

## **Geology Tours of Vancouver's Buildings and Monuments**

by P.S. Mustard, Z.D. Hora and C.D. Hansen. 2003  
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Available in Vancouver from:  
Geological Survey of Canada Bookstore  
625 Robson St. (street level, between Seymour and Granville streets)

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This book provides walking, bicycle or driving tours within the cities of Vancouver, West Vancouver and North Vancouver. The book is a “popular science” treatment of the rock types (commonly called dimension stone) used as building material for the major buildings and monuments of the Vancouver area. This includes information on general rock names, fossils, minerals and other interesting geologic features of Vancouver's major buildings. The tours are arranged in a logical order, allowing the reader to guide themselves on any of three downtown Vancouver walking or bicycle tours, or bicycle, public transit, or driving tours of both the South Vancouver area and North and West Vancouver areas. Sixty-five buildings and monuments are included, ranging from Vancouver's earliest major buildings (Sun Tower, Carnegie Hall, etc.) to some of the most recent (Cathedral Place, Terminal City Club, etc.). The main intent is to document the geologic aspects of the dimension stone used, however discussion of the building history of use and changes in both types of dimension stone favoured and architectural styles also provides a unique way of tracing the historical development of Vancouver and large building construction techniques during the last 110 years.

The book includes an introductory chapter summarizing the geological evolution of the local region, a brief introduction to the major rock types commonly used for building stone, a synopsis of the historical evolution of the B.C. rock quarry industry, and also a short primer on dimension stone in general, summarizing briefly the variety of types, finishes, and features of the most common dimension stones, especially those used in the Vancouver area. The tours are keyed to simplified street maps, clearly showing recommended routes and keying buildings to the relevant pages of information on each. A glossary of geological, architectural, and dimension stone terms is provided at the end of the book, along with a list of suggested reading and an index of buildings included in the book.