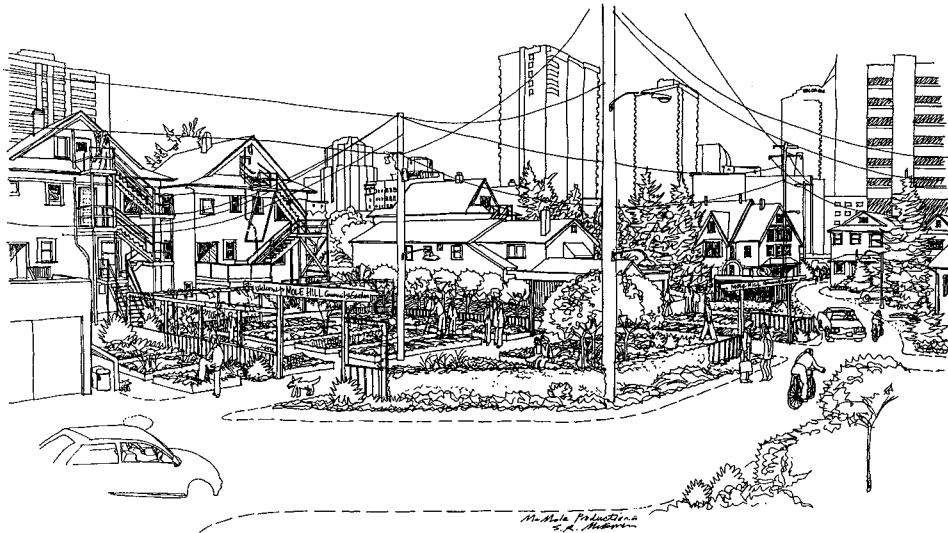


HERITAGE
Vancouver
 Newsletter

The Mole Hill *Living Heritage Society*



by Blair Petrie

The Mole Hill Living Heritage Society was formed in the Summer of 1994 and officially incorporated the following November. After the city of Vancouver had begun to make it's intentions for the block — then known as Nelson Park — public in the early Spring, a few residents began to organize. After signing up most of the residents on the block it was decided that incorporation would give more credibility to the fledgling organization.

Very early on it was decided that our strategy would not be to just oppose, nor to defend the status quo. We had to come up with a vision for the block and a realistic means of achieving that vision. The core was Living Heritage: people, their community and the buildings they lived in intertwined with their histories.

The Society formed the *friends of Mole Hill*, an unprecedented citywide coalition of neighbourhood, church, union, service and advocacy organizations. Through their combined hard work the support of over six thousand Vancouver residents from communities throughout the city were enlisted to assist in the recognition, preservation and grassroots enhancement of this valuable housing resource and important piece of Vancouver's heritage. In 1996 the Society was awarded a City of Vancouver Heritage Award for their advocacy on behalf of Mole Hill.



1120 Comox St. South
Existing



1114 Comox St. Proposed



1122 Comox St. South
Existing



1122 Comox St. South
Proposed

see **Mole Hill** page 3

HERITAGE
Vancouver
 PRESENTS



September 20, 8.00 PM,
Vancouver Museum
Opium: The Heavenly Demon

From secret opium dens to its use in high society, Barbara Hodgson and Linda Tsang take a look into the world of this mysterious drug.

Author Barbara Hodgson has written books on Opium, Rats and graphicly rich fiction works such as *The Tattooed Map*, *Paris Out of Hand*. Linda Tsang is the curator of the Chinatown Museum and Archives.

Free for Heritage Vancouver and Vancouver Museum members, \$5.00 for everyone else.



October 18, 7.00 - 9.00 PM,
special presentation
Vancouver Museum
Hops, Barley, and Water:
a short history of beer in Vancouver

Join heritage Vancouver for a beer tasting of local brews between 7 and 8 and then sit back as Vancouver Museum executive director Greg Evans takes us on a rollicking journey through the local history of beer. Apart from his day job, Greg is a brewing consultant and historian.

