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ARCHIVES

news

Also In This Issue...

Poster Contest
Lubzinsky Records Conserved
Gar Lunney Photo Exhibit
East Richmond Research
Derek Hayes' New Book

2006 Marks 20 years of service for Friends of the Richmond Archives

The Friends of the Richmond Archives and the City of Richmond Archives plan to acknowledge two important anniversaries with a special celebration at this year's Archives Tea to be held October 13 at the Cultural Centre. It is 20 years since the first Friends of the Archives group started meeting. The other significant event is that this will be the 10th annual Archives Tea.

A special edition of the Archives Newsletter, concentrating on the history of the "Friends" and the City Archives, will be published next September.

In addition to the regular tea-goers, we will be inviting charter members of the Friends and the committees that preceded it, former staff members, UBC Archival Studies students and others who have volunteered and worked at the Richmond Archives.

November 19, 1986, 23 people attended an information session, hosted by Municipal Archivist Elizabeth Eso, to talk about establishing an Archives "Friends" group. Coincidentally, this is now celebrated as Archives Day in the Province of British Columbia. The new "Friends" met again December 10th, with plans to draft a constitution and continue their activities in 1987.

Interest in the creation and maintenance of an archives facility was first discussed in Richmond in 1970. A centennial was coming up in 1979 and a book about Richmond's history was proposed to mark that event. In the committees for the Centennial and for the publication of "Richmond, Child of the Fraser" by Leslie Ross, there was always a core of Richmond residents knowledgeable about archives and interested in establishing one here. They realized that without the original documents and photographs of the community it was impossible to have a history.

It is these visionary citizens and the volunteers of the Friends of the Richmond Archives we will be remembering and honouring next fall.



In this 1994 picture Archivist David Weber, now Richmond's City Clerk, was demonstrating the Archives new web pages. One of the Friends of the Richmond Archives charter members, Betty McLeod, is seated at the right of the photo.



A few "Friends" and City Archivist at 2005 Tea. From left: Jon Henderson, Dody Wray, Mary Keen, Ruth Yuswack, Lynne Waller (front), Fran Adama, Larry Burton (back) Jack Lowe (front), Graham Turnbull and Fred Penland.



Conservator Rosaleen Hill watched by archivist Jennifer Douglas works on the restoration of a 1938 painting done by Jack Lubzinski for the Salmon Festival in Steveston.



Joe Lubzinski at a boat show in New York City, circa 1975. City of Richmond Archives Photo 2005 61 7.

Friends of the Archives Poster Contest - Deadline March 9, 2006

The Friends are once again holding a poster contest for Richmond Grade 3, 4 and 5 students from both the public and private school systems.

Four prizes of \$125 each will be awarded for the best set of posters depicting the history of Trains and Trams in Richmond. Students are encouraged to use the "photo search" feature on the Archives web pages at www.richmond.ca/archives.

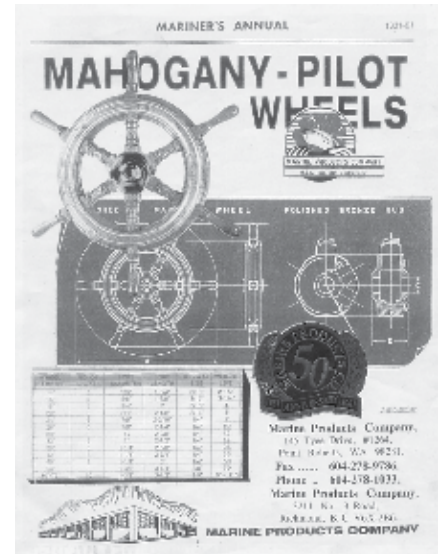
Last year's winners were from James Whiteside and Walter Lee Elementary Schools.

The topic is in preparation for a fall exhibit planned to highlight the work of Ted Clarke, a photographer who specialized in images of rail



Richmond Archives Photograph 1988 10 315, taken in 1977, shows the Kartner subdivision with Westminister Highway at the right.

Conservator Restores Marine Products Records



Last fall the City of Richmond Archives received documents and photographs from Marine Products Company, the marine steering wheel business operated by Jack and Joe Lubzinski for more than 50 years. As is often the case with industrial records, cleaning and treatment for contaminants were required before they could be put on the shelves at the City Archives.

Conservator Rosaleen Hill used infrared lights to identify molds, a humidification chamber to "relax" folded and rolled documents, and a special vacuum system used to remove contaminants from fragile papers.

The records are a valuable addition to the Archives' community records as they document a unique business and a family with a long history in Richmond.

East Richmond research underway

Local author Mary Keen has begun research for a new book about the settlement and development of the eastern section of Richmond. She is looking at Hamilton, Queensborough, Tree Island and Mitchell Island along with the predominantly farming areas east of No. 6 Road.

