



7th Girl Guide Company of West Vancouver celebrates 75 years of Guiding in 1985. 1425.WVA.RAH

The Origins of Guiding in West Vancouver by Laura Anderson with notes from Daphne Hales

In 2021, Guiding in West Vancouver will celebrate its centennial. Over the past 99 years, its progress has been closely connected to that of the community.

In 1921, the timing was right to introduce the Guiding movement, which had been established in eastern Canada since 1910.

Women were enfranchised in British Columbia in 1917 but were not recognized as persons by the government of Canada until 1929. The power of the vote for women would mesh with Guiding's mandate to instill self-reliance and leadership in young girls, to be accomplished through training in the domestic arts and in outdoor skills.

West Vancouver in 1921 was an ideal incubator for the raising of Brownies and Girl Guides. The population was predominantly British, with politics and the economy run by men, and socially organized by their wives, strong minded women, by and large.

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President's Letter by Rod Day

2020 marks our society's 40th anniversary.

WVHS was established on July 17, 1980 by the Rotary Club of West Vancouver, led principally by Rupert Harrison, Hugh Johnston, Harvey Hill and Thomas Erling-Tyrell.

More than \$500,000 was raised to create and support the activities of the West Vancouver Historical Society. The society was instrumental in securing the home of Gertrude Lawson, a member of one of the community's founding families, to house the new West Vancouver Museum and Archives. The dedication ceremony took place on June 29, 1992.

With the help of West Vancouver Memorial Library and the municipality's Cultural Services department, we are planning a display in the Library to commemorate 40 years of collecting and preserving the history and heritage of our community.

If anyone has artefacts, photographs or other items that could be used in the display, tentatively scheduled for Fall 2020, please get in touch with West Vancouver Historical Society.

West Vancouver Stories, our oral history project, continues. We are seeking volunteers to help produce the interviews, and people who are interested in sharing their stories and memories of life in West Vancouver.

The society's speakers' series and Local Voices presentations are recorded and are available on our YouTube channel (West Vancouver Historical Society). News about our activities is updated frequently on our website (www.wvhs.ca).

Guiding in West Vancouver, continued from page 1

Ruth Robinson (later Nesbitt), a member of the IODE, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, was the founder of Guiding in West Vancouver. A teacher at Hollyburn school, Ruth believed Guiding was something girls needed, says her daughter, Ruth Fisher, age 96, former Brownie and Guide.

Glwadys Davies was one of the first Guide Leaders in the community. She was West Vancouver's first female councillor and a business woman who operated the Blue Dragon Tearoom in Horseshoe Bay. Ruth Jackson (later Thompson) joined the West Vancouver Guides in 1924. She remembered a hike up 22nd Avenue to Cypress Creek,

"Then we decided we had better get along home, so we went on up till we hit the old flume that went along the side of the hills and we literally crawled along that because it had gotten quite dark, until we got to West Bay and then went home. My mother wasn't worried! We knew what to do - we were Guides!"



2nd West Vancouver Girl Guides float in the May Day parade of 1937. 039.WVA.ALL

**Anyone with memories or stories to share about
Guiding in West Vancouver for the 2021 centenary,
please get in touch with West Vancouver Historical Society,
(778) 279.2235 and wvhs@shaw.ca
or leave a message at www.wvhs.ca.**

Point Atkinson Update by Elaine Graham

New Historical Display at the Power House

A new historical display depicting the role of the military presence at Point Atkinson during the Second World War has been installed at the former Power House.

The display is in keeping with our society's mandate to provide and maintain interpretive information on the importance of Point Atkinson as a coastal defence station during the war.



Canadian military presence at Point Atkinson during World War Two. Photo, Elaine Graham

This project was possible thanks to the West Vancouver Foundation's generous contribution of funds and the volunteer work of our society. Our thanks for their help in creating the display to:

West Vancouver Archives

Dr. Peter Moogk, military historian and author of *Vancouver Defended*

David Broughton, WVHS member and military buff

Robert Godard, grandson of Ernest Dawe, lighthouse keeper from 1935-1946

Repairs to the Wharf



Point Atkinson wharf wrecked during winter storm, 2018.

Photo, Elaine Graham

Point Atkinson's wharf, built by the Canadian Army during the war, was partially demolished in 2018 during a winter storm. Fisheries & Oceans Canada intends to repair the wharf sufficiently to make it safe and to ensure that its integrity from a heritage perspective is maintained. Repairs will be made in two phases, during low tide over four to six weeks, and will follow current best practices about wood treatment. Work is expected to commence soon, depending on weather and materials, and will be supervised by an on-site environmental monitor.