



6.0 COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES

Diverse Population

Public Safety

Health

Education

Arts & Culture

Library

Heritage

Leisure Services

Child Care

Community facilities and services are an integral part of the function and vibrancy of a community. The availability of appropriate and high-quality services contributes to the community's overall well-being and livability. As Richmond will continue to add residents and jobs, consideration needs to be given to determine how the City can both support and accommodate an array of community facilities and services in a way that keeps pace.

A broad range of community facilities and services is needed to ensure a community is livable and to allow residents to make quality of life choices. Richmond is a community with a diverse ethnic population, and, as is the trend in the rest of North America, will have an aging population. However, unlike the rest of Canada, it will also have an increasing number of children and youth. As such, it is most important that attention be paid to ensuring services for the young population as well as planning for an aging population. Given these trends, it is critical that Richmond be accessible and barrier-free in a non-discriminatory, inclusive manner whilst allowing for celebration of different cultural backgrounds.

Guiding Principles

- To recognize and support Richmond's communities through provision of community facilities that are visibly located, universally accessible, and user-friendly;
- To enhance the City's ability to deliver a range of high-quality community facilities and services by encouraging a flexible approach to design, programming, and funding, including innovative forms of public/private partnerships;



- To ensure that many forms of community involvement are available for public input;
- To recognize the ongoing need for a partnership approach to providing a growing and diverse community with high-quality services in a cost-effective and coordinated manner.



6.1 DIVERSE POPULATION

ISSUE:

It is expected that between 1996 and 2021 upwards of 62,000 people will be added to Richmond, with 55% moving into the City Centre. There will be a significant increase in the number of seniors as the baby boomers age, and as life expectancy increases. At the same time, the number of children and young people will continue to increase through births and immigration. Immigration from Asia and other continents has also helped to create an increasingly ethnically-diverse community.

The guiding principles of the City Strategy for Youth Services, endorsed by City Council on June 26, 1995, provide the framework for developing, assessing, delivering, promoting, and evaluating services on a quantitative and qualitative level.

Youth

Deliverers of service to youth recognize that a preventative, community-based, collaborative approach is most effective in serving the needs of youth, whose world is a constantly changing and increasingly challenging place. Youth (aged 12 to 24 years) make up a significant portion of the population. They are looking for an opportunity to be active and involved in their community. They want to share in the decision-making process about the issues which affect them. They are unhappy about the perceptions society has of them, and would like to develop open and trusting relationships with their parents, teachers, and other role models in the community. In a broader context, the work defined within a youth services delivery system impacts upon the personal, social, educational, recreational, environmental, cultural, and health needs of young people.

Seniors

There are many issues impacting the quality of life of seniors, including housing (see 3.0 Housing), transportation (see 4.0 Transportation) and community services (see 6.3 Health, and 6.8 Leisure Services). People are healthier, have greater life expectancies, survive illnesses, and are more physically active than previous generations. More seniors are remaining in their own homes. Older recent immigrants have different needs and expectations. Appropriate community services must cater to the wide variety of interests, abilities, and increasing expectations of a diverse age group, as well as the possible physical limitations experienced on account of aging, and the vulnerability felt by many older persons, both in terms of their personal safety and their ability to make ends meet.



Council, working with input from advisory groups and task forces, endorses the policy which identifies and removes barriers that prevent full participation in the community for people with disabilities.

Richmond City Council:

- *Values both cultural diversity and a multicultural community as a source of enrichment and strength;*
- *Supports the rights of all persons to freedom from cultural/racial discrimination;*
- *Supports the rights of all persons to equal opportunity and participation in community affairs.*



Richmond's youth are active and involved

Persons with Disabilities

There are many issues that impact the quality of life and the ability to participate for people with disabilities: housing (see 3.2 Housing), transportation (see 4.0 Transportation), physical design (see 5.0 Natural & Human Environment) and community services. The disabled community is far from homogeneous, and removing barriers to participation in community services, access to transit, and, movement to and within buildings, public facilities, streets and open spaces can take many forms, including different methods of providing information, providing volunteers to enable participation in recreation programs, and ensuring that the built environment is barrier-free.

