

**RED UMBRELLA MARCH
FOR SEX WORK SOLIDARITY**

Celebrates 130 Years of Resistance!

Saturday, June 9, 2018

Victory Square, Vancouver, B.C.



The Red Umbrella March acknowledges the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples.

This place on the south shore of the Burrard Inlet had other names when Colonel Moody of the Royal Engineers surveyed the area into lots and supervised the development of a saltwater port. (Colonel Moody's engineers were appointed for service in British Columbia during the gold rush of 1858 and withdrew in 1864.)

The outcrop into the inlet where Hastings Sawmill was built was called *Luk'Luk'l*, meaning big-leaf maple trees. The area between what is now Campbell and Raymur streets was a passage for canoes from False Creek to Burrard Inlet at high tide. The name of the general area of shore land that stretches east of Nanaimo Street to the wheat pool silos before the Second Narrows was *Khanamoot*.

In 1865, the first road (Douglas Road named for B.C. Governor, James Douglas) was built from New Westminster to the settlement of New Brighton (located at New Brighton Park below the Pacific Exhibition fairgrounds). The town became a waterfront resort for New Westminster's elite. (New Westminster was B.C.'s capital from 1859 until 1866 when the Colony of B.C. and the Colony of Vancouver Island were amalgamated.) New Brighton boasted the first hotel (New Brighton Hotel), wharf, post office, museum, Canadian Pacific Railway office, customs office, telegraph, playing field and dock for the first ferry.



Plan of the Town of Granville, Burrard Inlet, B.C.
British Columbia, Department of Lands and Works, 1870.
City of Vancouver Archives

In 1868, the town was renamed for visiting Rear Admiral George Fowler Hastings, the British Royal Navy, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet.

West of the town of Hastings was the Hastings Sawmill, west of which was the Town of Granville, which the locals called "Gastown" after a saloon-owning character named "Gassy" Jack Deighton. A plank sidewalk ran from Hastings sawmill into Granville. In 1884, all of the land surrounding Coal Harbour and the town of Granville (6,280 acres) was granted to the Canadian Pacific Railway by the Government of British Columbia in a secret deal.

Granville was a town full of hard-working men—millhands, sailors and labourers. Naturally, the boomtown also attracted a few working women.

Hastings Mill, Burrard Inlet, 1882. City of Vancouver Archives.



"The Rancherie"

Hastings Sawmill

Hastings Mill (originally Stamp's Mill) was a major employer in 1867. "The Rancherie" was a term used for the property surrounding the mill west of the foot of Gore Avenue. The sawmill primarily employed Indigenous and migrant workers and workgangs from China and Japan, as well as Kanakas from Hawaii. "The Rancherie" consisted of cedar buildings for communal living and shacks which housed (mostly Indigenous) workers. Hastings Mill also ran its own school.

By 1886, there were also ladies of the evening who made their homes there catering to the mill hands and the sailors off the lumber carriers.

In 1894, by order of city council, the health inspector condemned the shacks at "The Rancherie" and Sergeant Heywood compensated the 25-30 shack owners \$284 between them as they stood in the rain watching their homes burn. By 1911, "The Rancherie" was no more.



Alexander Street looking west, 1888

Photograph shows a view looking west along Alexander Street 1888. Note the shacks along the shore, far right.



Looking west from Hastings Mill, 1886

Photograph showing the city wharf at the foot of Carrall Street with Princess Louise at dock. City of Vancouver Archives.



Alexander Street Beach at Columbia 1898

Portrait of Indigenous family camped on Alexander Street beach at foot of Columbia Street, 1898. City of Vancouver Archives.



Alexander Street Beach at Columbia 1898

Indigenous people camped on Alexander Street beach at foot of Columbia Street, 1898. City of Vancouver Archives.

Granville's First "Brothel"

Water Street before The Great Fire, 1886

The first known brothel in the area was Birdie Stewart's house which opened in 1873 on Water Street near Abbott. Birdie was not alone. One pioneer recalled that there was a row of cabins at Cordova and Abbott Streets occupied by Chinese people and "some other occupants of ill repute." On May 16, 1886, Birdie Stewart was charged with keeping a house of prostitution. Birdie defiantly pleaded "Guilty." Outraged, the magistrate fined her \$20. Thus began a tradition of fining the ladies as a way to finance city affairs. At least twice a year the ladies marched to court and the "court parade" assumed a holiday atmosphere. The ladies showed off their finery to crowds of men lining the streets, pleaded guilty and paid their fines. The cost was recouped with clients they attracted that afternoon.

Birdie Stewart survived The Great Fire of 1886 and moved her house to Dupont Street. Later in 1886, Birdie was charged with "keeping a disorderly house" however, charges were dismissed. "Insufficient evidence." For the first few years, no one cared where the madams set up their houses.



Water Street, May 1886

Water Street looking east from Cambie, Birdie Stewart's house is on the extreme left, with the roof of the Methodist parsonage behind it. Photograph shows the residences of Isaac John and Ainsley Moaut and other buildings prior to The Great Fire, 1886. City of Vancouver Archives.



Water Street 1880

Photograph shows the Granville Hotel and other buildings and the maple tree. Photo by Joseph Davis. City of Vancouver Archives.



Water Street at Abbott Street, 1882

Photograph shows Mr. Robertson, Dr. Masters and his office and the Robertson and Blair residences. City of Vancouver Archives.



Wah Chong Laundry, Water Street, 1884

Photograph shows Wah Chong family outside laundry business on Water Street, 1884. City of Vancouver Archives.

First City Licence

Vancouver Liquor Licence By-Law, 1886

On April 6, 1886, the town of Granville incorporated to become the City of Vancouver. After The Great Fire, some of the madams established themselves amid the saloons on Water and Cordova Streets. And, by 1886, there were enough women in the town to form a chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). Two months after the city incorporated, city council turned its attention to the barrooms. Liquor licences were limited to 52 for hotels (\$200) and only six saloon licences (\$400).

