

A New Generation of Museum and Archives Workers

Nancy Kirkpatrick, Director

Five university students joined our team this summer to get hands-on job experience. The NVMA thanks the government of Canada (through the Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs programs), the City of North Vancouver and the Friends of the NVMA Society for their financial support of these student employees.

Student actors Kelsey Ranshaw and Julien Galipeau assumed the roles of mountaineering enthusiasts 'Max and Molly' and entertained visitors to Lynn Canyon Park. They led story-filled walks through the forest and shared adventurous tales of early BC mountaineers. At other times, they dressed as WWII shipyard workers, 'Sam and Sal', and led lively walking tours of North Vancouver's historic Burrard Dry Dock site. When asked "What has been the best thing about your summer?", Kelsey replied, "that I get to combine so many of my favourite things: theatre, being outside, and history."



Julien Galipeau and Kelsey Ranshaw as mountaineers, Max and Molly, in Lynn Canyon Park. Photo courtesy of Mike Winfield, North Shore News

Molly Barrieau worked as a Museum Exhibit and Collection Researcher. A student at Vancouver Island University, Molly conducted preliminary research for NVMA's planned exhibit "Chief Dan George: Actor and Activist." She found the experience both challenging and enlightening, saying, "It has been so important to learn the stories and cultures of North Vancouver, the impact of residential schools and how local First Nations people

fought for their rights on and off-screen." Molly learned new research skills and developed a strong interest in Canada's history and culture and looks forward to seeing the final exhibit in 2017.

Diksha Sharma from the University of Victoria worked in the Archives as a Web Technician. She added new material to our ever-expanding website Walter Draycott's Great War Chronicle and transferred its administration from an outside contractor to the Archives. Visit greatwarchronicle.ca to view daily postings of the World War I veteran's diary. Diksha also added new North Shore stories to the interactive display in the Museum's *Water's Edge* exhibit at Presentation House, wrote manuals for both projects and did technical training for archival staff.



Anna Henrichsen in the archives

Intern Anna Henrichsen, from UBC's School of Library, Archives and Information Studies, turned archival theory into practice by processing 50+ years of records of the North Vancouver Recreation Commission (1960 to 2012). The records she selected, arranged, and described can be accessed via our online database (<http://nvma.ca/collections/archive-collections/>). Anna also handled reference inquiries, organized Presentation House Gallery exhibit files and helped preserve fragile items. She said, "The opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge I learned at school to real records was invaluable to me. I learned a ton about North Vancouver along the way and gained a real appreciation not only for the area's history but also for all the great people working so tirelessly to preserve it."

A footnote: When we said "hello" to these students in June, we also said "goodbye" to long-time NVMA employee Jan Manaton. Jan will be the subject of a story in the next issue of the Express.

A Lovely Estate in Central Lonsdale by Sharon Proctor

Block 31 is framed by East 15th & 17th Streets, and Eastern & St Georges Avenues. Today it's all condominiums, apartments, and businesses! But over a century ago it was a lovely 5 1/2-acre estate with lawns, trees, gardens, and a flowing stream. It was owned by Arthur B. Diplock, whose company (Western Corporation) built many early North Vancouver homes and business buildings. When he purchased this parcel in the late 1890s, it was covered with tree stumps and debris. Nevertheless he built a small house here and in 1897 moved-in with his wife Theresa and their three children.

The house grew over time to include 12 rooms, an attic, a cellar, and a wide front-veranda. And the family grew to include three more children, a sister-in-law, and two servants. Meanwhile, the surrounding yard was cleared and landscaped. A pond was dug in the stream, with a dam at its lower end and a stone fountain in the centre.

"Beautiful lawns stretched from the front of the house down to the stream where many trees and shrubs had been planted," recalled son Thomas who grew up here. "A close-board fence encircled the property." The main entrance was a double-gate on 15th. It opened to a gravel road that crossed "the stream on a rustic bridge covered with honeysuckle, the scent of which could be noticed as soon as you came through the gates." The road led to the house, "then continued in a north-easterly direction to St. Georges and 17th where a barn and stable were built to accommodate our jersey cow and later two Shetland ponies." There was also a field for these animals, plus a vegetable garden, strawberry bed, raspberry bushes, and a fruit orchard.

