

ENTREPRENEUR & ROYALTY

When Carol and I moved back from Ottawa to Maple Ridge, my \$1,200 monthly pay check as a cop was no more. As well, her \$1,200 income as a laboratory technician had already vanished. Besides, I had to buy my way out of the force and pay for our move back to Maple Ridge. Prior to leaving Ottawa, I wrote to Andy Hetherington, the supervisor of the Golden Ears Provincial Park, asking about a job and he was happy to hire me as bikers were often visiting the park 100 strong and causing havoc. I worked as a park ranger for a month while trying to get my ducks in a row before opening a tiny camera store. My job with the park service was \$600 a month. In less than two years our combined \$2,400 a month salaries were reduced to ¼ and now I was about to embark on becoming an entrepreneur hardly knowing a credit from a debit. Also, Carol was expecting our first baby in a few weeks.

The Don Waite Photo Centre opened 1st September 1971 in a tiny 12 ½' wide by 20' deep storefront but it had no inventory. For the first several months, I purchased stock discounted 35 and even 40 % from one of the larger camera stores in Vancouver for cash naively thinking my purchases could be sold at list in my shop. My painted white cinder block and plank board shelving had empty boxes but the shop looked stocked and clients soon came to investigate. My first employee was even more naive than me as she agreed to work on a 10 % commission. There was nothing to sell! Carol had \$20,000 saved up to make a down payment on a home but it was quickly gobbled up to purchase inventory. Stores in Haney were not permitted to open on Monday so it was my day to drive into Vancouver to buy stock. A short time later the proprietor of the shop next to me retired so I punched a hole in the wall and put in a tiny portrait and wedding studio. I had custom red drapes made, and boy, did they clash with a bridal party in pale blues dresses. I started photographing full coverage weddings every Saturday and often arrived home after midnight. The store and studio work kept me away more and more and often I'd be washing floors and doing books at the shop on a Sunday rather than be with Carol and our baby daughter Michelle. It was a stressful period as there was never any money.

A short time after my opening, a realtor who was also an auxiliary policeman, directed one of his clients to me and that's how I met Englishman David R. Taylor. He had an expensive movie camera for sale and by an absolute fluke a chap wandered into my shop looking for the very camera. They exchanged a camera for a check and Dave gave me a 10 % finder's fee which was enough money to pay for two months rent. Things went awry when the buyer put a stop payment on the check and returned the camera. Dave got his fee back but despite this sad first meeting, we became friends. Dave had a James Bond story. His father was given the contract to build the volcano for the 1967 movie 'You Only Live Once'. Although only 17, Dave's Dad made him a foreman for the building of the steel structure at the Pinewood Film Studios near London.

Within the first year the business began to be profitable and I hired two employees, one of which was a mother figure. She desperately tried to keep me on the straight and narrow with my runaway purchasing. Luckily, she was an accountant. One day, a client came into the store to purchase camera equipment to use on a horseback trail ride into the Chilcotin Country in the northeastern part of the province. There were eight in the group and they invited me as a tag along to take pictures. Always the dreamer, my plan was to submit the transparencies to National Geographic Magazine. My Chilcotin adventure kept me away from daughter Michelle's first birthday. Returning home, my adopted mother told me there was \$75,000 on the books. To me, it wasn't a problem as there was \$100,000 plus at my cost on the shelves. There certainly wasn't much in the bank and the Waite family sometimes lived from hand to mouth on liver, onions and macaroni. National Geographic rejected my submission.

One day, I visited the Burnaby RCMP Detachment and posted a notice on the bulletin, 'Ex-Constable Waite now has a camera store in Maple Ridge and offers good deals to members. Then, I began teaching night classes at the local high school. Most of the students bought cameras from me.

It's funny kids, aged 12 to 15, were constantly in my camera store being little more than PITAs (Pains in the Ass). I'm pretty sure they (or their parents) all bought their first cameras from me. I must have had a positive influence in their careers. Nick Didlick became Reuters photographer for many years and won 'Photographer of the World' in 2025. Steve Pelton, in 2023, won best photograph in the Professional Photographers of Canada. Tim Yawoski became the premier astronomy photographer in Canada.

About this time a representative for the Canadian Family Record Plan came into my shop to talk about the company she represented selling a package allowing its members two free portrait sessions a year with two free prints. The

CFRP sold a leather album worth \$50 for \$300. She explained successful portrait photographers gave away free portrait sittings twice a year with a free 8" x 10" print. It was left to the studio to sell extra pictures. In the beginning, I often photographed a single child and usually my customers walked out with their free picture. Besides, my portrait photography wasn't very good. She dropped by one afternoon and suggested we drive down across the line to Seattle to see a very successful CFRP photographer. He had four rooms with four photographers and his teams took multiple poses with four different backdrops. It was ingenious. There was no need to reinvent the wheel so instead of taking an individual child, entire families and sometimes even three generations of 15 or more people came into the studio resulting in every conceivable combination. One Christmas, by tweaking the studio layout, it was possible to put through a family portrait sitting every 15 to 30 minutes. Carol was an awesome retoucher and usually picture sales included frames bumping up monthly sales.

It's pretty amazing how my book writing evolved over the years from the time of writing the 76-page 100 copies of 'Kwant'stan (The Golden Ears). The first printing was accomplished by a few friends; a school teacher typed up the manuscript, two ex-cons made the Positive Mechanical Transfers (PMTs) to produce newspaper quality photographs, and a printer traded services with me to typeset, collate, staple and trim everything for sale. The two criminals had done jail time for trying to print counterfeit \$20 Canadian bills. The books cost 50 cents to produce, sold to a retail store for \$1 for resale to the customer for \$2. It definitely wasn't a huge money maker but there was a second printing of 300 copies before saturating the market. Still, it only generated \$800 of sales excluding printing costs.

Caught by the writing bug, I self published three 6x9" 96 page books between 1972 and the end of 1974 about local history, 'The Golden Ears (a reinvention of 'Kwanstan', 'The Fraser Canyon' and the 'Cariboo Gold Rush'. It was quite the learning process. One title had a pink cover! The colour was a 16-page signature in the book's middle. First lesson learned, put colour on the dust jacket and make sure the title is at the top to make it easy to find in a store's book rack. Lesson number two, aim for a larger audience. My last book was about 'British Columbia & Yukon Gold Hunters'. My 'Mr. Eagle Man' friend David Allen Hancock suggested writing a book on Canadian Gold Hunters.

Word got out about my writing endeavours and Phyllis Landale, a school mate of His Royal Highness Prince Philip's older sister Princess Theodora, came into my shop and asked for help to write her memoir. As well, "Old Man" John George Bruce began being a regular visitor in my tiny shop. He appeared daily at the store at 11:00 a.m. precisely. He had joined the Royal Navy at age 12 and quite possibly helped in the rescue of Princess Anastasia, the daughter of Czar Nicholas II of Russia and his wife Princess Alexandra, during the First World War.

Although not a part of my story, I've taken the liberty to include a few paragraphs of Phyllis' book, 'Islands of Beauty An Autobiography' as well as a story about 'Old Man' Bruce.

I'll begin with Phyllis' epilogue, "One day I was amazed to read in the newspaper Princess Theodora of Greece was spending the summer on one of the small islands between me and the sunset, not more than five miles away. I wrote to suggest she come over and visit me, but my letter wasn't answered. Disappointed, I told myself a childhood friendship with the sister-in-law of the Queen of England could hardly be expected to survive a gap of nearly 50 years. But six weeks later, I had a reply from her home in Baden-Baden, where my letter had finally reached her. She wrote, "My husband has just purchased Twin Islands and I think it is the most heavenly place on earth - barring Greece, of course!" She gave me news of all her family and asked after mine - telling me she owed her ability in English to my father's good teaching - and how sorry she was to have missed me, and hoped we would meet again next summer. Sadly, she died before spring and so we never met again, although that one summer we were so close we could have seen each other's lights across the dark water."

Twin Islands are located at the extreme north end of Georgia Strait and due east of Campbell River. When Phyllis penned her letter to Theodora, she was living with her son at Lund, and as she said not more than five miles across the waters from her friend's sometimes summer home.

When helping Phyllis line up a printer, she showed me a letter from long ago written by Princess Theodora at the age of five. I made photocopies. Twenty years later, the World Wildlife Federation contacted me enquiring about a leather bound copy of 'The Art of Photographing North American Birds' to present to Prince Philip. The book had been published in 1984. I gifted 50/50 to Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip and in it enclosed a letter of explanation with a photocopy of Philip's sister's childish handwritten letter from years earlier. Ironically, I made a trip to Triangle Island, a seabird reserve north of Vancouver Island, in 1981. Dick Canning, a professor at the University of British Columbia, accompanied me on the trip. On one of Prince Philip's many trips to BC, Dick gifted a book to his Royal Highness. Dick told me, "I took Philip to Iona Island in Richmond to look at birds and gave him a copy of your book. Philip said, "I

could see these birds in my own back yard”.

Here’s more comments from Phyllis’ book:

“My brother Wilfred was six and I was nearly five when we were invited to tea at the Royal Palace by King Constantine. I was excited, but a bit nervous because my father had not been able to come with us. I had to wear my party dress, all lace and ribbons, and Wilfred wore his grey suit with the long pants. As soon as we were dropped off at the courtyard gates, the Palace Guards came out of their pillboxes and shouted at us, pointing their guns. We ran as fast as we could to the big front door on the side of the palace and called out for help. Much to our relief, it opened right away, and we were taken up to the drawing-room and our friends, the Princesses Margarita and Theodora.”

“A few minutes later their grandfather, old King Constantine, came in with his little dog. We were very surprised to find he didn’t wear a crown like the kings and queens in our bedtime stories, and looked, in fact, much like anyone else. The maid brought in trays of lovely iced cakes and tiny teacups full of tea. I remember being afraid I would spill my tea, as I tended to be clumsy. Just then the King’s little dog came up to me and started barking. Perhaps he was hoping I would give him some cake or spill some crumbs. To my amazement, the King shouted back, “You go to hell!” And looked back at me with a smile. After that, I wasn’t so nervous. When the king smiled, he looked just like my favourite uncle who had always loved to tease me. He was probably amused to think the little daughter of Reverend Mr. Gardner would never hear such swearing at home even though she might hear quite a bit about Hell.”

“When tea was over we said goodbye to the old king and went downstairs with the princesses to find the Royal Carriage at the door. We were told about some kind of public celebration going on, and the princesses were to be driven through the streets of Athens. The sidewalks were filled with people waiting to see the girls go by and my brother and I were invited to come with them.”

“Wilfred and I were seated on either side of the royal nanny Miss Roos, facing backwards. I was disappointed not to be able to see the Royal Coachman in his grand uniform. Margarita and Theodora, of course, had the good seats, where they could look out at the cheering crowds and wave back at them with that special wave royalty uses. I tried it myself, even though I knew the crowds had no reason to cheer me, but Miss Roos slapped my wrist angrily and said, “You’re not to wave Phyllis!” It was as if I had done something shocking.

“This didn’t bother me as much as it might have done, as only a few days before she had reprimanded the princesses for their bad manners, and said, “Look at Phyllis, she’s behaving properly!” That occasion was one of the many times in my childhood when I noticed how nannies will make use of any possible excuse to put you in the wrong. We had been at the beach all afternoon, and on the way home in the streetcar Margarita and Theodora, who were wearing sandals, began to scrape sand from between their toes onto the floor. The reason I behaved “properly” was because I was wearing running shoes! Even at that age I could see how unjust Miss Roos was, but unfortunately was too shy to point it out later.”

“Later that summer we were invited to go to lunch at the Royal Summer Palace at Tatoi, on the outskirts of Athens. Wilfred and I were taken to the station and seated in our little open air train. From then on we were on our own, and so enjoyed the ride immensely. At Tatoi we were met by a carriage and driven up a driveway lined with huge trees to a white building so lovely it hardly seemed real. I remember little else about the afternoon except we had a wonderful lunch of mashed potatoes.”

“When Dad met our train back at the station in Athens, we told him all about the wonderful potatoes. Mother asked if King Constantine had been home and seemed disappointed to hear he was away. Wilfred and I didn’t tell her we had actually been rather relieved not to be on the best behaviour all afternoon. We always felt Mother was not much interested in what we had to say anyway.”

“That was the last time we spent the afternoon with Princess Margarita and Theodora. I know now the war had begun to threaten all the British people in Athens, and the princesses and their family were preparing to leave.”

As mentioned earlier, John George Bruce was a regular at my tiny camera shop and was always telling stories about his life full of adventures. Bruce had joined the British Navy in 1900 three months short of his 13th birthday as an able-bodied seaman and by the Second World War was a corporal and deep sea diver. John’s life was full of adventure. He watched pirates throw slaves off ships off the coast of Africa and witnessed a mandarin line up a group of suspected pirates and then chop off their heads. The captives had been forced to get down on their hands and knees and extend their heads in preparation for their own execution by the mandarin. None broke rank and all had their heads chopped

off at 10 second intervals. Bruce was present at the Suez Canal when American, French and British Navies intercepted the Russian Fleet en route to engage the Japanese in battle in the war of 1904/05. The British denied the Russian Navy access to the Suez Canal and forced them to take the longer route around the tip of Africa. This resulted in the Russian Fleet going into battle with no fuel. The stall tactic gave the British time to provide the Japanese Navy with state-of-the-art ships resulting in the Japanese winning the war. Upon leaving the navy and after logging for a spell in the Skagit Valley in Washington State, Bruce came to Canada. Here, he went back to diving and participated in the building of the Lions Gate Bridge and fish ladders at Hells Gate in the Fraser Canyon.

