

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the West Vancouver Historical Society (WVHS) for the year 2019-2020. Thanks to the support and participation of our members, partners, board members and volunteers, the WVHS had a successful year.

The mission of WVHS is to promote awareness of the history and development of West Vancouver, foster an appreciation for the past and encourage community participation in celebrating West Vancouver's history. The West Vancouver Historical Society is itself part of the community's history. On July 14, 2020, WVHS will be celebrating its 40th anniversary, which is an exciting milestone.

WVHS had close to 200 members in 2019. We are always seeking new ways to interest people in the history of West Vancouver and new members are always welcome. Members are encouraged to participate in society activities and to propose new ventures that celebrate and preserve the unique history of West Vancouver.

In 2019, WVHS connected with the community through our public talks, our fall barbeque, our Memories newsletter, our website and our YouTube channel. We advocated for and supported the preservation of the Point Atkinson Light station and have supported preservation of historical knowledge and materials through promotion of WVHS's latest historical book – *Designers and Dreamers, The Shaping of West Vancouver* - and support to the West Vancouver Archives for a special project. Following are some highlights of the past year.

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Speakers' Series

Over the past year we had three excellent speakers at our general Speakers meetings:

- "The Life and Adventures of Julia Henshaw, an Early Resident of Caulfeild" by Michael Kluckner, author, artist, heritage advocate and President, Vancouver Historical Society.
- "A Renewed West Vancouver: Livable, Vibrant, & Inclusive" by Mary-Ann Booth, Mayor of West Vancouver.
- "Community Heritage and the History and Innovations in Planning in West Vancouver and why it is Different from other Communities," by Steve Nicholls, Director of Planning, District of West Vancouver, 1979 - 1991.

Our 2020 speakers programming has been affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic and thus our in-person meetings had to be postponed. Talks scheduled in March 2020 with Daphne Hales on the History of Girl Guides in West Vancouver and Pamela Goldsmith-Jones in May 2020 on the history of West Vancouver will be rescheduled.

Local Voices

Now in its second year, Local Voices, our community conversation series, is a successful partnership with the West Vancouver Memorial Library. These public talks, presented quarterly at the West Vancouver Memorial Library, bring people with shared interests together to connect with our community. The mix of past, present and future has generated gratifying participation from our audiences during the conversations following the presentations. If you missed these presentations, you can now find them on the WVHS YouTube site. Topics covered included:

- "Creating a Garden," our inaugural session, showed how gardens create community and neighbourhood character. Speakers: Michael Kluckner on Julia Henshaw's garden in Caulfeild in West Vancouver's early years, Nora Gambioli on her father's vegetable garden in Horseshoe Bay, and Tish Davis on creating a garden to give pleasure to passersby.
- "Wild West Van" explored the natural environment of West Vancouver. Speakers: Dave and Gerry Brewer on founding North Shore Rescue, Dr. Jennifer McQueen on discovering West Vancouver, and Lisa Brasso on restoring our local environment.

- “On the Water” featured Cathy Tocher on her father’s ‘Voyage of the Orenda’, Patty Lebel on ‘Saving Howe Sound’, and Nora Corbet on ‘Building a Sabot Sailboat at Hollyburn Sailing Club’.
- “Learning Curves” showed us ways we learn here in West Vancouver. Speakers: Chief Janice George of the Squamish Nation on restoring the craft of weaving in her community; Geoff Jopson, former Superintendent of Schools, on the evolution of education in West Vancouver, and West Vancouver Secondary student Maya Seethram on learning now and in the future.
- Due to Covid19, we were able to present in-person only one of the scheduled 2020 Local Voices presentations. “Shooting the North Shore” in February 2020 featured news photographers Ralph Bower and Mike Wakefield talking about their work and telling stories behind their photographs.

West Vancouver Stories

Planning for WVHS’s oral history program activities took place in 2019. Training and interviews were scheduled to begin in March 2020. The program is being re-designed to function within the limitations imposed by Covid19.

Video Recordings

WVHS now has a YouTube channel where our audio-visual recordings of the Speakers’ Series and Local Voices are available for viewing. Many thanks to Elwin Xie, a committed and talented volunteer who has done a tremendous job producing these recordings for WVHS. On YouTube search for: West Vancouver Historical Society Channel or connect through a link on our WVHS website (People and Places section) to view the recordings.

Memories Newsletter

Dave Barker, who edited Memories for many years, has taken up other functions. Laura Anderson has replaced him as Editor, for which we are grateful. Print copies of Memories are sent to members if requested and WVHS provides copies of the newsletters and updates and information about our activities on our WVHS website (www.wvhs.ca) and through email posts.

GOVERNANCE

A 3-year Strategic Business Plan for the society was developed by society director Gail McBride in collaboration with the WVHS Board of Directors for 2019-2022. The six point plan focusses WVHS activities to: 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 advocate for Point Atkinson light station, 5) Increase awareness of WVHS initiatives and increase WVHS influence through representation on municipal and local communities, and 6) Maintain WVHS sustainability with a strong board, membership and financial resources. Good progress on the plan was made in 2019-2020. Copies of the Strategic Plan 2019-2022 and a Progress Report for 2019-2020 on the WVHS Strategic Plan are posted on the website under About Us/Governance.

