

ARCHIVES

news



Interurban Photograph Project on Track at the Archives

This summer, the City of Richmond Archives began a major project to describe and index approximately 5,500 photographs documenting the interurban tram system in Richmond and the Lower Mainland. The project will enable access to images depicting interurban trams and stations, and land use and development along the interurban lines from Marpole to Richmond, throughout Vancouver and from Vancouver to Chilliwack.



The project has been made possible with special funding from the Friends of the Richmond Archives and the City of Richmond. The Archives has been fortunate to obtain the services of project archivist Jamie Sanford, and to have the scanning expertise in-house of Friends' volunteer Graham Turnbull.



The photographs were received from the Estate of Ted Clark, an amateur photographer and former Richmond resident with a passion for recording the BC Electric Railway system. The photographs date from the 1940s and 1950s, a period when the system reached its zenith and then was transformed with the advent of motorized buses. The images capture the impact of this important transportation infrastructure on the development of Richmond and other communities throughout the Lower Mainland.

The Lulu Island (Richmond) portion of the interurban system played a major role in commercial development of Richmond, in decisions relating to subdivision and land use in the municipality, and in the manner in which Richmond residents could commute on an everyday basis within the community and throughout Greater Vancouver.

At the completion of the project in 2014, the 5,500 images will be made viewable on the Internet through a new online database system now being developed for the Archives.

Photos top to bottom:

Car 1201 on the Marpole Line at Davie and Richards in Vancouver, 1947

City of Richmond Archives Photo #1999 4 1 1228

Car 1220 at Arbutus and Broadway in Vancouver, ca. 1945

City of Richmond Archives Photo #1999 4 1 1256

The tram leaving Tucks Station on Lulu Island, 1957

City of Richmond Archives Photo #1999 4 2 133

Car 1222 to Steveston at Bridgeport Station, 1957

City of Richmond Archives Photo #1999 4 2 138





Chief of Police Andrew Waddell in 1914
City of Richmond Archives Photo #1985 206 1

Focus on the Record—Early Records of Policing in Richmond

The earliest police force in Richmond consisted of a constable or constables appointed and administered by Town Council. An overview of this early development can be had by reading Council minutes and reports to Council from that period. Other municipal records and reference material in the Archives provide information about important events involving the police, including the murder of Chief of Police Alexander Main in 1900.

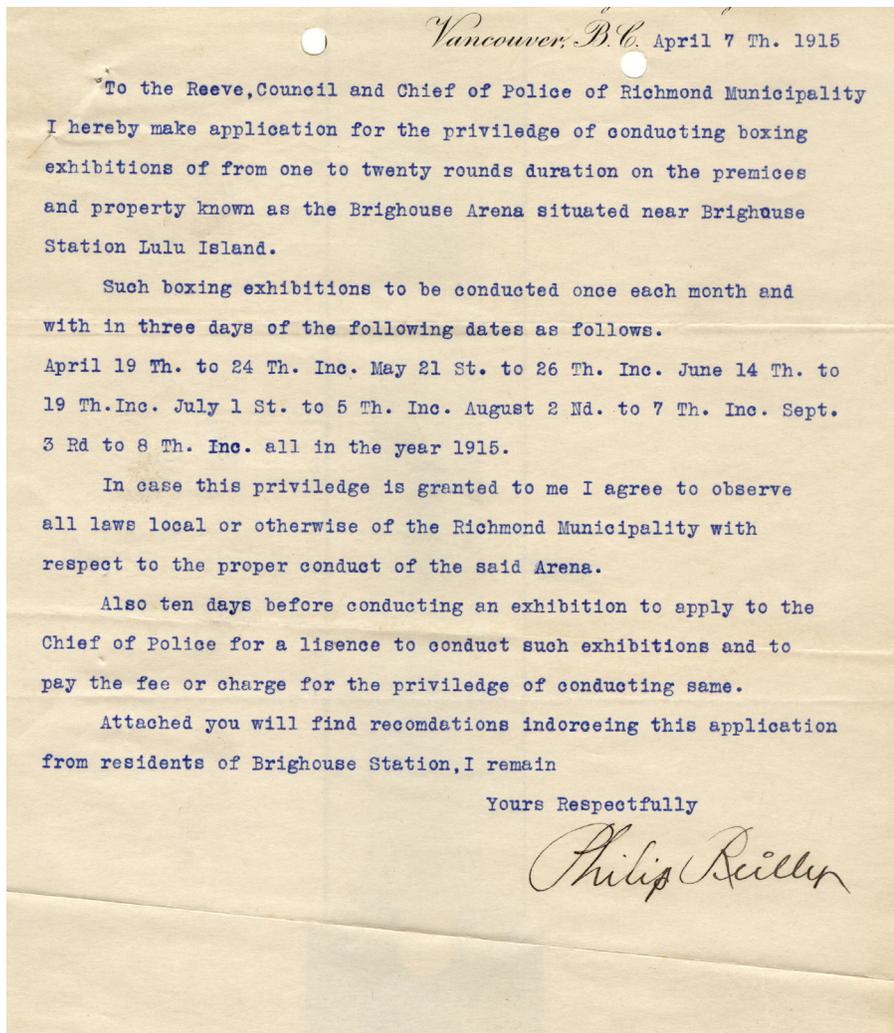
The oversight of policing activities was enhanced by the creation of two bodies separate from Council. The Board of Licence Commissioners was established in 1889 with the power to licence and inspect establishments such as hotels and saloons serving liquor. Enforcement activities relating to this licensing were carried out by police constables. The Archives holds the minutes of the Board from 1894 to 1917, which tell a colourful if partial tale of Richmond's early night life.

