



Street Stories

Cox Drive

GPS: [49.1558,-122.3017](#)



Rex Cox, son of Thomas Cox, founded Rex Cox Men's Wear.
Mission Community Archives Rex-Cox-1959-01-07

When he died in 1949, Thomas Josiah Cox was remembered by the Reverend W.T. Bunt, former minister of St. Andrew's United Church, as "a good citizen of high character, a sterling Christian, and a great churchman in its largest sense."

Born in Lakefield, Ontario in 1861, Thomas married Mary Jane Abbott in 1884 and began a family which would eventually include three sons and three daughters.

In 1890, Cox came to Vancouver, and in 1891 he and his family settled in Mission. Finding work as a store manager at the old firm of York and Pelling, Cox stuck to his post when the big flood of 1894 hit. The water rose more than a metre, and the counters in the store floated upside down. Soon afterward, the business closed down, but Cox quickly found new employment as manager of Des-Brisay department store, which he would run for a half century until his retirement in 1945.

Managing was but one facet of Cox's busy life. At the beginning of the century, he served as a school trustee and was one of the charter members of the Mission City and Dis-

trict Board of Trade. He was also a member of the Mission Memorial Hospital board since its inception and served twice as its chair. Furthermore, Cox was the superintendent of St. Andrew's United Church Sunday school for 55 years.

Mary Jane--herself a dedicated worker for both the local church and hospital--passed away in 1934. Thomas eventually died in December 1949, leaving his managerial talents to his son, Rex, who founded Rex Cox Men's Wear store.

Perhaps the most fitting words in remembrance of Thomas Cox come from the mouth of his nephew, Ted McRae, who describes his uncle as being "a genuinely good man."

Street Stories is provided by the Mission Community Archives, which is operated by the Mission Historical Society. If you have any questions or further information on Cox, please call us at 604-820-2621.

David Buss