Intercultural

Richmond is an ethnically-diverse community which experienced a significant increase in Asian immigrants during the 1990s. This rapid change in the ethnic makeup of the community makes it imperative that policies and programs address the needs of long-time residents, and the integration of new residents into the community. The community needs to celebrate its diversity and harness the opportunities this presents to develop a rich social fabric.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Promote opportunities for youth to participate as full members of the community.

POLICIES:

- a) Provide youth a place in the community through the design of spaces and services that reflect the needs and the different ages of young people;
- b) Provide opportunities for youth to have a strong voice and involvement in City and community decisions that affect them;
- c) Provide youth resources to support their contribution to themselves and the community;
- d) Recognize youth as positive contributors to the community by:
 - Promoting youth activities and services;
 - Creating opportunities for youth to gain an understanding of their City;
 - Acknowledging and promoting their contributions and successes;
- e) Ensure that communication to youth about programs and services is direct and accessible to them.



Seniors are a growing part of the community



Richmond promotes participation by all



Welcome

OBJECTIVE 2:

Ensure opportunities and services are available to encourage and enable *seniors* to function independently.

POLICIES:

- a) Ensure opportunities for seniors are suited to a broad range of abilities of older people;
- b) Facilitate the availability of services to seniors.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Ensure that opportunities and services are available to encourage and enable persons with disabilities to function independently.

POLICIES:

- a) Support initiatives which will promote the independence of persons with disabilities and encourage integration;
- b) Facilitate education and awareness programs for persons with disabilities;
- c) Encourage the development of networks between the community and other agencies working with people with disabilities;
- d) Facilitate the availability of services for people with disabilities;
- e) Work with advisory groups and task forces to remove barriers that inhibit full participation by people with disabilities;
- f) Support initiatives which promote the independence of a person with disabilities and encourage integration.

OBJECTIVE 4:

Recognize Richmond's *multicultural* nature in the delivery of community services and promote harmonious intercultural relations.

POLICIES:

- a) Develop public consultation processes which create understanding and acceptance between different cultures;
- b) Facilitate intercultural education and awareness programs and activities;
- c) Encourage the development of networks between the community and service agencies dealing with intercultural activities.



6.2 PUBLIC SAFETY

Richmond police services:

- *Prevent and control crime;*
- *Maintain peace in public places;*
- *Promote road safety and enforce traffic regulations.*

The City of Richmond is committed to providing an environment that is safe from fires, environmental hazards, and medical and other life-safety situations through prevention measures and efficient response.

ISSUE:

Personal and property safety and security are provided in Richmond through police, fire-rescue and emergency preparedness. As the community continues to change in number, growth pattern, complexity, and diversity, and because fiscal resources are limited, the challenge is to coordinate the strategic and efficient delivery of public safety services.

Police

To most Richmond residents, public safety is primarily associated with police services and is important to quality of life and well-being. Personal safety and security and lower economic costs are two of the benefits of reducing crime and other anti-social behaviours, such as vehicular speeding.

To continue to provide quality police services in a cost-effective manner, pro-active strategies are needed. These strategies include using partnerships, educating and raising awareness of prevention measures in the community, increasing police visibility, and targeting enforcement towards high-risk areas or activities.

Fire-Rescue Services

The role of the Fire-Rescue Department has changed from one of predominantly fire-specific response to include being first responder in rescue and emergency medical situations. In addition to emergency response, the department is moving towards a prevention-based model of community safety as an effective strategy to meet future needs. The changing complexity of City buildings and businesses and the addition of the Vancouver International Airport to the mandate of the department requires flexible strategies to meet the challenges. Increased community education and prevention measures are needed to reduce emergency life safety occurrences in the community.

