

## Planning North Vancouver's New Museum

Nancy Kirkpatrick, Director



*Project manager, Dianna Foldi (City of North Vancouver), left, and architect Shelley Craig (Urban Arts Architecture), on right, at kick-off meeting for the new museum project, February 2017.*

As you read this, planning for the new museum in Lower Lonsdale is in full swing. You can expect regular progress reports in the pages of the Express between now and opening day in mid-2019.

Inspired by leading museums around the world, the vision for North Vancouver's new museum and its exhibit galleries is fresh and forward-looking. Not a traditional collection-focused museum, NVMA aspires to be a contemporary story-based museum that uses artifacts to interweave the diverse voices of community members past and present.

Our new 16,000 sq. ft. facility is being designed both as a museum—to showcase the past, present and future of our community—and a gathering place that will encourage participation and interaction among visitors, residents, and community partners. Urban Arts, recently-appointed architects for the new museum, call these "social glue spaces."

NVMA's capacity for outreach will also expand over time to include a network of mobile exhibit sites in District of North Vancouver buildings. Using a system of modular components, mobile exhibits will travel between sites and facilities on a regular schedule. We call this a 'hub and spoke' model of community outreach.

The new museum's galleries will be planned around an overarching theme — "North Vancouver: Shaped by Mountains, Forest and Sea"— highlighting connections between people and place, and exploring how the history of North Vancouver has been shaped by its unique geography. Related sub-themes, "Connections by Water", "Changing Communities", and "the Outdoors: On Nature's Edge", will also become a focus for interpretation and exhibits.

You can play a role in identifying the stories, individuals, events, and artifacts to be highlighted in the new Museum and the mobile exhibit network. Later this spring, exhibit planners and designers will be chosen through a competitive process. After that, NVMA intends to invite people, including members of the Friends of the NVMA Society, to participate in community engagement workshops that will capture new ideas and flesh out existing exhibit plans.

It is said, "No place really becomes a community until it is wrapped in human memory: family stories, tribal



*Illustration of proposed mobile exhibits designed for use in various community locations. Design and rendering by KEI Space.*

traditions, civic commemorations. No place is a community until it has awareness of its history" (History Relevance Campaign, 2014). Citizens' connections and commitment to one another are strengthened when stories and experiences are shared. Stay tuned for an invitation, later this year, to join with NVMA and members

of the North Vancouver community to help plan an exciting new museum that will engage and inspire us all.

# Mount Slesse Connections

by Sharon Proctor



Mount Slesse, 2009. The plane debris and human remains were left in place, as the site was too dangerous to access. Over the years, however, they've gradually slid downhill. David Rodger photo

On December 9, 1956, Trans Canada Airlines (TCA) Flight 810 left Vancouver for Calgary. An emergency arose and the plane turned back toward Vancouver. Unfortunately visibility was poor and it smashed into a rocky peak of Mount Slesse (southeast of Chilliwack). All 62 aboard died. At the time this was the worst air disaster in Canadian history. Among the dead were five well-known football players heading home from the CFL All-Star game in Vancouver. The tragedy had two links to North Vancouver:

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One was the co-pilot, John Charles Terrence ("Terry") Boon. A 26-year-old bachelor, he lived here with his mother and step-father, Nora and Robert Marshall (908 Adderley Street). In their book *Disaster on Mount Slesse* (2006), authors O'Keefe & MacDonald describe how from early childhood Terry participated in a wide range of sports and was a keen baseball player. He attended UBC, then served three years with

the Royal Canadian Air Force in Ontario and the Maritimes. In July 1953 he joined TCA. He was promoted to "flying-officer," and in May 1955 qualified to fly the Canadian *North Star* passenger plane. The ill-fated flight was to be his last in a *North Star*. He was about to fly the newer *Viscount* plane.



A 1950s photo of co-pilot Terry Boon, as printed in various newspapers.

The other local connection was 45-year-old mountaineer Elfrida Pigou. She found the crash site. At the time she was an insurance-claims adjuster, living with her father and brother (252 East 25th Street). She grew up in the Okanagan and graduated from UBC. A quiet unassuming woman who never married, she loved to read, and loved plays, operas, ballets, concerts and lectures. She took up mountain climbing after World War 2, and joined both the Alpine Club of Canada and the Mountain Rescue Group (forerunner of North Shore Rescue). In 1949 Elfrida began climbing the most challenging peaks and mountains in BC and Washington.



Elfrida Pigou, 1950s. She carried a chunk of the wreckage down the mountain, which enabled officials to confirm the plane's identity. George Diack/Vancouver Sun

She and several others were climbing Mount Slesse in 1957. It was cloudy. Visibility was so bad she made a wrong turn up a gully. That's when she found the TCA wreckage. It was May 12, 1957, five months after the crash! Sadly, Elfrida died three years later, in an avalanche on Mount Waddington.

