



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee **Date:** April 22, 2009
From: Joe Erceg, General Manager **File:**
 Planning & Development
Re: **RICHMOND HERITAGE COMMISSION 2008 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2009 WORK PLAN**

Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Heritage Commission 2009 Work Plan (attached to the report dated April 22, 2009, from the General Manager, Planning and Development) be approved.

Joe Erceg
 Joe Erceg, General Manager
 Planning & Development

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
Culture & Heritage	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Joe Erceg</i>		
Parks Planning, Design & Construction....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>			
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES	NO
<i>JE</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>ACTING</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

1. The Richmond Heritage Commission (RHC) is required to:
 - to present an Annual Report (see **Attachment 1**) to City Council, and
 - a Work Plan for the coming year (see **Attachment 2**).

Findings of Fact

Commission Purpose

The Richmond Heritage Commission (RHC) is appointed for the following purposes:

- to advise Council on strategies and programs for heritage conservation and promotion,
- to undertake and provide support for various planning matters with heritage implications,
- to assist with the maintenance of heritage registers and inventories, and
- to support heritage education and public awareness (e.g. Heritage Week, Newsletters, and Heritage Recognition Programs).

The Commission consists of:

- nine (9) voting members appointed for (2) year terms; and
- one (1) non-voting Council liaison.

Analysis

1. 2008 Annual Report

- The *2008 Annual Report* highlights key RHC activities undertaken in 2008 (see **Attachment 1**).

2. 2009 Work Plan

- The proposed *2009 RHC Work Plan* details significant and ongoing projects for 2009 (see **Attachment 2**). A high level of volunteerism, professionalism and commitment to heritage conservation and promotion in Richmond is clearly demonstrated.
- Staff recommend approval of the 2009 Work Plan

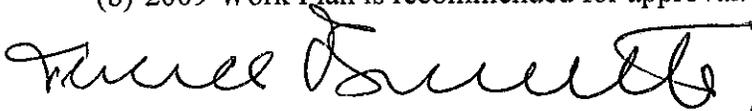
Financial Impact

The RHC receives \$5,000.00 in the City's Annual Base Operating Budget.

Conclusion

The Richmond Heritage Commission's:

- (a) 2008 Annual Report is presented; and
- (b) 2009 Work Plan is recommended for approval.



Terence Brunette, Planner
Policy Planning

Heritage Commission

Prepared by the Richmond Heritage Commission and the City of Richmond



2008 Annual Report

In 2008, four projects provided a constant focus for the Heritage Commission, including:

- The Steveston Village Conservation Plan;
- Terra Nova Park Development;
- The Steveston Fishermen's Doctor's and Hospital Offices; and
- The Annual Heritage Awards.

The Steveston Village Conservation Plan

How will future developments in Steveston be managed? The Commission and City staff are finalizing the Steveston Village Conservation Program to identify and conserve valued heritage resources. The Strategy is being completed with help from heritage consultant James Burton (Birmingham & Wood Architects), input from public consultations and financial assistance from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, the City of Richmond, the Ministry of Community Services (Smart Development Partnerships), and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and The Arts (Heritage Branch).

Conservation requires significant foresight, and must be managed properly. The Strategy includes incentives and tools for property owners and developers to assist them to meet heritage goals, including density bonusing. There will also be building design guidelines for all new building within the village.



Terra Nova Park

What makes Terra Nova Rural Park so unique? It's the background story about individual and community aspirations and values, and a City Council dedicated to making this vision a reality. That vision is one of sustainability where we respect the past and live our future through linking residents and visitors with nature, heritage and urban agriculture, all in one very special park.



Photo credit: Yvonne Stich

In 2008 significant construction work proceeded, including daylighting of a buried slough to create fish habitat. Using information from the original 1859 survey plan, the City

recycled the soil excavated from the slough to recreate a landform known as 'Crabapple Ridge.' This also helped reduce the carbon footprint of 1,200 trucks traveling through the city. Popular programs in the park have grown with more than 500 school children receiving hands-on experience with gardening.

