



## Recognition of Elaine Graham on her Retirement, Sept 2020 By Rod Day, President of WVHS

**Elaine Graham**, who has been caring for the Point Atkinson light station for 39 years, has retired and will be leaving West Vancouver to live near her family on Vancouver Island.

She came to Point Atkinson with her husband Don Graham in 1981. Don was the last lighthouse keeper on the site before it was automated in 1996.

While Don was involved in his duties of a lighthouse keeper, Elaine helped people connect with the natural world of the park. She developed educational displays, led guided walks, and worked with the Girl Guides to develop the nature room in a building that had been erected during the Second World War by the Canadian army.

Point Atkinson was designated a National Historic Site in 1994. Two years later the station was automated, and the job of lighthouse keeper terminated. Don continued as groundskeeper at Point Atkinson until his death in 2003, when those duties transferred to Elaine.

“In taking on his duties, I came to realize the value of Point Atkinson to our community and to Canada, and its vulnerability.” In 1998 Elaine created the Lighthouse Park Preservation Society (LPPS) and later joined the board of the West Vancouver Historical Society in celebrating the links connecting the light station, the park, and Confederation.

With the assistance of the WV Historical Society, she has created a museum composed of equipment, relics, and photos from the lighthouse, and she fought hard against neglect by the federal authorities responsible for the site. Recently she wrote and produced a series of historical display boards and a Power Point presentation documenting the history of the Lighthouse and the role of the army on the site during the war. She conducts tours of the site and has always kept a watchful eye on the 75-hectare park.

Elaine has spent half her life caring for the Point Atkinson Light Station and Lighthouse Park. Few West Vancouver citizens have shown greater devotion to the public good than Elaine. After so many years of service she well deserves retirement close to her children and grandchildren. She will be greatly missed here in West Vancouver, for we know that she can never be replaced. But we will remain always, unforgettably, her friends and compatriots.

Rod Day, September 10, 2020