Among his more colourful stories was the claim he physically carried the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, the mother of Czar Nicholas II of Russia, and his daughter Anastasia, off Russian soil in their escape from the Bolsheviks. In a 1972 interview, he remembered the incident as follows:

”Commander Isaacson called me over and pointed to a piece of land and said, “Now Bruce, I have a job for you and there might be a little bit of danger in it.... (This is covered in detail in the chapter ‘The Dowager Empress and Anastasia.’)

One day, I happened to visit the Fort Langley Centennial Museum and its curator mentioned the municipality was looking for someone to write its history.

In the fall of 1974, four other tiny camera store owners and myself formed a loose partnership to compete with the larger chain stores by forming a cooperative to buy inventory at lower prices. We attended a camera trade show to see the latest products. They put me in charge of purchasing and one afternoon I bought \$250,000 worth of stock without so much as a signature and the terms were interest free and not payable until the end of January. It was the equivalent to another 10 % in savings.

By this time, I’d opened a second shop in the City of Abbotsford, 20 miles from Haney and left my English buddy Dave and another employee to sell cameras and film. The store had the perfect location as it was directly across the street from the post office. Dave and I came to an arrangement. He would buy any remaining inventory after Christmas and buy the business. Things became a little scary by December as sales were slow and most of my huge inventory was still stored in the basement of the house. We got lucky. The Fraser Valley had a huge four foot drop of snow one night making travel by car impossible. By this time I had three employees in the tiny shop. It was crazy and every few hours I’d have to have friends push my car through the snow to bring back inventory. Everything worked out in the end. Two students from my night class course in photography bought the business. Everyone in the co-op came through and my suppliers were paid in full.

I embarked on a new career as a writer by taking a contract to write the history of the City of Langley. It was supposed to be 96-pages and half photographs and half text and take six months. Instead, it took two years and ended up being 300 pages. The city was 10 miles square resulting in 100x4 = 400 property owners of 160 acres. I went to the Land Registry office in New Westminster daily for several weeks and learned the original pre-emptors of every parcel of land up to 1900. In most cases, I didn’t go to archives to do my research but instead crossed the Fraser River from Haney to Langley five days a week to interview the pioneers about their parents and grandparents and went to the extreme of doing their family trees. I’d do one taped interview in the morning and another in the afternoon. Returning home, my evenings were taken up transcribing the tapes. And then came the book. I’d type 14x8 inch pages, cut them up with scissors, and arrange things in chronology on the floor. I did all this for a \$12,000 loan from the city. It’s a long story but things worked out in the end by selling the city 100 leather-bound and sleeved books plus 1,000 hardcovers at discounted prices. The other 2,000 books were in soft cover and quickly sold out to book stores.

There is an additional tidbit to the book business as William Crozier Blair was the mayor and also a Holstein Friesen dairy farmer so we were able to talk cows until the cows came home. He went to bat for me and voted to give me an extension for the completion of the book. Part of his family were Crozier and related to our neighbour Cecil Crozier who lived adjacent to Dad and Mom’s farm. Evelyn Coates was the city’s secretary who made up the contract. She was Ed Coates’s aunt. Ed owned Lordco Automotive, the largest car parts dealer in the city. In 2008, looking for advertisers for my ‘Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows’ book, I visited Lordco’s head office. It was in Maple Ridge. When talking to the secretary, Ed walked past and said, “Who are you?” I told him my name. “Oh, I know you through Aunt Evelyn’. He told his secretary not to disturb him for an hour. We talked, he grew up in Fort Langley and used to trap muskrats and skin them for income. So did I. He purchased 100 copies. The city bought 500. More recently, I went for a walk along Kanaka Creek and observed an old gentleman trying to get his key into the driver’s door of his car. Both his dog and he were older than dirt. Somehow, and I can’t remember how, Lordco came up in conversation. He glanced at me and said, “Do

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you know where the name Lordco came from?" I replied, "I think Lord was Ed's original partner'. He glanced at me with a big smile, "I'm the Lord".

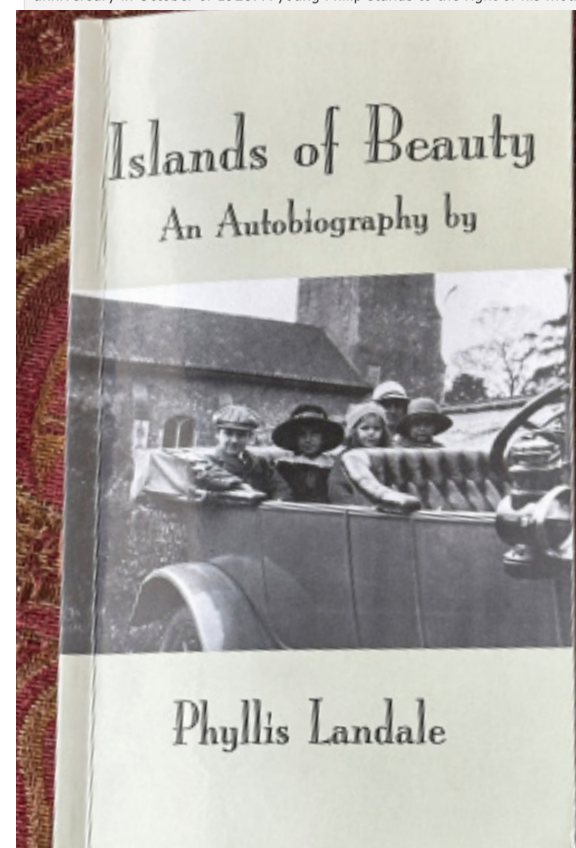
In 2010, I contacted Roger Touchie, the President of Heritage House Publishing, about taking on my "British Columbia & Yukon Gold Hunters' title. We struck a deal. Heritage would take 5,000 copies without advertising and I'd take 1,000 hardcover books with advertising. It worked out for everyone. My advertising took up 16 pages of ads after the index and wasn't involved in any way with the book. Ed Coates bought 1,000 books with 8 pages of advertising in the final 16-page signature. His payment covered the cost of my 1,000 books. It was a win-win for everyone.



Prince Philip poses with his family for a photograph to mark his parents' silver wedding anniversary in October of 1928. A young Philip stands to the right of his mother, Princess



Theodora of Greece and Denmark



SIR JAMES BOND II GOES CRAZY

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GOLDFINGER

Opposite

Executives of the Canadian Club and the two future Kings of the United Kingdom, 19 August 1927.

- 1 Unknown
- 2 Edward G. Baynes
- 3 James G. Todhunter
- 4 R. A. Simpson
- 5 W. O. Banfield
- 6 H. W. Long (Chief of Police)
- 7 W. J. Baird
- 8 J. Lukin Johnson
- 9 R. Marpole
- 10 William Harold Malkin
- 11 G. Farrell
- 12 Unknown
- 13 W. Dalton
- 14 J. J. Banfield
- 15 C. S. McHarg
- 16 Reverend P. T. Pilkey
- 17 F. F. Schooly
- 18 A. E. Foreman
- 19 J. H. Griffin
- 20 Captain Leckey
- 21 J. V. R. Dunlop
- 22 A. F. Lascelles
- 23 Louis D. Taylor, Mayor of Vancouver
- 24 Brigadier-General Victor W. Odium
- 25 Honourable James Horace King,
Federal Minister of Public Works
- 26 HRH Prince Edward (later King Edward VII)
- 27 William Carey Ditmars, President
of the Canadian Club
- 28 HRH Prince George (later King George VI)
- 29 Honourable Peter Heenan,
Federal Minister of Labour
- 30 F. R. McD Russell, King's Counsel
- 31 Brigadier General G.F. Trotter,
Military Secretary to His Royal Highnesses

Two Future Kings

The two sons of King George V were guests in the second Hotel Vancouver. They arrived by train on 19 August 1927 to participate in the city's celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation. The Prince of Wales and his brother Prince George together with the Right Honourable Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister of England, had arrived in Montreal on 31 July 1927. Baldwin and the princes travelled in eastern Canada together before he sailed from Sydney, NS, on 18 August 1927 for England. The highlight for the royal brothers was very likely the time they spent at Prince Edward's 10,000-acre ranch in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta.

The two men, 33 and 31 years old respectively, stepped off the train in Vancouver only to learn that Premier John Oliver had passed away a day earlier. Without so much as a moment to collect their thoughts, the two princes began what can only be described as a 24/7 tour of the city. The dignitaries' first stop was at the Pacific National Exhibition, where they were given a ride on the giant roller coaster before being whisked off to a photo opportunity on the rooftop of the Hotel Vancouver that was followed by a luncheon with 1,200 Canadian Club members. They afterwards took in a game of golf, visited a military hospital, and met with dignitaries—before attending a ball and dance in their honour.

An excerpt from the older brother's short speech perhaps gave a clue to his thoughts on becoming the next King of England:

Gentlemen, as I expect you have found out, it is not a bad thing to have two strings in one's bow. I am now in that happy position today: my second string is my young brother, who, having shared with me in our wonderful tour through Canada and in the hospitality you have shown us today, is anxious to tell you in his own words how much he has enjoyed it. I must not keep him, or you, waiting any longer.

In retrospect Prince Edward's speech and the comments about having a second arrow in the bow could be taken as a premonition of what was to happen later. When King George V died in 1936, Prince Edward became King Edward VIII, but only briefly. He fell in love with an American divorcee, and Prime Minister Baldwin told him that for political and religious reasons he could not marry her and remain king. Edward decided to abdicate the throne to marry the love of his life. After stepping down, he was created the Duke



Scrunched between many Vancouver dignitaries, the two sons of King George V—The Prince of Wales and Prince George—are the youngest members of the group for a photo opportunity on the rooftop of the second Hotel Vancouver. Having just returned from a roller coaster ride at the Pacific National Exhibition and aware they would each be giving speeches to a large group, the two future kings appear most uncomfortable.

of Windsor and in 1938 toured Nazi Germany. During the Second World War Sir Winston Churchill, the new Prime Minister of England, aware that the Duke was a Nazi sympathizer, moved him “out of the way” to the Bahamas as its Governor.

His replacement younger brother George became King George VI and ruled during the tumultuous Second World War. Although Britain and its allies ultimately won the war, the United States and the Soviet Union began to rise as world powers and the British Empire declined, paving the way for the Cold War.



Above

James Findlay was the first Vancouver mayor to wear the new gold civic chain of office at the official opening of the courthouse by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught on 12 September 1912. The ornate chain was designed by Henry Birks Jewellers. Wrought in 14-karat gold, the chain is of handsome design and splendid workmanship. It is composed of five shields that are each carved with designs depicting the five principal industries of the province: Forestry, Shipping, Manufacturing, Mining and Tourism.

Right

Mayor James Findlay welcomed the Duke and Duchess of Connaught to a civic reception at the newly-completed Vancouver Court House on 18 September 1912. The arrival of the "horseless carriage," the automobile, greatly altered the character of the royal tour. Only two teams of horses appear in this photo. The licence plate numbers on some of the cars can be clearly seen in pioneer Vancouver photographer Stuart Thomson's image, and from them one can determine that William J. Edgett of 1350 West 10th Avenue came in his Woinin automobile, and John C. Dill of 2466 West 6th Avenue came in his Hudson. Vancouver's military as well as local boy scouts turned out "in spit and polish" to welcome "The Duke," Queen Victoria's third son, who was at the time Canada's Governor General. The enthusiasm of the crowd can be measured by the 92 Union Jacks that can be counted in this picture.





The Beatty Street Drill Hall

The 6th Regiment, of the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, parade for their annual inspection in 1909. The parade was held on the Cambie Street Grounds immediately west of the Beatty Street Drill Hall in downtown Vancouver. The view is east across Cambie Street.

From the Plaque at Beatty Street Drill Hall

VANCOUVER'S FIRST SOLDIERS occupied the former Imperial Opera House located near the corner of Beatty and Pender Streets to train and use as their headquarters. As the regiment numbers increased, they soon outgrew the old wooden building. After much resistance the Federal Government finally approved the purchase of land and the construction of Vancouver's first drill hall. Construction started late in 1899 and was completed in 1901. Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Owen Townley was the Vancouver Battalion's first commanding officer in 1896 and was also registrar of land titles in Vancouver. His influence had much to do with the approval of the drill hall construction and its prominent location. Townley became Vancouver's eighth mayor in 1901.

The drill hall was designed by David Ewart and was opened on 30 September 1901 by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later King George V and Queen Elizabeth). The building has two prominent castle-like turrets complete with battlements; World War II era tanks and two original 64-pounder guns used by the

regiment now adorn the exterior. The Beatty Street Drill Hall has long been a Vancouver landmark and is listed as a class-A heritage building. The walls are three and a half feet thick; the building rests on huge granite blocks. Limestone from Gabriola Island was used for the parapet, and it features a rusticated stone trim. The drill hall includes a large parade square, offices, a museum and classrooms. It formerly contained a firing range and bowling alley. Originally the Cambie Street Grounds, now a parking lot, across the street was also used as part of the regiment's training facilities.

Boer War veterans march north down Granville Street on 30 September 1901. The soldiers are in Vancouver for the official opening by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later King George V and Queen Elizabeth) of the Beatty Street Drill Hall and for the presentation of medals for their South African service to the British Empire. Their tents have been set up in CPR Park, part of the second Hotel Vancouver complex. The view is taken to the northeast from one of the balconies near the top of the hotel.



