

ARCHIVES

news



Mayor Brodie presenting "Volunteer of the Year" award for Jon Henderson. Christine McGilvray accepts the award on Jon's behalf.

Archives Awards and Donor Recognition

The annual Archives Awards and Donor Recognition reception was held in the Archives on Heritage Week in February, with Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Linda McPhail, Chair of the Richmond School Board, in attendance. Mayor Brodie presented two awards, Volunteer of the Year and Best Staff Use of the Archives.

The 2008 Volunteer of the Year award was given to Jon Henderson, who exemplifies volunteer service in a community like Richmond where excellence of volunteer contribution is a standard. Along with other volunteer activities, Jon is currently President of the Friends of the Richmond Archives and over the last several years has carried out research in the Archives and written two important books, one on the history of Richmond schools, and the other, published this last year, on the history of faith-based communities in Richmond as a reflection of the city's multicultural heritage.

In The Works

This issue of the Archives Newsletter highlights the Archives Awards winners for 2008 and pays tribute to retiring Archivist, Lynne Waller.

The Newsletter also reports on the national recognition given to the City of Richmond Archives' home-grown archival database system and introduces the new Archival Exhibit recently opened in the Archives Reference Room.

The second award presented was for Best Staff Use of the Archives. This year, the award went to the city's Real Estate Services office. In addition to its normal heavy workload, the department last year was given the daunting task of researching the original cost of all of the city's land holdings (1,976 parcels of land in total) in order to comply with the recent Public Sector Accounting Principles. This research project entailed extensive research over a number of weeks in the Archives using a wide variety of records dating back to 1881.

The reception also honoured dedicated supporters of the Archives and those who donated records in 2008. A list of those donors appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Richmond's Archival Database System Receives National Recognition



Mayor Brodie presenting "Best Staff Use of the Archives" award to Real Estate Services. Accepting on behalf of the department are Laurie Bachynski and Rose Sikora.

The City of Richmond Archives' own "Archives Online" software has recently received national recognition as a recommended archival database system.

In December 2008, the Council of Nova Scotia Archives released its national survey of archival software products and ranked "Archives Online" in the top three available in Canada, recommending its use in smaller archival institutions.

The "Archives Online" package was initially developed for in-house use at the City of Richmond Archives by archivists David Weber, Ken Young and Bill Purver. The system has since been adapted to comply with revised archival standards and to run on new platform versions of the underlying Inmagic database application.

The software package has been purchased over the years by a wide variety of archival institutions in a number of different countries, appealing most to university and college archives, church archives, community archives, and other municipal government archives.

"Archives Online" is now maintained and supported privately by Andornot Consulting Inc. The City of Richmond and the Friends of the Richmond Archives continue to receive a percentage of the proceeds of each sale of the software package.

Donors of Records in 2008

Sea Island Community Association
Ernie and Bernie Kilroe
Richmond School Board
Wally Paulik
Jack Lowe
Fran Reid
Richard Gregory
Diana Lam
Bruce McGillivray
Jim Hamilton
Bob Ransford
Vincent Bissonnette
Richmond Hospital Foundation
Arnold Greenius
Estate of Olivia Milne
Mary Hinds
John Grauer
Doreen Braverman
Richmond Public Library
Bill Topping

New Archivist Appointed

Bill Purver has been appointed Archivist to replace Lynne Waller, who retired at the end of January. (For a tribute to Lynne, please see the article on page 4 of this Newsletter.)

Bill has been associated with the City Archives since 1991. He has worked on a contract basis on a variety of projects and since 2006 has served as full-time Records Analyst.

Bill worked for many years with the Archives Association of British Columbia as the provincial Archives Advisor and as the British Columbia Archival Network Coordinator.





Tug Parade, 1988. City of Richmond Archives, Parks and Recreation Staff Photograph.



No. 3 Road, circa 1985. Twenty years have brought many changes to this thoroughfare. City of Richmond Archives, Production Centre Staff Photograph.

“Work in Progress” A New Exhibit at City of Richmond Archives

Photographs taken at work by staff at the City of Richmond form the basis of the new exhibit at the City of Richmond Archives Reference Room which opened during Heritage Week in February.

In 2008 a large collection of images from Engineering, Parks, Recreation and Culture, and the Mapping and Production Centre were transferred to the permanent photograph holdings of the City of Richmond Archives. These film-based prints and slides were created before digital cameras became standard use among City staff. In the present era, almost all photographs taken by City staff are in digital formats.

The photographs were taken to serve the purposes of work at the time but over time can tell more than one story. The Engineers were responsible for inspecting tendered public works and sanitary sewer installations in Richmond. Their photos of these installations show long expanses of ditches, now disappearing from the modern landscape. The increase in the amount of tree cover from the 1970s to the present time is also notable.

Recreation programs in Richmond were booming in the 1980s and 1990s with a continuous increase in population, especially of younger people. The photos from Parks and Recreation provided instructors and participants with a record of their activities. The Mapping and Production Centre used their photographs to inform citizens about various City programs, and to assist elected officials, staff, and the public in making decisions about proposed developments.



On Thorpe Road, 1974. City of Richmond Archives, Engineering Staff Photograph.

Friends of the Richmond Archives

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Richmond Archives will be held March 25, 7:00 pm at the Archives Reference Room. This is the yearly business meeting at which the Friends elect a new executive and committee chairs, report on financial matters, and set a budget for the coming year.

The membership year for the Friends runs from October 1 to September 30. Those members who are in arrears are encouraged to send their fee (a very low \$5 per person) to the Friends, in care of the City of Richmond Archives, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond, BC V6Y 1R9. Telephone to 604 247-8305 if you aren't sure about your membership status.

This is one of the best membership deals in Richmond! Members receive an invitation to the annual Archives Tea, two newsletters per year, and have the satisfaction of knowing that their fees support a unique publishing program that has seen the production of 8 books of local history in the last 10 years.

The Friends also use their funds to purchase specialized archival equipment for the City of Richmond Archives. They have endowed a UBC award for students in the Masters of Archival Studies Program and over the years have supported a number of award programs for local students.

The Friends welcome donations. The Society is a registered charity and can issue tax receipts for amounts over \$10.00.

Lynne Waller Retires

Archivist Lynne Waller has retired after nearly ten years at the City of Richmond Archives.

Lynne's accomplishments over these years are many and wide ranging. Her focus on community and the role of the Archives in helping define its identity was always forefront in the projects and activities she initiated and carried out.

The acquisition of important non-government records such as those of BC Packers and of a variety of long-time and pioneer families in Richmond is just one of her important legacies.

Her role in developing the Archives web site and in adding exhibits and other important resources to the site has given the City of Richmond Archives not only greater exposure in the community but through the Internet to researchers from across the country and around the world.

Lynne established an Archives Awards event to acknowledge donors of records and users of the Archives, worked closely with the Friends of the Richmond Archives to help make it the largest and most active archival support group in the province, edited numerous local history books published by the Archives, reestablished a regular publishing schedule for this Newsletter, and mentored many student interns from UBC's Master of Archival Studies program, including the new Provincial Archivist of Prince Edward Island, and others who have become stars on the Canadian archival scene.

Above all, Lynne embodies the spirit, dedication and professionalism to which all archivists aspire. In her well-deserved retirement, we still hope to see her back in the Archives in any number of other roles.



Lynne at work in the Archives stacks, 2004.



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Public Reference Room Hours
Monday - Thursday 9:00-4:30
Appointment recommended



Friends of the Archives President Jon Henderson, Lynne Waller, and Past Friends' President Mary Keen at last fall's Archives Tea.