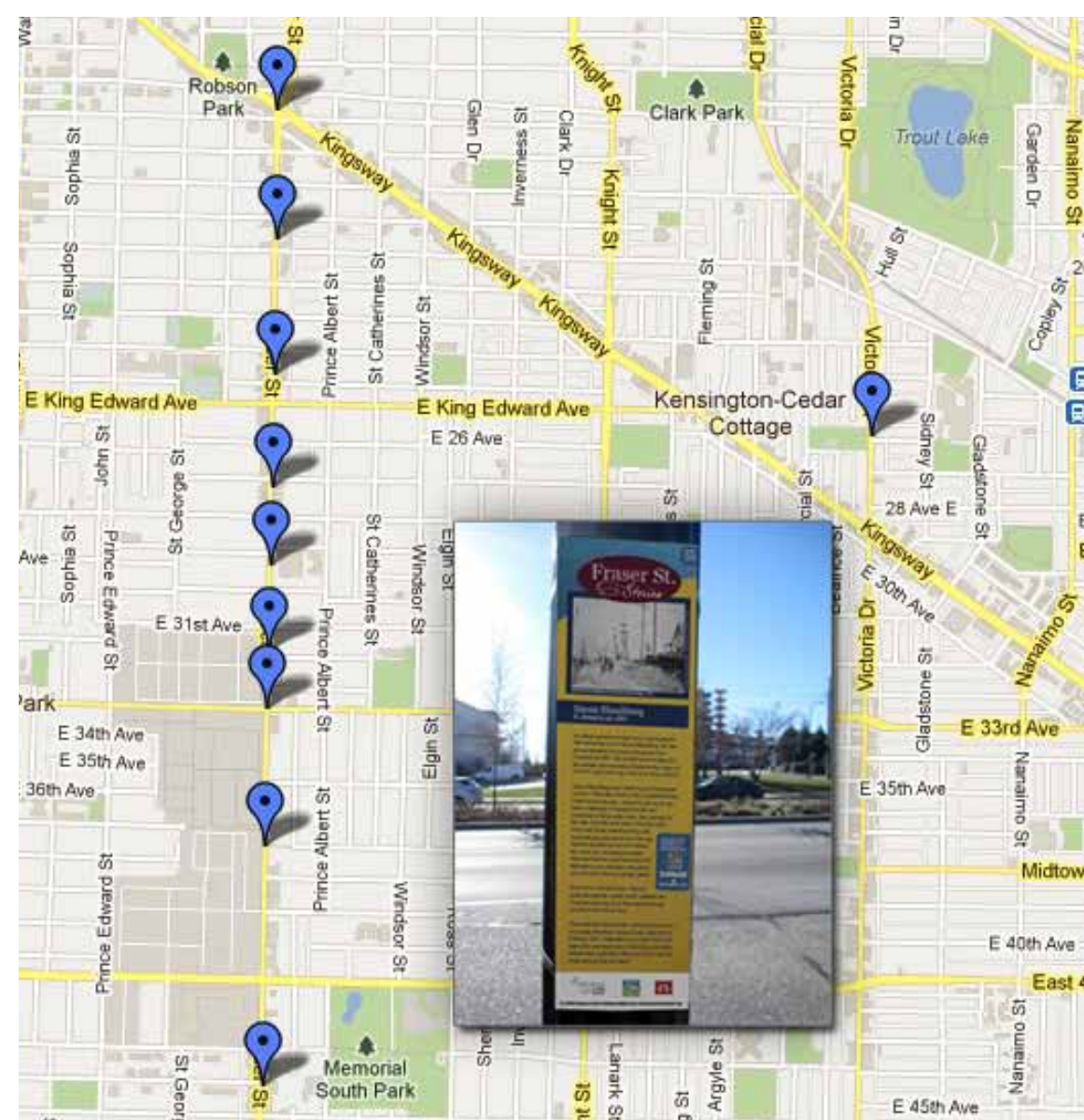


Fraser St. Stories

- 01 - History of Fraser Street
Fraser Street and 24th Avenue
- 02 - Mountain View Cemetery
Fraser Street and 37th Avenue
- 03 - Ruth Morton Memorial Church
Fraser Street and 27th Avenue
- 04 - Streetcars of South Vancouver
Fraser Street and Kingsway
- 05 - History of South Vancouver
Fraser Street and 44th Avenue
- 06 - Sir Richard McBride
Fraser Street and 32nd Avenue
- 07 - GW Ledingham and Company
Fraser Street and 29th Avenue
- 08 - Simon Hirschberg
Fraser Street and 33rd Avenue
- 09 - Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House
22nd and Victoria Drive
- 10 - Lost Streams of Vancouver
Fraser Street and 20th Avenue