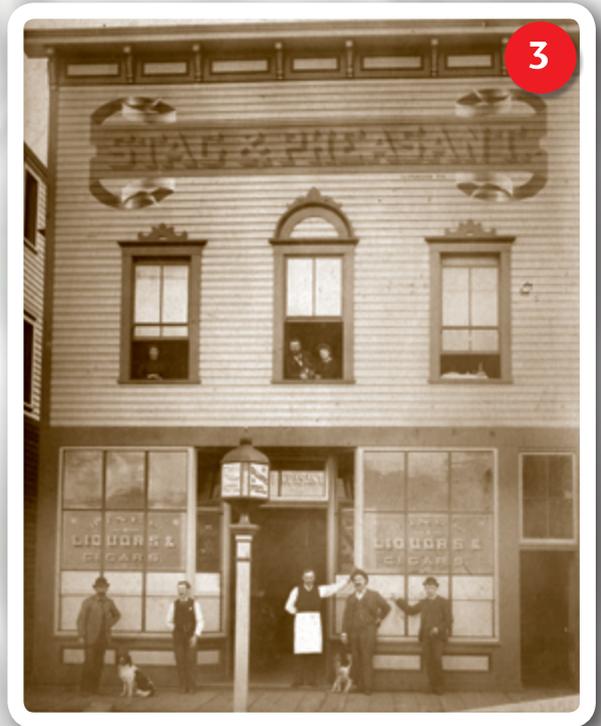
The new by-law also stipulated that every licensed drinking establishment must show a light over its door from sunset to sunrise. It wasn't long before the WCTU began using the lamps as rallying points to stage evening protests. A would-be drinker would have to walk past ladies on their knees in the mud praying for his salvation from the drink.

The Liquor Licence By-Law included Lord's Day Closing. From 11 p.m. Saturday until 6 a.m. Monday, no alcohol was to be served on licensed premises. Front doors were locked, however side entrances were not. The law remained largely unenforced.



Water Street looking west from Carrall Street, 1887

Photograph shows the Granville Hotel and other buildings. The street is planked. Telegraph poles don't have wires yet. City of Vancouver Archives.



Stag and Pheasant, May 1888

Exterior of Stag and Pheasant Hotel on Water Street between Cambie and Abbott Streets. Photograph shows George Cary and his dog at the far left and a coal oil lamp required by law at the entrance to the saloon. The lamp is lettered, making it the first illuminated sign. City of Vancouver Archives.



Sunny Side Hotel, May 1887

Sunny Side Hotel northwest corner of Water Street and Carrall Street May 24, 1887, decorated for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. City of Vancouver Archives.

In 1888...

Moral Reform Picks Up Steam

The first CPR passenger railcar arrived in Vancouver to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee, May 1887. With the new passenger service the wives and families of polite society joined their husbands. Vancouver's population grew quickly. This spurred city council to establish — unofficially — a “restricted district,” away from view on Dupont Street.

“We do not believe in crusades against the elements that do exist, but we do believe in reducing the evil and bringing it down to the level of police surveillance and in controlling by police law, as far as possible, the freedom of immorality in this community.” ~ Editor, News-Advisor

At this point there were only four police officers.

When two policemen went out to bring in Sadie Clark, they found her waving her pistol and uttering uncomplimentary things about men in an unpleasantly loud voice. She had just taken a couple of pot-shots at one of her customers, a drayman named Peter Miller who had declined to pay the going rate. After lengthy negotiations, she relinquished her weapon and entered jail “with an airy grace that betokened either liquor or an easy mind.”

The Chinese ladies were not the sort to “flaunt their paint and degradation before men.” Occasionally a “plain clothesman” would lure one of these ladies into betraying her profession, but when he escorted her to jail he would be followed by a whole posse haranguing him for his deceitful and ungentlemanly behaviour. Then they would bail her out.

C.P.R. Engine 374, 1936

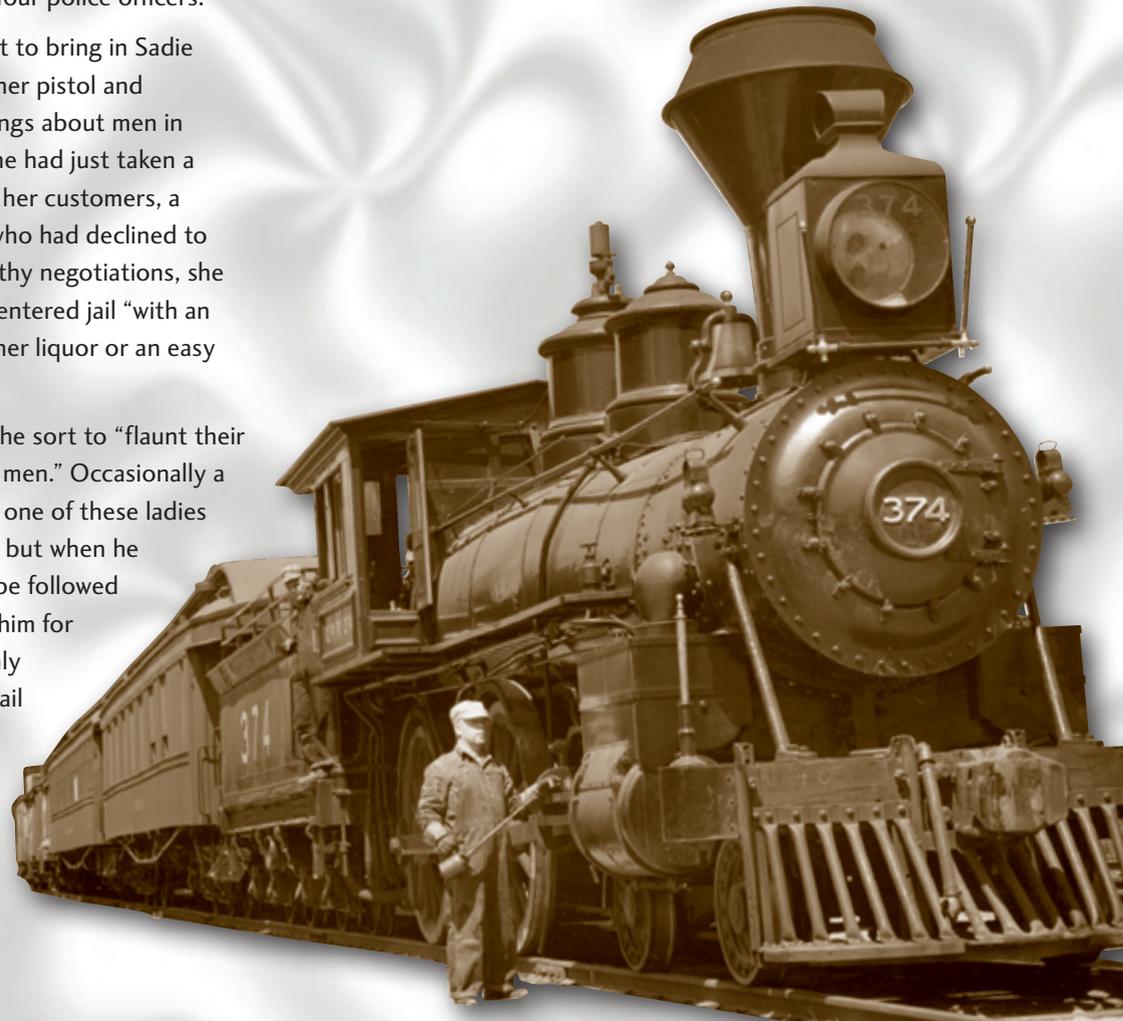
First passenger train to arrive in Vancouver, May 23, 1887.

