

HERITAGE Vancouver Newsletter

YOU'RE A WINNER!



HV President Janet Leduc



Hillary Haggan and Edie Thompson



A very busy Heritage Vancouver booth.



HV booth a big hit with the little ones.

by **Karen Russell**

If you visited our booth at the Heritage and Antiques Fair, there's a good chance you were a winner! But if you missed this Fair, not only did you miss a fabulous array of demonstrations, antiques, and exhibits, but you also missed the fun times happening at the Heritage Vancouver booth!

Heritage Vancouver adopted a new approach to the Fair this year. In a word: interactive. We were hard to miss, with our excellent corner location and our army of enthusiastic volunteers. Passersby were enticed by Art Perret, a born showman, to *spin the wheel* for a toonie. Almost everyone came away with a prize of some sort – well almost every one. An *E* for Effort but an *L* for Loser goes to Don Luxton who gave generously to the cause.

Inside the booth, an impressive display of photos of Vancouver heritage landmarks was created by Hugh McLean for visitors to test their knowledge on the *Name that Building* game. Correct entries were eligible for a draw prize and winners were announced to the crowd between the demonstrations taking place on the main stage.

The Fair provided a great venue to launch our new Heritage Vancouver T-shirts designed by John Atkin. The T-shirts have all the style and none of the painful fashion accessories that accompanied the ensembles in Saturday's vintage fashion show. Our spiffy new banner and Heritage Vancouver balloons for the kids were a big hit too.

In asking the volunteers what they remembered most about participating at the Heritage Vancouver booth, it was unanimous: a whole lot of fun! For more coverage of the Fair, check out the Heritage Vancouver Foundation's website: www.VancouverHeritageFoundation.org. The Foundation did a remarkable job and we were proud to be a part of the event, which involved over 60 exhibitors. Thanks so much to our volunteers and the Heritage Fair Committee for all their hard work. See you next year!

Karen Russell is a Heritage Vancouver Board member (Treasurer) and was a member of the Heritage Fair Committee. She is also a planner at the City of North Vancouver.

Thank you to volunteers: Megan Balmer, Shiela Butt, Toni Dabbs, Marlene Glover, Hillary Haggan, Janet Hansen, Imbi Harding, Wiltrud Martin, Lynne Probyn, Edie Thompson, Peter Vaisbord. Heritage Fair Committee Members: Janet Leduc, Don Luxton, Hugh McLean, Art Perret and Karen Russell.

Also, a big thank you to our sponsors: BC Lions Football, Donald Luxton, Incendio Restaurant, Justice Institute of BC, Michael Kluckner, Raintree Restaurant, Ramano's Macaroni Grill, Vancouver Grizzlies, The Vancouver Aquarium, The Vancouver Museum.

HERITAGE
Vancouver
PRESENTS

THE ART OF DYING: Behind the Scenes at Mountain View Cemetery Lecture, Wednesday, April 18th, 7:30pm, Vancouver Museum

Once threatened with closure, Mountain View has a new lease on life. Find out what's in store for this great burial ground and get a peek at the modern world of cemeteries. We'll also explore the history and heritage of Mountain View and check out a who's who of its more prominent residents.

Mountain View Cemetery Tour Saturday, April 28th, 1:30pm, Meet at the southwest entrance, 33rd & Fraser

Lorraine Irving from the BC Genealogy Society will lead us through the old section of the cemetery. Hear stories of Vancouver's early pioneers, from Vancouver's first mayor to its first female newspaper editor. Murders, mystery and monuments galore! Space is limited to 20. Call Heritage Vancouver to register 254-9411 \$5 for members \$10 for non-members

New!
Look Back Without Anger:
Heritage Advocacy in Vancouver
Our new series of talks will revisit some of the major preservation issues which led to the creation of Heritage Vancouver. Join us as architects, developers, and others involved in projects of the time celebrate the victories and mourn the losses.

First in the series:
WHERE DID ALL THAT TIME GO?
Wednesday, May 16th,
7:30 pm, Vancouver Museum

A lighthearted look at the past ten years from the perspective of those who were in the thick of it.

