



# Summary of our work in 2015



# To the members of Heritage Vancouver

**For your society, this has been the first year of a refined direction. We have been focusing on our programming, tying our fight for heritage with the Heritage Action Plan, introducing the idea of change and the concept of a future for heritage, and building a stronger foundation for the society to grow.**

For heritage, this has been the year of the **Heritage Action Plan** and we have contributed heavily to the public engagement portion with our Shaping Vancouver Series.

Over four sessions in the spring on Heritage Conservation Areas, neighbourhood character, the importance of main streets and exploration of what Vancouver's heritage is, we were extremely successful at engaging larger audiences throughout the series.

We reached capacity with registrations, averaging over 120 people for each. Exposure was also strong—we made it onto CBC Radio twice, Global news twice, and had articles in the Georgia Straight and the Vancouver Courier.

Importantly, we were able to have on our panel throughout the series, 23 recognized professionals and the sponsorship of SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement. Attracting such a pool of recognized experts and support would not have been possible without the profile of your society. All who have contributed to Heritage Vancouver throughout the society's history deserve thanks.

The series has really defined us and represented the progressive nature of the society. In the words of our President, Javier Campos, "We've introduced the idea of change into our thinking—a concept of a future for heritage—being more forward looking and sensitive to what's going on in society. Going forward, we will continue to offer imaginative and forward thinking events and talks to build on this success and direction."

Arguably, the most visible manifestation thus far of the Heritage Action Plan has been the creation of the First Shaughnessy Heritage Conservation Area. We were extremely active in this endeavor, writing position letters and speaking in front of council. Additionally, we were a leading source of information on the process to keep people informed. With our e-bulletin, we provided detailed updates on what was happening at the Public Hearings, the positions of the various stakeholders, and supplemental information that could be used by the public when writing and/or speaking

to council. This culminated in two free walking tours that we organized to point out the threats to the area along with a booklet containing informed and reasoned responses to the misinformation that was circulating. See it at [www.heritagevancouver.org/hca/HVS-First-Shaughnessy-HCA-tour-2015.pdf](http://www.heritagevancouver.org/hca/HVS-First-Shaughnessy-HCA-tour-2015.pdf)

We are also extremely pleased that our relationship with the Historic Districts Council in New York helped in this pursuit; the Executive Director, Simeon Bankoff, wrote a cogent letter conveying New York's experience with heritage conservation areas to our Mayor and Council.

First Shaughnessy has been on our Top10 list four times in recent years and we are proud that we have been able to play a significant role in the creation of the Heritage Conservation Area.

The First Shaughnessy Heritage Conservation Area is however just one step. There is a lot more work that needs to be done to extend protections and awareness for other areas in Vancouver. This will be the next component of the Heritage Action Plan—the character home piece. This piece will be drawing considerable attention as the issue applies broadly to numerous areas in our city facing record numbers of demolitions and loss of trees (The Globe and Mail has it at an estimated 1141 demolitions in 2015 and within that figure is one character home and seven trees per day).

As with First Shaughnessy, you can expect the same amount of determination and dedication from us. We will make the effort to get all the pertinent information to you in plain language so that your effort to write and speak to council when the time comes will be as simple and straightforward as possible.

Administratively, we have vastly improved our internal systems to make administrative tasks and information retrieval more efficient. These systems will tie in nicely with our strategic planning in 2016 as we will be improving alignment between our mission and strategy to guide resource allocation, realize internal efficiencies, and to deliver enhanced reporting to you on our work so that you may better gauge our progress.

Lastly, I just want to mention membership. We are very grateful for your support and we depend on your membership in the society. Numbers are powerful—a large body of members makes a tremendous impact on our conservation and awareness-raising efforts.

Your membership makes our work possible. As we head into another year, please continue your support and consider making a donation to help the society do more of this important work.

**Bill Yuen**

Manager, Heritage Vancouver Society  
December 2015

# Summary of our work in 2015

## City of Vancouver Heritage Action Plan

After the formal establishment of the City's Heritage Conservation Program 25 years ago, the Heritage Action Plan was implemented in 2015 to revise how Vancouver's heritage conservation is managed.

Heritage Vancouver has been working to help this significant initiative along by being a channel for community engagement, participating in the Heritage Action Plan Technical Review Committee, and circulating information on what is happening with the plan.

