

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thank you to those who have renewed their memberships and to those who contributed above and beyond the renewal fee. Your generosity helps support West Vancouver Historical Society in our work to preserve and celebrate our community's history.

Thanks to the West Vancouver Foundation, particularly the Ian & Rosemary Mottershead and Hender Family Funds, for funding to develop our "Storied Walks of West Vancouver 2021" project. This series of curated audio walking tours will reveal the unique character of West Vancouver neighbourhoods through story telling blended with historical detail.

Join us for our Annual General Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7 p.m. WVHS will be electing its board of directors and Mayor Mary-Ann Booth will be our guest speaker. See Bulletin for more information.

We are pleased to join with West Vancouver Art Museum for *A Very Honourable Contribution*, a celebration of women who shaped the character of our community, opening in May. See page four for more information. My forthcoming book, *Inside West Vancouver, People, Politics and Planning, 1912 to the present*, details contributions to our political environment by a number of women, notably councilors Joan Greenwood, Doreen Blackburn, Dianna Hutchinson, and Jeannie Ferguson, and mayors Pat Boname and Pam Goldsmith-Jones.

We trust that all of you are well and we look forward to seeing you at future meetings when normal days return.



Photo Credit: Gordon C. Odium, 1932, WVA
Capilano Fog and Light Station at the mouth of the river

Stop by the kiosk at John Lawson Park for more on West Vancouver's lighthouses. Maintained by WVHS, the kiosk holds a rotating series of historical poster boards depicting West Vancouver's history. More on the kiosk on page two.

For more on the Capilano Fog and Light Station, link to the WVHS newsletters in the West Vancouver Memorial Library's digital collection to read John Moir's article on *West Van's Forgotten Lighthouse*.

<<https://digital.westvanlibrary.ca/3453551/page/3>>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020 – 2021

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

WVHS Displays Historical Posters at the John Lawson Park Kiosk

On your next visit to John Lawson Park, look for the kiosk at the park entrance. One of the four frames in the kiosk holds a rotating series of historical poster boards depicting West Vancouver's history.

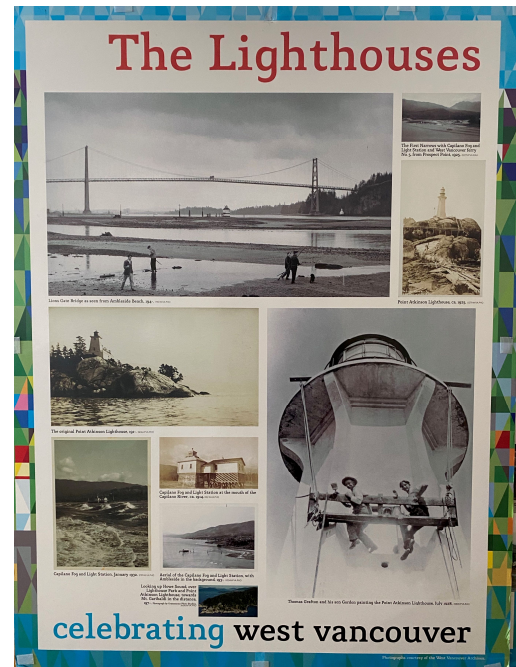
This visual and textual record of our history was created to accompany *Cottages to Community*, the book commissioned by West Vancouver Historical Society to mark our centennial in 2012.

The society plans to continue telling the story of West Vancouver by creating a series of weather resistant posters mounted outdoors across the municipality, similar to the historical information boards along the Seawalk and at Point Atkinson Light Station.

When they are not on display at the John Lawson Park kiosk, the poster boards are housed at Gertrude Lawson House at 17th and Esquimalt Avenue, home to the West Vancouver Historical Society. The boards, 46 in all, are organized alphabetically by subject and location. Board member, Marny Peirson, manages this project.

The historical poster boards are one of the ways in which the West Vancouver Historical Society helps to educate the community about our history.

April at the Kiosk - West Van's Lighthouses



Erected in 1874, re-built in 1912 with a design that became a model for lighthouse towers around the world, the Point Atkinson Light Station was designated a National Historic Site in 1994.

Who remembers the Fog and Light station that protected Burrard Inlet at the Capilano River from 1908 to 1946?

May at the Kiosk - May Day in West Van

Look back to May Day, celebrated by generations of families with a parade to Ambleside Park where maypole dancing was presided over by the May Queen and her Court. May Day was re-named Community Day and rescheduled to June in the 1970s. In 2019, the Bridge Festival replaced Community Day.

Your suggestions about locations and content for future history boards are welcome. Please get in touch with WVHS by email at wvhs@shaw.ca or by phone at (778) 279-2235.

