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Introduction

Richmond is a city proud of its unique and significant heritage. While the stewardship of the City of Richmond’s heritage resources is led by the Arts, Culture and Heritage Services Department, there are many organizations and individuals within the city that contribute to the preservation, presentation, and documentation of Richmond’s heritage.

Richmond residents enjoy a number of benefits as they experience our city’s heritage places, services and events. Museum and Heritage Services is pleased to present the following report highlighting the heritage sector contributions to the Richmond community in 2019.
Section 1: Presenting Richmond’s Heritage

Many of Richmond’s unique and fascinating stories are told at heritage places, and through exceptional programs and events across the city. These opportunities provide engaging ways for individuals to learn about Richmond’s past and celebrate the distinctive culture that makes Richmond what it is today.

Over 468,000 individuals participated in a heritage activity in Richmond.

Students learn about Richmond’s past by studying archival documents.
PRESENTING HERITAGE AT HERITAGE PLACES

Heritage places enhance our social well-being, offering opportunities for social interaction and creating shared experiences.
Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

“It is a place of important historical significance in Canadian history… it is a place of my history… and it is a place where all can learn about and appreciate the beauty of nature, and the ingenuity of humans in this special place.”

– VISITOR

Britannia Shipyards is an authentic representation of a once thriving community of boatyards, canneries, residences, and stores. Visitors explore the eight-acre National Historic Site stepping back a century in time to discover the many stories of the multicultural workforce who built wooden boats, worked lines in the canneries and, along with their families, called Britannia home.

Living History at Britannia Shipyards

Launched in 2019, the Living History program gives visitors opportunities to authentically interact with local people. Site animators dressed in period costume encourage visitors to watch and participate in activities, including net mending, embroidery, carpentry and mahjong. Each activity provides a sense of the building’s historical use and the people who once lived and worked there. Visitors leave the site with an enhanced understanding of Richmond’s rich and diverse maritime history, which continues to shape the local people and community.

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society

The Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site is supported by the non-profit, Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society. The Society’s purpose is to preserve and to celebrate the Site’s history through collaboration with the City of Richmond and the community. The Society is committed to the promotion of the general knowledge, enjoyment and understanding of the Britannia Shipyards.

britanniashipyard.ca/

A costumed Heritage Interpreter demonstrates net mending in the Seine Net Loft.

Visitiation: 115,507
London Heritage Farm

“Loved the atmosphere, the food, and the history of the farm.”

- Visitor

London Heritage Farm brings to life Richmond’s farming history, highlighting the relationships between people and land on the farm. Visitors experience environmentally sustainable living in the early 1900s through recreated displays in the Victorian farmhouse, heritage gardens, and allotment gardens, which are maintained by local residents.

Annual Plant Sale

The Annual Plant Sale is eagerly awaited by gardeners throughout the Lower Mainland. Hosted by the London Heritage Farm Society, numerous volunteers contributed many hours to support the sale of healthy plants and vegetable seedlings, and other items for home and community gardens. Society members and allotment garden holders worked as a team to raise funds for growing many plants and vegetables in the gardens, and supporting on-site programs.

London Heritage Farm Society

London Heritage Farm is supported by the non-profit London Heritage Farm Society, whose mandate is to preserve and celebrate the early agricultural history of Richmond. The goal of the Society is to increase awareness of London Heritage Farm so residents, visitors and future generations can enjoy the site and learn about Richmond’s agricultural history.

[http://londonheritagefarm.ca/](http://londonheritagefarm.ca/)

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Visitation: **3,223**
Richmond Museum

“Overall, very well put together. Great for all ages. A very good balance between education and entertainment.”

– Visitor

Located in the Richmond Cultural Centre, the Richmond Museum’s changing exhibit gallery provides an engaging space to explore the many stories of the Richmond community. The Museum invites visitors, students and educators to come on a journey of discovery of Richmond’s many histories and people.

City at Work Exhibit

In 2019, the Richmond Museum produced the City at Work exhibit. The aim of the exhibit was to shine a light on how the City functions invisibly beneath our feet. Working with community members, the Museum team envisioned an exhibit that balanced education and entertainment.

Bringing together a variety of talented individuals and groups, City at Work helped visitors understand what it takes to keep Richmond running. Local illustrator, Raymond Nakamura, created graphics that made the content fun, interesting and accessible to visitors of all ages. Steveston resident, Peter Grant, generously loaned his heritage LEGO buildings, providing the “jewels” of the planning case. In addition to learning about current work in Richmond, visitors are asked to contribute ideas about the future and “imagine Richmond in 2050 if the world got better and better.”