The Sharing Farm continues to grow produce for the local food bank and a number of corporations have their employees volunteering in the park. The charming, red-painted barn was retrofitted and is now available to book for meetings and workshops (up to 40 attendees), and includes a teaching kitchen. In 2008 plans were carefully developed for 2009, when the Farm Centre will be expanded with the reuse of another family home as office space for community partners and Nature Park outreach staff. Further construction in the park includes a healing garden with a trellis; trails linking the Demonstration Garden to the Sharing Farm area; breaching of the dyke to allow for intertidal

waters into the slough; directional signage, fences and seating. The City has received two national awards for this park recently, Canadian Parks and Recreation Association-Award of Excellence for Innovation and the Canadian Association of Administrators (CAMA) 2008 Environment Award.



Photo credit: Yvonne Stich

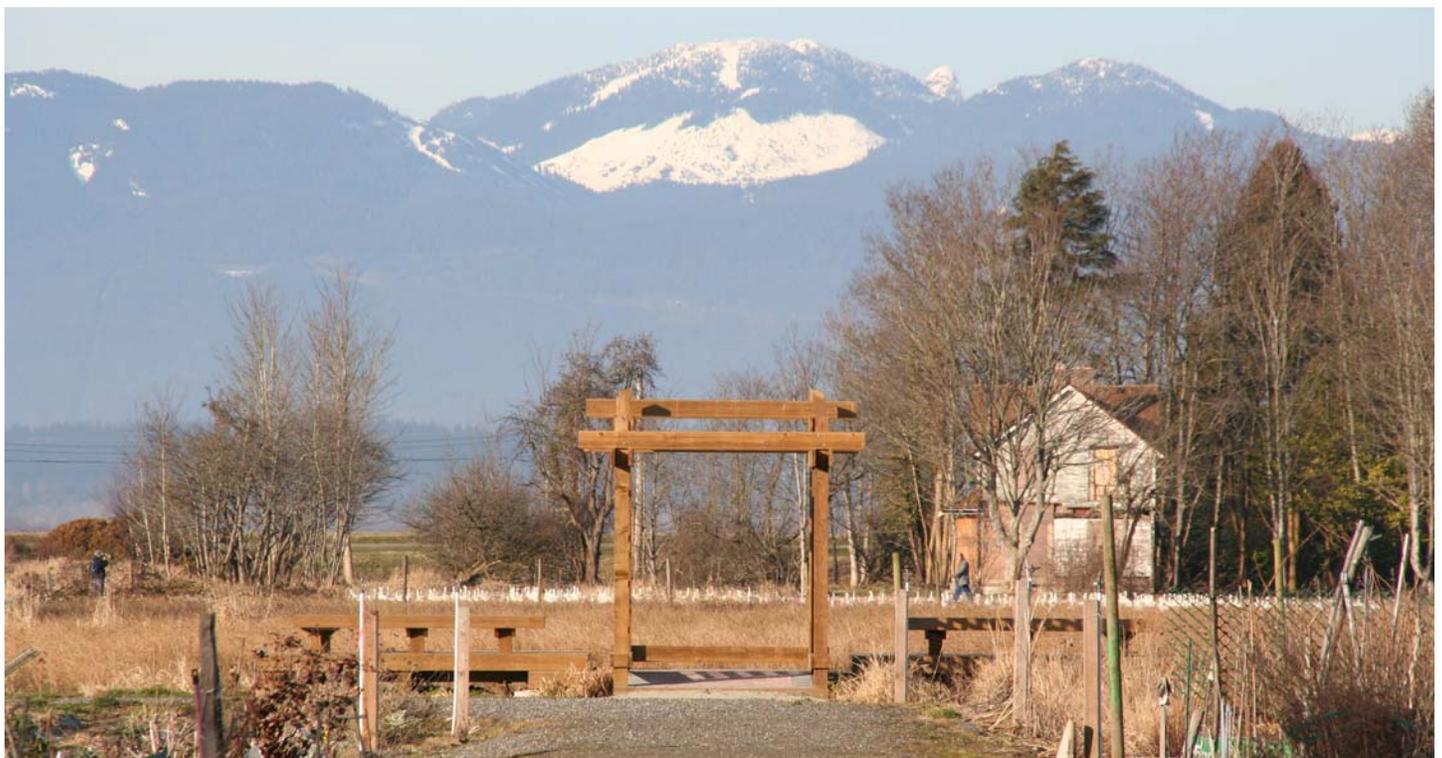
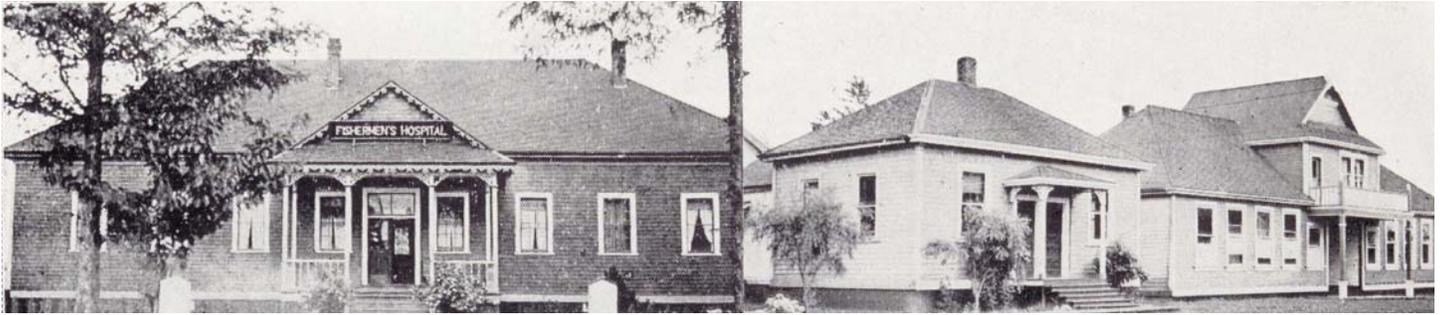


