

Mouth of the Fraser

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THROUGH EMILY'S EYES

Growing up in the Goldie Harris house

Once in a while, when Emily Stopp is lonely for playmates, she feels a special kinship with the children who lived in her 1912 farmhouse, nearly a century ago.

In fact, one of the only downsides to growing up in one of Richmond's most notable heritage homes, explains Emily, is the kilometer distance up the narrow, country road, past fields and barns to her closest schoolmates.

"I think about the children who lived here long ago," muses 10-year old Emily, "and what they saw as they walked up No. 4 Road, past the fields and barns to visit their friends, and I don't think it's changed much."

Emily has clear ideas about the daily lives of those original five children who grew up here in the Goldie Harris house, amidst beautiful

gardens, orchards and farm fields.

"They would have had chores, like churning butter, baking bread and bringing in wood and coal for the fireplaces. And, like me, they would have had to take care of their cats."

The four girls, Mabel, Belle, Margaret and Illa, and one boy, Ray, were the children of Agnes Isabella Kidd and Goldwin Harris, and the grandchildren of Thomas Kidd, one of Richmond's most prominent pioneers, who signed the original petition to incorporate Richmond and served as a councilor and reeve.

Emily, with her 12 year-old brother, Kevin, has spent her whole life in this scenic, South Arm slough area. She has a sense of connectivity to the past in a way unmatched by secondary sources such as textbooks. "I attend Thomas Kidd school, and this is where Thomas Kidd died," she says, in a matter-of-fact tone, standing in her home's study.

Thanks to her parents, Mary and Paul Stopp and their careful preservation of the farmhouse and its many features including a bell-cast, hipped

roof, brick chimneys, verandah and original heating stove, Emily has a keen appreciation for the value of the past.

She can also touch Richmond's history, growing up surrounded by the photos, letters, artifacts, dishes, furnishings and stories of original settlers. It's made her at ease talking about times gone by.

"I know the children would have picked blackberries and seen coyotes and bald eagles, just like I do," say Emily, "and they might have ridden horses to school by the same fields where I've fed working Clysdale horses."

Emily also has an appreciation for what the children lacked. "There wasn't a doctor in Richmond then, so they would have had to travel up the Fraser River to New Westminster by boat and it's a long way."

Just like the Goldie Harris house has stood for close to a century, so will Emily and her brother's vivid memories of growing up here. "I get A's in social studies. I find it really interesting," laughs Emily.



Goldie Harris House

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

by Mark Bostwick

The past has a way of clinging to you. I am in my seventh decade and I still have dreams with locations clearly drawn from the neighbourhood where I grew up. I can recall in considerable detail virtually every

house along the four block walk from my home to my elementary school: the bungalow where the jeweller lived, the red brick house where the railroad engineer lived, the family who owned the local grocery store, the greenhouse with the pile of manure. I could point to the uneven spot in the sidewalk where I stubbed my toe. In my mind's eye I see colour of the flagstone steps of Bromwell School.

Not too long ago I paid a visit to my old neighbourhood. The school with its sandstone arch reading "Built 1908" has been razed and replaced by a larger much more modern school (albeit with a website with a historical section). The row of 19th century flats that always seemed a little run down have been fixed up, repainted and turned into expensive boutiques. The mean Chow dog that always barked from behind the fence is gone, but the house remains. The elm tree in front of my house has grown up, been cut down, and grown up again. The eyes of an 8 year old take in an enormous amount of detail, and these details leave an indelible imprint. There is nothing, however, like a direct physical prompting to summon up those memories.

Is this nostalgia? Yes, of course, but nostalgia is a way of making a connection, opening doors, reminding us of both the innate curiosity of children and the depth of our basic values. I once asked a group of colleagues to draw me a sketch of their childhood neighbourhood. The results from all parts of Canada, New Zealand, England, the U.S. were fascinating and provoked much discussion who we were and why we were here. Questions which everyone should ask.

