

## The Sisters Mountain

Nancy Kirkpatrick, Director



*"The Lions: Guardians of Vancouver," photo ca. 1916. NVMA 3423.*

Twin peaks of the Coast Range guard the entrance to Burrard Inlet. Known as "The Lions", the mountains were called Sch'ich'iyúy (or "twin sisters") by the Coast Salish people who have lived in this region for thousands of years. A legend told by Squamish Chief Joe Capilano to E. Pauline Johnson, the famous Mohawk poet, says the sisters were daughters of a Squamish chief. By marrying twin Haida brothers, they brought peace between their warring peoples. After they passed away, the two sisters were immortalized and lifted up to the mountains where they could forever keep watch over their descendants and ensure the peace was kept.

The Legend of the Sisters is the inspiration for a work of public art commissioned for the new museum from local



*Artist Wade Baker (left) selecting fine-grained, old growth red cedar for the "Sisters Mountain" artwork in the new museum's lobby, May 2017.*

artist Wade Baker, a carver and storyteller. Carved from old growth red cedar, the panel will be located in the museum lobby and will welcome all who enter.

The design shows the two sisters in traditional mountain goat wool robes and wearing woven cedar hats watching over the lands and waters. An outline of the Sisters Mountain is shown above them.

Acquisition of the panel was made possible by Donald Reid in memory of his parents Nelson and Helen Reid, and by the Government of Canada.

## What's the Big Idea?

The new museum exhibit planning process is under way. A design team has been hired to work with NVMA on an interpretive plan and exhibit designs for the museum's core galleries. The North Vancouver-based exhibit design collective KEI Space describes its work as creating memorable and meaningful visitor experiences by sharing Knowledge, Education and Insight (KEI).



Over the next few months, the KEI team and NVMA staff will consult with local groups and members of the public in a variety of ways including workshops, on-line surveys, feedback at community events, and focus groups. A set of 'big ideas' will emerge, ideas that will provide direction and momentum, and will help define what we want to say to museum visitors, how we will communicate and what artifacts to use.

We hope to uncover stories that encapsulate these big ideas — stories that will communicate how North Vancouver has evolved over time to be the place we know today and the community we aspire to become.

You are encouraged to get involved. Please contact us if you have a story, an idea or an artifact to share.

# Early Hike to the Top of Grouse

by Sharon Proctor



Hikers heading north on the Lonsdale Trail, 1902. City of Vancouver Archives, public domain photo.

Thousands of hikers climb the “Grouse Grind” to the top of Grouse Mountain. It starts by the north end of Nancy Greene Way. From 1890 to 1910, however, the popular route to the summit was the “Grouse Mountain Trail.” This trail began east of the Grind, near the top of today’s Prospect Road.

In those days, the Grouse ascent began down by the waterfront, on the “Lonsdale Trail.” The latter was created in the 1880s when real estate interests decided to open-up the North Shore. They arranged for a footpath to be cut up the hill, starting by the ferry landing. In 1890 we find it meandering up to around 13th Street – then veering west to the future Mahon Avenue, and proceeding north from here. It met Mosquito Creek, ran north alongside it, then proceeded to what’s now the top of Prospect. Hikers then crossed the Creek, and started up the Grouse Mountain Trail.

Most trekkers arrived by ferry, then began the two-day hike from here to the Grouse summit.

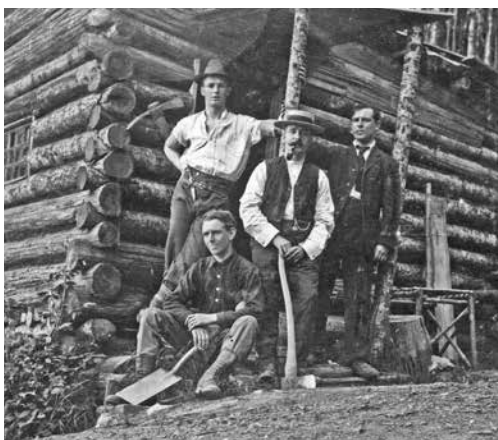
As time passed, the lower part of the Lonsdale Trail became a proper street. But its upper section remained a rough trail for much longer. Most trekkers arrived by ferry, then began the two-day hike from here to the Grouse summit. Part-way up, they often spent the night in a cabin built by William John Trythall.

