
WEST VANCOUVER **MEMORIES**



**The WVHS
Annual
BBQ
MONDAY,
SEPT. 9TH.**

**Members and friends are invited
to the West Van Lawn Bowling Club**

21st and Esquimalt

from 5 to 7 pm.

donations welcome

West Vancouver Memories

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West Vancouver Historical Society
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Board Members

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Vice-President: vacant
Treasurer: Marilyn Rhodes
Secretary: Gail McBride
Website: Gail McBride
Membership: Laura Anderson
Newsletter: vacant
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We gratefully acknowledge the support
of the District of West Vancouver through
its Community Grants Program

Membership Dues

A reminder that the dues for 2020 are
due by the end of December. Forms will
be sent out in the Fall.

Grants

The Society would like to acknowledge two grants it has
received.

- the first was a \$1000 grant from British Pacific
Properties
- the second was a \$1000 grant from the Municipality
through its Community Grants Program.

We would like to thank BPP and the Municipality for their
continued assistance in helping the West Van Historical
Society preserve, publicize and protect West Vancouver's
history.

John Lawson Park Kiosk

I am sure that most of you have passed the John Lawson
Park kiosk over the years. The \$1000 Municipal
Community Grant will go towards the new Society poster
for the kiosk commemorating the history of the park. The
park has been and still holds an iconic place in the
memories of West Vancouverites. More information on the
story of the "Hollyburn" sign above the kiosk is on the
back page of this issue.

Robert Morris

The Society lost a former long term Board member Rob
Morris who died in late May. His special expertise was the
website and knowledge of computers. Rob overhauled
the original website and hosted the new one. He also
designed a new logo for the Society.

Municipal Hall Salute to West Van History

If you take the stairs down from the 17th Street entrance
of the Municipal Hall to the Police Station you will see a
display on the history of the Municipal Hall designed by
Archivist Reto Tschan and West Van's Cultural Services
Supervisor, Glenn Madson. Take a look. It is very
informative and interesting.

BBQ Volunteers Needed

The Society needs 4 or 5 volunteers to help with the
preparations for the BBQ. We need help from 4 to 5 pm
prior to the doors opening. Please leave a message on the
office phone, 778-279-2235 if you wish to help. We will
get back to you.

**This will be the last issue of "Memories" until we can
find an editor. Check our website at wwhs.ca often to
keep up-to-date.**

Local Voices to Be Heard Once Again

Stories are the heartbeat of Local Voices, our community's conversation series.

The Local Stories series with "Wild west Van explored how West Vancouver's gardens influence neighbourhood characters in "Creating a Garden", and how we live with, and against our environment. In June, three voyagers took us offshore with "On the Water".

The next Local Voices had three topics.

- Pauline Le Bel piloted her kayak on our local waters. She sang about Howe Sound and read from her book, *Whale in the Door*, a kind of biography of this iconic stretch of water.
- Norah Corbett launched her sabot sailing dinghy from Hollyburn Sailing Club in 1993. Building a boat was daunting at the outset, Norah admits, "Until I figured out that building a boat was like making a cake, or a dress. You begin with a recipe or a pattern, in this case a jig, and off you go."
- In 1978, Geordie Tocher launched a Haida-style dugout canoe from Fisherman's Cove and sailed to Hawaii. Daughter Cathy, and nephew Bob Aylesworth told the story of Building the Oreanda, an indigenous word meaning 'at harmony with the world around you', and of Geordie's epic voyage across the Pacific. The Oreanda rests on the Sunshine Coast today, on her slow journey of return to Mother Earth. A plaque at Dunderave Pier commemorates her voyage. More of Geordie's story with photos and videos may be found on the Historical Society's website wvhs.ca, along with previous editions of Local Voices.

