

Mouth of the Fraser

Published by the Richmond Heritage Commission



Fall 2009

Award Winning Terra Nova Park

Terra Nova Rural Park is considered by many Lower Mainland residents and visitors to be a special place for its productive fields edged with hedgerows and dykes, weathered heritage cannery buildings and homes (including an Edwardian bungalow), and heritage orchards and community vegetable gardens.



Now, this unique park has been recognized on a provincial scale by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) that awarded the City of Richmond top honors for Leadership & Innovation in Environmental Excellence.

The vision for Terra Nova Park is to preserve the unique rural character while providing a balance between agricultural heritage, wildlife conservation and recreational uses.

The park is dedicated to agricultural heritage preservation, education, and ecological restoration and conservation, and has become a model for public process and involvement in developing non-traditional parkland.

Key to the park's success is the ongoing recognition of its unique eco-system, the preservation of heritage assets and the support of community partners such as the Richmond Tree Fruit Sharing Project which shares fresh fruit and vegetables with the

community, and the Terra Nova Schoolyard Society which brings children into the Terra Nova outdoor classroom where they learn about gardening and growing their own fruits and vegetables.

In 2008, work at Terra Nova included:

- Raising one of the historic Cannery buildings to prevent further deterioration;
- Planting and harvesting of the Sharing Farm's 2.0 acres lands;
- Retrofitting the 'barn' with a classroom, community kitchen and public washrooms;
- Planting the slough area with native species; and
- Restoring the heritage orchard and vegetable garden at the Parson House.

In 2009, projects undertaken included:

- Building trail connections between the Demonstration Garden and Sharing Farm;
- Working with community partners and volunteers to build a Healing Garden/Gathering Area;
- Building lookouts, seating & fences;
- Planting Crabapple Ridge on a massive scale;
- Preparing to breach the dyke and create fish habitat in the slough; and
- Stabilizing heritage buildings.

Unique programs at Terra Nova have included "Decreasing Barriers, Increasing Wellness", a seniors' outreach program that brings frail and isolated seniors into Parks' recreation programs and services.



Congratulations to Yvonne Stich and Parks Staff for your leadership and commitment to sustainability through its non-traditional use of city parkland.

New Steveston Conservation Bylaws benefit building owners

Steveston is well known for its working docks, century-old wood-frame buildings and peaceful back lot gardens.



To preserve our unique village, Richmond City Council adopted the last heritage bylaws of the Steveston Village Conservation Program in June. The Conservation Program designates Steveston Village as a Heritage Conservation Area, protects 17 buildings from potential demolition and rewards owners with financial incentives.

Buildings not covered in the strategy can be demolished, but new buildings must conform to updated heritage guidelines.



“I see this as a very positive move,” says Dana Westermark of London Landing Developments which owns several heritage buildings in Steveston.

“The Conservation Plan preserves the character that we all find so appealing”, explains Westermark. “This includes the hodge podge of buildings from the turn of the Century to the 1930s, 40s and 50s and up to now, the small lots with buildings right at the street, the interesting alleyways and the views to the river.”

The Conservation Plan incentives go a long way towards mitigating costs for the owners of buildings protected by the new bylaws.

Property owners will be allowed to develop vacant areas on their property to a higher density and (if required) access funds for heritage conservation from a new grant program, funded by rezoning contributions for bonus density (to pre-determined maximums).

The Conservation Strategy was five years in the making and included public consultation meetings and surveys. The Real Estate Foundation of BC provided partial funding.

Identified Heritage Buildings

1. Steveston Hotel, 1211 3rd Avenue
2. Dave’s Fish and Chips, 3460 Moncton St.
3. Riverside Art Gallery, 3480 Moncton St.
4. Hepworth Block, 3580 Moncton St.
5. Wakita Grocery, 3680 Moncton St.
6. Japanese Nurses Residence, 4091 Chatham St.
7. Steveston Methodist Church, 3731 Chatham St.