He and his wife and children had come from England in the late 1880s. They settled in Vancouver, where Trythall established a printing/book-binding business. In 1891 he purchased most of District Lot 883 (160 acres) on the side of Grouse. It was an elongated, north-south-oriented parcel whose lower end was near the Grouse Mountain Trail and Mosquito Creek. Trythall cleared two acres of forest (Lot 32), then built the cabin. For many years the Trythall family enjoyed it on weekends and holidays. And they left the door unlocked, allowing hikers to use it as a rest stop and first-aid post.

By 1902 the Grouse Mountain Trail was so popular the Vancouver Tourist Association pushed to have it improved. Thus, the next several years saw signs, repairs and upgrades. But it didn’t last. Over time, hikers found other routes to the top, Mosquito Creek became a protected water reserve, Lonsdale Trail vanished with

City and District development, and the forest gradually covered the Grouse Mountain Trail.

Sources: Major Matthews’ “Early Vancouver” (City of Vancouver Archives); Dick Lazenby newspaper notes; Roy Pallant, Socio-Historical project (District of NV); John Rodger Burnes, “North Vancouver: Saga of a Municipality (1891-1907)” ; District Hall staff.



(LEFT) Trythall cabin, 1908 or 1909. Standing by the entrance are Roy and Howard Trythall (in white shirts), sons of William John Trythall. CVA, public domain photo. (CENTRE) The cabin was close to Mosquito Creek Falls, seen here around 1908. The falls were destroyed by construction of a wooden dam around 1912, which no longer exists. NVMA 10095. (RIGHT) Map showing a land parcel (in blue) that includes most of District Lot 883. The Trythall cabin would have sat somewhere near the lower end. District Hall map, modified (black) by the author.

# A Century Ago: City Police Department

by Sharon Proctor

*"A Century Ago" is the first of several planned Express stories about North Vancouver in the years 1916-1918, a time of farms, ranches, wooden sidewalks, lumber mills, shipyards, heroin in drug stores, alcohol prohibition, and World War 1.*



Rear of City Hall, 1922. The Police Department was located at the far-left in 1916-1918. NVMA 2722.

Today, policing of both City and District is provided by the RCMP. A century ago, each had its own police force. The City's was headquartered in today's "Presentation House" (4th & Chesterfield). In those days the latter was the vacated "Central School" whose students had recently moved to Queen Mary School. The City leased the empty building from the School Board in 1915 and turned it into City Hall. In the years 1916 through 1918, the Police Department occupied the southwest corner of the main floor. Its three jail cells were directly below, in the basement.



Arthur Davies, date unknown. Police Chief from 1907 to 1919, he was fired after "snitching" on a Police Commissioner who had illegal alcohol (rye) in his home. NVMA, Fonds 179.

The Department consisted of Chief Constable Davies, a Sergeant Detective, three or four regular Constables, and a combination Jailer/Pound-Keeper/City-Hall caretaker. They enforced laws, operated the jail, and impounded stray and problem animals. The Department operated 24 hours a day; so there was always a constable on the job at night.

Lawbreakers usually appeared before the City's "Police Court." Offenses included assault, breach of City by-laws, missing persons, animal cruelty, deserting wives, opium or alcohol possession, drunkenness, supplying liquor to First Nations, auto-

mobile violations, robbery, house-breaking, mischief, vagrancy, seduction, and attempted murder. The most common involved opium possession, by-law breaches, problems with juveniles, and theft. Some detainees were held for police in other municipalities or for military authorities. Some were material witnesses. And a few were headed for the Provincial Asylum in New Westminster. Most City Jail "guests" stayed only a few days.

