



# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Discover the Rough and Tumble History of loco

Did you know that the famous Captain George Vancouver may have lent his name to many places in the Lower Mainland but he also has the distinction of being the first European to hold a beach party on Burrard Inlet? Or that Admiralty Point park was almost turned into a 'pest hospital'?

These stories and more fascinating history from loco, Anmore Valley, and the North Shore of Port Moody Arm are uncovered by local historian, Ralph Drew, in his new book: "**Townsite Tales: The History of loco.**" A follow-up to the B.C. Historical Federation and Lieutenant-Governor's Gold Medal award-winning "**Forest & Fjord: The History of Belcarra**", this book brings together years of historical research and passion for revealing the personalities, triumphs, and tragedies of the region.

"The Northeast Sector of the Lower Mainland has held an important place in our province's history beginning with the earliest European exploration and creation of the new Colony of British Columbia," says historian Drew. "As the fastest-growing part of the region, our area has a fascinating history that begs to be revealed to the thousands of new residents who are calling the Tri-Cities their home."

The book traces the entire history of the region: its geological formation, settlement of the area by Coast Salish people, exploration by the Spanish and English, fortunes made and lost in the saw mills on the Inlet, loggers, the Buntzen Power Project, homesteaders, the "boom and bust" of the loco Townsite, and the memorable personalities like pioneering newspaper publisher 'Ma' Murray.

As part of the Canadian Library Month celebrations, the Port Moody Public Library will be hosting an author talk and book launch on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30pm. Drew will share some of the stories from the new book, and they will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

"Anyone who has lived or hiked through the area knows that there is so much history here," says Program and Youth Services Librarian, Corene Maret Brown. "Never before has a book brought together all of these stories in one place. You gain such an appreciation for our rich history by reading Drew's books. You'll never look at loco the same way again."

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