Local Voices returns Wednesday, October 2nd, with "Learning Curves" at the West Vancouver Memorial Library, Welsh Hall at 7 pm.

by Laura Anderson

Local Voices 2019 & 2020 Schedule

October 2nd - Learning Curves

February 5 - TBA

April 1 - TBA

June 3 - TBA

October 7 - TBA

West Vancouver United Church turns 100

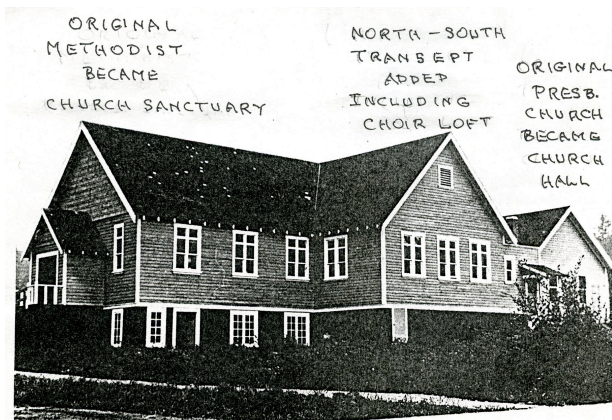
West Vancouver United Church was formed on **November 19, 1918**, when the Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists and Baptists agreed to create a United Church at Esquimalt Avenue and

21st Street. The Methodist Church Building became the main sanctuary. A transept was added and the Presbyterian Hall became the Church Hall. The Church building has undergone many renovations since 1919. West Vancouver was ahead of the rest of Canada with this amalgamation as the United Church of Canada was not formed until 1925.

The Church's Minister of Music, Gerry van Wyck, is planning **a choir festival on October 20th**. There will be **a special service on November 17th** to mark the official date of founding.

For more announcements of special 100th Anniversary happenings go online to wince.bc.ca. A more in-depth article on the history of West Van United and photos, is on the West Van Historical Society's website, wvhs.ca.

by Marny Peirson



The Hollyburn Sign Saga



Post Office Opening Day, August 12, 1936



Post Office 1955



YMCA in the old Post Office, 1982



John Lawson Park Kiosk 2019

The name “Hollyburn” for the area at the foot of 17th street in West Vancouver was created by the owner of the 20 acre plot John Lawson when he acquired the land in 1905. He and his wife Christina “planted two holly trees they had brought with them from Vancouver at the front of their house. As they were on a creek (“burn” in Scottish Gaelic), Hollyburn naturally presented itself as the name for their new property, and it has remained a popular identifier for many local businesses and organization...” (Francis Mansbridge. *Cottages to Community*. 2010 page 24).

In the early years of West Vancouver, Hollyburn was the centre of the community. It was the first departure point for the ferry system, home of the banks, realty offices, stores and post office and was a community meeting point. I grew up on 17th Street and our postal address was Hollyburn BC well into the 1950s. We knew this because it was what the large brass letters on the post office at 17th and Marine told us.

The early post office was just part of the Hollyburn General Store (site of the Coronation Building on the south-west corner) from 1914. The brass letters appeared when a new and larger post office was built on the northern side of Marine Drive on August 12, 1936. When a new post office was built in the early 1960s at the corner of Bellevue and 17th, the letters did not make the trip and were consigned to storage.

Around 2004, one of the Board members of the Historical Society, Ian Macdonald, was looking around at the few historical artifacts that the West Vancouver Museum had. He came across the letters and knew what they were. At about the same time the Municipality was planning the kiosk at the entrance to John Lawson Park. Ian suggested that the old post office letters be posted over the kiosk. There they stood for several years advertising the name of the neighbourhood.

A few years ago it was noticed that the letters had disappeared. At least that is what was thought. It was discovered that during renovations of the kiosk, the letters had been covered over with wood stain and had become invisible. The Historical Board, through the auspices of West Vancouver Cultural Services Supervisor Glenn Madsen and Parks Manager, Dan Henegar, had the letters beautifully restored by the Municipality and they once again shine over Hollyburn.

by David Barker