

photo credit: Neil Carroll

Looking Forward and Looking Back

President's Report

The end of the year is always membership renewal time at West Vancouver Historical Society.

In 2020, due to the scourge of Covid-19, it was not possible to serve our members as we had intended. Events and projects planned to recognize our 40th anniversary, and our annual barbecue, were cancelled this year.

During the summer and into the fall, our focus was directed to protecting Navy Jack House, West Vancouver's oldest building, from demolition. The Navy Jack House Citizen Group report documents the work of this enormous volunteer effort. WVHS strengthened relationships and established new connections as historians and genealogists around the province rallied to the cause, discovering much more about John Thomas and his life during a dynamic time in the story of British Columbia.

<https://wvhs.ca/projects/navvy-jack-house/>

As we members of WVHS rallied to rescue Navy Jack House, your action, in the form of letters, emails and phone calls to West Vancouver Council, made the difference. Your support is always welcome and appreciated, and doubly so during this difficult year. We hope you will renew your membership and join us on the journey through 2021.

Continued on page 4

Board of Directors

2020 – 2021

President	Rod Day
Vice-President	Laura Anderson
Treasurer	Lynda Roberts
Secretary	Stephen Price
Membership	Lynda Roberts
Website	Gail McBride
Communications	Laura Anderson
Director	Barbara Hunter
Director	Marny Peirson
Director	Tom Wardell

WVHS bids farewell to two Directors

Elaine Graham

During the 13 years Elaine was a Director of WVHS, she accomplished a great deal. A dedicated steward of Lighthouse Park and the Point Atkinson Light Station, Elaine served as the society's liaison with the station, a National Historic Site, and the Lighthouse Park Preservation Society, which she co-founded. Elaine's educational programs about the history of the Point Atkinson Light Station, and about the natural history of Lighthouse Park were informative, entertaining and accessible to local residents and visitors from all over the globe.

Marilyn Rhodes

From the day she joined us in 2010 until she retired this year, Marilyn was an indispensable member of WVHS. She was our Treasurer for those ten years and would also step in to manage administration and membership during her time as a Director of our society.

We thank Elaine Graham and Marilyn Rhodes for their dedicated and consistent support of local history and its value to our community and for their contributions to West Vancouver Historical Society.

WVHS welcomes two new Directors

Stephen Price

As a teacher in West Vancouver, part of my job is to make the strands in the fabric of our community visible to my students. One of those strands is WVHS. Another is our community's rich and diverse history. I hope to help the Society tell the stories of our history in schools, and to serve as a bridge between educators and my fellow WVHS members, who are so passionate about sharing those stories.

Lynda Roberts

Working with WVHS is my way of supporting my community. A characteristic of a cultured and accepting society is the preservation of stories and artifacts of historical significance. As West Vancouver grows and changes, I am helping to create an infrastructure that preserves older stories and incorporates newer ones. Working with WVHS in this way is rewarding personally. It helps our community construct an identity and builds a sense of collective pride.

RENEWAL TIME IS HERE

See insert for membership details.

Thank you for your support!

**West Vancouver
Historical Society**
Gertrude Lawson House
680 - 17th Street
West Vancouver, BC V6V 3T2
778.279.2235
wvhs@shaw.ca www.wvhs.ca

Generous local authors have offered their books to WVHS members

***A Life Not Chosen*, by Stewart Jackson**

Dr. Ethlyn Trapp is remembered as the woman who gave Klee Wyck to the people of West Vancouver and for her friendship with artist Emily Carr, for whom Dr. Trapp named her beloved home.

Dr. Jackson's brief biography illuminates the life of Ethlyn Trapp, remembered by her family and friends as generous, sociable, highly cultured, accomplished and educated, and as a pioneer in the field of medicine by her professional colleagues.

The first radiotherapist in British Columbia, a founder of the B.C. Cancer Clinic, and the first woman appointed as president of both the B.C. Medical Association and the National Cancer Institute of Canada, she was awarded the Order of Canada in 1968.

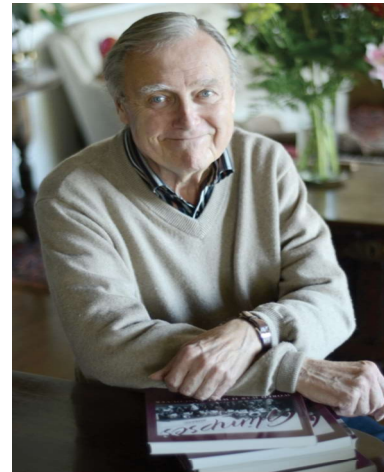
Dr. Trapp will be featured in the exhibition, "A Most Honorable Contribution: Women Who Shaped West Vancouver" in 2021 at the West Vancouver Art Museum. (See *Bulletin* for more)

Dr. Stewart has generously provided a limited number of copies of *A Life Not Chosen* to WVHS members at no cost. To reserve your copy, get in touch with WVHS.

***Glimpses, the story of World War II West Vancouver through the eyes of the paperboy*, by Tom Taylor**

With *Glimpses*, Tom Taylor has created an enduring portrait of the home front from his memories as a newsboy during World War II.

"Inserted at intervals in the text are some of the major events of the war," writes Taylor.



Tom Taylor - photo supplied

"These, like the announcements of casualties, of community events of the day."

Thanks to this welcome donation from Tom and his wife, Margaret, sales of *Glimpses* will support the celebration and preservation of our community's history, and an annual scholarship they established at West Vancouver Secondary school.

Signed copies of *Glimpses* are available to WVHS members at a preferred price of \$15 to members and \$20 to non-members, plus shipping fees. For your copy, get in touch with WVHS.

New book coming in 2021!

