

HISTORY OF BANK ROBBERIES

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Hi, my name is Katherine Mrowka. I am a fourth year Criminology student, and today I will be presenting on the significance of using and taking the time to understand historical data in today's culture.



HISTORY=PRESENT

History is important because it helps us understand why we live the way we are living and why we are where we are as a species and country. History also gives insight in explaining why there are specific trends in society. My practicum placement gave me insight to these epiphanies.



CRIMINOLOGY

However, the study of criminology gives emphasis to newer and more modern thoughts of thinking. Whether it be applied to the theory, analysis, criminal law or prevention- there is not a heavy emphasis on historical data when learning about crime and criminals.



For instance, in classrooms students are regularly taught of new and innovative methods and theories that academics and other experts have either found or are currently practicing to target crime and criminals.

ORGANIZED CRIME CYBER CRIME POLICING

Courses such as organized crime, cyber crime and policing give focus to the modern methods of solving crime in the present day, whether it be through teaching students the current trends of how organized crime has impacted society in various capacities, how scammers use different techniques such as fishing to gain access to your bank account, or even the various tactics that police use to investigate criminal cases. There is always emphasis on present day techniques that are being used to capture criminal activities.



Like academics, police departments also require a great emphasis on modern day technology and methods to prevent and investigate crime. From the use of forensics to gather evidence at a crime scene to crime analysts who analyse the crime trends in a city, these techniques used by police officers give focus on being innovative and present.



Those who create policy also keep up with current trends in society in response to issues brought before decision makers. These policies come in the form of laws and regulations...



...such as incorporating advanced security measures into the public sphere to maintain peace and order, as well as a preventative mechanism against criminal activity. All these mentioned fields use current methods to show and inform society of the trends of criminal activity.



Unlike the previous mentioned examples, in the summer of 2018, I was tasked with using cold case files from the New Westminster Police Department and news letters from the 1970s to understand the trend of crime in New Westminster during the 1970s.



CHIEF CONSTABLE DAVE JONES

In addition to the use of case files and newsletters, I was able to interview Chief Constable Dave Jones of the New Westminster Police Department so that he could assist me in understanding what was happening during the 1970's, as well as the previous police tactics used to capture criminals in the city of New Westminster.



ARMED BANK ROBBERY

Out of all the case files and newsletters found in the New Westminster museum and archives, armed bank robberies was found to be most prevalent in the 1970s. With minimal to no security at the banks, thieves would demand cash through the use of notes, speech or by threatening to use weapons.



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED

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However, unless seen on TV armed bank robberies are not any more prevalent in today's society. And the question is, have you ever stopped to consider why?



For instance, banks do not carry a heaping amount of cash in their facility as they did in the 1970's. The little amount of cash that is carried is highly secured and calculated in today's society.



Banks also use Automated teller machines to allow people to perform financial transactions, such as withdrawals, deposits or transfer funds at any time without the need of a bank staff present. Coupled with this are high security functions that are encrypted within every machine to prevent thieves to identify your financial information as well as limit the capacity for a thief to try to steal money from any ATM.



Banks have also heightened their level of security measures. Unlike in the 1970s, security workers are at times present in banks ensuring the safety of the people and bank. Also, police are accessible through a telephone call if there was an incident to occur.



More recently, bank information has been made accessible online and on our smart phones through apps, allowing us to access our financial information anytime, anywhere, without the need to carry or take out physical cash from our local bank.



