

ARCHIVES

news

Tracing Richmond's Past from the Air

Nothing shows the changing landscape of Richmond better than comparing aerial photographs from different periods in the past. The City of Richmond Archives has hundreds of aerial photographs in its holdings illustrating changes from the 1930s through to the 1990s.

In addition to providing a pictorial history of the development of Richmond, the aerial photographs are an invaluable tool for City planners and engineers and for companies and Richmond residents carrying out environmental site assessments and other property-related research.

An on-going indexing project based on legal property descriptions and planning areas is making it easier to access these images. Researchers are welcome to make an appointment to visit the Archives to view these fascinating photographs.



Burkeville and farmland on Sea Island, 1945
City of Richmond Archives Photograph 2011 35 1



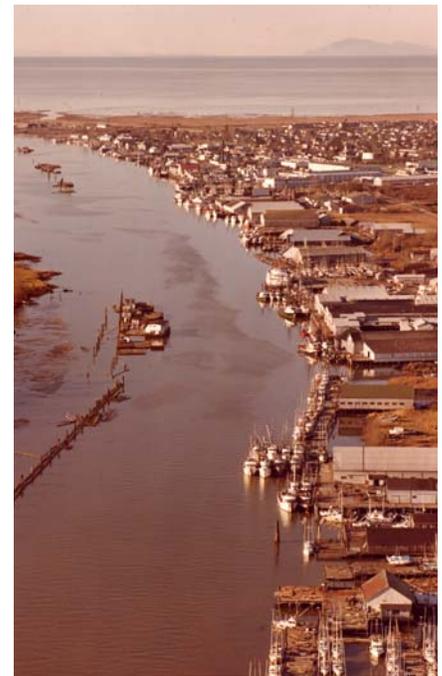
Richmond High School and beyond, 1953
City of Richmond Archives Photograph 1977 1 105



LaFarge cement plant and eastern
Richmond, 1959
City of Richmond Archives Photograph 2010 87 31



Richmond Town Centre, 1982
City of Richmond Archives Photograph 1988 10 771



Steveston cannery channel, 1976
City of Richmond Archives Photograph 1988 10 124



The old United/Methodist Church building being moved to Minoru Park, 1967
City of Richmond Archives Photograph 1989 33 1

Focus on the Record—Records of Heritage Preservation in Richmond

Since 1961 when the Historical and Museum Advisory Committee was formed, Richmond’s municipal government has been involved in identifying and preserving heritage sites in the community.

One of the first major heritage projects undertaken was in 1967, when the original Richmond United/Methodist Church building at the corner of River Road and Cambie was moved to Minoru Park and renamed Minoru Chapel.

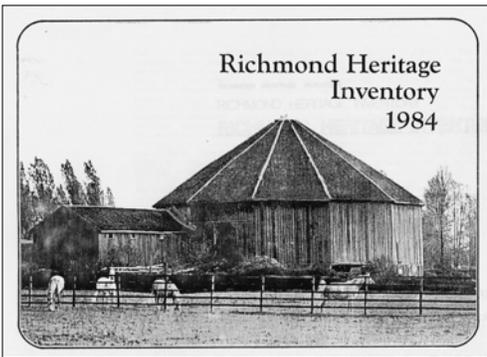
The acquisition and restoration of heritage buildings by the municipality continued in the 1970s and 1980s, with the Royal Bank (originally Northern Bank) in Steveston, London Farm, and the Britannia Shipyard being the most notable during this time. Other important heritage preservation activities included the establishment of the Steveston Heritage Conservation Area and the development and preservation of Garry Point Park and Scotch Pond.

The establishment of a Heritage Advisory Committee by the municipality in 1984 marked the beginning of a formalized program for heritage preservation. That committee, later renamed the Richmond Heritage Commission, conducted a number of important heritage studies, not the least of which was a formal Heritage Inventory for Richmond. The first inventory was published in 1984 and numerous updates have been made since.

The City of Richmond Archives has comprehensive records documenting heritage preservation activities in the community, dating back to the records of the Historical and Museum Advisory Committee and including minutes, research files, project files, studies and reports of the Heritage Advisory Committee/Heritage Commission. In addition, records of the Engineering Department and the Leisure Services Department document restoration, maintenance and programming activities at municipally-owned heritage sites. Records of the Planning Department, Law Department and Clerk’s Office provide an accurate picture of the process by which heritage properties were acquired, and how policies relating to non-City owned property of heritage significance have developed.



London Farm before restoration, 1977
City of Richmond Archives Photograph 1985 187 7



Cover of the first Heritage Inventory for Richmond, 1984
City of Richmond Archives GP 34



Britannia Shipyard area, 1988
City of Richmond Archives, Heritage Advisory Committee File 2-1-3

Mah Bing Family Visits the Archives

Three generations of the pioneering Mah Bing family visited the City of Richmond Archives in early August to research and recount the family's Richmond roots.

Mah Bing arrived in British Columbia in 1900, and came to Richmond to work first on the Grauer farm on Sea Island and then the Gilmore farm on Lulu Island. He later purchased an entire section of land between Williams Road and Francis Road west of No. 1 Road, which he farmed until his retirement in 1947.

