

# Vancouver Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

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## Indigenous History of the Vancouver Area

September Speaker: Rudy Reimer/Yumks

**H**ow far back can we push Vancouver's history? To 1886? To first non-indigenous contact in 1791?

If we push Vancouver's history back to over three thousand years to the beginnings of native settlement, the majority of the city's current residents will find themselves unaware of the long and ancient history beneath their feet, in their yard, hiking trail or coffee shop. Many Coast Salish peoples lived, gathered a wide variety of resources and marked this place with habitation sites, resource use areas, place names, road networks, and gave meaning to prominent landmarks. Stanley Park, for example, is a microcosm of the native presence. Siwash Rock anchors its presence through mythology. Present day park trails were logging skid roads that followed aboriginal trails. Broken shells and dark soil found at the side of the roads came from the midden excavated from a long-time habitation area, now called Lumberman's Arch.

We know something of the

social history, the complex social organization and that conflict could be resolved through intermarriage and potlatching. We also know that trade was carried on for millennia but more recent trade brought in diseases that significantly reduced the population resulting in the necessity of consolidation to fewer habitation sites.



**Assistant Professor Rudy Reimer/Yumks**

*Photo: SFU Flickr Stream*

Non-natives are less familiar with variations of the Coast Salish language for which a modified orthography had to be created to accommodate long strings of consonant clusters and glottal stops. Hence, we have the likes of Squamish [Skwxwú7mesh], Musqueam [Xwméthkwiyem] and Whoi Whoi [Xwáyxway].

But, what does the archaeological record tell us?

Through archaeologist's eyes, our September speaker will give us a snapshot of some longtime Vancouver places and spaces, through a perspective of archaeology as deep history. As such, he will offer insight on how we should view and acknowledge these concepts of settlement, resource sharing and everyday living on a broader everyday scale.

Rudy Reimer/Yumks is of the Squamish Nation and is Assistant Professor in the First Nations Studies and Archaeology Departments at Simon Fraser University (SFU). He did his BA and MA at SFU and PhD at McMaster University on topics ranging from oral history and traditions,

place names, the archaeology and history of the Northwest Coast and Plateau. With 20 years of experience in these regions he combines seemingly disparate forms of knowledge to offer nuanced interpretations of the cultural landscape of the Vancouver region.

*Bruce M. Watson*

Next Meeting: 7:30 PM, Thursday, September 27, 2012 at Museum of Vancouver

## President's Notes

As we move into autumn, I'm pleased to report another string of successful events for the Society's summer activities. The Denman Street Car-Free Day in June saw the VHS Booth in action, with many thanks to Kellan Higgins for organizing our participation, along with Bob McDonald. We also enjoyed two field trips, to the Burrard Dry Dock site in North Vancouver in July and through Mountain View Cemetery with Lorraine Irving in August.

Summer also saw the unveiling of "The Story of Vancouver" on the Society web site, through the hard work and dedication of Bruce Watson, and the deft design skills of our webmaster, Ariba Dalal. Arranged by theme and topic, presented through pictures, quotes and a written narrative, *The Story of Vancouver* is designed to engage both "new-comer" and "old-timer". This project was developed over the course of about two years, and a veritable train-load of reviewers have offered suggestions and constructive criticism to ensure the final result delivers an informative and entertaining product. I believe it succeeds magnificently, and invite you to see the results by visiting the Society's web site and clicking on *The Story of Vancouver* link in the right-hand column.

One item of business to bring to the membership's attention is that Elizabeth Hawkins has stepped down as the Chair of the organizing committee of our annual Incorporation Luncheon. After many years of hard work, it is a well-deserved break. Thank you, Elizabeth, for your years of service in bringing this wonderful event to life!

This means, of course, that we are looking for volunteers for the annual incorporation luncheon planning committee... please contact me if you are interested!

I trust everyone enjoyed summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the monthly speaker meetings!

Scott Anderson, President  
[sanderson@vancouver-historical-society.ca](mailto:sanderson@vancouver-historical-society.ca)

## Author Looking for Help

Author Lisa Smith is currently gathering research for a non-fiction book about the "Great Vancouver Fire." If you are a descendant of an individual who experienced this event firsthand, and/or have an interesting Great Fire story or artifact that you wouldn't mind sharing, Lisa would very much appreciate hearing from you. Please contact her at 604-733-9749 or email: [clansmith@telus.net](mailto:clansmith@telus.net).

Lisa's most recent work is *Our Friend Joe: The Joe Fortes Story* co-written with Barbara Rogers and published by Ronsdale Press.

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### Friends of the City of Vancouver Archives Society's FALL FUNDRAISER

#### "Selling Vancouver in the Kodachrome Era"

##### Commercial Photographers and Filmmakers, 1940-1980

With Michael Kluckner and special guests. An illustrated talk on commercial photography and filmmaking in Vancouver in the decades after the Second World War, focusing on the people who were using Kodachrome and colour film and the backdrop of the city. Subjects include colour postcards, educational films and television commercials, illuminated by special guests who will describe the challenges of making a living in the city's small creative milieu. A reception follows the presentation.

Sunday October 14, 2012. 2pm-4pm

Tickets: \$25 Archives Society members (available Sept. 6)  
\$35 non-members (available Sept 22 on [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com))

More info:

[www.friendsofthevancouvercityarchives.wordpress.com](http://www.friendsofthevancouvercityarchives.wordpress.com)  
or call 604-736-8561.

