

THE FOREST Jessica Bushey, Archivist

Before there was a North Vancouver, there was *The Forest*. A seemingly endless emerald blanket of cedar, hemlock and fir stretching upward from sea to sky. *The Forest* provides shelter, nurtures wildlife, contributes to the economy and inspires adventure. Our relationship with *The Forest* is at the heart of living and working on the North Shore. Everyone has a story about *The Forest*. This summer, the Archives of North Vancouver will share these stories in a new exhibit at the Community History Centre (CHC), entitled *The Forest*. The exhibit incorporates archival photographs, maps, museum objects, and personal accounts to reveal our complex relationship with our forests.



Large Timber (tree on left - diameter 11'4"), ca.1918, NVMA #1146

Two hundred and fifty years ago, *The Forest* dominated the slopes of the North Shore mountains. The trees were taller and wider in this ancient forest, barely disturbed by the Coast Salish peoples who depended upon it. Can you imagine moving beneath the thick canopy and navigating between the silent giants? Early archival photographs on exhibit at the CHC will transport you back in time. Get a sense of

the excitement felt by the arriving European settlers upon discovering trees measuring 64 feet in circumference!

From Trees to Timber: In the late 19th century, logging was the first industry on the North Shore of Burrard Inlet. In 1863, the first sawmill on the Inlet, Pioneer Mills, opens near the mouth of Lynn Creek. Within three years, a settlement grows around the mill and eventually becomes the thriving community of Moodyville. Throughout the 19th century, the logging industry springs to life along the Burrard Inlet, providing shingles and lumber through a web of complex infrastructure and tireless labour. Population



Loggers on a McFarlane Donkey Engine ca.1920, NVMA#1209

growth and depleting timber resources in the 20th century gives rise to new methods and larger enterprises that adversely affect the North Shore watersheds. The exhibit at the CHC explores the development of West Coast logging technology and its impact on the forest landscape.

The Future: More recently, global conversations about climate change are engaging audiences of all ages about the importance of responsible stewardship of the forest ecosystem. The North Shore community is participating in actions to raise awareness about the value of our forests, including the insects, birds and animals that depend upon them. From calling for the establishment of conservation reserves to

volunteering as Streamkeepers, North Shore residents recognize the imprint human activities have on our forest ecosystem and are engaging in sustainable practices that support the needs of future generations.



Above: Aerial view of eastern part of Seymour area ca.1987, Eric Crossin Fonds 192

The *Forest exhibit* will run from June 15 until the end of September, open during the Archives' public hours, Thursdays and Fridays, 12 – 5 pm, and Saturdays, 10 – 5 pm.

Daddy Long Legs

by Sharon Proctor



The west wing of the International Plaza viewed from the west, 2019. Staples occupies entire lower floor. Note the former entrance to Daddy Long Legs (arrow). Sharon Proctor photo

There's a "Staples" office-supply store (1999 Marine Drive) in the International Plaza apartment building, at Marine Drive and Capilano Road. It's in the curved wing on the Plaza's west side. If you go inside Staples and look up at the ceiling, you'll see a dark dome rising up in the centre. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Plaza was the International Plaza Hotel, and much of the Staples area was the Hotel's guest lounge. The dome let natural light in. Below it was a tropical plant garden and small pond, around which were comfortable seating and tables, a circular bar nestled among foliage, and a kitchen. But that's not all. In those years, the back of today's store, plus its rear receiving/storage area, housed a disco-dance club called "Daddy Long Legs." It was separated from the lounge area by a wall (now gone), and had its own entrance.



The entrance to Daddy Long Legs, highlighted with coloured lights, 1981. Today the lights are gone and a solid door opens to Staples' receiving and storage area. Photo courtesy of Tony Holland.

Daddy Long Legs opened July 31st, 1979. Featuring recorded disco music played by disc jockeys, it quickly became a popular venue for local dance parties. Disco, a kind of "boogie" music, was a North American craze in the 1970s -- loud beats, horns, electric piano, synthesizers, and electric rhythm-guitars. At Daddy Long Legs, the boisterous music was accompanied by flashing, coloured strobe lights. People danced wildly here, and all conversation was drowned out. Margaret Trudeau, mother of our current Prime Minister, was at the July 31st opening. Upon her arrival, she hit the dance floor shouting and dancing!

Then, in 1980, the disco craze died.



Inside lighting in Daddy Long Legs, 1981. Photo courtesy of Tony Holland.



Daddy Long Legs on opening night, July 31, 1979. Couples in tight, showy outfits danced with wild body-twists and turns, and elaborate hand and arm movements. Vancouver Sun photo. Printed with permission.

So Daddy Long Legs was reinvented. The loud music, flashing lights, and wild dancing were replaced by soft lighting, cocktail dining, and quiet conversation. When the former disco club reopened in 1981, it encouraged a different sort of dancing. Tony Holland worked on the new lighting. He recalls that "When you entered you merged into reds, pinks, and velvet. It was plush and warm and welcoming with supple gradients of light and soft, comfortable seating. The sound level was tuned to entice dancers onto the floor, but not loud enough to drown out conversation. So you could meet friends and spend the evening without being bombarded with sound and light." Daddy Long Legs continued for several more years, then shut down for good.

Special thanks to Chris Gilmour for taking the author on a walking-tour of Staples, while sharing memories of the space from his days as a young International Plaza Hotel employee.

