

## Newsletter March & April 2017

### AGM & POTLUCK SUPPER

On March 16, at 6:30pm, please join us at St. Andrews Heritage Church Hall for our annual general meeting and potluck supper. Between 6:30 and 7:30 we will have our shared feast, watch a series of annotated images from our photo collection, and hear Don Cramb from the city do a presentation on the proposed new community facilities, one of which includes a new museum & archives facility. The AGM starts at 7:30pm with a time for socializing afterwards.

Please bring a dish for the table – savory or sweet – and your own plates and cutlery. Beverages and cups/glasses will be provided. Remember to bring any serving utensils your dish requires.

Guests are always welcome. Please encourage any friends who have an interest in history to come along and meet the friendly people of the historical society.



### HERITAGE TEA

Our 25th annual Heritage Tea will be held on Saturday, April 1 from 1-4pm at the Ridge Meadows Seniors Centre. Primarily a reunion of old friends from days past, the event also features historic displays and light refreshments including a celebration cake. Admission is \$10 per person.

### MONSTER SUNDAY

Haney House Museum is hosting a spring break event from 11am to 3pm on Sunday, March 19. Bring your children or grandchildren along for a monster-themed event with lots of activities – crafts, games and storytelling – along with a tour of the house. Admission is \$5 per child.



Left: A pot-luck supper with a difference. This gathering of the members of the Rod & Gun Club in February of 1973 featured all manner of game meats on the menu.



## MINDFUL COLLECTING

At the end of January, our curator Allison White attended a Mindful Collecting symposium hosted at the Museum of Vancouver, which explored the participatory approaches to museum collecting.

Put on in partnership with Burnaby Village Museum, Richmond Museum and the Vancouver Maritime Museum, it was attended by nearly all museum curators across the lower mainland.

The two-day conference was structured so that Day 1 involved the public and Day 2 was focused with museum professionals responding to questions raised from Day 1.

The main question: How to do you create a collection plan?

The keynote speaker, Dr. James Gardner (Executive for Legislative Archives, Presidential Libraries, and Museum Services at National Archives

The earliest form of museum collection was a rather random assortment of ancient artefacts, natural history pieces and other mysterious or unidentified items. They were called "Cabinets of Curiosities". While visually intriguing, they rarely told any kind of story.

and past Associate Director at the National Museum for American History), explained differences between a collections plan vs. policy. How museums tend to collect the parts, but not the whole (story).

One thing that was very evident throughout Day 1 when grappling with the questions - How do you create a collection plan, and how can museums meaningfully involve the community in that process? – was that in order for these questions to be answered, we must first establish terms and how we use these words and phrases to the public. As simple and basic as; what is a collection? What is an exhibition? What is a display?

First, a collection plan is like a strategic 5 yr. plan, but for the collection. Involving the community in any cultural planning, they must first cross the threshold and know what their museums/institutions are all about.

In the case of the Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives – involving the community in a wider discussion about the difference between a museum and archives is essential to any progress.

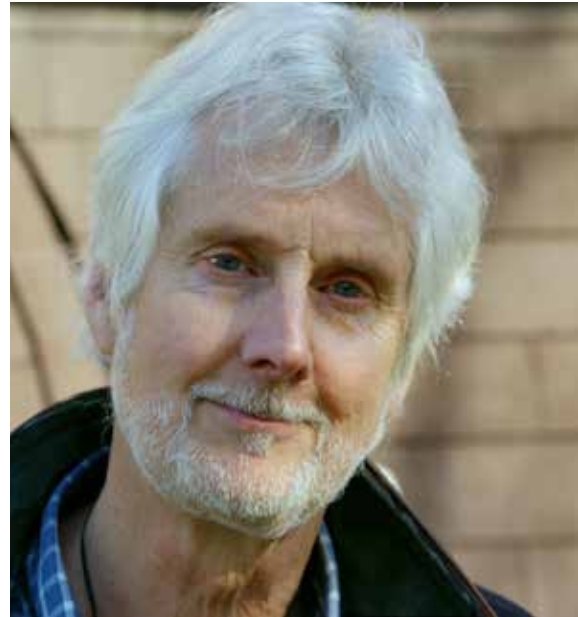
Throughout the workshops on Day 2 we worked to create possible intellectual frameworks for future collection plans. It was a very informative discussion, with many helpful tips on how we could go about creating a plan and what the scope of that would entail, and how to set realistic goals for ourselves - using collection planning as a way of making choices and re-focusing the museum.

