

ARCHIVES

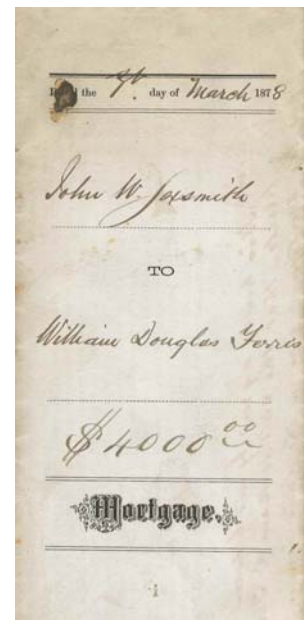
news

New Records at the Richmond Archives— Donations from the Community

The mandate of the City of Richmond Archives is to acquire, preserve and make accessible the records of municipal government and of individuals, families, community groups, and other corporate bodies of significance to the understanding of Richmond's historical development.

In 2015, as in past years, the Archives has been fortunate to receive a number of public donations of archival records reflecting the activities of a variety of records creators in the community. The following are a few examples of the wide range of archival material that the City of Richmond Archives has acquired by donation this year.

- The donation of the original 1878 mortgage agreement effecting the purchase of a large piece of property in the present City Centre area, along with other records and historical material, help document the vital role J.W. Sexsmith played in the development of Richmond as a municipality.
- Rare photographs of Lansdowne Park Race Track in the 1920s and 1930s donated by the family of an ex-jockey provide evidence of the importance of Richmond's two race tracks to horse racing in British Columbia and the west coast of North America.
- The 1959 opening of the Richmond plant of the BC Coast Vegetable Co-operative Association is detailed in a photograph album donated earlier this year. The album contains photographs depicting many of the major farmers and agriculturalists in Richmond at the time.
- The development of the Richmond Nature Park in the early 1970s is documented in a private donation of photographic slides showing the natural flora and fauna in the park shortly after its acquisition by the municipality.



Mortgage agreement (1878–1881) between John Wesley Sexsmith and William Douglas Ferris, by which Sexsmith acquired Section 28, Block 5N, Range 6W. City of Richmond Archives Accession 2015 2



Shadow Spark in the winner's circle following the 1924 BC Derby held at Lansdowne Park in its first year of operation.

City of Richmond Archives Photograph 2015 3 1



The BC Coast Vegetable Co-operative Association's Richmond plant at the time of its official opening in 1959.

City of Richmond Archives Photograph 2015 9 a



Field researchers in the bog at Richmond Nature Park, 1972.

City of Richmond Archives Photograph 2015 8 a

From the Richmond Archives Blog—The Skookum Slide

The following is an edited version of a recent posting to “Outside the Box: the Richmond Archives Blog.” You can see the full story and other articles like this at: richmondarchives.ca.

Few communities can lay claim to having a large amusement park attraction in their downtown core, but from 1969 to 1973, Richmond could. The Skookum Slide was only in existence for a few years, but is remembered fondly by those who grew up here in that time.

John B. Stokes, President of Super Slide Limited (later Skookum Slide Ltd.), met with the Director of Planning for the Township of Richmond in late August 1968 and presented his proposal for this new recreational facility. Slides of this type had been operated for several years in California and across the southern United States, but they had not been adapted for the conditions to be found in more northern climates. The Richmond Slide was to be the first in North America fitted with a permanent roof.

The project received approval from the Planning Department and the company sub-leased parts of lots from the Richmond Savings Credit Union and the Dairy Queen at Richmond Square (now Richmond Centre Mall). Construction of the slide was underway by January 1969



Looking southeast toward No. 3 Road, with Skookum Slide on the right, 1973. City of Richmond Archives Photograph 2008 39 2 34

with an opening planned for March 1st.

The operation of the slide was very simple, with no moving parts other than the customers, consisting of “boys and girls from 6 to 16 years of age” according to marketing information. Patrons would climb the stairs and ramps to the top of the slide, buy their tickets, be issued a burlap sack to sit on and ride the slide’s three “loops” to the bottom while music played at high volume over the sound system. Once the slide tickets ran out, the Dairy

Queen was only steps away to enjoy a dipped cone or a banana split until Mom and Dad finished shopping at the nearby shopping centre.

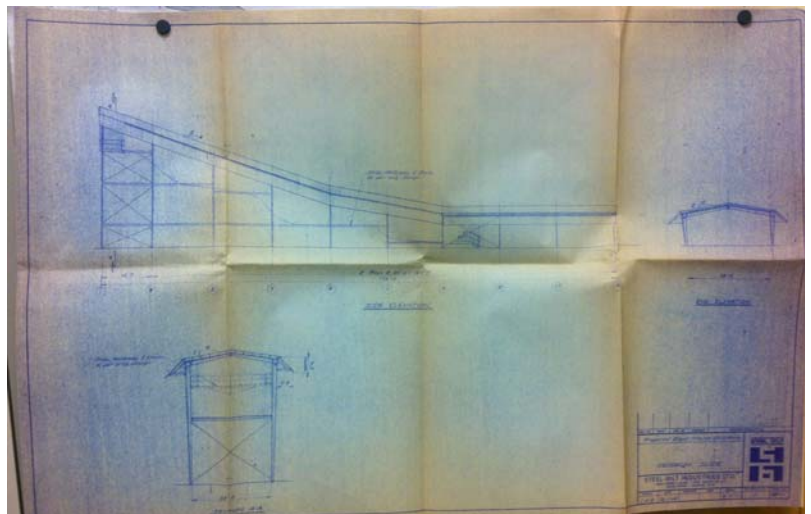
The lease ran out in September 1973 and plans for expansion of the Credit Union and Richmond Square Shopping Centre settled any possibility of extending the slide’s lease. The operation was shut down and the slide removed, leaving some extra parking spaces at the Credit Union and a few nostalgic memories in the minds of those who grew up in Richmond in the early 1970s.



