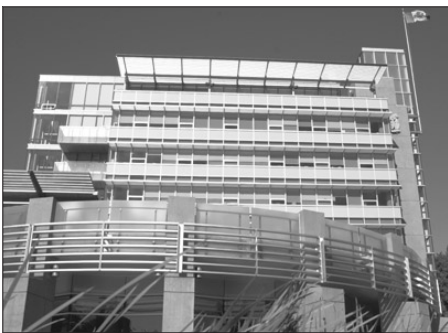


# Mouth of the Fraser

Summer/Fall, 2003 • Published by the Richmond Heritage Commission



On May 30 and 31, 2003, the City of Richmond hosted the very successful Heritage Society of BC conference. Delegates attended from all over the province and were very impressed with City Hall and the tours of our heritage sites in Steveston. The following article is a review of the workshop entitled "Finding the Money," that took place on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.



## GROWING HERITAGE

by Mark Bostwick

Money does not grow on trees, even beautiful heritage trees. Why this is so, I don't know. It isn't right, but there you are. Nevertheless, heritage preservation requires money. The acquisition of sites, the restoration of buildings, the protection and creative adaptive use of heritage all require both huge dollops of love and regular infusions of cold, hard cash.

Fortunately, the people involved in heritage matters tend to take the long view, they value patience and hard work, planting acorns rather than bean sprouts. This issue of *Mouth of the Fraser* takes a look at how heritage activities are funded, and what we can learn from the experience of others.

The grand daddy of heritage preservation funds is probably The National Trust of Great Britain ([www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)) founded in 1895 by three Victorian philanthropists concerned about uncontrolled development and industrialisation. This non-governmental organization (with a lot of political clout) has gradually acquired 612,000 acres of countryside, 600 miles of coastline, and more than 200 buildings and gardens of interest. They are not afraid of working on big projects like putting a tunnel under Stonehenge to keep out traffic noise. The National Trust has three million members. What strikes one about the Trust is the extensiveness of their ongoing fundraising. They depend on donations and bequests from members, visitors fees, rentals, special events, sale of goods (walking gear, rosewater, maps, teapots, toiletries, and everything but the kitchen sink). The way in which the National Trust markets itself, and its commitment to diversity in activity has become a model for others.

The U.S. National Trust for Historic Preservation ([www.nthp.org](http://www.nthp.org)) is both newer and smaller than the National Trust, but still impressive. Founded in 1949, it began acquiring historic sites and museums. By the 1970's it was involved in working with businesses to revitalize traditional business districts. Like the National Trust it is a charitable organization with an annual budget of \$40 million, and a membership of 250,000. It relies heavily on donations, but

can also count on the favourable U.S. tax incentives for heritage preservation. The organization lobbies to save endangered sites and publishes a glossy magazine.

These may seem like giants, but they started small. A relative newcomer (1996), but definitely an up and coming one, is The Land Conservancy (TLC). ([www.coservancy.bc.ca](http://www.coservancy.bc.ca)) At the recent Heritage Society of B.C. meeting in Richmond, TLC president Bill Turner described how his organization has raised millions of dollars and now owns or leases over 100 properties amounting to 90,000 acres. The watchwords of TLC seem to be *courage, high expectations, diversity, and volunteerism*. They started with \$500, but were soon risking \$450,000 in a mortgage to purchase South Winchelsea Island. Since then they have saved fish habitat, farms, historic houses, and gardens. Their strategy is to start with a membership based on "personal and passionate commitment to something they believe in so strongly." Fundraising is rooted in the belief that no donation is too large or too small. Their boldness has attracted individuals willing to put in \$20,000 in syndicated mortgages to buy land, and big time philanthropists like the Paul G. Allen Foundation, but they also do nature tours, cottage rentals, working holidays, bottle drives and even collect that irritating Canadian Tire play money!

*Continued on page 4...*

*Continued from page 1 . . .*

The New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society (est. 1980) has proved that even small local groups can do good work. As Jim Wolf, a New West heritage home owner/fixer upper, describes it, the Society had very little money for many years. The door opener was literally opening the doors of local heritage homes, especially in the beautiful Queens Park area, for a walk through. The Heritage Homes Tour has become an annual event. Putting on the event costs about \$15,000, but the tour fees raise about \$30,000. This allows the Society to seek matching funds from the municipality and to give small grants to heritage homeowners. The Vancouver Heritage Conservation Foundation has also discovered that home tours are a safe, lucrative way to raise funds.

## HERITAGE RAMBLINGS

*By Graham Turnbull*



The owners of the home at 8080 No 3 Road have to be congratulated on their restoration of the exterior of their heritage home.

For many years this old home was very much in need of some tender, loving care. Glad to see it happening, keep up the good work!

Two local societies are in the midst of projects for the Communities Memories Section of the Virtual Museum of Canada. These projects

are sponsored by the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN).

