

Photographs of Dr. R.W. Large, Medical Missionary at Steveston

Prior to the establishment of the Japanese Fishermen's Hospital in 1900, medical services in Steveston were provided by doctors serving as medical missionaries for the Methodist Church. The City of Richmond Archives recently acquired early photographs of one such missionary doctor, Dr. Richard Whitfield Large.

Dr. R.W. Large was the son of a Methodist minister in Ontario. After graduating in 1897 from Trinity Medical College in Toronto, he was appointed to Steveston for summer work serving fishermen and cannery workers in the community.

The photographs recently donated to the Archives by his family show Dr. Large at work in Steveston in what would be considered even then to be rather primitive conditions. The photographs are testament to the dedication of these early doctors and to the challenges they faced in serving smaller communities on the B.C. coast.

Following his work in Steveston and his certification by the provincial Medical Council, Dr. Large was appointed in 1898 to take charge of the Bella Bella Mission. He worked there until 1910, before being transferred to the mission hospital at Port Simpson. The R.W. Large Memorial Hospital in Bella Bella was named in his honour after his death in 1920.



Dr. Large in the doorway of the Japanese Methodist Mission in Steveston, 1897.

City of Richmond Archives Photo #2012 3 5



Dr. and Mrs. Large at the "doctor's office" in Steveston, 1897.

City of Richmond Archives Photo #2012 3 6



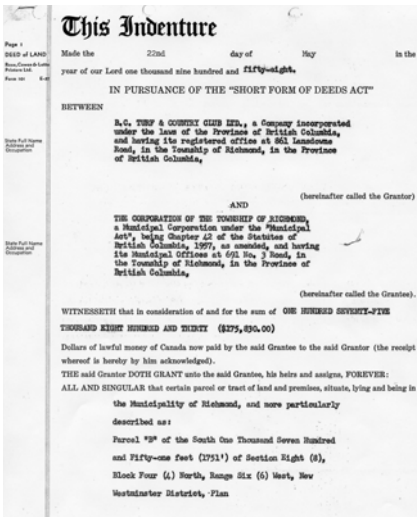
Dr. Large's first operation in Steveston, with Mrs. Large as anaesthetist, 1897.

City of Richmond Archives Photo #2012 3 7



Dr. Large in the hospital ward at the Japanese Methodist Mission, 1897.

City of Richmond Archives Photo #2012 3 3



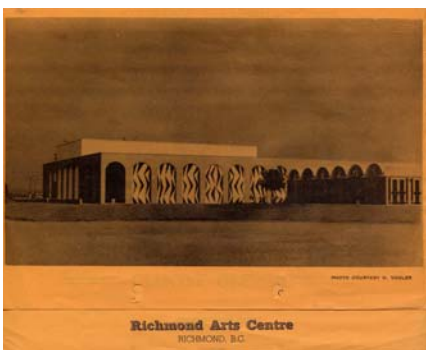
Deed of Land—Purchase of part of present-day Minoru Park, 1958
City of Richmond Archives MR Series 66, File 1540



Little League tournament at Brighthouse Park, 1961
City of Richmond Archives Photo #1978 33 28



Opening of Minoru Sports Pavilion, 1964
City of Richmond Archives Photo #1978 32 40



Opening Ceremony Program, Richmond Arts Centre, 1967
City of Richmond Archives Reference files

Focus on the Record—Early Records of Richmond’s Parks and Recreation Commission

The establishment of a Recreation Commission in 1954 and the subsequent incorporation of parks and recreation services into the administrative structure of municipal government under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission resulted in the rapid growth of recreational land, facilities, and services in Richmond.

Prior to the establishment of the Commission, just over 20 acres of land in the municipality was parkland, much of which was maintained by local community associations and groups. The Parks and Recreation Commission was initially established composed of elected members of both Council and School Board, which allowed for the coordinated development of school playing fields and municipal parks, simplified the planning of their locations, and reduced duplication of services.

In 1958, major plans and projects came to fruition under the direction of the Commission, the most significant being the initial purchase of parkland for what is now Minoru Park. By 1959, Centennial Pool, Richmond’s first swimming pool, had been opened on the site, and development there continued through the 1960s with the installation of a track, the building of a pavilion, arena, arts centre and library. In 1970, the municipality purchased 217 acres for the Richmond Nature Park as the first of many new parks and community centre projects in that decade.

The City of Richmond Archives holds records documenting the growth of recreational opportunities in Richmond, including minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission, bylaws and bylaw files relating to park acquisition and the building and maintenance of facilities, administrative and operational records of the early Recreation Department and the later Leisure Services Department, records of the Richmond School Board, and records of community associations and cultural and sports groups affiliated with the Commission.



Swim meet at Centennial Pool, 1963
City of Richmond Archives Photo #1985 77 26

Chinese-language Brochure for the Archives



Archives' volunteer Precilla Huang with Chinese-language brochure.

Graham Turnbull photograph

Thanks to volunteer Precilla Huang, a new resource has been created to bridge a language gap for many new Richmond residents in understanding their City Archives. Precilla, a member of the Friends of the Richmond Archives, has designed a colourful Chinese-language brochure which explains the complex mandate of the Archives and outlines the services it provides to the general public.