Above: Tickets for the Skookum Slide. City of Richmond Archives digital reference file



Looking north toward the Skookum Slide, 1973. City of Richmond Archives Photograph 2008 39 2 246



Plan for the Skookum Slide submitted to Planning Department. City of Richmond Archives PL248, COM5

Retirement of Archivist Bill Purver



Bill Purver admires the statue of the horse Minoru at Minoru Park. City of Richmond Archives digital reference file

After many years of association with the City of Richmond Archives, Archivist Bill Purver worked his last day at the Archives in August.

Bill first worked for the Archives as a contract Archivist in 1992–1993. He returned to Richmond as a contract auxiliary Archivist in 2002, was hired full-time as the Records Analyst in 2006, and then in 2009 was hired as Archivist. Bill’s Master’s Degree in Archival Studies from UBC, combined with his years of experience working in and with a variety of archival institutions has made him a respected expert in the field and especially in the area of municipal archives.

Bill has made many remarkable contributions at the City of Richmond

Archives. Bill closely worked with the Friends of the Richmond Archives and further solidified relationships with the volunteers. With Bill’s support, guidance and leadership, the Friends have undertaken many innovative initiatives and important projects in recent years. In addition to the management of the day-to-day operations of the Archives, Bill also supervised numerous contract projects and continued to develop the Archives’ educational program. Without a doubt, Bill has been an ambassador for the Richmond Archives. He has consistently approached his work with dedication, passion and purpose. These efforts have not gone unnoticed as I have email folders filled with accolades from researchers, the media, volunteers & coworkers. In short, Bill has made a difference. He has been instrumental in preserving Richmond’s past and in making it accessible to future generations.

Thank you for your many contributions, Bill. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement and best wishes on your future endeavours.

Dovelle Buie
Manager, Records and Information

20th Anniversary of the Archives News

2015 marks the twentieth year of publication of the Archives News. The pages of the newsletter document the growth and development of the City of Richmond Archives, including articles about significant records acquired, successes in automating access to holdings, and the building of online resources to better serve City staff and the general public.

The Archives News has also served as an important publication to promote awareness of the archival mandate and mission, and to provide information about the impressive support work carried out by the Friends of the Richmond Archives.

To learn more about the development of the City of Richmond Archives, people can view all issues of the Archives News online at: www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/about/newsletter.htm



Bill joins the Retired Archivists’ Club with his predecessor, Lynne Waller.



Front page of Volume 1, Number 1 of the Archives News, 1995.



Front page of issue announcing the launch of the Archives’ online photograph database, 1998.



Archives Tea 2015

The annual Archives Tea hosted by the Friends of the Richmond Archives will take place this year on Friday, October 16 at 2:00 pm. Doors will open at 1:30. The "Tea" will be held again this year at the Minoru Place Activity Centre (formerly known as Minoru Seniors Centre) across the plaza from the Richmond Library and Cultural Centre.

This year marks the 19th celebration of our annual event. Guests are welcome so please feel free to bring along friends who may never have had the opportunity to take part in this always enjoyable affair.

The Friends would like to thank once again this year the Minoru Seniors Society for its generosity and ongoing support in allowing the use of their Main Hall for the "Tea".

We look forward to an afternoon of good food, excellent company and fascinating conversation. Books from the Archives' historical publication program will be available for purchase as will the DVD of Ted Clark's 1949 film of the BC Electric Railway Lulu Island Line.

Those wishing to attend are asked to contact the Friends through the City of Richmond Archives by phone at 604-247-8305 or by email at archives@richmond.ca.

Barbara Williams Honoured at Ethel Tibbits Awards Luncheon



Barbara Williams and friends at the Ethel Tibbits Awards Luncheon.

At the Ethel Tibbits Women of Distinction Awards ceremony held on May 4, Friends of the Richmond Archives' President Barbara Williams was honoured as a nominee in the Community Volunteer category.

Barbara has a long record of volunteer service for a number of community organizations in Richmond, including the Friends

of the Richmond Archives, the Community Arts Council, the Textile Arts Guild, the London Farm Heritage Society, and the Richmond Museum Society. In addition, Barbara has been a volunteer caregiver working with the elderly for most of the last two decades.

Congratulations, Barbara, for a well-deserved honour and for all that you have given back to our community.

Community Records Processing Project Completed



Jamie Sanford in the Archives' storage area with recently processed community records. Bill Purver photograph

Thanks to funding from the Friends of the Richmond Archives and the work of contract archivist Jamie Sanford, a significant backlog of community records in the Archives' holdings has now been formally arranged and described.

Records of the following community groups are now accessible to all Archives' researchers: Presbyterian Church of Richmond/Marpole, Sea Island Community Association, South Arm Community Association, United Seniors in Richmond, Minoru Seniors Society, Richmond Women's Resource Center, Fraser/Delta Girl Guides, Friends of the Ewen Barn Society, Richmond Cow Testing Association, Minoru Spoon Club, Richmond Kinettes, Save Richmond Farmland Society and the Save Brighthouse Park Society.

Volunteer Spotlight



Esther Rabinovitch and Lynne Farquharson at work on a project to transcribe on to a database the early hand-written minutes of the Richmond School Board.

Bill Purver photograph



CITY OF RICHMOND ARCHIVES

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