



Victoria Historical Society Publication

SUMMER 2008

SPEAKERS FOR THE 2007 ~ 2008 SEASON

All meetings will be at the James Bay New Horizons Centre 234 Menzies Street at 7:30.

April 24

"A Most Unusual Colony, Vancouver Island 1849 -1860", Maureen Duffus, author, will speak based on her research. Mary Yates' fictional letters give an authentic picture of Fort Victoria seen through female eyes. Illustrated

May 22

"Steam in the Mountains", A people's viewpoint of the logging history of Vancouver Island. Dr. Richard Mackie, UVic historian, has researched and written on this subject giving the point of view of the loggers who worked in the woods. An illustrated lecture. (The Society's AGM will precede this talk which will begin at 8:30.)



MEMBERSHIP

Just a gentle reminder that our membership year now runs from September to September. In order to avoid traffic jams, and perhaps delay the speaker on our opening night in September, it would be greatly appreciated if members would take the time to renew their memberships beforehand, either at the last meeting of this year (May 22) or by mail. For those preferring this latter option a membership form is enclosed. It should be returned with appropriate cheque payable to The Victoria Historical Society to the address indicated.

VHS OUTING TO SEE "FREE SPIRIT: STORIES OF YOU, ME & BC"

On Saturday April 12, a group of eight VHS members went to the new exhibit "Free Spirit" at the Royal BC Museum. This new exhibit which opened in March is the Museum's tribute to the 150th Anniversary celebrations of British Columbia.

This a major feature exhibition on now at the Royal BC Museum. Everyone in BC has a story to contribute - about arrival or survival, home or community, celebration or tradition. Send us your video, audio, photographic or written submission for The People's History web pages.

It is a fine exhibit with interpretations of British Columbia's people, past and into the present. They are depicted in photography, stories, film, and eye-catching displays of their times.

Admission is regular Museum admission or no charge if you are a Friend of the Royal BC Museum.

The good news is that it is on until the end of 2008!

It is fun to do it as a group however, and I will be prepared to "host" another visit on Saturday May 10th, starting in the foyer at 1:15. Let me know if you are interested in doing this as a group

Arnold Ranneris
(598-3035)

Programme Chair, Victoria Historical Society



COMING EVENTS THIS SUMMER IN VICTORIA

As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of British Columbia, a number of events are taking place which will be of interest to our members.

Friday, May 2 10am - 2pm ~ South Vancouver Island Heritage Fair. Royal BC Museum, Clifford Carl Hall. Students in Grades 4 - 9 , will have their work on display.

Tues. May 6th ~ Hallmark Society Awards Night. St. Ann's Academy. 7:30. The annual event is highly recommended

June 5 - 8th ~ Sisters of St. Ann Celebration
This will include historical re-enactments, walking tours of the neighbourhood, an outdoor concert on Academy Green with the Victoria Symphony, a Thanksgiving Mass in June, a gala dinner on the 7th, Victorian Family Picnic on grounds on 8th. Pick up a brochure at the St. Ann's Academy , or email stanns.academy@gov.bc.ca

June 26 - 29 ~ Tall Ships Festival
In the Inner Harbour sponsored by Maritime Museum

Sat. July 12 ~ National Historical Fair Public Exhibition. British Columbia (Victoria) will be hosting this Public Exhibition at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, 3220 Cedar Hill Road. A gala of exhibits by students from across Canada.

Sundays, throughout the summer ~ Old Cemeteries Tours. (see partial listing below)

August, Victoria's Chinatown will be celebrating its 150 year history with various events. Watch in local newspapers for events.

July-August, Victoria's Police and Fire Departments will be celebrating their 150 years. Check with them for details.

August 3 - 10. Cowichan will host the North American Aboriginal Games.

Fairmont Empress Hotel and Hatley Castle celebrating their centennials.

*Arnold Ranneris,
VHS Programme Chair.*



BOOKS OF NOTE NEWLY PUBLISHED

"South Park School : Memories Through the Decades' by a teachers Linda Picciotto and Debbie Marchand, and their volunteer committee. \$25, available from Munro's Books. This book was reviewed by June Domke in the last newsletter. (We hope to have this as a program at VHS in autumn.)