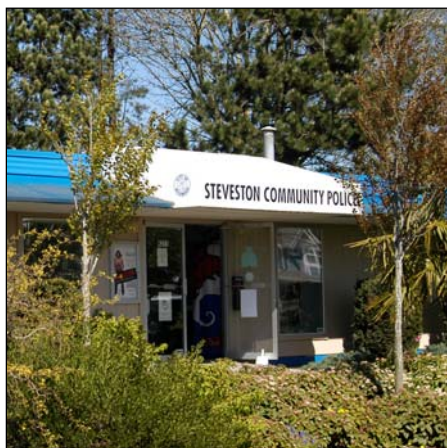


The City of Richmond is committed to take immediate action to:

- *Deal with emergencies or major disasters;*
- *Ensure that appropriate resources are obtained;*
- *Channel the efforts of volunteer agencies and private enterprise in the community;*
- *Solicit assistance from outside the jurisdiction, if necessary.*

Hazard protection measures, e.g. dykes, are a priority in Richmond. (see 7.6 Flood Protection.)

E-Comm Corporation: A non-profit company has been established in order to provide a common communications/dispatch centre for all emergency service providers and programs in the Lower Mainland.



Steveston Community Police Station

Emergency Program

Community-based emergency preparedness planning allows Richmond neighbourhoods to prepare for and respond to anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following an emergency or disaster. By working together, community neighbourhoods and the City can help reduce injuries, protect property, lower the community's emergency needs, and manage existing resources until organized assistance becomes available.

Communications

Each emergency service provider, e.g. Fire-Rescue, Police, Ambulance Service, has its own independent communication system. Therefore, in the event of emergencies/disasters, when there is a need to coordinate services, communication must be done face-to-face. In order to better coordinate services, a common communication network is needed for emergency service providers.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Increase *police* effectiveness through community awareness and partnerships in crime prevention, traffic safety, and emergency assistance.

POLICIES:

- a) Ensure local input in setting policing priorities through public forums, advisory groups, and task forces;
- b) Increase community awareness of crime prevention programs, particularly the need to provide appropriate security measures for personal property;
- c) Continue to establish crime prevention programs in partnership with the local community;
- d) Undertake education and awareness programs in partnership with the community, insurance providers, and other agencies to encourage safe driving and reduce traffic violations;
- e) Use community forums and the media to explain the role and interdependence of police and the community;
- f) Participate in regular events to test emergency readiness;



- g) Educate the community in the use of appropriate telephone contact points for relevant needs, including the proper use of '911';
- h) Establish partnerships with the special needs community groups to ensure emergency (e.g. police, fire-rescue) assistance.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Increase *police* visibility as a pro-active measure along with targeted enforcement to deter high-risk threats to public safety.

POLICIES:

- a) Use bicycle squads and community policing initiatives to increase locally-based policing services;
- b) Target the sources and suppliers of drugs;
- c) Increase enforcement of substance abuse and driving violations;
- d) Deploy mobile breath-testing units to areas of high risk;
- e) Work in partnership with the Photoradar Unit to target high-risk areas in relation to speeding and other dangerous traffic violations.



Police visibility is increasing

OBJECTIVE 3:

Clearly define appropriate *Fire-Rescue* proactive strategies and reactive responses that meet the needs of the changing community.

POLICIES:

- a) Develop community safety plans for each part of the community, and work in partnership with other service providers, e.g. police, ambulance, emergency programs, health, and other City departments;
- b) Work with the development community to ensure that safety standards are met;
- c) Continue to encourage the use of smoke detection devices;
- d) Work with the community to ensure that buildings and homes are equipped and maintained so as to prevent fires and accidents;
- e) Ensure local input when setting fire-rescue priorities through public forums, advisory groups and task forces;



Fire-Rescue will emphasize prevention



- f) Increase community education and awareness relating to safety and accident prevention (e.g. hazardous materials, fires, use of 911, etc.).

OBJECTIVE 4:

Maintain, review, and update the City's *emergency plan* annually.

POLICIES:

- a) Assign responsibility to organizations and individuals for carrying out specific actions at projected times and places in an emergency or disaster that exceeds the capability or routine responsibility of any one agency;
- b) Establish and maintain a City business recovery plan.

OBJECTIVE 5:

Promote effective community safety and response during times of *emergency* or disaster.

POLICIES:

- a) Work with the community to develop community emergency response teams which are woven into the social fabric of the community neighbourhood associations, schools, workplaces, places of worship, and other existing organizations;
- b) Work with the development community to build to the latest seismic standards available;
- c) Partner with public safety agencies to ensure emergency coordination plans are up-to-date;
- d) Increase community awareness of emergency management programs and strategies.