Mrs. Keen reports that documents and photographs of Richmond's "far east" are scarce.

This is the third in the "Richmond Neighbourhoods" series. The first two dealt with Sea Island and the South Arm area.

Newsletter readers willing to donate their original records (photos or documents) about East Richmond should contact Mrs. Keen in care of the Archives, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond, V6Y 1R9. Phone 604 231-6430.



Photograph 28 - Drying up the set. The crew tries to control the net filled with 100 tons of roe herring.



Photograph 2, taken in 1980, looks south from the Japanese Cultural Centre and B.C. Packers head office in Steveston towards the Fraser River.

Western

Exposures: Gar Lunney's B.C. Packers Photographs



Photograph 22 in the series shows the intricate pattern of nets and corklines in the herring fishery. This image was featured in the exhibit brochure. The photographs will be on exhibit at the Archives Reference Room this year.

Thanks to British Columbia Packers' generous donation of their extensive photograph collections to the City of Richmond, the Archives is home to the images of one of Canada's eminent photographers - Gar Lunney. Mr. Lunney, now retired, was once Canada's Royal Photographer. In his years at the National Film Board Still Photography Division he photographed members of the Royal Family, Prime Ministers and senior government officials.

Mr. Lunney left Ottawa in 1970 to begin a freelance career on the west coast, specializing in photojournalism and annual reports. This is where his connection with B.C. Packers began. His iconic images of the west coast fishing industry are part of Mr. Lunney's legacy of great Canadian photography. He retired in 1985 and lives in Vancouver.

His free-lance work for B.C. Packers has become part of the holdings of the City of Richmond Archives. The Archives staff selected 31 of these images to display at the Cultural Centre and in the Archives Reference Room throughout 2006. Mr. Lunney, Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Councillor Bill McNulty, former B.C. Packers executives and employees, and members of the Friends of the Archives attended the official opening of the exhibit last December.

From the aerial photos of Steveston in the late 1970s to the pictures of salmon and herring fishing in 1980, the photographs capture the essence of a time when the parking lots of the fishing plants were full, the big fleets dominated the coast, and it seemed as if the fishing would never end.



Author and geographer Derek Hayes was a frequent Archives visitor last year as he searched for documents, photographs and maps for his new book, "Historical Atlas of Vancouver and the Lower Fraser Valley."



City of Richmond Archives photograph 1984 3 1, taken in 1958, shows the construction of the freeway just south of the George Massey Tunnel. The photo is on page 149.

“Historical Atlas” uses maps and photos to document local history.

In “Historical Atlas of Vancouver and the Lower Fraser Valley” by Derek Hayes, more than 370 maps and 70 photographs and illustrations were found in archives, libraries and historic collections across the continent. They tell a story of colonialism, immigration, settlement and development of Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, including Richmond. The new book was published in 2005. Several maps and photographs from the City of Richmond Archives and from Councillor Harold Steves’ personal holdings are included.

“Historical Atlas of Vancouver and the Lower Fraser Valley” is on sale at book stores around the lower mainland. There is contact information for the author on his web site which is at: www.derekhayes.ca.

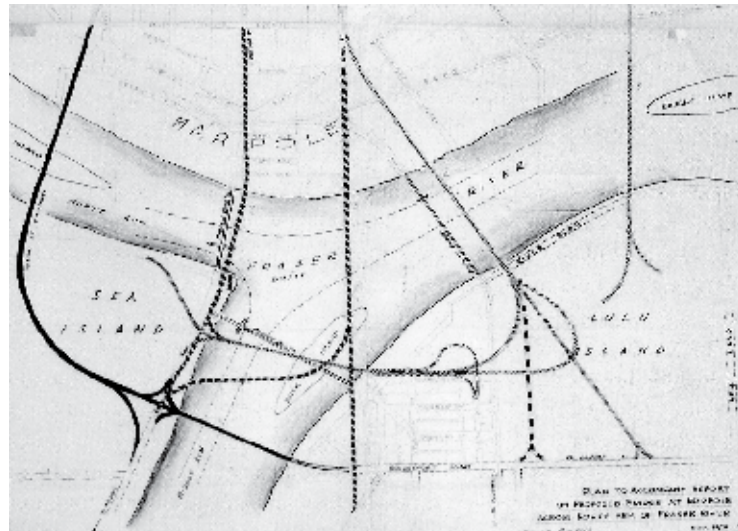


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www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/about/about.htm

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



City of Richmond Archives Map 1988 17 83 was used on Page 148 of the “Historical Atlas of Vancouver.” It is from the Township of Richmond’s Planning Department. It shows a vehicle bridge and railway bridge, as well as proposed bridges at Granville, Hudson, Oak, and Cambie Streets.