

ARCHIVES

news

Scenes of a Vanishing Richmond in the 1970s



Grauer's Store under the newly-built Arthur Laing Bridge, 1977.

City of Richmond Archives Photo #1997 42 1 440



Roller skating at the RCA Forum on Sea Island, ca. 1970

City of Richmond Archives Photo #1997 42 2 75



Old Richmond Arts Centre before Minoru Towers were built to the north, ca. 1970

City of Richmond Archives Photo #1997 42 2 67



Old Ferry Inn, No. 5 Road at Woodward's Landing, 1977.

City of Richmond Archives Photo #1997 42 1 621



No. 3 Road looking north with sign to Richmond Square Theatres, 1977

City of Richmond Archives Photo #1997 42 1 689

In the 1970s, in anticipation of Richmond's 1979 Centennial, the Richmond Public Library began a program to photograph buildings, landscapes, and community facilities throughout the municipality. This collection of over 1,000 slides has now been scanned and made accessible at the Archives thanks to the work of Graham Turnbull.

The slides provide visual evidence of a rapidly changing community, the images reminding us of places no longer recognizable and of buildings and facilities having met their fate by wrecking ball.

The Richmond Public Library in the 1970s carried out its work in the absence of a formal municipal heritage planning program or a municipal Archives. The slide collection the Library subsequently donated to the Archives also includes copy slides of historical photographs depicting life in Richmond from the 1880s to the 1960s.

To view these images, either in their original slide format or as digitized copies, researchers are welcome to make an appointment to visit the Archives.

Focus on the Record—Records of Taxation



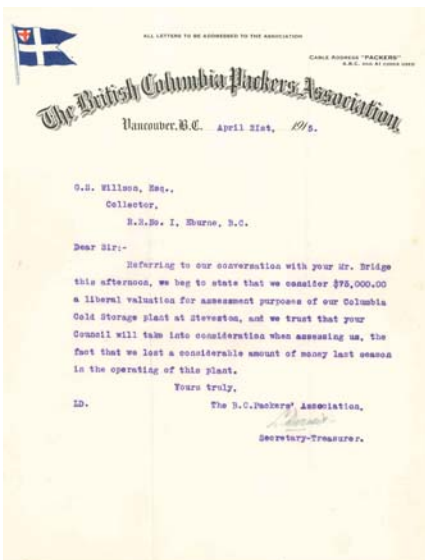
Assessor's photograph of Lulu Theatre, 1958.
City of Richmond Archives Photo #1988 18 31

Municipal governments in BC have the authority to tax property owners to pay for the costs of governance and local services. The City of Richmond Archives holds records of these activities carried out in Richmond dating back to the earliest years of the municipality. These include property assessment and the preparation of assessment and local improvement tax rolls, the collection of taxes, tax sales, and the hearing of taxpayer appeals.

The municipality was responsible for tax assessments until 1974 when the BC Assessment Authority was established. Tax assessment and collection rolls dating from 1905 are available

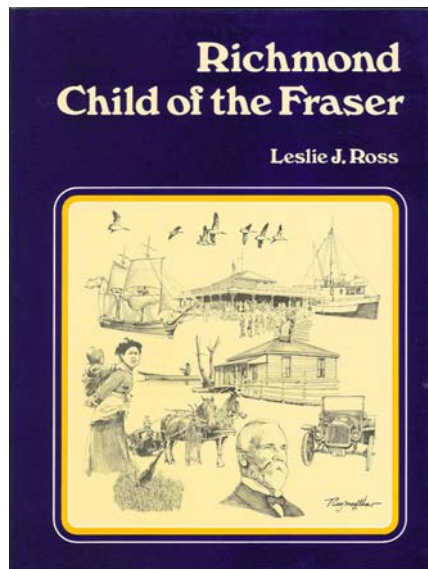
on microfilm for research at the Archives. From 1896 to 1974 a Court of Revision for assessments sat to hear appeals from property owners. The Archives holds original minutes of these meetings.

