



# The Vancouver Historical Society Newsletter

Preserving and promoting the history of Vancouver since 1936

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## Summer Field Trips!

Our field trips this year are all indoors and take advantage of our collaborations with Vancouver's diverse group of historical organizations. Register for them in response to the email invitation you will receive a few weeks before each tour.



### Vancouver City Archives, June 14th Fully booked as of June 1st.

You've come a long way, baby: a photograph of the first City Archives room, in the attic of City Hall on Main Street (at the northwest corner of Main and Pender) c. 1931. The archives moved in 1933 to the temporary City Hall in the Holden Building at 16 East Hastings, then to the new City Hall in 1936, and then to the Vancouver Public Library at Burrard and Robson in 1959. Its current building in Vanier Park opened in 1972, and was the first building in Canada built specifically as an archive, and arguably one of the first buildings to have a green roof, as it is low and fitted into the landscape, with grassed platforms over its storage areas.

The tour celebrates the 90th anniversary of the appointment of the first City Archivist, Major James S. Matthews, in June 1933.

CVAAM54-S4-: CITY N11

### Dressed for History: Why Costume Collections Matter Museum of Vancouver

#### Tour with Curator Ivan Sayers

WOMEN'S FASHION 1750–2000

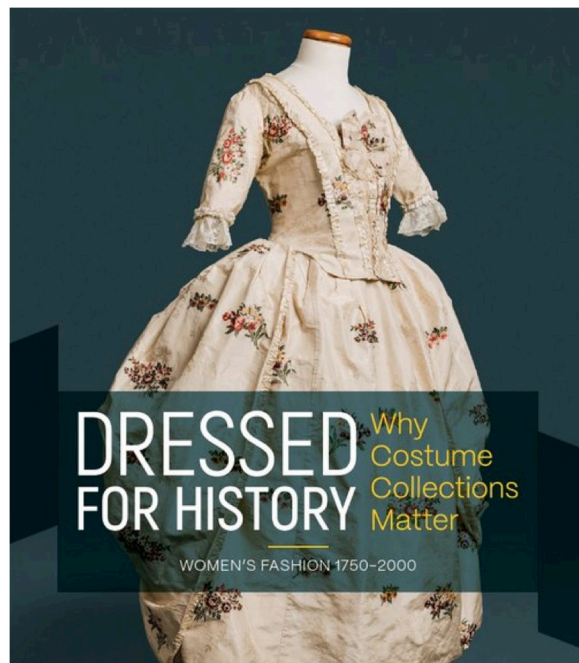
When: Sunday, 16 July at 2:00 pm

Where: Museum of Vancouver (meeting in the MOV lobby)

Four local collectors have recognized the importance of preserving costumes to document the past and inspire the future. Ivan Sayers, Claus Jahnke, Melanie Talkington and the members of the BC Society for the Museum of Original Costume (SMOC) are fashion historians with significant collections that feature some of the rarest garments and fabrics in the world.

The Museum of Vancouver has invited these collectors to share their knowledge of costume history by showcasing pieces from their collections. Dressed for History: Why Costume Collections Matter posits that fashion is an enduring expression of personal identity and social change. This exhibition confirms Vancouver as home to world-class costume historians.

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**NEXT LECTURE:** Thursday, September 28, 2023, 7 pm, at the Museum of Vancouver and on YouTube

# Our Year in Review

This was the "President's Report" at the Annual General Meeting held on May 23rd by Zoom – Michael Kluckner

This was the year we returned to a "new normal" in the post-pandemic world. Unlike past years, we were able to fully adopt a hybrid model of in-person lectures while live-streaming the talks via YouTube to members and others who wished to attend virtually. Our videographer Elwin Xie coordinated this system, as well as continuing his invaluable service of crafting finished versions of the talks for our YouTube archive, which contains most of the presentations going back to 2016.

There was something of a theme of the 1970s in three of our talks: I, Michael Kluckner, spoke on the legacy of Hippie Vancouver in September; Gregory Betts talked of the Grateful Dead and its impact on the city's literary and cultural scene in October; and Kevin McKeown recollected the early days of Gay Vancouver in March. Eve Lazarus spoke on her book *Vancouver Exposed* in November, and Lisa Anne Smith spoke on her book *Hastings Mill: The Historic Times of a Vancouver Community*. The evolution of school names and what it said about changing Canadian values was the subject of Lindsay Gibson's talk in March, and Tom Carter regaled a large crowd in April with stories of collecting Vancouver entertainment history and creating large-scale historical paintings of the city. [John Belshaw wrapped up the year on May 25th with his talk on historic bicycle accidents and how their coverage in the media reflected society's values.]