In 1915, Council established the Board of Police Commissioners to appoint and manage the police force. Chaired by the Reeve, the Board carried out a variety of administrative functions and received reports from the Chief of Police on crime and police actions and complaints from citizens with regard to law and order and police conduct. The Archives holds the largely hand-

written minutes of this Board for most of its existence, until its dissolution in 1941.

In November 1940 Council decided to hand over local policing to the BC Provincial Police. Although this decision marked the end of Richmond's own police force, the story of policing in the municipality continues in other records held by the Archives.

Municipal records series 42 (1914-1988) includes a wide range of records created or received by the City concerning policing activities and services, and justice issues. Files in this series include monthly reports from the local detachment of the Provincial Police (1941-1950), as well as various reports from the RCMP from the time it took over municipal policing in Richmond in August, 1950.



Application to hold boxing exhibitions at Brighthouse Arena, 1915

City of Richmond Archives. Series #42, File #5599-2

Summer Practicum Student at Archives

For the third summer in a row, the City of Richmond Archives was pleased to host a practicum student from Langara College's Library and Information Technology Program. This year, we were very fortunate to gain the services of Laura Reid.

Laura carried out a wide variety of tasks and activities at the Archives, including undertaking a major project to enhance accessibility to the oral history collection and assisting with the processing of new accessions.

Good luck, Laura, in all of your future endeavours!



Laura Reid working in the Archives' storage area. Graham Turnbull photograph

UBC Archival Studies Award 2012-2013

This year's winner of the Friends of the Richmond Archives Mary Keen Memorial Prize in Archival Studies was Ms. Jade Guan. The annual prize, funded by an endowment established by the Friends, is given to a UBC Master of Archival Studies student who demonstrated a strong interest in community archives.

Jade graduated this year from the Master's program at UBC after earlier earning an undergraduate degree in music history, piano and harpsichord.

Jade's research interests in the Archival Studies program included the development of First Nations archives and information privacy rights relating to children in the digital realm. Her ultimate career goal is to become a privacy officer or an information privacy analyst.

Recent Acquisitions by the Archives

Moving Images of a Visit to Brighthouse Park Racetrack, 1930

The City of Richmond Archives was indeed fortunate this year to have received a donation of a movie depicting the 1930 tour of a Japanese rugby team to British Columbia. As documented in the film, one of the highlights for the team was their visit to the horse races at Brighthouse Park Racetrack in Richmond.



Image from film on the Richmond Archives YouTube Channel

As the first moving images in the Archives' holdings depicting an actual race day at Brighthouse, the film complements an extensive collection of still photographs of both Brighthouse (Minoru) and Lansdowne racetracks already at the Archives. The film shows the group of well-dressed rugby players entering the track, sitting in the grandstand, and visiting the paddock, and provides footage of the stretch run of a race and of the crowds in the stands and at the rail.