As the interest continues to swell with the Cultural Facilities planning, in hopes of a new museum and archives, we look forward to future discussion and community involvement to shape our museum for the years to come. *aw*



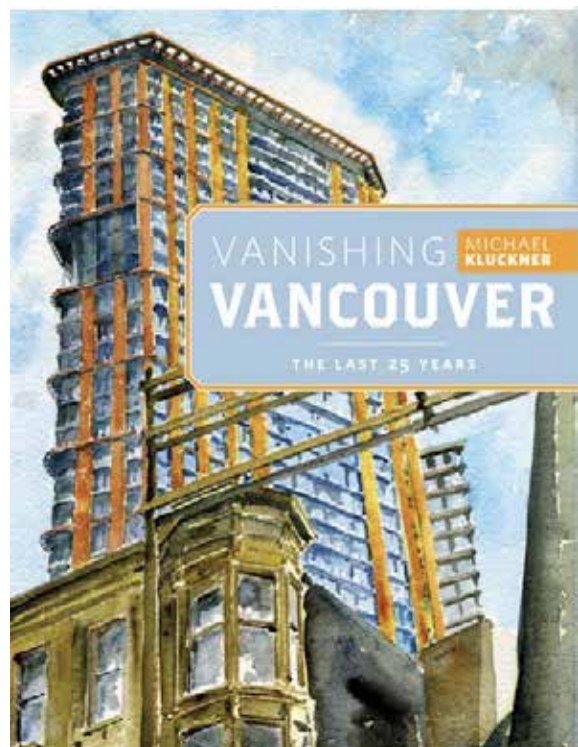
### EARTH DAY

Look for the museum staff and volunteers at Earth Day in Memorial Peace Park on Saturday, April 22 from 10am to 2pm. The theme this year is “Back to Nature” and we will address what that meant to earlier generations.



### SPEAKING OF ART & HISTORY

At 7pm on Thursday, April 13, Michael Kluckner, artist and author of *Vanishing Vancouver* will do a presentation on the origins of landmark buildings and public spaces in the Vancouver region. This is the second of our lecture series and will be presented at the ACT arts centre. Free admission.





processes ahead in the community facilities project. Its main goal is to identify where we want to be – culturally speaking – in ten years' time. What do we want our future selves to have access to and what's important?

It has been 20 years since the last Culture Plan was done and many aspects of community life have changed. Our population is larger and more varied and there is no doubt that has an impact on how people see themselves interacting with community culture, whether they are old-timers or newcomers. We also have to look at the roles – both positive and negative – of emerging technologies.

The new plan will capture these changes in the cultural landscape and identify new opportunities for a growing city. Culture goes beyond special events and includes our favourite geographical locations and the activities we enjoy there. And yes, it even includes those Christmas decorations we are so fond of.

The Culture Plan process is being guided by a team of consultants led by Patricia Huntsman and Yvonne Chui, Manager of Arts & Community Connections for Maple Ridge. They have assembled a task group with a wide base including local arts, heritage and cultural groups along with business and creative industry. Our members Erica Williams and Val Patenaude are representing the Maple Ridge Historical Society and Brenda Smith is representing the Community Heritage Commission.

This is important for us. There will be further opportunities for public input including a survey and pop up display boards at civic facilities and events and a Cultural Champions Summit that will be open to the public and it would be great to see our society members participate. We will let you know when they are scheduled. We don't want heritage to be drowned out by louder voices. For a vibrant and rich community we need all of parks, recreation AND culture. Let's work together on this vision. *vp*



The Roedde House Museum of Vancouver, located at 1415 Barclay Street, is part of a network of "old house" museums in Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley.