## Shaping Vancouver

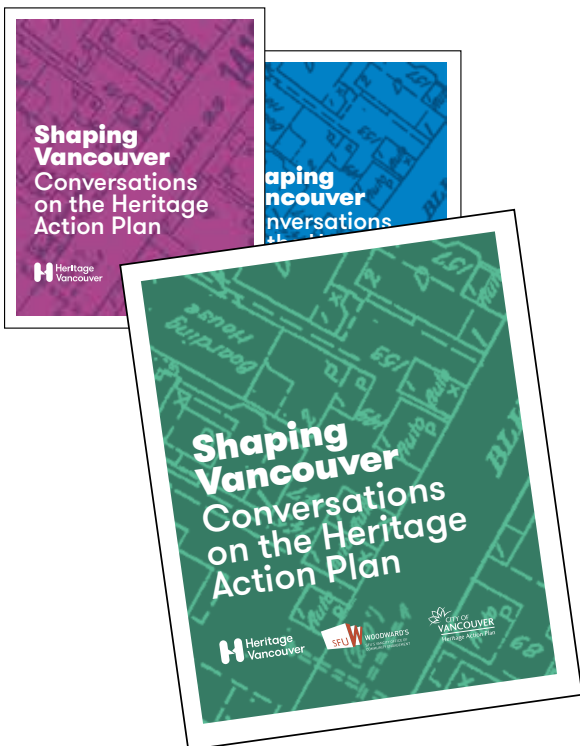
Heritage Vancouver has been working to help this significant initiative along by being a channel for community engagement through the Shaping Vancouver Series, participating in the Heritage Action Plan Technical Review Committee and Character Home Rezoning Workshop, and circulating information on the plan for the public to have their say.

The four part series consisted of:

1. Are Heritage Conservation Areas right for Vancouver?
2. What is Vancouver's Heritage?
3. What is Neighbourhood Character?
4. Our Main Streets.

These were exciting events providing a significant opportunity for input into the update of the City of Vancouver's Heritage Conservation Program.

Shaping Vancouver will be a valuable conduit for the discussion of the key aspects of the Plan, and an ongoing opportunity for public engagement in this complex and exciting project, according to Donald Luxton, Donald Luxton and Associates – principal consultants on the Heritage Action Plan







## First Shaughnessy Heritage Conservation Area (HCA)

Heritage Vancouver championed the creation of Vancouver's first Heritage Conservation Area. We spoke in full support at the public hearings and pushed hard for letter writing and support from the public particularly through organizing two fully booked free walking tours to inform on the threat to the area.

During the months spanning the three public hearings, misinformation and arguments not backed by credible information surrounding the proposal had spread, prompting us to gather credible and accurate information to produce our booklet First Shaughnessy and the Proposed HCA to respond to the arguments made against it.

## Top10 Endangered list

Every year for the past 15 years, we have published a list of the 10 most endangered heritage sites in Vancouver. This is a key tool for us to reach the public.

Once again, the list was highly anticipated by the local media and we are thrilled that it was the most read article on the weekend it came out in the Vancouver Courier.

The accompanying bus tour, which was probably the best one we've had, was also featured in the Globe and Mail. We are extremely grateful to and proud of the close to 400 hours of time that volunteers devoted to creating this year's list.

We are very honored to report that the York Theatre, a former Top10 site which was saved, has requested our help and involvement in raising awareness for its new incarnation.

Our Top10 lists for 2001 to 2015:  
[www.heritagevancouver.org/topten.htm](http://www.heritagevancouver.org/topten.htm)

## Burrard Bridge

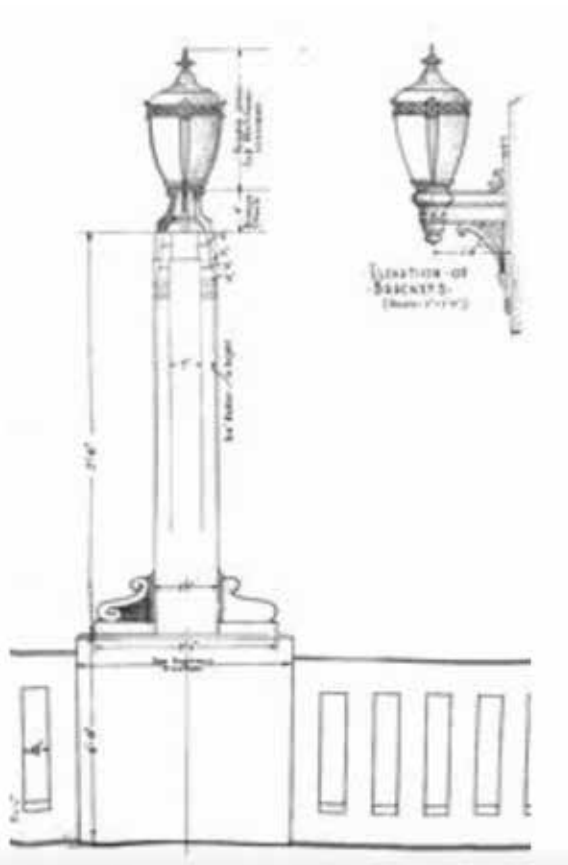
The Burrard Bridge is one of the most significant heritage resources in Vancouver, and for over twenty years Heritage Vancouver was the public leader in opposing and preventing a range of proposed and unsympathetic interventions to this icon.