VANCOUVER MODERN



Photo: R. Moffatt, 2001

Len Norris's Tiddleycove Modern

by *Robert Moffatt*

Len Norris house
1220 Queens Avenue, West Vancouver
Duncan McNab 1952

Duncan McNab was one of Vancouver's best-known Modernist architects in the heyday of the 1950s, and the house he designed for the legendary Vancouver Sun editorial cartoonist Len Norris and his family is typical of his residential work. Norris's commission of a fairly radical house is perhaps not surprising; his cartoons regularly depicted whimsically exaggerated Modernist houses perilously jutting from near-vertical West Vancouver mountainsides.

For the Norris house, McNab chose post and beam construction capped with a low, asymmetrical front-gable roof and anchored by a large cross-axis chimney. Largely blank walls face the street for privacy, while clerestory windows tucked under the roof overhang provide additional illumination and cross-ventilation. The vertical mahogany siding retains its rich red-brown colour, having escaped the blue-gray or bubblegum-pink paint applied to many Modernist houses in recent years.

Interiors are on three levels, with the master bedroom section a few steps below the main living level for spatial variety and to allow the sloping roof. McNab capitalized on a spectacular view of Burrard Inlet and Vancouver by massing the main living spaces along the rear of the house. Floor-to-ceiling windows opened onto a cantilevered sundeck, later enlarged. Exposed fir ceiling beams, cedar and mahogany wall panelling and classic Danish modern furniture created a warm, cozy atmosphere inside. The lower level contains two children's bedrooms and the obligatory recreation room opening to the ground level.

A graduate of the McGill architecture school, McNab worked at Sharp and Thompson, Berwick Pratt from 1945 to 1948 before forming his own firm in 1952. He completed many houses, principally in West Vancouver and at UBC, and several schools on the North Shore. Other institutional work included the theatre, gymnasium and pool at SFU and a district office on Knight Street for the Vancouver Health Department.

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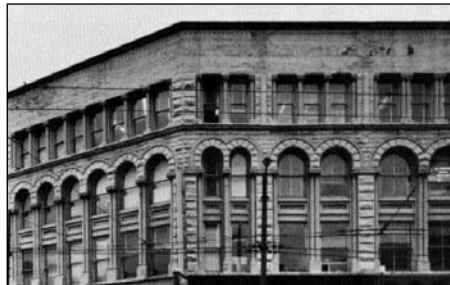
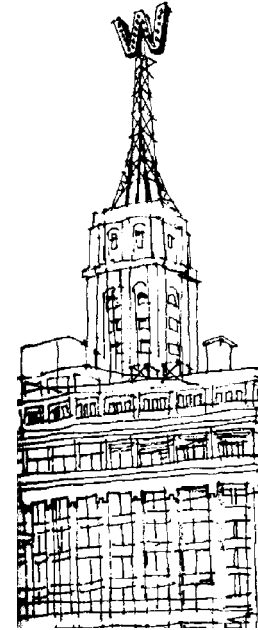
Can Woodward's Save West Hastings?

Who doesn't remember Woodward's? \$1.49 day Tuesday! The bargain basement, the Christmas display windows, the famous food floor, the donut machine, store brand peanut butter, the 16 foot-tall revolving W—these are just a few of the memories Woodward's evokes. From 1904, when Charles Woodward moved his department store to the corner of Hastings and Abbott Streets, until its closure in 1993, Woodward's was an integral part of our city and many of our lives. So it was no surprise that the public sat up and took notice when the BC Housing Commission announced its plans for the redevelopment of the building.

The problem is that Woodward's is only one building in the Downtown Eastside, an area that is in serious trouble. Who remembers the Flack Block? Built in 1899 with money from the Klondike gold rush, the most expensive building of its size at the time, it is one of many buildings along Hastings Street suffering from neglect and decay. What about the Ormidale Block? Unfortunately, the architect's original work has been marred by a false front and the loss of a second-storey bay window. Evidence of his style, considered eccentric at the time, can still be seen in the unusual arrangement of arch-and-spandrel windows above small rectangular ones. Perhaps the Ralph Block rings a bell? It was once home to the White Lunch Café—a very popular eatery until its closure in the 1970s. The Province Building was home to Canada's first electronically printed newspaper. Structurally, it has fared a little better than some of the others and has recently received a couple of heritage awards

for renovations. These buildings are a rich mixture of the architecture and style of the late 1800s and early 1900s but they just don't have the widespread nostalgic value of Woodward's.