Following Mah Bing's passing in 1949, the Marpole-Richmond Review newspaper praised his contributions to Richmond over the years, stating that he "will be well remembered by many local residents as an outstanding citizen of our community."



Three generations of the Mah Bing family in the Archives' reference room
Dan Farrell photograph

Boeing Beam Project

As war raged around the world in January 1942, the dedicated workers at the Boeing Aircraft plant on Sea Island were sharing their news of production and social activities in the company newsletter, the Boeing Beam.

With the assistance of the Sea Island Heritage Society, the City of Richmond Archives has now assembled a complete collection of the newsletter, from its first edition in January 1942 to the final issue in August 1945.

Thanks to the volunteer work of Eunice Robinson, all issues have been scanned and made searchable as pdf files. The complete collection is now accessible in either digital or original hardcopy format to researchers at the Archives.

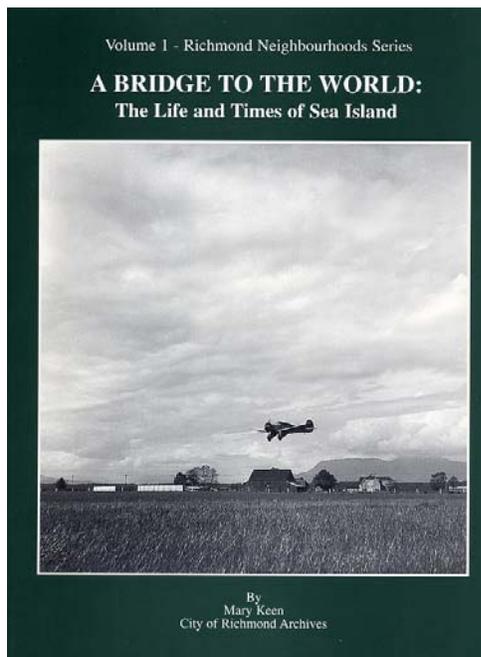
"A Bridge to the World" Now Available Online

How much do you know about the dairy farming which took place where the Vancouver International Airport is now? How about how Burkeville came to be?

Answers to these questions and more can now be found on the City of Richmond Archives web site as a result of the publication of an online version of "A Bridge to the World: The Life and Times of Sea Island." The book was published by the Archives in 2002 as the first volume of its Richmond Neighbourhoods Series. The original publication is now out of print.

Other Archives' publications available and searchable online are: Time and Tide, the Settlement of Lulu Island's South Shore (originally published in 2005); Richmond Schools—What's in a Name (originally published in 2004); Richmond, Child of the Fraser (originally published in 1979) and History of Lulu Island (originally published in 1927 and reprinted by the Archives in 2007).

Follow the links on the Archives section of the City of Richmond website from: www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/about/publications.htm.





Archives Tea 2014

The annual Archives Tea hosted by the Friends of the Richmond Archives will take place this year on Friday, October 17 at 2:00 pm. Doors will open at 1:30. The "Tea" will once again be held at the Minoru Place Activity Centre (formerly known as Minoru Seniors Centre) across the plaza from the Richmond Library and Cultural Centre.



This year marks the 18th celebration of our annual event. Guests are welcome so please feel free to bring along friends who may have never had the opportunity to take part in this always enjoyable affair.

The Friends would like to especially thank the Minoru Seniors Society for its generosity and ongoing support in allowing the use of their Main Hall for the "Tea".

Come join us for an afternoon of tasty food, excellent company and great conversation. If you are in a "shopping mood," please take advantage of our special "Tea" prices for books from the Archives' historical publication program and for the 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.



CITY OF RICHMOND ARCHIVES

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Richmond, B.C. V6Y 1R9
Archivist: Bill Purver
Phone: 604-247-8305
Email: archives@richmond.ca
www.richmond.ca/archives
Public Reference Room Hours
Monday–Thursday, 9:00–4:30
Appointment recommended

New "Archives Memory Tour" Program

Showing their true community spirit once again, the Friends of the Richmond Archives have established a new program to introduce a segment of our seniors' population in care homes to the City of Richmond Archives and its holdings.

Headed by retired Archivist Lynne Waller, this program provides a comfortable and welcoming environment for those who live with dementia and related conditions which affect the aging mind.

Lynne and her team lead an informal discussion using historical photographs to trigger thoughts and memories. Already, one group of seniors from a local care facility has enjoyed a visit. The Archives' reading room continues to be an important civic space devoted to the task of remembrance.

Interurban Photograph Project Pulling into the Station

Thanks to funding from the Friends of the Richmond Archives and the work of contract archivist Jamie Sanford and volunteer Graham Turnbull, the detailed description, indexing and scanning of the over 5,000 photographs in the Ted Clark interurban photograph collection has been completed.



Jamie Sanford completing the description and indexing of the Ted Clark interurban photographs.
Graham Turnbull photograph

These images are now available for research at the Archives and are expected to be accessible online when the new Archives web-based database system is launched.

Out in the Community—Friends of the Richmond Archives



Barbara Williams and Christine McGilvray are seen staffing the Friends' booth at this year's Steveston Salmon Festival.



Christine Tutt presents a variety of historical photographs on the theme "Secrets of the Fraser" as part of the City of Richmond's Pecha Kucha event in May.