

Mobile Exhibit at the new Delbrook Community Recreation Centre

Karen Dearlove, Curator

On June 24, 2017 the District of North Vancouver opened the new Delbrook Community Recreation Centre. On display inside this state-of-the-art facility is the NVMA's first mobile exhibit unit. Custom designed with interchangeable graphic panels, discovery drawers, interactive elements, and artifact cases, the exhibit unit at Delbrook Centre is the first in a planned network of mobile exhibits in local public buildings.

The "North Vancouver Champions" exhibit includes brief vignettes, photographs, and artifacts about notable North Vancouver athletes including soccer star and coach Jimmy Spencer, the 1936 North Shore Indians Lacrosse Team, middle-distance runner Bill Parnell and Paralympic skier Lauren Woolstencroft.

The Delbrook Centre exhibit is one of five units that have been constructed. The other four will be displayed in the new NVMA museum on Esplanade. Plans to construct three more units for District facilities are in the works. A series of different themed exhibits will rotate between the Delbrook Centre, the new NVMA museum (scheduled to open in 2019) and other sites.

Future exhibit topics include "The Capilano Story," "The Lure of the Mountains," and "Early Entrepreneurs". "North Vancouver Champions" will be on display until early 2018. Visit the Delbrook Community Recreation Centre and learn more about North Vancouver Champions.



Frank Hunter (left) and Jimmy Spencer (right) NVMA 227-36



North Vancouver Champions exhibit discovery drawers

Mark your Calendars!

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MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE
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NORTH VANCOUVER
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017
Community History Centre
3203 Institute Road, North Vancouver

- Special Guest Speaker: Juan Tanus, exhibit designer
Steering the museum in the right direction – a sneak peak
- Registration starts at 6:30 pm
- Meeting starts at 7:00 pm
- Guest speaker at 7:30 pm (the public is welcome to attend)

McTaggart Cowan

 by Sharon Proctor

McTaggart and Laura Cowan.
Photos courtesy of UVic Library, Special Collections

He was a well-known North Vancouver botanist and sportsman, who lived with his wife Laura and their children on the northwest corner of West 25th Street and Jones Avenue (2507 Jones). Perhaps you've heard of their offspring -- sons Ian McTaggart Cowan (environmentalist & UBC professor) and Patrick McTaggart-Cowan (meteorologist & SFU's first president); and daughters Pamela McTaggart-Cowan (architect) and Joan McTaggart Cowan (agriculturalist).

Cowan was born in 1883 in Scotland. A stockbroker, he married Laura Mackenzie and they had the two sons. His hobbies were sports and horticulture. He played on the Scottish National Hockey Team and won a gold medal for golf. He also collected and preserved Scottish botanical specimens, belonged to the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, edited the *Scottish Botanical Review*, and wrote botanical articles. In fact, he often corresponded with BC's Provincial Botanist John Davidson (who'd come to Canada from Scotland in 1911). In 1913 McTaggart and Laura visited Vancouver and stayed in Davidson's home in Kerrisdale.

Soon after, they moved to Canada permanently where their two daughters were born. They initially lived in

Cowan tested, bred, and experimented with potential new plants for local gardeners.

Vancouver. It was around 1919 that they moved to North Vancouver. Here, no longer a stockbroker, Cowan focused on sports and plants. He became the Canadian Badminton Singles and Doubles Champion in the early 1920s, and was active in the Vancouver Lawn Tennis Club. And he turned his North Vancouver yard into a commercial nursery called "International Test Gardens." In 1923 he purchased two lots across 25th Street and expanded his Test Gardens over them. He added two more lots across 25th in the mid-1940s.



Cowan was a gifted photographer. One of his photos made the cover of the "UBC Alumni Chronicle" (Summer 1965).

Cowan tested, bred, and experimented with potential new plants for local gardeners. He belonged to the Horticultural Society & Farmer's Institute (Horticultural Hall, Lonsdale & 23rd), showing his flowers in the Society's Annual Exhibitions. (His dahlias won six prizes in 1923.)

He was involved with the West Vancouver Horticultural Association. And he interacted with UBC's Botany Department, where John Davidson was now a professor. In the mid-1950s, the Cowans moved back to Vancouver. Most of their North Vancouver property disappeared a few years later, a casualty of Upper Levels Highway construction. The good news: UBC's Herbarium has 20 dried-plant specimens McTaggart Cowan collected back in Scotland.

Main sources: University of Victoria Library, Special Collections; Dick Lazenby newspaper notes (Sun, World, NS Press); "The Real Thing: The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan," book by Briony Penn; City of North Vancouver, Council Minutes & Bylaws; UBC Herbarium.



A 2016 City of North Vancouver aerial of the Jones and 25th area. Note the former Cowan house (red roof). Thick red lines show land removed by Upper Levels Highway construction, including the Cowan property (red shading).



The Cowan home, 2016. In the 1920s it was "out in the country," close to forest wilderness. The house survived Upper Levels Highway construction, but lost part of its yard. Sharon Proctor photo

A Century Ago: North Vancouver's Hospitals

by Sharon Proctor

"A Century Ago" is one 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.



North Vancouver General Hospital in its early years, date unknown. The Dawson sisters built it in 1910 with their own money. It closed in 1929. NVMA 10402

We had too few hospital beds during World War 1. Returning sick and wounded soldiers required care. So did victims of tuberculosis, whooping cough, typhoid fever, and other diseases (later controlled by antibiotics). And accidental injuries needed attention. The solution? Send patients across the Inlet to Vancouver General Hospital.



Harbour View Sanitarium, date unknown. Today it's a City Heritage building called "Hammersley House," which hosts special events. NVMA 8935

Then came the 1918-19 Spanish flu epidemic, which killed an estimated 50,000 Canadians.

