

# ARCHIVES

news

## In This Issue...

What did an acre of west Richmond land go for in the 1911?

An impressive record of support by the Friends of the Richmond Archives.

New Donation features great Moncton Street photo.

Who's been using the Archives?

3rd Annual Archives Tea



Carl Grauer and Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt chat during the Friends of the Richmond Archives 3rd annual ArchivesTea.

## Poster Promotes Archives

With the financial assistance of the Friends of the Richmond Archives, the Archives has produced a dramatic promotional poster. Featuring a reproduction of the handwritten petition for incorporation and several striking photographs from the Archives' holdings, the poster suggests the significance of the Archives through the slogan "Know the Past - Understand the Present - Shape the Future".

It was a challenge to select just a few images from the Archives thousands of photographs to represent the many facets of Richmond's history. The next step of bringing those elements into an effective graphic design was done by Morgan Muir of the City of Richmond Production Centre. The Archives owes a big thank you to Morgan for the skill and interest he brought to this project.



Through the Friends of the Richmond Archives, each school in Richmond will receive a free copy of the poster for display. The poster promotes the Archives web site at [www.city.richmond.bc.ca/archives](http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/archives) as a terrific resource for the community. The site with virtual exhibits and database search features is especially useful for educators and students. It is hoped that the display of these posters in schools and offices will help raise awareness of the Archives.

The poster will be available for sale at the Archives for \$10 each including taxes. All proceeds from poster sales will go to the Friends of the Richmond Archives' Des McManus Memorial Fund for archives outreach.



Salmon Festival Parade on Moncton Street c.1949

### Recent Donation: Owens Family

Brothers Bill, Joe and Ray Owens operated grocery stores in Richmond for many years including the Super-Valu stores in Steveston and later at Westminster Highway and No 3 Road in Brighthouse. The wonderful photograph (above) of a Salmon Festival parade on Moncton Street is believed to have been taken by Ray Owens about 1949.

Steveston residents will be able to identify many of the structures that still stand on Moncton Street at 2nd Ave including the Marine Garage. The 30's and 40's cars, the kids on their bikes and the shirt-sleeve warmth of the sun make this image quite evocative of happy summer days - just the thing to enjoy as winter's cloud and rain move in.

Other images in the donation include several interior views of the various stores operated by the Owens family. Through the donor Mrs. Owens Trsek, many staff members shown in the grocery store photographs have also been identified. While this is a modest donation in terms of its size, the images will bring back memories of Richmond in the post-war years for many in our community.

## Friends of the Richmond Archives: An Impressive Record of Support

The Friends of the Richmond Archives have worked tirelessly in support of the Archives for many years. With the beginning of the new year it is important to reflect on the depth of that dedicated community support.

A review of minutes of Friends meetings from the last 10 years reveals the extent of financial contributions made by the Friends in furthering the development and community awareness of the Archives. The total is most impressive. Over \$32,000 has been raised and given by the Friends for a wide range of projects and purchases. In addition to the poster project described on page one, these include: purchase of a portable display system, a scanner, desktop publishing software, custom work tables and book cases, printing of postcards, and several publications including **We Will Remember Them: The lives behind the Richmond Cenotaph.** In addition, the Friends have sponsored a cash prize in the Richmond Public Library's Young Adult Writers Contest since 1993. In all it is a very impressive record of support for the Archives as well as a great example of careful stewardship of funds raised.

Financial support is only a part of what the Friends have contributed to the Archives. Financial assistance is measured more easily than countless

volunteer hours, or the dedication to come out to innumerable meetings on miserable stormy nights. It is just not possible to quantify the importance of the level of community support the Archives enjoys because of the Friends of the Richmond Archives.



## Update: Archives and the new City Hall

The City of Richmond Archives will not be moving after all. Space planning considerations for the new City Hall resulted in a decision by the senior city administration team that the Archives will stay in its current location in the Library and Cultural Center Building.

Photo (left): Friends of the Archives Gerry Gilker, Jack Lowe, and Dody Wray stand in front of the Horse Racing display at the Archives Tea. Jack's team has been busy researching horse racing and Jack's daughter Dayna created the beautiful floral display using a feed bucket in place of a vase. The flowers and several sets of tickets to Gateway Theatre were given away as door prizes to lucky guests.



