



# THE VANCOUVER SPECIAL HOUSE TOUR

Welcome to VHF's Spring 2015 newsletter, introducing our programs, projects and updates for the coming months. For the latest news throughout the year, be sure to check our website regularly and subscribe to our bi-weekly e-newsletter.

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**Saturday, April 18**  
**1pm - 5pm**

Tickets \$30 or \$23 with valid student ID

Presented by  
Royal LePage Westside  
**SEBASTIAN ALBRECHT**  
TheVancouverSpecial.ca

The Vancouver Special is part of the unique architectural history of Vancouver. With a nod to Mid-Century Modern design, the Special originally offered affordable homes with maximized and flexible floor plans that were perfect for the large number of new families coming to Vancouver in the 1960s. With an approximate 10,000 Specials built between the 1960s and 1980s, not everyone loves their aesthetic, but with innovative updating, they can become modern, personalized family homes.

From small interventions in design to complete reconfiguring of space, the 2015 tour will look at how five homeowners have reinvented their Specials. Where extra income was once desired, one family has since removed a secondary suite and reclaimed the main floor. Another has embraced the home's mid-century roots with expansive glazing across the front and furniture collected from vintage shops along Main Street. We'll even tour inside a Special that had been previously converted into a rooming house. When purchased by the current owners the rooms were full of abandoned furniture. They quickly set to work creating a welcoming, energy efficient home with a new high efficiency furnace, NEST thermostat and a new metal roof.

Join the tour on April 18th to see how the Vancouver Special offers a blank canvas for creative homeowners to really explore their potential. VHF greatly appreciates those who are generously opening their homes to showcase how creativity can bring together functionality and the reuse of older homes.

**THE 2015 HERITAGE HOUSE TOUR is on SUNDAY JUNE 7th**  
details on page 3

## OLD SCHOOL WORKSHOPS & COURSES

This spring, Old School will offer some foundational workshops along with a brand new course. A new workshop on heritage projects will look at the key concepts and planning tools, and how these are put into practice once work begins. Anyone taking on a heritage project, or involved at any stage can benefit from the wealth of experience and examples the instructors will share.

Heritage 101 returns, offering a solid introduction to heritage conservation and its framework in Vancouver, taught by experts in the heritage field. Our popular wood windows workshop returns in May with practical demonstrations on common repairs and fixes for double-hung wood windows.

Old School teaches homeowners and professionals skills and knowledge for the care and maintenance of older buildings. VHF is grateful for the support of the Lohn Foundation.

*Lohn Foundation*



## BROWN BAG LUNCH & LEARN

BCIT Downtown, 555 Seymour Street  
Wednesdays, 12pm – 1:30pm  
\$15 / \$9 with valid student ID (inc. tax)

Learn about the state of heritage in Vancouver today with experts in architecture and design, city planning and other related fields. Bring your lunch and your questions and learn about the issues, projects and topics that are relevant to the future of Vancouver's historic neighbourhoods and buildings.

## EVENING LECTURES AT HYCROFT

1489 McRae Avenue  
Tuesdays, 7:30pm - 9:30pm  
\$15 / \$9 with valid student ID (inc. tax)

Located in beautiful Hycroft Manor, VHF's Evening Lectures offer illustrated talks that look at the history of Vancouver, covering the events, movements and people that shaped our city.

*Thank you to the University Women's Club at Hycroft.*

### Researching the History of a Building

Discover how to research the unique stories of a building and learn vital information that can be used to guide future conservation decisions. These sessions illustrate the types of resources available to researchers, and how to best utilize them.

- COV Archives: with John Atkin  
March 11, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, \$15
- Vancouver Public Library: Special Collections  
March 18, 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
Free, but registration is required

### Heritage Projects: From Idea to Completion **NEW**

March 28, 9am - 1pm, \$45

Learn from an architect and a contractor what you need to prepare and plan for a heritage project and how to put it into practice. This course will be of interest to both homeowners and professionals in the building industry.

### Heritage 101: Understanding Heritage Conservation

April 25, 9am - 5pm, \$110

A comprehensive introduction to the theory and practices that inform the conservation of heritage buildings and sites.