Route to be taken by the Royal party

ON ARRIVAL

From CPR depot to corner Granville and Hastings

Hastings to Main

Along Main to Pender

Along Granville to Georgia to Courthouse

AFTER CEREMONY AT COURTHOUSE

Proceeds to Aberdeen School from Court House, along Howe via Georgia; and Howe to Smithe, and along Smithe to Burrard

DRIVE AROUND PARK

Aberdeen School, Burrard to Nelson, Nelson to Bidwell, Bidwell to Beach Avenue to park, leaving by Georgia Street entrance and thence via Georgia back to hotel.

VICTORIA COLONIST, 30 SEPTEMBER 1901

The Duke of Connaught's Visit

The Ghost Soldier of the Beatty Street Drill Hall

by Diana Morency

Administrative Assistant,
Beatty Street Drill Hall

When I first began working at the British Columbia Regiment, I had a sense of being watched or observed. Not knowing the history of the place, I had wandered around the building, taking in my surroundings. One day I looked up towards the inside windows and saw a movement near the exit sign. It was as if a hand moved across the sign blurring it.

Another time I was sent down to the Quarter Master section and by mistake took a wrong turn and ended up in the Junior Ranks area. I felt a strong sense that someone was watching me, and that sent shivers throughout my entire body. I know that he is not an evil presence, and I suspect he just wants to make sure that I was okay being in the regiment that he values so much.

Later I was told about his ashes and did my own research on him and came to discover that one of his requests was that he be buried at sea. I feel his wishes should be honoured, so his restless spirit can be at ease, and if he chooses to visit then he can do so with a sense of peace.

From The Vancouver Sun, 18 September 1912

WITH A GUARD OF HONOUR of the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles standing at the salute and with the regimental band playing the National Anthem, the royal train rolled in at the Canadian Pacific depot at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and His Royal Highness and the Duchess and the Princess Patricia and the members of the vice-regal suite, were accorded a hearty welcome to the Terminal City by Mayor Findlay and the civic reception committee and representative of the Dominion and provincial governments and military forces.

Although work on several of the arches was being actively proceeded with late this morning, the nail had been driven; the last piece of bunting adjusted and everything was in readiness for the people of Vancouver to greet their royal highnesses when the train arrived. For two hours the citizens in tens of thousands had been thronging the streets, admiring the splendid decorations and taking up their places along the line of route.

From early morn Vancouver has been on the tiptoe of expectation over the vice-regal visit. Like all hospitable hosts—anxious that nothing should be left undone—the city has been actively engaged in preparations for the guests and work on the decorations was being rushed to the very moment of their arrival.

There is no desire to make comparisons—for everyone knows that all along the “royal progress” every town has done splendidly—but Vancouver as decked today without a doubt compares favourably with any other city in Canada, as regards decorations.

Taking their places in the carriages waiting near the platform, the royal guests escorted by the detachment of the British Columbia Mounted Horse under the command of Colonel Flick, proceeded on their tour of the city. The winding roadway from the railway station to the corner of Granville and Cordova Streets, was one densely packed mass of surging humanity, each wait of which was eager to catch the first glimpse of the vice-regal visitors. The police cordons were well preserved, though the mounted and foot constables had a busy time keeping clear the path. The crowds were thickest near the corner of Granville and Hastings Streets. Here nearly ten thousand people had gathered to view the royal procession.

Their royal highnesses were greeted with hearty cheers that almost echoed across the inlet and were in one long-continued surge of sound

along the liner of route as the party passed on the way.

The thousands of flags waved bravely in the breeze, the air seemed vibrant with tense enthusiasm, and the brightly decorated arches and buildings and resplendent uniforms of the militia regiments blended in one kaleidoscopic mass of colour, contrasting effectively with the sombre garb of the civilians in the orthodox frock coat and silk hat, who occupied the carriages.

The gala attire of the streets and buildings and the harbour shipping, the general air of festivity and civic wellbeing, the magnificent buildings handsomely decorated, all combine to present to the distinguished visitors of this afternoon a scene of progress and prosperity probably unsurpassed on the continent.

The decorations are of the amplest and most attractive description. Myriad flags flutter from every vantage point. Work on the decorations has proceeded day and night without intermission for the last week, and it has been a race against time to complete them. Workmen have labored under extreme difficulties, and have accomplished much under the most trying conditions. It's a question whether the Italian arch on Hastings Street will be completed on time.

Arches Are Feature

An arch erected by the Progress Club on Granville Street from a design by Mr. George Henry Little, a reproduction of Holbein's architectural masterpiece at the gateway at St. James' Palace, London, is among the most striking of the decorative effects. This arch represents the architecture of the Tudor period. It is finished off with a fine coating of stone on paint, with mullioned windows of the old-fashioned bulls' eyeglass, expressly made in small sheets.



Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught and Strathern, was the third and favourite son of Queen Victoria. He rose to the rank of Field Marshal in his own right as a professional soldier in the British Army. He also served as the Masonic Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England from 1901 until 1939. The Duke of Connaught served as the Colonel of the Regiment and then Colonel-in-Chief of the 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles (now the British Columbia Regiment's Duke of Connaught's Own) from 1900 until 1942. He was Governor General of Canada from 1911 until 1916. The Duke of Connaught Lodge No. 64 in North Vancouver was named to commemorate his 1912 visit to Vancouver.



Vancouver City Mounted Police sit at attention in front of an arch that straddled Hamilton Street at Pender Street. The arch was built and donated by the BC Shingle Association to honor the visit by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. A huge Douglas fir, bark left on, was sawn into eight logs—each four feet in diameter and 20 feet long—that were stood on end and topped with a flag-bedecked pediment. According to folklore, there was not a nail in the whole of it. William J. Edgett took this photograph on 20 September 1912 during the visit of the royals. The arch was later dismantled and relocated in Stanley Park at the Indian Village of Whoi-Whoi. By 1947 that arch had deteriorated and as a result was demolished.

From the turret will fly one of the few Royal Standards in the city. The Royal Coat of Arms and that of the Duke of Connaught are emblazoned, as also the emblem of the Progress Club. The whole will be lit up tonight by a scheme of illumination from within. To the energy of Mr. J. T. Stephens, the erection of the Progress Club's arch is largely due. Vines are being trained on the structure and the whole will form a very complete reproduction.

Italian Arch

Another handsome arch is the one erected by the Italians, designed to represent the arch of the Constantine at Rome. This arch is of Roman Corinthian order and is the tallest in the city, 64 feet high. Over the top is inscribed in English and Italian, "Italian Colony, in Honor to His Royal Highness." The arch is solid wood construction, in columns plastered to imitate marble. The plaster caps of the columns were engraved by a local sculpture and are an exact reproduction of the Corinthian caps at Cori, Italy, the only one of the kind known. The Canadian Northern arch adjoining is after

the French style. Perry and Nicholas are the designers of the Italian arch. Other arches are the Japanese arch after the design of those generally erected at the entrance to the temples of Buddha, and the Chinese arch, on Carrall Street, that is a reproduction of the arches generally constructed in China for similar occasions. The Germans have erected on Granville Street an old German design of a city gate, the outline of which is illuminated. A smaller ancient city gate, from a design by Mr. Ormaton, is erected at the corner of Granville and Hastings Streets. Another handsome erection is the Lumbermens' Association arch at Pender and Hamilton Streets. Massive unhewn logs of Douglas fir form the bases. This arch is to be, it is understood, rebuilt in Stanley Park. The gaily dressed harbor ships fly the British emblem from every masthead.

A view east of the Italian arch across Hastings Street at Homer Street with the Dominion Building blocked by the left hand corner of the arch with the Great Northern Railway arch in the background.



The Duke of Connaught's Men

by Colonel (retired) Keith D. Maxwell, OMM, CD

ON 18 SEPTEMBER 1912 the 62-year-old Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught, third son of Queen Victoria, visited Vancouver and met with military officers and personnel at the Beatty Street Drill hall for a photograph opportunity. The Duke was Canada's 10th Governor General and served from 1911 until 1916.

Some of the officers in the portrait went on to serve heroically in the First World War and some made the ultimate sacrifice:

Captain H. C. Buller joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry at the outbreak of the First World War and was killed in action commanding that Regiment at Sanctuary Wood on 2 June 1916. He is buried in the PPCLI's first Regimental burial ground just south of Ypres, Belgium, along with approximately 100 other original members of the Regiment.

Major William Frederick Hart-McHarg served in the South Africa War and later commanded the 7th (1st British Columbia) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which is perpetuated by Vancouver's British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own). He was killed in action commanding his battalion during the Second Battle of Ypres, near Saint Julien, Belgium, on 24 April 1915.

Lieutenant William S. Latta commanded the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion from May 1917 until August 1918, when he was seriously wounded in action at Amiens, France. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) three times. There were only sixteen officers in Canada so honoured. His son, Pilot Officer John Blandford Latta, was an ace fighter pilot during the Battle of Britain, who was credited with six kills. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Pilot Officer Latta was killed in action on 12 January 1941.

Major T. V. Scudamore served with the first contingent as a company commander in the 7th (1st British Columbia) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was taken prisoner during the Second Battle of Ypres near Saint Julien, Belgium, on 24 April 1915. He later wrote the history of the 7th (1st BC) Battalion in the First World War. His son, Lieutenant John Scudamore, was killed in action while serving as an officer of the British Columbia Regiment in Belgium in October 1944.



6th Regiment, The Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles allied with the Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own).

Back row: Lieutenant J. D. Inkster; Lieutenant J. S. Matthews, Vancouver City Archivist 1933–1970; Lieutenant W. J. McManus; Lieutenant T. V. Scudamore; Lieutenant J. M. McMillan; Lieutenant W. S. Latta; Lieutenant J. Moscrop; Lieutenant C. E. King; Lieutenant H. B. Scharschmidt

Middle row: Captain R. H. McGill; Captain P. M. Ferris; Captain R. G. Maxwell; Captain A. Graham; Captain A. Rowan; Lieutenant G. W. Melhuish; Captain C. Milne; Lieutenant A. Turner; Lieutenant W. B. Hunter

Front row: Captain H. C. Buller, Aide-de-camp, The Rifle Brigade; Major H. D. Hulme; Lieutenant Colonel J. Duff Stuart; Field Marshall His Royal Highness The Duke of Connaught, Honorary Colonel; A. D. McRae, Esquire, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel; Major W. Hart-McHarg; Captain Reverend C. C. Owen

Training for the Trenches

by *Sergeant Dwayne H. Snow, CD*

SEVENTEEN INFANTRY BATTALIONS were raised in British Columbia to serve overseas in the Great War, of which seven are perpetuated by the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), the province's senior regiment. More than 15,000 volunteers passed through the ranks of these seven units. Many of the initial volunteers were drawn from the serving members of the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles and other local regiments, while most of the later recruits were civilians with no military experience. In each battalion a small number of veteran officers and non-commissioned officers provided a cadre around which the new recruits were formed. Three of the regiment's battalions became part of the order of battle of the Canadian Corps while the remainder were broken up as reinforcements. Those forming part of the Canadian Corps included the 7th, 29th and 102nd Battalions.

The 7th Battalion was raised at Camp Valcartier, Quebec, in September 1914 with an initial strength of 1223 officers and men. Lieutenant-Colonel Hart-McHarg was its first commanding officer. More than 6,000 men served in the 7th Battalion, which suffered 1529 killed and 3669 wounded during their 45 months on the Western Front. The 7th Battalion returned to Vancouver on 25 April 1919 with only 12 of its original members. Soldiers of the Battalion earned more than 270 awards for gallantry, including three Victoria Crosses, the highest award for valour in the Empire. Captain Edward Bellew and Private Michael J. O'Rourke and Private Walter Rayfield earned the three VCs.

The 29th (Vancouver) Battalion, known as "Tobin's Tigers," was raised in Vancouver in March 1915 and had an initial strength of 1227 officers and men. Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Tobin, a veteran of the RCMP and the South African War, was its first commanding officer. Arriving at the front in the fall of 1915, it served with distinction in the trenches of the Kemmel Sector in late 1915 until the final 100

6th Field Company Construction Engineers, Camp 2, bivouacked at Grandview Park (Commercial Drive and Charles Streets) on 2 April 1918 in preparation for deployment overseas to France and Belgium.





Victoria Cross recipients Private Michael James O'Rourke of the 7th (1st British Columbia) Battalion and Company Sergeant Major Robert Hill Hanna of the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion stand united in front of Buckingham Palace after the Victoria Cross awards ceremony conducted by King George V. Both soldiers won their VCs at the Battle of Hill 70 in August 1917. Note that CSM Hanna is wearing the white hat band of an officer cadet as he had been selected for officer training shortly after the battle.

days campaign that ended the war. Of the 4524 soldiers who served in its ranks during the war 606 were killed and 1715 were wounded. The soldiers of the 29th earned more than 355 decorations for gallantry and Sergeant-Major Robert Hanna was awarded a VC.

The 102nd (North British Columbia) Battalion, raised at Comox in December 1915, had an initial strength of 1005 officers and men. Lieutenant-Colonel John Weightman Warden was its first commanding officer and the Battalion became known as "Warden's Warriors." Warden had

served in the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles (DCOR) and enlisted in the 7th Battalion. The 102nd Battalion arrived in France on 12 August 1916 and received its "baptism of fire" at the Somme. Of the 3863 officers and men who served in the battalion 676 were killed and 1715 wounded. The soldiers of the battalion earned 287 decorations for gallantry. Lieutenant Graham Lyall was awarded a VC.