The Mountain View Neighbours have launched new street banners and have added to this unique historic theme with informational street plaques. We hope to educate residents and visitors to create interest in our neighbourhood by revealing these location pertinent "factoids" in high pedestrian traffic areas.



www.vancouverstreetstories.com

Fraser St. Stories PLAQUE 01

History of Fraser Street
1861 - present

There are few who remember that Fraser Street played an important role in the early years of Vancouver's history. With humble beginnings as the North Arm Trail of 1861, this rough roadway linked the three major areas of activity, from New Westminster to the east, the sawmills and logging camps along Burrard Inlet to the north, and down south to the farmlands Fraser River's North Arm.

The Fraser River was an important source of food and transportation to the native peoples. Later, it was settled by pioneers who were first drawn by the gold rush and then by the rich farmland of the Fraser River Delta. In 1875, the North Arm Road was created as a wagon road that connected the booming Fraser River farming area to the False Creek Trail (now known as Kingsway). In 1905, the North Arm Road was able to continue over to Richmond via Mitchell Island with the completion of the Fraser Street Bridge. Now produce could be shipped from farms and dairy plants to the markets of Burrard Inlet, through the wooded area we know as today's South Vancouver.

In 1910, the North Arm Road was renamed Fraser Avenue after Simon Fraser, a pioneer who explored much of the Pacific Coast and who also is the namesake of the adjoining river. After 1948, Fraser Avenue became known as Fraser Street.

[Learn more about this location or to contribute your own story.](#)

[SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA.](#)

Fraser St. Stories PLAQUE 02

Mountain View Cemetery
1887 - present

Mountain View Cemetery is the only cemetery in the City of Vancouver and one of the oldest in the region. Opened in 1887, the cemetery covers the land between 31st and 43rd Avenues. With its beautiful vistas and now central location, its easy to see why it's the final resting place of almost 150,000 people, many notable citizens and historic residents, each with an interesting story.

The Fraser River was an important source of food and transportation to the native peoples. Later, it was settled by pioneers who were first drawn by the gold rush and then by the rich farmland of the Fraser River Delta. In 1875, the North Arm Road was created as a wagon road that connected the booming Fraser River farming area to the False Creek Trail (now known as Kingsway). In 1905, the North Arm Road was able to continue over to Richmond via Mitchell Island with the completion of the Fraser Street Bridge. Now produce could be shipped from farms and dairy plants to the markets of Burrard Inlet, through the wooded area we know as today's South Vancouver.

In 1910, the North Arm Road was renamed Fraser Avenue after Simon Fraser, a pioneer who explored much of the Pacific Coast and who also is the namesake of the adjoining river. After 1948, Fraser Avenue became known as Fraser Street.

[Learn more about this location or to contribute your own story.](#)

[SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA.](#)

Fraser St. Stories PLAQUE 03

Ruth Morton Baptist Church
1914 - present

The Ruth Morton Memorial Baptist Church (at the corner of 791 East 27th Avenue) is a historic link to one of Vancouver's earliest pioneer settlers, John Morton. Famous for being one of the "Three Greenhorns", along with Samuel Brighouse and William Halstone, these three Englishmen were the first white settlers of the area that is now today's Vancouver downtown West End. In 1862, they arrived in the place that is now Vancouver and purchased the land at an inflated price that earned them ridicule and thus their nickname.

John Morton's first wife was Jane Ann Bailey of Blackpool, England, who unfortunately died in childbirth. Later, he married Ruth Morton and this lifelong romance is now captured in the Ruth Morton Baptist Church. When Ruth arrived in 1864 to marry John Morton, she became the first white woman to settle in the area.

The church began in 1911 with meetings in vacant stores, homes and even a tent until the building construction was completed in 1914. Upon John's death in 1912, he provided substantial funds to build the church as a memorial to his wife. The church retains much of its heritage of original pews and stained glass windows. For over a century, the church has been raising its bell and playing its 1920's pipe organ for Sunday Service.

