



# The Vancouver Historical Society Newsletter

*Preserving and promoting the history of Vancouver since 1936*

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## Our 2022 Summer Walking Tours

**Registration for these tours is by email at [fieldtripsvhs@gmail.com](mailto:fieldtripsvhs@gmail.com)**

**ART DECO TOUR in  
DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER  
Saturday, June 25 2022, 10am-1pm  
Guide: Maurice Guibord.**

We meet on the porch of Christ Church Cathedral, corner of Burrard and Georgia streets.

Art Deco, the shortened version of the French words *Arts Décoratifs*, or “decorative arts”, is a design form that flowed internationally from the Exposition des Arts Modernes et Décoratifs, held in Paris in 1925. The movement manifested itself during the two world wars, breaking down the barriers between art, architecture and the applied arts. It fit right into the Jazz Age, the Roaring 20s and the Gatsby era, characterized by organic natural forms and

severe lines, sometimes sinuous, oft times geometric. The style pervaded architectural designs worldwide, and Vancouver was no exception. It lent itself well to industrial and corporate buildings, encouraging fantastic arrays of decorations, yet also allowing for much more moderate displays given modest budgets or economic fluctuations.

We will explore some of the gems of this movement in our city – the inescapable Vogue Theatre and Marine building – and discover less noticed Deco details, overlooked in our daily perambulations. We will give due remembrance to Deco treasures demolished in sheer ignorance, and we will toast the survival of others through the reuse of decorated façades.

(Right) Details of the Power Block and the Coronet Theatre, Granville Street.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAURICE GUIBORD



**WHAT'S UP WITH JOHN STREET?  
July 31st, 10 am. Guide: John Atkin**

Meet at the corner of Webber Avenue and Sophia Street, and join us for a wander through the quirky subdivision and development patterns around John Street, east of Main and south of King Edward, where we'll explore the area's history, interesting architecture and a lot more.

Unlike the CPR-controlled areas west of Ontario Street, the blocks of the Municipality of South Vancouver south of the Vancouver City boundary at 16th Avenue developed with a hodge-podge of competing surveys, short blocks and narrow streets – in retrospect, a welcome respite from the relentless grid of the rest of the city.

The tour will include a close exami-

nation of some sidewalk stamps – the project of inveterate walker and VHS member Maureen Charron. She writes:

“In Vancouver, sidewalk stamps were only placed at intersections, with the stamp on a sidewalk square right beside the corner square. They may be a few squares in from the corner square (e.g., contractors deviating from the standard for whatever reason). But to find them in the middle of a street is rare. I've only found two: one on West 1st between Burrard and Chestnut



and one on Aubrey Place between Prince Edward and St. George. Both instances speak to the changing City landscape as street rights-of-way are moved or removed.

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**NEXT LECTURE:** Thursday, September 22, 2022, 7 pm, at the Museum of Vancouver and on YouTube

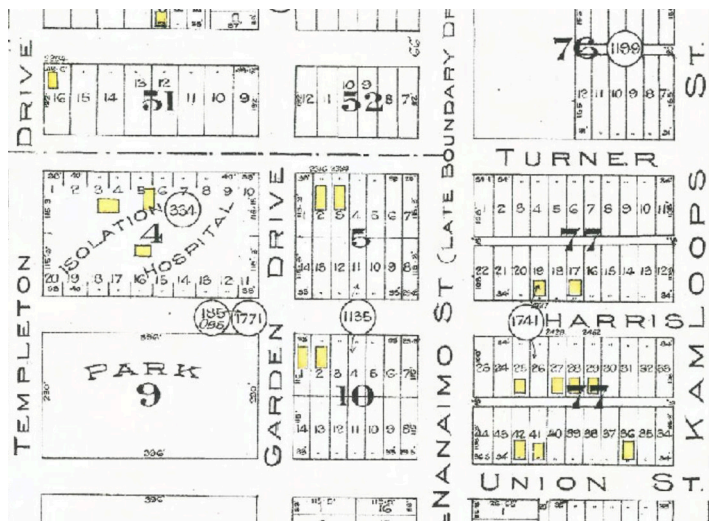
## President's Note

As we wind down for the summer, I'd like to thank my Board of directors, volunteers, and all of you, the members of VHS, for making this a successful year. We will return in September when I'm pleased to be presenting on one of my favourite topics.