With the defeat of the German Empire, two of the regiment's battalions, the 7th and 29th, formed part of the occupation force on the Rhine River and returned to base

The Victoria Cross

There were only 70 Victoria Crosses awarded to Canadians during the First World War, and a further sixteen in the Second World War. The decoration is a simple bronze Maltese Cross with the words "For Valour" inscribed on it with the recipient's rank, name and serial number on the reverse of the bar. It is worn on the right of other service medals. Queen Victoria introduced the medal in 1856 to reward acts of bravery during the Crimean War. According to folklore, the gun-metal from which the medals came were struck from Russian cannons captured during the siege of Sevastopol. Victoria Crosses can now sell for up to a million dollars.

Robert Hill Hanna joined C Company of the 29th Battalion, known as Tobin's Tigers, as a private. He received his VC in 1917 after all his company officers were killed. He reorganized the remaining men to attack and capture a German trench and defend the position against counterattack in August 1917 on Hill 70 near Lens, France.

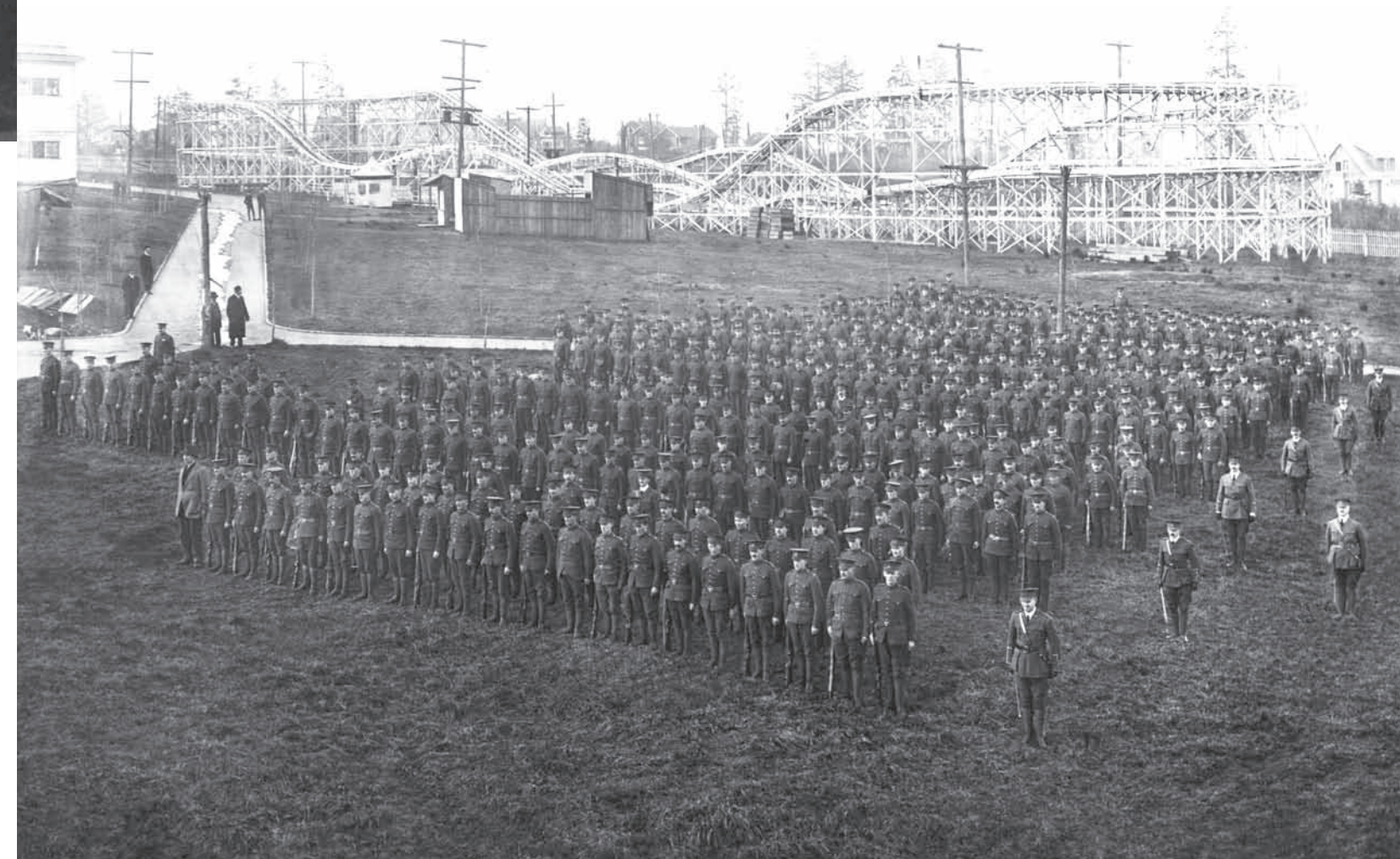
Hastings Park

From the Bessborough Armoury Museum's notes:

The 1920s were a time of improvisation and achievement for the brigade. The first summer camp was held in Hastings Park (present day PNE fairgrounds) in 1921. The government was unwilling to fund a permanent establishment of horses to pull the guns, so the artillerymen rescued some old horses on their way to the slaughterhouse. Fed, encouraged and groomed by the soldiers, the horses pulled the guns to Hastings Park, where, in between rides on the roller-coaster, the artillerymen trained in a manner described as "cheerful and willing, rather than well-informed".



The 29th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces stand at attention in 1914 at the parade square at Hastings Park with the roller-coaster ride in the background.



16754 P.O. Bryant



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

7th Canadian

1918.

The Queen joins me in welcoming you on your release from the miseries & hardships, which you have endured with so much patience & courage.

During these many months of trial, the early rescue of our gallant Officers & Men from the cruelties of their captivity has been uppermost in our thoughts.

We are thankful that this longed for day has arrived, & that back in the old Country you will be able once more to enjoy the happiness of a home & to see good days among those who anxiously look for your return.

George R. I.

Left

This letter, which appears to be in the handwriting of King George V, is actually a printed form letter sent to many of the prisoners of war released shortly after 11 November 1918 in accordance with the terms of the Armistice. This letter was sent to 16754 Private H.H. Bryant of 3 Company, 7th (1st British Columbia) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was taken prisoner on 24 April 1915 during the Second Battle of Ypres near Saint Julien, Belgium. Germany gave notice of his capture on 15 May 1915, and he was kept at a prisoner of war camp near Munster, Germany until his release.

Right

This official portrait of King George V hangs proudly on display at the Bessborough Armoury.



camps in early 1919. The battalions returned home in the ensuing months and were demobilized and dismissed with appropriate ceremony and fanfare.

The greatest problem that faced the army after the war was reorganizing and perpetuating 260 reinforcing and 59 fighting battalions of the Canadian Expedition Forces within the "Old Militia" regiments that remained behind in Canada. In British Columbia, National Defence Headquarters decided to create the 1st British Columbia Regiment with six battalions. The DCOR and the 7th Battalion joined to form the First Battalion (7th Battalion CEF) 1st BC Regiment (DCO). The 29th (Vancouver) Battalion formed the 2nd Battalion, 1st British Columbia Regiment, and the 47th Battalion and the Westminster Regiment formed the 3rd Battalion, 1st British Columbia Regiment.

The Beatty Street Drill Hall was a busy place, with the Vancouver Regiment parading Monday and Wednesdays, the Seaforth Highlanders on Tuesday and Thursdays, and the 1st BC Regiment parading on the other days.

In 1927 Lieutenant-Colonel William Wasborough Foster, CMG, DSO, VD, became the new commanding officer of the regiment.

In the 1920s Vancouver's militia regiments had undergone a series of amalgamations, brought on by cuts

in the defence budget. The 1st Battalion was renamed the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's

Own Rifles) and the 2nd Battalion was redesignated the Vancouver Regiment; the latter was amalgamated with the Irish Fusiliers in 1936. In 2002 the Irish Fusiliers were amalgamated with The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own).

Throughout the inter-war period the militia in Canada was badly equipped and underfunded—still wearing uniforms and using equipment left over from the First World War."



Vancouver's Amputation Club

The club was formed in the early fall of 1918 and included in its membership only men who had lost an arm, a leg, or who had suffered amputation as a result of wounds in the Great War. The headquarters of the organization was at the Returned Soldiers' Club at 1142 West Pender Street, midway between Thurlow and Bute Streets.

But while the wounds of the amputees were visible, many veterans coming back from the war suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder for the rest of their lives from flashbacks and nightmares resulting from

their times in the trenches. They went overseas young and healthy and came back broken and with changed personalities.

The 100-room Elysium Hotel, built by realtors Marriot & Fellows and opened in 1911, competed for business with the CRP's second and third Hotels Vancouver. After the Second World War, the hotel was turned into 46 family suites under the federal government's Home Conversion Plan. It was demolished in the 1970s.

Some members of Vancouver's Amputation Club photographed in front of the Elysium Hotel , 3 November 1918.

Front row: A Stewart, F. Cowan, C. Wilson, M. McGougan, M. Wildman, A. Burnett, W. Armstrong, T. H. Potts, J. R. W. Jones, R. C. Sinclair, S. Ross, J. W. T. Currie, G. S. McArthur, F. McDonald, and F. C. Newcombe.

Second row: J. Logan, J. Alderson, R. C. Verrier, P. J. McCormack, C. McQueen, G. H. Morrith, T. L. Heads, W. Halstead.

Third row: H. Corner, E. R. Morton, C. Etchell, W. B. McConnell, President; D. McKenzie, R. W. Bashford.

Fourth row: H. W. Daw, J. R. Mulford, J. A. Paton and George Humphreys.



Brigadier General Duff Stewart takes salute from Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Foster, CMG, DSO, VD, during Trooping of the Colours of the Regiment at the Cambie Street Parade Grounds, 1927. The photo was taken to the west from the roof of the Beatty Street Drill Hall and shows the steeple of the Holy Rosary Cathedral in the top right hand corner of the photograph.



The unveiling of the "Angel of Victory" took place in Vancouver on 22 April 1922 before a solemn crowd of military and local dignitaries. A white-haired and goateed Mayor Charles E. Tisdall stands on the extreme left-hand side of the podium.

Angel of Victory

A heritage monument, this bronze sculpture depicts an angel carrying a dead soldier and commemorates those brave men who lost their lives in the Great War of 1914 – 1918. This is one of three identical statues commissioned by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1921 to honour their workers who answered the call of "King and country" and made the ultimate sacrifice. Montreal sculptor Coeur de Lion McCarthy created the statue. Two other identical sculptures are in Winnipeg and Montreal. The angel at the CPR Waterfront Station originally held a full wreath in her upraised hand. After the Second World War, the dates of that war were also added to the plaque.



The Worthington Brothers

by Colonel (retired) Keith D. Maxwell, OMM, CD

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD G. WORTHINGTON and his brother, Major John R. Worthington, rest side by side in Bretteville-sur-Laize Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery near the village of Cintheaux in Normandy. Their graves are the first two on the right after entering the cemetery through the main entrance. The brothers were killed nine days apart during intense fighting south of Caen and in the Falaise Gap.

Don and Jack Worthington were the only two sons of Dr. and Mrs. George Worthington of Vancouver. Dr. Worthington was a physician and an alderman on the Vancouver City Council and a prominent citizen in the community. Don and Jack were born in 1913 and 1915 respectively, and both went to high school at the University School in Victoria. Both attended UBC, and both were pharmacists looking forward to a bright future in the family's pharmacy business.

Don Worthington was drawn to the military life at a young age, joining the BCR (DCOR) in 1934; he served as the Regiment's adjutant from 1936 to 1938. He then commanded a rifle company and a Vital Point Guard upon mobilization in 1939. When the BCR (DCOR) was not selected to form part of the first Canadian contingent proceeding overseas, Don was assigned as a General Staff Officer with Military District 11 Headquarters in Vancouver to help deal with the flurry of activities underway to mobilize the Canadian army.

Jack Worthington joined the Regiment at the outbreak of the Second World War, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in September 1939 on the strength of his Canadian Officer Training Corps training at school and university. He undertook training with the Regiment in Vancouver as the unit awaited assignment to the fighting order of battle.

In June 1940 the BCR (DCOR) were assigned to the 4th Canadian Infantry Division; Don returned to the Regiment in his former post as adjutant, and Jack continued his position as a platoon commander when the Regiment moved to Nanaimo for individual and sub-unit training. During Christmas leave in 1940, Jack married Lena Jane McBride from Orangeville, Ontario.



Lieutenant Colonel D. G. Worthington was killed by friendly fire during the Battle of Normandy on 9 August 1944. Mount Worthington, located at the western end of Kananaskis River Valley and the beautiful Three Isle Lake Valley in the Canadian Rockies, is named in his honour.

Death on One Kitsilano Block

by Edna McGillvray

from a rock plaque at Cornwall Avenue and Trafalgar Street

I have lived in my home for eighty-seven years. This is how death affected one Kitsilano block, from 1st Avenue to 2nd Avenue on Trafalgar Street.

We lost the following boys in World War II: Billy Vandervoort, Bobby Mathers, Gordon Mantle (our paper boy) and the two Worthington brothers, Don and Jack. Don was in command at Falaise in France, and his brother served under him. Their father was Dr. Worthington who owned the Cut Rate Drug Stores. He had a community centre for cards and teas built at 4th and Trafalgar in their memory. It is long gone now.

This Sherman tank, now a static display in front of the Drill Hall on Beatty Street, is similar to those used by the British Columbia Regiment (DCO) in the Northwest Europe campaign of 1944–1945. The Regiment fought in Sherman tanks from Normandy to Germany, and lost over 120 tanks to enemy fire. This Sherman has the same markings and name as the tank Lieutenant-Colonel Worthington took into battle on the 8th and 9th of August 1944.