The *Richmond Retired Teachers'* project will be a "Schoolyard Memories" exhibit from the earliest days to the present. If anyone has a schoolyard memory you think is worthy of inclusion, contact Audrey Matheson at 604-277-7356.

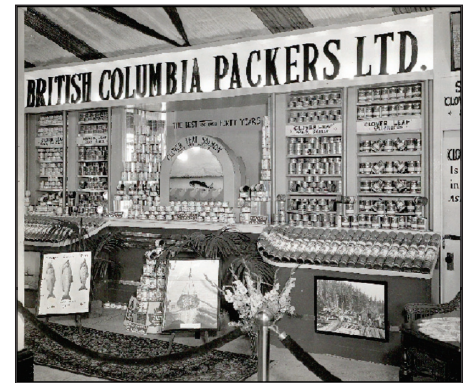
The other exhibit is by the *Steveston Historical Society*, who are creating a "History of Steveston" record from the formation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. If anyone has early photos or stories of Steveston that they could lend us for copying, you can contact me at 604-275-2443.

After a couple of years of negotiating with them, the *Steveston Historical Society* is entering into a Franchise Agreement with *Canada Post*. The society runs the Steveston Post Office in the museum building and staff are their employees. Canada Post has agreed that the heritage building will stay as is, and the Society will install the computerised system to operate the facility. This will hopefully increase the societies commission from the operation and offset the short fall the society has been subsidising to keep the Post Office open. If all goes well the new system will be up and operating this summer, and will improve the already great service our ladies give the community. So remember to purchase all your postal needs at the Steveston Village Post Office, *the best little Post Office in Canada*.

The *Vanishing Barns of Richmond* got another member a few weeks ago. The May Barn at the corner of Cambie and No. 6 Road was lost to fire. This was one of the oldest barns in Richmond. The eastern section was built by Randall May when he came to Richmond from

Norfolk, England in 1895. The western section was built by Ezra May, Randall's brother, in 1902. The southern section a dairy extension was built in 1924, while a milking extension and the loafing barn were added about 1934. In recent years it was used for cranberry storage.

Remember to visit the new exhibit at *Richmond Museum* titled *The BC PACKERS STORY*. It opened on Thursday July 17, 2003 and will run until January 2004. It traces the history of BC Packers and its impact on Steveston, Richmond and British Columbia.



I'm sure that all in the heritage community were saddened by the death of Eileen Eystone, who passed away on July 5/2003 only 66 days after being diagnosed with cancer. Our condolences go out to Curtis and her extended family. Those of us who have been in the McKinney House in recent times can attest to the fabulous legacy she has left, evidenced by all the work she did, interior decorating and creative sewing, to restore the old house, back to its days of glory. Thanks Eileen, you will be missed.



# Heritage Happenings!

## BRITANNIA HERITAGE SHIPYARD

### Events

Steveston Folk Group offers a mixture of Celtic, Folk and Blues tunes every third Thursday of each month from 8-10pm in the Murakami Boatworks. Admission is \$5.00

### Traditional Boat Building

Britannia Heritage Shipyards offers 10 and 15 day hands-on seminars in all aspects of traditional wooden boat building. Instructed by Shipwright-in-Residence Greg Foster, these seminars are open to all skill levels and focus on the use of traditional hand tools. For more information please call 604-718-8043.

## CITY OF RICHMOND ARCHIVES

The City of Richmond Archives is your source for original records specific to Richmond. Whether you are involved in a major research project, or simply would like a photograph of your old school or neighborhood, we welcome your visit. For more information, call 604-231-6430.

## GULF OF GEORGIA CANNERY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

### Events

Sept. 1 – Oct. 14..... *Fishing the West Coast Photo Project*  
Sept. 28, 1:00pm .... *BC River's Day "Salmon Stock" Opening*  
Oct. 26, 1:00 – 4:30pm ..... *Halloween at the Cannery*  
Dec. 6 – 7 & 13 – 14..... *Christmas at the Cannery*  
For more information, call 604-664-9009.

## LONDON HERITAGE FARM

### Events

Oct. 5, 11:00am–3:00pm..... Harvest Festival  
Oct.11–12, 12:00–4:00pm..... Thanksgiving Tea  
Oct. 31, 11:00am–4:00pm.....Christmas Craft Fair  
Nov. 1–2, 7–11, 11:00am–5:00pm .....Christmas Craft Fair  
Dec.13–14, 12:00–4:00pm.....Christmas Tea  
Feb.14–15, 12:00–4:00pm .....Valentine Tea  
Feb.21–22, 12:00–4:00pm .....Heritage Tea  
Mar.16–17, 12:00–4:00pm..... St. Patrick's Tea  
For more information, call 604-271-5220.

## RICHMOND HERITAGE COMMISSION

The Richmond Heritage Commission is appointed to advise City Council on heritage conservation and promotion matters and to undertake and provide support for activities that benefit heritage in the City of Richmond. For information on the current workplan call Jenny Beran at the City of Richmond @ 604-276-4212.