In the summer of 2015, after the public consultation process had completed, means prevention fencing was added to the rehabilitation proposal for the bridge. Heritage Vancouver expressed our strongest opposition to these interventions and called on council to allow for full public consultation in addition to the exploration of alternate solutions.

Ultimately, council voted for the project to proceed with the barrier. However, as a priority stakeholder, we were invited to consultation sessions with City of Vancouver staff on the design of the barrier where we were able to get agreement that the design of the barrier be sympathetic to the overall design of the bridge.

Also importantly, we were successful in getting the city to include work on significant heritage features of the bridge that was not included in the original scope of work.

These include the restoration of the concrete balustrade, recreation and reinstatement of the historic concrete lamp standards, scrolls on the lights, and historic light fixtures (which also serve to take the eye away from the barrier).



## Communications

Central to our strategy to engage with a wide audience, we have an overall new brand; a new website, logo and graphic design with a distinct look that makes Heritage Vancouver instantly recognizable.

It uses a colour scheme that represents the dynamic and progressive nature of Heritage Vancouver and our creative approach to preserving heritage. This gives us a consistent, professional, and dynamic look to all forms of external communication (i.e. letters to council, press releases, Heritage Vancouver website) whether it be digital or print.

The logo and accompanying colours and font are extremely important in creating a connection with our audience because they become the visually pleasing and emotionally appealing container for our ideas, expressions and information about heritage—much like how items of cultural heritage are containers of ideas and expressions.



## Garden Tour

For the past four years, as an important fundraiser for the society, Heritage Vancouver has organized a self-guided tour of enchanting private gardens in Vancouver.

For two days every summer, whether passionate about plants or looking for inspiration for their own outdoor space, hundreds of people have visited 12 to 13 gardens that range from smaller intimate spaces to grand riverfront retreats.

The garden tour is also an excellent opportunity to go see neighbourhoods that one normally does not go to.

This year, many Vancouverites identified a sense of community as part of heritage in the Heritage Action Plan survey; we featured a grouping of charming front gardens as well as a historic house converted into townhouses as examples of collaborations between neighbours and the desire to create a sense of community.

Every year over 100 volunteers help deliver this event. And over the past four years, 50 homeowners have opened their gardens for us to enjoy.

We would also like to give our biggest thanks to Penny Noble for without her, the tours would not be the overwhelming successes that they are.

## Tours and Talks

Our key events and tours this year:

- An annual bus tour on a retro bus provided by our friends at the Transit Museum Society coinciding with the release of our Top10 Endangered List in Spring
- An annual question and answer event on the state of heritage in the city with the General Manager, Planning and Development Services for the City of Vancouver. Brian Jackson spoke to us before his retirement.
- Two walking tours of First Shaughnessy by board member Richard Keate during the period it was being considered as a Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) to bring focus to the threat to the neighbourhood and how the HCA could mitigate those threats.
- Tours that celebrate some of the most recognized heritage buildings and institutions in our city such as the Marine Building and The Commodore Ballroom.





# #HeritageReboot

Digital records of our  
urban environment

Saturday, May 23, 2015  
1pm to 4:30pm

Roundhouse Community Centre, Engine 374 Pavilion,  
181 Roundhouse Mews (Corner of Davie and Pacific)



Drop by **#HeritageReboot**, a fun, free public event that combines modern technology with heritage conservation.

The **City of Vancouver, Vancouver Heritage Foundation, Vancouver Archives** and **Heritage Vancouver** will launch new digital projects that open up Vancouver's heritage in new ways for everyone.

1:00pm

Welcome

Cake-cutting

City of Vancouver Heritage  
Action Plan Open House

2:45 to 4:15pm

Tours of Yaletown  
and Engine 374

## Other

- Responded to numerous calls inquiring about heritage issues in the city including the Heritage Kaplan Sign, the Magee Grocery Neon sign, Kerrisdale Baptist Church, Jack Wood House, Gabriola House, St. Paul's Hospital, C.B.K. Van Normans, Oakridge United Church
- Participated in the **False Creek Flats Advisory Committee** and **Heritage Action Plan Technical Advisory Committee**
- Attended City of Vancouver Open Houses
- Organized **#HeritageReboot** event at the Roundhouse to launch the city's Heritage Register online platform, the Vancouver Heritage Foundation's Heritage Site Finder, the Vancouver Archive's digital rendering of Goad's 1912 Fire Insurance Plan, and our own Historic Building Permits Database
- Wrote letters to council and spoke at City of Vancouver Public Hearings for: **Marine Gardens, Burrard Bridge, First Shaughnessy Heritage Conservation Area**
- Won the top **Award of Honour** at the 2015 City of **Vancouver Heritage Awards** held in April, for our work on developing the publicly accessible Historic Vancouver Building Permits online database. This resource currently contains over 34,000 permits manually transcribed from handwritten ledgers starting in 1901, held at the City of Vancouver Archives.  
[www.permits.heritagevancouver.org](http://www.permits.heritagevancouver.org)