Other sources: Tony Holland, Premier Lighting, Burnaby; "The Vancouver Sun"; "Billboard" magazine, 15 December 1979; "Plaza News," Vol. 1, No. 1 (1981); www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca; Wikipedia.

William Peacey: Early Builder

by Sharon Proctor

In 1900 North Vancouver was mostly rough terrain and tree stumps left over from logging clear-cuts. There were only a few dirt roads, shacks, and ranches. This changed in 1903, when ferry service began between here and Vancouver. The result was an influx of families and a construction boom. That's when the William Palmer Peacey family arrived.



Above: William Peacey circa 1905



Right: The Peaceys' nine-room home on the northwest corner of 4th and Chesterfield (204 West 4th Street), 1912. Originally its yard ran from the corner of 4th & Chesterfield up to 5th Street, NVMA 9821

William was born in 1865 in England. In 1883, at the age of 18, he moved to Canada, ending up in Saskatchewan. There he apprenticed as a carpenter and married Emily Annie Foster, also from England.

The couple moved to BC in the early 1890s. They spent several years in Steveston, where the growing salmon-canning industry was creating a flood of new residents and opportunities for carpenters. Meanwhile, the 1886 fire that destroyed the City of Vancouver had led to a "rebuilding fever" that lasted throughout the 1890s and into the 1900s. The Peaceys moved to Vancouver in the late 1890s, where William began helping contractors build homes and other structures. After a few years, he saw new opportunities on this side of the Inlet.

William was by now a highly skilled carpenter, draftsman, and architect. Around 1903 he moved his family to North Vancouver, where he set-up his own business -- as a building contractor! He hired skilled carpenters and began building homes and churches. According to son Edwin, the first houses were for Dr. Thomas Verner, Captain Rupert Archibald, and a "Mr. Fog, Skipper of the ship Empress of Japan." Other projects included the first St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (1904), and the Green-Armitage house (1908), and a new Church of St. John the Evangelist (1909). Plus, for several years, William was Secretary of the North Vancouver School Board.



Captain Archibald's home (2801 Lonsdale) on eight acres in Upper Lonsdale, date unknown. Today, the house is gone and the acreage is covered with condos, apartments, and houses. NVMA 7029

He was always busy. Indeed, when building his own home here in 1906, he had to do it evenings and weekends. The result was a beautiful house, with a large yard containing a swing and see-saw for the couple's children, plus a cow ("Daisy"), and numerous chickens. Life was good until early 1910, when William developed appendicitis. He underwent surgery in his home (normal in those days), but died of complications on March 13th. He was 45 years old.

Right: St. John's Anglican Church on West 13th Street, ca. 1910, NVMA 3679



Below: The Green-Armitage home (116 West 23rd Street), now part of a condominium complex, 2016. It was moved westward a short distance, to the corner of 23rd and Western Ave. Sharon Proctor photo.



Our sincere thanks to Zulis Yalte (Carolyn Ann Munro), who provided valuable information on her great grandparents, William and Emily Peacey.

Other sources: City Directories; memoir written by Edwin Wilfred Peacey; article "A life is to be lived – just ask Ted Peacey," by John Nolan; various stories in "North Shore Express" and "Vancouver Daily World"; Ancestry.ca.

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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Looking Forward / Looking Back

Nancy Kirkpatrick, Director



From my first day as NVMA Director back in 2007, I have looked ahead to a time when North Vancouver would have a museum as extraordinary as the community it reflects. With a stunning new museum now under construction, I am looking forward to something more personal – to my upcoming retirement. Now is also a good time to look back on some achievements of the past twelve years.

First, I would like to thank the dozens of volunteers, community members and staff I have worked with. The NVMA's journey has truly been a group effort and I appreciate having had the opportunity to lead this wonderful organization through a dynamic period in its evolution. NVMA has accomplished a lot. We mounted ambitious exhibitions connecting the past with today. Our museum collections were modernized through a multi-year deaccessioning project and a targeted acquisitions strategy. Partnerships with community organizations and local First Nations were nurtured. The archives' holdings were expanded and diversified. Innovative new school programs were developed. An extensive website was



created and award-winning local histories were published. And, to top it off, the building and exhibits for a new Museum of North Vancouver were planned and are now being built.

Museums and archives exist to serve their communities. I am honoured to have served our community through my work as Director and in retirement will continue to support the NVMA in its quest to bring to life the inspiring stories of our community's people, places and past.

Events at NVMA

The Shipyard Pals Return!

Join them for an hour of music, stories, and poetry about our WWII Shipyards history. These interactive walks take place on Saturdays and Sundays at **11am and 1:30pm, July 2 – August 27**. Meet at Lonsdale Avenue and Victory Ship Way. To book a free group tour on weekdays, call 604 990 3700 ext. 8007.



Photo Alison Boulier

Pop-Up Theatre

Look for our Pop-Up Theatre actors at parks, libraries and special events around the North Shore this summer. Our dynamic duo will entertain with stories from the streetcar era and community.

Community Events

June 22 - Lynn Valley Day - look out for the Friends of the NVMA booth
July 1 - Canada Day celebrations at Waterfront Park
July 20 - The Shipyards' Lot 5 Event, 1-4pm - come celebrate the opening of the City's new public amenity space in the Shipyards. Family friendly entertainment, community parade, and the opening of the splash park! Visit cnv.org for more details coming soon.

Streetcar activities and stories will be highlighted at upcoming events. For more information go to nvma.ca.