

A publication of the City of
Richmond Archives
Winter 2007
Volume 12 Number 1

ARCHIVES

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Ted Clark's Interurbans: From the Bright Lights to the Canneries

From 1905 to 1958 people of the Lower Mainland moved to jobs, school, sporting events, and family visits by way of the "tram." From Chilliwack to New Westminster to Vancouver, Richmond and Steveston, the communities of the Lower Mainland were linked by the British Columbia Electric Railway Interurbans. Photographs from this era are now on display at the City of Richmond Archives.

Ted Clark, born in 1930, was fascinated with streetcars and trams from the time of his childhood in Vancouver. Throughout his life he rode the trams and streetcars of the BCER, taking his own photographs and collecting those of other "traction" fans. A selection of these iconic images will be on exhibit at the City of Richmond Archives until next fall.

Mr. Clark worked in Richmond for many years at Hi-Hope Kennels, a business established by his sister, Frances Clark. Following his death in 1997, Mr. Clark's widow and sister donated his extensive collection to the City of Richmond Archives.



A young "traction" fan watches B.C. Electric Railway car 1220 as it nears Woodward's Road on Railway Avenue, 1957. City of Richmond Archives, Ted Clark Collection, 1999 4 1832.



Granville Street looking north from Robson. The photographer of this 1948 image is unknown. City of Richmond Archives, Ted Clark Collection, 1999 4 1719.

New Faces, New Projects at the Archives



Helen Hopkins has been putting her organization and "attention-to-detail" skills to work on refreshing the City of Richmond Archives Reference Files. She is also rehousing photographs in acid-free envelopes and special boxes, a conservation measure to help the images last longer. Helen was a volunteer with Delta Archives in Ladner for five years.



New volunteer Michael Luk is bringing his lifelong experience as a librarian to the City of Richmond Archives as he updates and improves the finding aids for our growing reference book collection. Michael's previous volunteer job was as a Librarian Assistant at the Senior Services Society in New Westminster.

A tide of new retirees has increased the volunteer contingent at the City of Richmond Archives. In addition to the Friends of the Richmond Archives which raises funds to promote and enhance the City Archives, there have always been volunteers to work on special projects such as scanning photographs, photocopying for Reference and Biography Files, and rehousing photograph prints.

Since his retirement from Magee High School, Bill McNulty has been assisting with a research project to find population figures for Richmond, not an easy task for the pre-World War 1 era. An expert philatelist, Bill is also working on a postal history of Richmond which is doubling as a social and development history of our community. As a City Councillor and with his new volunteer duties at the Archives and elsewhere in Richmond he continues to be as busy as he was before retirement which is a story often heard from today's committed volunteers.

The Barker letter books continue to take up many volunteer hours. This outgoing correspondence from the B.C. Packers Manager Henry Barker was written between 1905 and the 1920s and provides a fascinating record of industrial expansion in the province.

Bill Purver Joins Archives Staff

Bill Purver, right, joined the permanent staff at the City of Richmond Archives in December 2006. Bill will be working Monday through Wednesday at the Archives and the rest of the week at City Hall.

Bill first came to the City Archives in 1991 while working on his Masters degree in Archival Studies at UBC. He has been a familiar face at the Archives since then, both as an Archives contractor, and for many years in his role as the Archives Advisor for the Archives Association of B.C.



Christine McGilvray, recently retired as Manager, Property Services, at the City of Richmond, is working on the second phase of the Barker Letter Books project, proof-reading and preparing the historic documents for web publication.



Bill McNulty started a volunteer job with the City of Richmond Archives last fall after retiring from a 36-year teaching career at Magee High School in Vancouver.





Archives' Maps Anchor "Japanese Connection in Steveston" Project

Harry Mizuta has won the Richmond Heritage Commission's 2007 award for Heritage Advocacy for his self-published book tracing the settlement of Japanese Canadians in Steveston. Mr. Mizuta located Japanese families in the Steveston area during the 1930s, 1960s, 1980s and 2000s. Using records from Library and Archives Canada, Mr. Mizuta was able to find where many Japanese-Canadian families from Steveston were interned between 1942 and 1949. City of Richmond Archives' maps of Steveston were used throughout the book.

His research took several years and involved archivists at the Vancouver Federal Records Centre, Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa, Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society and the City of Richmond Archives. Penny Roberts at the Richmond Public Library, assisted Mr. Mizuta in obtaining the loan of microfilmed records from the Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property. He also conducted extensive interviews with Canadians of Japanese descent.

