



Foreword

VANCOUVER IS SUCH A FASCINATING CITY in so many ways that I think you will enjoy discovering more about our history here.

In a little over a hundred years, we've come from a collection of shacks, saloons and businesses (one of them I noticed was run by a Robertson) on the forest's edge, to the metropolis we are today. From a harbour full of wooden sailing ships to hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics.

The role of aboriginal people is an essential part of our story and I encourage people to keep that in mind when they look back at our past. I am happy that Don Waite has included some of that history here.

Our natural gifts are many: a large, deep and sheltered harbour, beautiful beaches and mountains, a mild climate. Our mission going forward is to respect those gifts while we continue to build a sophisticated, successful, just and sustainable city second to none. The Olympic Games was a spectacular few weeks but provided the world with just a glimpse of what makes Vancouver so special.

Our most notable urban projects reflect our history and natural beauty while also creating extraordinary spaces such as Granville Island, False Creek, Gastown, Yaletown, the Woodward's development—all of which show sensitivity to their surroundings while showcasing a unique vision. The creation of a large urban park, Stanley Park, in the heart of the city (like Central Park in New York or Hyde Park in London), is a stunning example of the kind of breakthrough thinking that marked Vancouver for greatness early on.

Our most valuable gifts are not just natural of course. They're human. We're blessed with a tapestry of cultures and people who make our city vibrant, smart, intensely beautiful and endlessly interesting. Calling yourself a citizen of Vancouver is to truly be a citizen of the world.

I hope you love Vancouver as do we who live here and enjoy this rich photographic history Don has put together. Please also join us on the journey into our future that will be at least as fascinating as our past.

Gregor Robertson



Gregor Robertson,
Mayor of the City of Vancouver

Opposite

A bronze statue of Captain George Vancouver by sculptor Charles Marega basks in the early morning light at the north entrance into Vancouver's City Hall. The figure, commissioned for the city's Golden Jubilee in 1936, commemorates the events of 1792, when Vancouver, as a representative of King George III of England, sailed into Burrard Inlet and charted the area.