Both brothers served with the Regiment throughout its training in Canada, first as an infantry battalion, then as an armoured regiment upon conversion of the unit to armour in early 1942. During their training period in the Niagara area, Don was promoted to Major and assigned command of a rifle company and, later, an armoured squadron. With less experience, Jack retained command at the platoon and troop level.

Don went overseas with the Regiment's advance party, while Jack remained with the main party. They trained extensively, both with the Regiment and at various schools and on a variety of courses. Shortly after his arrival in the United Kingdom, Don was assigned to the British Royal Armoured Corps School to attend the Tactical Course; the course report noted that Major Worthington would "make a first class Squadron Leader." This was neither the first nor last time that his exceptional abilities were noted.

In 1943 Don deployed to North Africa where he was attached to the 2nd Lothian and Borders Horse Yeomanry, an armoured regiment assigned to British First Army. He served as a Squadron Commander and Second-in-Command of the Regiment and saw extensive action in the offensive in Tunisia to clear the German Army from North Africa.

Don rejoined his Regiment and his brother in April 1943. His experience, noted leadership qualities and exceptional abilities were noticed in high places. He attended the Canadian Military Headquarters Senior Officers' School from May to July 1943 and was appointed as Second-in-Command of the Regiment while on course.

In June of that year, Jack was promoted to Captain and the following month was assigned as the Regimental Signals Officer, a position he retained until the following August.

On 27 August 1943 Major Don Worthington was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel to command the Regiment; he was responsible for preparing the Regiment for the Northwest Europe campaign. He was a dynamic, popular and demanding Commanding Officer who got the most out of his officers and men. He drove them hard and treated them with respect. As a part of the preparation for combat and in recognition of his abilities, Lieutenant Colonel Worthington was

earmarked to replace his Brigade Commander in the event that Brigadier Booth became a casualty.

Colonel Worthington led his Regiment, as part of Worthington Force, into combat on 9 August 1944 during Operation Totalize. The Regiment's first combat engagement in the war was devastating, with more than half of the soldiers in the fighting echelon lost as casualties, along with three quarters of the Regiment's tanks. Colonel Worthington led his troops from the front throughout the battle and provided an inspiring example through his bravery and leadership. He was mentioned in despatches in "recognition of his gallantry and distinguished service" that day. He died from a shrapnel wound late that afternoon.

Jack Worthington was promoted the day after his brother was killed and assigned command of a squadron, where his first task was to help lead the reconstruction of the Regiment after its heavy losses. On 14 August 1944, Major Worthington led his squadron in Operation Tractable and follow-on offensive operations. In the next four days the Regiment advanced fifteen kilometres to the southeast of Falaise to cut off the retreating Germans. In the confusion of that advance, Jack's tank was mistaken for a German vehicle and strafed by a Royal Air Force Typhoon attack fighter. He was mortally wounded by the friendly fire and died minutes after being turned over to a Polish medical evacuation unit.

In 1946 Jane and Dr. Worthington wrote letters to Canadian Army Headquarters asking that the brothers be interred together. Their request was granted. The story of Don and Jack Worthington is one of inspiration and tragedy; they provided remarkable leadership to the British Columbia Regiment at war. May they Rest in Peace. Dr. and Mrs. Worthington are buried in the Masonic cemetery on North Road in Burnaby.



Wreaths adorn the Cenotaph at Victory Square in downtown Vancouver following the Remembrance Day ceremony in 2009. The words inscribed on the Cenotaph, *Their Name Liveth Forever More*, were written by Rudyard Kipling for use by the War Graves Commission after the First World War. The phrase is carved into the Stone of Remembrance at all Commission war graves cemeteries with more than 1000 graves. Kipling was active with the Commission from its outset after his son Jack, an 18-year old myopic Second Lieutenant with the Irish Guards, went missing and was presumed killed during the Battle of Loos in September 1915.

Heritage Warrior

by *Daphne Sleigh*, author of *The Man who Saved Vancouver: Major James Skitt Matthews*

OF ALL THE REMARKABLE CHARACTERS who took the stage in the civic life of 20th-century Vancouver, Major James Skitt Matthews was one of the most colourful—and also one of the most significant. Some have called him “the city’s saviour.” A saviour? Yes, in the sense that it was Matthews who saved the city’s history from oblivion; saved it when no one else was taking action; saved it in the face of apathy, indifference and outright opposition. The great achievement of his life was his triumph in founding the City Archives of Vancouver, which opened officially in 1933.

Matthews came out of nowhere when he landed in Vancouver in 1898, a youth of twenty with no money, no contacts and no obvious prospects. He was born in Wales, but when he was nine his parents emigrated to New Zealand with the idea of running a large sheep farm. Many things went wrong for them; they uprooted again and sailed for South America, leaving the teenage James behind to fend for himself. He quickly found consolation in the form of pretty little Maud Boscawen, and soon the couple were secretly engaged. Since her aristocratic father had always disapproved so strongly of young James, life in New Zealand seemed out of the question. James headed for North America, sent for Maud as soon as he was able, and they married in Vancouver in 1899.

In Vancouver he soon found a steady job with Imperial Oil, rising from the junior position of clerk to that of an accountant and sales manager. But his passionate interest outside his working hours was his life in the militia. He joined the Duke of Connaught’s Own Rifles in 1904, and this became his great enthusiasm—the parades, the camps, and above all, the history and tradition of the regiment. He swiftly acquired the position of regimental historian, and this was the beginning of his other life as a compulsive archivist and collector.

Gradually he amassed an unwieldy accumulation of antiquities and “relics,” as he liked to call them. He did not restrict himself to documentary records, for he was attracted to any item of historical interest, and since he was collecting for the regiment as well as himself, it also included old military uniforms, badges, weapons, and so forth.

Opposite

Major James S. Matthews poses proudly in his Duke of Connaught uniform. The “Major” served as the City of Vancouver’s archivist from 1933 until his death in 1970 at the age of 92.

Below

A bronze sculpture of the Major’s beloved wife, Emily, along with one of the old warrior himself, Major Matthews, are on display in the city’s archives.



With the First World War his enjoyable times in the Beatty Street Drill Hall were soon transformed into the harsh reality of frontline warfare. He enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and in the last months of the Battle of the Somme he received a severe head injury, which left him permanently deaf in one ear. His active service was over. He returned home, but on the day of his arrival Maud told him she was leaving him for another man.

After the divorce James married again to Emily Edwardes, a nurse who had served courageously overseas in the war. This was to be a most compatible marriage, in which Emily gave James all the affection and support which this prickly character so badly needed.

But the 1920s were troubling times for James. One of the great sorrows of his life was the loss of his much loved youngest son, Hugh, who met sudden death in an elevator accident at the office where he worked for the Robertson-Goodson Co. Ltd. in 1922. This was a traumatic bereavement for James. He began to experience a sense of emptiness in his career. He had left Imperial Oil after the war and was now trying various forms of commercial enterprise, but with little feeling of fulfilment. Suddenly an idea came to him: he would turn his leisure pursuit of collecting into a serious avocation.

First he offered to set up a Vancouver archives as a branch of the Provincial Archives in Victoria, but the provincial budget would not allow of this. He had to settle for starting out informally as an unpaid amateur archivist, working in a shabby attic of the Vancouver Public Library. It took four years of heavy networking before he could finally steamroller the Vancouver City Council into creating an archives department and appointing him as city archivist. Only the powerful personality of Major Matthews could have achieved such a result at the height of the Great Depression.

Once ensconced in City Hall, he presided over the Archives like a benevolent dictator, doing exactly as he pleased, ignoring his budget, commissioning photos and paintings, making up the rules as he went along. He irritated the bureaucrats, but the public loved his forthright style, and he also had the affectionate support of many high-ranking civic leaders, who understood the value of his work. He worked with a consuming energy, often writing up his histories until far into the night. If it were not for Major Matthews we would not have the seven volumes of *Early Vancouver*, the interviews with Chief Khatsahlano or the map of historic native sites. We would not



The Robertson-Goodson Co. Ltd., a plumbing supply facility located on Beatty Street south of the Sun Tower and immediately north of the Beatty Street Drill Hall, was the scene of the tragic elevator accident that claimed the life of the Major's son Hugh.

have the hundreds of documents, photos, paintings and plans that constitute the Matthews Collection which researchers consult to this day.

Councils came and went; but Matthews stayed firm, whether he offended authority or not. Efforts to induce him to retire, once he was over eighty, proved useless. He died at the age of ninety-two, still the City Archivist of Vancouver, in charge of his beloved archives.



Kaiser Bill's Realtor

by Janet Nicol

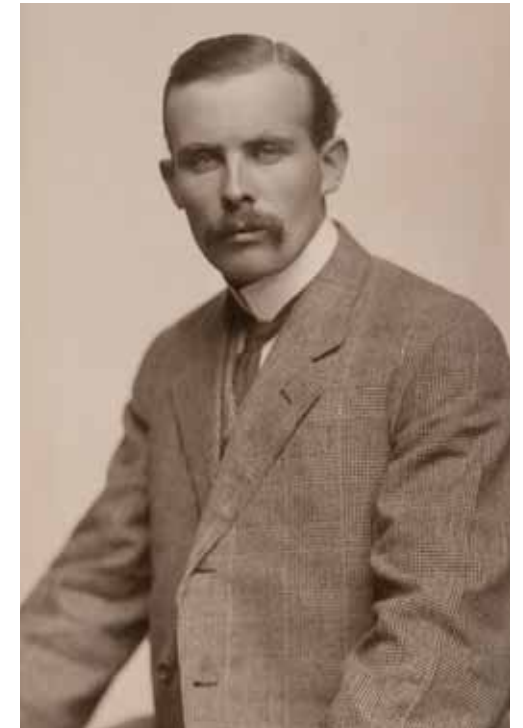
Vancouver Historian

KAISER WILHELM II was the last German Emperor and King of Prussia, ruling from 1888 until 1918. He was born in Berlin to Prince Frederick William of Prussia and Princess Victoria of the United Kingdom. He was Queen Victoria of England's first grandchild. Ironically, Wilhelm II of Prussia and King George V of England were first cousins and when together looked "like two peas from the same pod."

Gustav Konstantin Alvo von Alvensleben was Vancouver's premier German realtor prior to the First World War. He had been born in Germany in 1879 and on completion of his education had spent five years in the Prussian army. His first venture away from his native Germany was a visit to his younger brother's coffee plantation in El Salvador. He then headed north to the goldfields of Alaska. The lanky 25-year-old arrived in Vancouver in 1904 and decided to stay to make his fortune. He recounted his arrival in later life: "I arrived in June 1904 and within a very few days was pitching hay in Agassiz, and from then on, until 1908, earned my living as a working man, including two seasons of fishing for the Brunswick Cannery and I can assure the editor, that the handling of a Columbia River gillnet boat and a few hundred fathoms of net is work, and hard work..."

Alvensleben later bought his own fishing boat and a horse and cart to sell fish and game birds door-to-door to upscale Vancouver restaurants. One of his stops included the back door into the kitchen of the elite Vancouver Club. A few years later the same kitchen staff would see him arrive through the front door as a club member.

By 1907 Alvensleben had enough savings to rent an office downtown, where he advertised his various business services in local newspapers. He became a co-founder of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, and on some days over half of the daily turnover were his transactions. He began to court Edith Mary Westcott, a schoolteacher in Ladner, who happened to be the daughter of a construction engineer at the Brunswick Cannery and from one of the leading families in the city. The pair brushed aside family protests and eloped in 1908. Alvensleben purchased a large 20-acre estate on 41st Avenue in Point Grey, and over the next five years the couple had three children, Margaret, Gero and Bodo.



German-born Gustav Konstantin von Alvensleben came to Vancouver in 1904 and shortly thereafter became heavily involved in investing for wealthy German aristocracy that even included Wilhelm II, the last German Emperor.

Opposite

The red brick and ochre terra cotta-faced Dominion Trust Building was rumoured to have been built with German Kaiser Wilhelm's money and upon completion in 1910 was the tallest commercial building in the British Empire. A year later the nearby Sun Tower became the city's tallest building by one storey. The off-white cenotaph at Victory Square appears in the foreground.

The intersection of Hastings & Richards Streets looking northeast, featuring the David Spencer Department Store, the Standard Furniture Company, J. W. Foster Company with the Woodward's and the Dominion Trust buildings in the background.



Alvensleben began to advertise widely in German newspapers about the wonderful opportunities for enterprise in fast developing Vancouver with the result that a German businessman based in Ottawa was asked to check up on the aggressive west coast entrepreneur. The man travelled to Vancouver and wrote in his memoirs:

Alvensleben was a promoter in great style. When he visited Berlin, he arranged a great meeting in the ballroom of the best hotel in Berlin, and offered to his guests a sumptuous luncheon with caviar and champagne. He lectured them about Canada and her great chances. Near the door stood his brother with a book in which every guest had to enter his name, and was supposed to add the amount he would subscribe to Alvensleben's adventures. There had been a start made already by prominent names with large amounts subscribed, and no guest dared to leave without a subscription.

Thus Alvensleben began to cultivate German bluebloods with millions of dollars to invest in Canadian real estate. They included Field Marshall von Mackensen, Reich Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, champagne heiress Emma Mumm, and it was rumoured that the Dominion Trust Building, Vancouver's first steel-framed high-rise and the tallest commercial building in the British Empire upon its completion in 1910, was built with Kaiser Wilhelm's money. By 1911 Alvensleben had financed a dozen large companies, whose capital totalled more than \$10,000,000 from German backers.