The brochure has been produced by the Friends of the Richmond Archives as part of its community outreach program. It can be picked up in the Archives reference room or at the front counter of the Richmond Cultural Centre.

Internet Access to Oral History Summaries and Transcripts

Copies of summaries or transcripts of over 400 interviews in the City of Richmond Archives oral history collection are now available online. The oral histories include interviews with Richmond pioneers and residents carried out between 1971 and 1976 as part of several different local history projects, as well as 1991 interviews conducted with former Britannia Shipyard workers.

For access to the interview summaries, researchers should go to the Oral History section of the Archives web site at: www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/search/histories.htm and click on the "List of Names of Those Interviewed" link.

Volunteer of the Year—Graham Turnbull



Volunteer of the Year Graham Turnbull with Dovelie Buie (Manager of Records and Information) and Bill Purver (Archivist).

Bill McNulty photograph

The recipient of the City of Richmond Archives' Volunteer of the Year Award for 2013 was Graham Turnbull.

Graham devoted over 850 volunteer hours at the Archives in 2013 as Vice-President of the Friends of the Richmond Archives and as the chief volunteer on the Interurban Photograph Project, for which he aided in the identification of and digitized approximately 3000 slides and negatives. Graham also designed and printed the

packaging for the DVD of Ted Clark's 1949 film of the Interurban, of which 65 copies were sold by the Friends in 2013.

Graham's knowledge of heritage resources and politics in Richmond and of the social and economic changes in the municipality since the early 1950s is a tremendous "Walking Resource" for the Archives.

Congratulations, Graham, and a hearty thank you for your commitment to the Archives and its mission in the community.

List of Donors of Community Records in 2013

- Doug Sturrock
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- Kerry Starchuk
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- Peter Wagonblast
- Fred Hilderman
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- Steve Olenick
- Richmond Rod and Gun Club
- Harold Steves
- Bernie Kilroe
- Elvin McDonald
- Wally Paulik
- Gayle Olson
- Richmond Public Library



What's On the Richmond Archives YouTube Channel

- Jumping Jacks at Bridgeport School, ca. 1948
- Sexsmith Bus Loop, ca. 1963
- Steveston in the Fifties
- BC Electric Railway Lulu Island Line, 1949
- 1964 Salmon Queen Festival Parade
- 1963 Salmon Queen Festival Parade
- Last run of the Marpole-Steveston Interurban, 1958
- Visit to Brighthouse Park Racetrack, 1930
- Opening the Deas Island Tunnel, 1959



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Richmond Archives will be held Wednesday, March 19 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 set a budget for the coming year.

The Friends would also like to remind members 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 . Phone 604-247-8305 or email archives@richmond.ca if you are unsure about your membership status.

Donating to the Friends

The Friends of the Richmond Archives is a registered charity and welcomes donations to assist with its activities to support the City of Richmond Archives.

A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for donations over \$10.



Archives Tea, 2013.
Graham Turnbull photograph

Friends of the Richmond Archives do Pecha Kucha

Richmond’s final Pecha Kucha for 2013 was an enjoyable and informative affair as a series of speakers addressed the theme “Planes, Trains and Automobiles.” Friends of the Richmond Archives’ Board Member Christine Tutt gave a spirited and entertaining presentation combining historical fact and fancy to spotlight the photographic record of the Interurban Tram in the holdings of the City of Richmond Archives.



Christine Tutt delivering Pecha Kucha presentation.
Graham Turnbull photograph

Pecha Kucha is an internationally-recognized event where invited speakers present 20 slides on a particular topic, with 20 seconds of commentary allowed for each slide. In Richmond, the City’s Public Art team organizes these licensed events. Christine’s presentation can be viewed on the Public Art Section of the City’s YouTube Channel.

Remembrance Day Reception at City Hall



Friends’ exhibit at the Remembrance Day reception.
Christine McGilvray photograph

The Friends of the Richmond Archives were once again proud to have been invited to participate in this year’s Remembrance Day reception at City Hall.

An exhibit of archival material commemorating the contributions and sacrifices of Richmond High School graduates during World War II was featured. Other records and photographs from the Archives were also presented documenting the lives of those fallen servicemen who are honoured on the Richmond Cenotaph.

The Friends of the Richmond Archives were once again proud to have been invited to participate in this year’s Remembrance Day reception at City Hall.

Friends’ Board members Barbara Williams, Christine McGilvray, Christine Tutt, Jon Henderson, and Graham Turnbull staffed the event and answered questions from the public about the exhibit and about other historical resources available at the City of Richmond Archives.

Friends of the Richmond Archives Annual Archives Tea

The 17th annual Archives Tea was by all accounts another great success. Over 150 guests had the opportunity to discuss Richmond’s past, catch up with old friends, and enjoy delicious sandwiches and sweets.

Councillor Chak Au as Acting Mayor addressed the crowd on behalf of the City. Archives’ volunteers John Campbell and Christine Tutt gave presentations of two new online resources, the Friends of the Richmond Archives Facebook page and the Richmond Archives You Tube channel.

The Friends would like to thank once again the Board of the Minoru Seniors Society and the staff at the Minoru Place Activity Centre for their support and assistance.



CITY OF RICHMOND
ARCHIVES

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www.richmond.ca/archives
Public Reference Room Hours
Monday–Thursday, 9:00–4:30
Appointment recommended