"Making the News; a Times-Colonist Look at 150 Years of History" Written and compiled by Dave Obee. A beautiful book of photographs and stories spanning the decades, compiled from various files. \$30. Available from local bookstores. (We hope to have Mr. Obee as a Speaker in the autumn months.)

Also available at local public libraries.

Arnold Ranneris



WELL, WELL, WELL!

A message from the Fernwood Community Association

On January 11th of this year, the Fernwood Community Association re-established a community well in Victoria by drilling a 150 foot well and striking an aquifer at 120 feet.

The Springs which initially supplied Victoria with its water had been a free local public supply since their discovery. On this basis, in 1858 Governor James Douglas in the House of Assembly declared the Springs a public reserve. On April 24, 1861, the Springs were illegally transferred to the then Attorney General of the Colony, George Hunter Cary, and a fence was erected around the site. George Cary informed Victoria that the Springs were now private property and he would sell the water.

The public reaction toward Attorney General Cary was instant - the *British Colonist* editorialized that Cary "deserved the full weight of public odium. Was there ever such consummate duplicity?" Public meetings, riots and fence burning followed. The rioters were brought up on charges at the Police Court, but the testimony of the Springs caretaker and of Sheriff Muir established that the Springs were a public reserve and the water a public right.

In 1866 the English statute: An Agreement between The Crown and Hudson's Bay Company:



'Reconveyance of Vancouver Island, An Act for the Union of the Colony of Vancouver Island with the Colony of British Columbia' states that the Company "surrender all the land of the island to the larger Colony except 'one well set apart and appropriated to public use'."

We now have a capped wellhead in Stevenson Park on Pembroke Street with an initial draw of 7 gallons a minute. We plan a public consultation and forum to plan the next stage of this project - a hand pump? a sculptural water feature? irrigation for community gardens? an emergency water source for Victoria?

We plan an interpretive plaque to illustrate the history of the Community Well and we invite to our forum and public consultation any member of the Victoria Historical Society interested in helping design this feature. Please contact Joanne Murray at joannemurray@fernwoodvic.ca or 595-3191 to be informed of times and dates.



THE RED BOOK REVEALED: BRITISH COLUMBIA'S HOME ECONOMICS SECRET 1930-1975

A response

Mary Leah de Zwart's article in Vol. 40 No. 2 of British Columbia History was of particular interest to me since I became involved with the Red Book soon after my arrival in Canada from England. In September 1958, I accepted a teaching position with Terrace School District and was assigned to a Grade 3/4 class in Hazelton Amalgamated School. As was the practice then, I knew that I had received only partial credit for my English teacher training and that in the summer of 1959 would be required to take two education courses at U.B.C. in order to obtain a permanent teaching certificate in B. C. Imagine my surprise, then, when in the spring of 1959, the District Superintendent of Schools for Terrace suggested that I take those courses in Home Economics in preparation for opening a H.E. department in the high school section of the grades 1 to 12 school.

It all came to pass and thus I was introduced to the Red Book known as a Foods, Nutrition, and Home Management Manual. It was actually a third edition, its forerunners first green, then blue, with the red cover appearing in 1944. The Manual was authored by Jessie McLenaghan, Provincial Director

of Home Economics in B.C. from 1926-1946, and devised to provide the basis not only of effective foods and nutrition instruction, but also of efficient housekeeping and marketing practices. Clearly, the hope was that students completing several courses of H. E. education would later become successful homemakers, serving to "improve living standards." (de Zwart) McLenaghan felt that use of the manual would prompt student interest in H. E. to "go further than merely repeating the efforts in the classroom."

de Zwart notes the traditionally British nature of many recipes, stating that, "British ethnic origin accounted for 71% of the B. C. population" in 1931 decreasing to 58% by 1971. She also notes that suggestions for food service style and equipment suppose, "a sophisticated way of life beyond most people's means." I can attest to those assertions since my student body was composed of 80% First Nations, 5% Chinese, and the remainder a mix of British and European origin. Of the First Nations girls, almost half came from simple homes in outlying bush villages. Other students' living conditions ran the gamut up to some large, modern homes of professionals boasting sophisticated furnishings and equipment. My dilemma was how to deliver the McClenaghan programme to such a variety of girls, aged about 12-16.

