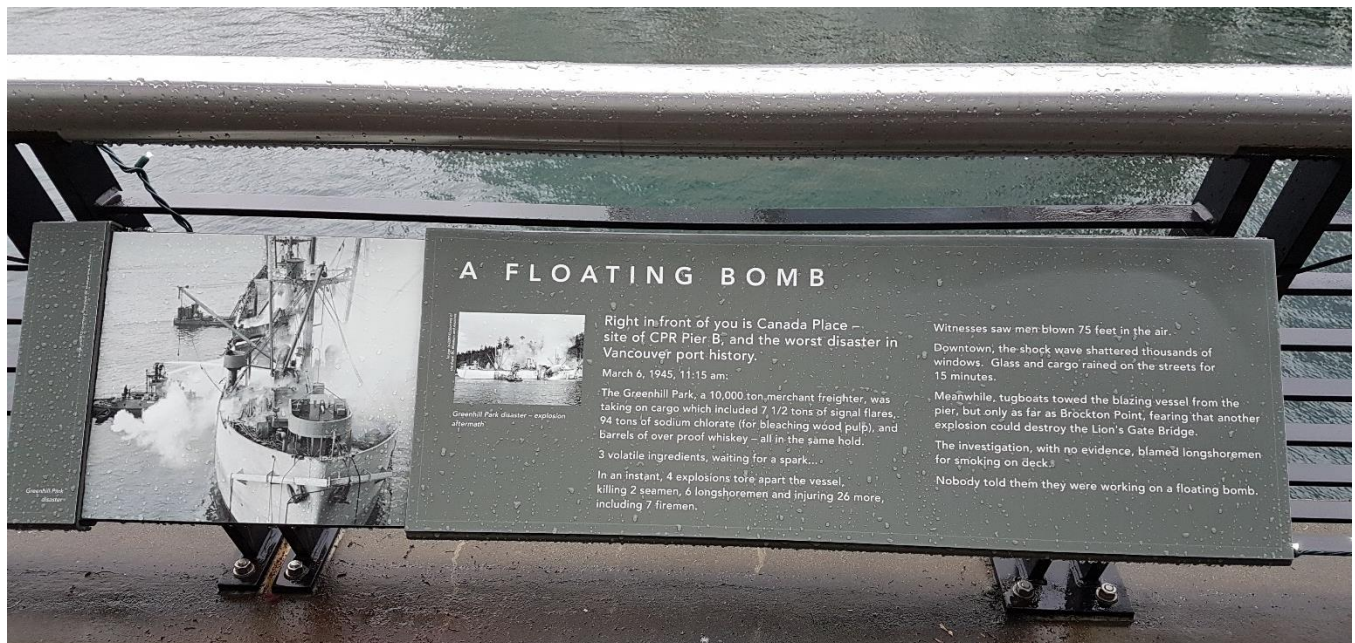


## MEDIA RELEASE

March 6, 2018

### EXPLOSION OF SS GREENHILL PARK IN DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER REMEMBERED



VANCOUVER, BC – On March 6, 1945, a merchant freighter -- the Greenhill Park -- exploded on the Vancouver waterfront. It was loading cargo that contained volatile sodium chlorate, signal flares and over-proof whiskey.

Four explosions tore through the vessel. Witnesses saw men blown 75 feet in the air. Six longshoremen and two seamen were killed. Twenty-six other workers were injured, including seven firemen.

**Sponsors:** Bargaining Council of BC Building Trade Unions • BC Federation of Labour • BC Government and Service Employees' Union • BC Teachers' Federation • CUPE BC • Movement of United Professionals • United Steelworkers District 3 and USW National Office • United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1518

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A shockwave rumbled through downtown Vancouver shattering thousands of windows and raining debris onto the city.

Within minutes, tugboats were on their way, as was the Vancouver Fire Department. Fearing more explosions, the Greenhill Park was towed out of the harbour, under the Lion's Gate Bridge, and eventually beached itself near English Bay.

At 10 am this morning, the BC Labour Heritage Centre and the Vancouver Longshore Pensioners organization dedicated a new interpretive panel along the promenade at Vancouver Convention Centre West, remembering the Greenhill Park explosion.

The new panel is one of over [sixty similar panels](#) on the inside and outside of Convention Centre West which provide a place for citizens and visitors to reflect on the contribution that workers have made to the building of our province.

The ceremony included retired and current longshore workers, historians, union activists, heritage advocates and staff of the Vancouver Convention Centre.

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