



*The Point Atkinson Light station in 1923.  
(303.WVA.THO)*

**TOUR THE LIGHT  
STATION  
ON BC DAY**

**guided tours  
provided by  
volunteers on  
Monday, August 6th**



*The Block House in 2012 (Elaine  
Graham photo)*

## Point Atkinson Lighthouse Celebrates 100th Birthday in 2012

This year, as West Vancouver celebrates its 100th birthday, one of its well-known heritage sites will also share the same honour. In 1912 the now familiar red and white tower at Point Atkinson replaced the original lighthouse built twenty-six years earlier. Innovative in design, Point Atkinson's elegant sentinel has been steadfastly guiding mariners into and out of the Port of Vancouver for an entire century. To mark the occasion, PALS (Point Atkinson Light Station Sub-committee) is negotiating with the District of West Vancouver for Point Atkinson to receive a major birthday gift.

Although designated a National Historic Site in 1994, in recognition of its crucial role in navigation and lifesaving for British Columbia's maritime trade, Point Atkinson has no financial endowment for ongoing site maintenance. Included in this designation is a concrete bunker sitting on the lawn below the lighthouse, known as the "block house". It

was erected in 1942 to provide power to searchlights located east and west of the light station during World War II. As part of its centenary celebrations for 2012 the District of West Vancouver has plans to lead the community in the complete restoration of the Block House. This is excellent news and a much needed gift. After it is restored to withstand the elements, PALS and volunteers can begin to equip the building with interpretive information on its role during World War II.

In the meantime, PALS is upgrading the interior of the Radio Room/Fog Alarm Building to include interpretive information on the history of Point Atkinson's foghorns, its light, and its keepers. On August 6th, BC Day, the light station will be open to the public for guided walks led by PALS volunteers, as part of West Vancouver's centenary celebration.

*by Elaine Graham*

**100  
years**