OBJECTIVE 6:

Ensure that the public safety agencies serving the City of Richmond have a common *communication* system to enable direct inter-agency communication, coordination, and a centralized dispatch service.

POLICIES:

- a) Establish a common computer-aided dispatch program to enhance emergency dispatch procedures and related services for better coordination of response to emergency incidents;
- b) Establish a common radio system so emergency service providers have the ability to communicate directly with each other.



6.3 HEALTH

The Health Board has defined five areas under which services are delivered in Richmond:

- *Population health (public health services, immunizations, hearing and speech therapy, health promotion);*
- *Continuing care (home care and long term care);*
- *Acute care/treatment health (hospital);*
- *Mental health;*
- *Aging (care facilities).*

ISSUE:

There are many determinants that contribute to a healthy community. Many of these determinants that are under the control of the City are dealt with in other sections of this plan: environmental aspects (see 5.0 Natural & Human Environment), housing (see 3.0 Neighbourhoods & Housing), jobs (see 2.0 Jobs & Business) and mobility (see 4.0 Transportation). On the other hand, Richmond's health care needs are under the mandate of the regional health board administered through a local non-profit society and, as such, do not fall under the City's jurisdiction. The City's role in health care is to encourage and provide input to the health board in meeting local needs.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Ensure the provision of accessible, appropriate health care services for all residents, especially youth, seniors, special needs, low-income families, and new immigrants.

POLICIES:

- a) Cooperate with the regional health board through a formal liaison group, including local government and the Health Board, to ensure that community health services can be delivered effectively to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population in all parts of the City;
- b) Enhance the effectiveness of community-based health services by ensuring health care and related facilities and services are not unduly restricted by the City's Zoning Bylaw and land use policies.



6.4 EDUCATION

Richmond has a well-educated population and a well-established range of education facilities.



School-aged children will increase

ISSUE:

Public School Facilities

In 2021 Richmond will continue to be a family-oriented community, and the number of school-aged children will increase (although forming a smaller share of the total population). The provision of school facilities to meet the demand is an important issue for the community.

The Richmond School Board has the mandate for the planning and development of public school facilities based on provincial Ministry of Education policies and funding. Richmond has a public school system which includes elementary and secondary school facilities serving distinct geographic areas, along with a diversity of district programs to meet the needs of the students across all of Richmond.

Community demographics change over time, as do the number of school-age children. Facility needs will also change. As new housing is added in neighbourhoods, new school facilities and/or additions to existing facilities may be required. While portable units provide temporary accommodation, the goal of the School Board is to house students in permanent facilities. In some neighbourhoods which have older school facilities, replacement of these facilities may eventually be needed.

The School Board prepares a capital plan for the planning of required facilities for submission to the Ministry of Education. Through ongoing consultation with the School Board, mandated through the Municipal Act, the City can work towards ensuring that school requirements are addressed as development occurs. Municipal Act legislation enables the City and the School Board to enter into an agreement to obtain land or funds for school sites when land is subdivided for housing.

Schools are often the focal point for the neighbourhood. The City and the School Board have worked cooperatively on initiatives which benefit students and local residents. Under the joint school/park site policy the City may purchase additional land adjacent to a new school site, or contribute to park development(play equipment and landscaping) to create larger, multi-use, and more attractive open spaces. Under the Community Use of Schools policy, community groups can use the schools to offer a variety of programs, including before- and after-school care close to homes.



Joint planning for new schools and community centres offers additional opportunities for efficiencies in cost and space utilization. Given the likelihood of constraints on public funding, continued joint planning and innovative solutions to the provision of school facilities will be helpful in addressing future needs.

Independent Schools

Independent schools and private institutions, including elementary and secondary schools as well as international schools and private specialty education facilities, have located in the community, thereby increasing the range of available educational opportunities. These schools are geographically dispersed throughout the community, including the Number Five Road corridor. Private school enrolment, although a small percentage overall of school children, has been increasing faster than in the public school system. While the future demand for independent schools is difficult to predict, the number of sites will likely be limited. No formal location or site planning criteria for independent schools exists at present, although access to bus routes and open space for outdoor activities are considered important for facilities serving school-aged children.