### Wood Windows Restoration and Repair

May 9, 9am - 4pm, \$100

Learn how to resolve common issues with double-hung wood windows such as opening painted-shut windows, repairing window weights and sash cords, replacing panes, properly painting a wood window, and installing weather stripping.

### Rehabilitating Kits Neighbourhood House

February 18

w/ Sean McEwan, Sean McEwan Architect

### Mobile Conservation: Relocating Heritage Houses

March 25

w/ Adam Knipfel, Nickel Bros. Moving Company

### The Bloedel Conservatory Restoration

April 22

w/ Leonard Pinalto, Read Jones Christoffersen

### How It All Began: The Bloedel Conservatory

February 17

w/ John Coupar, Vancouver Park Board Chair

### Art Deco Architecture in Vancouver

March 17

w/ Maurice Guibord, Historian

### The Wild History of Gastown

April 21

w/ Donald Luxton, Heritage Consultant, Author and Historian

## HOUSE TOURS



photo courtesy Martin Knowles MK Photo/Media

### HERITAGE HOUSE TOUR

Sunday, June 7  
10am - 5pm

\$40

VHF's Heritage House Tour is a unique opportunity to explore the architecture and history of Vancouver's historic homes. The longest running and largest event in our calendar showcases the potential in all kinds of heritage and character homes in neighbourhoods across the city. From historic mansions to charming family homes with character detailing, this tour offers an inside look at how older homes can work for modern lifestyles, whether owners choose to upgrade and modern-

### STUDENT PROGRAM

VHF's Student Access Program is intended to assist those who would otherwise be unable to cover the costs associated with attending our programs. If you are 16-30 years of age and currently enrolled in full time studies, you may be eligible.

Visit [vancouverheritagefoundation.org/get-involved/student-access-program](http://vancouverheritagefoundation.org/get-involved/student-access-program) for more information.

ize, or restore and maintain.

In 2015, we visit a 1912 heritage home situated in a neighbourhood of mostly post-war development. Once a rural farming community this well-retained home is one of a very few restored and maintained in this area, a neighbourhood VHF has been eager to offer on tour.

VHF is always looking for great homes to open on our tours. If you are the proud owner of a heritage or character residence and would like to be considered for one of our tours, send an email to [mail@vancouverheritagefoundation.org](mailto:mail@vancouverheritagefoundation.org).

### SAVE THE DATE!

MID-CENTURY MODERN  
HOUSE TOUR  
Saturday, September 19th

LANEWAY HOUSE TOUR  
Saturday, October 24th

## HERITAGE WEEK 2015



### February 16 – 22

Heritage Week celebrates built heritage across BC and kicks off with National Heritage Day across Canada. In 2015, the theme is "Main Street: At the Heart of the Community."

Vancouver has several 'Main Streets' that have grown into our most vibrant neighbourhoods. During Heritage Week, we explore some of the current and

former main streets of Vancouver, their legacy of historic buildings and places, and opportunities for connecting heritage and community vitality.

Civic historian John Atkin will lead three walking tours which explore the history, changing fortunes and present-day opportunities of three of Vancouver's main streets.

**Vancouver's Historic Downtown -  
From Gastown to Hastings St**  
February 20, 10am -12pm, \$15

**Hudson St - Marpole History**  
February 21, 2 - 4pm, \$15

**Commercial St - Cedar Cottage**  
February 22, 10am - 12pm, \$15

### Backstage Pass: Behind the Scenes at the Historic Commodore Ballroom

February 21, 10am - 12pm, \$20  
*Generously hosted by the  
Commodore Ballroom*

Get inside the fabulous Commodore Ballroom with author of *Live at the Commodore* (2014) Aaron Chapman. Learn some of the stories and history that has made this 85-year old building one of Vancouver's most well-known and respected venues.

*Vancouver's Historic Downtown  
and Behind the Scenes at the  
Commodore sponsored by:*



## WALKING TOURS: APRIL TO OCTOBER

All walking tours \$15/each (inc. tax)

Our regular program of walking tours will resume in April and run until October, with historians John Atkin & Maurice Guibord. Full details will be posted online in coming weeks.

John will lead a series of walks exploring neighbourhoods across the city from Boundary Road to the forest of Pacific Spirit Park, crossing an intriguing variety of geography and architecture. Maurice will explore diverse historic neighbourhoods and offer a close-up look at architectural styles from Art Deco to post-war.



