History of Shannon Mews

It was to be the dream home of Vancouver’s B.T. Rogers, founder of Rogers Sugar (BC Sugar). Rogers purchased the 10-acre property in 1912 to create a large estate far enough away from the bustling development of downtown Vancouver.

In 1915 Rogers hired architects Somerville & Putnam and Dominion Construction to build a large Beaux Arts style house, coach house and garage. An avid gardener himself, Rogers is believed to have laid out a lavish Italianate garden and vegetable garden, which were developed with the property.

Rogers died suddenly in the summer of 1918 before the house was completed. It took another seven years for his widow to finish building and furnishing the house in 1925. Mrs. Rogers and her children lived in the house until 1935 when it was purchased by well-known mining magnate, financier, philanthropist and sportsman Austin C. Taylor.

Wall Financial Corporation bought the land in 1967, two years after Taylor’s death in 1965. Wall later pursued a rezoning from RS-1 (single-family) to a CD-1 (comprehensive development) district and hired local architect Arthur Erickson to design the townhouses and apartments which exist today. The mansion, gatehouse and coach house were converted at that time to accommodate 19 residential suites while the formal gardens next to the mansion and stone perimeter wall were retained. The CD-1 zoning was repealed in 1973 leaving the current residential development “non-conforming” with the existing zoning.

New RS-6 zoning was established by Council for east Kerrisdale in 1996 to deal with neighbourhood requests for single-family “character” zoning. The point was to encourage a good building design, materials and landscape development while allowing for a diversity of building types. After extensive community consultation, the Arbutus Ridge/Kerrisdale/Shaughnessy (ARKS) Community Vision was adopted by Council in 2005.

In August 2010, on behalf of Wall Financial Corporation, Busby Perkins + Will submitted a new rezoning proposal to the City for Shannon Mews, requesting a zoning change from RS-6 to CD-1. The City is looking for in depth community input before making any recommendations to City Council about the proposal and whether it is in keeping with Council priorities and community needs.