Other records relating to taxation in the Archives' holdings include early ledgers recording the collection of taxes and delinquencies, early Clerk's Department correspondence files, files relating to tax sales and taxation policy, and photographs of buildings taken by the municipal Assessor.



Letter from BC Packers regarding property assessment, 1915.
City of Richmond Archives MR Series 2, File 5.

“Richmond: Child of the Fraser” Now Available Online



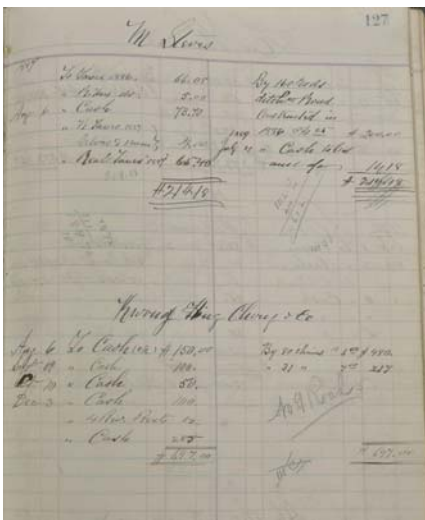
In 1879 Richmond was incorporated as a municipality. 100 years later the Richmond '79 Centennial Society, in conjunction with the municipality, published a comprehensive history of our community titled “Richmond: Child of the Fraser.”

Written by Richmond native and historian Leslie Ross, it contains over 300 photographs and reproductions of documents, illustrations by Raymond Chow, maps, and informative appendixes. In 1980 it won a Canadian Historical Association award for best local history.

Since its publication it has become the standard history of our municipality, used by researchers and those just interested in reading about Richmond's past.

The book is now out-of-print. To ensure continuing accessibility to this valuable resource, the Archives has created a complete PDF version, available for free download. The new online version is fully indexed for easy keyword searching of its content. To view the online publication, go to: www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/exhibits/childfraser.htm.

For a list of all historical publications for sale at the Archives or available online from the Archives' website, go to www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/about/publications.htm.



Page from Tax Ledger, 1887.

Personal ViewMaster Reels—Noel McConnell and New Technology of the 1950s



Viewer and personal ViewMaster reel of images of the Japanese Odori Festival in Steveston, 1955.

Most people will remember a popular pre-digital form of entertainment called the ViewMaster, which used a stereoscopic viewer and photo transparencies mounted on a disk to create a 3-D image.

The majority of the disks were of pre-packaged images of vacation destinations or children's stories. However, in 1952, the ViewMaster Personal Stereo Camera was introduced, and Noel McConnell of Richmond Photo in Steveston was an early user.

Now, thanks to a recent donation by his family, the Archives has 44 ViewMaster reels of scenes and activities in Richmond taken by Noel McConnell in the 1950s. The images include Salmon Queen Festivals, Lord Byng School sports days, Oak Street Bridge and Deas Island Tunnel construction, the Marpole Bridge, Odori Festival and Shibai parade, scenes of the Brighthouse area, and ditch digging on Francis Road.

The challenge for the Archives now is to preserve the reels and make the unique and amazing images on them more readily accessible. For the present time, researchers are welcome to make an appointment to look at the reels at the Archives the way they were meant to be viewed, in their full 3-D glory with the aid of a ViewMaster viewer.

Volunteer of the Year— City of Richmond Archives

This year's recipient of the Archives' Volunteer of the Year Award is Christine McGilvray. Christine has served as President of the Friends of the Richmond Archives for the last two years and over that time was instrumental in establishing a number of innovative programs for the Friends which have greatly enhanced the effectiveness of the work of the Society.

Most notably, Christine spearheaded the establishment of the Friends' Community Exhibit Program, was responsible for modernizing the image of the Friends through the design of a new logo and membership pamphlet, and was active in promoting the Archives and the work of the Friends through cooperation with City staff and other community groups in Richmond.