8. Steveston Courthouse, 12011 3rd Ave.
9. Marine Garage, 3611 Moncton St.
10. Redden Net, 3700 Moncton St.
11. Cannery Café, 3711 Moncton St.
12. Steveston Museum, 3811 Moncton St.
13. Budget Appliance Store, 3831 Moncton St.
14. Bare Basics, 3871 Moncton St.
15. Tasaka Barbers, 3891 Moncton
16. Japanese Buddhist Temple, 12191 1st Ave.
17. Prickly Pear Garden Centre, 12311 No. 1 Rd.



Favourite Heritage Places

We asked local residents about their favorite heritage places. Here’s what they told us.

“I am reminded of the unique history of Steveston each time I walk the dyke trail past London Farm and along the boardwalk to visit the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. The Cannery consistently reminds me of Steveston’s unique past and vividly reminds me of its fishing heritage.”

The Hon. John Yap, Minister of State for Climate Action.

“Barns have a special meaning for me and I have many favourites including the Tilson/Gilmour barn at the south foot of No. 4 Road, the McNair Barn at the south foot of No. 3 Road, the McKay dairy barn on No. 7 Road, the Gilmour barn on No. 8 Road, and the Beckwith barn on New Westminster Highway.”

Linda Reid, MLA, Richmond East.

“Britannia is my favourite heritage place – the little pocket between the two net loft buildings right on the edge of the river. My

great-grandfather worked at Britannia for many years repairing BC Packers’ boats.”

Bob Ransford, fourth generation Steveston resident.



My favourite location in Richmond is The Steveston Village, Fishermans Warf/ Harbour and Cannery.

Rick Hansen, Rick Hansen Foundation.

My favorite is the dyke from the foot of Blundell to No. 1 Road. It is a beautiful walk/run route with spectacular vistas. Our dog Magnus loves the birds!

Amanda Hansen, Board of Directors, Rick Hansen Foundation

My favourite heritage spot is the Highway to Heaven, aka No. 5 Road in Richmond. Driving or walking along this stretch gives you a great sense of pride about this community’s very rich cultural diversity.

Balwant Sanghera, recipient of the Order of British Columbia, president, East Richmond Community Association.

“I use to love going to the Winch at the south end of No. 2 Rd. Where my dad use to dock his boat & fix his nets. I loved that there use to be worn out name plates on the south wall of the net shed for reserved parking spot, I guess. I knew all the names & one of the parking spots said “Sameshima.” My favourite heritage building is the Murakami’s house on the dyke. Mrs Murakami was my grandmother’s good friend. My dad spent a lot of time at that house when he was little. When I took dad to see the house, he said it looked just like in the old days.”

Teresa Sameshima, Richmond resident

“I like anywhere along the south shoreline, especially at the end of No. 2 Road where I grew up. My dad had his boat building shipyard there and I have many good memories

of the buildings and growing up along the waterfront. Doing things like helping my dad bring his net off his fishing boat and then racking it on some wooden frames so he could repair the tears made by the fish. There are still some of the boat launching rails in the water at the Pacific Coast Cannery site at the end of No. 2 Road along the dike.”

Sherry Sakamoto, video producer, and Richmond resident



“My favorite places are the Murakami House, Britannia Shipyard and the boardwalk along the Fraser. I also enjoy the walk along the Dyke Road between No. 2 Road and No. 3 Road, I live at London Landing so this is a real special part of Richmond for me. Finn Slough is also a very special place, especially if you have visitors.”

Craig R. Jones, Executive Director, Richmond Chamber of Commerce

“The Steveston Museum.”

Elaine Martyniuk, Postmistress of Steveston

“The Jones House on No.3 Road, the Eldstrom House on Finn Road, the Goldie Harris house on No. 4 Road and the Gilmore barn and house on Dyke Rd.”

Ron Schuss, born and raised in Richmond

“Terra Nova Park. The Parsons house and the cannery houses, much smaller than the houses of today, the gravel roads and the

orchards and the fields are so reminiscent of Richmond I grew up in as a child.”

Rob Howard, MLA Richmond Centre.

A Heritage Recipe

Teresa Sameshima, born in Steveston in 1955, recalls her mom, Minori Merry Sameshima making this special cake at Christmas. “Since mom passed away, my oldest sister has continued the tradition & makes it for all of us. It has no alcohol & is a lighter fruit cake than the traditional kind.”