Help was soon forthcoming in the person of Miss Jean Campbell, the Provincial Home Economics Inspector of Schools whose area of responsibility included Terrace School District. I was soon indebted to her when she quickly demonstrated a grasp of the situation, and together we devised a 'simplify and modify' strategy, adapting the courses to need wherever possible.

The prescribed cookery teaching style delivered to students grouped in multi-ability sets of four was a demonstration follow-up laboratory mode. Each student had a role within her group, and through four labs of varied topic focus she worked through each role. It was, therefore, possible to assign the roles in sequence, with the best able girl undertaking the most difficult role first, and so on. By the fourth lab, the least able or experienced girl had usually had sufficient demonstrations to be able to cope, and of course, total group co-operation was expected to help with any difficulties arising.

Students were paired for sewing projects, again with mixed ability in order to empower less able girls to meet with some level of success. Thus, with disguised teacher intervention and ability manipulation the initial year passed fairly successfully, and we maintained and stimulated able

students' interest by introducing enrichment projects. Sometimes the strongest challenge developed from the non-arrival of supplies on the weekly train, and projects might have to be suddenly switched. We encouraged girls to brainstorm possible solutions to such problems since active involvement in management was almost always productive

As time elapsed and confidence and experience developed (both mine and the students') I was able to plan for greater flexibility in groupings and project choices, and at the end of year three we staged a community tea when the girls prepared all the refreshments and served them modelling the garments they had made. Within the community, interest in H.E. was piqued; I would occasionally hear parent anecdotes about contributions by daughters to work in the home kitchen, or to the provision of family clothing. In addition, an evening sewing programme for adults was introduced, allowing for greater use of the facility and possibly shared interest between students and older family members

To this extent, even though she might have thought some methods and plans unorthodox, some success was achieved in striving towards McLenaghan's goals of improving community living standards and legitimizing H.E. as a regular part of the school curriculum. I consider myself fortunate to have been part of that endeavour, since the four years of H. E. teaching in Hazelton were a highlight of my career.

June Domke



**ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET SIR
FREDERICK WILLIAM RICHARDS
G.C.B 1833 -- 1912**

Born 1833, he became a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy in 1855. His particular interest to us is that he served aboard HMS *Ganges* when she was on the Pacific Station, and was in Esquimalt from 17 October, 1858 to 22 December, 1858 and again from 05 August 1859 to 10 September, 1860. When Admiral Baynes promoted his flag lieutenant into the *Vixen*, P.W. sloop, he selected Richards as his relief; and when the former was invalided home sent Richards to the *Vixen*, with consequent promotion to Commander on 9 February 1860.

From then he never looked back. In the *Vixen* his handling of Central American problems was approved; next year he commissioned the *Dart*, gun vessel, for service on the West Coast of Africa, suppressing the slave trade, protecting missionaries and merchants and preserving order generally. His 'great zeal, energy and judgement' were noted, and after paying the *Dart* off in 1866 after an arduous commission he was immediately promoted to captain and placed on half pay to recuperate.

After four years of this, he requested the Secretary of the Admiralty to 'move my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to take my claim for employment into consideration' and in due course was appointed to the *Jumna*, one of the Indian troopships paid for by India but run by the Navy.

In 1873 he went to the *Devastation*, the first capital ship of the Royal Navy to have no sails at all, and commanded her for three and a half years in the Channel and Mediterranean. After a short spell in the Steam Reserve at Chatham, he was appointed Commodore and Senior Officer at the Cape, and took a personal part in the Zulu and the First Boer War, which earned him the K.C.B.

Promoted to Rear-Admiral in 1882, he became one of the Lords Commissioners until 1885 when he was appointed C-in-C East Indies just in time for the Third Burma War.

On conclusion of his three year term, during which he continued to be known, though not to his face, as 'King Dick', he joined a Royal Commission on the administration of the Navy and Army, and was a dominant member of a committee of three admirals who reported on the Manoeuvres of 1888 in a manner that forcefully brought out the needs of the Navy and stated that 'no time should be lost in placing (the) Navy beyond comparison with any two powers.' This was intimately associated with the Naval Defence Act of 1889, and that of 1894.