J.A. Brock and Co.

City of Vancouver Archives

In 1888 the Vancouver chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union sought to establish a house of refuge for fallen women. The White Cross Army (an Anglican moral reform group) held a meeting that December to express sympathy with the cause, however, due to the sordid nature of the topic under discussion, the meeting was restricted men only.

By March 1890, the WCTU had increased its membership to the point where they had some clout with city council, and police were instructed to enforce the Sunday Closing law.



First "Restricted District"

Dupont Street, 1889-1906

An 1889 map reveals six buildings labelled "ill fame" on Dupont. The red-light district (named for the red railway coal oil signal lanterns) was the two-block stretch of Dupont between Westminster Avenue (Main Street) and Carrall. Ladies arrested on Dupont were fined \$20. Ladies arrested elsewhere were fined \$50.

By 1892, Dupont was becoming more of a thoroughfare, and in July, city council passed the Loitering By-Law: *Thou shalt not drive about the city in open vehicles or saunter around gates, front yards or on sidewalks, thou shalt not sit in open windows—either upstairs or downstairs— or smoke cigarettes in view of public streets, thou shalt not do anything to solicit or attract attention.*

Four days later, Annie Jones, the landlady at 119 Dupont Street, and three of her "tenants" appeared in their front yard smoking cigars. A policeman immediately issued summonses. The ladies retaliated by going on a drunken toot and creating a minor riot. They were fined \$20 each for contravening the Loitering By-Law, and another \$20 for being drunk and disorderly. Annie, with regal condescension, offered the magistrate a cigar.

In 1894, Josephine Bliss was the first madam to receive prison time without the option of a fine for operating a house of ill-repute outside of the district, just around the corner on Columbia Street.

In 1896, the health inspector was ordered to find the necessary infractions of the sanitary by-laws to condemn houses on Dupont street. Many of the buildings, especially on the south side, were just flimsy tenements. That winter the owners were ordered out while their homes burned.

In 1894, Florence "Mother" Mackenzie set up her house at 101 Dupont. Her neighbours included



Dupont Street (later Pender Street), 1889

Looking east from Carrall. Eventually the two blocks in the photograph were lined on both sides with houses of "ill-repute." City of Vancouver Archives.



Dupont Street (later Pender Street) 1906

View of Dupont Street, later Pender Street, Chinatown area 1906. Photo by Philip T. Timms. City of Vancouver Archives.

Victorine Lenon, Miss Trixeda, Miss May La Boe, Tootsie Earl, and Gabrielle Delisle. In 1899, Mother Mackenzie was sentenced to two years in prison for procuring. As she was being hauled off to the penitentiary, she raised her arm to the sky and exclaimed, "If I have harmed anyone, may God, whom some day I shall meet, so paralyze this uplifted arm that it will never be straightened again till broken off to be coffined."

"Court Parade"

Fees or Fines, 1889-1904

In 1897, the Klondike Gold Rush brought thousands of would-be miners to Vancouver heading north. By 1898, membership of the Vancouver chapter of the WCTU tripled. Dupont Street was a "seething hell of immorality," the ultimate destination for women kidnapped from respectable homes to be sold into vile slavery.

Julia Anne Carver, described as a young waif, was found on the premises operated by Josie Williams. Julia Anne claimed she was forced into prostitution by her parents to pay a debt. "I do not get a dollar out of it for myself." Julia Anne was sent over to the Women's Christian Temperance Union Refuge House in Victoria to learn how to be a scullery maid. "There's lots of work for good kitchen..." "What?!" shrieked Julia Anne, "I can do better for myself in a week at Josie's than a year in somebody's bloody kitchen!"

In 1889 Constable Havelock Fyfe ran a protection service for his preferred list of ladies. The ladies paid five dollars a month (about \$100 today) for immunity from court parade. The other constables had their own collection schemes and so never arrested Fyfe's ladies. The courtroom was still adequately filled with ladies not on Fyfe's list as to not arouse suspicion. Then Fyfe upped his price to eight dollars a month and some of his clients began to complain that it would be cheaper to go to court!

Sergeant John McLaren was not in on Fyfe's scheme when he arrested Wee Hee, a Chinese lady from Shanghai Alley. Wee Hee protested that she had paid Fyfe's exorbitant price and demanded he let her go. McLaren went to Chief Stewart who tried to cover it up, as to not draw attention to his own bookkeeping. Unsatisfied, McLaren reported his suspicions to the police committee. Both Fyfe and Stewart resigned. McLaren became the new Chief of Police.