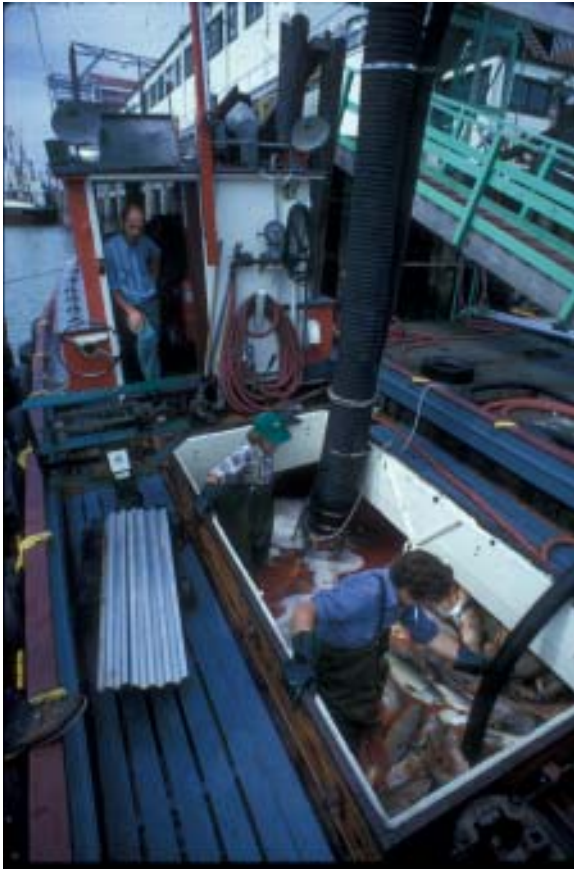
Copies of the book are available for reference at the City of Richmond Archives, Steveston Public Library, and the Steveston Museum. He will be speaking about his research and findings at the Annual General Meeting of the Steveston Historical Society, 7:00 pm, March 14, 2007, at the Steveston Museum.

Rolled Maps Given Safe Storage by Friends of the Richmond Archives

The Friends of the Richmond Archives have donated a set of three enamelled-metal rolled-map storage cabinets to the City Archives. This is the second gift of specialized - and expensive! - map cabinets made by the Friends in recent times. The City has more than 3,500 processed maps in its holdings, and an equal number that are awaiting sorting, description and storage. Because the maps are on unique papers and plastic films, they require a storage medium that is chemically stable and will not contribute to their deterioration. The rolled maps at the right of the photograph will be removed from their cardboard containers and placed in their new cabinets very shortly.

The mandate of the Friends is the support and enhancement of the City Archives. Their generous gifts assist in the work to keep our community documents safe and available for future generations.





The pump is unloading slushed salmon from a collector boat at the dock in Steveston, circa 1970s. City of Richmond Archives photograph 1985 4 2327.



Women cleaning salmon at a sliming tank, circa 1970s. City of Richmond Archives, Gar Lunney Photographer, 1985 4 2312.

Archives Photographs Featured in Richmond Museum Web Exhibit, “In Their Words: The Story of B.C. Packers.”

The City of Richmond Archives is providing 130 photographs and several sound tapes to a web exhibit project being developed by the Richmond Museum. The new online exhibit, due to launch March 29th, 2007, explores the development and impact of British Columbia Packers Limited upon the region’s culturally diverse communities. The Web address is www.InTheirWords.ca.

The Museum received a \$106,853 grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage, through the Canadian Culture Online Partnership Fund and is working with School District 38, the City Archives and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society to document personal, first-hand accounts that describe what life was like as for fishermen and cannery workers at what was once the largest fishing company in Canada. Aimed at Grades 4, 5 and 10 students and their teachers, this website will be available in both French and English and includes learning resources, such as a glossary, bibliography, maps, suggested activities, lesson plans and useful website links.

Since 1985 the City of Richmond Archives has received several generous donations of photographs, documents, and maps from British Columbia Packers Limited making possible experiences such as “In Their Words.”

Note the new phone and fax numbers below! They will be in use at the end of February, 2007.



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Richmond, B.C. V6Y 1R9

Phone: (604) 247-8305 (NEW NUMBER!)
Fax: (604) 247-8302 (NEW NUMBER!)
Email: archives@richmond.ca

www.richmond.ca/archives

Public Reference Room Hours
Monday - Thursday 9:00-4:30
Appointment recommended

Cannery workers filling cans at a patching table, circa 1970s. City of Richmond Archives photograph 1985 4 2432.