Declining an invitation to become Second Sea Lord, he chose the China Station instead but returned in 1892 to take the Admiralty post, and the following year to become First Sea Lord, remaining until 1899 by virtue of special promotion to Admiral of the Fleet in 1898. In 1894 his firmness on the need for strengthening the Navy brought him into direct collision with the Prime Minister, Mr. Gladstone himself, but Richards carried the Board with him, headed by Lord Spencer, and it was Gladstone who gave way. Today the resignation of a First Sea Lord is barely noticed.

When Sir Frederick left the Admiralty in 1899 the officers of the Navy subscribed towards a portrait, to be hung at Greenwich with the inscription 'From the Navy to the Nation'; and when he died they established the Sir Frederick Richards Fund, to assist officers and their families in need.

Lt. Richards' letters home during his service aboard Ganges provide interesting reading and will be the subject of a future article.

Mike Harrison

with material from the Brock Files



FORTHCOMING TOURS OF THE OLD CEMETERIES SOCIETY

Except where noted*, tours are in Ross Bay Cemetery and meet in front of Starbucks Coffee, Fairfield Plaza, 1516 Fairfield Rd. \$5 - no reservations needed. Phone 598-8870 for more info.

April 27, 2pm - Pioneers from the Ship Tory. In May 1851 the Tory brought 130 settlers to Vancouver Island. Dr. Sylvia Van Kirk has researched many of their fascinating stories and provides the highlights on this first-time tour.

May 4, 2pm - The St. Ann's Connection. The Sisters of St. Ann arrived in Victoria in 1858 and became influential teachers and nurses throughout BC. Shelley Myhres of St. Ann's Academy discusses the lives of many people who worked with them.

May 11, 2pm - Ross Bay Cemetery Open House. A special event about RBC and the work of the Old Cemeteries Society. Find out about our restoration work, cataloguing, research and educational programs.

May 18, 2pm - St. Margaret's School Centennial. To mark the 100th anniversary of St. Margaret's, one of Victoria's finest girls' schools, Dr. Joyce Clearihue and other alumnae visit graves of the founders and others connected with the school.

May 25, 2pm - BC150 Pioneers. The second tour (different from the March 30 one) presented by OCS's Research Committee about some of the fascinating and colourful people who were here in 1858 who helped found our province.

June 1, 2pm - Italian Pioneers. During and after the 1858 Gold Rush many Italians settled in Victoria. Anna Maria Bamji discusses the artists, hoteliers, grocers, ferry operators and many others whose family stories she has compiled.

June 8, 2pm - Fabulous Flora. One of our most popular tours. Fred Hook and Jennifer Lort use their vast knowledge of plants to explain the amazing lore about RBC's trees and shrubs. Always different from their previous tours and always a delight.

* June 15, 2pm - Royal Oak Burial Park. City "Fathers". This annual tour takes place for the first time at Royal Oak where many civic worthies and other community leaders are buried in the lovely, rolling landscape. Meet inside the main gates, 4673 Falaise Drive, off Royal Oak Drive.

June 22, 2pm - Tall Ships. To coincide with the visit of the tall ships to Victoria, maritime historian Ron Armstrong visits graves of people connected to sailing ships and the sea

June 29, 2pm - Stop the Presses! Joyce Mackie discusses the city's printers, often overlooked by historians. Many worked for the Colonist which is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2008

July 6, 2pm - Gossip in the Graveyard is a lively tour about many scoundrels, characters, and eccentrics at RBC you won't find in your history books!

July 13, 2pm - Gold Rush! is about some of the colourful men and women buried at RBC who made history in the Fraser River Gold Rush of 1858 and other gold rushes.

July 20, 2pm - Gossip in the Graveyard - see July 6.

July 27, 2pm - Gold Rush! - See July 13.

Aug. 3, 2pm - Gossip in the Graveyard. - See July 6

Aug. 10, 2pm - Obon Ceremony at 2:00 p.m. at the Kakehashi Monument in the SW corner of the cemetery. (Traditional Japanese Buddhist ceremony for the dead.) A brief tour to Japanese graves will follow the ceremony.

Aug. 17, 2pm - Gold Rush! - See July 27.

Aug. 24, 2pm - Gossip in the Graveyard. - See July 6

Aug. 31, 2pm - Gold Rush! - See July 27.