## HISTORIC KITSILANO MAP GUIDE



The latest addition to our line-up of map guides focuses on the Northeast sector of Kitsilano, including Vanier Park, Kits Point, Kits Beach and the Seaforth Armoury. This map guide allows you to take yourself on a tour of the area and learn about points of interest such as the Cultural Harmony Grove, the stage behind Kits Pool, and the home of Vancouver's first archivist

Major Matthews. It is available as a PDF download on our website, or in print at our office.

## PLACES THAT MATTER

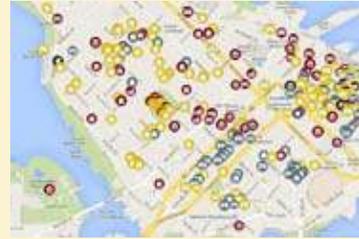


VHF has completed 79 plaques to date, and is working towards 100 with 5 upcoming historic West Hastings Street sites to be celebrated this Spring. With the support of the Downtown Vancouver BIA, these plaques will tell the stories of this historic

main street, from Vancouver's shipping and lumber industry, to its place as a financial centre, celebrations and parades and today's evolving streetscape.

We depend on plaque sponsorship to produce and coordinate plaque celebrations. If you are interested in supporting an unsponsored plaque, contact Jessica Quan, Special Project Coordinator [jessica@vancouverheritagefoundation.org](mailto:jessica@vancouverheritagefoundation.org).

## HERITAGE SITE FINDER UPDATE



In July, VHF launched the Heritage Site Finder, an interactive online map of over 2200 sites on the Vancouver Heritage

Register. We are now working to make it more complete, aiming to add many more images and descriptions by April. This would ensure the map is ready in time for public consultation on the Heritage Register as part of the City of Vancouver's Heritage Action Plan.

To do this, we need volunteer photographers. Several volunteers are already out and about taking photos of heritage buildings and sites – if you can help please get in touch. If you already have high quality images of listed heritage sites, we welcome those as well. All images will be credited on the site, and contributors acknowledged.

If you are interested in helping us complete this valuable web tool, please contact Jessica Quan, Special Project Coordinator: [jessica@vancouverheritagefoundation.org](mailto:jessica@vancouverheritagefoundation.org) or 604-264-9642.

To view the map, go to our website and click on the 'Learn With Us' section.

## 2014 CASE STUDIES NOW ONLINE

A new series of sustainability case studies are available to download from our website. Completed in 2014 by VHF intern Katie Filek, the case studies look at (left to right) the adaptive re-use of Carleton Hall, the inventive rehabilitation and expansion of an 1892 Strathcona home and the restoration of Fire Hall No. 15.



### CARLETON HALL: THE ADAPTIVE RE-USE OF HERITAGE

Exploring the re-use and rehabilitation of two of Vancouver's earliest school houses (1896 and 1901 respectively) into the new home for an education-based local theatre company.

### 878 KEEFER ST: SAVING AND EXPANDING AN HISTORIC STRATHCONA HOME

Once deemed a tear-down, this 1892 home in Vancouver's oldest neighbourhood was restored and rehabilitated into a modern, functional family home.

### FIRE HALL No. 15: COMBINING HERITAGE AND CONTEMPORARY FUNCTION

When a 1913 fire hall no longer fit the needs of the fire department, a choice to incorporate an historic building into the new fire hall retained the site's legacy, while meeting modern needs.

### ABOUT VHF INTERN, KATIE FILEK

Katie is a recent graduate from Environmental Design, an undergraduate program within the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA) at the University of British Columbia.

VHF is pleased to be able to offer internship opportunities for graduates to gain knowledge in the heritage conservation field. The 2014 internship was made possible with the participation of the Government of Canada.



## MID-CENTURY MODERN HOUSE TOUR



Five Mid-Century Modern homes were opened on the 2014 tour to a sold-out crowd. Guests enjoyed touring the homes on one of our buses, or by driving themselves to each stop. Highlights included the home designed

by Vancouver architect Barry Downs for his young family, a home with Cornelia Oberlander's second landscape commission in Vancouver, and an Earl DeLuca home being restored and added to the Heritage Register by new owners. Guests enjoyed a talk by UBC SALA professor Sherry McKay at the post-tour reception, held at the 1964 Vancouver Maritime Museum.