We hosted walking tours of Powell Street, Mount Pleasant, and Art Deco during the summer, and held a reception at the University Golf Club on April 2nd to celebrate Incorporation Day and present our Award of Merit to Coast Salish artist Susan Point.

We continue to have an active and engaged board, and I would like especially to thank Jan Fialkowski, our vice-president, for her diligence in organizing events and coordinating administration; she also responds to the diverse and fascinating questions that come into our Infoline. Tom Carter's ongoing work as treasurer, and his liaison with bookkeeper-account Grace Bu, has kept our financial house in order. John Belshaw, the program manager, is responsible for collecting and advancing suggestions for the speaker series, and works with the speakers to ensure their presentations go smoothly. Jurian ter Horst provided connections with student historians and, through his involvement

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## Upcoming Events

Thursday September 28, 2023, 7 pm

### The UBC Botanical Garden

Patrick Lewis, Director

Going back to the days of "Botany John" Davidson, the UBC Botanical Garden was founded in 1916 and is Canada's oldest university garden. Its original mission was research into BC's native flora, a mandate much-expanded since into community outreach, conservation, and education.

Thursday October 26, 2023, 7 pm

### Youth Hostels and Hostile Locals:

### Vancouver's "Battle of Jericho," 1970

Linda Mahood, Professor of History, University of Guelph

Few motorists in the late 1960s could have escaped the sight of hundreds of scruffy young people hitchhiking and flipping peace signs along the Trans-Canada Highway on their way to Vancouver. To Mayor Tom Campbell's astonishment, the Trudeau government responded by setting up a national network of free youth hostels. Tourism, wanted and unwanted, has the capacity to cause conflict with locals. The talk explores the local reaction to hostels in the Beatty Street Drill Hall and Jericho Garrison, and one of the few riots of the hippie era.

## Welcome to new VHS Members

Brian Beesley  
Lindsay Gibson

Christina Potter  
Gwendolyn Yip

## Vancouver Historical Society Executive Board:

2022 - 2023

(ELECTED MAY 23, 2023)

PRESIDENT Michael Kluckner

VICE PRESIDENT Jan Fialkowski

TREASURER Tom Carter

RECORDING SECRETARY Anne Wyness

DIRECTOR (PROGRAMS) John Belshaw

DIRECTOR (COMMUNICATIONS) Robert Sanzalone

DIRECTOR (FIELD TRIPS) Denise Jacques

DIRECTOR (YOUTH OUTREACH) Jurian ter Horst

DIRECTOR (EDUCATION) Lindsay Gibson

## Appointed Positions

MEMBERSHIP Mary Wallace Poole

VIDEOGRAPHY Elwin Xie

NEWSLETTER MAILING Michael O'Hagan

NEWSLETTER TEMPLATE/LAYOUT Kellan Higgins/MK

## CONTACT

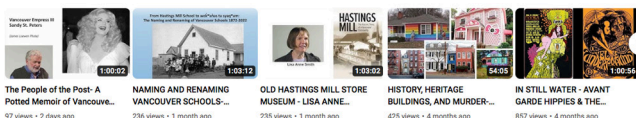
Vancouver Historical Society Email: [vanhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:vanhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3071 Vancouver, BC V6B 3X6

Website: [www.vancouver-historical-society.ca](http://www.vancouver-historical-society.ca)