I would argue that children should be encouraged to walk our streets and trails, to get a feel for our

neighbourhoods both, to puzzle over the differences between the old and the new. Inquisitive children see places from the past with fresh eyes and create long memories. In one sense the places we protect today can be a link between today's 8 year old and tomorrow's 60 year old.



HERITAGE RAMBLINGS

By Graham Turnbull

Terra Nova Park

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to visit the Heritage properties in the new City park area at Terra Nova. It is hoped that these properties can be restored and be used in the operation of the park. This whole park will be unique and I am sure that it will be the jewel in the Richmond Park system. From the heritage perspective it is not often that properties can be saved including the whole land area that they were sited on and the total use of the site interpreted. There are five buildings which hopefully will be saved. The Queen Anne Revival Parson's House(c.1895) one of the oldest houses in Richmond, Cold Comfort Farm(c.1900), an Edwardian Cottage(c.1905) and two small cannery buildings(c.1912) of



the old Terra Nova Cannery. Parson and Mellis(Cold Comfort) were original settlers in the area, their names appear in the early crown grants. Of the cannery buildings one was the company store and the other a house, opposite the Terra Nova Cannery which was over the water on the outside of the dyke. This whole park and the heritage properties in it will be one of the most exciting projects in Richmond for some time to come.

Pioneer Tea

The City Council will be hosting a Tea for Pioneers who have lived in Richmond for 50 years or more. It will be held on Friday, September 17th between 2:00 to 4:00pm.

There will be food and entertainment and it will be held on the concourse at City Hall. Look for advertising in the next few weeks which will give you a phone number to contact, if you qualify, to reserve a seat for the tea. Later in the day there will be a party for all Richmond residents, watch for details to come.

Tin Shed Site Park

I hope you all have seen our new mini park on the old Tin Shed Site at the west end of Moncton Street in Steveston. If you have not seen



Tin Shed Site

it, the Tin Shed Site was the slab of concrete in front of the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, it is part of the property operated by the Steveston Harbour Authority and is now our newest park. The authority paid for the development of the park and the work and design was done by the City Parks Department, they both should be commended for this wonderful little green space. Why the name “Tin Shed Site”? The Tin Shed was a corrugated iron shed which was used to store fish fertiliser which was produced when the cannery was a herring reduction plant, it was demolished when the Federal Government bought the property from Canadian Fishing Company. It is intended to have a small ceremony to open the park and name it the Fishermen’s Park.

Virtual Museum

It seems that in the last few newsletters I have been talking about the Steveston Historical Society project to put the history of Steveston in the Canadian Heritage Information Networks Virtual Museum. I am delighted to announce that it is now up and running in that museum. You can view it at www.virtualmuseum.ca then click on Community Memories then search for Steveston Recollections. There are 197 pictures with text in a timeline of Steveston, from them are three stories one on Farming, one on Fishing and one on the Fraser River Boats. If you have comments of any kind please e-mail us at, steveston@telus.net.

The Retired Teachers of Richmond has also completed their project for the same museum, go to the same site and search for Schoolyard Memories.

2005 Calendar

The Gulf of Georgia Society intends to produce a calendar on the Heritage Sites of Steveston. It will feature the art work of Jo Scott-B and will be ready for sale in July. An Art Show of the original’s will be held in the cannery to promote the calendar. It will be for sale at the Gift Shops in the Cannery, Britannia, London Farm and the Steveston Museum.



GHOSTLY ‘SURVIVOR’ CHALLENGES RICHMOND’S TIME TRAVEL DETECTIVES

During July and August this summer Time Travel Detective Camps unfold weekly at the Richmond Museum with a ghostly riddle from Richmond’s past. On the four-day camps, twelve “time travel adventurers” comb through historic sites and streets, locating photos and artefacts, hearing stories and sifting through clues to solve a mystery thriller buried deep within Richmond’s history.