## LANEWAY HOUSE TOUR



The 2014 Laneway House Tour offered a new perspective on density and heritage with the inclusion of two older examples of infill. Built in the 1890s, a Mount Pleasant coach house was a star attraction with

charming Victorian features. Also popular was the strata infill that offered a much larger example of infill owned independently of the principal home. This type of arrangement has been used to preserve character and heritage homes while allowing growth in the neighbourhood.

## VANCOUVER'S FIRST DOORS OPEN



VHF was proud to be one of several partners with the City of Vancouver to organize Vancouver's first Doors Open event. This free event opened City buildings to the public, including some not normally open. Sites

included the Orpheum Theatre, Carnegie Library and the False Creek Energy Centre. VHF spent the day on location at the Heritage Hub at City Hall offering information about the imposing 1936 building at the heart of Vancouver's civic life.

## SUNDAY MORNING WITH MAIN ST. BREWING COMPANY



Continuing our popular Sunday Morning series, VHF headed out to the Brewery Creek area to offer a talk and tour about Vancouver's brewing history, the resurgence of craft beer and the conversion of a heritage building into the home of Main Street Brewing Company. The event included a beer tasting with Main Street Brewing Co. owner Nigel Pike and head brewer Jack Bensley, along with a talk and tour by brewery historian, Bruce MacDonald.

## VHF GRANTING PROGRAMS



2014 True Colours recipient

The VHF Granting Program awarded nine grants to homeowners and heritage sites in 2014.

**True Colours** grants were given to two residences and to the Strathcona Church.

**Restore It** grants assisted with two new roofs, a window restoration and the restoration of the Japanese War Memorial in Stanley Park.

A **Get on the Register** grant assisted the owner of a Strathcona home in applying to have the house added to the Vancouver Heritage Register.

VHF grants are the only grant support available for many buildings on the Vancouver Heritage Register, offering important encouragement and support for owners and recognizing their efforts in restoring and maintaining heritage buildings. Heritage sites and neighbourhoods are the fabric of our shared history and they mark places where we live, work, play and remember.

Please give VHF a call if you are considering applying for a grant and we can talk about what is available and if your project qualifies. You can also go online to our granting page for information, paint schemes, approved paint contractors & application forms: <http://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/get-a-grant/>

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the Heritage Action Plan moves forward, 2015 will be an important year for heritage in Vancouver. A priority for us is to help Vancouverites get informed and get involved. We will share information on key topics and progress, and on opportunities for input. Look for updates on our website and in our e-news.

Through our programming, communications and special projects we continue to highlight our city's history and heritage, and support its conservation. Early in the year, Heritage Week's focus on main streets will see us celebrating and exploring the vibrant centres of Vancouver's neighbourhoods, past and present. Starting with the Vancouver Special House Tour in April, there are many opportunities to get out and learn about the city and the possibilities for older homes. Continuing and new workshops and resources support professionals and owners to grow their knowledge of how to work with older buildings. I hope you will join us for a lecture, workshop or tour.

Increasing awareness of Vancouver's rich built heritage and continuing to support those involved in maintaining historic buildings and places is only possible with the generous contribution of donors and sponsors. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual campaign in late 2014. Donations are welcome at any time in the year! There are several specific projects you can support, or if you are interested to become a sponsor please get in touch and help us ensure heritage is part of Vancouver's future.



Judith Mosley, VHF Executive Director



Judith (left) with UBC SALA professor Sherry McKay

## HERITAGE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Heritage will be on the agenda at City Hall a number of times this year as City staff and the consultant team address the different elements of the Heritage Action Plan (HAP). This wide-ranging review will produce recommendations on how to update the City's Heritage Conservation Program and related policies.

In the first half of the year, the protection and management of heritage in the First Shaughnessy neighbourhood and the options for retention of character homes in other areas will be under discussion. Preparation for updating the Vancouver Heritage Register will also begin.

The HAP seeks to improve the framework for heritage in Vancouver and will progress swiftly in the coming months. There will be opportunities to contribute and comment through public consultation activities. VHF will share information about these and related events, topics and progress on our webpage, 'Understanding the Heritage Action Plan' in the 'Learn with Us' section of our website.