As children Thomas and his siblings loved life here. "Who could ever forget the warm summer days when

we lay on the grass listening to the ripple of the stream or watched some brook trout rise in the pond to take a fly, which had settled on the surface...The murmur of insects and the singing of the birds in the mighty alders, nature's lullaby lulled us to sleep on the banks of our stream."



The stream's pond and stone fountain, circa 1910. As children, Thomas and his brothers would fish for wild brook trout that gathered in the pond.

Alas, Arthur Diplock became seriously ill.

He sold the property in 1912 and moved his family to Tempe Heights (he died in 1915). The house had several occupants afterwards. From 1929 to 1944, it was a nursing home – and still surrounded by trees, gardens, and the little stream. But by 1965 the house was gone and the stream filled-in.

Many thanks to Sharon Gerbasi, Thomas Diplock's granddaughter, for sharing with us his written memories and scrapbook photos (seen here).

Sources: "The Experiences of a Family Who Settled on the North Shore in 1897," a memoir by Thomas Bramah Diplock, 1978; "The 'No Name' Stream," by Thomas Diplock; "Leonora Hutchinson: An Extraordinary Woman," by Leonora Dunse, in Express, July 2004 (the Diplock house as a nursing home, 1929-1944); 1911 Canada Census.



The Diplock home, circa 1910. The property was rich in cedar, birch, fir, walnut, chestnut, and other trees.



A.B. Diplock and his daughter Theodora, on the gravel drive running through the property, circa 1910.

The Wooden Footbridge

by Sharon Proctor



The wooden footbridge, date unknown. Its triangular "Howe Truss" design made it especially strong. NVMA 2720

A century ago a wooden footbridge crossed over the Capilano River where the river left the Capilano Valley and flowed into Capilano Canyon. This was long before the Cleveland Dam flooded the Valley. The footbridge appears in old postcards. But no one seems to know when, or by whom, it was built. We do know it was there in 1906, when English visitor John Walden saw it.

Standing on it, one had a view of both the Valley to the north and the steep-walled Canyon to the south. Plus a "flume" (wooden water-channel) passed under the bridge. Attached to the Canyon's west wall, the flume for several years carried shingle-bolts from Sisters Creek to the Inlet. It had a cat-walk along its length and a ladder up to the footbridge. Who used the footbridge? Company workers accessing the flume used it. So did summer hikers, fishermen, hunters, public flume-walkers, and other outdoor types heading north toward the Valley.

For several years, the bridge was home to two tea rooms, one at each end. The oldest one sat at the bridge's west end. We don't know who built it, or when. But at some point partners Aubrey Mitchell and William Smith (aka "Mitchell & Smith") ran it.



Mitchell & Smith tea room at the west end sold light lunches, tobacco, soft drinks, and other refreshments. Date of photo unknown. NVMA 13056

They also had a tobacco shop (42 Lonsdale), and operated a cigar & fruit stand on two North Vancouver ferries.

Around 1916 a carpenter named Charlie Anderson was working at this west-side tea room. Soon, however, he quit this job and built his own establishment at the east end of the footbridge. He named it "Tipperary Tea Garden."

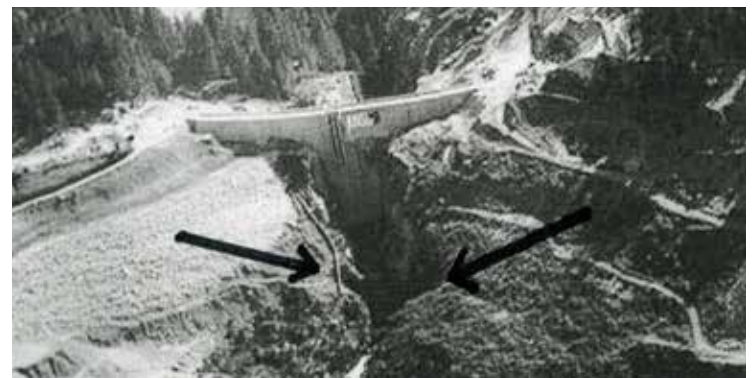
All ended in the early 1920s. The Mitchell & Smith partnership broke-up in 1922. And in 1923, Charlie moved his Tea Garden up to Capilano Road, where he ultimately built and operated the "Capilano Tea Gardens & Observation Tower" (adding an "s" to Garden). Today the wooden footbridge, its two tea rooms, and the Capilano Valley exist only in old photos.