MUNICIPAL LIAISON

Director Tom Wardell serves on West Vancouver’s Arts and Culture Advisory Committee and director Laura Anderson serves on the Heritage Advisory Committee.

BOOKS PRODUCED BY WVHS

Dreamers & Designers, the Shaping of West Vancouver, by Francis Mansbridge and photographs by John Moir, was published in November 2018 and promoted and sold by WVHS during 2019. It joins our previous publications: *Cottages to Community, a Centennial History of West Vancouver*, 2011, and *Arrivals and Departures, The Ferries & the People of Horseshoe Bay*, 2014.

Thanks to local support, sales of *Dreamers & Designers* generated \$20,500 after expenses. The funds went directly to the society’s History Preservation and Book Account, established to be used for specific projects designed to celebrate and preserve West Vancouver’s history.

FINANCIALS

WVHS remains in a good financial position. The WVHS financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2019 are attached to this report. As of December 31, 2019, the operating account at the Bank of Commerce was \$19,944 compared to \$22,680 the year before. The History Preservation and Book Account was \$18,527. The West Vancouver Stories Oral History Account was \$18,562. Term deposits total \$18,291. For more information about WVHS's finances refer to the Financial Statements attached to this report.

GRANTS

Revenue from sales of our books has enabled WVHS to support activities related to community history.

- Interpretive panels, Point Atkinson Light station Society (PALS) \$3,000
- Preservation of historical materials, (digitize the WV Municipal Council minutes), West Vancouver Archives \$1,000

POINT ATKINSON

Director Elaine Graham works hard to preserve the heritage of the Point Atkinson Lighthouse through Point Atkinson Light station Society (PALS), a subsidiary of WVHS. Elaine produced and installed a three-panel historical display at the former Powerhouse at Point Atkinson to provide interpretive information on the importance of the lighthouse as a coastal defense station during the Second World War. WVHS thanks the following for their support of the project: The West Vancouver Foundation, West Vancouver Archives, Dr. Peter Moogk, military historian and author of *Vancouver Defended*, David Broughton, WVHS member and military buff, and Robert Godard, grandson of Ernest Dawe, lighthouse keeper from 1935-1946.

Point Atkinson's wharf, built by the Canadian Army during World War II, was partially demolished in 2018 during a winter storm. WVHS through Elaine, advocated for the wharf's repair. In 2019, Fisheries & Oceans Canada agreed to repair the wharf sufficiently to make it safe and to ensure that its integrity from a heritage perspective is maintained. Repairs commenced in 2020.

DIRECTORS

Thanks go out to all the Board members who have contributed their time and expertise over this past year. Board members for 2019 included: Laura Anderson, Dave Barker, Rod Day, Elaine Graham, Barb Hunter, Gail McBride, Marny Peirson, Marilyn Rhodes and Tom Wardell.

Dave Barker retired as a director this past year. His contributions during 20+ years of service helped form the society as it exists today. Dave helped produce the society's series of books on West Vancouver history. We are pleased to report that Dave continues to be an active member of WVHS. Currently, he is working on a series of historical display boards and continues to lead the activities of the WVHS Book Committee.

Marilyn Rhodes is retiring from her role as Treasurer this year, though she will continue as a member of the society's board. We are very grateful to have had our finances in Marilyn's capable hands during her tenure. Marilyn has also managed the society's administrative and membership duties during the past few years. We thank her for her excellent service and are glad that she is remaining on the Board.

With the exception of Dave Barker, all current Directors are willing to serve again on the Board. WVHS is pleased to nominate this slate and also to nominate Lynda Roberts to the society's board for the coming year (2020-2021). Lynda is a legal services consultant and Business Manager for The Advocate, a publication of the Vancouver Bar Association, and is interested in taking on the position of Treasurer.



President's Report for 2019-2020 Rod Day

RESCHEDULED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MAY 20, 2020 to JULY 2, 2020

We postponed our Annual General Meeting of May 20, 2020 due to the COVID-19 health and physical distancing regulations. Normally, under the terms of the Societies Act of B.C. we must hold an annual meeting every year and report the results to Victoria by the end of June.

The AGM would normally include the President's report, the Treasurer's report, approval of the minutes of the AGM of May 15, 2019, and the election of officers. Because of COVID-19, we have until January 1, 2021 to hold a general meeting, or we can simply inform the B.C. Registrar of Societies that the WVHS has held no meeting this year and pay a fee.

It was the decision of the WVHS Board to hold the AGM with Board directors following a Board meeting on July 2, 2020 to ensure members are informed even in these unusual times. Board members were concerned there would be a significant delay in sharing the financials and annual report with members at an in-person meeting with no date known when that could be. Under WVHS By-laws it is possible to hold an AGM with three members in good standing.

Our treasurer Marilyn Rhodes has already submitted the financial report to the BC Registry of Societies and to the Registry of Charities for the CRA. We will forward the President's Report to the Societies Registrar.

If you have any objections, questions or concerns about these procedures, please phone or email us.

It is difficult to know what to expect over the coming months, but we hope for the best. We wish our members good health and well being during this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Day, President
West Vancouver Historical Society
July 2, 2020