This is the fifth summer the Museum has opened its doors to Richmond’s young detectives and it has been

expanded to include new field trip experiences, the creation of a personal ‘time capsule’ clock and an introduction to traditional games from around the world. “This program allows children to explore Richmond’s History and their own personal family background in a fun interactive manner.” says Carla Taunton, Summer Coordinator. Each participant explores their family history through photos and objects they’ve collected for their own personal time capsule, assembling a collection of images and small keepsakes that provide clues to the story of their personal connection to Richmond.

As well, “ghosts” from Richmond’s past challenge the adventurers detective skills while on guided out-trips exploring Steveston, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, a Victorian farmhouse at London Farm, and the City Archives. While on the adventure the sleuths play games and face challenges designed to enrich their understanding of local pioneer life and this place they call home, Richmond.

Through each Time Travel Detective Camp, children learn and develop skills in observation, research, investigation, teamwork, co-operative learning and creative problem solving. At the same time, they learn much about their community’s history and the contemporary cultures of their city today. Most importantly, learning is always an exciting discovery. There is always a new clue waiting around the corner and a mystery to be solved.

Register early, since each camp is limited to only 12 curious and investigative young minds. The program runs Tuesdays to Fridays (July and Aug) and is open to age groups from 6-12 yrs. The cost is

\$120 for the four-day Time Travel Detectives Camp. Pre-registration is required. For more information contact the Museum at (604) 231-6460.

This program has been developed by the Richmond Museum with the cooperation and support of the Richmond Archives, Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society, London Farm Society, Britannia Heritage Shipyards and the Steveston Museum.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Britannia Heritage Shipyards National Historic Site and Park

Britannia offers a number of exciting and hands-on school programs for elementary school children. Call 604-718-8043 for information.

The Steveston Folk group offers a mixture of Celtic, Folk and Blues tunes every third Thursday of each month from 8:00-10:00pm in the Murakami boat works building.

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Editorial Board:

Connie Baxter, Teresa Murphy & Graham Turnbull

Layout and design provided by:

Morgan Muir - City of Richmond Production Centre

Distribution:

Renee Moffatt / Marie Davies
Recreation & Cultural Services,
City of Richmond

Contacts:

Graham Turnbull - Ph: 604-275-2443

First annual Richmond Wooden Boat Festival August 20-22

Featuring heritage boats, maritime displays, demonstrations, activities on and off the water. Co-sponsored by the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Advisory Board and the Steveston Rotary Club.

Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site

For details of any of these events call 604 664-9282 or visit their website: www.gulfofgeorgiacannery.com

Mayday Exhibit – The Risky Business of Fishing , the Story of Sea Resque
To October 2004

Mayday School Program (Grade 4-7)
Septmeber - October

Phone: 604-664-9282
Email: gogprog@pch.gc.ca
Open: July 1 - September 6
Daily 10am-6pm

London Heritage Farm

For details of any of these events call 604 271-5220.

Strawberry Tea
July 3 - 4, 10am - 4pm

Summer Pop Youth Orchestra
July 10, 1pm

Lavender Tea
July 17 - 18, 10am - 4pm

Very Berry Tea
August 7 - 8, 10am - 4pm

Family Farm Fair
Aug 22, 10am - 4pm

Autumn Tea
September 25 - 26, 12am - 4pm

Richmond Museum & Heritage Services

For details of any of these events call 604 231-6460.

New Exhibit!

Sowing the Seeds: Richmond's Agricultural History
Opening June 17 at 7pm

Children's Summer Programs

Heritage In The Park
June 28 - 30

Young Archaeologists
July 6-9

Daycamps - Time Travel Adventures I & II
July-August

History Quest
July - August

Celebrating Birthdays Around The World
August

Playday
August 28

Barns: The Vanishing Landscape Guided Tour
September 18



City of Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road,
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Telephone: 604-276-4000
www.city.richmond.bc.ca