For summertime reading, may I direct you to the website of the Grandview Heritage Group, [grandviewheritagegroup.ca](http://grandviewheritagegroup.ca), and the articles by Jak King, who is certainly the most diligent and knowledgeable of the neighbourhood historians in Vancouver. Over the past decade, Jak has created an extraordinary searchable database of the Grandview area, allowing a reader to track the development of the area, the composition of its population, and a myriad of other social details. He spoke to the VHS in 2012 on his book *The Drive: A History to 1956*, about Commercial Drive, and has been adding articles to the aforementioned website ever since.

Of his recent articles, the one on the City's Isolation Hospital in Grandview seems the most timely as we crawl our way out of Covid. Smallpox was the main issue then, but tuberculosis sent many to Tranquille Sanatorium or to early graves, including many Indigenous children at residential schools.

Michael Kluckner, [presidentvhs@gmail.com](mailto:presidentvhs@gmail.com)



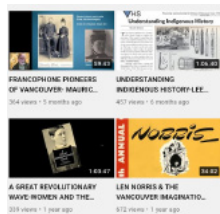
The 1912 Goad's Fire Atlas showed the Isolation Hospital just south of Hastings and west of the old city boundary at Nanaimo Street in an area with only scattered houses. The site today is a park adjoining Templeton School.

GOAD'S ATLAS, CVA, AVAILABLE ONLINE AT "VANMAP"

### Don't miss a lecture!

Visit our archive online: search "Vancouver Historical Society on YouTube" to find our lectures going back to 2016

Elwin Xie, videographer



## Upcoming Events

Our lectures take place at the Museum of Vancouver. For those not wishing to attend in person, the lectures will be broadcast live on the Vancouver Historical Society's YouTube channel.

September 22, 2022, 7 pm

Michael Kluckner

### Hippie Vancouver: Activism in the 1960s and '70s and Its Legacy

Was there more to the hippie era than "sex, drugs, and rock & roll"? This talk focuses on the tangible legacies of that era, including the impact of American war resisters, co-op housing, and the politics of local planning in the post-freeway era.

October 27, 2022, 7 pm

Gregory Betts

### Finding Nothing: The Vangardes 1959-1975

Dr. Betts, a professor of English language and literature at Brock University, is a poet and essayist. His new book, which won the 2022 Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize, is an engaging look at Vancouver's cultural life in the Beat-Hippie era.

November 24, 2022, 7pm

Best-selling author **Eve Lazarus** will speak on her new book *Cold Case BC*, a sequel to her 2016 book on Vancouver's most baffling unsolved murders.

### Welcome New Members

Stephen Mikicich  
Chi Kwan (Paul) Ng

Graham Peat  
Lucia Worthington

### Vancouver Historical Society Executive Board: 2022 - 2023

(ELECTED MAY 24, 2022)

PRESIDENT	Michael Kluckner
VICE PRESIDENT	Jan Fialkowski
TREASURER	Tom Carter
RECORDING SECRETARY	Helen Van Wel
DIRECTOR (PROGRAMS)	John Belshaw
DIRECTOR (COMMUNICATIONS)	Lynn Copeland
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DIRECTOR (YOUTH OUTREACH)	Jurian ter Horst
DIRECTOR	Robert Sanzalone

### Appointed Positions

MEMBERSHIP	Mary Wallace Poole
VIDEOGRAPHY	Elwin Xie
NEWSLETTER MAILING	Jeannie Hounslow
NEWSLETTER TEMPLATE/LAYOUT	Kellan Higgins/MK