# Donate



**YES! I want to help Heritage Vancouver create a future for heritage!**

Name

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Address

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City & Province

Postal Code

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Telephone(s)

Email

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**I want to become a monthly donor.**

**Please take the following amount on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month\***

\$10    \$25    \$50    Other amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /month

A donation each month adds up to a big difference and is an affordable way to create sustainable revenue for Heritage Vancouver.

**Or I'd like to make a one-time gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Payment method

Visa    MasterCard

Pre-authorized bank withdrawal (please include a void cheque)

Cheque payable to Heritage Vancouver Society (for one time donations only)

Or online at [heritagevancouver.org](http://heritagevancouver.org)

Credit card #

Expiry date

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Name on Credit Card

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Signature

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**Thank you for your support of heritage in Vancouver**

\*you may cancel your monthly payment at any time by calling Heritage Vancouver Society at 604-254-9411

# How your donation helps

Heritage Vancouver is dedicated to “Creating a Future for Vancouver’s Heritage”.

We create greater appreciation for our rich historical legacy and work as a community to conserve Vancouver’s heritage.

Just a few of our activities made possible through your support:

- Input to Heritage Action plan and educational updates about the Plan
- Protecting at-risk heritage sites
- Publication of annual Top10 Watch List of Vancouver’s most endangered heritage sites
- Identify and recommend sites to be listed on the City of Vancouver’s Heritage Register— assess and comment on public policy regarding heritage conservation
- Work with community groups to explore actions to protect specific heritage sites
- Prepare position papers to inform the community about threatened heritage sites
- Host forums to engage the community in conversations about opportunities to protect heritage sites
- Free online search function to find out when your house was built through historic building permits
- Increasing community appreciation of our built heritage:
- Events in heritage buildings, talks on our heritage sites and neighborhoods, tours of historic neighborhoods
- Reports on the history, significant features, and importance of individual heritage sites
- Assisting individuals, businesses, and community groups in initiatives to conserve community heritage
- Developing community relationships to create a future for our heritage

Heritage Vancouver may recognize donors on our website or newsletters or  I would like to remain anonymous

HVS charitable number 1073758-52

HVS Mailing address: Heritage Vancouver Society, PO Box 74123, Hillcrest Park PO, Vancouver, BC V5V 5C8

To donate online, safely and securely, monthly or one time, including options to honour a person or a special occasion and send them an e-card, and get an instant tax receipt: **visit [www.heritagevancouver.org](http://www.heritagevancouver.org)** and click DONATE

# About Heritage Vancouver Society

We're an independent non-profit society, encouraging the community to preserve, restore, and appreciate Vancouver's heritage, and are dedicated to "Creating a Future for Vancouver's Heritage". We carry out a wide range of activities to create greater appreciation for our rich historical legacy and work with the community to conserve Vancouver's heritage.

Our heritage sites are community landmarks and are tangible expressions of our past that contribute to the character, attractiveness, and quality of life in our neighbourhoods. They define our communities, connect us to our history, and create a legacy for future generations.

Heritage Vancouver creates relationships with the architectural, business, arts, historic, cultural, conservation, and development communities. Together we create ideas, initiatives, and enterprises that contribute to creating a future for our heritage.

# Support Heritage Vancouver Society

## Donate

All donations are tax deductible and help preserve Vancouver's heritage and support Heritage Vancouver's programs. Donations of any size are welcome and make a difference.

Please send cheques payable to Heritage Vancouver Society to:  
PO Box 74123, Hillcrest Park PO, Vancouver, BC V5V 5C8 or make a secure gift online at [www.heritagevancouver.org](http://www.heritagevancouver.org). Thank you for your support.

## Become a member

Members benefit from reduced event tickets, advanced notification of events, regular updates, and opportunities to become involved.

All membership fees support the on-going services and programs of Heritage Vancouver Society. Individual, Student, and Corporate Memberships available:

Join online at [www.heritagevancouver.org/membership.html](http://www.heritagevancouver.org/membership.html)  
or contact us: [info@heritagevancouver.org](mailto:info@heritagevancouver.org)

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