Charlie Anderson's "Tipperary Tea Garden" at the east end, date unknown. It, too, sold a range of refreshments. NVMA 4600

Thank you, Don Bourdon, for donating to our Archives the Tipperary Tea Garden photo-album used to research this story.

Sources: Tipperary Tea Garden album (NVMA); "Early Recreational Businesses in Capilano, North Vancouver, BC, 1900-1939," by Don Bourdon (1975); John Walden's journal (1906); www.past-inc.org/historic_bridges.



Cleveland Dam, seen from the Valley side before the latter was flooded, 1954. Arrows show the footbridge site, now underwater. Photo courtesy of the Greater Vancouver Water District (Metro Vancouver).

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 Chronicles
GreatWarChronicle.ca

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Contributing writers:
Sharon Proctor
Daïen Ide
Nancy Kirkpatrick

Design and Layout:
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



In 2014, the West Vancouver Archives transferred to us an unidentified family photo album containing a name, address, pictures of 'me', 'dad', 'mom' and other family members, and a lot of unanswered questions. We searched through books, the archives database and the internet for answers. The discoveries were surprising.

The album contains photographs of John Cecil Conroy (1883-1964) as a young seaman in eastern Canada. John worked as a deckhand in the early 1920s and later as a watchman for the North Vancouver Ferries. The album revealed an unsolved mystery. One photograph depicts a ship in Burrard Inlet, the 'S.S. Baychimo'. In John's early career, he worked aboard the 'Baychimo', a cargo ship for the Hudson's Bay Company.



Daïen Ide with the Conroy photo album

In 1931, it was lost and became a 'ghost ship' aimlessly wandering the Arctic waters. Last spotted in 1969, its current whereabouts remain unknown.

While a ghost ship is a thrilling connection, the most stirring attribute of the album is actually its creator. Most of the photographs are of the Conroy family. John's wife Minnie died in 1926, leaving him to raise four children. On December 28th, 1944, Jennie, his third child and the owner of the album, was found brutally murdered near the Capilano View Cemetery. She was 24. No one has ever been charged.

While we were uncovering the album's many secrets, Eve Lazarus' book "Cold Case Vancouver" was about to go to print. We contacted her about our discovery which led her to blog about Jennie's murder. The blog caught the attention of a woman in New Zealand, Jennie's daughter. At this time we did not know that Jennie had a baby. Jennie's newborn daughter, a secret the family discovered after her death, had been adopted by a family in Chilliwack. The publishers granted Eve an extension of a week and Jennie Conroy's story is now the first chapter of the book. Sadly, we are left bereft of a satisfactory ending, a cold case that may never be solved. One thing the archives can do is to preserve Jennie's memory. So, here her album rests.

CULTURE DAYS ARE COMING (FREE, Sept. 30-Oct. 2)



COMMUNITY HISTORY CENTRE, LYNN VALLEY

- Fri, Sept. 30 (9:30-11:30am) ~ **Family Records Workshop** with archivist, Janet Turner. Preregistration required.
- Sat, Oct. 1 (starting at 10am) ~ **Shaketown Walk** with curator, Karen Dearlove. Preregistration required.
- Sat, Oct. 1 (noon-2pm) ~ **Behind the Scenes tour** of the Archives. Drop-in.
- Sat, Oct. 1 (2-3pm) ~ **Illustrated talk on North Van history** by author Dan Francis. Pre-registration recommended.

MUSEUM, PRESENTATION HOUSE ARTS CENTRE

Fri, Sat, Sun (noon-5pm): **Water's Edge: Stories from the North Shore of Burrard Inlet.** A unique exhibit!

Call 604.990.3700 x8016 to pre-register for events
Visit culturedays.ca for more event listings