VPHS&CM

Vancouver Police Historical Society and Centennial Museum

Newsletter - Fall 2007

Looking for an arresting Christmas break activity?

Come Unwrap a Mystery at the Police Museum! Visit the museum during Christmas Break to examine real forensic evidence and identify the bad guy responsible. Suitable for ages 6 and up.

Call or visit our website for our holiday hours.

Need a unique christmas present for your little sleuth?

Our giftshop includes a wide selection of police and forensics-themed materials and books.

Historical Society Members recieve a 10% discount.

New Exhibits - We Need Your Help!

The Museum plans to create three new exhibits in 2008:

Sins of the City – This exhibit will be based off our popular "Sins of the City" walking tour and will look at the history of vice crime in Vancouver. The sex trade, drug trade, alcohol regulation and gambling will be featured.

Policing a Multicultural City – This exhibit will explore the connections between the VPD and the many ethnic communities in Vancouver. Particular attention will be paid to how the department has struggled to be representative of the community it serves and how it has dealt with ethnic issues in the community.

The Armoury – The current firearm display will be redesigned to include other confiscated weapons as well as additional firearms not currently on display.

If you have stories, information or objects that could help with any of these exhibits, we need your help! Call Marie or Chris at 604-665-3346.

An Arresting New Look

Early in the New Year, the Vancouver Police Museum will be launching a new logo as part of a broader campaign to raise the profile of the museum. Watch for a redesigned museum website, newsletter and much more! Without giving too much away, one of our inspirations for the new logo was Dick Tracy and other early crime comics. Watch for the launch.

Gift Shop Redevelopment

The Museum Gift Shop has just undergone a major redesign. Thanks to the generous support of the Vancouver Police Foundation, the new museum gift shop features improved displays, better working space and much more selection! Come check out all of our new items; one of them might make the perfect Christmas gift.

Winter Hours

The museum will be open as usual through the month of December—Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm, except as noted below:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 16 Closed	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Come in this week and use your 10% Members Discount in our redesigned Museum Gift Shop for some Christmas shopping.					
23 Closed	24 Closed	25 Closed	26 Closed	27	28	29
				"Unwrap a Mystery" runs every day during Christmas Break from 12-4pm.		
30 Closed	31 Closed	January 1 Closed	2	3	4	5
			"Unwrap a Mystery" runs every day during Christmas Break from 12-4pm.			

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Published by the Vancouver Police Historical Society and Centennial Museum

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Programming Asst: Hilary Stewart
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Did you know?

In 1935, National Monthly, a Canadian magazine, ran an article about VPD **Insp. J.F.B.C. Vance**, whom they referred to as "Today's Sherlock Holmes". As head of the Vancouver Police Bureau of Science, he was a frequent target of assassination attempts; seven separate attempts were made on his life in 1934 alone! In one case, enough nitroglycerine was found outside his home to "blow three houses skyward!" It is thanks to the foundations he laid that the VPD continues to have one of the leading municipal forensics sections in Canada.

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The printing of this newsletter was sponsored by Ozzie Kaban and Kaban Protective Services, Inc.

School Program Brochure

In September, 2000 copies of the museum's 2007/2008 school program brochure were mailed to elementary, secondary and english-as-a-second-language schools in BC. Highlights from this year's brochure include:

- **Evening Bookings** – Groups can now visit the museum outside of public hours by special arrangement. This will allow Boy Scout, Girl Guide and other community groups to participate in our programs.
- **Speakers** – Groups unable to visit the museum can now arrange to have the museum come to them. We now offer talks on the history of the VPD, historical crime in Vancouver, the forensic sciences and more.
- **Special rate for combined programs** – Groups that book both our in-museum programs and a walking tour now receive a discount. This is encouraging many groups to turn a half-day visit into an all-day one.

To obtain a copy of the brochure, visit the website at www. vancouverpolicemuseum.ca or call Chris Mathieson, Museum Programmer at 604-665-3346.

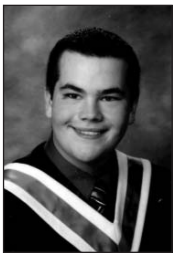
Do you know a Grade 12 student with plans to pursue a career in policing?