Kwantlen College is centrally located

Business and Education

As Richmond becomes a major business centre, with a growing base in the advanced technology industries, it will be important to have a range of educational opportunities close to home to meet the future demands of the workforce. Kwantlen College is centrally located in the City Centre. Satellite facilities offering specialized programs may wish to locate outside the City Centre close to business centres, as may other specialty educational institutions.

Looking to the future, Richmond has the potential to support facilities that will continue to offer residents a choice of educational opportunities in their own community. Although not a funder, nor with the mandate for education, the City can still play an effective role in continuing to support and facilitate educational opportunities which are accessible, offer a range of choice, and maximize potential for partnerships. The City can utilize tools such as the Official Community Plan policies; ongoing consultation with the School Board, colleges and private institutions; and land use controls.



OBJECTIVE 1:

Continue to encourage a variety of educational opportunities in Richmond.

POLICIES:

General

- a) Support the provision of both public and private education facilities to serve a broad range of interests and age groups;
- b) Ensure safe, direct access to school sites;

Public Schools

- c) Continue to work cooperatively with the Richmond School Board in the planning and development of permanent public school facilities to meet projected future demand, in accordance with the Municipal Act;
- d) Explore jointly with the School Board potential efficiencies in site development, and innovative solutions to the provision of school facilities;
- e) Assist the School Board to obtain land or funds for school sites;
- f) Continue to support the concept of neighbourhood schools;
- g) Continue to plan and develop joint school/park sites and joint-use facilities, where appropriate, when new sites are required;
- h) Continue to support the community use of schools;
- i) Continue to undertake joint maintenance agreements for school/park sites as appropriate;
- j) Continue to liaise with the School Board on matters of mutual interest;

Independent Schools

- k) Continue to support independent schools in the community;
- l) Establish criteria for the location and site development of independent schools;

Post Secondary Facilities

- m) Locate major post-secondary facilities in the City Centre;



General Currie Elementary School



Charles London High School



- n) Support the location of satellite campuses and specialty educational facilities within and outside the City Centre;

Business and Education

- o) Recognize the link between business and education in the training and development requirements of the labour force;
- p) Support the location of education facilities in conjunction with business centres;
- q) Develop design guidelines for such facilities when located in mixed-use settings.



6.5 ARTS & CULTURE

The concept of Arts and Culture covers a vast spectrum of ideas, products and practices: visual arts & crafts, performing arts - theatre and music, libraries, festivals, cultural industries (film, broadcasting, recording, publishing).

Participation in Arts and Culture has many community benefits including:

- *Helps people understand their neighbours, their history and their environment;*
- *Enhances perceived quality of life for individuals, families and communities;*
- *Reduces racism by building understanding between diverse cultures;*
- *Attracts tourism and businesses to the community;*
- *Provides a mechanism for exploring identity and spirituality.*

ISSUE:

Arts and Culture are an integral part of all aspects of community life. The availability of Arts and Culture within a community is one of the important aspects contributing to the livability and quality of life of the community. Richmond, as a growing and diverse community, has seen a tremendous increase in the level of participation in cultural activities. Culture helps people understand their neighbours, their history and their environment, and are significant attractions that draw tourism. While there are many excellent facilities and high-quality services in Richmond, keeping pace with a growing and aging community with increasing expectations will be the challenge.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Facilitate provision of a broad range of facilities and services that allow Richmond residents to participate in a variety of arts and cultural events and programs.

POLICIES:

- a) Work with community groups and individuals to define a coordinated vision for the arts in Richmond;
- b) Work with the board of the Gateway Theatre Society to fulfil its mandate of providing quality performing arts opportunities in Richmond, including the introduction of alternative facilities suitable to the community's emerging needs;
- c) Maintain community input into art exhibitions, and ensure participation by community members, and first time shows by emerging artists;
- d) Provide opportunity for community members to be involved in arts activities through provision of specialized spaces and programming at the Richmond Cultural Centre;
- e) Encourage, through policies and working with the private sector, a cultural industry (films, recording, publishing) within the City;
- f) Recognize the importance of community festivals in the cultural life of a community;



- g) Create opportunities for people to experience art in everyday life and for artists and communities to participate in the design, look, and feel of the City through civic, private sector and community public art initiatives (see 5.0 Natural & Human Environment);
- h) Work with community groups and the private sector to ensure facility needs are met.