In 1916 we had two hospitals -- North Vancouver General Hospital (151 East 12th Street) and Harbour View Sanitarium (350 East 2nd). The former was a two-storey structure, with 16 beds, a general ward, a maternity ward, and one or more semi-private rooms. Three nurses owned it: sisters Mina and Jane Dawson, and Margaret Stephenson. Mina was Matron; Margaret, Assistant Matron; and Jane oversaw maternity. The City and District, plus West Vancouver, provided funding.

The Harbour View Sanitarium had been a private home, built in 1904-1906 by Alfred St. George Hammersley. He sold it a few years later to two doctors, E.A. Martin and W.E. Newcombe, who turned it into a 25-bed hospital.

Around 1910-1911 the Dawson sisters bought it. They ran the hospital for several years, then closed it in 1918, when the flu arrived (for lack of staff).

On the northwest corner of Lonsdale and 19th Street sat the home of Samuel and Maude Schultz. He was a barrister, politician, and judge; she a graduate of Vancouver General Hospital's first nursing class. They'd built the house in 1912 on three acres. When Samuel died in 1917, Maude turned their home into a hospital. The "Lonsdale Hospital" opened in 1918, with Maude as Matron. For one or two years, it provided medical, surgical, maternity, and convalescent services.



Lonsdale Hospital building, after it became a rooming house called "Holly Lodge," 1950s. Today the Schultz' original three acres are covered with businesses, apartments, and a parking lot. NVMA 11811

The "Lonsdale Hospital" opened in 1918, with Maude as Matron.

Another hospital appeared in October 1918 – in Mahon Park! It served the 6th Field Company of Canadian Engineers, who were based in the nearby Drill Hall (now J.P. Fell Armoury). Since 1915 the Company had been training new recruits in the Park, preparing them for World War 1 service. Many caught influenza and needed a place to recover. The City offered the Park's open-air "dancing pavilion." Built in 1915, it was a 75-by-36-foot dancing floor with a roof above. The field-engineers built outer walls, plus a cookhouse next door. They used this hospital for a few months.

They used this hospital for a few months.

Sources: Museum & Art Notes, March 1950; The Story of Lions Gate Hospital, book by Sally Carswell, 1980; 21st Annual Report of the Provincial Board of Health, 1918; Western States Jewish History, Winter/Spring 2014; Liz Bensted (her father's memoir); Vancouver Sun; Vancouver Daily World; North Shore Press; City of North Vancouver, Council Minutes; Historical Summary, George Platt, in 6th Field Engineer fonds, NVMA.



The Mahon Park dancing pavilion, 1916. In the foreground are two field-engineer trainees' tents. Part of a larger photo, J.P. Fell Armoury

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 Chronicle
GreatWarChronicle.ca

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Contributing writers:
Sharon Proctor
Daïen Ide
Karen Dearlove

Design and Layout:
Laurel Lawry
Bonnie Miller

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Charitable Registration Number:
89031 1772 RR0001

North Vancouver
Museum & Archives
3202 Institute Road
North Vancouver BC V7K 3E5
604.990.3700
nvmac@dnv.org



Connections

Daïen Ide, Reference Historian



On January 28, 1977, a fire swept through Delbrook Secondary School ending its 20 years of existence. It was the second public high school built in North Vancouver; the first was North Vancouver High School founded in 1910 and closed in 1979. In 2016, Scott MacKenzie a retired Coquitlam firefighter walked into the archives with 21 photographs taken on that fateful day of the fire. MacKenzie had been called in with his camera to capture the activities of firefighters from City and District of North Vancouver as well as West Vancouver.



Students at Delbrook Secondary School, 1965-66.
Photographer Robert Bailey

Shortly after MacKenzie's visit, graduates of 1966 donated their 50th anniversary reunion materials, including a sketch done by renowned artist Robert Bailey. Internationally recognized for his military aviation artwork, Bailey was invited by movie director George Lucas to work on *Star Wars*. From there his career in movie art expanded to include Disney and Marvel.

After discovering that Bailey attended Delbrook in 1965-66, the archives featured him on Facebook. A day later and purely by coincidence, he stepped into the archives to offer photographs taken when he was a member of Delbrook's photography club. Thirty-two images including various school events and candid shots of students are now in the collection. The archives is proud to have both Bailey's and MacKenzie's images along with the reunion material. They add to a uniquely North Vancouver story of a once flourishing and beloved high school.



Fire at Delbrook Secondary School, Jan. 28, 1977. Photographer Scott MacKenzie

Join us for Culture Days, an annual celebration of Canada's cultural vitality
The NVMA will host three FREE events at the Museum
209 West 4th Street, North Vancouver
Contact nvmac@dnv.org or 604.990.3700 x8016
to pre-register for events



Friday to Sunday, September 29 to October 1 (12:00 - 5:00 pm)

Chief Dan George: Actor & Activist Exhibit

Tsleil-Waututh Chief Dan George's Lament for Confederation speech was delivered on July 1, 1967 at Vancouver's Centennial celebration. With his words Chief Dan George silenced the crowds ... but for many he re-invigorated the First Nations rights movement in Canada. Learn how Chief Dan George worked as an advocate, an actor and activist.

Friday Sept. 29 at 2 pm & Saturday, Sept. 30 at 10:30 am Curator's Talk and Tour

Join curator Karen Dearlove for a tour & discussion of the exhibit: "Chief Dan George: Actor & Activist".

Learn about the inspiration for the exhibit and get an insider's view of how it was developed.



Sunday, October 1 from 1:00-3:00 pm

Children of Takaya Dance Group's Story

Hear Gabriel George share the history and stories of the Tsleil-Waututh's Children of Takaya Dance Group. Dance regalia will be also displayed.