Other sources: UBC Alumni Chronicle, Winter 1960; The Ottawa Citizen, December 10, 1956; Canadian Alpine Journal, 1961; City Directories; Len Corben.



## Goats in North Vancouver by Sharon Proctor

It's illegal to keep goats here – except for Maplewood Farm (405 Seymour River Place), a District-owned zoo. In the 1920s, however, anyone could have goats – and families all over the City and District did just that. Some had chickens as well, perhaps even a cow or horse. Of course, family homes in those days weren't close together like they are today. Plus people's yards often covered two or more legal lots.

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People valued goats for their nutritious milk, which in those days everyone drank raw. As these are intelligent, social, and people-friendly animals, you often saw someone walking one or more family goats around the neighbourhood, like we walk our dogs. As it happens, a female goat can produce more milk each day than most families need. So the extra raw milk was sold to

neighbours who lacked goats. By 1923 there were some 400 goats in North Vancouver.

Some residents were serious goat-breeders. Active in the BC Goat Breeders Association, they formed a North Vancouver chapter. Each year, they'd enter their best animals in the North Vancouver Horticultural Society and Farmers' Institute exhibition, which took place in the Horticultural Hall (Lonsdale & 23rd). Trophies were awarded in such areas as Mature Milk Goat; Best Pure-bred Doe Kid; Best Pure-bred Buck Kid; Best Doe, Open Milk Class; as well as the top bucks, does, and yearlings of three breeds (Nubian, Saanen, and Toggenburg). These competitions were very popular with the general



*Sarah Ramage walks her goat "Nellie" in the 100 block of West 14th Street, late 1920s. Today's City Library covers where she lived (130 West 14th). NVMA 3180*

public. In 1922, for instance, crowds of onlookers left the vegetable, domestic science and other exhibitions in order to watch the judging of goat-breeds.

Local goat ownership began to decline in the 1930s. One reason was our growing human population, with new homes gradually filling spaces between older ones. The result was increasing complaints about odors, flies and other nuisances caused by nearby animals. Then there was the growing political influence of Fraser Valley farmers. This led the Provincial government to eventually introduce regulations banning both the keeping of farm animals in the "city" and the sale of raw milk. Fraser Valley dairies soon moved-in to fill the void and began selling pasteurized milk here.

Sources: Vancouver Sun, Province & North Shore News; Dick Lazenby newspaper notes; City Directories; prize lists of North Vancouver Horticultural Society and Farmers' Institute exhibitions.



*(Left) Elsie Monteith and goats in North Lonsdale, 1920. She and husband Francis raised champions in their yard (388 Wellington). She later bred champions up the coast. NVMA 13266. (Centre) Elizabeth MacEachran with goats "Maurice" and "Barletta," circa 1924. She and her husband ran the Capilano Suspension Bridge and lived across the street (3650 Capilano Road). NVMA 151-49. (Right) Young Charles Edington, with goat "Inez," 1922. He holds a trophy the animal won at Horticultural Hall. His parents, Charles and Ada Edington, were goat breeders (848 East 6th). NVMA 12910.*

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)

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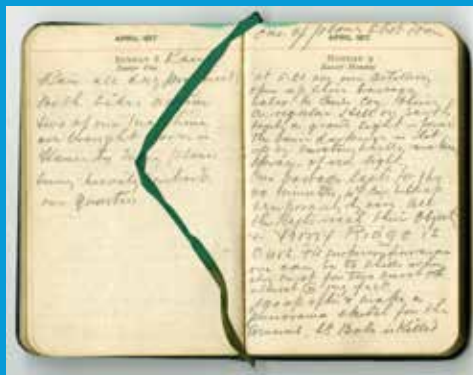
### Friend-raising at the NVMA

On Saturday January 21 visitors to the Community History Centre received a unique preview of some of the notable recent NVMA arti-fact acquisitions, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives, and an update about the new museum on Lower Lonsdale. Hosted by the Friends of the NVMA, the event featured new artifacts, including an architectural model of the proposed twinning of the Lion's Gate Bridge from 1994, and two portraits of Chief Dan George painted by his former personal assistant and friend Lorraine Fenkner. Illustrated graphic panels explained the stories about the new artifacts and their significance to North Vancouver. Nancy Kirkpatrick provided an update about the new museum, and members of the Friends Society described volunteer opportunities and other ways to support the NVMA building a new museum in North Vancouver.

*For more information about becoming a member of the Friends Society and supporting the NVMA: <http://nvma.ca/support/membership/>*



## APRIL 5, 2017 - SAVE THE DATE!



As the 100th anniversary of the Canadian victory at Vimy Ridge approaches, NVMA and the District of North Vancouver Public Library are collaborating on a special event at Lynn Valley Library. The featured speaker will be Hugh Brewster, noted author of "From Vimy to Victory". We'll be there with a display and to provide a guided tour of our website,

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

*Times are yet to be confirmed – check our website, [nvma.ca](http://nvma.ca), for updates.*