REMEMBERING

As Canada's National Volunteer Week, April 18 to 24, approaches, it is fitting that we remember Don Grant and Paul Berlinguette. These two men personified the volunteer theme of 2021, *The Value of One, The Power of Many*, demonstrating what we can accomplish when we work together towards a common purpose.

We will remember Don for his contributions to our community history and heritage through his work with Hollyburn Heritage Society. Paul, a Hollyburn cabin owner, was an ardent environmentalist, founder of the North Shore Wetland Partners, and collector of stories and memories.



Don Grant

June 20, 1945 -
January 21, 2021

Don and his twin brother Derek, inspired by their mother's love of the mountains and undeterred by their father's fear of heights, grew up hiking, climbing and skiing the North Shore mountains.

After retiring from 35 years as a music specialist, most of them at Gleneagles Elementary School, Don took up the role of historian and archivist in earnest. Don interviewed the hikers and skiers of the Hollyburn cabin community, made films about the Lodge and collected footage and photographs from the early days.

Visit the Hollyburn Heritage Society's website <https://www.hollyburnheritage.ca/>, Don's legacy to his home community.

For Don and for generations of people like him, Hollyburn has a meaning far greater than that of a mere mountain. Hollyburn means hiking the mountains behind the mountain, climbing snowy trails illuminated by "bugs" and carbide lamps,

warming up in cabins after days of skiing and before a night of dancing at the lodge. Hollyburn means lifelong friendships and memories.



Paul Berlinguette

February 13, 1957 -
March 9, 2021

Paul Berlinguette lived most of his life on the West Coast where he worked as a tireless advocate for nature, lending his voice to those that did not have one. Paul used his skills as a story teller to inform and educate anyone who would listen about our local ecosystems and their inhabitants, particularly birds.

His interests intersected with those of Don Grant on Hollyburn Mountain. An active member of the Hollyburn cabin community and the Hollyburn Ridge Association, his advocacy for the environment found its voice in preserving the life of our mountains and creeks.

A founding member of West Vancouver Streamkeepers, Paul went on to establish North Shore Wetland Partners to speak for an unrecognized, yet essential, community asset. Those who saw Paul and his pal, Bruce McArthur, at community events and council meetings, dressed as Sammy the Salmon, or the Red Legged Frog, will never forget the experience.

The legacies created by Don Grant and Paul Berlinguette are aligned. Paul inspired an army of environmentalists dedicated to protecting and preserving the natural world. Don collected and preserved the stories and memories of those who came here to enjoy mountain life, and who learned to respect and preserve the natural world that forms West Vancouver's backyard.

SOCIETY NEWS

WVAM Exhibition. A Most Honourable Contribution, celebrating women who shaped our community.
May 26 to July 17, 2021, at the West Vancouver Art Museum

West Vancouver Historical Society is pleased to join the West Vancouver Art Museum and the West Vancouver Archives with this exhibition celebrating women who contributed to the growth and development of our community.

With artifacts and materials drawn from the Museum and Archives collections, the exhibition will focus on the lives and accomplishments of women in business, education, politics and the arts.

As a complement to *A Most Honourable Contribution*, the West Vancouver Community Arts Council will present *Legacy: Women Artists of West Vancouver*, an exhibition celebrating contributions by female artists to the visual arts in West Vancouver.

Through displays of artwork & ephemera, this exhibition will shine a light on how these women contributed to West Vancouver through the creation of their art, and through their living legacy as mentors and community builders.

Discover the stories behind these influential local artists at the Silk Purse Arts Centre, June 3 to 27, 2021.



Gertrude Lawson, a painter in oil and watercolour, pictured at her easel. Courtesy West Vancouver Archives

West Vancouver Archives. WVHS relies on the West Vancouver Archives extensive resources and research expertise in our work to preserve and celebrate our history. The Archives also assists local residents, and answers enquiries which come in from all over the globe. The District of West Vancouver funds the West Vancouver Archives, but the Archives relies on additional funding from government grants and donations provided by community organizations, businesses, and individuals.

The Archives Reserve Fund is dedicated specifically to supporting our Archives and its work. Please consider contributing your support for this invaluable community service with your tax-deductible donation. Information about the West Vancouver Archives and financial donation guidelines are located at "Support the Archives" on the WVA homepage: <https://westvancouver.ca/arts-culture/heritage/archives>.

New to WVHS Memories newsletter Bulletin (enclosed). A calendar of events and activities from local organizations with a focus on history and heritage. During COVID, it was encouraging to learn about the creative solutions devised by these organizations to stay engaged with their communities and audiences.