*\$5.00 for members and
 \$10.00 for non-members*

VANCOUVER MODERN



Photo: R. Moffatt, 2000

Faculty Club hangs in for another round

by *Robert Moffatt*

UBC Faculty Club and garden
Fred Lasserre 1959
Additions by
Erickson/Massey 1968

Several years ago the former UBC Faculty Club seemed terminal. The bunkerlike building sat forlorn and neglected, empty after the financial failure of the club in the mid-1990s and tentatively set for replacement by a hotel tower. Greenish algae, dead leaves and rusty lawnchairs choked the pools of its Arthur Erickson-designed garden. The university has since relented on the hotel plans and spruced up the club for wedding receptions and other events, although most rooms are filled with cardboard boxes rather than martini-toting professors.

Designed in 1959 by the Swiss-born Fred Lasserre, then director of UBC's architecture department, the Faculty Club is a rather stolid-looking building. Its visual heaviness and

rigidly rectangular shapes are partly relieved on the front by rough green stone spandrels and a butterfly-roofed porte-cochere, while the rear is lightened by glass window-walls opening onto decks and terraces.

In 1968 Arthur Erickson completed a roof-decked glass pavilion along the west side of the site and a low-slung guest accommodation wing to the east. More significantly, the design included a lovely garden courtyard framing a stunning view up Howe Sound. Enclosed by concrete and cedar post-and-beam trellises and lush native plantings, the garden includes large reflecting pools fed by cascading waterfall platforms. Rough aggregate terraces contrast the smoothness of water and glass. The effect on a sunny summer day is like a closed world of greenery, sky and ocean, as quiet and remote as the proverbial ivory tower.

Mark Your Calendar

Until October

Celebrate the Fraser

*The Natural History & Environment
of Richmond*

7700 Minoru Gate

Richmond Museum & Cultural Centre,
231-6457

Sunday, September 17th

North Shore Heritage Home Tour

12 to 5:00PM \$10 each, West Van
Museum & Archives and North Van
City Hall 925-7236

from **Mole Hill** cover

Today, the Society is engaged in the redevelopment of Mole Hill according to the Mole Hill Vision — intact heritage housing and streetscapes, original community and creative public open spaces. This vision is a result of the input of all the individuals and organizations we have worked with over the years. The Society has formed a sister organization, the Mole Hill Community Housing Society, to oversee and manage this development.

Concurrently, the Mole Hill Living Heritage Society is engaged in the Mole Hill Neighbourhood Revitalization Project, sponsored by the Vancouver Foundation, the Co-operators Group and VanCity Community Foundation. The goals of this project are to assess services and needs in the West End and Downtown South as well as taking the pulse of existing organizations and individuals to see what issues are important. Will these be housing, heritage, social and development issues? The answers will determine the future directions of the Mole Hill Living Heritage Society.

Blair Petrie used to be a musician. Since he made the mistake of thinking it would be relatively easy to save some old houses he has now become a consultant on community issues. He has worked in the Downtown Eastside and the Downtown South as well as assisting other communities from time to time. He still lives in Mole Hill.

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HV attends Round Table on Historic Preservation in Seattle

by *Peter Vaisbord*

On Saturday June 10, a group of HV directors travelled to Seattle to attend a Round Table on Historic Preservation hosted by Historic Seattle, our sister society south of the border. The event was held at Town Hall, a former Presbyterian church now used as a public meeting venue. The focus of the event was a panel of representatives from heritage advocacy groups from major cities across the US, including New York, Baltimore, Miami, Denver, Oakland and LA, as well as a representative of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We learned that many of our counterparts are struggling with similar issues, such as finding new uses for old buildings, responding to development pressures, and addressing the economics of rehabilitation and re-use. Many jurisdictions benefit significantly from tax incentives for heritage preservation, heritage-friendly building codes, and enlightened funding programs that match social housing with the adaptive re-use of heritage properties. The preservation advocates also described successful fund-raising activities that have helped support their advocacy work. In all, an informative afternoon, and a great opportunity to rub shoulders with others who share our passion. Stay tuned for upcoming events, including the Society of Architectural Historians—Marion Dean Ross Chapter—Pacific Northwest Annual Meeting here in Vancouver, October 12 - 13, 2000.