Fruit Cake

1 lb of butter
2 cups of sugar
6 eggs
4½ cup flour
1 tsp baking powder
1½ container of fruit mix
1 cup chopped nuts

Cream butter and sugar well. Add eggs. Add flour and baking powder. Add fruit mix (add flour to fruit mix to cover so it won't be sticky). Add nuts. Put in ungreased loaf pan and bake 1½ hours at 250 degrees.

Upcoming Events

Historic Steveston

December 5, 2009 - 6th Annual Celebration of Lights.

Santa arrives at 2 p.m.; Old fashioned horse-drawn carriage rides; tree lighting at Fisherman's Park in front of the Gulf of Georgia at 5:00 p.m., and more.

December 6, 2009, Breakfast with Santa,

9:00 – 11:30 a.m., Steveston Community Centre.

December 11-12, 2009, Santa Hay Ride

Steveston Community Centre.

December 12, 2009, Santa Claus comes to Steveston

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Gulf of Georgia

December 23, 2009, Steveston Santa Claus Parade

7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

At the Richmond Museum

From Far and Wide: The Eppich Collection

Feb 11 – Sep 2010;

Opening Reception: Thurs, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

Twin brothers, Helmut and Hugo Eppich founded Ebco Group of Companies in 1956. The collection, tied to the company's corporate values, represents a mosaic of cultures present in Ebco's workforce that have originated from over 80 countries in the company's 53-year history.

Let's Celebrate Winter!

A magical 90-minute guided interpretive program for Grades K-3. \$4 per student.

Unwrap presents to discover the many ways that different cultures celebrate winter. Go on a mini scavenger hunt and explore how objects change over time. Play Fuku Warai, a game that children play for Japanese New Year. Last but not least, make a special winter craft to take back to school.

For information contact Emily So at 604-247-8334 or museumed@richmond.ca.

At the London Farm

November/December, 2009

Christmas Gift Shop is open

December 6, 13, 20, 2009

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Live Music in the Tea Room

January - closed

February 6, 2010

12:00 – 5:00 p.m. London Farm Tea Room & Gift Shop opens

February 13, 2010

12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Chinese New Year Tea

February 14, 2010

12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Valentine Tea

March 14, 2010

12:00 – 5:00 p.m. St. Patrick's Day Tea.

At the Gulf of Georgia Cannery

Cannery Store is open for Christmas shopping

Friday, December 4, 2009

12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m.

Friday December 11, 18, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 5, 11, 12, 19, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sundays, December 6, 13, 20, 2009

12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. at Britannia

Murchison Gift Shop

Saturdays

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sundays

12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.

Richmond Delta Regional Heritage Fair 2009

Special Award Recipients

National

- Laurier LaPierre: Deborah & Barbara Peng - A History of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet
- CM Veterans Award: Luke Tetrault - Defence of Vancouver
- RBC Aboriginal Award: Mary & Abigail Uher – Paul Kane
- Imperial Oil Science & Technology Certificate: Michelle Foo, Michael Wong & Kaylyn Munro – John Cabot

Provincial

- Provincial Capital Award: Haley Magrill – Emily Carr & Woo the Monkey
- Historic Places: Nicholas Laviolette – History of Steveston & Gulf of Georgia Cannery

- BC Hydro Power Pioneers: Ashley Veuger, Matt Gohl, Justin Baril & Brian Watanabe – Hugh McRoberts & Hugh McRoberts Secondary School

Local

- Richmond Heritage Commission presents Local Historian: Eric Hooper – The Decrease of Farmland in Richmond



- Honourable Mention for Local Historian: Hdeal Mian – My Cultural Heritage: Sudan
- Judge's Special Award: Liz Yeung – Working Women: A History of the Women's Labour Force

National & Provincial Fair Delegates

National Fair Delegate

- Kate Ward – Banished to Safety: England's World War II Kids in Canada, Sixty Years On

Provincial Fair Delegates

- Georgia & Delaney Booker – Jack Harrison: "The Flying Cop"
- Michael Hall & Tejas Saggi – Hall's to Saggi's Comparison
- Jason Li & Tom Cui – The Battle of Abraham Plains



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is published twice a year to support the awareness, understanding and recognition of Heritage in Richmond under the auspices of the Richmond Heritage Commission and Richmond Museum and Heritage Services.

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