The Vancouver Police Museum awards **two $1000 scholarships** annually to exceptional Grade 12 students who clearly demonstrate a commitment to their community and plans to work in law enforcement.

For more information or to apply for the scholarship, please contact the museum at (604) 665-3346 or visit us on the web at www.vancouverpolicemuseum.ca.

Applications must be received no later than May 15, 2008.

Raymond J Canuel Memorial Scholarship Recipients 2007



This year, **Ryan Mann** and **Mark Simms** were each awarded the $1000 Raymond J Canuel Memorial Scholarship – awarded to grade 12 graduates with plans to pursue a career in policing. Ryan and Mark both finished high school with excellent grades and impressive volunteer experience in their communities.

About the Scholarship

This scholarship is supported by the **Chief RJ Canuel Memorial Golf Tournament**. This year the eighth annual tournament was held on September 13 at Newlands Golf and Country Club in Langley. 145 golfers participated in the event, raising over $26,000 to support the scholarship endowment fund, BC Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run and Kid Safe. Thank you to Glenn and Evelyn Canuel for coordinating this successful event and for their continued support of the museum and the scholarship.

About Chief Constable William W. Foster

Born in England in 1875, William Wasborough Foster emigrated to British Columbia at the age of 17 to work as the engineer for the Canadian Pacific Railroad in Revelstoke. He served with the CPR as a superintendent and then as the police magistrate in Revelstoke in 1908. Foster was subsequently employed as the manager for the Globe Lumber Company on Vancouver Island, President of the Conservative Part of B.C., a provincial Member of the Legislative Assembly, and Minister of Public Works, prior to the Great War. Foster was an avid mountaineer, and served as the president of the Alpine Club of Canada--he has a mountain on Vancouver Island named in his honour: Mount Colonel Foster.

In the First World War, he served as Captain in the Canadian Mounted Rifles. He fought in the Somme and Vimy Ridge battles, and reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Few Canadian soldiers have had a more distinguished career than Foster; he was five times "mentioned in dispatches", received the Distinguished Service Order with two bars, the Military Cross and both the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre and is said to have refused the Victoria Cross for gallantry when commanding the 52nd Ontario Battalion on Paschendaele Ridge, requesting that it should go instead to one of his officers.

Foster was appointed Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department on January 3, 1935. He restructured the police department significantly, and led an effort to eradicate crime and vice from the city. On one occasion Foster entered a building unarmed in which a gang of armed criminals had taken refuge, and personally arrested them. He initiated official training for Vancouver police officers, updated police uniforms, and added tear gas to the police arsenal.

In 1939, at 64 years of age, he was again called off to war. During the Second World War, he was promoted to Major General. He officially resigned as Chief Constable in 1941 so the city could properly search for a permanent replacement. After the war, Foster was appointed the head of BC Hydro. He died at the age of 79 on Dec. 2, 1954.

Recent Acquisitions

John A. MacDonald (no relation to the first Prime Minister), a decendant of Chief Constable William W. Foster, recently donated Foster's battle dress tunic from World War Two. This item is of significant historical value because of its connection to one of the VPD's most storied members.

Defenders of the City's Morals go Beyond the Call

The Museum was asked to provide an historical account of police officers who went "Beyond the Call" for the VPD's 2006 Annual Report. Below is an excerpt from that article:

"The truth is not always pleasing--and it is the truth that during the last ten years the drug evil has required more strenuous handling by the Force in Vancouver than in any preceding years…The illicit drug traffickers of Vancouver have been taught to entertain a wholesome respect for two men of the police force."

So began a profile of Detectives **Donald A. Sinclair** and **Joseph Ricci** in the department's Annual Report of 1921. Assigned to the city's first Drug Squad and tasked with suppressing the opium trade, these intrepid men quickly became experts on the trap doors, secret walls and other techniques used to conceal the drug trade from the prying eyes of the police. Thanks to the special skills of these men, finesse and the element of surprise were often adequate to gain entry to these secret spaces in basements and back rooms. Occasionally, however, more convincing force was required: "the stalwart detective began chopping at the door with might and main, flying chips and heavy thuds from his axe." Confronted with three separate thick doors, strengthened by heavy timbers, entry was made even more difficult when an alarm of "police" was given; a sentry would push an electric button which would close numerous doors, turn off electric lights and release the trapdoors for quick escape.