## STEVESTON INTERURBAN RESTORATION SOCIETY

Interurban car #1220 was built in 1912 and began work for the BC Electric Railway Company in 1913. The tram is presently situated near the corner of #1 Rd and Moncton Street. All funds raised by the Steveston Interurban Tram Society are used for the rebuilding of car #1220 and its future operation in Steveston. Volunteers, members and donations are welcome. Phone 604- 448-TRAM (8726) for more information.

## STEVESTON MUSEUM

Housed in a 1905 prefabricated building that served as Steveston's first bank. The main floor "general store" display also includes the original bank manager's office and a working post office. Pick up a self-directed walking tour brochure and enjoy a day in Steveston Village. School programs are available upon request.

3811 Moncton Street

Phone 604-271-6868 or 604-718-8439

M-Sa: 9:30am-1:00pm and 1:30-5:00pm

## RICHMOND MUSEUM & HERITAGE SERVICES

Richmond Museum increases awareness and appreciation of Richmond's diverse history through exhibits, outreach events and public and children's programs. Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to assist with children's programs, public tours and special events. Orientation and training are provided. For more details, call 604-231-6460

### Exhibitions

*The BC Packers Story*

To January 2004

In1901 there were 39 canneries in Richmond, the highest density of salmon canneries in the world. This display examines the hundred years of canning fish for world markets, and includes the recent history of the B.C. Packers' Company.

*Island City By Nature - River Crossings*

November 6 - March 2004

Opening Reception: Thursday, November 6, 7:00 p.m. This photo and artifact based exhibit will highlight Richmond's river crossing history - the bridges, tunnels and ferries that have provided for the transportation of people and goods and inextricably linked Richmond to the wider Lower Mainland community.

*125th Anniversary Of Incorporation*

February 16 - November 2004

Opening Reception: Monday, February 16, 7:00 p.m. This exhibit celebrates the incorporation of Richmond as a municipality in 1879.

*Heritage Happenings continued on page 4 . . .*

## RICHMOND CITY HALL EXHIBITS

Regular changing display on themes pertaining to the history of Richmond on the main floor of City Hall.

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Teachers! Call our School Programs Coordinator for information on museum education programs or to book your class at 604-231-6427.

## ISLAND SPEAKERS SERIES AT THE RICHMOND MUSEUM

A series of talks focusing on the local history of Richmond. Admission by donation.

### *Vanishing Barns*

September 18th, 7 p.m.

Local historian, Graham Turnbull, presents a slide show of Richmond barns and shares his knowledge about their history.

### *B C. Packers*

October 16th, 7 p.m.

Richard Gregory, Senior Vice-President, BC Packer's, presents a talk on the importance the history of the Company in Richmond and B.C.

### *On Crossing the Fraser*

November 20th, 7 p.m.

Local engineer speaks about the engineering marvels that make it possible for Richmond residents to get on and off Lulu Island.

### *Steveston*

January 22th, 7 p.m.

Local historian, Mitsuo Yesaki, talks about the lively history of the fishing community of Steveston.



## *Mouth of the Fraser*

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Museum & Heritage Services Richmond

## HERITAGE LEGACY FUND

The Provincial role in Heritage is changing. The government is giving up responsibility for existing heritage sites like Kilby General Store site near Mission, Craigflower Manor near Victoria, the Historic Yale Site and Museum, and the Keremeos Grist Mill.

Perhaps more important is the establishment of a \$5 million Heritage Legacy Fund which will be managed by a non-profit entity established by the Heritage Society of B.C. and the Land Conservancy. Interest from the \$5 million, plus additional assets and funds raised by the Fund, will be used to support heritage activities in B.C. Presumably this will include direct grants to either acquire or preserve heritage assets. The amount of the Legacy Fund is relatively small, but it is now separate from Victoria. Future governments could, of course, make further contributions in cash or kind to the Legacy Fund. The board of the new organization faces a challenging future.

## HISTORIC PLACES INITIATIVE

*by Mark Bostwick*

The word about the federal government's long awaited "Historic Places Initiative" is....wait a little longer. The core of this initiative would be tax incentives for rehabilitation and conservation. Transferable tax incentives in the U.S. have led to the investment of billions dollars into projects. Not surprisingly, cash strapped conservationists would love to see such a program.

The federal government is still in the "ramping up" phase of this initiative. That is to say, they are preparing the program conditions and trying to establish what the revenue consequences of this program would be. There are some legitimate concerns—we do not want the government giving me a tax write off for using Grecian Formula to "rehabilitate" my grey hair. It must be for a true heritage project for which a tax loophole can be justified. Thus, the interest in establishing Standards and Guidelines for true conservation and an initial Canadian Register of Historic Places. Currently, Richmond's Inventory is being up-dated to meet the criteria for inclusion in the Register. Everyone hoped that this preliminary work would have been well-enough along that the tax credit idea would show up in the federal budget. It did not. The Richmond Heritage Commission is keeping a close eye on this.



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