In 1910 Alvensleben financed the building of the Wigwam Inn, a hideaway resort for wealthy tourists at the north end of Indian Arm. The four-storey cedar inn had a veranda on three sides and peaked gables and originally had a German character as a "Luftkurort" or fresh air resort. There were German band music and beer, and the inn attracted wealthy customers such as John D. Rockefeller, the richest man in the world, and the almost as rich John Jacob Astor. Alvensleben no doubt had plans of entertaining Kaiser Bill, the godfather to his oldest child. He also owned the Minnekhada Ranch in North Coquitlam, where the wealthy of Vancouver came to play polo.

The Berlin stock market crash in the fall of 1911 caused a few of Alvensleben's homeland investors to pull their support for his German commercial empire in the province. The high point of the prosperous era came in 1912 when His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught in his role as Governor General of Canada and his Duchess, the former Princess Louise Marguerite of Prussia, visited the province. That week all the German community outdid themselves as loyal subjects of the crown and as Germans remembering their homeland. The Union Jack and the German flag flew together with the result that the impression was truly one of an Anglo-German society. Through a huge triumphal arch, erected on Vancouver's Granville Street by the German, Austrian and Swiss residents of the city, drove the vice-regal party; the bands thumped; the presentation speeches abounded; and in the evening the nostalgic tunes of Lehar operettas filled the summer air. It was the climax, and also the end, of an era, and a year later it was apparent that the province was in the middle of a major depression.

By the spring of 1914, Alvensleben owned the entire Pacific Building on the southeast corner of Hastings and Howe Streets with his own offices on the ground floor. He employed a staff of 50. That summer Alvensleben returned to Germany to try and convince his clients that the worst of the depression was over and that they could safely reinvest in his many businesses.

When Britain declared war on Germany, Alvensleben was in mid-ocean and on his way back to Vancouver. He was suddenly caught in world politics and would watch helplessly as his empire collapsed. He disembarked in New York and travelled across neutral United States to Seattle from where he contacted Premier Richard McBride, requesting a visa to enter Canada. His pleas to authorities even made the front page of the Vancouver Sun: "My friends know that while I am a good German, my object in coming back is strictly to attend to my business. I am not coming back as an enemy to the people I have lived among so many years." His words



fell on deaf ears. Ironically, only three months before the war began, *BC Magazine* had run an article praising Alvensleben's business schemes under the title: "A Canadian who has brought Canada and Germany into closer relations."

Not a naturalized Canadian citizen, Alvensleben could easily have enlisted in the German military while he was in Europe. Two of his brothers who had spent time in BC returned to Germany to fight for their fatherland, and their actions made Alvensleben's Canadian loyalties more suspect, causing authorities to believe that he wanted to return to Vancouver from abroad as a German spy. His roots were in Germany, while his family and investments were in British Columbia. He was between a rock and a hard place. Refused entry back into British Columbia, the Canadian government was able to confiscate his assets under the newly enacted Custodian of Enemy Property Act. Consequently, his wife and children had no option but to join him in Seattle, where he resided at liberty and continued with developing a coal mining investment with German money. This

This advertisement appeared on the back cover of the *Man to Man Magazine* November 1910, offering properties for sale in the municipalities of Point Grey and South Vancouver by German realtor Gustav Konstantin von Alvensleben.

enterprise did well, and he was able to sell coal to his homeland until the US entered into the war in 1917. He tried to get an exit visa for his family to return to Germany but was instead arrested and sent to an internment camp in Fort Douglas, Utah. The *Salt Lake Tribune* newspaper had this to write about Utah's guest:

Von Alvensleben was a typical officer of the Prussian type, highly educated, and polished in manner and with the upright carriage that denotes years of service in the army. Canadian government officials declare that they have positive information showing that German machinery was set to work before the war to make von Alvensleben governor of British Columbia.

Besides "enemy aliens" such as Alvensleben, the camp population was comprised of military and political prisoners—including members of an anarchist trade union called the Industrial Workers of the World. Alvensleben was considered one of the major troublemakers and spent much time in solitary confinement. When the war ended, he and other internees were kept incarcerated for another year and a half. When released in 1920, Alvensleben was not deported back to Germany but was instead re-united with his family in Seattle, where he went back to practising real estate and investing. In 1926 Canadian immigration rules were slackened, and Alvensleben was able to make regular trips to Vancouver to visit in-laws and conduct business. The Alvensleben home in Kerrisdale had been sold to *Vancouver Sun* newspaper owner Robert Crombie in 1929.

At the outbreak of war, the Canadian government was uncertain how to deal with its internal "enemy" population. According to the 1911 census, out of the then 7 million Canadian residents, 393,320 were of German origin and 129,103 had ties to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In the first weeks of the war, the government turned a blind eye to nationals of enemy countries, as many travelled back to their homeland or re-settled in the still neutral United States. Deferring to Britain for guidance, the Canadian government eventually formulated guidelines for surveillance and internment. Ultimately, a total of 8,579 men were interned in nation-wide prison camps for as long as five years. Ironically, a few German families were ignored by the authorities and farmed at the top end of Pitt Lake, isolated away from the trials and tribulations of a world at war.

Stan Pavlov began selling real estate in 1987 and that year sold more acreage than all the other realtors in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows combined. "I like to work on bigger deals because they are more challenging," Stan says. But he enjoys the diversity in the real estate business and also takes on listings that involve ALR, industrial, commercial, farm and residential properties. Stan would like to thank all of his past clients and has no intentions of hanging up that big-brimmed hat of his yet. He is excited to work with new clients, and with his years of experience, feels he is well qualified and prepared to meet new challenges.

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“AJT” Taylor and the Lions Gate Bridge

THE NAME OF ALFRED JAMES TOWLE TAYLOR is inextricably linked with Vancouver’s Lions Gate Bridge. The bridge may not have been Taylor’s original idea (thoughts of connecting Vancouver and the North Shore were aired as early as 1890), but it was he who brought the necessary capital together and revived the project when the time was right.

Taylor, affectionately known as “AJT” to his close associates, was born in Victoria in 1887 to Welsh parents, his father being an Anglican Church deacon. Taylor’s formal education ended at age 14, and two years later he was working as an apprentice at the Vancouver shipyards, earning \$5 a month and living in a rented CPR shack at Hastings and Burrard Streets. Hard work, a good marriage, and an engineering degree started Taylor’s career. He had fearless ambition and was inclined to risk-taking, provided there was a chance of big rewards. One of his earliest ventures was the formation of a company to operate Dolly Vardon Mines, a rich silver property located near New Aiyansh, north of Prince Rupert. The property was staked in 1910 with cash from Chicago, Boston and New York interests.

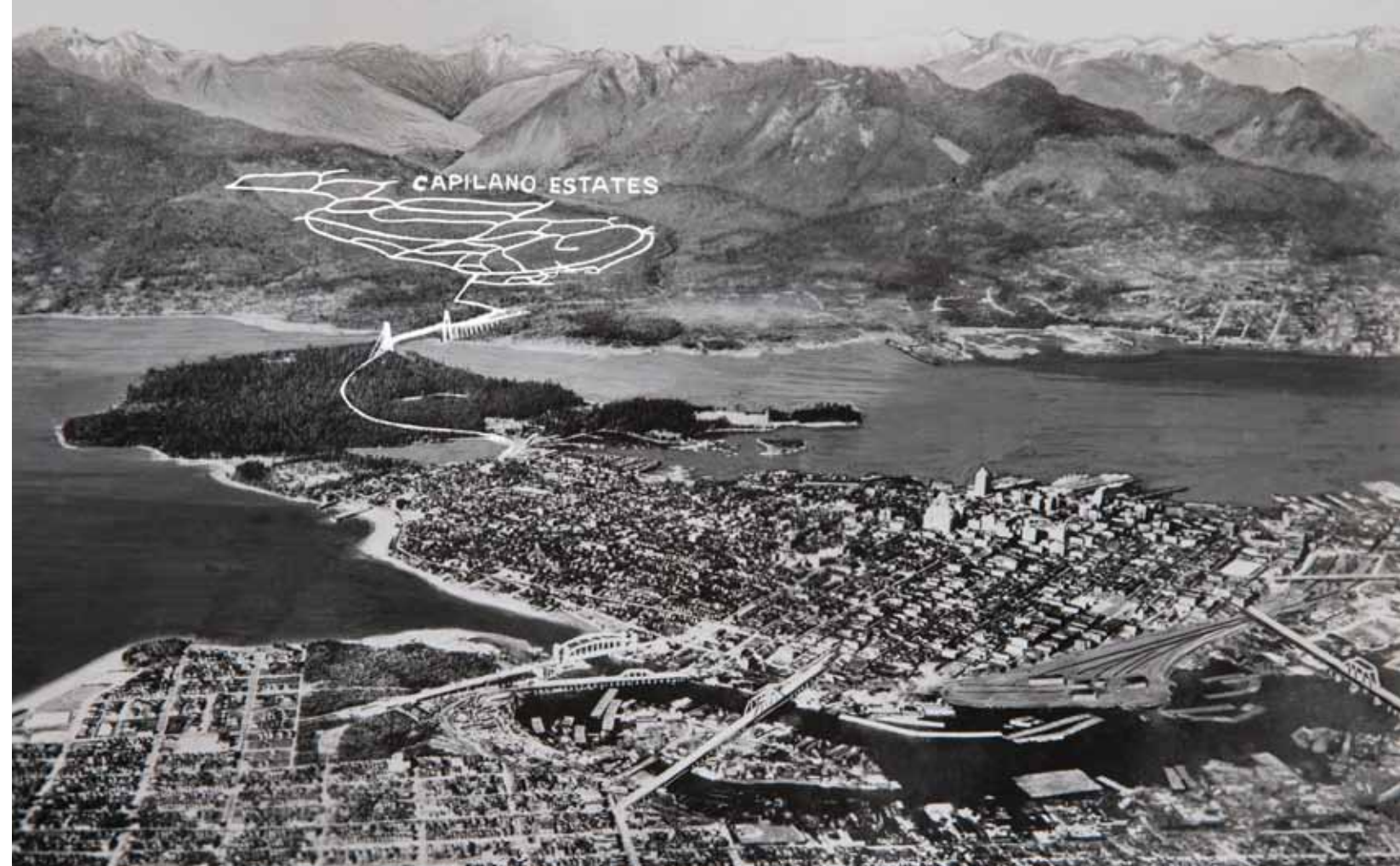
Another early project for Taylor’s engineering company was the building of the Imperial Oil refinery in Ioco in 1913, followed by the installation of a crude oil processing facility.

In the early 1920s West Vancouver was not more than a small community of 3,000 people, but even then developers saw the potential of connecting the untapped real estate potential on the north shore of Burrard Inlet to downtown Vancouver by a bridge. Taylor was part of this proposal, which was put to a plebiscite in 1927. The proposal was defeated at that time, but Taylor still owned the provincial franchise to build the bridge and decided to look for the necessary capital elsewhere.

He took his family to England and set up a business in London at an address on Rabbit Row near Hyde Park. He had already an important contact in London: William S. Stephenson, a Winnipeg-born Canadian who had become a very successful international entrepreneur with offices in London. The two Canadians set up the Stephenson-Taylor Trust Company and began to woo money from Britain’s wealthy elite. Among the pair’s group of influential friends was a retired London banker named W. S. Eyre, while Francis J.



A GUINNESS CLOTHES BRUSH. The Guinness family made their first fortune in Dublin, Ireland, in the brewing industry, producing a world-famous dry stout. The family later branched into other investments such as real estate but are better known for the The Guinness Book of Records.



A government aerial photograph taken in the early thirties showing proposed construction of the Stanley Park Causeway, the Lions Gate Bridge, and Capilano Estates (British Properties) in West Vancouver. The second Hotel Vancouver and the Marine Building, the two tallest high-rises in Vancouver’s downtown core, are clearly visible in this photograph.

S. Hopwood (Lord Southborough), a prominent member of the gentry, represented a vital link with the Iveagh Trust. This trust was a richly endowed investment fund set up by the Guinness Brewing Company, which was owned by three brothers—Edward C. Guinness (the Earl of Iveagh), Walter E. Guinness (Lord Moyne), and the honourable Arthur Guinness.

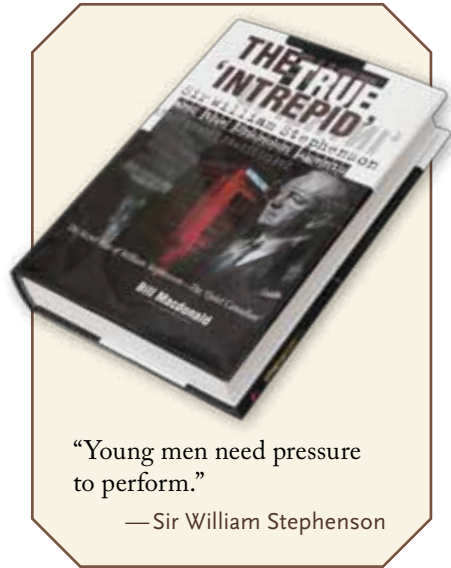
Stephenson, who had been a top fighter pilot during the First World War and was credited with shooting down 26 enemy aircraft, was initially very enthusiastic about the Lions Gate Bridge proposal. Eventually, however, he withdrew to pursue a different project in India. The contact between Stephenson and Taylor was later revived during World War II, which saw the two men working together again.

In the summer of 1930 Taylor and Eyre travelled to Vancouver together, and the Englishman clearly saw the potential for property investment for his and of course the Guinness family interests.