[Learn more about this location or to contribute your own story.](#)

[SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA.](#)

Fraser St. Stories PLAQUE 04

Streetcars of Fraser Street
1909 - 1955

The City of Vancouver was once a small logging village a block long along the edge of Burrard Inlet. Born out of two sawmills and logging camps, the city of Granville exploded in growth as it announced in 1885 that it was to be the western terminal of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Granville became the City of Vancouver in 1886 and was nicknamed "Terminal City". This booming town now housed over 10,000 people. The working class moved to settle and live in the more affordable small housing lots of suburban South Vancouver, so a more efficient means of travel became necessary to help workers commute to sleeping and their jobs downtown.

By the 1890's, the city expanded its means of transportation from horse, wagon, bicycle, and foot to include these new streetcars and rail system.

North Arm Road (renamed Fraser Street in 1910) had its first streetcar running north-south in 1909 to connect with the new Westminster Interurban Line (that ran along present day Van Ness Avenue, near Kingsway). Named the Victory Line, the Fraser streetcars served to bring commuters downtown past Victory Square. As well, Bodwell Road (now 33rd Avenue) was one of the first streetcar lines and connected Granville Street to North Arm Road. Named the Mountain View Line, its streetcar played an important role of accessing the roadway past the Mountain View Cemetery.

[Learn more about this location or to contribute your own story.](#)

[SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA.](#)

Fraser St. Stories PLAQUE 05

History of South Vancouver
1892 - present

The City of Vancouver began in the 1870's as Granville Township and in 1886 it incorporated with its current name. The area included much of East Vancouver but ended along 16th Avenue. South Vancouver, an independent municipality created in 1892, was built up in response to boomtown Vancouver's population explosion and huge demand for more affordable housing. As such, it attracted the blue collar working class to its neighbourhood. It originally included the area from Point Grey to Boundary Road, until Point Grey broke off a Cambie Street in 1908.

Dense old growth forests, populated with bear, deer, and salmon streams, gave way to a building spree in 1909-1912 centered around the North Arm Road (Fraser Street) and the new street railway system. A street car track on Bodwell Road (33rd Ave.) and on Ferris Road (49th Ave.) helped to fuel much of the development in the South Hill area. The first municipal hall was built in 1898 at Wilson Road (41st Ave.). Close by was the police station, and finally in 1909, the area's first permanent school building, South Hill Public School, was built on the east side of Fraser Street.

In 1929, both South Vancouver and Point Grey amalgamated with Vancouver and instantly expanded the population to 240,000, making Vancouver the third largest city in Canada.

[Learn more about this location or to contribute your own story.](#)

[SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA.](#)

Fraser St. Stories PLAQUE 06

Sir Richard McBride
1870 - 1917

Take a walk down 31st Avenue and you'll come across our two local elementary schools both named for Sir Richard McBride, the 15th premier of British Columbia (1903-1915). At age 33, Sir Richard McBride was the first of British Columbia's premiers to be born in the province and the only one to have ever been knighted.

Sir Richard McBride Elementary School (29th Avenue and Culloden St.) is a public elementary school, part of School District 39 Vancouver. It was founded in 1911 and recently celebrated its Centennial year. The school's symbol is an eagle and its colours are white, blue, and yellow. The school was built on a hilly slope nearby a nursery and orchard known as Henry's Farm. Still today, one block over, Henry Street still holds its name from that old farm.

Sir Richard McBride Annex was built in 1964 and is a modest single story building, just off of scenic Gray's Park. It is the primary annex to the McBride main school. Both schools are widely considered to be cornerstones of the Mountain View community.

Many children have tramped to school in those early days, through thick swampy mud, over cattle fields and vegetable gardens. Today, I'm sure you'll find many alumni that remember both schools with fond memories.

[Learn more about this location or to contribute your own story.](#)

[SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA.](#)

Fraser St. Stories PLAQUE 07

G.W. Ledingham & Company
est. 1927

One of Vancouver's original neighbourhoods, Kensington-Cedar Cottage is rich with history. Like the neighbourhood, the Ledingham name also has close ties to Vancouver's history. That's why it's fitting that developer Ledingham McAllister chose to build *The Century* (2011) housing complex with a nod to those early days.