### CONTACT

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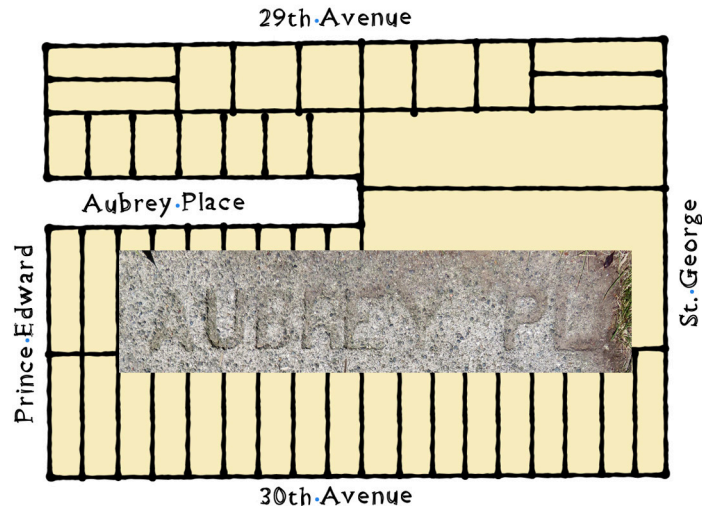
# Our 2022 Summer Walking Tours

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“By the way, the contractors who placed stamps further away from the corner square are the reason that many sidewalk stamps still exist as they were not destroyed when the ramp-building projects were in full force.”

John Atkin elaborates: “Sidewalk names and dates are a small window into the history of the city. Concrete sidewalks were first laid in the early 1900s and the earliest date stamp recorded is 1906. Sidewalk stamps can reveal old street names, hint at periods of development and larger events as the the large number of early 1930s date stamps recall city relief programs during the Great Depression.

“In Vancouver, sidewalk stamps were placed at the corners of an intersection with a few deviations here and there depending on the contractor. However, finding a stamp in the middle of the block is quite rare. Aubrey Place in the Riley Park neighbourhood is just one



block long between Prince Edward and St George Streets and the street stamp is at the mid point in the block. Why?

“A quick look at the Goad’s fire map of 1912 shows a short street off of Prince Edward which ends at the edge of four long lots that face St George. The street was originally named as 29th Ave. Place but changed in 1931 to remove the

duplication with 29th Ave. Three years later the sidewalk was laid.

“The original survey with its variety of lot sizes and lack of lanes points to the laissez-faire attitude to subdivision in the early city. The quiriness was not to last, the block was gradually resurveyed, and by the 1950s Aubrey was extended to St George.”

## **Powell Street – The Japanese-Canadian Historical Area. August 13th, 10 am. Guide: Maurice Guibord**

We meet at the corner of Dunlevy Avenue and Railway Street.

Powell Street, known as Japantown or “Little Tokio” for many years, is the area between the waterfront and Chinatown where most of the city’s Japanese-Canadian population lived and worked, with many being employed in the early years at the Hastings Mill at the foot of Dunlevy. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Canadian government followed the US government lead and removed all people of Japanese ancestry, 70 percent of whom were Canadian-born, to camps and communities at least 100 miles inland.

Today, Powell Street is but a vestige of what was once a vibrant community, in a milieu further complicated by its proximity to the Downtown Eastside.



Images of the Powell Street area: the Japanese Hall on Alexander Street, the art deco lettering on the T. Maikawa store on Powell Street, and the Tanaka family crest on a house on Cordova Street.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAURICE GUIBORD

We will bear witness to the survival of some of the community’s homes, businesses and community organizations – the Nippon Hospital, the Japanese Hall,

boarding houses, a school mission, a Buddhist temple. We will also enjoy the legacies – imprints that still decorate sidewalks, house façades, and alleyways.

## **WALKING TOUR POLICIES**

These tours are intended for members only (with accompanying guests paying \$10), and they fill up quickly. Due to the logistics of moving people around, especially downtown, we are forced to limit the numbers to 20 or 25.