423 Westminster Avenue, 1901

Vancouver's second City Hall on Westminster Avenue (later Main Street). This building served as City Hall from 1896 to 1928, it was demolished in 1958. City Archives of Vancouver



Vancouver City Police Force, 1903

Outside Vancouver's first City Hall and Police Court on Powell Street (north side between Columbia and Westminster Streets). Standing left to right: D. McIntosh, J. Deptford, J. Brown, D. Scott, A. Waddell, M. McLennan, G. Edwards, P. Hartney, G. Macauley, W. McRae, J. Craig, D. McIntosh, G. Miller, J. Anderson, A. Davies. Sitting left to right: R. Grady, T. Butler, Chief S. North, T. Crawford, J. Clough. City Archives of Vancouver

"Court Parade"

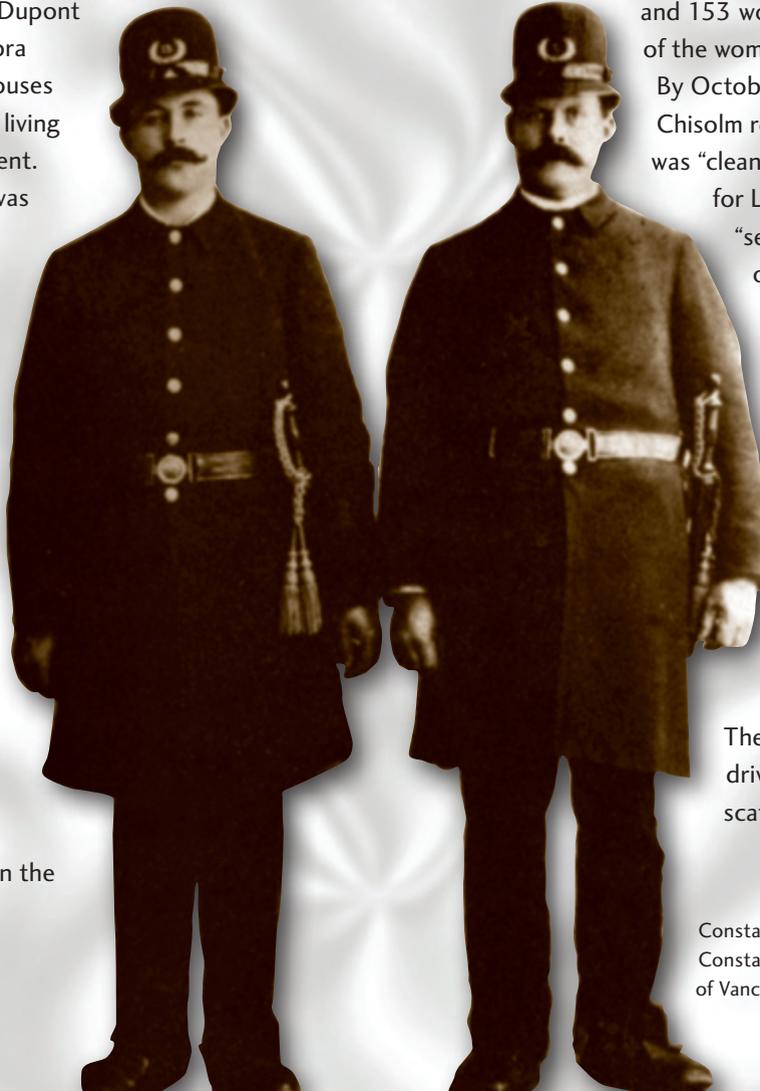
Displacement and Defiance, 1904-1906

Plans were underway in 1903 to build a new train station for the Vancouver, Westminster & Yukon Railroad on Dupont Street between Columbia and Carrall. Passengers would have to disembark right in the heart of the red-light district if it were allowed to remain there. The Board of School Trustees had been demanding the clean-up of Dupont because of its proximity to Strathcona and Central schools.

The solution to Dupont Street? In 1904, city council enacted By-Law 135 which made it illegal to own a house that was used for prostitution.

"The White House" at 140 Dupont was the first target. Mrs. Dora Reno owned at least four houses on Dupont and was retired, living in a swanky uptown apartment. The landlady, Josie Scherf, was certain Dora had no idea that the house was used for a brothel. It was, as the sign said, "Rooms for rent for young ladies of moderate means."

Dora smiled graciously through the court proceedings while her high-priced lawyers proved that By-Law 135 dealt with criminal matters that were "wholly within the purview of the federal government," and thus its enactment and penalties were beyond the power of city council or even the provincial legislature.



(Dora Reno made her first court appearance in 1889 as one of the girls in a house on Powell Street and by 1895 had her own house on Dupont.)

In June 1906, the ladies were given 30 days to leave Dupont Street. "You can't throw me out," Blanche Douglas told the magistrate defiantly. "I already paid a hundred and fifty bucks to stay right where I am!" To whom did she pay her money? Why to Police Chief Samuel North, just a little guarantee that police would look the other way. That was the end of Police Chief North.

By August 1906, there were 41 houses and 153 women. By September, 64 of the women were still in residence.

By October, new Police Chief Colin Chisolm reported that the street was "clean as a whistle" except

for Lottie Mansfield and her "servant." Lottie was the owner of the house, and there wasn't a thing he could do to dispossess her.

Later in 1906, the Moral Reform Association charged Chief Chisolm with, "favouring ideas on the social evil question prevailing on the European continent."

They wanted the women driven from the city, not scattered over it.

Constable Malcolm McLennan and Constable John M. McLean, 1905. City of Vancouver Archives

Shanghai Alley

Displaced from Dupont Street, 1904

From 1881 to 1885 CPR employed between 8,000 and 17,000 Chinese workers. (In 1885, the Canadian government levied \$50 head tax on Chinese immigrants.) Hastings Mill manager, R.H. Alexander ran for Vancouver's first mayor in 1886 and brought his Chinese workers to vote. This sparked a race-related riot. (Chinese people were not given the right to vote in Canada until after the Second World War.)

Early Chinese settlement was located south from Dupont to False Creek. Chinese people were banned from practicing many professions including medicine and engineering. Families pulled together capital and built businesses such as tailor shops, hand laundries, green grocers and restaurants. There was a 500-seat Chinese theatre built in 1898. By 1900, Shanghai Alley was the centre of nightlife.