*For more information contact
Miriam Sutermeister, e-mail:
msutermeister@aol.com*



Prospect Point Bridge decorated for the Royal visit of 1939. Photo courtesy the Pattison Family.

Poor Prospects for Prospect Point Bridge

For some months, members of the heritage community and VHC have been working feverishly to try to save the Prospect Point Bridge. This 1938 arched structure that spans the Causeway just south of the Lion's Gate Bridge is scheduled for demolition and replacement as part of the Causeway widening project. With the help of a structural engineer, they brought the BCTFA to the table to discuss various retention options, which included lowering the roadway or raising the bridge, and tunneling through the solid sides of the bridge for pedestrians and cyclists. Unresolved issues might have been worked out if detailed design information was made available.

Unfortunately, the BCTFA has displayed an obstinate reluctance to seriously consider any retention options. The comparative costs have not been freshly calculated and do not consider demolition costs, and the number of trees that would be affected has likely been over-estimated by a factor of five. Faced with a lack of information and cooperation, the VHC passed a resolution at its July 24 meeting agreeing to pursue the issue no longer. Thank you John Ivison, James Burton, Hal Kalman, and Don Luxton for trying to save this highly visible if modest Vancouver landmark.

Important Notice:

Heritage Vancouver's Annual General Meeting will take place on October 18, 2000 at 7:00 PM. at the Vancouver Museum. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. Memberships will also be due and must be up to date to allow voting in the elections.

City Hall Setting a Good Example

Heritage Vancouver Talks: Dirty!

Dear Members,

Damn, Summer's gone and its time to get into the swing of things again. Heritage Vancouver is gearing up for Fall with a brand new lecture series called Heritage Vancouver Talks: Dirty! We think you'll enjoy this take on Vancouver's heritage.

You'll find an enclosure with this issue of the newsletter. Its the conference information for the Society of Architectural Historians who are meeting here in October. This is one conference you should check out.

It's also that time of the year when Heritage Vancouver elects its boardmembers. If you've ever been interested in getting in on the inner workings of the group the board can be an interesting and challenging place to be. If that's a daunting prospect, why not a committee? We've got all sorts of projects that could use a little help. Call the HV phone and leave your name if you're interested.

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer, I know that I enjoyed the Summer programming we did for HV — it was great to see so many members, new and old, out on our walks. And HV will be doing many more walks throughout the coming year.

I think that this year is going to be just great, a neat series of talks, a new president in October and new members joining all the time.

Cheers

John Atkin
Interim President, Heritage Vancouver

The wood windows at City Hall are undergoing a renewal process which has recently been put back on track. At first, the paint colour was inappropriate and all of the sashes were being replaced no matter their condition. There was not even a Heritage Alteration Permit in place! But City staff have agreed to a darker colour that is more in keeping with the original design intent, will only selectively replace remaining original sashes if damaged beyond repair, and are applying for an HAP.

There are also plans to restore the lighting scheme for the exterior of the building using archival photos and recent stone patches will be re-tinted to improve their appearance.

On October 4th at 8PM Thompson and Page and the Vancouver Museum is presenting Robert Winter, the author of *American Bungalow Style*, from Pasadena California. He'll be talking on the *Secrets of the Bungalow* a look at the bungalow using examples from across North America, with a special emphasis on Vancouver.

Heritage Vancouver would like to welcome the Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission as a corporate sponsor.

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604.254.9411

<http://home.istar.ca/~glenchan/hvsintro.shtml>

Join Heritage Vancouver

Annual membership runs from October 1st to September 30th. Members receive a monthly newsletter, free admission to monthly speakers' programs and reduced rates for tours and other activities.

Charitable donation #1073758-52. Membership fees are not tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

- | | |
|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate: \$50 |
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Please send cheque or money order to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3