TIMES HAVE CHANGED

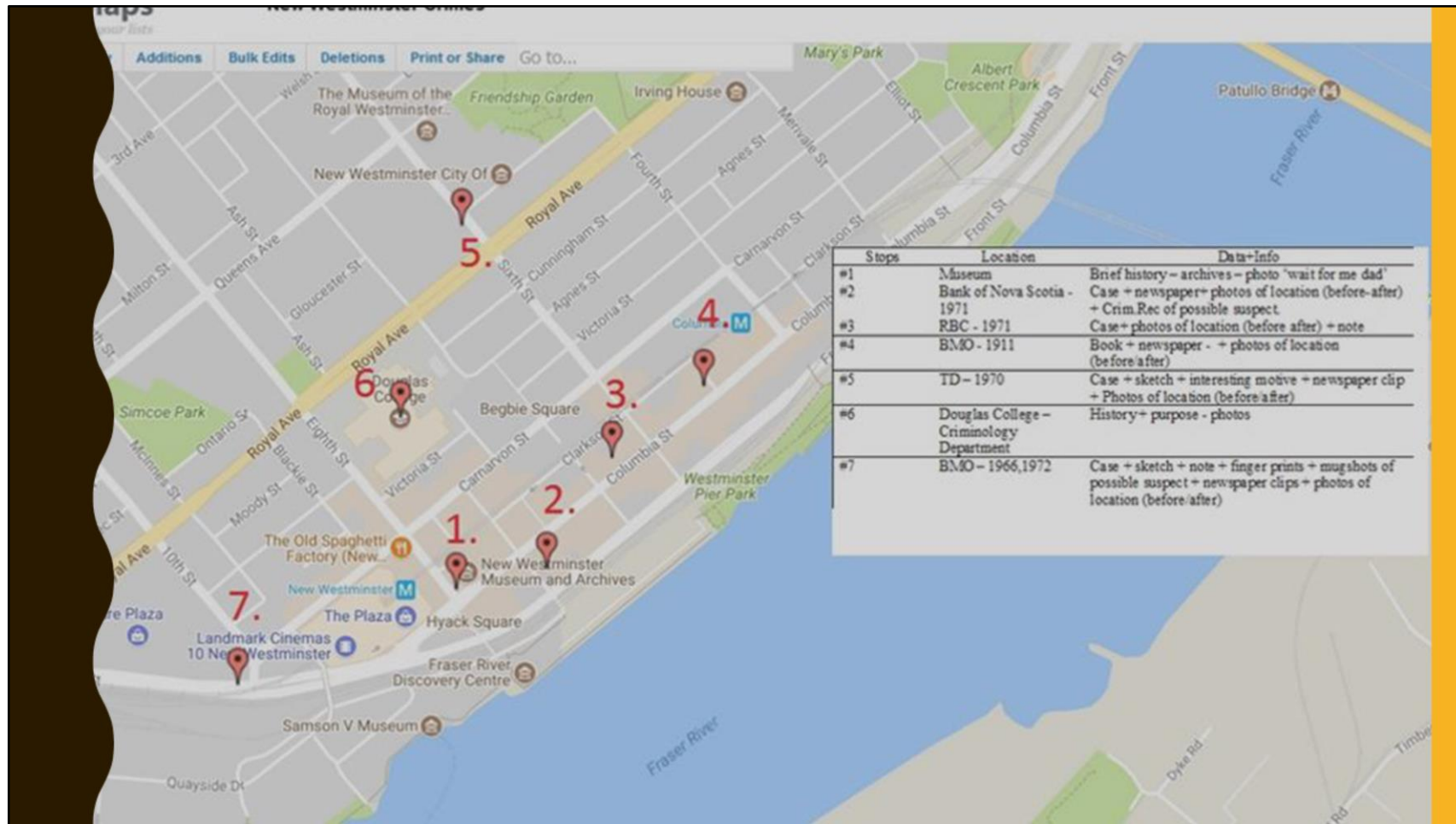
These new methods of banking would not be possible without learning from the past. Thanks to the bank robberies happening during the 1970s, people were able to understand what was needed in preventing robberies from happening in the future.



As you may have noticed, times have changed...and they keep changing. As the years go by more innovative methods are being invented to make things more accessible, and relevant to our ever-changing society.



However, history remains as a constant and familiar piece in our ever changing society. Studying history allow us to learn from the mistakes of our ancestors so we do not do the same things they did and work to become a better place.



I invite you all to learn more about the history of the city of New Westminster through the Crime Map Tour created by my partner and I with the New Westminster museum. The tour will be available on an app in the near future. Thank you.