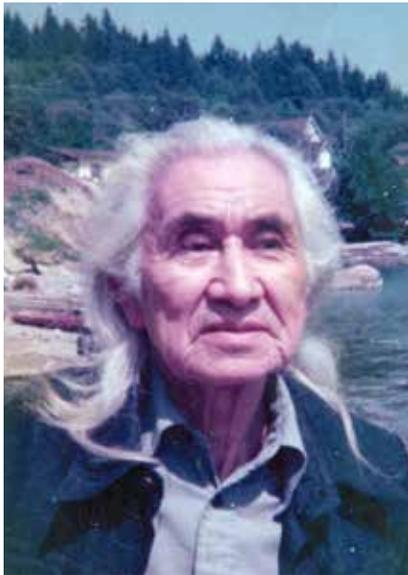


Chief Dan George: Actor and Activist

Karen Dearlove, Curator

Longshoreman. Actor. Musician. Lecturer. Poet. Activist. Environmentalist. First Nations leader.



Chief Dan George, ca. 1970s.

Dan George (born Geswanouth Slahoot) was remembered as many things. Raised on Burrard Indian Reserve #3, the son of hereditary chief George Sla-holt, he spent much of his working life as a longshoreman and logger; he did not start his acting career until the age of 60. During the 1960s and 70s he appeared in many television, movie, and stage productions in which he worked to promote better understanding of

First Nations people and challenged the commonly viewed portrayal of First Nations people on screen. Nominated for an Academy Award for his role in the film *Little Big Man* (1970), he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1971. Chief George came to national attention in 1967 when, it was said, he silenced a crowd of 32,000 with his *Lament for Confederation* speech at Vancouver's Empire Stadium during the City's celebration of Canada's centennial.

Opening in June 2017 at the North Vancouver Museum in Presentation House, "Chief Dan George: Actor and Activist" is an exhibit exploring the life and legacy of Tsleil-Waututh Chief Dan George (1899-1981), his influence as an advocate for the rights of First Nations peoples and his career as an actor. Although centered on Dan George, the exhibit will delve into significant events and individuals in the First Nations rights movement in BC and Canada including local Squamish Chief Joe Capilano (1850-1910) who led delegations to meet with the Prime Minister of Canada and the King of England seeking rights for indigenous people, as well as Squamish leader Andrew Paull (1892-1959), a lawyer

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and political activist, who represented the Allied Tribes of British Columbia, and later the North American Indian Brotherhood.

Drawing on the North Vancouver Museum & Archives' archival and artifact collection, including paintings, photographs, and memorabilia donated by Chief George's friend and one-time personal assistant Lorraine Fenkner, the exhibit will be supported by additional materials from other collections and repositories including the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the George family. It is being developed with input from the Aboriginal Voices Partnership whose members represent the North Vancouver Museum and Archives, and local First Nations.

This exhibit will explore Chief Dan George's legacy. We would like to know what Chief Dan George means to you. Do you have any personal recollections, photographs or other material you would like to share for this exhibit?

Contact curator Karen Dearlove dearlovek@dnv.org 604.990.3700, ext. 8005.



Chief Dan George, center, on the set of *The Outlaw Josey Wales* with Clint Eastwood, left, and Native American actor, Will Sampson, right, in 1976.

A Grouse Mountain Dream

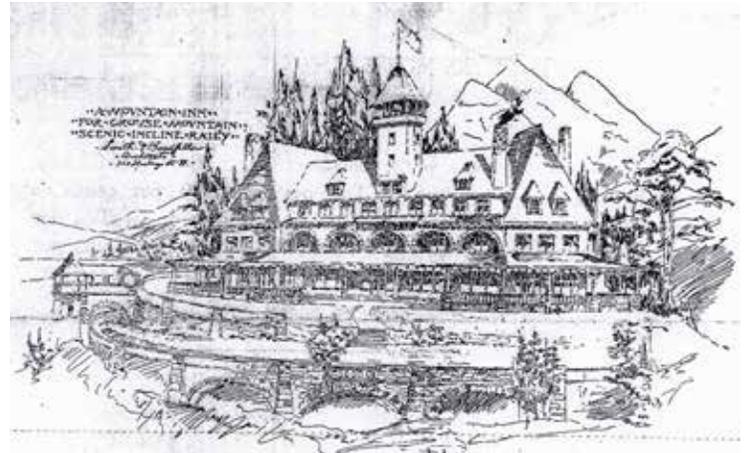
by Sharon Proctor

If you wanted to climb Grouse Mountain in the early 1900s, you did so on foot. It was exhausting, but worth it! From the top you had an absolutely breathtaking view of the North Shore, Burrard Inlet, Vancouver, Vancouver Island, and nearby mountains. And so various developers in 1903 came up with plans to build a resort on top — plus ways to get people there. By January 1911, two proposals remained.

