

VHF's Heritage Conservation courses teach homeowners, building owners, and professionals skills and knowledge related to the care and maintenance of older buildings and heritage sites.

Formerly known as "Old School," these courses and workshops are offered in a variety of formats, with in-person sessions being held in the Lower Mainland as well as virtual sessions hosted via Zoom and on the on-demand platform Thinkific.

Participants are welcome to attend individual talks and workshops or they may choose to work towards the Heritage Conservation Certificate. There is no additional fee to receive the certificate.



All courses are delivered by heritage professionals working in the fields of architecture, trades & construction, heritage conservation, planning, landscaping, and related professions.

All courses are eligible to receive Professional Development credits from AIBC, AIC-BC, BCSLA, BOABC, PIBC and IDIBC. These organizations are self-reporting so please check with your professional body about how to register your attendance.

"As a recent graduate of VHF's Old School program, and newly practicing municipal heritage planner, I can attest to the courses' relevancy in the field of conservation practice. My planning degree provided a strong written and theoretical background; however, VHF was able to provide the practical everyday advice, learned from recent and on-going cases in the Lower Mainland. The variety of courses provided a broad breadth of understanding, and I was appreciative of the flexible course times-- including evenings and weekends. Not only did VHF provide education, through these activities, I also connected with like-minded individuals on community heritage commissions, in non-profits, working consultants, and the regional heritage network in general. It was neat to learn from their backgrounds, which were often different from mine, and brought a new lens to my thinking. Overall, I highly recommend the Certificate in Heritage Conservation for those looking to complement or augment their practice or interest.

- Britney Dack

How to complete your Heritage Conservation Certificate

Step One: Enroll in Heritage 101

Heritage 101 (3 credits)

Heritage 101 is an online introductory course that allows participants to gain an understanding of heritage conservation.

This is a required course and can be completed at any time

Step Two: Earn 15 credits from any of the following courses

Full-Day Courses (3 credits each)

- Building Exteriors
- Conservation of Interiors
- Planning & Managing a Heritage Project

Courses & Talks (1 credit each)

- Heritage Designation
- Heritage Hour and/or Heritage Lunch and Learn (to a maximum of 3 credits)
- Heritage Paint Schemes
- Planning a Heritage Garden
- Researching the History of a Building (Archives or VPL Special Collections)
- Steps for Sustainability

Half-Day Courses (2 credits each)

- Architectural Photography
- Creating a Heritage Conservation Plan
- Drafting a Statement of Significance
- Maintenance and Repair of Wood Windows
- Masonry

Step Three: Attend a House Tour OR 3 Walking Tours

House Tour

Heritage Discovery Day (formerly Heritage House Tour) takes place the first Saturday in June. *If you have attended a past House Tour (ie. Laneway, Neighbourhood, Mid-Century Modern, Vancouver Special), please contact VHF's Director of Education.

Walking Tours

Walking tours are offered throughout the year, primarily from June to September. Upcoming tours are posted on our website. Please note that virtual strolls do not qualify for the walking tour requirement.

Completion of the Heritage Conservation Certificate can take two or more years depending on course schedules as not all courses are offered every year and courses may be subject to change.

For course descriptions, enrollment information, and more information on the certificate program, please contact VHF's Director of Education: sarah@vancouverheritagefoundation.org.