We are proud of our series of books on West Vancouver history: *Cottages to Community*, *Arrivals and Departures*, and *Dreamers and Designers*.

Rod Day has written a history of our municipal story from his perspective as a multi-term councillor and dedicated community volunteer.

Inside West Vancouver, People, Politics and Planning since 1912, will be published in a limited edition in 2021. To reserve your copy, get in touch through the WHS office or the contact page on our website

Continued from Page 1

As individuals, as families and as a community, we adjusted to Covid-19 and its consequences during this difficult year. That learning curve will continue into the year to come.

As a historical society, we have the advantage of being aware of how men, women and families in our community coped with the depredations of the Great Depression and World War Two. Then, as now, West Vancouver was a small, residential community. People were isolated physically from the other communities. The Capilano River bridge linked us with North Vancouver. Commuter ferries transported us across the inlet to the city of Vancouver.

Social isolation must be the biggest difference between then and now. Then, people could come together to share the hard times and the good. Today, we do our best to keep connected via Zoom meetings and small social bubbles.

2020 was the 40th anniversary of WVHS. An exhibition at the District Hall and West Vancouver Memorial Library to mark the occasion was planned for the fall but did not take place. Here is a link to the story of the society's origins on our website <https://wvhs.ca>

2020 gave WVHS ample opportunity to plan for the future and to work to preserve our community's history. Rod Day, our president, found time to complete his book, *Inside West Vancouver, People Politics and Planning from 1912*. It will be published in the Fall.

Last summer, when we learned the District intended to demolish Navvy Jack House, WVHS established the NJH

Citizen Group which fought for, and won, a future for West Vancouver's oldest building. Regrettably, despite our efforts, the buildings at Klee Wyck have been slated for demolition.

At this point, the future is too uncertain to plan public gatherings like our annual barbecue. We do plan to host our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 19th, with Mayor Mary Ann Booth as our speaker. The AGM may be in person, or via Zoom, we will keep you posted. We are planning a series of video presentations in connection with upcoming projects.

With our regular programs curtailed, we focused on finding new ways to inform and learn about our history. Building on the popularity of our Local Voices series, our goal was to create programs that make local history informative and entertaining. We wanted to work more closely with our fellow community organizations in developing and presenting these programs, and we wanted to create projects and programs that will interest members. Your participation is always welcome.

The Bulletin (see insert) has more information about two projects planned for 2021, one confirmed and the other in development.

Look for WVHS notices in 2021. We will keep you informed about these projects and others we are working and deliver news about local history and heritage.



West Vancouver Memories

Preserving and celebrating West Vancouver's history since 1981
December 2020 Vol. 37 No. 2

BULLETIN

A Most Honorable Contribution: Women Who Shaped West Vancouver May 26 - July 17, 2021 at West Vancouver Art Museum

An exhibition celebrating women whose contributions in the arts, business, education and politics helped form the character and the development of West Vancouver. A co-presentation with the West Vancouver Art Museum and the West Vancouver Archives.

The exhibition's title is inspired by a speech on teaching and community service given by Gertrude Lawson in 1925. Daughter of John Lawson, who was known as the father of West Vancouver, she was a teacher, active in Guiding, and a homeowner.

As an adjunct to the exhibition, WVHS is producing a talk and presentation to celebrate the centenary of Guiding in West Vancouver that will feature Gwladys Davies. At this point, the talk, by Daphne Hales, is planned to take place at the Phyl Munday Nature House at Lighthouse Park, whether via Zoom or in person.

These women are on 'the long list' for inclusion in the exhibition:

Jane Billaux, artist
Gwladys Davies, Guiding leader, WV's first female Alderman
Sophie Frank, Squamish Nation, friend of artist Emily Carr
Julia Henshaw, botanist and war heroine
Jacqueline Hugo, artist
Dorothy Jones, pioneer and teacher
Mary Kerr, politician
Muriel May, realtor, British Properties
Louise Spratley, editor, Lions Gate Times
Patricia Thomas, artist and designer
Dr. Ethlyn Trapp, medical pioneer, philanthropist, friend of artist Emily Carr

Any WVHS members with photographs, materials or memories relating to the women on this list please get in touch with WVHS any time before February 28, 2021.

In development: "Storied Walks of West Vancouver"

From Ambleside to Caulfeild to Horseshoe Bay, each of West Vancouver's neighbourhoods has its own character, and has written its own chapter in the story of our community.

Recorded stories will capture the character of each neighbourhood. Routes passing significant buildings, landscapes and points of interest will be digitally mapped. Choose a destination, download a podcast from the WVHS website and off you go.

In 2021, along with our "Storied Walks of West Vancouver", we will be developing local history programs in our schools.

Both projects require help to research, write content, source images and record. Members with experience in these areas are welcome. We also train volunteers in these areas, as we did with our West Vancouver Stories oral history project.

If you interested in learning more, please get in touch with WVHS wvhs@shaw.ca

Calendar of Events: January – July 2021

February 1 - The Story of Navvy Jack House

- North Shore ElderCollege Society (Zoom)

Learn how a group of citizens came together to conserve West Vancouver's oldest building. Built long before there was a West Vancouver, the house was home to the family of Navvy Jack Thomas, one of the early unions between the indigenous people and settlers on the North Shore.

February 22 - Heritage Conservation on the North Shore, a conversation

- North Shore ElderCollege Society (Zoom)

What are the benefits of owning a heritage home on the North Shore? How do the rules differ across the three municipalities? Can the process be improved? Bottom line: will the value of my house increase or decrease?

May 19 - Annual General Meeting - Speaker Mayor Mary-Ann Booth

May 26 - July 17 - "A Most Honorable Contribution: Women Who Shaped West Vancouver" - West Vancouver Art Museum