One was submitted by Macdonell, Gzowski & Company. Called “Grouse Mountain Scenic Railway,” it described how the firm would build a steam-powered “ratchet” railway running from the Lonsdale streetcar terminus (Lonsdale Avenue & Windsor Road), then rising gradually to the Grouse summit. (The term “ratchet” refers to special gears that keep wheels from moving in reverse.) At the top there would be a hotel, summer cottages, and sports facilities for both summer and winter.

The other proposal was that of the newly formed “Grouse Mountain Scenic Incline Railway Company.” Assisted by the BC Electric Railway Company (BCER), its tracks would start at BCER’s Capilano streetcar terminus (today just east of where Upper Levels Highway crosses the Capilano river). There would be three sections: First, an ordinary electric tram (streetcar) would cross the Capilano River and proceed up the River’s west side as far as the present Cleveland Dam area; then it would re-cross the River and head east to the base of Grouse. Second, a cable car would carry people up the west side of Grouse. Third, another electric tram would take visitors around the mountain-top. On the summit there would be a hotel, cottages,

At the top there would be a hotel, summer cottages, and sports facilities for both summer and winter.



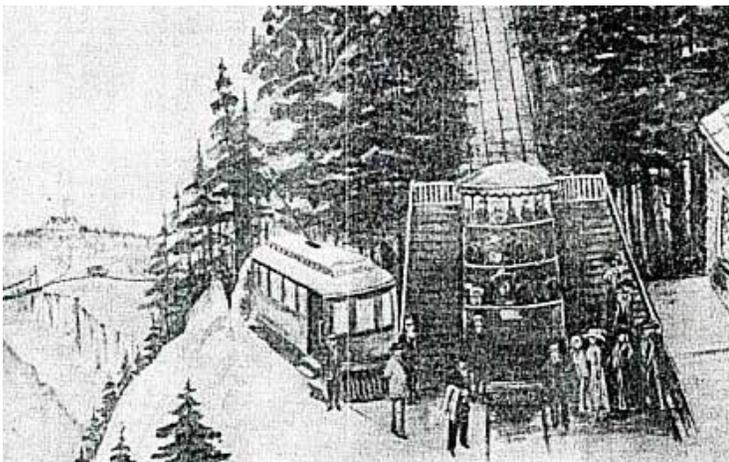
The proposed “Mountain Inn” on the Grouse summit. Prospectus illustration

and other support for winter and summer sports, plus “Pleasure Grounds and Alpine Gardens” for those seeking only rest and clean air. Total estimated cost: \$703,000!

When Macdonell, Gzowski & Company withdrew its application in mid-February 1911, the Scenic Incline Railway Company’s proposal was approved by the local and provincial governments. North Vancouver Mayor McNeish turned the first sod on June 1, 1911. Unfortunately the project suffered construction delays, then failed to survive the 1913 recession and World War 1.

Thank you, Sharon Gerbasi, for providing a copy of the Scenic Incline Railway Company’s Prospectus.

Sources: “Prospectus of the Grouse Mountain Scenic Incline Railway Company”; “World” and “Province” newspapers, 1903-1914; Dick Lazenby’s newspaper notes.



The electric streetcar (left) and cable car (right) would exchange passengers at the base of Grouse Mountain. Prospectus illustration



The June 1911 sod-turning. City of North Vancouver Mayor McNeish (holding the shovel) did the honours. The ceremony took place by Capilano Road, across the street from today’s Cleveland Dam. NVMA 1460

The Kendricks' Wartime House

by Sharon Proctor



The Kendrick house, March 1942. Today a three-storey triplex sits on the site. CVA 1184-102

You can still see a few of them — small, simply-designed houses, most with gabled roofs. During World War 2, the federal Wartime Housing Limited constructed nearly 700 of these in North Vancouver, mainly in areas west of Lonsdale. They came in different sizes, for different-sized families. Built as temporary structures, they were arranged in rows, and rented to workers hired by Burrard Drydock and North Vancouver Ship Repairs. The two firms had been contracted to build corvettes, mine-sweepers, victory ships, and cargo vessels for service in the War. As it happens, the first 197 houses built here were located east of Lonsdale, between 1st and 6th. Construction began in October 1941. Soon after, Vernon and Jean Kendrick moved into one (232 East 3rd Street).