Hastings Street started as a swamp, 8 feet deep in mud, skunk cabbage, and bullfrogs. The arrival of Woodward's sparked the creation of a vibrant and bustling commercial district. Woodward's is C-listed on the City's Heritage Register, while many other buildings that remain from that era are A and B-listed. The question now is can the nostalgic value of Woodward's be used to save these buildings and transform the new swamp, known as Skid Row, once again.



Flack Block



Ormidale Block



Province Building

Credits:

Photographs from *Exploring Vancouver*, 1974 Edition, UBC Press
Woodward's illustration *Robin Ward's Vancouver*, Harbour Publishing

Help!

As the new Coordinator for the Heritage Vancouver Newsletter, I need your help. I need you, the reader, to let me know what you want to see in the Newsletter so please take a minute to fill out this short survey. Send it to me, along with anything that you would like to have considered for publication in upcoming issues of the HV Newsletter.

Mail it to:

Janet Hansen
C/O Heritage Vancouver
PO Box 3336, Main Post Office
Vancouver BC V6B 3Y3

Or e-mail me directly at j_i_hansen@hotmail.com with your comments and concerns.

I regularly enjoy reading the following sections of the Heritage Vancouver Newsletter:

- The Feature Article
- Heritage Vancouver Presents
- Mark Your Calendar
- Vancouver Modern by Robert Moffatt
- Words from the President

I would like to see the following sections appear (or appear more often) in the Heritage Vancouver Newsletter:

- Heritage Alerts – current issues, buildings at risk, proposed development projects
- Obituaries – tributes to buildings that we've lost, trips down memory lane
- HV Member's Mailbag – letters, quotes and concerns from you
- HV Member Profiles – information about the HV members, their involvement and views on heritage issues
- Trivia – names, dates, and odd facts about places around town
- Reports from HV Meetings – summaries of our Wednesday monthly meetings, for those of you who can't make it
- Photos, drawings or cartoons – you get the picture?
- Quotable Quotes- notable comments from politicians, developers, activists or the public
- Other ideas?

Your name:

Contact information:

Other comments:

Heritage Vancouver
PO Box 3336, Main Post Office
Vancouver BC V6B 3Y3

604.254.9411

All Heritage Vancouver meetings start at 7:30pm, the 3rd Wednesday of each month at The Vancouver Museum. Free for members and \$5 for non-members.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Ongoing

The Exploration and Settlement of Vancouver Experience Vancouver the way it was over a century ago. Explore a recreated Edwardian parlour, bedroom, and kitchen. A replica of a ship's passenger berth and a trading post illustrate the hardships Vancouver pioneers faced.

Ongoing to Dec 2001

Portrait V2K

Part of the City of Vancouver Millennium Project, this interactive exhibit includes little known anecdotes, unusual occurrences, and poignant images of Vancouver.

Both exhibits included in admission to the Vancouver Museum.

Call 736-4431 for more information or check out www.portraitv2k.com

Thursday, April 19th, at 7:30pm

The History of Silk

Kathleen Staples uncovers the captivating history of this ancient commodity, from early production techniques to today's agricultural silk factory. Included in admission to the Vancouver Museum. Call 736-7368 for more information.

Saturday, April 21st, at 1:30pm

Brush, Ink and Paper:

the Calligrapher's Art

With a simple brush stroke on paper amazing things can happen. It looks easy but the calligraphers' art takes time and patience. Don't miss this demonstration of an ancient art form.

Fee per event: \$6 for Heritage Vancouver, Art Deco Society and Vancouver Museum members and \$10 for non-members. Call the Vancouver Museum for information, at 736-4431

Thursday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2, Built, Natural and Cultural Heritage: A Community Continuum

23rd Annual Conference — Heritage Society of British Columbia

Three days of seminars and workshops including Creating and Promoting Heritage Walking Tours, Creating and Preserving Heritage Gardens, Heritage Tourism-What is it and how can it benefit my community? Bus Tours: Good Neighbours (includes highlights in Delta, White Rock, Langley, Surrey, and Cloverdale).

Full registration for members \$195 (including GST) non-members \$215. Partial registration is available as well. Call the Heritage Society of BC at 582-1332 or e-mail hsbcjan@bc-alter.net