Canton Alley was developed in 1904. The main floors were stores; upper floors were used as residences, boarding houses and meeting halls. It was built with a single entrance with large iron gates which could be closed in case of emergency.

When the crackdown to move the brothels off Dupont Street began in 1906, the Chinese ladies in particular moved to two small lanes just off Dupont—Shanghai Alley and Canton Alley. Between the two, there were 105 brothels (mostly lone women operating in a single room).



Shanghai Alley, 1940s

Shanghai Alley tenements in the 1940s. Between 1946 and 1954 the buildings were demolished and replaced by warehouses owned by non-Chinese. Photo by Don Coltman. City of Vancouver Archives.



Canton Alley, May 1910

Canton Alley was created in 1904. Photo donated by Yip Sang. City of Vancouver Archives.

Harris Street

Displacement and Speculation, 1906

Pushed out of Dupont Street, the madams sought out a new “restricted area.” Real estate promoters advised them they had a trusted source a city hall, and that the new restricted area was to be on Granville Street. Or Park Lane (between Westminster Avenue and False Creek, just south of Prior Street). Or Alexander Street, or Harris Street or wherever else promoters happened to have land for sale.

The results of promoters hot tips soon became apparent. “Luxury houses” with blueprints that designated “the oriental room,” “the wine room,” and “the music room” were submitted by contractors for building permits. Finally, the city’s madams were allowed to set up houses on Harris Street (West Georgia) between Westminster Avenue (Main Street) and False Creek. To avoid embarrassing the more respectable Georgia Street residents east of Westminster, the block was renamed Shore Street in 1908.

Construction of the first Georgia Viaduct obliterated Shore Street in 1913. A new red-light district had already emerged on Alexander Street, in what was then part of Japantown, following another police crackdown.



Parlour on Georgia Street, 1902

1954 West Georgia Street 1902. City of Vancouver Archives.



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Shore Street Brothels, 1913

A rare photo of the brothels on the north side of Shore Street, shortly after the relocation of the “restricted district” to Alexander and during construction of the original Georgia Viaduct, 1913. City of Vancouver Archives



Georgia Street Real Estate Office, 1886

Van Horne Real estate office in giant douglas fir log, Georgia Street, near Granville. City of Vancouver Archives.

Sailors' Home

Alexander Street, 1911-1914

Located adjacent to what was formerly "The Rancherie," Alexander Street was the only part of the city that visiting seamen ever laid eyes upon. Buildings built as brothels were essentially rooming houses, but were typically fancier. Instead of a store or bar on the ground floor, they had a bar and lounge, and often a piano player to entertain guests. Listed as a Japanese boarding house, 313 Alexander Street was built for Yonekichi Aoki in 1907. (It was confiscated during World War II.) 610 and 612 Alexander (Laurel Apts) were built as brothels in 1908.

Public pressure from the Moral Reform Association brought widespread arrests in 1911. As a result new brothels appeared on 500-block Alexander Street. 500 Alexander was built for Dolly Darlington. Lucille Gray owned 504 Alexander, and 514 Alexander belonged to Alice Bernard. Marie Gomez (598 Alexander) had her name spelled out in mosaic tile inside the door. When the war broke out in 1914, parlour-houses were outlawed altogether, and the madams were given a choice between six months in prison or be returned to the United States. (Many had come up from San Francisco following the earthquake in 1906.)



400-block Alexander Street, 1890

Houses on 400 block Alexander Street, between Dunlevy and Jackson Avenue. Photograph shows 414 Alexandra Street. 1890. City of Vancouver Archives



514 Alexander built 1912

Alice Bernard had this building built in 1912 when she moved from Shore Street.

