

Steve Nicholls

Municipal Planning and the Shaping of West Vancouver 1979-2009

**a presentation from
West Vancouver
Historical Society**

**Wednesday,
November 20, 2019
7:30 pm**



PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Rod Day

Our Society is pleased to welcome Steve Nicholls who will speak at our General Meeting on November 20. Steve served as Senior Planner, then Director of Planning, Lands and Permits, in West Vancouver for 30 years, 1979 to 2009. His years of service coincided with mine as Councillor from 1987 to 1996 and 2003 to 2008, plus my years as member of the Advisory Planning Commission, 1982 to 1986 and 1997 to 2002, so that we worked together for 26 years.

During this time West Vancouver pioneered in forging advanced policies in community planning, area planning and density transfer, green belt and creek preservation, and waterfront and parks acquisition, all of which ensured that West Vancouver would remain an attractive, park-like residential community.

Steve and the Planning Department collaborated closely with other municipal departments, notably Parks and Engineering, with members of Council, and with the many talented volunteers of our advisory commissions, making possible the integrated planning that has made West Vancouver a unique community.

Known and appreciated for his integrity, professionalism and his sense of humour, Steve's perspective on West Vancouver as a municipality on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at West Vancouver Seniors' Activity Centre will be both informative and entertaining.

I would like to call your attention to the display in the Atrium of municipal hall (on the lower floor near the police reception desk and lounge) featuring the history of the several municipal halls that have graced our town over the years. This display was put together by archivist Reto Tschan and Glenn Madsen, cultural services supervisor.

Turn the Handle by Dave Barker

When I retired in 1999 after 35 years as an educator in West Vancouver, I wondered what I was going to do to keep my mind active and what kind of challenges I would have.

Thanks to the encouragement of my colleague, Tom Taylor, I joined the board of the West Vancouver Historical Society. Exciting challenges followed, along with new and interesting friends, and the opportunity to learn about our community's history.

This door closed when I resigned from the society's board last spring after twenty years. I wondered if a new door would open and what would be on the other side.

Again, I turned the handle and walked through a new door. Our society is producing a series of display boards about West Vancouver's history. The first board is at the John Lawson Park kiosk, informing the passing public about Lawson, a founder of our community.

Opening this latest door led me to volunteer at the Archives. The Archives' collection of photographs and documents of West Vancouver's past are being digitized. First, they have to be scanned. That's my job. It does not require expertise or talent, just a few hours a week.

This project preserves West Van's historic photographs and print records and makes them available for the community to share. Go to archives.westvancouver.ca and have look.

Open a door, turn the handle and walk through. You never know what you will find.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

Marshall Bauman
David Brown
Pamela Manson
Alden May
John Poruks
Lindy Pfeil
Stephanie Slater

Board of Directors

2019 – 2020 (Elected May 2019)

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Jack Holt Cruickshank November 29, 1927 - September 2, 2019 / by Laura Anderson

Jack Cruickshank left us just before his 92nd birthday, having lived almost every one of those years in West Vancouver. He inherited his passion for the rich history of his home community from his father, Jack senior, who passed most evenings by writing. Jack senior wrote about the Hounds as he, Harry Thorley, Wally Hunter, Bill Strang, John McGillivray and Herb Ballantyne, named themselves.

“In the spring of 1918, a group of us fellows who chummed together decided to set up a summer camp.” Their summer home, the Kennel was a tent at 17 Street and Fulton Avenue, where the municipal hall now stands.

Jack married Bess Holt in 1924. They raised their children, Diane and Jack junior, in Dundarave, first in a tent, then a cabin and finally in a house that still stands, significantly altered, with the original cabin somewhere inside. Jack senior wrote about the garden he created there and at family’s next home at 22nd and Mathers. He wrote about cars bought and sold, pets lost and found, about the activities of in-laws, relatives, friends and neighbours.

Inspired by his father’s handwritten stories, Jack made his own contribution to the historic record, writing about his family - Jack senior was an Air Raid Warden during WWII - and about his own life in West Vancouver.

Father and son left us an invaluable portrait of daily life, drawn from living memory, and reaching back over 100 years. We would not have this legacy had not Jack preserved his own, and his father’s stories. He contributed them to West Vancouver Historical Society and eventually, they were donated to his community. The Cruickshank records can be found in the West Vancouver Archives.



The Hounds, off to work

Memories of Caulfeild

by Sharon Jackson

My family lived at 4922 Marine Drive from 1952 to 1976. The house, built in 1925, was originally called "The Cedars" for the trees on the property that were felled and milled to build that house and the gardener's home next door.



Royalite gas station and Chappell's Farm (right) across Marine Drive from our house. Photos: Jackson Family

The house was built for Miss Mary Chappell and her brother, Ernest. Miss Chappell called her brother Eh-nest (without the r), in that Canadian / British accent that is no longer heard in these parts.

Francis Caulfeild gave cuttings of fuschia from Robert Burns' garden and ivy from Shakespeare's garden to the original Caulfeild residents.

Another Chappell brother fought in WWI. When he returned from Europe, he came with a Belgian wife. Miss Chappell was so appalled that she never spoke to him again, despite the fact that they lived across Marine Drive from each other.

The Dog Lady, who lived in the forest up the mountain, was from a rich family in Point Grey. She chose to live alone, surrounded by her many dogs and chickens that had free rein of the house.

If the night was calm, we could hear her dogs barking, or perhaps we dreamed this. Whenever she needed to buy anything, she would walk down to Marine Drive and hitchhike into Dundarave.

After she died, her house was demolished. All that was left was the stone chimney and scattered sodden books, many of them science books and many of those in the Welsh language.

Another lady hitchhiker was Miss Radcliffe, a Scottish lady who lived with her companion, Miss Edwards, in a little yellow house on Clovelly Walk near Blue Doors bus stop. I always remember her with her white hair, her prim little hat, purse and white gloves, standing on the side of the road with her thumb out.

Across the road from our house was the Royalite gas station, run by Bill Ogilvie and his partner Al. Bill lived in Eagle Harbour. They would come to our house on Christmas Eve day and have a beer with my father.

For a while, there was also a little store there, run by a rotund little man named Jim Strilloff. He lived in the back of the store, which did not prosper, alas. On one drunken night, after raging and shouting in the street, Mr. Strilloff was taken away and we never saw him again.

I recall we did not get home mail delivery until the 1960s. Our community mailboxes were big, ugly green things at the top of The Dale Road. We got a letter once from a family friend in Australia, who had lost our address and had simply written "The Jacksons, Green Mail Boxes, The Dale Rd., West Vancouver," and we got it.

Simpler times and simpler days.