6.6 LIBRARY

Demand for library services, materials, technology and locations is at an all-time high. In 1997, six out of seven Richmond residents were active users of the library; over two million visits were made to the library, and residents checked out over 1.2 million books (increasing by 10% per annum).

Branch libraries ensure easy access for popular reading, school support, children's programming, quiet study space and access to computers and the Internet.



Library services are essential to the community

ISSUE:

A public library system is one of the most highly-used community services. As demand for services continues to grow, the challenge will be to provide access to a state-of-the-art, affordable system. Access to technology through facilities provided at the library is important, as is electronic access to library services from one's home or place of business. This latter ability will allow for more service to be provided without a concomitant increase in facilities. At the same time there is a recognition that branch libraries, located for easy access in a community, increase accessibility to local and general services.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Provide high-quality, accessible, and state-of-the-art library services that meet the needs of a diverse community.

POLICIES:

- a) Maintain a strong central resource library with specialized collections and up-to-date technology;
- b) Establish community library branches to serve sizeable communities and improve access to basic library services;
- c) Ensure the needs of the City Centre for a community branch library are met along with city-wide needs for a central resource library;
- d) Continue to explore innovative ways to make services available to the community;
- e) Ensure library services reflect the needs of a diverse community;
- f) Explore public/private partnerships as a way in which to develop future facilities.



6.7 HERITAGE

As of 1997, there are three federally designated or recognized heritage sites:

*Gulf of Georgia Cannery
Britannia Heritage Shipyard
Ewen Cattle Barn*

There are seven heritage sites owned by the City:

*London Farm
Minoru Chapel
Branscombe House
Britannia Heritage Shipyard
Scotch Pond
Rod & Gun Club
Steveston Museum*



Minoru Chapel

ISSUE:

Heritage is anything of a physical, cultural, or social nature that is unique to and valued by a community, and can be passed from generation to generation. Richmond's unique heritage can be characterized by the following themes: agriculture, e.g. barns, farm fields; fishing, e.g. canneries, the Salmon festival; transportation, e.g. historic airport hangars, the Interurban; Steveston, e.g. Moncton Street, small lot residential; early settlement areas, eg. Native or Finnish settlements; and public life, e.g., Minoru Chapel, General Currie School.

The success of Richmond's heritage program is illustrated by the numerous volunteers committed to a variety of heritage projects, the diversity of resources that have been conserved, and the range of programs and opportunities available to learn about Richmond's past. However, as Richmond changes and grows, heritage resources are in danger of being lost. The Richmond heritage program is based on the following objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Encourage the community to continue its vital contribution in keeping heritage alive and active in Richmond.

POLICIES:

- a) Utilize a Heritage Commission to provide advice to Council on heritage-related matters, undertake heritage activities, and liaise with the heritage community;
- b) Support the work of the many active heritage groups in Richmond through the issuing of community grants, advice and assistance from staff, and other means;
- c) Encourage members of the community to volunteer on the Heritage Commission or with one of the many non-profit community-based heritage groups.



OBJECTIVE 2:

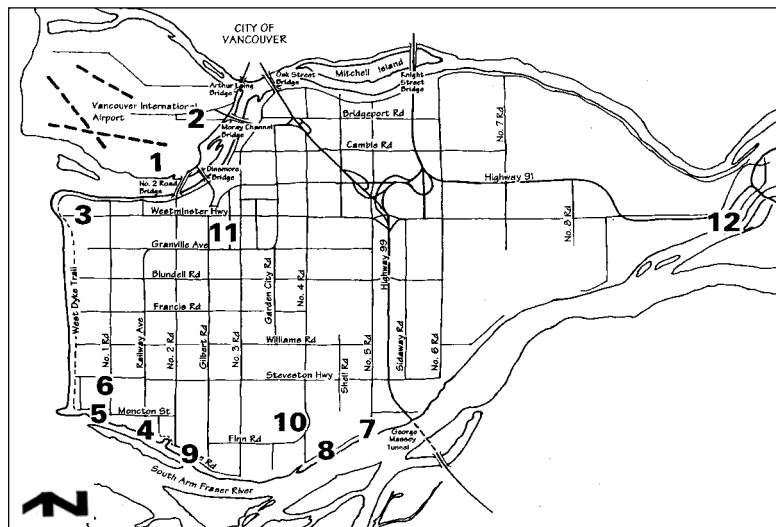
Promote the conservation of heritage resources.

POLICIES:

- a) Require the conservation of known archaeological sites in accordance with Provincial legislation, and require pre-development investigations or monitoring of sites identified as having known archaeological deposits;
- b) Continue the City’s commitment to City-owned heritage buildings and resources, and encourage them to be operated in an economically viable manner, using a variety of methods;
- c) Encourage the voluntary conservation of private heritage resources in their original context, including offering incentives where appropriate;
- d) Encourage the relocation of valued heritage structures to other sites where it is not feasible to retain the building, or encourage the preservation of historic elements where it is not feasible to conserve whole buildings;
- e) Utilize conservation tools available through the Municipal Act, where appropriate, including Heritage Revitalization Agreements, a Heritage Register, Conservation Areas, or Temporary Heritage Protection;
- f) Recognize the importance of heritage areas, e.g. Steveston, and incorporate special conservation policies for these heritage areas;

Heritage Areas

- 1 Vancouver International Airport, South Airport Area (S. Terminal)
- 2 Burkeville
- 3 Terra Nova
- 4 Steveston Cannery Channel
- 5 Steveston Business District
- 6 Steveston Townsite Residential
- 7 Woodward’s Landing
- 8 Finn Slough
- 9 London Farm, London’s Landing and London’s Wharf
- 10 South Arm Slough District
- 11 Minoru Park
- 12 South Dyke Fishing Village





- g) Adopt, wherever feasible, special zoning regulations and development guidelines for the preservation and enhancement of the character of heritage resources;
- h) Recognize the value of the heritage resources identified on the Heritage Inventory by working with property owners and the community to achieve mutually beneficial objectives.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Promote heritage and provide heritage programs in Richmond.

POLICIES:

- a) Support the awareness and recognition of heritage through special events, e.g. Heritage Week; signage, e.g. trails; tours, e.g. barn tour; programs, e.g. conservation techniques; or displays, e.g. museum; that permit the residents of Richmond to experience, and learn about, Richmond's past;
- b) Recognize the role of the City of Richmond Archives as a source of information about Richmond's past, and strive to ensure its accessibility to the public.

OBJECTIVE 4:

Encourage an entrepreneurial approach to the management of heritage.

POLICIES:

- a) Pursue partnerships with the private sector for the conservation and recognition of heritage;
- b) Pursue grants from other levels of government and granting institutions;
- c) In development situations, work with the owners of heritage resources to address the goals of the applicant and the City;
- d) Enhance the tourism and business potential of heritage sites and activities through joint promotion and marketing with tourism and business groups.



Ewen Barn is a national historic site

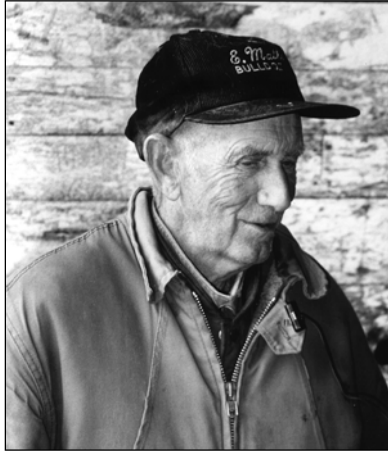


OBJECTIVE 5:

Continue to learn about the past and plan for the future of heritage in Richmond.