West Vancouver **Memories**

Preserving and celebrating West Vancouver's history since 1981
April 2021 Vol. 38 No. 1

BULLETIN

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – events sponsored by local organizations focused on history and heritage

West Vancouver Historical Society

May 19 | WVHS Virtual Annual General Meeting, details on reverse

West Vancouver Art Museum

April 20 | Genus Loci: An Introduction to Landscape Architecture of Cornelia Hahn Oberlander. Kay Meek Arts Centre with speaker Hilary Letwin, Curator WVAM

<https://kaymeek.com/events/cornelia-hahn-oberlander>

May 26 to July 17 | *A Most Honourable Contribution*, celebrating women who shaped our community, in partnership with WV Archives, WVHS, and the West Vancouver Community Arts Council.

Late May | Virtual West Coast Modern Home Tour, West Vancouver Art Museum. Early bird tickets available <https://westvancouverartmuseum.ca/hometour>

North Shore Culture Compass

May | NSCC is adding North Shore trails with cultural significance to their online guide

<https://www.northshoreculturecompass.ca/pages/cultural-organizations>

Heritage BC Annual Conference

May 20 | Climate Adaptation: It's Time for Action. <https://heritagebc.ca/events-activities/2021-heritage-bc-conference/climate-adaptation-its-time-for-action/>

May 27 | Intangible Heritage in a Tangible World. <https://heritagebc.ca/events-activities/2021-heritage-bc-conference/>

Vancouver Historical Society - <https://www.vancouver-historical-society.ca/events.html>

April 22 | James Teit and an Anthology of Belonging by Dr. Wendy Wickwire

May 27 | Mad Moment in Vancouver's History by Megan J. Davies

Vancouver Heritage Foundation

Ongoing | Virtual walking tours of Vancouver with local historian John Atkin.

<https://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/events/special-events/virtual-strolls/>

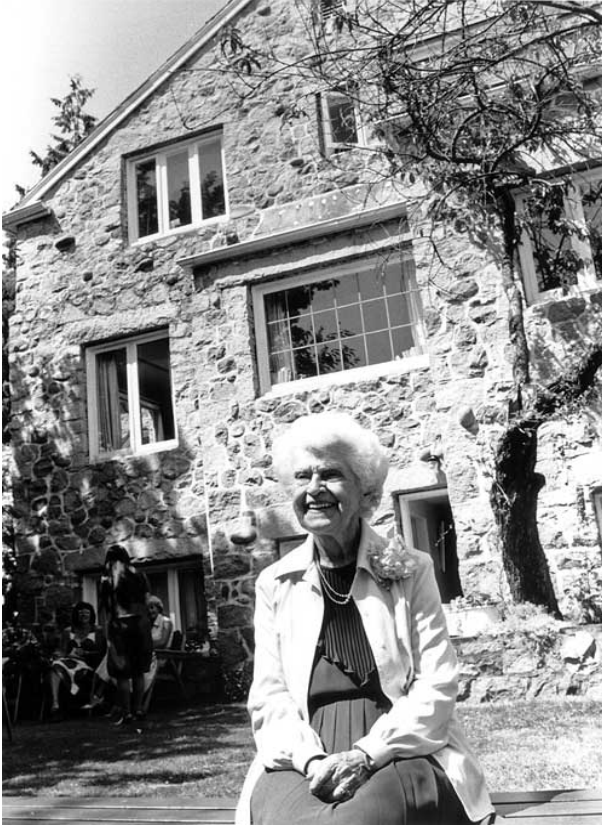
Museum of North Vancouver and Archives

Ongoing | Home Movies of North Vancouver <https://monova.ca/home-movie-day/> and Women and Wartime: Defending North Vancouver 1939 – 1945 <https://monova.ca/women-and-wartime/>

Whistler Museum and Archive Society

Ongoing | Whistler 101 History and Heritage series <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIDXD4y-PCU>

Join *West Vancouver Historical Society* for its Virtual Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7 p.m.



Gertrude Lawson on her 90th birthday outside her home at 680 17th Street. WVHS and the Rotary Club raised funds to purchase the Lawson's home to house the community's new museum. Today, the house is occupied by WVHS, WV Art Museum and West Vancouver Archives, the source of this photograph.

WVHS welcomes Mayor Mary-Ann Booth as guest speaker at this year's AGM.

Educator and philanthropist Gertrude Lawson will be recognized in an exhibition celebrating contributions made by women to West Vancouver, opening at WVAM in May. Mary-Ann Booth's contributions to our community have assured her place among these women.

Among other topics, Mayor Booth will speak about the role of women - past, present and future - in our community.

Joining the ZOOM meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89566623133?pwd=L205cURHQThEazROYWRrc1NUNzFrdz09>

Click on the button "Join the meeting".

We recommend that you "mute" your connection, but you are free to leave your video connected if you wish. This process may take some time, so please do this before the AGM to avoid any delays with joining the meeting



WEST VANCOUVER
**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**