"There also enters at all times a considerable element of danger in this class of work, as the drug trafficker oftimes is a drug user and therefore to be closely watched. On their raids Ricci and Sinclair have been trapped in burning buildings, have been shot at and have had to shoot, but they have pulled through and built up a success at drug seizures of which the Force is very proud."

For their invaluable expertise, marked cunning and immovable resolve, these two exceptional Detectives were singled out in 1921 for going Beyond the Call.

Phenomenal Growth in 2007

Each year, the Museum creates a Business Plan to direct its operations for the year. In 2007 our goal was to increase program participation and general admissions each by 20% over 2006 levels. We have surpassed these targets and seen almost **50% growth** in our school program participation and more than **double the participation** in our public programs (the Sins Tour and our Forensics Drop-In program).

*Watch the Museum website in late January for our **2007 Annual Report** and our **2008 Business Plan**.*

Haunted Trolley

The Museum participated in the Vancouver Haunted Trolley Tour. Over 14 nights in October, **4085 visitors** came through the museum to learn about the history of our building, how autopsies are performed and about some of this city's most famous homocides.

Thank you to the following donors:

(**Up to $249):** Peter Legge, Ken Scherling, Grace Dawkins , George Tough, Donald Winterton, Douglas Kerr, Tom Cocking, Norman McLachlan, Arlene Guthrie, Peter Armstrong, Calvin Peterman, Carolyn Daley. **Patron ($250-$499):** Nick Lohin, Ronald Cliff, Phyllis Mortimore, Patricia Pelletier, Ted Lister, James Speros. **Benefactor ($500-$999):** Rusty Ashworth and Associated Labels, Peter Webster. **Guardian ($1000-$2499):** Evelyn Galbraith.

Ozzie Kaban and Kaban Protective Services, Inc. for sponsoring the printing costs for this newsletter and our school program brochures.

Thank you also to the **BC Gaming Commission** for their contribution of $17,000 towards our school programs.

The museum has been awarded a $5000 grant from the **Pride in Our Communities: BC 2008 Local Museums Program** administered by the British Columbia Museums Association. The grant program was developed to support projects that advance knowledge of and greater access to the rich heritage of the British Columbia. These funds will be used towards the creation of a permanent museum exhibit—Policing a Multicultural City.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

VANCOUVER POLICE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND CENTENNIAL MUSEUM

Members of the Vancouver Police Historical Society have numerous benefits including unlimited free admission to the museum,10% discount at the museum gift shop, Biannual Newsletter.

☐ Individual - $25.00/year ☐ VSPOA - $20.00/2 year ☐ Family - $40/year

Name and Phone #:_____

Address, City, Province, Postal Code:_____

Email Address:_____

You may also choose to make a tax-deductable donation:

☐Patron ($250) ☐Benefactor ($500) ☐Guardian ($1000) ☐Other ($_____)

Please forward completed application with payment to:
Vancouver Police Historical Society at 240 E.Cordova St.Vancouver, BC V6A 1L3

The Vancouver Police Historical Society is a non-profit organization and registered charity.

The Vancouver Police Historical Society would like to welcome the following new members: Councilor Elizabeth Ball, Audrey Brown, Vicki Chu, Beatrice Crich, Jim Dipalo, Frank Dixon, Peter Ferguson, Donald Fetterly, Evelyn Galbraith, Arlene Guthrie, Don Kemp, Douglas Kerr, Nick Lohin, Arthur Mason, Donald Paradon, William Parsons, Patricia Pelletier, Calvin Peterman, John Robertson, Sandy Sanderson, Barbara Warrick, Eve Back, Robert Kowan, Carl Vinje, Thomas Oger,Jennifer White, Angela Galos, Ryan Gray, Jenn Luccock, Cheryl Weeks, Agnes Zaremska, Kym Dosen, Jack Harrison, Dan Fox, Kimberly Rossiter, Stanley Hill, Paul Kemp, Sherman Chow, Marina Trenkel, Greg Parkes, Craig Reynolds, Ryan Diguangco, David Goodall, Douglas Jones, Kiel Murchison, Donna Haining-Sasi, and Mariya Zhalovaga.