If you would like to get more familiar with the First Shaughnessy neighbourhood ahead of public consultation on how best to manage the rich heritage of the area, join us for one of these two **Special Walking Tours**:



Map 146 (edit). *Historical Atlas of Vancouver*. Derek Hayes, 2005. P 81.

### Shaughnessy Heights: "The Swellest and Most Beautiful Neighbourhood"

with John Atkin

February 14 & February 26, 10am – 12pm  
\$15 (inc. tax)

With its winding avenues, lush landscape and grand homes, Shaughnessy was originally created and managed by the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is one of Vancouver's most desirable neighbourhoods and happens to be the city's first planned community. On this walk, we'll explore the neighbourhood's heritage value, and examine its complex and intriguing development history while discovering some fabulous architecture.

## NEW VANCOUVER BUILDING BY-LAW



A new Vancouver Building By-Law came into effect on January 1st, 2015. The By-Law lays out requirements and standards for work when changes are made to an existing building, as well as for new construction. Some of the requirements have been updated so anyone planning a project will need to be aware of the new By-Law.

VHF is keen to assist homeowners with understanding the By-Law and particularly how it relates to heritage and character homes. We are working with City staff to develop a guidance document providing an introduction to the new By-Law. We plan to finalize this and make it available shortly.

Key changes introduced give greater emphasis to energy efficiency improvements and accessibility than previously. The requirements for existing buildings can be successfully accommodated in most cases in balance with heritage conservation goals. The forthcoming guidance document will provide a start on how to achieve that while retaining and enjoying older buildings.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The Board of Directors is looking forward to 2015 as a year of special significance for heritage conservation in our city. The Heritage Action Plan (HAP) is underway and slated to be completed by year's end. A subcommittee has been formed to contribute ideas and comments through Judith Mosley, our Executive Director to the consultants and heritage staff who have been assigned to the Action Plan. VHF staff and Board have also been working with City staff to review aspects of the new Building By-Law that could affect heritage retention and are taking a close look at incentives to encourage conservation that could become part of the Action Plan.

In addition to activities related to the HAP, Judith Mosley, Rebecca Bishop, and the rest of our staff have maintained an ambitious schedule of tours and events, including an expanded walking tour program. One of VHF's initiatives in 2014 was the online map that allows people to identify and learn about listed heritage properties across the city. A new map guide for Kitsilano joined VHF's series of published and downloadable self-guided tours.

VHF is coordinating with other heritage groups to host events related to topics being addressed by the HAP in order to engage the community. We hope that these conversations will be informed, substantive and engaging for participants and will bring a wide spectrum of opinions and creative ideas forward for consideration. A plan for heritage is only done every couple of decades and VHF intends to make the most of this opportunity. I encourage everyone to follow its progress and attend events to be part of this process.

Marta Farevaag, VHF Chair

## VOLUNTEERING



There are numerous ways to get involved as a volunteer and support the work of VHF. In 2014, over 240 volunteers contributed their time to house tours, salvage sales, committees and other activities. This tremendous support is greatly appreciated.

Our four house tours this year will each need between 50 and 180 volunteers. If you love architecture and history, this is a great way for you to assist us with educating people about Vancouver's fascinating built heritage! There are other ways too – from photography to research and more.

We welcome new and returning volunteers. If you would like to get involved, check out the 'Volunteer with VHF' page on our website, and follow the instructions to send us an email

with some information about your interests, background and contact information. Returning volunteers can expect to receive an invitation to volunteer in February.

VANCOUVER **HERITAGE** FOUNDATION  
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mail@vancouverheritagefoundation.org  
www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org  
Charitable Registration # 891765968

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Vancouver Heritage Foundation is a charitable organization supporting the conservation of Vancouver's built heritage through public awareness and education activities, granting programs that encourage financial investment in built heritage and fundraising to protect Vancouver's built heritage in perpetuity.

## VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION Spring 2015 Newsletter

Row of heritage homes in Mount Pleasant



VANCOUVER  
HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION

### Spring 2015 Newsletter

#### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- 2015 House Tours
- Updates on HAP and VBBL
- NEW Case Studies launched
- NEW Map Guide of Kitsilano
- Fall Review
- AND MORE