## 3rd Annual Archives Tea

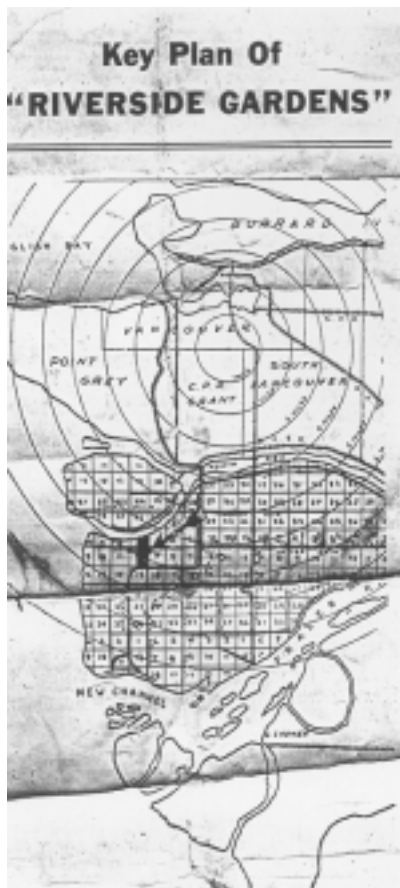
The Friends of the Richmond Archives hosted their 3rd annual Archives Tea on October 29 1999. Although the weather was poor we had a strong turn-out of approximately 150 guests. Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt addressed the gathering and introduced the City of Richmond's new video. Councillors Lyn Greenhill, Bill McNulty, Corisande Percival-Smith, and Harold Steves, also joined many long time Richmond residents who gathered to share memories and renew friendships.



## Who uses the Archives?

My name is Christina Lazar and I work for the City of Richmond Parks Department. I often use the Archives as a source for heritage photographs, in the creation of the Interpretation Signage seen throughout the City on trails and in parks. The Archives Website is also a valuable resource for me because I can go to the web and search for the photographic content I need, prior to making my research trip to the Archives reference room.

Photo (bottom left): Barbara and Keiji Kawase were among the guests enjoying the Archives Tea.

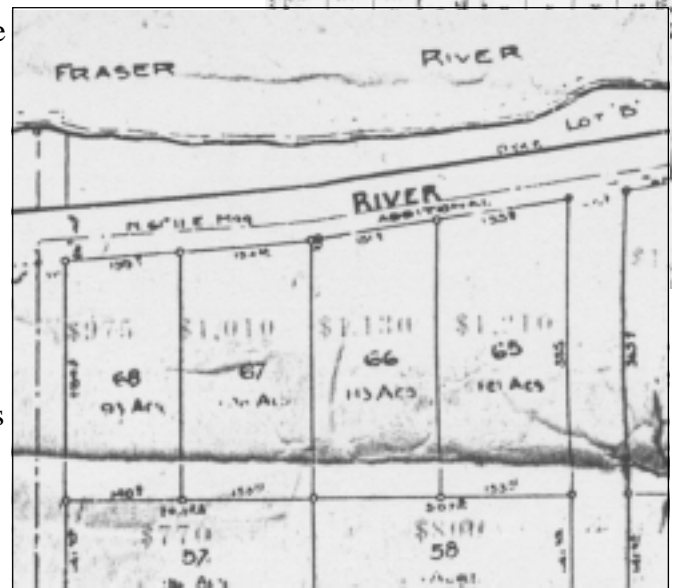


All three views: portions of plan 1997-14-1 promoting subdivision of land in west Richmond.

## Using Archives

After material first comes into the Archives there is usually a delay before it is fully described, indexed and generally made available for researchers. This “backlog” is a fact of life in every archives. When the reference room is not busy, archivists will whittle away at the backlog in the daft hope that they will someday get caught up.

It was on one such occasion recently that a small accession came to my attention. It is an intriguing example of how much information can be found in a single document, and how other archival resources can be used to fill in missing information. The promotional pamphlet and map for Riverside Gardens shown here is one of the earliest plans of subdivision in Richmond. The prices shown are the first dramatic thing to notice with acre blocks selling from \$775 and up. Terms were \$100 cash per acre with the balance at \$15 per month.



The plan is not dated which leads to an interesting search for clues to its age. The general key map showing Richmond in relation to Vancouver shows Vancouver, Point Grey and South Vancouver as separate municipalities as they were prior to amalgamation in 1929. Another interesting clue is the label of “new channel” for the south arm of the Fraser River near Steveston. This reflects the gradual shift of the main channel as a result of flooding and dyking in the early years of the century. Prior to this time the main channel had swept past Ladner on the south side of the river. This feature of the map is consistent with others dating from 1909 to 1920. Turning to other records to narrow the date further, a check of early Council minutes shows a match for the legal description with a resolution approving the subdivision in 1911. Checking vancouver directories for 1911 finds a match for the company named on the plan North West Canada Trust Co. Ltd. but the next year available, 1918 has no listing for this company. So the plan is no older than 1911 and most likely no newer than 1917.



7700 Minoru Gate  
 Richmond, B.C.  
 V6Y 1R9  
 Phone: (604) 231-6430  
 Fax: (604) 231-6464  
 Email: [archives@city.richmond.bc.ca](mailto:archives@city.richmond.bc.ca)  
[www.city.richmond.bc.ca/archives](http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/archives)

Public Reference Room Hours  
 Monday - Thursday  
 9:30-11:30 and 1:00-4:00