



cations Building and adjacent tower was capable of producing a 500 watt signal (hardly much better than today's hot rods with "boom boxes"). When, in the late 1960's, transmitter requirements had increased to the 50,000 watt level, a new facility

## EDITOR'S NOTE

In our last issue we reported on the Heritage Commission's plan to update the Heritage Inventory. The bulk of this work has now been completed and the interactive web page is up and running. Included in this update was the addition of new heritage sites, five of which are profiled in this issue. These sites tell us something about our Richmond heritage and about the evolving meaning of "heritage" in general. "Heritage" means more than protecting old castles. The new Richmond sites are places of technology, of play, and of community aesthetics.

In 1936 the hot spot for high tech in Richmond was the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Transmitter site at 9440 No. 4 Road. The Communi-

was built on the Steveston dyke, but the original building is now part of the McNair Senior Secondary School campus and a reminder of where CBC in B.C. really began and part of our cultural and technological history.

The Martial Arts Centre at 4111 Moncton is only thirty years old, but is nevertheless recommended for the Heritage Inventory. As the consultant pointed out the "Martial Arts Centre is an extremely important resource for the City of Richmond. The building has a grace and excellence of design that is timeless. Just as important, is the prestige and reputation of excellence that is associated with the Centre, not only for the sports of Kendo and Judo; but as a physical representation of the contribution of the Japanese to Steveston over the last century."

The role of the Heritage Commission is to call attention to those aspects of our community that should not be overlooked. In the case of the Residential Japanese Gardens on private lots from 4600 to the 5500 block of Moncton Street the aspects come to mind are "beauty" and "sincerity". Most Richmond residents are proud of their yards and gardens and people from all across the Lower Mainland come to Richmond to buy bedding plants and flowers. The factors that set the Moncton Street gardens apart the attention to detail, the adaptation (rather than duplication) of traditional Japanese design principles, and the fact that many of these gardens have been nurtured for several generations. Encouraging a recognition of the way in which these gardens enrich the fabric of our community is one goal of the Heritage Commission.

Beauty, play and work — they are all part of our heritage. For more details see this issue's articles or check out the Heritage Commission website at [www.city.richmond.bc.ca/heritageinventory/](http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/heritageinventory/).

by Mark Bostwick

# Mouth of the Fraser

Winter 2000/2001 • Published by the Richmond Heritage Commission



## BRITANNIA HERITAGE SHIPYARD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DEDICATION CEREMONY

On October 29, 2000, Britannia Heritage Shipyard was officially declared a National Historic Site by the Hon. Raymond Chan, MP, MLA.

'Twas a beautiful Sunday afternoon in Steveston as people gathered for the official dedication of Britannia Heritage Shipyard to the people of Canada. All pomp and glory, befitting the occasion, the invited guests and the government officials flanked by RCMP in full dress was a sight to behold. Introductory music was supplied by an excellent group of young musicians. Following the official opening all in attendance were treated to refreshments supplied by the Britannia Heritage Society.

Residents of Richmond can be very proud of her latest accomplishment.

Raymond Chan had the following words to share: "We are here today to commemorate

the Britannia Shipyard Property — a rare surviving example of a West Coast boatworks and shipyard. The Britannia Shipyard was devoted to the repair and construction of fishing boats, and employed a diverse, multi-ethnic workforce.

We are officially recognizing the national historic importance of the Britannia Shipyard. It joins other unique landscapes like the Chinese Cemetery in Oak Bay, Signal Hill and L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland; and Artillery Park in Quebec City as places of National Significance.

This site has seen a great deal of activity — from its beginnings as a port for the fishing fleet, to the start of its cannery, to the construction of a boatyard and the building and repair of fishing vessels. People from around the globe left their mark on Steveston and at the Britannia Ship-

yard: as shipwrights and cannery workers, fishermen and dockers — men and women all drawn by the hustle and bustle of the multitude of the activities that go on in a working port.

This site truly reflects the story of Canada's West Coast fishing industry. Without the dedication the people who work very hard to commemorate places like the Britannia Shipyard Property, important elements of our heritage would be in danger of being forgotten. On behalf of the people of Canada thank you and congratulations to all who worked so hard to bring about this special day.

Our lives, as those of future generations will be able to derive knowledge and pride from the legacy of our shared past."

Mr. Dick Kishi, whose family have played a major role in ship building since the 1940s, also spoke eloquently and spoke of his lineage, the beginnings of the shipyard industry and the families involved. He recounted a touching, heartfelt encapsulation of the fishing industry and history of Steveston/Richmond, and of her peoples. His anecdotal approach to the past was truly heartfelt and kept the audience spellbound.

by Andre Cardinal

## NEW HERITAGE SITES

### Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Building (1936)

9440 No. 4 Road



In 1936, on an isolated site stood this small building and a very large self-supporting radio tower. The building housed the original CBC radio transmitter using short wave that broadcast as far as Bella Coola. The transmission equipment was periodically upgraded until the growth of the surrounding neighbourhood and the technical needs of the station forced CBC to move to another location. Originally, the building had a kitchen and cots in case the operators were stranded due to bad weather.

After CBC moved on, and the tower was torn down, this little building was eventually acquired by the School District (1976) and used as a media centre, music room and ultimately a computer repair centre for McNair Senior Secondary.