POLICIES:

- a) Continue to collect information on and interpret Richmond's past;
- b) Update the heritage inventory to ensure that the listed heritage resources represent the community's values and meet the established criteria;
- c) Encourage heritage conservation plans for important heritage resources;
- d) Encourage staff, the City Heritage Commission and other heritage groups to work together for an integrated and planned approach to the management of heritage resources.



Hugh McNair, member of one of Richmond's pioneer farming families, served on the City's Heritage Commission



6.8 LEISURE SERVICES

Participation in leisure and recreational activities has many key outcomes:

- *Maintenance of personal health;*
- *Formation of human development, such as motor skills, social skills, creativity and conceptual thinking;*
- *Promotion of self-esteem, a positive self-image, life satisfaction, and independent living;*
- *Reduction of anti-social behaviours by building understanding and awareness of diverse cultures, decreasing loneliness and isolation, and providing a feeling of belonging;*
- *Building families and communities, pride in community, and community leaders;*
- *Providing significant economic benefits through employment and tourism.*



Leisure and recreation add to quality of life

ISSUE:

The availability of leisure services has long been recognized as a key component of the livability of a community. However, with increasing population, changing demographics, downloading of services from senior levels of government, and increasing demands and expectations of the public, civic governments must look for a variety of ways to ensure services are available, and to fund facilities and operations. Partnering with other agencies and the private sector, eliminating duplication of services, and constantly obtaining public input into needed services will help the community benefit to the fullest extent from the availability of a wide range of leisure opportunities.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Ensure a broad range of leisure opportunities suited to community needs and interests are made available and accessible through the development and coordination of public, non-profit and private services.

POLICIES:

- a) Work with staff, community groups, and individuals to define a coordinated vision for the provision of leisure services;
- b) Encourage community input into the delivery of leisure services through task forces, focus groups, advisory groups and community groups;
- c) Ensure that a balanced array of leisure services, programs, and opportunities, in line with community needs and interests, are made fully accessible to the public;



- d) Ensure, when planning and providing opportunities, that the unique needs of seniors, families, people with disabilities, low income people, children, and youth are considered;
- e) Develop a capital program for facility needs that keep pace with the changing community;
- f) Work with the private sector to develop recreation facilities;
- g) Work with organized sports groups to ensure that their needs are met as major users of Richmond's parks and facilities.



6.9 CHILD CARE

The 1995 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment Report notes:

- 65% of women with children under 12 years of age were in the paid labour force on either a part-time or full-time basis;
- Less than 2,500 licensed child care spaces were available for the 20,578 children under 12 years of age.



Quality child care is key to the family's well-being

The City of Richmond Child Care Policy states:

“The City of Richmond is committed to being an active partner with senior levels of government, parents, the private sector, and the community in the development and maintenance of a comprehensive child care system in Richmond that shall provide quality programs which are accessible and affordable.”

ISSUE:

Families need options for affordable, flexible, high-quality, regulated child care. This need will continue in future as it is expected that people with children will maintain a high participation rate in the paid labor force.

The benefits of investment in high quality child care/early childhood education include supporting healthy child development and success in school; facilitating the economic self-reliance of families by allowing parents to enter the workforce and/or to participate in training and education; helping to reduce poverty; and providing a key to women's economic equality.

The key issue is the lack of affordability for parents wishing to use formal, regulated child care services. This system is funded by parent fees. At present, there is some provincial subsidy assistance; however, the maximum subsidy rate does not cover the actual cost of child care. The gap between the maximum subsidy rate and average fees is greatest for infant/toddler group care and kindercare programs.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Promote the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive child care system to provide accessible and affordable quality programs.

POLICIES:

- Continue to work with the community to establish quality, affordable child care services;
- Update the Child Care Implementation Strategy on a regular basis;
- Continue to negotiate for the provision of City-owned child care space within private developments as appropriate;
- Continue to encourage donations and contributions to the Child Care Development Reserve Fund and to review the process for allocation of these funds;
- Encourage provision of space for family child care in all assisted-rental housing projects developed under senior government programs;



- f) Work with provincial ministries responsible for children and families to establish priority for coordinated, adequately funded, child care expansion targeted to meet local needs.