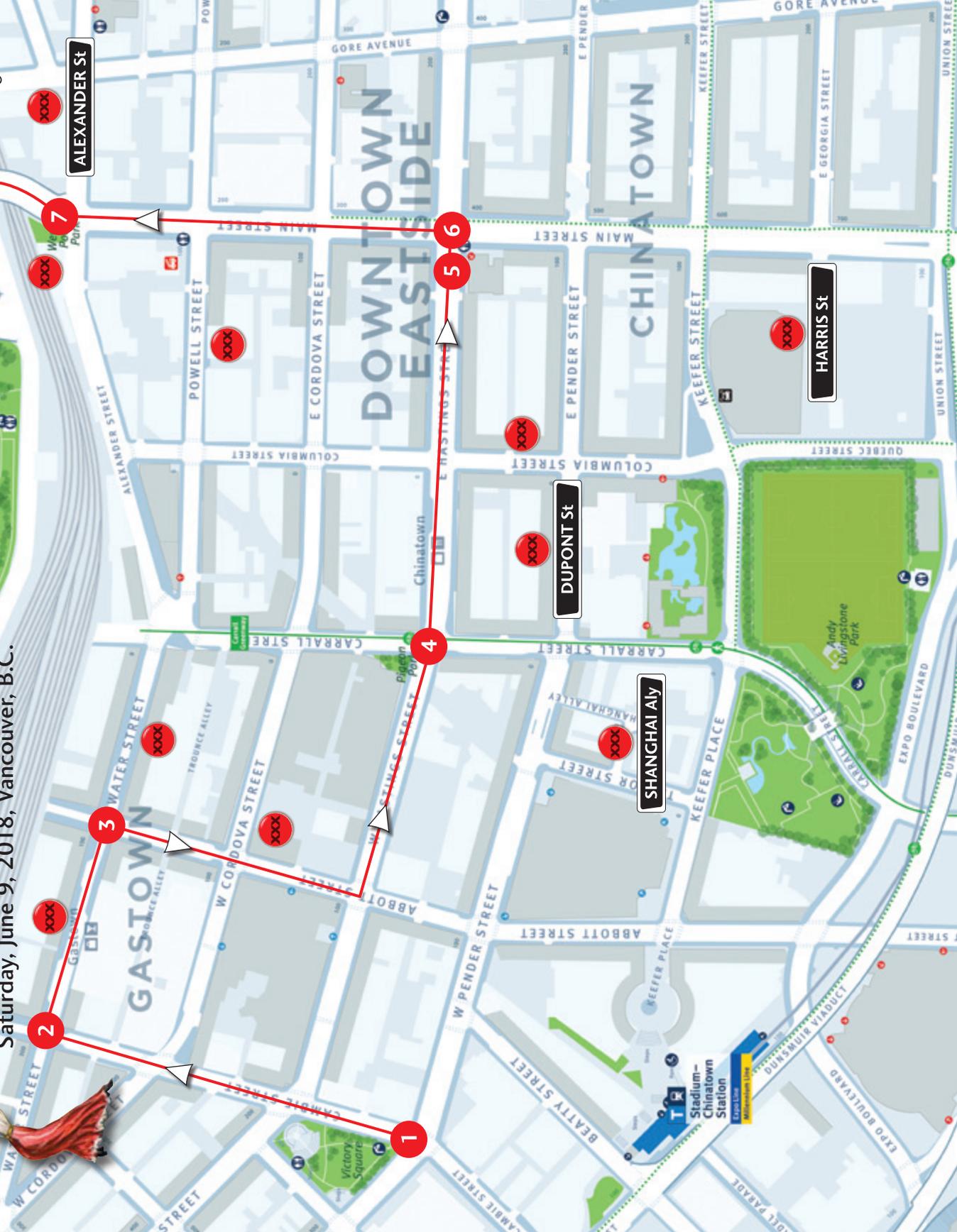


214 Alexander Street, 1888

Men with trophy assembled outside 214 Alexander Street. Photo Major James Matthews, City of Vancouver Archives

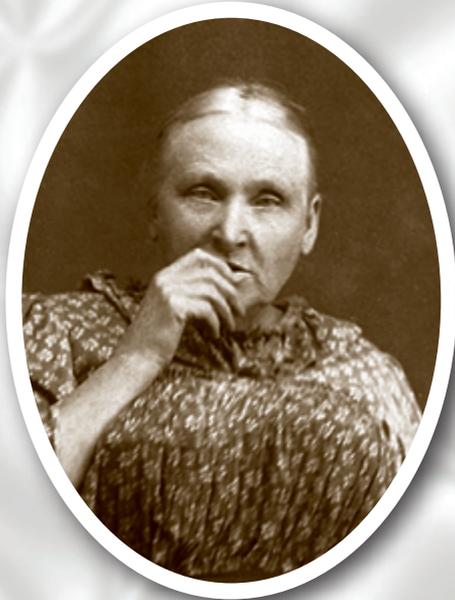
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Celebrates 130 Years of Resistance!
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"Court Parade"

Arrest Records, 1899-1905



Florence "Mother" Mackenzie
(Arrested 1899.)

"Court Parade"

Arrest Records, 1899-1905



Rita King
(Arrested July 26th, 1899.)



Rosie Gaylord
(Arrested March 29th, 1900.)



Theresa Warner
(Arrested July 7th, 1903.)

"Court Parade"
Arrest Records, 1899-1905



Julia Lebrun
(Arrested Nov. 9th, 1903.)

"Court Parade"
Arrest Records, 1899-1905



Jennie DeMoulin
(Arrested Nov. 26th, 1903.)



Sadie Gerrard
(Arrested Jan. 16th, 1904.)



Rubie Stetson
(Arrested April 22nd, 1904.)

"Court Parade"

Arrest Records, 1899-1905



Ida Wesley (Woolner)
(Arrested April 27th, 1904.)

"Court Parade"

Arrest Records, 1899-1905



Trilby Thorne
(Arrested April 27th, 1904.)



Eva Mack
(Arrested July 24th, 1904.)



Lizzie Cooke
(Arrested Aug. 3rd, 1904.)

"Court Parade"
Arrest Records, 1899-1905



Annie Caster
(Arrested Aug. 25th, 1904.)

"Court Parade"
Arrest Records, 1899-1905



Estilla Burns
(Arrested Dec. 26th, 1904.)



Annie Frack
(Arrested Jan. 20th, 1905.)



Gertie Johnson
(Arrested Feb. 20th, 1905.)

More Notable Characters

Victoria's Richest Madam 1899-1913

After the Klondike Gold Rush began, brothels quickly appeared in Victoria. Stella Carroll, an ambitious 25-year-old from San Francisco, was visiting a friend who was selling her brothel and Stella decided to buy it. She operated that brothel until 1905. During the emerging moral reform era, Stella was forced by police to move several times, partly because she was so difficult. She would sue non-paying customers. When she was arrested and hauled into court, she would rage at the magistrate.

Stella grew up in a house made from sod bricks in a small rural Missouri town. She lived the life she wanted, and accumulated a great deal of material wealth. She enjoyed inspecting her strikingly large diamonds. They represented her investments, her security and her achievements. She loved to adorn herself with them, especially her favourite, a starburst diamond brooch she wore in her lustrous auburn hair.

In 1911, Stella purchased Rockwood, located in a desirable residential neighbourhood where the Victoria elite were building country estates. The grand house was designed by prominent Victoria architect, John Teague. It sat on a hill and the back



Stella Carroll

of the house descended through gardens to a gorge where customers could arrive discreetly by canoe. The family home was spacious and befitting of an upscale parlour-house.

This was no downtown two-dollar house! Oriental rugs graced the floors. There were soft leather armchairs for the men and low upholstered stools and small chairs for her girls. She had her new cylinder phonograph and the piano for entertainment. On each polished wood surface there was an arrangement of fresh flowers. The windows were shaded with velvet drapes and lace-trimmed sheers. The books and statuary she had bought on her trip to Europe.

Stella was naïve, however, to have thought that the neighbours would tolerate her, particularly as they included the current premier, Richard McBride. Careers are made and broken on the wheel of vice-suppression campaigns. Stella was denied a liquor licence and eventually she returned to San Francisco.



Rockwood

Stella's finest brothel was Rockwood, a luxurious operation on the outskirts of Victoria.