Photo credit: Yvonne Stich

The Doctor's/Hospital Offices



Photograph from *The 35th Anniversary History of the Steveston Fishermen's Benevolent Society* compiled under the presidency of TEIJI KOBAYASHI, 1935.

Printed in Japan: Tsurunosuke Kitagawa (printer)

Printing Office: SEIUN-DO Tokyo, Japan

Publishing Office: The Steveston Fishermen's Benevolent Society

Published date: November 1, 1935

Photo provided courtesy of Frank Kano and Jim Tanaka

This small building, at 4091 Chatham Street, generated significant interest from Richmond residents. The building (circa 1900) was part of the Steveston Fishermen's Hospital Complex and housed the Doctor's and Hospital Offices. The property is currently owned by the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans (ANAF).

This hospital complex was administered by the Steveston Japanese Fisherman's Benevolent Society from 1900 to 1942, and is reported to have been the site of many "firsts," including:

- first hospital in Richmond
- Canada's first hospital to offer socialized medicine; and
- home of the first kindergarten in Richmond.

The City of Richmond held an open house on December 13, 2008, to consult with the public regarding site options for the building if relocated from its current site. The new site is proposed to be at 3811 Moncton Street, behind the Steveston Museum but fronting on First Avenue.



2008 Heritage Commission Members

- Wendy Andrews
- Ray Froh
- Teresa Murphy
- Jo-Anne Rocque
- Mitch Sakumoto
- Vera Smart
- Norbert Spitz
- Graham Turnbull
- Dana Westermarck

Council Liaison:

- Rob Howard

Staff Liaison:

- Terry Brunette

Heritage Awards

To celebrate Finnish Heritage, two Finn Road homes were given Heritage Awards - these two homes are located on their original sites in the picturesque South Arm Slough District.

The 1912 Eldstrom House and the neighbouring 1936 Jacobson House, both on Finn Road near the foot of No. 4 Road, were recognized for retaining much of their original integrity. Set on agricultural land across from the Woodward slough in one of the earliest farming districts on Lulu Island, the heritage value of both homes lies in their association with the early Finnish pioneers.



Eldstrom House and garden.

The Eldstrom home was built by Finnish settlers and is named for its 1938 owners Gustav and Alice Eldstrom. A steep, picturesque, gable roof with curved barge boards to the soffits speaks to the Finnish heritage of the builders and early owners. Sited on 5.75 acres of lush lawns and gardens, a large component of this property remains a working farm. Mature coniferous and deciduous trees, maintain and replicate some plantings of earlier days - hollies, English walnuts and fine herbaceous plantings in the beds and borders. Laurie and Cathy Wozny carefully maintain the house, and the spirit of the restorations begun by Laurie's brother and his wife, Joe and Cheryl Wozny. Gleaming fir floors and wainscoting, 10-foot lath-and-plaster ceilings, and even the original light fixtures and push-button light switches, keep the authentic spirit of this fine old Richmond home.