He was 26, she 24. Married in 1936, they had a little boy named Hart, born in August 1941. The Kendricks got one of the small houses (under 600 square feet), built for a one-child family. They had moved here from Port



Jean dusts her living-room floor, March 1942. Notice the large console-radio on the right. In the 1940s these were "furniture," part of the décor. CVA 1184-101

Alberni, where Vern (a steelworker's son) had been a longshoreman. Now he was a driller at North Vancouver Ship Repairs, which sat where ICBC and Lonsdale Quay are today.

The Kendricks' new home was a one-storey frame structure resting on four concrete blocks. As the ground here was somewhat swampy, the walkway to the front entrance and around to the back was made of wood. The front door opened to a corner living room, from which one accessed all the other rooms — two bedrooms, a kitchen (with a back door), and a bathroom. Vern, Jean, and Hart lived here for two years.

After the War most of the west-side houses were demolished, while most on the east side were upgraded for returning soldiers, and for renters willing to purchase. Now the east side is being extensively re-developed. And the remaining "wartime houses" are rapidly disappearing.

Sources: Jack Lindsay Ltd. photos of Kendrick house, City of Vancouver Archives; Ancestry.ca; "Wartime Housing Limited, 1941-1947," MA thesis by Catherine Wade, UBC (1984); "Wartime Housing in the City of North Vancouver," by Bob Faulkner, NVMA Express, June/July 1993; "My Wartime House," by Anne Silva, NVMA Express, Spring 1994; "Swing Era Furniture," www.jitterbuzz.com.



Right: Jean at her kitchen stove — a wood stove! The kitchen sink on the right was actually an enameled laundry tub. March 1942. CVA 1184-103



The Kendrick bedroom, March 1942. Its "waterfall-style" furniture was of bendable plywood covered with veneer. Inexpensive, it was popular with young marrieds. CVA 1184-100

North Vancouver's Museum & Archives exists to engage, strengthen and inspire our community and its visitors by exploring history, connecting people and sharing ideas.

Our website:
nvma.ca

Walter Draycott's Great War Chronicles
GreatWarChronicle.ca

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Connections

Janet Turner, Archivist



The Archives has been breaking new ground in collaborative initiatives with community organizations in North Vancouver.

The North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission (NVRCC) was established in 1965, and has been generating records ever since. In a basement they are soon to vacate were over 600 boxes of inactive records. Typically, only 5-10% of modern organizational records have long term archival value. Selecting the historically significant parts for transfer to the Archives requires time and resources. So when the NVRCC approached the Archives about the records, we met in the basement to discuss a strategy for an initial cull — an approach called pre-processing. The Archivist outlined what steps should be taken and agreed to be a resource for an archival contractor hired by the NVRCC. The work was all carried out on site. Ultimately, 51 boxes — a manageable volume — came to the Archives. An intern from UBC's Archives school re-housed, rearranged, and described the material over the course of the summer. With the success of this project, the Archives is now involved with North Shore Women's Centre on a similar pre-processing project.



Archives intern Anna Henrichsen arranging and boxing NVRCC records

An ongoing collaboration with Capilano University's Liberal Studies program got its start in 2014, when the Archivist addressed fourth year students about the qualities and research value of unique archival records. Liberal Studies Coordinator Aurelea Mahood felt students would benefit from earlier exposure, in their second year, to archival resources, and from a trip to the Archives. Curator Karen Dearlove, came on board in meetings with Aurelea and what emerged was a three part experience for the students: a talk about both our Archives and Museum holdings, and tours of the reading room, and Archives stacks. Mahood's goal is to give students an early opportunity to include Archives in their thinking about their graduating projects; ours is to bring new users into the Archives, and to better serve an important North Vancouver institution. It's a win-win!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday January 21
10-11:30 am
New Acquisitions Preview Event
at the Community History Centre

Friday February 24
6:30-10 pm
4th annual Night at the Museum
fundraiser
at the Gordon Smith Gallery