All received three meals a day. Menu items included porridge, meat, vegetables, rice, and beans, all served with bread, sugar, and tea or coffee. Records indicate the food was prepared by a "Mrs. Gallia." Could this be Alice Gallia, wife of Antonio Gallia who owned the nearby St. Alice Hotel? If yes, she'd probably have prepared the food in the Hotel kitchen.

They enforced laws, operated the jail, and impounded stray and problem animals.

The Police Department was responsible for licensing dogs and issuing tags. It also dealt with hundreds of complaints each year, about wandering dogs, cats, horses, and cows. Cows destroyed people's gardens. Dogs killed local chickens. Horses and cats? They wandered all over the place! Whatever the issue, the furry "law-breakers" were rounded up and placed in the City Pound, and their owners fined. If fines weren't paid, the lucky animals were sold; the unlucky ones were euthanized.

Sources: Chief Davies' & Pound-Keeper's reports to Police Commissioners (1916); 1916 Annual Report of the Chief Constable; City Police Financial Statement and Annual Report (1918); City Council Minutes (1917); Dick Lazenby newspaper notes (1916-1918); May/Davies Family Fonds 179 (NVMA); Minutes, Board of Police Commissioners (1916-1918).



Police officers stand behind seated City officials, June 1915. Shortly after this photo was taken the Department moved into the Central School building. NVMA 240.

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](http://nvma.ca)

Walter Draycott's Great War Chronicle  
[GreatWarChronicle.ca](http://GreatWarChronicle.ca)

*Express* is a quarterly publication of the North Vancouver Museum & Archives. All text represents the opinion of contributors and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Museum & Archives.

Contributing writers:  
Sharon Proctor  
The Friends Society  
Nancy Kirkpatrick

Design and Layout:  
Bonnie Miller

The NVMA is supported by the Friends of the North Vancouver Museum & Archives Society, a charitable organization.

All donations to the Friends Society are tax deductible.

Charitable Registration Number:  
89031 1772 RR0001

North Vancouver  
Museum & Archives  
3202 Institute Road  
North Vancouver BC V7K 3E5  
604.990.3700  
[nvmac@dnv.org](mailto:nvmac@dnv.org)



## Connections

From the Friends Society



Doppelgangers in historic costumes shared their stories of the "old days" - to a sold-out crowd at the fourth annual **Night at the Museum** held at the Gordon Smith Gallery on February 24. Long-time sponsors and caterers Summerhill PARC delighted the crowd's palates with incredible food. Kettle Valley showcased their North Shore brewed beer. Old and new friends of the North



Left to right: 'Phyllis Munday', 'Malcolm Lowry', Bob McCormack, 'Walter Draycott', and Sheryl Rivers.

Vancouver Museum enjoyed light live jazz as they mingled among the original art and silent auction tables.

The Friends Society is grateful for the support of sponsors Summerhill (PARC), North Shore News, All-West Insurance, Polygon Homes, DLO Move Support Services, Kettle Valley Brewery, Tireland Performance Centre,

Delany's Coffee, Artisan Wines, the dozens of live and silent auction donors and the many volunteers who made this event successful. Kevin Evans, a long-time Museum friend, commissioner and supporter, emceed the event and also had some fun putting on his auctioneer's hat for the live auction portion of the evening. Almost \$11,500 was raised to help support the North Vancouver Museum and Archives.

If you missed out this year, stay tuned! Plans are already afoot for a very unusual event for next spring's fund raiser. Invite others to become a member, to be a part of the fun.

### ARCHIVES HOURS ARE CHANGING IN JULY!

Starting in July, the Archives will be open to the public:

- THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS  
12 noon to 5pm
- SATURDAYS  
10am to 5pm (note earlier opening time!)



Public service will be available at other times by appointment, e-mail ([turnerj@dnv.org](mailto:turnerj@dnv.org)) or by phone (604.990.3700, ext. 8011).

The change in hours will help NVMA prepare for the new museum.

Explore the Archives' holding through our on-line database. Go to [nvma.ca](http://nvma.ca), and click 'online database' on the Archives Collections page.