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# ARCHIVES

news

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“Men watching the planes landing in front of the Seabright Ice Parlour” on Sea Island . Photo circa 1935, part of Don Gordon accession.



The Friends of the Richmond Archives hosted the opening reception for the Archives Association of British Columbia Conference 2000 in April. Among the guests George Brandak engages the Honourable Raymond Chan and Gulf of Georgia Cannery Archivist (and Friends member) Lynne Waller in conversation.

## New Accession of Sea Island Documents

The Friends of the Richmond Archives continue to make significant contributions to the holdings acquired, processed and preserved by the City of Richmond Archives. Don Gordon, one of the active volunteer members of the Friends society, has recently donated an important portion of his personal papers. The material includes textual records, photographs and video tapes. They provide an additional resource for researchers as well as those who are fond of the Sea Island history. The “Men watching the planes landing in front of the Seabright Ice Parlour” shown above is part of the recent acquisition. Other records belonging to the same accession will be on display on the Fourth Annual Tea hosted by the Friends of the Richmond Archives this fall.



### Heritage Week

Jack Lowe was on hand to discuss his Horse Racing History project at the Archives display at Richmond Centre Mall during Heritage Week. The display featured photographs acquired by the Archives as a result of the project. Jack, Dody Wray and Gerry Gilker have been working on for many months. Jack has completed a first draft of a History of the Horse Racing Industry in Richmond. The sections of the draft have been circulated to interviewees to check for accuracy. A revised and slightly expanded version is anticipated in the autumn.



### Archives Images in New City Hall

Historical photographs from the Archives are now on display in several meeting rooms in the new City Hall. In cooperation with the Richmond Art Gallery and the Richmond Museum, the Archives has selected photographs that compliment the theme of the public artwork at the new City Hall. The Archives photographs include images of aviation from Sea Island in the 1930's, construction of bridges and the tunnel that link Richmond with its neighbors, and aerial views of the busy Steveston waterfront.

## Fishing for Photographs

*by Lynne Waller, Collections Manager, Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site*

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery at the end of Moncton Street in Steveston is one of the last of the old wooden canneries in British Columbia left standing. It was declared a National Historic Site in 1977 and developed as a place to tell the stories of the people, events and places of the West Coast fishing industry.

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society was formed in 1986 after more than a decade of advocacy on behalf of the Cannery. Parks Canada had acquired the site in 1984. Last April Parks Canada signed a three-year contract turning over site operations to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society in the largest collaboration of this kind in the country.

City of Richmond Archives photographs have been used widely at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site.

Since before the Cannery opened to the public June 25, 1994, staff and researchers at the west coast fishing museum in Steveston have relied on the large photograph collection housed at the City of Richmond Archives. We look for images related to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery in particular and fishing industry in general.

More than a dozen have been chosen for reproduction within the exhibit areas of the Cannery including the wonderful picture of two young women whose gumboots are covered with fish scales. Both are wearing kerchiefs and one is holding a salmon. This photograph will be familiar to you from the poster partially funded by the Friends of the Richmond Archives last winter. It is one of the first images that visitors to the Cannery see as they enter the main doors.

Up and down the canning line photographs from the British Columbia Packers Collection and the Ian Bell-Irving Collection from CRA are used to illustrate fish processing in early canneries. They also offer graphic proof of the ethnic mix of cannery workers over the years.



In 1999 we started a "Fishing Families" wall near where the 1934 freight truck is parked. This was the perfect location for a photograph of a youngster looking out the door of a wheelhouse of a small fishing vessel. We are still waiting for someone to come along and tell us the name of this young fisherman.

In 2001 the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site will be opening one of the last of the major exhibition areas - the Herring Reduction Plant. Again we have looked to the City of Richmond Archives for photographs that help us demonstrate to visitors the reduction processes. The research our staff has done at the Richmond Archives has also provided information on location of Cannery buildings in the Village of Steveston.

Each spring when a new crop of interpreters arrive, we use about 50 photograph prints from Richmond Archives as part of our instructional resources. The interpreters are usually students or former fishing industry workers who work on the "front lines" to show visitors around the Cannery and conduct school programs. Every year they undergo spring training at the Cannery.

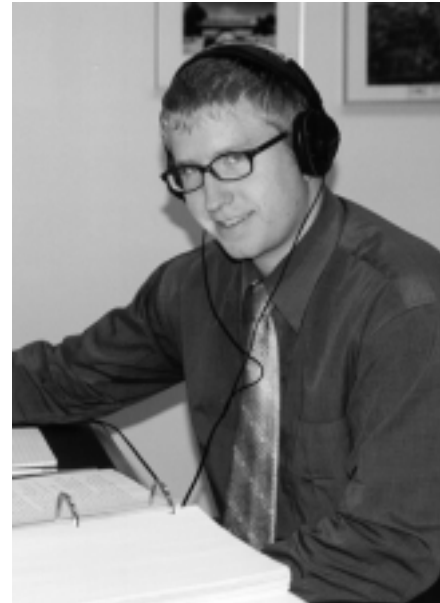


Photographs from many archival sources are a great way to show what used to go on here.

The community photographs collected by the City of Richmond Archives have been one of the most important sources of material in exhibit planning at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site. Come and see them and the many other exhibits and activities we have to offer. The Cannery is open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm Thursday through Monday until the close of this season October 30, 2000. Entry fees are \$5 for adults, \$3.75 for seniors and students. There are special rates for children, families and groups.

Group tours may be booked in the winter by special arrangement - phone 664-9282 or 664-9031 for appointments and information.

## Who uses the Archives?



**My name is Chris Bogan and I am the exhibit researcher at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site. Over the past three years I've been a regular visitor to the City of Richmond Archives, delving deep into its collection of photographs, maps and oral histories. The great part is that now I can easily find most of the things I need on their website. Keep up the great work!**



**As a Planning Assistant for the City's Agricultural Viability Strategy, I use the Archives to find out about past agricultural land uses here in Richmond. When you can't find what you are looking for over at City Hall, the Archives is an indispensable tool. - Scott Aycock**



## Using Archives

There are some things that we just take for granted. The airport may be one of those things because it has been a part of the community for so long. Why was the airport built where it is? We may know that the airport was opened on Sea Island in 1931. We might even know that there was an earlier airport on Lulu Island just north of Lansdowne Park Racetrack. But how was it that Sea Island was chosen as the home for the airport?



### Cenotaph Update

Cenotaph was re-dedicated in an impressive ceremony on June 6. The monument had been in safe storage during the construction of the new City Hall. In recognition of her research work for the book "We Will Remember Them: The lives behind the Richmond Cenotaph", Mary Keen, President of the Friends of the Richmond Archives, was honoured by being one of the candle bearers that placed a candle for each of the men listed on the Cenotaph. Mary's research had been instrumental in adding names to the Cenotaph. The Cenotaph now stands proudly in front of the new City Hall .

The Archives has the whole story contained in city records dating from 1928. There was an understanding that aviation was going to be a very important factor in the development of the country and a committee known as the Joint Air Board representing municipalities in the area was struck to select the best site. The Air Board directed Major Cowley (for whom the circular roadway at the old airport was later named) to review nine potential locations for the new airport including Spanish Banks, Second Narrows and Burnaby Lake. The report and other records relating to how the current airport site was selected are contained in three files within the Archives' Municipal Records Series 25 (files 3411-1 to 3411-3).



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Public Reference Room Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
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