REFERENCE: *Stella: Unrepentant Madam*, Linda J. Eversole, TouchWood Editions, 2005

More Notable Characters

“Klondike Kate”

Kathleen Eloise Rockwell was born in 1873, in Kansas and grew up in Spokane, Washington. She was a “tomboy” as a youngster, often impersonating boys and playing with them. Her parents sent the rebellious teenager to boarding school, but she was expelled. Kate was headed to Alaska when she was refused entry into Canada. Mounties were keeping out “undesirables.” Donned in a boy’s outfit, Kate hopped a steamboat for the Yukon before landing in Dawson City.

During the Klondike Gold Rush, Kate became a famous Vaudeville actress and tap dancer with the Savoy Theatre Company. She was reknowned for her red-gold hair, charisma and happy-go-lucky style on stage. Kate was also a spectacular conversationalist. Miners in town for an evening would chuck nuggets up on the stage and she’d scoop them up then afterwards she’d drink with the boys. Kate was known for her kindness and generosity.

In 1902, Kate headed south to British Columbia, where she set up a store-front movie theatre.



Miss Kate Rockwell (right) and her dogs, 1901

Miss Lilly Edgerton with Miss Kate Rockwell “Klondike Kate” and their dogs Tex, Nellie and Smithie, July 10, 1901.
City of Vancouver Archives



*“Klondike Kate” Rockwell
(1873 – Feb. 21, 1957)*

From there, Kate headed to Brothers, Oregon with \$3,500 in cash and \$3,000 worth of jewelry, and trunks filled with dresses, gowns and hats. In 1914, Kate staked a land claim on 320 acres in the Oregon high desert and homesteaded for five years, the requirement to gain title. She was seen everywhere wearing her vaudeville gowns and dance slippers — even working in her garden.

“Our Destitute Prostitute,” Aunt Kate

Kate married several times, and eventually sold her land and moved to Bend, Oregon where she became known by locals as “Aunt Kate.”

“She was a fund-raising dynamo, able to shake down almost any business or person for a contribution to a social cause; during the Great Depression she made gallons and gallons of soup to help out the hobos.”

Rockwell appeared on the You Bet Your Life show, hosted by Groucho Marx, Dec. 23, 1954. The Disney character, Glittering Goldie is said to have been inspired by Klondike Kate. Kathleen Rockwell died on February 21, 1957, in Sweet Home, Oregon.

"Feminine Hygiene"

Soap and Water

Syphilis was the sexual scourge of the 19th century. It has been estimated that by the end of the 19th century in London, England as much as 20% of adults had syphilis. In the United States, syphilis rates soared during and following the Civil War.

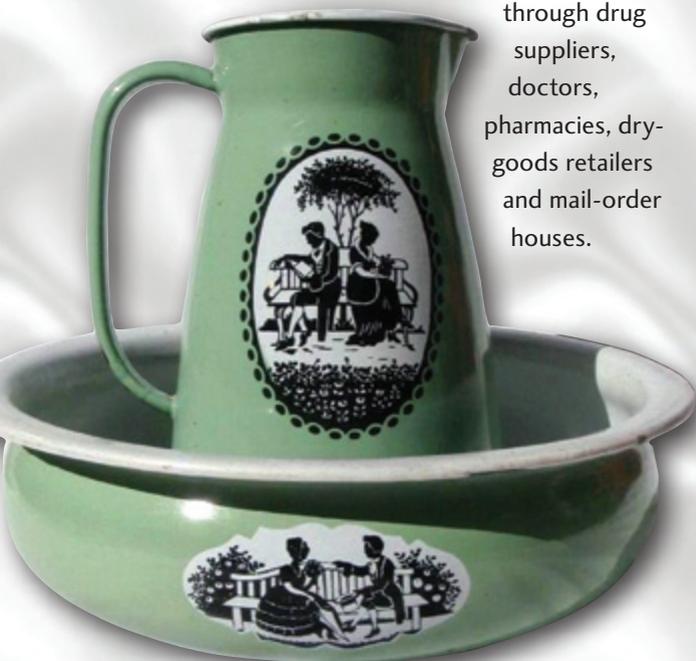
Washing and inspecting the private parts of clients was a staple part of disease prevention in parlour-houses. Disinfectants were also used after sex. Pitchers and basins such as the one pictured below, were present in every bedroom.

Prophylactics

Condoms have been available since the 17th century. Popular among the elite, they were made from tanned gut, like lamb intestines and bladder.

The first rubber condoms were made in 1855 after Charles Goodyear patented his process ("vulcanization") for making rubber. Strips of rubber were fashioned around penis-shaped molds and cured. They lasted a few months and were reusable. Condoms were washed and dried and powdered with talc and stored. By 1870, condoms were available

through drug suppliers, doctors, pharmacies, dry-goods retailers and mail-order houses.



In 1873, the U.S. passed the Comstock Act which made it illegal to send through the mail any "article of an immoral nature, or any drug or medicine, or any article whatever for the prevention of conception." Comstock's crusade was aimed at commercialized vice, visible in the red-light districts, erotic paraphernalia, and birth-control products easily accessed in cities like New York and San Francisco. As a result, condom sales were disguised, advertised as products such as medical, rubber or toilet goods.

In 1912, a new process was invented by adding benzene to the rubber to make it liquid, and then dipping glass molds in the solution. These condoms had a shelf life of five years. Latex (rubber suspended in water) was invented in 1920.

Contraceptives

Vulcanized rubber was also used for female contraception devices, like a kind of cervical cap.

Contraceptive sponges were used, both as barriers and a chemical method of contraception. Natural sea sponges and modern manufactured rubber sponges were soaked with various spermicides (vinegar or boric acid were common choices). Sponges were disinfected with either soap and water or a disinfecting solution and reused. Because of the stigma attached to birth control, pharmacists often marketed contraceptive sponges as "feminine hygiene."





