

President's Note

May is our last lecture of the season, and we have a suitably "good weather" subject for it. We also hold our Annual General Meeting and do our society's housekeeping this month. Please consider attending, and if you can't and you're happy with what we've been doing, send me your proxy. I'm pleased to say we have good candidates for our board vacancies, and wish to thank Brenda Peterson, Lynn Copeland, and Helen Vanwel for their service on the board over past years. We wish them well in their new volunteering endeavours.

-Michael Kluckner, presidentvhs@gmail.com

Notice of Annual General Meeting and Call for Nominations

The Vancouver Historical Society will hold its AGM by Zoom teleconference on **Tuesday, May 23rd at 7 pm**. All members will receive by email an invitation to the meeting a few days before.

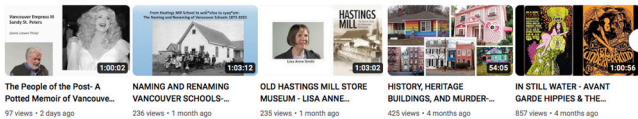
As has been done in previous years, **if you're unable to attend you may send your proxy vote to the President, Michael Kluckner**, in advance of the meeting, at presidentvhs@gmail.com

Agenda:

1. Approval of 2022 AGM minutes
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Report of Nomination Committee

All nominations for board positions must be received in writing at presidentvhs@gmail.com 7 days before the meeting.

Search for our video archive at "Vancouver Historical Society on YouTube" Videographer: Elwin Xie



The Archives' 90th Birthday Celebration

Readers who are on social media should follow the fascinating posts every day on the City of Vancouver Archives' pages. They are highlighting parts of the collection with some great photos. We'll be visiting the Archives itself for our June 14th field trip.

The Back-Page Quiz

Fraser Street at 22nd Avenue. The old house on the bluff was torn down about 20 years ago and replaced with townhouses.

Upcoming Events

Members will receive registration details for each field trip in an email a few weeks before the event. Space is limited and there will be a follow-up confirmation request so that we can accommodate everyone on a waiting list. There will be more details in the June newsletter.

Wednesday, June 14th, 10 am

An Event with the City of Vancouver Archives

On its 90th anniversary, Archives staff will present a tour of its holdings and discussion at the Archives.

Sunday July 16th, 2:00 pm

Dressed for History at the MoV

Ivan Sayers

A special tour with curator Ivan Sayers of the costume exhibition at the Museum of Vancouver, concluding with coffee and cookies in the MoV boardroom.

August, date TBA

A Tour of the Orpheum Theatre

Arranged by Bill Allman of the Entertainment Hall of Fame, this special tour will include a visit to its Wurlitzer organ conducted by Tom Carter, VHS Treasurer and our April speaker!

Welcome to new VHS Members

Aaron Bailey
Heather Anne Driver

Sheila Martineau
Maureen Painter

Vancouver Historical Society Executive Board: 2022 - 2023

(ELECTED MAY 24, 2022)

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

Appointed Positions

MEMBERSHIP	Mary Wallace Poole
VIDEOGRAPHY	Elwin Xie
NEWSLETTER MAILING	Michael O'Hagan
NEWSLETTER TEMPLATE/LAYOUT	Kellan Higgins/MK

CONTACT

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A history of bicycle wreckfulness and recklessness



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So, what was different in the past?

A lot. Journalists were far less concerned with privacy. An accident in the 1950s could generate days of news coverage that explored the life and character of the victim, including names, addresses, the names of other family members, their occupations, and so on. The driver would be identified too. Even in the 1970s and

Clockwise from top left: The Vancouver Bicycle Club in front of the observation point ('summer house') at Prospect Point 1895; Mr. H. McCulloch and chum in front of W.A. Brown Plumber, 239 East Hastings Street, 1905, Hannah Knudson collection; Bicycle Club on ferry, May 1935, photograph by James Crookall. **CITY OF VANCOUVER ARCHIVES**
PHOTOS AM54-54:- ST PK P174, AM1376-F14:- CVA 312-40, AM640-S1:- CVA 260-1411

'80s the name, neighbourhood, and profession of an unfortunate cyclist was usually exposed but we saw a real drift away from identifying motorists responsible for accidents and deaths. Increasingly their privacy became a concern. In the 1950s – and even more in the 1920s and '30s

when automobiles were still relatively new and safety was rarely enforced – the press would sometimes go after drunk or hit-and-run drivers as “monsters” and “killers.” You’d never see that now.

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Cycling Accidents in the news since 1886

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What about in the pre-World War I period?

I recently found an eye-popping document in the Police Archives at the wonderful Vancouver Police Museum. It dates from the 1920s and it shows that every motorist whose actions resulted in a death was automatically charged with manslaughter. The driver might get a fine or license suspension, but they were also looking at jail time. A Coroner's inquest would follow almost immediately, and the court would decide whether to proceed with charges. Remarkably, the same applied to cyclists who killed. Now, there aren't a lot of those. I've found only five in Vancouver since 1886. There's a case from 1913 of two boys on a tandem who clip – fatally – a pedestrian near Commercial Drive. One is fifteen and he's looking at a long spell behind bars, even though he was on the back seat. There's another in 1900 which plays out on a larger stage and occupies the front page of local papers for days. I'll be talking about this incident in my presentation because it tells us a lot about the press at the time, what



W.M. Bruce photograph of girls and their bikes, c. 1900. British Columbia Sugar Refinery collection. CVAAM1592-1-S2-F05-: 2011-092.0279

“cycling” looked like at a social and spatial level, and how it illuminates the way that society in early Vancouver actually worked. As Lance Armstrong used to say, “It’s not about the bike.” Well, not just

about the bike.

Should attendees wear hi-viz vests to the presentation?

Absolutely. And helmets.

A quiz: this is photograph CVA 660-339 (AM505-S1-) in the John Davidson fonds at the City of Vancouver Archives – that’s “Botany John” Davidson (1878-1970) of UBC, the Provincial Botanist responsible for gardens at UBC and Essondale-Riverview. The tentative title is “A road under construction in Kerrisdale,” ca. 1913.

But, you ask, where is there a road like this in Kerrisdale? Where could it be?

Here’s a hint – the signboard on the streetcar. The streetcar itself is a hint.

Give up?

Look for the answer at the bottom left of page 2.

