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In This Issue

This issue of the Archives Newsletter examines the role of the Archives in ensuring the preservation of the documentary evidence of the city's participation in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

The Newsletter also reports on recent activities and acquisitions at the Archives, summer events, and this year's Friends of the Richmond Archives' annual Archives Tea.

Richmond 2010 - The Archival Legacy

The City of Richmond Archives, as part of the Records and Archives Section of the Office of the City Clerk, is playing a major role in ensuring that the documentary evidence of Richmond's involvement in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games is preserved and made accessible to present and future generations. That documentary evidence is manifest in a multitude of records created and received as a result of the City's status as a venue city, as host of the O Zone celebration, and as the builder of a world-class Olympic facility, the Richmond Olympic Oval.

The Archives is part of "Team Records, Archives and Information Legacy" (TRAIL), an integrated task group mandated to ensure that all City records relating to the Richmond Olympic experience, either in paper, multi-media, or electronic form, are created and maintained in a manner that will enable the appraisal and selection of those records deemed worthy of long-term archival preservation.

The 2010 Archival Legacy will enable city staff, the general public, and future Olympic organizing committees and venue cities to access the most important administrative and operational records created in planning for, publicizing, and carrying out what will undoubtedly be considered one of the most important events in Richmond's history.



Archives at the O Zone

Come next February, the City of Richmond Archives will be smack-dab in the middle of the O Zone, Richmond's festival site for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Planning is under way at the Archives to create new digital exhibits and displays to showcase photographs, maps and textual records from its holdings. Various historical themes, including the development of the Brighthouse lands and the building of the Richmond Olympic Oval, will be explored.

The O Zone will be a great opportunity for the Archives to provide local residents and visitors from around the world with a glimpse of the past and an understanding of Richmond's proud history.



Aerial view of the site of the Richmond Olympic Oval, ca. 1955.

(City of Richmond Archives Photo #1994 9 1)

Disbind ... Rehouse ... Access!

They say the best trends come around again and again. The same might be said of archivists. This fall, the Richmond Archives has been fortunate enough to welcome back the former City of Richmond Archivist, Lynne Waller. Lynne will be spearheading the Vital Records Preservation Project, 2009-2010.

On the recommendations of a professional conservator, the Richmond Archives has begun the painstaking process of disbinding records and placing them in acid-free folders. There are 70 bound volumes of priceless council minutes waiting for this treatment!



Lynne Waller hard at work on the Vital Records Preservation Project.

These aged items came to the Archives bound with damaging epoxies and rusted nails making it sometimes necessary to trim the bound edges by chopping them off with a heavy-duty paper cutter. Dating back to the 1920s and 1930s, some of these town council meeting records were bound between poor quality cardboards and stitched in a "flour-sack" fashion.

The most difficult aspect of this conservation project will be removing the numerous rusted staples and nails (sometimes numbering 18 in one bound item) without further damaging the documents. When asked what the strangest tool she used was, Lynne stated: "The fid. It's a tool used by gill-netters to make and repair rope." When asked how she feels about being back in the Archives, she answers without skipping a beat: "It's great to be back and working on this important project." She explains how she had been concerned about the preservation of these documents, among Richmond's most valuable, since a conservator had pointed out the dangers of their deterioration. Now with this project in the works, Lynne seems satisfied with the progress.

Thanks to the financial assistance from the federal government's National Archival Development Program (administered by the Canadian Council of Archives) and from the Friends of the Richmond Archives, these valuable documents will be preserved for hundreds of years longer than they would have in their pre-existing state.

The Woodlands Donate Oil Painting of B.C. Packers Imperial Plant

This summer, the City Archives had the pleasure of welcoming back to Richmond Elaine and Arthur Woodland, along with their son Mark. And the Woodlands came bearing a wonderful gift, a 1964 oil painting of British Columbia Packers Imperial Plant, which they donated to the Archives.

The Woodlands lived in Richmond for 15 years, with Arthur working as Supervisor at Imperial Plant in Steveston. Arthur also served as President of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Richmond General Hospital Board of Directors.



Elaine, Arthur and Mark Woodland at the Archives.

Arthur left British Columbia Packers in 1967 to take up work for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Branch. With the U.N., he helped establish modern fish processing industries in South and Southeast Asia.

Arthur and Elaine now live in Washington State and in Arizona, where their son Mark also resides.

More Special Summer Visitors to the Archives

The City of Richmond Archives was once again this year a place for serious sleuthing for groups of young “history detectives.” The Time Travel Adventure Camp, a summer youth program organized and run by the Richmond Museum, utilized the Archives to give budding young historians a taste of research using historical documents and insight into archival preservation practices.

Through July and August, over 75 children visited the Archives reference room and were given tours of the back stacks and the “secret room” (the vault). Commendation must go to Britney and Claudius, the camp leaders, for helping make the experience fun and rewarding for the children.



History Detectives in the Reference Room.



A Visit to the “Secret Room” (Archives Vault).



Join Us for the Annual Tea !!

The Friends of the Richmond Archives will host the Annual Archives Tea this year on Friday, October 16 at 2:00 pm at the Library and Cultural Centre.

The Tea is one of the highlights of the year for "The Friends". It is always a great afternoon of companionship, stories and exploration of your community.

This year at "The Tea", three student projects first exhibited as a part of this year's Richmond Heritage Fair will be displayed.

Please call the City of Richmond Archives at 604-247-8305 if you would like to attend.

The Friends of the Richmond Archives was established in 1986 to support the work of the City of Richmond Archives and to promote the preservation and understanding of Richmond's history.

In addition to supporting a unique publishing program for local Richmond history, the Friends also contribute funds for specialized archival equipment and projects at the City Archives. The Friends have endowed a UBC award for students in the Masters of Archival Studies Program and have supported a number of programs for local students.

Minoru Park Racetrack Centenary Celebration

To mark the centenary of the opening of Minoru Park Racetrack and to celebrate the park's namesake, a bronze, life-size statue of the racehorse Minoru was unveiled outside the Richmond Cultural Centre on August 21. The centenary project was initiated by Jack Lowe and Graham Turnbull of the Friends of the Richmond Archives, and funded by the Milan and Maureen Ilich Foundation, which commissioned Richmond artist, Sergei Traschenko, to create the statue.



Statue of Minoru Unveiled at Minoru Park

In 1909, the horse Minoru was leased to Edward VII and became the first horse to win the most prestigious race in England, the Epsom Derby, carrying the colours of a reigning British monarch. The owner of the horse had named it after Minoru Eida, the young son of his master Japanese gardener.

The Minoru Park centenary event was hosted by Mayor Malcolm Brodie and included special guest, Brian Eida, the son of Minoru Eida. Mr. Eida presented the Mayor with records relating to his family and the horse, Minoru. These records are a welcome addition to the holdings of the City of Richmond Archives.



Brian Eida presenting Mayor Brodie with records for the City Archives.



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



Brian Eida with Jack Lowe and Graham Turnbull of the Friends of the Richmond Archives.