Boarding house at 224 Georgia Street and Cambie, 1901
City of Vancouver Archives

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- "Birth Control & Condoms in 18C-19C America," 18th-Century American Women, Barbara Wells Sarudy, c. 2013
<https://b-womeninamericanhistory18.blogspot.ca/2014/05/birth-control-condoms-in-18c-19c-america.html>

"Klondike Kate" in a carriage, July 1, 1901
City of Vancouver Archives



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<http://evelazarus.com/vancouver-early-red-light-district-and-the-heritage-house-tour/>
- "Klondike Kate: 'Our Destitute Prostitute' or 'Aunt Kate,'" *Bend Source Weekly*, July 21, 2010
<https://bendsource.com/klondike-kate-our-destitute-prostitute-or-aunt-kate/Content?oid=2142156>



Working Girls Hold a Drinking Bee, circa 1890

Photo taken at Whitechapel in Dawson City's red-light district during the Klondike Gold Rush. The women's names are lost to history, except for Madame Brunell on the left.
photo: Lars and Duclos. MacBride Collection, Yukon Archives



RED UMBRELLA MARCH FOR SEX WORK SOLIDARITY

Origins

**Ombrelli Rossi Marciano
Venice, 2001**



Pia Covre from Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute with megaphone at the Red Umbrellas March in Venice 2001, part of the 49th International Biennale.

PHOTO: <http://www.parasite-pogacar.si>

Padiglione delle Prostitute

At the 49th International Venice Biennale, June 6-8, 2001, Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute from Pordeon — one of the leading organisations for the protection of sex workers in Italy — co-organized the first World Congress of Sex Workers and New Parasitism as an art installation created with the Slovenian artist Tadej Pogačar. *Padiglione delle Prostitute* — Prostitute Pavilion — was a tent in the public space at Giardini, where groups and activists from Taiwan, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Italy, Germany, USA and Australia presented the current situation of the sex market, strategies of



Scarlot Harlot, aka Carol Leigh from San Francisco, USA, at the 49th International Biennale, Venice 2001.

the fight for civil rights for sexual workers, and the principles of organization, education, self-help and protection. There were conversations, video projects, exhibitions, documentary publications, performances, and activist street theatre. The Red Umbrellas March was an example of a manifestation, which actively and publicly demonstrates its presence. To be better heard and seen megaphones and red umbrellas were used, to loudly draw attention to its situation. The march with the Congress participants, local organisations and accidental sympathisers started at the pavilion and went to the A+A Gallery, going through the city centre on its way. The march crossed the city in order to cause an interruption, a sound and visual disturbance in the routine and continuity of the city panorama.

The manifestation also had an important symbolic side. With the joint walk the new geographic points of the city were defined, the points that are otherwise forgotten. This is the geography of the social history of sex workers, from the famous Venetian courtesans Veronica Franco and Gaspara Stampa right until today.

REFERENCE: <http://www.parasite-pogacar.si/theorytadej.htm>



RED UMBRELLA MARCH FOR SEX WORK SOLIDARITY

Origins

Manifestation dans la rue Brussels, 2005



The Red Umbrellas March in Brussels, October 17, 2005
PHOTO: Andrew Sorfleet

In 2002 a small network of Dutch sex workers and activists gathered in Amsterdam to organise a conference that would give sex workers an opportunity to respond to the proliferation of repressive new legislation and policies being enacted throughout Europe. In 2003 the group, Sex-work Initiative Group Netherlands approached sex workers and allies across Europe and invited them to join an organising committee which would raise funds and host a European Conference on Sex Work, Human Rights, Labour and Migration.

The organising committee consisted of 15 members from several European countries, including female and male sex workers; migrant sex workers; former sex workers; and some people who had never been sex workers.



French activist Camille Cabral leading the Red Umbrellas March in Brussels, October 17, 2005. PHOTO: Andrew Sorfleet

On October 14, 2005, approximately 200 delegates arrived from all over Europe to represent the concerns of sex workers in 28 European countries: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland (Eire), Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine. As well, a handful of sex workers travelled from the United States and Canada to witness this unprecedented event.

On October 17, following a press conference at the European Parliament where the top ten points of a Sex Workers' Manifesto were presented, delegates met at the Place de la Bourse, (the stock exchange) for an hour-long march with red umbrellas through the streets of Brussels.





RED UMBRELLA MARCH FOR SEX WORK SOLIDARITY

Origins

Red Umbrella Rally Vancouver, 2013



Triple-X First Directors at Vancouver Art Gallery for the inaugural Red Umbrella March for Sex Work Solidarity, June 8, 2013

Sex workers and their allies, families and friends were asked to come out and support sex workers in their Supreme Court challenge, *Bedford v Canada*, to be heard on June 13.

This event was organized to show public support for Bedford, Lebovitch, and Scott in their courageous fight against Canada's unjust prostitution laws. In March 2012, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld Ontario Superior Court Justice Himel's 2010 decision that the Criminal Code's bawdy house provisions were unconstitutional. Justice Himel also struck down Canada's pimping and communicating laws.



Sex Workers United Against Violence leads the inaugural Red Umbrella March down Hastings Street, Vancouver, June 8, 2013
PHOTO: Esther Shannon

The Red Umbrella March was part of a national day of action, with events taking place in cities across Canada, including: Kingston, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria.

The event was co-sponsored by Triple-X Workers' Solidarity Association of B.C. along with Downtown Eastside Sex Workers United Against Violence, Pivot Legal Society, PACE Society, B.C. Coalition of Experiential Communities, FIRST: Feminists Advocating for the Decriminalization of Sex Work.

Many years ago at a meeting of the Sex Workers Alliance of Vancouver (SWAV), a successful longtime sex worker and trans activist regaled other SWAV members with stories of Vancouver's sex work history. At the SWAV meeting, Andrew pondered modern-day Hookers' Parade. A public event where participants arrayed in fancy dress and period costume would march for their rights; a fun way to harken back to a bygone era when sex workers were publicly prominent in the social fabric of Vancouver.



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Good-Time Girls c. 1890
Canada Post, issued 1997



Movie Intermission Notice, 1910. City of Vancouver Archives

Partners in organizing:

TRIPLE-X
WORKERS' SOLIDARITY
ASSOCIATION OF B.C.



B.C. Coalition of Experiential Women


SWUAV
SEX WORKERS UNITED
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PIVOT
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PACE