In addition to her work with the Friends, Christine has carried out important volunteer work at the Archives on a variety of projects, including researching the origins of road names in Richmond and developing a database to record the results.

Congratulations, Christine, and thank you so much for your dedication and hard work!

Donors of Community Records in 2012

Bill McNulty
 Andy Felker
 Richard Large
 Sheldon Wong
 Allen Bargaen
 Brian D. Phillips
 Ann Reiner
 Richard Reiner
 William Moffatt
 Jack Lowe
 Dave Blair
 Boy Scouts, Richmond Georgia District
 Laurena Saunders
 Kiwanis Club of Richmond
 Brian G. Phillips
 Steveston Interurban Restoration Society
 Jim Balcom
 Jack Lubzinski
 Larry Hawkins
 Derek Applegarth
 Julia Boak
 Graham Turnbull
 David Hilton
 David Yost
 Ann Leong
 Geraldine Wray
 Lambert Loh
 West Lu Badminton Club
 Sharon Keen
 Richmond Women's Resource Centre
 Gerry Boretta
 CBC Vancouver Media Archives
 Sea Island Community Association
 Save Richmond Farmland Society
 Norrie Barth
 Alice Jensen-Stanley
 Sherry Guevremont
 Rhonda Lawton
 Linda Matsuba
 William Pekonen
 Eric Hartney
 Richmond Photo Club
 Doreen Braverman
 Dorothy Morse
 Pat Lewis
 Barry Edwards
 David Paiger
 Grover, Elliott & Co.
 Jiri Heinz
 South Arm Community Association



Christine McGilvray receiving volunteer award from Bill Purver.

Annual General Meeting— Friends of the Archives


The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Richmond Archives will be held Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 pm in the Archives Reference Room. This is the yearly business meeting at which the Friends elect a new Executive, report on financial matters, and adopt a work plan and budget for the coming year.

At the AGM this year, members of the Friends will be asked to vote on a special resolution to amend the present bylaws of the Society. All members should receive notice of this special resolution by standard mail. If you are a member of the society and have not received this notice, please contact the Friends c/o the City of Richmond Archives by phone at 604-247-8305 or by email at archives@richmond.ca .

Members of the Friends are also reminded that the membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Those members who are in arrears are encouraged to send their annual dues (\$5 per person) to the Friends of the Richmond Archives, c/o City of Richmond Archives, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond, B.C. V6Y 1R9. If you are unsure about your membership status, please call the Archives at 604-247-8305.

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

Friends of the Richmond Archives on Facebook

 The Friends of the Richmond Archives are pleased to announce their newest foray into the world of social media with the launch of a Facebook page. Leading this initiative has been Friends' Board member John Campbell, who has kept the page fresh with several new postings every week.



Many postings, with historical images or moving image clips, are inspired by current news events or by new activities in the Archives. Some are just “cool” old photographs of people, places and activities in the community.

The Friends of the Richmond Archives' Facebook page is a place to reminisce collectively about times past in Richmond. People are encouraged to comment or make postings themselves to the page.

Come “like” us on Facebook and join the conversation. Point your browser to www.facebook.com/friendsoftherichmondarchives .

People are also reminded of two other social media portals established by the Archives. Check out the “City of Richmond Archives Channel” on History Pin by going to <http://www.historypin.com/channels/view/id/7947312> or see the latest movies digitized by the Archives at the “Richmond Archives Channel” on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/richmondarchives> .

Friends of the Richmond Archives “Books to Care Homes” Program

Thanks to the initiative of long-time Friends' Board member Larry Burton, collections of books produced through the Archives' historical publication program were donated to a number of long-term care facilities in Richmond over the past year.

Packaged in attractive and easy-to-use document cases, the books were gratefully received. They now serve as important resources to stimulate discussions among residents and with their visitors.

Thank you, Larry, for a most thoughtful and successful project.

Archives Tea 2012



**CITY OF RICHMOND
ARCHIVES**

7700 Minoru Gate
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