At a recent meeting of curators for these museums, it was agreed that we would profile the other heritage homes in our newsletter while they include Haney House Museum in theirs. Our goal is to achieve greater awareness of these small gems in the region.

## MEET THE NEIGHBOURS: ROEDDE HOUSE MUSEUM

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### *Your name, where you work, and your role at your organization:*

My name is Annika Penner and I am the Museum Manager at Roedde House Museum. My role is to wear many hats – from grant writer to community liaison to electrical apprentice – and to work closely with our Board of Directors to further the Museum’s mission of preserving and presenting the early history of Vancouver.

### *When was Roedde House built and when and how did it become a museum?*

Before Roedde House was built, this part of Vancouver was a hunting ground of the Squamish Coast Salish People. The house is still on their unceded land. Roedde House was built in 1893 for Gustav Roedde and his family. The house is commonly attributed to Frances Rattenbury who also built the old Vancouver court house (today the Vancouver Art Gallery) and the parliament buildings in Victoria. The Roedde family lived here in until 1925.

After being sold from one owner to the next in the early 20th century, the building was eventually abandoned and left in a pretty bad shape. By the 1970s, the city wanted to destroy the house and its neighbouring historical buildings. At the same time, a group of like-minded citizens got together and wanted to preserve the buildings. They succeeded and by 1976, Roedde House and its neighbours like Barclay Manor, became designated Heritage sites and are now located on what became Barclay Heritage Square. In a project led by Janet Bingham, founder of the Roedde House Preservation Society, Roedde House was restored and refurnished (with period furniture!) and opened to the public as a “living” museum in 1990.

### *Who were the Roedde’s?*

Gustav Roedde was originally born and raised in Germany where he trained as a bookbinder

and printer. He moved to Vancouver with his wife Matilda Roedde (nee Cassebohm), whom he first met in Ohio, in 1888. The Roedde’s were Vancouver’s first bookbinders and one of the first printers. They raised seven children here at Roedde House, including their adopted son, Waltern Wiedemann.

### *Is the house open to visitors? If so, what can visitors expect to experience?*

Yes! The house is currently open to the public Tuesdays to Fridays 1-4pm and Sundays for Tea and Tours from 1-4pm. In the summer, we extend our open days to Saturdays as well. Visitors are invited to travel back in time and see what home life was like for a middle class European migrant family in Victorian Vancouver, all in a “ropes-off” setting.

### *What types of events and programming do you feature?*

We have our monthly Jazz and Classical concerts in our parlour. The musicians that we host are all local talent, carefully “curated” by our respective concert Artistic Directors, Daniel Reynolds and Catherine Laub. For only \$12-15, visitors can enjoy live music in a cozy and historical setting!

We also feature a seasonal “Reading at Roedde” wherein writers, poets, performers, and historians share their literary work. So far we have hosted CBC host Bill Richardson, poet and anthologist Jim Wong-Chu, Oscar Wilde scholar Dr. Greg Mackie, and our very own school Docent Paul Toolan who performed a dramatic monologue of A Child’s Christmas in Wales during the holidays.

Last summer, we also hosted a free concert series on our porch during our extended evening hours on Wednesdays. We hope that we can do the series this summer again. On top of that, we like to host launch events for our exhibit openings, usually in the Summer. During these free events, we feature a curator’s tour, a talk related to the exhibit topic, and celebratory refreshments for guests.



***What do you like most about working at Roedde House?***

I relish the many daily adventures involved in working at a heritage home – there’s never a dull moment. I am continually inspired by the dedication and hard work of our wonderful volunteers and community supporters. The music lover in me is always excited to hear excellent local talent perform in the parlour of the house – an acoustic gem of Victorian, octagonal design. Roedde House is a character in and of itself and it is a joy to see the house come to life during a special event.

***Visit [roeddehouse.org](http://roeddehouse.org) for more information.***



**DEWDNEY-ALOUETTE**



**Visit the Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society's diorama in the museum.**

On the last Sunday of every month, members of the Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society are present to “talk trains” and operate the Diorama. Model Railroaders are welcome on the Tuesday and Thursday evenings before the last Sunday of the month.

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