### Martial Arts Centre (1971)

4111 Moncton

Architect: A.H. Petzold

Landscape: Raoul Robillard



The Martial Arts Centre with its facilities for Kendo and Judo is the only dojo house outside of Japan. The roots of the building go back to 1934 when a Kendo club was formed in Steveston. The club was disbanded in 1942 (during the internment) but revived in 1958. Activities expanded and in the 1960s the Kendo and Judo clubs worked together to develop plans for a unique martial arts centre, a dream that finally came true in 1971 after an extensive community fund raising project supplemented by a Centennial Grant. As a focal point for the recreational and cultural needs of the Japanese community it has always been very important.

The design is an adaptation of traditional Japanese design using two embracing wings, subtle landscaping, and a semi-hidden inner courtyard. The landscaping is of particular interest because of its use of traditional Japanese design principles like enclosure and “borrowed scenery”

### Residential Japanese Gardens

from 4600 block to 5500 block Moncton St.



The private residential gardens on both sides of Moncton Street display a unique confluence of two traditions: the modern suburban emphasis of the yard as a place to display pride and skill and the Japanese tradition of the carefully crafted and organized garden. These two traditions come together along Moncton Street in a

series of gardens, several of which have been nurtured by families over several generations, that carefully control space and texture with the use of plants of different shades (green and red leafed maples), textures (grass and gravel), seasonal adaptations of the texture and colours through various plants. Evergreens are the dominant plant and give the main structure to the gardens, azaleas and rhododendrons provide colour.

The beauty and design of these gardens are a source of pride and charm for the entire community.

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## Mouth of the Fraser

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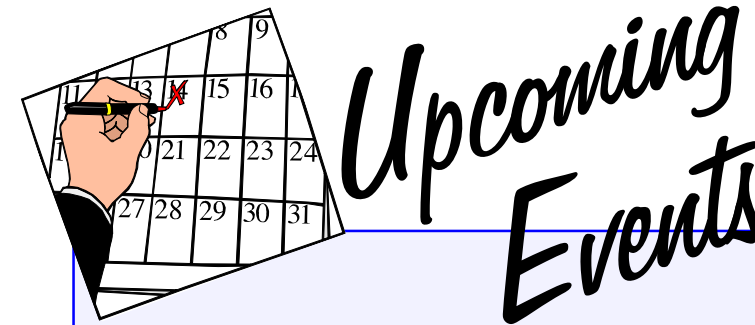
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## 2000 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### London Heritage Farm (Daily 10am to 5pm)

Christmas Tours ..... Nov. 28 – Dec. 17

Outdoor Events ..... Dec. 13 – 17

For more info call: 271-5220

### Richmond Nature Park & Kinsmen Organization (Daily after dark)

Nature Comes to Light ..... Dec. 2 – 30

Closed evening of Dec. 24

For more info call: 273-7015

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### Lacrosse Box

7800 block Granville (near Brighthouse Park Pavilion)



“Whack!!” When Edie Gilmore hoisted her skirts, jumped over the fence into the Lacrosse Box, grabbed the goalie’s stick and whacked him with

it (to protect her brother Dave in a floor fight), she drew a roar from the crowd and unwittingly made history.

The Lacrosse Box is more a part of local folklore than a physical remnant since the original wooden box built in the 1920’s was replaced by a concrete structure sixty years later. Lacrosse was a popular sport across the Lower Mainland in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first Richmond teams played on a cow pasture, and their indifference to the bovine contributions gave them an advantage over prissier Vancouver teams. The two early Richmond teams were unofficially called the “Muskrats” (east of No. 3 Road) and the “Fish Eaters” (west of No. 3 Road).

The original box was built on land donated by the Richmond Agricultural Society, with funds from the Richmond Athletic Club.

### Association of United Ukrainian Canadian Hall

9191 No. 2 Road



Food and music keep cultures together. Richmond, from the beginning, has been a diverse community, the new home for many old

traditions. The Ukrainian settlers who came to Richmond in the 1930’s established small market garden farms in the Blundell neighbourhood. It was a hard life in hard times; and the support of their community was an important source of strength.

The construction of the Ukrainian Hall was community project spearheaded by a local Ukrainian, Mr. Yarmish who had land, and Mr Maydanyk who was a floor layer with construction skills. Members of the community scavenged wood from the PNE and Stanley Park and built the small community building on Number 2 Road. On the outside the Hall is unpretentious and deceptively plain, because on the inside it was a lively place where local Ukrainians, in traditional costumes, danced and feasted. The hall was a focal point for the entire community.

In more recent times the hall has seen a variety of uses: a church, martial arts, social events, and for a time (1972-1975) the office of MLA Harold Steves during the exciting period when the provincial Land Reserve was introduced.

The Ukrainian Hall has seen better times, but remains an important landmark in Richmond.

## IN THE DITCH

The Heritage Commission is looking for stories and memories about Richmond’s famous ditches. So if you have a funny (or serious) tale to tell please send it to us at: 6911 No. 3 Road Richmond V6Y 2C1 or email to: [heritageplanning@city.richmond.bc.ca](mailto:heritageplanning@city.richmond.bc.ca)