Angel Donates \$5000 to PALS

On BC Day, August 6th, Point Atkinson was opened for centenary tours of the grounds and buildings. Actually, Point Atkinson's first tower was built in 1874, and the current tower was built in 1912. As anticipated, many West Vancouverites signed up for the tour. The tours were led by Elaine Graham, widow of Don Graham, one of the last keepers at the station, and Ann Brousson, President of the West Vancouver Historical Society. Over 100 people attended the four tours, which took visitors to the former Fog Alarm Building/Radio room where interpretive displays explained some of the light keeper duties and equipment function.

Centenary grant funding provided by the West Vancouver Foundation was used to upgrade interpretive exhibits in time for the tours. Visitors were also taken to see the Block House, which houses the engines for searchlights used during WWII. A searchlight bunker, still standing, could be seen at near by East Beach.

A highlight of the first tour was the presence of two great-granddaughters of Robert Wellwood, lighthouse keeper from 1877-1880. Many thanks to Eleanor Wellwood for her contribution of a photo and biographical information of her great-grandfather, for inclusion in the gallery of keepers in the Radio Room.

Following the event, an anonymous donor wrote a cheque for \$5000 to PALS, the Point Atkinson Lighthouse Sub-committee of the WV:HS. This generous donation will contribute to the restoration of the Block House, a centenary gift being shared by the District of West Vancouver and volunteers. Once the exterior of the building is restored, work can begin on transforming the interior to an interpretive centre on the role of the military at Point Atkinson during World War II.

All donations to the West Vancouver Historical Society are tax deductible.

THE LIGHT STATION



THE BLOCKHOUSE



THE WHARF AND BUNKER



VISITORS ON TOUR



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BLOCKHOUSE PAGE 11