The Ledingham name has been part of British Columbia's construction and development industry since its start in Mountain Pleasant in 1905. George W. Ledingham came to Vancouver in 1897 as a labourer on road construction and excavation projects. In 1927, he set up his large garage to open his own business with a sign reading, "G.W. Ledingham, Contractor". During the 1920's and 1930's Ledingham constructed many of the streets and sidewalks of Vancouver. The boomtown days helped grow this backyard business into one of B.C.'s largest road building and underground utilities companies before its transition to construction of multi-family residential complexes. Some of their early projects are landmarks of Vancouver, including the construction of the Hudson's Bay Store, the Granville Street Bridge, and the infrastructure of the Vancouver International Airport.

The Century housing complex is a mix of old and new with a respectful hint of the homes of the past.

[Learn more about this location or to contribute your own story.](#)

[SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA.](#)

Fraser St. Stories PLAQUE 08

Simon Hirschberg
d. January 29, 1887

An urban legend lives right in our own backyard. The interesting tale of Simon Hirschberg, the first person intended for burial at Mountain View Cemetery in 1887, tells us that he never made it to the grounds and was instead buried at the corner of 33rd Ave and North Arm Road (now Fraser Street).

Simon Hirschberg was a hefty man of 300 pounds or more. When this owner of the Leland Hotel was found dead in his attic, suicide by poison, he was quite a challenge to transport on the poor conditions of those early roads. The cemetery at the time was little more than a clearing in the forest and North Arm Road was a dirt road with logs laid down on it. The day that Mr. Hirschberg was to be buried, the roads were worsened by winter rains and became a mud track that was difficult to move through with a horse and cart with a broken carriage wheel.

However, to end this story, the Cemetery Manager going through the registry at the cemetery office has found his body has since been interred on the grounds in the Old Section.

The actual first burial in the cemetery was that of a ten month old infant Caradoc Evans, who died in February 1887. Although it was proposed to bury him in the road near Simon Hirschberg, his father refused and carried the coffin and body to the top of the nearest ridge for burial.

[Learn more about this location or to contribute your own story.](#)

[SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA.](#)

Fraser St. Stories PLAQUE 09

Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House
est. 1950

Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House is a welcoming place for the residents of the area of Kensington-Cedar Cottage. Set among historic sites of Vancouver, like the old Selkirk School, Brewer's Park and the site of the old dairy farm (now Gladstone High School), the Neighbourhood House is a piece of the past still bringing its community together. The Cedar Cottage area gets its name from the first settlers of this land who built small cedar cottages along the rough roads and forests. It was then primarily working class neighbourhood and remains so today.

Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House was established in 1950 by five fathers who wanted to get their boys off the street and started the Youth Club located at Lord Selkirk School grounds. Back in the 50's and 60's, the neighbourhood was a bit rough and high school gangs were common. This Youth Club provided a range of sports leagues, school clubs and family support. Eventually registered society status and a partnership with the Alexandra Neighbourhood House, allowed this organization to flourish into the Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House.

Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House is a not for profit, non-governmental, community based social service organization that builds healthy, inclusive and caring neighbourhoods.

[Learn more about this location or to contribute your own story.](#)

[SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA.](#)

Fraser St. Stories PLAQUE 10

Lost Streams of Vancouver
1800's-present

It was not so long ago that Vancouver was home to over 50 wild salmon streams. Vancouver's streams are mostly lost, covered by houses, businesses, roads or buried underneath sewers or culverts. Several major creeks ran through the Kensington - Cedar Cottage neighbourhoods in the 1880's, such as China Creek and Brewer's Creek. They teamed with salmon and trout while winding their way through the forest down to False Creek.

Brewer's Creek began high up on the hill of Mountain View near 37th and Fraser, flowing down the "Tea Swamp" of 20th to 15th Avenues between Main and Fraser. The evidence of this lost stream is still present in the bumpy roads that dip along this area. This swamp got its name after the Labrador tea plant that grew here. China Creek had many streams that fed into the larger estuary, one of which began by Kensington Park at 33rd and Knight. It flowed down the length of Knight Street and into False Creek. It got its name from the Chinese settlers who farmed, and fished along its banks. Both creeks fostered the soda and beer breweries, like the Cedar Cottage Brewery located at the corner of Knight Road and Westminster Highway (now Knight & Kingsway).

Today, some old streams are being uncovered and there is the possibility of hearing those gurgling streams flowing once again.

[Learn more about this location or to contribute your own story.](#)

[SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA.](#)