Please register for the tours at [fieldtripsvhs@gmail.com](mailto:fieldtripsvhs@gmail.com)

We keep a waiting list, so if for any reason you are unable to join a tour you’ve registered for, please contact us so we can hand your spot to someone else.

# China Creek Skatepark recognized as one of the Places That Matter

China Creek Skatepark, which is the City of Vancouver's oldest, is being recognized by the Vancouver Heritage Foundation as a Place that Matters at a ceremony and gathering on Saturday, July 16th at 12:30 pm.

China Creek Skatepark opened in May 1979 and was among the first skateparks in the Lower Mainland. Area residents, including youth living nearby, contributed to its design and ever since it has become one of several centres for the skateboard community and culture. It was the only skatepark in the city until 2001 when the Hastings Bowls opened on the PNE grounds adjacent to Renfrew Street.

Since 2011 the Vancouver Heritage Foundation has recognized 92 places and shared the lesser-known histories of the people, places and events in Vancouver's history.

—Michael Gordon



2021 PHOTOGRAPH BY TED MCGRATH

## And, a song from a time when you could actually visit the waterfront

I found verse and chorus segments of an old song about the floating workshops of Vancouver boatbuilder Andrew Linton while doing research on the City Wharf and the foot of Carrall Street in early Vancouver.

Andy Linton, "the little boat man," began building and renting boats in 1886 from his floating shop at the foot of Carrall Street before leaving the Gastown waterfront in 1907. Linton Boatworks, a focal point for Burrard Inlet watersports in the 1890s, offered free slips, boat storage, rowboat rentals and a front-row seat for Coal Harbour racing.

The song was the work of William H. Kelly, who arrived in 1893 from the Isle of Man. Its lyrics were printed in the *Vancouver Sun* on September 12, 1936 (page 38). Kelly was an accomplished entertainer, musician and writer of short poems, and one of the founders of the Manx Society in 1909.

"If you've got a sweetheart and you know your love is true  
You really want to wed her and you think that she loves you  
You want to pop the question but you don't know what to do  
Well here is my advice to you: Get out on the blue..."

Subsequently, I spent months figuring out how to animate Andy Linton's Boathouse for the Canada Nautical Research Society 2021 conference attendees.

"If your mother-in-law is vexing you and your home is all upset,  
She rules the roost both night and day, and you're in an awful fret.  
Don't think your case is hopeless, for you may just win out yet,  
Take her for a water ride that she won't soon forget."

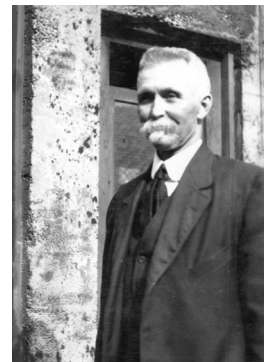
One challenge to overcome was the original lyrics that suggested pushing one's mother-in-law overboard. Through

the Vancouver Folk Music Society, I was introduced to Dr. Richard (Rick) Pollay from the ensemble The Lazy Jacks for some advice on how to handle the offensive parts of this melody-less song. The suspect verse was thrown overboard on his suggestion, and a new 2021 composition called Andy Linton's Boathouse emerged in a form that an average musician could sing. Unfortunately, any notion of preserving authenticity disappeared with the removal of the mother-in-law line.

At its heart, this ballad advises young, lovelorn men on how to attract the affection of the girls and mothers-in-laws they care for, with an added Vancouver waterfront spirit. The song has been attempted in different pitches and tempos, with the only limitations being the performers' own creativity. True to that COVID-19 era, Rick and I co-wrote this Gastown-inspired composition without even meeting face-to-face, in addition to not being acquainted.

"Once Gastown had a City Wharf, but that went down the drain,  
The railway claimed and filled the beach - laid rails for the train.  
The old street-end locations are now behind fence and chain,  
Where once we went a-rowing, only memories remain."

— Trevor Williams



Andy Linton, c. 1930.

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