The movie also contains footage of the team's sea voyage to and from Vancouver, tourist sites in the Greater Vancouver and Victoria area, and various scenes of rugby playing. The Brighthouse racetrack segment of the movie can now be viewed on the Richmond Archives channel of YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/richmondarchives.

Richmond Then and Now – City of Richmond Archives and the Richmond Photo Club

A new addition to the City of Richmond Archives' website entitled "Richmond Then and Now" features photographs taken by members of the Richmond Photo Club.

This cooperative project paired photographs selected from the Archives' approximately 150,000 historical images with photographs taken by Richmond Photo Club members of the same location today. The photographers were also encouraged to take additional interpretive shots of that location to help provide a modern-day context to the photographic record.

The new photographs provide researchers at the Archives with the ability to look back at the past to understand changes to the built environment of the municipality.



Comstock at Gilbert looking west, 1954
City of Richmond Archives Photo #1977 1 128



Comstock at Gilbert looking west, 2012
City of Richmond Archives Photo #2012 53 1
(Alice Jensen-Stanley photograph)

Archives Tea 2013



The Friends of the Richmond Archives will hold its annual Archives Tea on Friday, October 18 at 2:00 pm. The “Tea” will once again be held at the Minoru Place Activity Center (formerly known as Minoru Seniors Centre) across the plaza from the Richmond Library and Cultural Centre.

The Friends wish to thank the Minoru Seniors Society for its generosity and ongoing support in offering the Main Hall for the 17th celebration of this annual event. In addition to tasty food, excellent company and great conversation, highlights this year will include an online presentation of the Friends’ new Facebook page, and a screening of newly-digitized moving images of historical Richmond from the Archives’ holdings.

The “book table” will be offering special tea prices for books from the Archives’ historical publication program and for the recently-produced DVD of Ted Clark’s 1949 film of the BC Electric Railway Lulu Island Line.

Those wishing to attend are asked to contact the Friends through the City of Richmond Archives by phone at 604-247-8305 or by email at archives@richmond.ca.

Membership Renewal

The membership year for the Friends of the Richmond Archives runs from October 1 through September 30. Members are encouraged to renew at the Archives Tea, by mail, or at the Archives itself. Annual fees are a very reasonable \$5 per person (\$10 per couple).

The Friends also welcome donations. A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for donations over \$10.

Friends Produce DVD of 1949 Interurban Film



The Friends of the Richmond Archives are pleased to announce the availability for sale on DVD of an amateur film of the Lulu Island Line of the BC Electric Railway. Shot in 1949 by the late Ted Clark, Richmond resident and streetcar enthusiast, the film had its premiere showing at last year’s Archives Tea after the original 16 mm movie had been carefully preserved and digitized.

The DVD project was spearheaded by Board members Graham Turnbull and John Campbell in response to many requests by the public to obtain copies. The 22-minute silent colour film documents interurban travel from downtown Vancouver along the Arbutus corridor to Marpole, across the trestle to Lulu Island, and through Richmond to Steveston station. Additional footage shows the line heading east from Marpole through Burnaby to the New Westminster terminus.

Entitled the “BC Electric Railway Lulu Island Line”, the DVD is now available for sale at the City of Richmond Archives for \$20 per copy. It is attractively packaged and comes with an insert which gives a synopsis of the film and a detailed “shot list” of scenes in the movie.

The DVD was produced in house by the Friends of the Richmond Archives. All proceeds from its sale will go to the Des McManus Memorial Fund to be used for community projects in support of the City of Richmond Archives.

In the Community—Friends of the Richmond Archives

It has been another busy year for the Friends’ Community Exhibit Program, led by Board members Barbara Williams, Christine McGilvray, and Christine Tutt. In addition to successful displays at the Thompson Community Centre and the Library and Cultural Centre, the Friends participated at the Steveston Salmon Festival and the London Heritage Farm Family Farm Days.



Above: Christine Tutt and Barbara Williams staff the Friends’ booth at London Farm.

Graham Turnbull photograph

Below: Aerial photograph exhibit at the Steveston Salmon Festival.

Christine McGilvray photograph



**CITY OF RICHMOND
ARCHIVES**

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Appointment recommended