Guinness Family History: a Saga of Ireland

They all stand firmly on the old brewery in Dublin. It was in the 18th century that Arthur Guinness, founder of the line, obtained a lease for 9000 years at 45 pounds a year on the property near St. James’s Well in Dublin and there began the manufacture of ale. The business venture was a canny one, because of the heavy tariff placed by Britain on native Irish ale and porter. Guinness had taken the precaution of obtaining a British charter and so was not subject to the tax.

LONDON GAZETTE, 23 DECEMBER 1939



“Young men need pressure to perform.”

—Sir William Stephenson

The True 'Intrepid': Sir William Stephenson and the Unknown Agents: The Secret War of William Stephenson—The 'Quiet Canadian' by Bill Macdonald. Publisher: Tim Lawson, Timberholme Books Ltd

Garlanded with fresh spring flowers, Charles Marega's lion sculpture sits on guard at the south entrance of the Lions Gate Bridge. Similar smaller lions adorn the top story of the Marine Building in Downtown Vancouver. Over the years, vandals have managed to break off a portion of this lion's right ear.



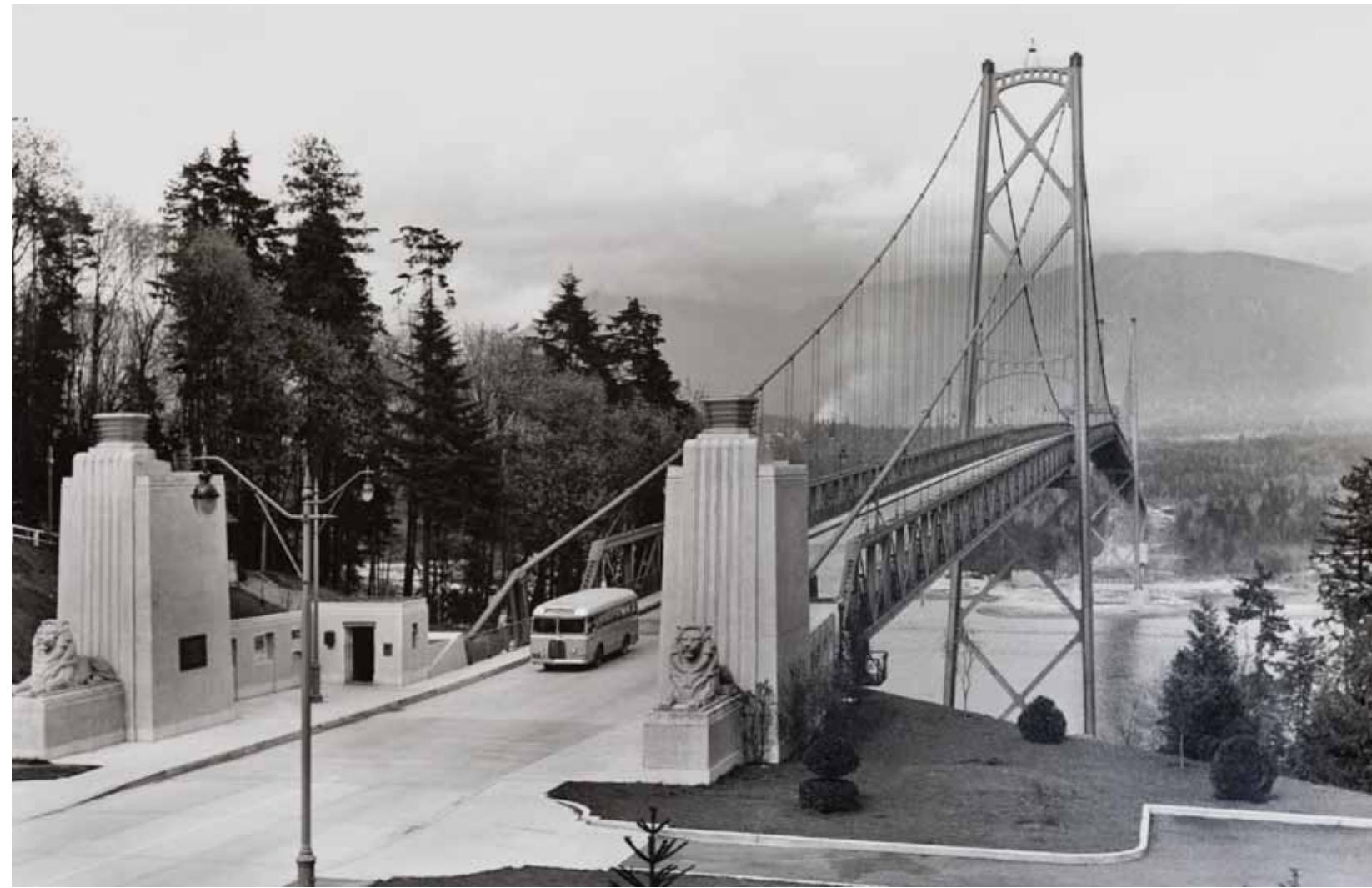
Upon their return to London the British Pacific Properties Company was incorporated, with Taylor and Eyre being made directors.

On the sea voyage back to London Taylor met an old friend, Henry H. Stevens, Member of Parliament for South Vancouver. Stevens had real estate interests in the Lower Mainland as well as an option on 2,000 acres of West Vancouver land located between the 750-to-1500-foot elevations west of the Capilano River. Taylor learned that the cash-strapped West Vancouver municipality was also holding another larger tract of land that was also available at a rather attractive price. This property, totalling 4,000 acres, rose well up the face of Hollyburn Mountain and stretched all the way to Horseshoe Bay. The newly created British Pacific Properties Company acquired the entire parcel of land, some of it for as little as \$20 per acre.

Taylor correctly speculated that this chunk of real estate would become very valuable once the North Shore would be connected to Vancouver. Consequently he spent years arguing with government and marine authorities until eventually, with the support of Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King and after having managed to raise the \$6 million needed for construction plus another \$4 million for land development, the bridge project was given the green light on 30 April 1936. Mayor William Harold Malkin turned the first sod on the 7th of July that same year, and the bridge opened for traffic on 14 November 1938. The cost of the project came to \$5,959,600, in other words: just under budget. On 29 May 1939, during a royal visit to Canada, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (the mother of Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Margaret) presided over the official opening.

During the building of the bridge the British Properties Company took over the 21-storey Marine Building on Burrard Street at Hastings. Due to the Depression, this art deco gem was sold off by its original owners at less than half the construction costs.

Taylor converted the observation deck into a penthouse apartment for himself, his wife, and their two daughters, but his wife didn't like the height, and the family moved out. Possibly inspired by the Rockefeller Centre in New York, Taylor used the 19th floor for an office, which featured an art deco-style interior with 18-foot ceilings and 12-foot-high windows with majestic views of the bridge construction and the Lions Mountains. He had a pair of lion statues installed off his balcony, smaller replicas of the pair that had been sculpted for either end of the bridge.



The Entrance to the Lion's Gate Bridge from the Stanley Park side of Burrard Inlet in 1939.

During the Second World War Taylor was the technical advisor to the British Ministry of Production in London and Washington, DC. He spent considerable time in New York, where he worked closely with his former business partner Stephenson out of the Rockefeller Center. Stephenson—later Sir William Stephenson, known as the Quiet Canadian and the Man Named Intrepid—by this time had become the Chief Intelligence Officer, Western Section, and was the go-between between England's Prime Minister Winston Churchill and United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Atlantic convoys were one of his responsibilities. Stephenson was responsible for the development of the 160-acre Camp X located near the Toronto–Kingston Highway along the north shore of Lake Ontario. Taylor's brother, a construction contractor in Toronto, had clandestinely purchased the farm for the Canadian government. Camp X was a secret wartime training centre for spies and counter-spies. Stephenson recruited many young Polish women from the boroughs of the City of New York to go to Camp X for training to

The original builders of Vancouver's downtown Marine Building ran into financial difficulties due to the Great Depression and sold the art deco—ediface to British Properties at far less than it had cost to build.



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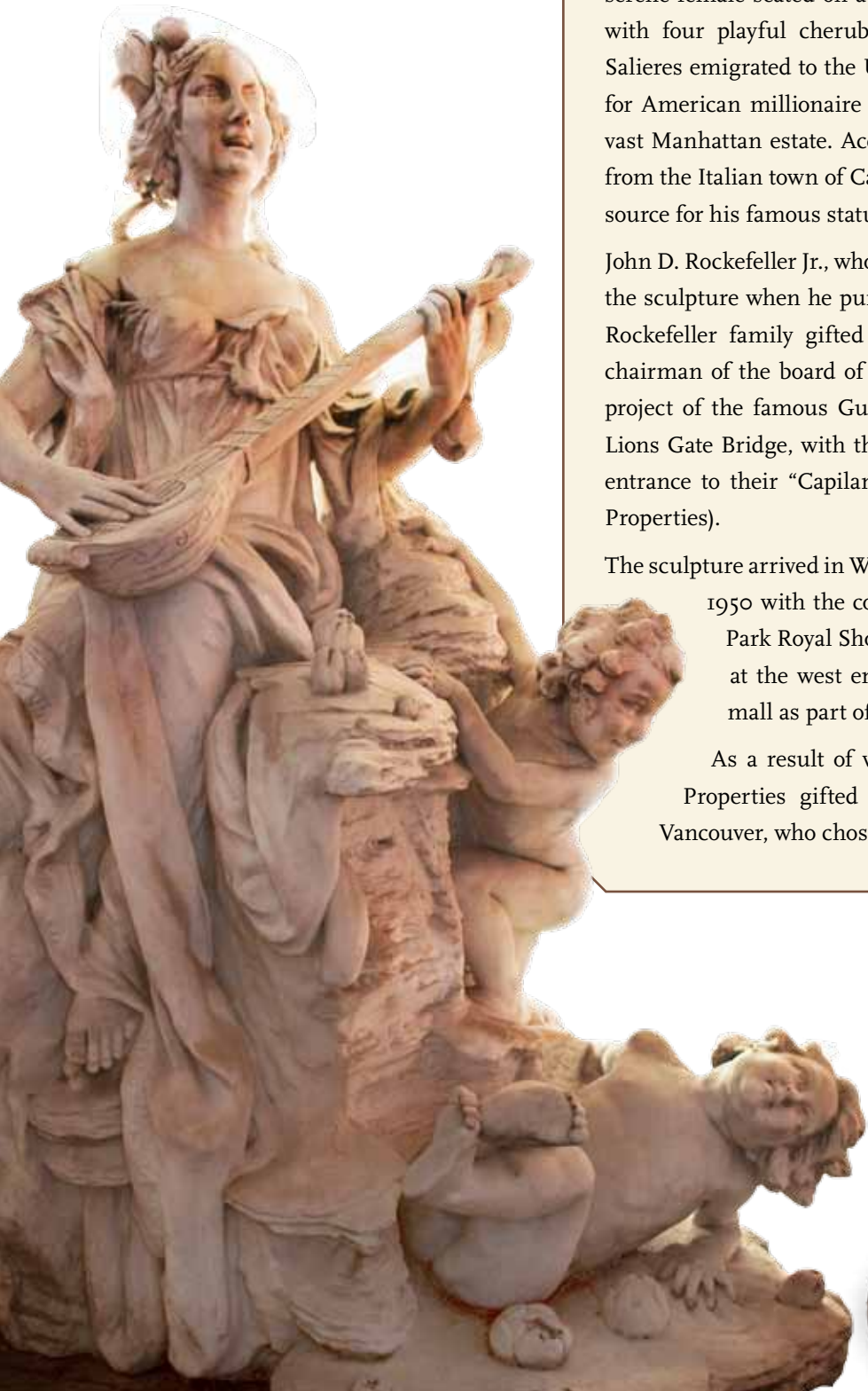
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A Muse strums a lute, while four playful cherubs frolic at her feet. This sculpture, made of Carrara marble, is from the same quarry from which Michelangelo carved the famous David. The sculpture was on display at the Park Royal Shopping Centre for several years but because of vandalism has been in storage at the West Vancouver works yards for the past 20 years.

The Salieres Sculpture

by Norma L. Young
fine arts appraiser

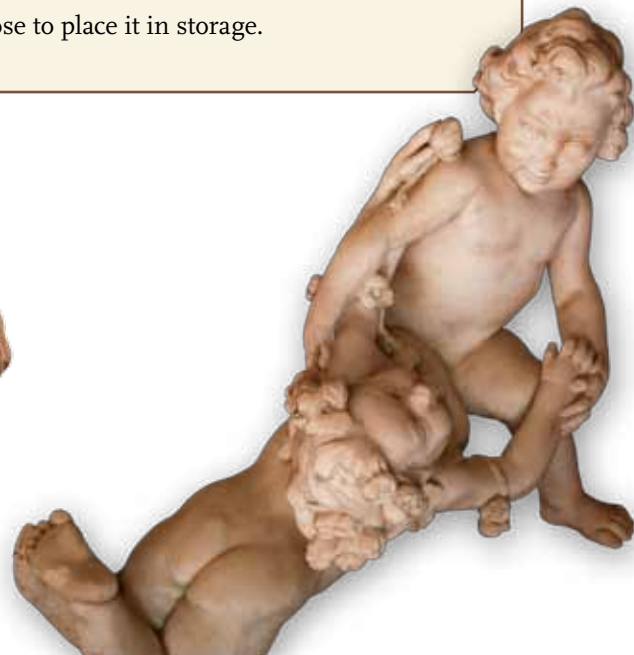
The beautiful 9-foot-tall marble sculpture represents Music, as a serene female seated on a rock plays a stringed instrument with four playful cherubs at her feet.

