

Getting to Know a Mahon

Edward Mahon [pron. Mann] arrived in BC in 1890 and quickly became one of the most prominent landowners on the North Shore. However, a comprehensive picture of the man was pieced together only a few years ago when Walter Volovsek, an avid researcher from Castlegar, made it his mission to write a book on Mahon's life. Volovsek went to Seattle to visit Marolyn Mahon (widow of Mahon's son, Brian) and discovered a treasure trove of never-before-seen photographs revealing more about



Edward Mahon as a student at Oxford University, ca. 1887. Mahon Family Records

the kindly man he was and his investments, both fortunate and unfortunate. From this beginning a collaboration was born; Volovsek provided the wealth of research and the storyline that NVMA staff has organized into colourful exhibit panels providing insight into the man and his legacy in North Vancouver.

The collaboration soon expanded to include written input by the City's Director of Community Development, Gary Penway; the generous time of Spuraway Lodge's historian, Robert Taylor; and the mapping expertise of the District of North Vancouver's GIS department. The exhibit provides a fascinating snapshot of Mahon's character and his influence on

the North Shore, particularly the Capilano Suspension Bridge, Spuraway Lodge in West Vancouver, and his crowning achievement, the system of urban parks in the City of North Vancouver now known as the Green Necklace. It was a surprise to discover his unfulfilled dreams, from a town site in Castlegar to a spectacular telescope on Grouse Mountain. This is the story of a man who took risks and did not always succeed, but with all the ups and downs, he followed through with dignity and grace. His ambitions were equally matched by the remarkable achievements of his wife Lilette, a formidable public figure in her own right. With her strength and support Mahon left an indelible mark on North Vancouver today.



Watercolour of Spuraway Lodge, 1996 (built for Mahon, 1911). Artist, Marguerite Mahy



On Grand Boulevard, part of Mahon's legacy for a healthy and beautiful city. City of North Vancouver photo

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Lilette volunteering with the Red Cross during WWI. Mahon Family Records

“The Green Necklace: The Vision Quest of Edward Mahon”, by Walter Volovsek, 2012, can be purchased for \$25 at the Community History Centre.

Imagining North Vancouver: Edward Mahon and His Legacy is on view at the Community History Centre until September 2013.

North Vancouver MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Museum and Archives Receives Heritage Advocacy Award

Mountaineering and the exploration, mapping and enjoyment of BC's mountainous regions largely began in our own North Shore mountains. Over the past five years, the North Vancouver Museum & Archives (NVMA) has worked to ensure that this previously little-known story is preserved. In recognition of the numerous projects completed within The Preservation of Mountaineering History and Lore initiative, the NVMA has received the 2013 District of North Vancouver Heritage Advocacy Award.

In 2007, in response to a request to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the BC Mountaineering Club (BCMC) the NVMA mounted the exhibition, *Peak Performance: 100 Years of BC Mountaineering*. NVMA was encouraged to keep this unique story in the public realm, and, with funding from the Virtual Museum of Canada, created the online exhibit, *Climbing to the Clouds: A People's History of BC Mountaineering*. Notable peaks were documented, conservation initiatives detailed and the impact of the mountains on the arts highlighted. To produce these shows, artifacts were gathered and in the end, many mountaineers donated ice axes, crampons, snowshoes and skis. Photographs were provided by the BCMC and in 2012, the NVMA was honoured to be entrusted with the care of their remarkable archives, which is now housed in the Community History Centre. Selected photos from the BCMC Archives may be viewed in our latest virtual show, *Mountain Light* at nvma.ca.



Since 2010, costumed interpreters, the Mountaineer Pals, have recounted tales of mountain lore on selected weekends to Lynn Canyon Park visitors.

Sea to Sky Regional Heritage Fair 2013 update

Winter clouds part and anticipation mounts for the Sea to Sky Heritage Fair 2013. Sponsored by The North Vancouver Museum and Archives, the annual event celebrates local G 4 – 10 students' creative understanding of Canadian history. Last year, over five hundred spectators viewed nearly fifty projects in a festive atmosphere warmed by the spring sun. Some participants basked in the media spotlight; others were further honoured at historical events in Abbotsford and Ottawa. What's in store for this year? Well, the same team of committed individuals has reconvened to create a students' day full of educationally-enriching activities and for the community, an evening of family fun. That Heritage Fair 2013 will be entertaining is certain, what remains a surprise is the student creativity that will be put on display. Be sure to join in the Fair festivities, at Lynn Valley Library and Village, on May 10th.

Upcoming Exhibits, Events & Programs

New Museum

It's not just about history!

For current information, and to watch a video about our exciting new museum project, go to: www.my-museum.ca.

Treasures from the Attic

April 27, 2013

Mark your calendars for Saturday April 27th. That's when our second annual antiques identification clinic (and Friends Society fundraiser) will take place at the Museum in Presentation House. For information, or to book an appointment, call 604-990-3700, ext. 8016.

Mountain Light

nvma.ca

For as long as mountaineers have been climbing in British Columbia, they have been taking photographs of their exploits. View stunning landscapes captured by some of the BC Mountaineering Club's greatest photographers.

Volunteers Wanted

We're still accepting volunteers for the Museum's massive collection review project. Want to know more? Visit the govolunteer.ca website.

Social Media



Look for NVMA musings, photos, events, contests and more through our social media offerings on Facebook and Twitter. "Like" us on Facebook then give us a tweet!

Bulletin published by the North Vancouver Museum & Archives Commission

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North Vancouver Archives in the Community History Centre
3203 Institute Road, North Vancouver, BC V7K 3E5
604.990.3700 ~ Archives open 12 - 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday

North Vancouver Museum in Presentation House Arts Centre
209 West 4th Street, North Vancouver, BC V7M 1H8
604.990.3700 ~ **Museum open by appointment only**