## Search for our video archive at "Vancouver Historical Society on YouTube"

Videographer: Elwin Xie





# Summer tours for VHS members

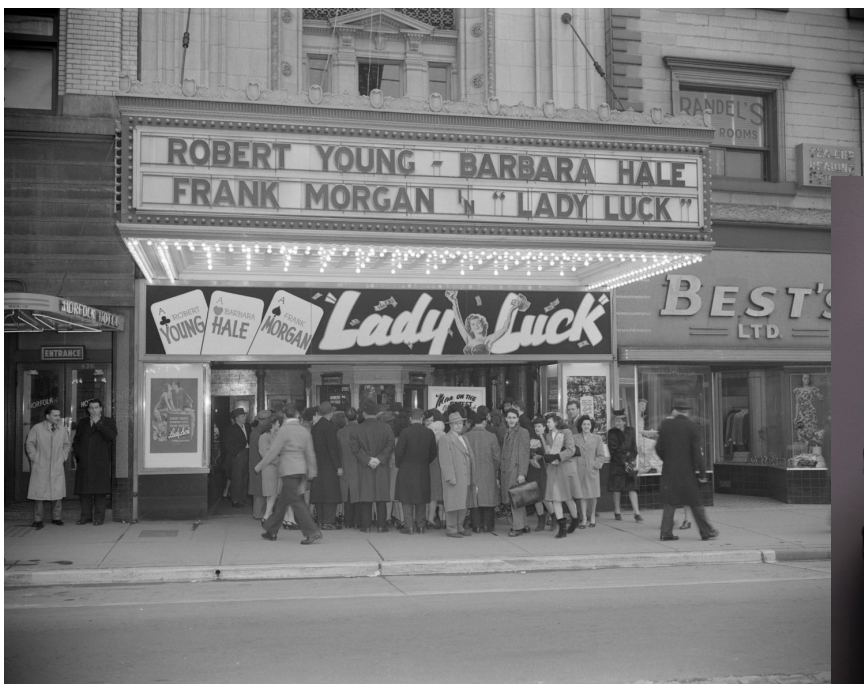
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**Ivan Sayers**, our guide to the Dressed For History exhibition at the Museum of Vancouver on July 16th. Registration for the tour will be announced by email late in June. **PHOTOGRAPH BY PAULA SHORE**



First City Archivist Major Matthews (1878–1970) with wife Emily at Granville & Robson. He came to Vancouver in 1898 and began collecting and documenting the City's history, finally acknowledged with his appointment as archivist in 1933. Photo by Kandid Kamera Snaps, 1940s. **AM54-S11-3---**: **CVA 371-3076**



**Our third tour of the summer**, at a date in August to be announced, will be "behind the scenes" at the beloved Orpheum Theatre, conducted by **Bill Allman**, president of the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame, and featuring (it is rumoured) a performance on the mighty Wurlitzer by our very own phantom of the opera, **Tom Carter**. Built in 1927, the Orpheum was the largest vaudeville theatre in Canada, designed by Benjamin Marcus Priteca, the star designer for the Pantages chain. After decades as a cinema, in the 1980s it narrowly avoided conversion into a multiplex which would have destroyed its fabled and fabulous interior. 1946 photo by Jack Lindsay.



**AM1184-S1-:** **CVA 1184-2306**



# Our Year in Review



Michael Kluckner  
President



Jan Fialkowski  
Vice-President



Tom Carter  
Treasurer



Anne Wyness  
Secretary



John Belshaw  
Programming



Jurian ter Horst  
Youth Outreach



Robert Sanzalone  
Communications



Denise Jacques  
Field Trips



Lindsay Gibson  
Education

## Board of Directors, 2023–2024

**CONTINUED FROM INSIDE**  
with the Heritage Vancouver Society (where he is now the president), helped to link us with it and other history-minded groups in the city. Through our former board member Jessica Quan, we participated in its Places That Matter community event in February.

Three of our board members are retiring and we thank them for their service. Brenda Peterson has been vice-president and lately organized our summer tours. Helen Vanwel acted as secretary and recorded minutes of VHS Board meetings and the AGM. And Lynn Copeland ensured that our electronic communication with members and social media posts went out smoothly.

Our newest board member, Robert Sanzalone, has taken over Lynn Copeland's role of communication and social media. And I, as president, ran the VHS monthly meetings and coordinated various activities, as well as designing and laying out the newsletter.

I would like to welcome three new board members for the 2023-2024 year. Anne Wyness will serve as secretary and is a long-time member of the Society, as

well as the author of *Larder of the Wise*, her book on her family's business, the James Inglis Reid butcher shop on Granville Street; she spoke about it at a lecture in 2021. Denise Jacques has a doctorate in history and has been active in recent years with SMOC – the Society for the Museum of Costume; she will be coordinating our field trips and events. And Lindsay Gibson is a professor of history in the education department at UBC and, as mentioned above, gave a lecture on his project on the naming of schools a few months ago.

We could not function without our

other volunteers. Mary Wallace Poole has been our steadfast membership secretary for many years. Jeannie Hounslow mailed the printed newsletters for the first part of the year, and then handed over the task to Michael O'Hagan. Grace Bu CPA keeps our books and prepares the monthly and annual financial statements.

Thanks go as always to our members for renewing, attending lectures and keeping the Society going. Your generosity has put us in an enviable position where we are able to recover all of our costs of running programs with membership dues and donations.



We mourn the loss of the Kitsilano Showboat, damaged "beyond repair" in an April 22nd fire. Planning is underway to rebuild it. **PHOTO C. 1970 BY DAN PROPP, NATURAL COLOR PRODUCTIONS.**