Sylvain Salieres, a French sculptor, carved this beautiful 9-foot-tall serene female seated on a rock and playing a stringed instrument with four playful cherubs at her feet between 1905 and 1910. Salieres emigrated to the United States and created the work of art for American millionaire businessman Cornelius K. G. Billings's vast Manhattan estate. According to legend, the white marble was from the Italian town of Carrara that Michelangelo also used as the source for his famous statue of David.

John D. Rockefeller Jr., whose father founded Standard Oil, acquired the sculpture when he purchased Billings's property, in 1936. The Rockefeller family gifted the statue to Lord Southborough, the chairman of the board of directors of British Pacific Properties, a project of the famous Guinness family and the financiers of the Lions Gate Bridge, with the understanding that it be placed at the entrance to their "Capilano Estates" (today known as the British Properties).

The sculpture arrived in West Vancouver but was not displayed until 1950 with the completion of the Guinness project called Park Royal Shopping Centre. It found a place of honour at the west end of the original small north shopping mall as part of a water feature.

As a result of vandalism at the shopping mall, British Properties gifted the sculpture to the District of West Vancouver, who chose to place it in storage.



afterwards be dropped into their native land to spy for the Allied forces. Taylor's children would later never talk about their father's involvement with Stephenson, as they had been sworn to secrecy. They, like the other 750 Canadians working out of the Rockefeller Center, all were, like their boss, "Quiet Canadians."

Taylor died in New York in 1945 at the age of 57. In compliance with a request he had made from his deathbed, he was cremated, and friends scattered his ashes from the Lions Gate Bridge. The British Pacific Properties Company remains active with development in West Vancouver to this day.

King George VI's official portrait taken in 1939 is proudly displayed in the Bessborough Armoury.

The King and Queen had visited Canada on a Dominion tour the previous summer. With the abdication of his older brother, King Edward VIII, (later the Duke of Windsor) the shy and modest "Bertie" was crowned just as his country faced the onslaught of World War II. In 1947 he visited India and gave it back its independence. King George VI died from cancer in 1952, when his daughter Elizabeth became Queen.



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An industrialized False Creek, circa 1940.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 British Properties | 6 Woodward's Building |
| 2 Hudson's Bay Company | 7 Beatty Street Drill Hall |
| 3 Marine Building | 8 World Building (later Sun Tower) |
| 4 Simpson's Building | 9 Western Bridge & Steel Fabricators |
| 5 Dominion Building | 10 Salt Building |



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Opium Trade and Head Taxes

by John Atkin, Civic Historian

“LI HUNG CHANG AT VANCOUVER” was the headline in the 14 September 1896 edition of the *Daily Columbian*. The story continued, “Li Hung Chang, Chinese Viceroy, and party arrived at Vancouver by special CPR train yesterday at 2 o’clock. He was met and welcomed by representative Chinamen, after which he was driven around the city and Stanley Park. During the afternoon, *HMS Comus*, in harbour, fired a salute of nine guns in honour of the distinguished visitor.”

The “Yellow Jacket” (bestowed upon Li by the Chinese Emperor) was concluding a North America tour and had visited Vancouver to discuss the head tax that the Canadian government had initiated against Chinese and the problems caused by the widespread use of opium.

The first Chinese labourers in British Columbia were brought in by the colonial government to build many of the early roads and trails in the colony. They soon found their welcome short-lived. Four years after British Columbia joined the Canadian confederation the legislature removed their voting rights (and that of the Natives too), and in 1885 the federal government, at the urging of British Columbia, put in place a head tax on new Chinese immigrants of 50 dollars. The tax would rise to an astounding 500 dollars in 1903—approximately 15,000 dollars in 2010.

The 7 December 1886 edition of the *Vancouver News* spoke of the “evil [that] is only beginning to shape at the foot of Carrall Street on the edge of False Creek.” In the city Chinese were banned from working on municipal contracts. Despite this and other measures the population grew. If the City couldn’t stop the growth of a Chinese population, they were determined to regulate it. Chinatown became a separate category of inspection for the Health Department and became the target of constant police gambling raids, because according to the 5 February 1906 *Vancouver Province*, gambling was “ingrained in the Celestial nature.”

Labour unions were a loud voice in the call for a “British” or “white” province and continued to urge all levels of government to do something about the “Oriental problem.” They were a major thrust behind the formation of groups such as the Asiatic Exclusion



Henry Collins, Vancouver’s 5th Mayor, started out in Vancouver as a dry goods merchant before venturing into municipal politics. He served two terms as mayor during which time he hosted from Chinese statesman Li Hung Chang, Lord and Lady Aberdeen. Lord Aberdeen was the Governor General of Canada from 1893 until 1898.



A golden dragon adorns a street lamp in Vancouver’s Chinatown.



ARCH OF HONOUR. Members of Vancouver’s Chinese community stream through an arch in honour of Li Hung Chang on 14 September 1896. Chang is seated in the back of the coach beside Mayor Henry Collins (black Derby) while in the front seat is H. B. Abbott, general superintendent of the CPR (white Derby) and another Chinese diplomat. The two houses on the bluff overlooking Burrard Inlet stand on “Blue Blood Alley” (Georgia Street), named for the posh homes of the richest railroad families. An early Vancouver photographer stands in the middle of the crowd with his large-format camera and cumbersome tripod.

League, though in Vancouver the membership crossed all of society’s boundaries. In 1907 a meeting of the League at City Hall got out of hand, and the assembled crowd marched on Chinatown, smashing storefronts and windows before turning their attention to Japantown.

The Minister of Labour, Mackenzie King, was dispatched from Ottawa to look into the matter and to assess compensation

claims from business owners. While in Vancouver he expressed his alarm and surprise at the fact that there were opium factories in the city—the two Vancouver factories in had submitted claims for damage—though the manufacture of opium was legal and widely known. Even the wife of the Governor General, Lady Aberdeen, had visited a Victoria factory in 1895 to see the production herself.

King's subsequent 1908 report, *The Need for the Suppression of the Opium Traffic in Canada*, observed that "In the coast cities of Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster there are at least seven factories carrying on an extensive business in opium manufacture. It is estimated that the annual gross receipts of these combined concerns amounted for the year 1907, to

between \$600,000 and \$650,000." Concern was raised about women and children smoking opium (echoing a familiar theme about how Caucasian women were always at peril whenever near the Chinese), and while the government acted on King's report and outlawed the production and sale of opium by the Chinese, they did not ban the inclusion of opium in popular patent medicines.

King's report added to the calls to limit immigration and convinced Vancouver officials to step up their harassment of Chinatown. Ultimately this led to the Exclusion Act of 1923, when King was Prime Minister, which cut off further Chinese immigration to Canada. The Act wasn't repealed until 1947.

Haley Twaites, great-great-granddaughter of Yip Sang, poses in traditional Chinese silk in Chinatown's Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park adjacent to the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Classical Chinese Garden, the first full-size Chinese garden built outside of China.



Father of Modern China

by John Atkin

DR. SUN YAT-SEN was a revolutionary leader, founder of the Nationalist government of China, and considered by many to be the father of modern China.

At an early age Sun had gone to live with his brother in Honolulu, where he attended school until his return to China in 1883 (his brother was concerned Sun would convert to Christianity if he stayed much longer there—he did later convert while in Hong Kong). Further study in Hong Kong and Guangzhou earned him his medical licence, though he gave up his medical practice to concentrate on reforming what he saw as a backward country with a corrupt and conservative government that refused to engage the modern world. In 1894 he founded the Revive China Society in Hawaii with the support of the local expatriate population as a platform for his revolutionary activities.

In 1895 Dr. Sun Yat-Sen led an unsuccessful coup against the ruling Qing Dynasty that saw many of his supporters executed, and Sun was exiled from China for the next sixteen years. He spent the time travelling around the world, spending time in Japan, the United States, Canada and Europe, to raise awareness of his cause.

It was during a visit to London in 1896 that he was kidnapped from the streets of the city and detained by the Chinese Legation for twelve days. It was big news, and local papers reported that an effort was made to send him as captive by steamer from London, but he was released by the British authorities. He afterwards came to Canada and endeavoured to enlist the Chinese in Victoria as sympathizers in the rebel movement. Victoria's Chinatown was one of the oldest and largest on the Pacific Coast, but Sun found on this visit that they were "relatively uninterested in revolutionary discussion."

On his second visit in 1910 he arrived in Vancouver by train from San Francisco at the new Great Northern station on Pender between Columbia and Carrall Streets. After a short stay in town he travelled east across the country, returning to the city in 1911. This time the crowds were large and thronged to greet him. He was welcomed by the executives of the Chee Kung Tong, a mutual aid society organized in Vancouver in 1892 (better known as the Chinese Freemasons, a name they adopted in 1920).



The Sun Yat-Sen statue outside the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden in Chinatown.

On the way to the Chee Kung Tong building at Pender and Carrall, the procession passed prominent merchant Yip Sang's newly expanded building and a number of recently erected clan and village association buildings. The population of the city's Chinatown was about to surpass Victoria's, and the new construction reflected this growth. The Chee Kung Tong hosted a dinner for their guest at the Peking Restaurant located on the second floor of their building, and after dinner Dr. Sun spent the night at the Woods Hotel (now the renewed Pennsylvania Hotel) across the street.

The next day he was back at the Chee Kung Tong building to have his photograph taken by Yucho Chow, whose portrait studio was on the second floor. After the photographs were taken, he may have paused to look at the Chinese Empire Reform Association building at 531 Carrall Street, since this group was founded to try to reform the Chinese monarchy rather than depose it. In its day it was one of the most influential societies in Chinatown with people such as Yip Sang as members. On his walk east Sun passed by the Chinese hospital on the second floor of the newly opened Chinese Benevolent Society building at 104–108 East Pender Street and noted the impressive Lee building at 127–131 Pender Street. His walk concluded at the Gou Sing Theatre at 124 East Pender, where an enthusiastic crowd of supporters greeted his arrival.

During his time in Vancouver at his numerous appearances he received overwhelming support and generous donations from his audience. It is estimated he raised over 35,000 dollars on his Vancouver trips. His hosts, the Chee Kung Tong society, even mortgaged their building to assist the revolution.

After a two-week stay in Vancouver, Sun headed to Victoria, where again he found the Victoria Chinese less than enthusiastic. He spent time in Nanaimo and Cumberland before travelling to Kamloops in the interior.

On 10 October 1911 the revolution Sun had started managed to succeed in toppling the Qing Dynasty, and when he learned of the successful rebellion from press reports, Sun immediately made arrangements to return to China from the United States. On 29 December 1911 a meeting of representatives from provinces in Nanking elected Sun as the provisional President of the Republic of China and set 1 January 1912 as the first day of the First Year of the Republic. This republic calendar system is still used in Taiwan today.

Opposite

Referred to as the "Father of Modern China," Dr. Sun Yat-sen visited Vancouver in February 1911, looking for support for the overthrow of the Qing Dynasty.

While in Chinatown, he visited the portrait studio of Yucho Chow on the second floor of the Chinese Freemason building for a sitting.





Chinatown

- 1 Hastings Mill Office (now the Mission to Seafarers Flying Angel Club) 2 St. James' Anglican Church
- 3 Chinese Freemason Building 4 West Hotel 5 Chinese Times Building 6 Wing Sang Co. Building
- 7 The Mah Society of North America 8 Carnegie Library 9 Empire Reform Association 10 Chinese Cultural Centre
- 11 Chinese Cultural Centre Museum 12 Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden
- 13 Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Public Park 14 Chinese Memorial Square

Tisdall's Sporting Goods Store

CHARLES EDWARD TISDALL, called Charlie by his friends, arrived in Vancouver in 1888 and began business as a gunsmith, sleeping under the counter of his own shop. He had left his native Birmingham, England, in 1886 and had opened his own merchant's shop in Fredericton, New Brunswick, before his 21st birthday and was given the right to vote on a tradesman's qualifications. In Vancouver he opened a small store on Cordova Street before moving to the 600 block of West Hastings Street.

He didn't waste any time and was soon involved in the political scene. From 1904 to 1910 Charlie was chairman of the Vancouver Parks Board.

By 1910 Tisdall boasted that his sporting goods store was the largest west of Chicago with as many as 5,000 rifles and shotguns in racks down one side of his store some three tiers high. It was about that time that Henry B. Morley became a junior partner in Tisdall's store, and the partners amassed a small fortune by supplying guns for Sun Yat-sen's revolution in China. Chinese "coolies" would bring gunny sacks filled with silver "shoes" up to the office on the mezzanine floor, drop them with a polite bow that would be returned by Morley, and then leave without a word. The "shoes" were quarter or half-pound ingots of silver from Hong Kong, so called because they looked like Dutch wooden shoes. Morley spent many a night puzzling over bills of lading for shipments of bones of Chinese dead that had been shipped back to their place of birth on the Empress ships. The shipments actually contained rifles, shotguns and ammunition destined for the Chinese revolution. The secrets of the

arms trafficking enterprise came to light when Morley at the age of 90 was on his deathbed in Penticton. He told the story to his son Alan, a newspaper reporter with the *Vancouver Sun* and the author of the title *Vancouver: From Milltown to Metropolis*. The book had been published some three years earlier.

Opposite

Charles E. Tisdall was the Provincial Minister of Finance in 1919, Mayor of Vancouver from 1921 to 1922 and Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge of British Columbia & Yukon from 1923 to 1924.

Below

Carved from a mastodon's tusk discovered in the gold fields of the Alaska, the Grand Master's gavel is now displayed in the Grand Lodge Museum.



Geo. L. Wade Charles E. Tisdall *Vancouver B.C.*
Grand Master A.F. & A.M. B.C.A. 1923-24