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### Welcome New & Returning VHS Members

Judy Chadwick  
Frances McCall  
Edward Ancell  
Deborah Dunlap

Carol & Johnny Reinholdt  
Jenise Boland  
Russ & Diane Switzer  
Sayeeda Noorani

## Vancouver's Presidential Monument continued from Page 4

Although there was much speculation about the cause of death, most seemed to finally agree it was the result of congestive heart failure.

People in Vancouver were stunned. After all, he had just been in the city and many had seen him speak. During the following months, a movement was begun to commemorate the U.S. President's visit to Vancouver with some kind of memorial. The local chapter of the Kiwanis Club took a lead role in the project because Harding had been a charter member of the Marion, Ohio chapter of the organization.



**President Harding at  
Shaughnessy Heights Golf Club**

*Photo: City of Vancouver Archives AM54-S4-: SGN  
943.23*

An international competition judged by well-known North



**Harding Memorial in Stanley Park**

*Photo: City of Vancouver Archives AM54-S4-: Mon N40.1*

American sculptors was held for the memorial's design. Charles Marega, an Italian-born sculptor who had arrived in Vancouver in 1909, won the competition. (Marega's other works in Vancouver include the George Vancouver statue at City Hall, the Mayor Oppenheimer bust at the Beach Street entrance to Stanley Park and the Lions Gate Bridge lions among others.) As historian and author Chuck Davis wrote: "It was a happy coincidence that the sculptor was also a Kiwanian."

And so on September 16th, 1925 — 87 years ago this month — the Warren G. Harding memorial was dedicated in Stanley Park.

*Jim McGraw*

## Upcoming Speakers

*The VHS invites everyone (including non-members) to attend our monthly talks. The talks are free and are held at the Museum of Vancouver, 1100 Chestnut Street (close to Vanier Park) at 7:30pm on the fourth Thursday of every month except June, July, August, December).*

Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012 - 7:30pm

### **Vancouver Noir**

*Speakers: John Belshaw and Diane Purvey*

In the 1930s to the 1950s, the rain-slicked streets of Vancouver were the setting for crime, decay, repressive liquor laws, juvenile delinquency, cynicism, gangsterism, alienated fast talking men and women of questionable virtue, murders and murder plots. Our speakers examine this fascinating period through period newspaper photos and news accounts.

Thursday, Nov. 22, 2012 - 7:30pm

### **British Columbia: A New Historical Atlas**

*Speaker: Derek Hayes*

A favourite speaker is back with us to unveil his latest work: *British Columbia: A New Historical Atlas*. How is a historical atlas different from a regular atlas? While a traditional atlas contains detailed topographies and geopolitical landscapes, a historical atlas chronicles history through all that plus old maps, charts and photographs, accompanied by explanatory texts or essays.

Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013 - 7:30pm

### **Vancouver's Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles**

*Speaker: Colonel (retired) Keith Maxwell OMM, ED*

What began in Victoria in 1883 as the British Columbia Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery in 1900, evolved into the 6th Regiment, Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles with headquarters in Vancouver. The Beatty Drill Hall became its home in 1901. One of its members was J.S. Matthews, Vancouver's future Archivist. Designated the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) (DCO) in 1920, it still basically retains the same name and is universally known as the "Dukes." Learn more about its fascinating history.

# Vancouver's Presidential Monument



**Crowds gather in Stanley Park for the dedication of the Harding Memorial on Wednesday, September 16th, 1925** Photo: Phillip Timms (photographer), City of Vancouver Archives CVA 677-280

Besides its natural attractions, Stanley Park has over twenty statues, monuments, memorials and plaques throughout its almost 405 hectares (just over 1,000 acres). They range from a statue of the park's namesake Lord Stanley, to the Air India Memorial commemorating the lives lost in the bombing of Air India Flight 182 and at Narita (Japan) airport.

Visitors — especially from the United States — are often surprised and somewhat mystified when they come across the President Warren G. Harding memorial near the Stanley Park Pavillion.

In any historical ranking of U.S. Presidents judged by success in office, Harding is usually at or near the bottom of the list.

Harding, however, did what no other President had done before him — he became the first sitting U.S. President to visit Canada on July 26, 1923 when he arrived in Vancouver on a U.S. Navy ship. The President was on his way from Alaska to Seattle and stopped in Vancouver.

A lunch was held in his honour at the Hotel Vancouver (the older version at Granville and Georgia) hosted by B.C.'s Premier John Oliver and Vancouver Mayor Charles Tisdall. A large crowd of about 50,000 people turned up in Stanley Park to hear Harding speak. The President even played golf at the Shaughnessy Heights Golf Club. The club at the time was east of Granville between 33rd and 37th Avenues. (In 1960, with advancing residential development, the club moved to Southwest Marine Drive.)

While at the golf club, President Harding complained of nausea and abdominal pain. His pulse and heart rate were found to be abnormally high. His doctors treated Harding and the President left for Seattle by ship. He later continued to Portland and San Francisco by train.

Harding's physical condition continued to be weak although he seemed to rally in San Francisco. Unexpectedly, the President died on the evening of August 2nd, exactly one week after his visit to Vancouver.

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## Vancouver Historical Society Executive Board: 2012 - 2013 (Elected May 24, 2012)

### EXECUTIVE

President/Treasurer	Scott Anderson
Vice President	Robert McDonald
Recording Secretary	Kellan Higgins
Director (Membership)	Elizabeth Hawkins
Director	Michael Kluckner
Director	Eve Lazarus
Director (Newsletter Editor)	Jim McGraw
Director	Florence Sung
Director (Programs)	Bruce M. Watson

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster	Quasar Data Management
Archivist	Alexandra Allen
Info Line	Bruce Watson
Newsletter Mailing	Margaret Dinwoodie

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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