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ARCHIVES

news



Surf's Up for Archives photos on the Internet.

H.M.C.S. Van Isle off Cape Cook, January 1941. This is one of over 4200 images available at the Archives web site.
Archives item number 1985 4 83

Archives database and photographs on the Internet

From any computer connected to the Internet, at any time of the day or night, you can now search the City of Richmond Archives database and view over 4,200 scanned photographs from our holdings.

Of particular note are many photographs of the west coast fishing industry, as well as agriculture, community life and the growth of Richmond from small rural settlements to a modern city.

Easy to use search screens allow custom searches using drop-down lists for subject and name fields as well as keyword search of title fields. In addition to a special search screen for "scanned photos only", users can also search

Staffing changes and new hours

Restructuring of staffing levels have resulted in the reduction of the Archives staff to one full time position. As a result there have been some changes in the Archives public hours and procedures. The Archives reference room is open to the public Monday through Thursday 9:30-11:30a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. If the Archivist is called away from the Archives during these hours the reference room will remain open allowing access to finding aids, however research assistance and access to original materials will not be available during the Archivist's absence. It is recommended therefore that those planning to access original materials call ahead to make an appointment before visiting the Archives.

Researchers who are unable to come to the Archives during our public hours are encouraged to:

- visit the Archives web site at <www.city.richmond.bc.ca/archives>
- send Email to <archives@city.richmond.bc.ca>
- request research advice by fax (604) 231-6464
- or phone (voice mail available) (604) 231-6430

Last but certainly not least, you can always put pen to paper and write the Archives at 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond, BC, V6Y 1R9

They're Off! Horse racing at Lansdowne Park Racetrack 1959. Noel McConnell photo. Archives item number 1997 16 11.



the full database using an "All Media Search". This accesses descriptions of all our holdings including both city government and community records, maps, and government publications – over 15,000 records descriptions in all.

If you have ever wondered what is in the City of Richmond Archives, now you can find out - 24 hours a day - via the Internet. Whether for business or school research or just personal interest you will be amazed at the range of the resources available in the Archives.

The Archives is committed to making this new feature easy to use. We welcome your comments.

Find our site at: www.city.richmond.bc.ca/archives



Steveston waterfront 1952. Noel McConnell photo. Archives item number 1997 16 89

Recent additions to the Archives

Noel McConnell photos

In 1997 The Archives was fortunate to receive 99 original negatives taken by well-known Richmond photographer James Noel McConnell. Noel McConnell owned and operated Steveston PhotoCrafts and later Richmond Photo, taking photographs of Richmond for over 20 years. Mr. McConnell was very active in the community. He was a founding member and later president of the Steveston Community Society and was a member of the Richmond Advisory Planning Committee.

The McConnell photographs are primarily aerial views showing Steveston as it appeared in the late 1940's and 1950's. In addition, there are views of racing at Lansdowne Park Racetrack as well as views of the Eburne and Brighthouse areas.

The Archives produced reference prints from the original negatives, descriptions have been completed on the database and scanning for the web site will take place in the coming months.

Archives Photo Gift Set

The Archives has prepared a special volume print run of a set of four photographs selected from the thousands in our holdings. The volume printing allows the Archives to offer this set at a significantly reduced price compared to our usual custom orders. These are real 8x10inch glossy photo prints (not laser copies), suitable for framing or gift giving. Normally a single print of this type would cost \$11.77 each, this set is only \$25 for all four prints, *including taxes!* You can purchase your set at the Archives or order by mail. On mail orders please send payment by postal money order or cheque payable to the "City of Richmond" and add \$2.50 to cover postage and packaging.



Set of four 8"x10" glossy prints just \$25
Clockwise from top left: United Airlines DC-3 on display at airport, c.1937, Gillnetters docked at Steveston, c.1940, Coffee Break on McKenzie's farm, 1912, Interurban tram at Brighthouse, c.1955

Update...

September 1998 publication of *We Will Remember Them: The lives behind the Richmond Cenotaph* will cap off two years of research by archives volunteer and president of the Friends of the Richmond Archives, Mary Keen.



The publication includes biographical notes on most of the men listed on the Richmond Cenotaph as well as photographs that remind us these men were not only soldiers but also brothers, sons and husbands. The book will be officially "launched" at the Friends Seniors Tea on September 25.

The project has been a terrific success. In addition to the book publication, the material acquired as a result of the research has all been added to the Archives Biography Files, and photographs copied as part of the project have also been added to the Archives holdings.

The next stage of the project will add a virtual exhibit to the Archives web site.

In the Works...

The Archives has been successful in applying to the provincial government's Community Archives Assistance Program (CAAP) for a grant to continue our database index for the early years of Council minutes. Previous grants have allowed us to develop a very detailed computer index covering the years 1880-1904 and 1913-1922. The new grant will fill the gap of 1905-1912.

These original minute books are handwritten and quite fragile. Reading (deciphering in some cases) and indexing is a time consuming process but the resulting automated index is not only fast and efficient, it saves the original volumes from a great deal of needless handling.

It is anticipated that a part time contract indexer will be hired this fall and this phase of the index project will be completed by the spring of 1999.

My Internship at the Richmond Archives By: Joleen Wright



Begun in 1981, the University of British Columbia's Master of Archival Studies program was the first graduate program in archival studies in North America. One of the goals of the program is "to educate students in the scholarly and professional dimensions of their field." While course work provides an excellent foundation in the theory of archival work, an elective summer internship in an archives allows students with to gain practical, hands-on experience. The City of Richmond Archives has been considered a leader among smaller archives repositories in recent years, and I jumped at the chance to spend my summer here.

During my 12 week internship, I have been exposed to a variety of basic archival tasks. Among these tasks, I have arranged and described three fonds of community records: the Fraser Delta Area Girl Guides fonds, the Richmond Youth Soccer Association fonds, and the Community Arts Council of Richmond fonds. I have also arranged and described a large group of municipal records that originated in the Planning Department, major subdivision applications. To clarify the often confusing development application process, I have researched the evolution of the application process since the 1950's through archival holdings and the help of city staff, with the aim of producing a finding aid that researchers will be able to consult. With assistance from Ken, I have also done some reference work, helping people who have visited the archives to research a topic or to do an environmental assessment on a piece of property.

What have I learned in my 12 weeks at the Richmond Archives? I have learned about Richmond's active community life and a little of its history. I have seen how an archives runs on a daily basis. Most importantly, I have built upon the theoretical foundation provided by my courses and will consequently begin my second year of study with a different, more comprehensive understanding of archives.



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