALS to advocate preservation of the Lightstation and development as an interpretative site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a plan to advocate the Lightstation stakeholders (District of WV and Fisheries and Oceans) and engage stakeholders to develop a business plan (Lease expires 2026). Support or initiate research into business models of other Light stations. • Advocate for rebuilding of the dock which is in disrepair
4.2 Advocate to DWV Council and other relevant organizations including DFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WVHS letters of support and speaking out about current issues and need for a business plan.

5. Increase Awareness of WVHS initiatives and WVHS influence through representation on committees

Through increased profile and awareness in the community, WVHS can encourage more community participation and be sought out as a credible voice on history and heritage preservation.

What	How
5.1 Proactive and frequent communications to increase awareness and profile in the Community, increase membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Communications Committee • Develop a communications plan aligned with the Business Plan and that integrates messaging across the new website, newsletter and other vehicles to increase profile • Identify key audiences to target; Review communications/ mailing list • Publish <i>West Vancouver Memories Newsletter</i> four (4)/year • Update new website regularly with new content • Prepare and circulate an annual report • Partner with other organizations that have a strong historical component; Determine opportunity for joint initiatives and advocacy • WVHS participation at Community Day, Heritage Week and other community events as appropriate
5.2 Advocate for a WVHS representative on Committees related to history, heritage, arts and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominate and provide letters of endorsement/support for WVHS members appointment to relevant committees such as: WV Heritage Advisory Committee, the North Shore Arts & Culture Strategy Implementation Committee, WV Arts & Culture Committee, Neighbourhood Character, WV Art Museum Advisory Committee etc. • Presentations to DWV Council as appropriate
5.3 Request a DWV Council member is appointed as District liaison to the WVHS Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal request, by letter to Mayor and Council, for the appointment of a Council representative
5.4 Strengthen WVHS relationships with WV Council and other organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive communication to Mayor and Council on historical/heritage issues as required. Send Memories Newsletter to Council • Encourage Mayor and Council members to join WVHS • Identify Board members who have key contacts in various historical/heritage organizations to act as liaison to build awareness, share ideas and join together on initiatives of common interest

6. Maintain WVHS sustainability with a strong board, increased membership and financial resources

A strong board to guide the organization, stable financial resources and member attraction, retention and diversity are important to the sustainability of WVHS and its mandate. Revenue from book sales, membership, other). If new books are not produced, new funding sources are required to have the income to continue to support initiatives.

What	How
6.1 Board commitment and skills are aligned to the Plan. Board structure supports the plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review, updating and commitment of the WVHS Strategic Plan • WVHS is a “working board”. Board members must be willing to commit to taking on substantive active board roles. • Establish Board working committees – eg. Communications, Grants, Events, Book etc. as needed • Publish the plan so that members and Board members are clear on the priorities and to ensure participation / commitment to the plan • Develop a skills matrix of current Board members to understand wealth of knowledge and expertise on the Board

West Vancouver Historical Society Business Plan (2019-2021)

<p>6.2 Board Renewal, Succession Planning and Orientation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board roles, responsibilities and time commitment defined to allow for ease of transition and to recruit new Board members • Develop an orientation book for new Board Members • Use skills matrix as appropriate to identify any gaps that would need to be filled as people leave the Board and recruit for those specific needs/gaps • Board members to advise the Chair with sufficient time in advance of the AGM if they plan to step down to allow for planning Board succession and recruitment of candidates • Use Board and members' network to identify potential candidates • Tap into networks of other volunteers/committees in WV (Heritage Committee, WV Memorial Library, WV Foundation etc.) • Identify if any youth are interested
<p>6.3 Increase # of members and diversity of members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an accurate members list and follow-up on renewals • Reach out to local organizations and potential partners to communicate WVHS programs and initiatives and invite participation • Encourage members to bring a friend or potential member to an event
<p>6.4 Maintain financial resources to continue grants to community organizations and fund WVHS activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine and plan for future revenue sources to support programs and grants. (eg. Revenue from books, other sources) • Apply for grants from organizations including government to enable WVHS to support historical initiatives, or assist other organizations to apply for such grants. • Partner with other organizations for sponsorship of initiatives and to leverage WVHS resources

Background:

West Vancouver Historical Society History

The West Vancouver Historical Society (WVHS) originally began as a committee within the Rotary Club of West Vancouver in 1980. Over time the society evolved and separated from the Rotary Club. In partnership with the Municipality, the WVHS worked towards the creation of a museum and archives in West Vancouver for the collection, preservation, storage and housing of historical materials. WVHS succeeded in raising more than \$500,000, which, with municipal, provincial and heritage partners, led to the establishment of the West Vancouver Museum and Archives and the purchase of Gertrude Lawson House. In 1998, PALS, the Point Atkinson Lightstation Sub-committee of WVHS, began advocating for the development of this national heritage site as an interpretive centre. The advocacy for the preservation and promotion of the Lightstation continues with the many stakeholders involved. Since 2012, in its mission to promote awareness of history and the development of West Vancouver, WVHS has published three books about West Vancouver history and launched West Vancouver Stories, the community's first formal and continuing oral history project, collecting the stories and memories of the people who built West Vancouver. The society continues to support projects of the museum and archives by providing grants to projects that preserve the historical record of West Vancouver.

Development of the 2019-2021 Plan

Board members engaged in a series of meetings over the last year to review the historical and current business environment, membership trends and interests, financial position, society partners and other factors influencing the ability and success of the West Vancouver Historical Society to deliver on its mandate. Input was sought from members. The plan outlined in this document is a summation of the ideas and priorities determined by this process. The society acknowledges all those who contributed their time, energy and ideas to the creation of this plan.