Jacobson house and garden.

The smaller, 1936 cottage-style Jacobson house next door was built by Finnish fisherman Tom Jacobson, a son of Finnish pioneer Mike Jacobson, who both kept their fish boats at the Finn Slough. Owners Helmut Pastrick and Teresa Murphy maintain the home's simplicity including fir floors, curved wooden sash windows and original light fixtures. Tom Jacobson's wife Anna was known for her garden, which includes her King, Gravenstein, Jonathon and Transparent apple trees. There is also an old Finnish sauna building on the property.

Site Visits:

Finn Road "Walkabout"

Finn Road is a country road south of Steveston Highway in the agricultural South Arm slough district has remained largely unchanged. The road meanders, winding through picturesque farmland, which includes strawberry fields and a tree farm.

The Commission toured the Jacobson and Eldstrom homes and their gardens and then further east, a unique heritage garden, which surrounds a 1920s cottage at 9811 Finn Road, and spills across the road to the north shore of the Woodward Slough. Here the owner Steve Bridger grows more than 60 species of local plants that provide shelter and food for a surprising diversity of wildlife - songbirds, dragonflies, butterflies, bats, honeybees, ducks, eagles, herons, squirrels, raccoons, an occasional coyote and a neighbourhood-wandering peacock.

Farmers' Market Opens

May 4, 2008 the village held its first and much awaited Farmer's Market, held on the parking lot of the Gulf of Georgia Cannery at Chatham and 4th Ave. The market celebrates sustainability,

providing a venue for local farmers, bakers, artisans and craftspeople to sell their wares – and local residents the chance to truly shop on a local level and enjoy the harvest bounty that Richmond offers. The two-block diet, anyone?

A heritage farm helps frame our future...

When Kwantlen Polytechnic University hired agriculture expert Kent Mullinix to lead its new Institute for Sustainable Urban Agriculture Studies, he went looking in the community to see what resources already existed.

Along with Councilor Harold Steves and Mary Gazetas, Mullinix visited Cherry Lane Farms, one of the last working farms in north of Bridgeport Road on No. 4 Road. For half a century, Milo Savkovic and his family have grown fruits and vegetables here. These include varieties of heritage apples that thrive in Richmond soil - Gravenstein, Transparent, Cox and Vander Pol. Milo's daughter Vera Smart, is a Heritage Commission member, and her family provides unique expertise on farming through the decades in Richmond.



Milo Savkovic and his granddaughter Samantha. A unique knowledge of farming not lost.



City of Richmond

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2009 WORKPLAN															
RICHMOND HERITAGE COMMISSION															
PROJECTS	2008		2009											Budget	
	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N		D
Planning & Policy															
Heritage Inventory Update															\$ 750
<i>Museum Feasibility Study</i>	Provide Input and Feedback on The Museum Feasibility Study														
<i>Steveston Village Conservation Program:</i> • Ongoing Implementation • Review of Development Applications	ONGOING														
<i>Terra Nova Parksite</i>	Comments on Updates & Review as Required														
Doctor's/Hospital Offices, 4091 Chatham Street	Relocation To Proceed To 3811 Moncton Street														
Draney House, 12011 No. 4 Road	Review of Conservation Proposal As Developed														
	Options in Review														
Programs & Promotion															
Youth Outreach – Heritage Fair						X	X								1250
Newsletter Production					X						X				
Heritage Week Promotion				X											
Recognition Award Sponsorship			X	X											200
Oral History	ONGOING													800	
New Initiatives															
Inventory Consolidation	Phased Implementation														
Feasibility Review of Researching & Listing Significant Post-1940's	Phased Implementation by Review of Post 40's Building Types														
Conferences (TBD)															1000
SFU City Program				X											
Commission Meeting Catering															1000
Budget Total															\$5000
Prepared by The Richmond Heritage Commission															
Note: May change subject to Work Plan Priorities															