Richmond Museum Society

The Richmond Museum Society supports the activities of the Richmond Museum. This non-profit Society’s mandate is to develop and maintain a community museum that collects, documents, researches, preserves, exhibits and interprets objects of historical and cultural significance to the development and history of Richmond.

http://www.richmondmuseum.ca/

A happy young visitor dresses up as a construction worker in the Museum’s City at Work exhibition.

Visitation: 53,395
Steveston Museum

"The best place to learn about the rich history of Steveston!
Extremely knowledgeable and friendly staff." – VISITOR

Located in the heart of Steveston Village, the Steveston Museum tells the stories of the people and moments that shaped Steveston Village. The Museum interprets the history of early Steveston in the town’s first bank, and the triumphs and tragedies experienced by the local Japanese Canadian community in the Japanese Fishermen’s Benevolent Society building. Visitors can also learn about the area at Tourism Richmond’s Visitor Centre or mail a package at the Steveston Post Office as both are located in the lobby of the Steveston Museum.

Steveston Alive! Walking Tour Vignettes

The Steveston Historical Society presented the third season of Steveston Alive! Walking Tour Vignettes in 2019. Participants travelled back in time to the year 1917 as a narrator led them through the streets of Steveston to see five short historical plays. Talented drama students from Steveston-London Secondary and Hugh McRoberts Secondary portrayed Steveston villagers from the town’s early days. Through these vignettes, residents and visitors alike learned about what makes Steveston unique and how its early immigrants overcame hardship, learning to live and work together in this diverse community.

Steveston Historical Society

The Steveston Museum is supported by the Steveston Historical Society whose mission is to preserve and promote the history of Steveston. The Society was created in 1976 and contributes to the sharing of Steveston’s heritage through a variety of programs and activities, including operating the Post Office.

historicsteveston.ca/

Visitation: 30,074
Steveston Tram

"The Steveston Tram curator made this trip for me. It was such an informative visit, I couldn’t stop talking about it after I left." – Visitor

Step aboard Tram Car 1220, the tram that serviced Richmond from 1913 to 1958. Beautifully restored by a team of volunteers and skilled experts, Tram Car 1220 rests on original rail tracks and is housed in a building inspired by the architecture of Steveston’s first tram station.

www.richmond.ca/culture/sites/tram/abouttram.htm

Canada Day at the Tram

On Canada Day 2019, thousands of visitors were treated to boarding the 107-year-old tramcar, in front of the Steveston Tram building. Canada Day celebrants listened to costumed heritage interpreters tell historic tales from the age of the Interurban Trams. Volunteers with hands-on knowledge about the restoration of Tram Car 1220 shared their experiences preserving one of Richmond’s premier artefacts. Costumed volunteer ambassadors with the Living History program brought the past alive by using interactive props to engage visitors props.

Visitation: 53,994
Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site

What a great way to learn the history of the fishing industry in British Columbia, but more specifically, in Richmond.

- Visitor

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site is operated by the non-profit Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society on behalf of Parks Canada. Through interactive exhibits, educational programs, annual events, and public programming, the Cannery shares the story of the Steveston Village and its role in the growth of Canada's West Coast commercial fishing industry from its early beginnings in the late 1800s to today.

Welcoming the Sun Event

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society is proud of the reach of its events and programs, including Welcoming the Sun: A Celebration of Indigenous Arts and Culture. On June 22, 2019, this particularly meaningful event was offered on a bigger and more inclusive scale, bringing together over 5,000 people to delight, learn, experience and challenge perceptions surrounding Indigenous culture, both historic and contemporary.

Visitors were invited to participate in a community art project facilitated by Indigenous artist Christine Mackenzie and enjoy cultural celebrations in performances by the Coastal Wolf Pack, Star Child Drumming Circle, Eagle Connection Dancers, and others. Not only did activities inspire connections, understanding and knowledge within the community, the event offered a free day of experiential fun for all ages. As a result of the efforts of Indigenous artists, performances, Elders and storytellers, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site welcomed the summer solstice with healing and happiness, and provided a unique community experience.

Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society is a non-for-profit charitable organization, which operates the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site in partnership with Parks Canada. Together with staff, volunteers, and members, the Society works to honour the history of fishing on Canada's West Coast and celebrate the stories of historic and contemporary fishing communities.

http://gulfofgeorgiacannery.org/

Welcoming the Sun participants helped paint the community art project banner by Indigenous artist Christine MacKenzie.

Credit: Jason W.
The Richmond Olympic Experience

"The Richmond Olympic Experience is by far the most interesting sports-related museum I have visited!"

– Visitor

Visitation: over 35,000

The Richmond Olympic Experience is a highly interactive and dynamic museum. Located in the heart of the Richmond Olympic Oval—the crown jewel of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games—the visitor experience celebrates Richmond’s rich sport history and features countless Olympic and sport artefacts, digital archives, state-of-the-art sport simulators, and numerous hands-on exhibits.

richmondoval.ca/therox/

Education Program

Driven by the Olympic Movement, the Richmond Olympic Experience seeks to inspire Canada’s young athletes by educating youth about sport. One important way this is accomplished is through the museum’s Education Program. Throughout 2019, the Education Program taught over 6,000 youth physical literacy, Olympic and sport history, sportsmanship, the power of sport and the positive impact it can have on one’s life.

Children engage with the True Colours Globe at Canada’s first Olympic Museum.
PRESENTING HERITAGE THROUGH PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Learning about history and heritage creates informed and engaged citizens.
School Programs

“...The students really liked the ‘Facing Change in Richmond’ school program. Students liked the ability to explore and touch in the Chinese bunkhouse and mentioned this exhibit a lot afterwards. They were able to find ‘economies’... a new understanding.”

- Teacher

Heritage sites and museums across Richmond offer opportunities for students to learn about distinctive aspects of Richmond’s past and present. Through these curriculum-related programs, students have unique opportunities to experience Richmond’s history and heritage first-hand.

www.richmond.ca/_shared/assets/School_Programs_Brochure_2019_202054368.pdf

In 2019, the City’s Museum and Heritage staff developed a number of new programs including Facing Change in Richmond and All Aboard Tram Car 1220.

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site offers the Facing Change in Richmond program to Grade 6 and 7 classes. In this program, students build an understanding of how people in Richmond dealt with changes in the maritime industry during eras of progress and decline. Activities include map-making, investigating artefacts and primary sources to discuss challenges of the past, and consider current climate change solutions.

At the Steveston Tram, All Aboard Tram Car 1220 gives Kindergarten to Grade 3 students an opportunity to climb aboard Tram Car 1220 and listen to stories about employees’ roles and culturally diverse passengers. Students engage with hands-on puzzles to understand how riding the tram brought communities together.

Attendance: **15,632**
Richmond Regional Heritage Fair

“...My favourite part of Heritage Fair is how we get to meet lots of people and their projects, learning about the history of Canada and participating in interesting activities, in other words, I like all!"

— YIRUI, GRADE 5, HENRY ANDERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Richmond Museum is proud to present the Richmond Regional Heritage Fair. This annual community event offers an exciting and enriching learning environment that inspires curiosity and dialogue about Richmond and Canada’s past, present and future. By participating in the Heritage Fair, students are empowered to take an active role in learning about Canada’s history, cultivate an appreciation of the diverse experiences of people in the past, and develop into informed and involved citizens of tomorrow.

The Heritage Fair showcases projects created by local students, who research a topic in Canadian history and present their findings in a creative display. Students first present their projects at their school. Exceptional projects are selected for the Regional Heritage Fair where students are interviewed by judges, and take part in history-based workshops and field trips.

http://www.richmondmuseum.ca/heritage-fair/

In 2019, 120 students from 12 Richmond schools presented projects at the Regional Heritage Fair. From this group, three students were chosen to represent Richmond at the BC Provincial Heritage Fair in Victoria.

Each year, the Heritage Fair is supported by a dedicated team of over 50 volunteers, which includes Heritage Fair student alumni, who return to support Canadian history education and student learning.
Doors Open Richmond

“Doors Open is a wonderful way to learn about groups, communities, and cultures.”
— PARTICIPANT

Doors Open Richmond is an annual two-day event that invites Richmond residents and visitors to venture beyond the places they usually go and try something new. Participants are given free and exclusive behind-the-scenes access to over 40 sites across Richmond, including museums, places of worship, cultural centres, businesses, and more. Each partner site offers unique opportunities that celebrate Richmond’s diverse history and heritage.

http://www.richmondmuseum.ca/events/doors-open/

In 2019, new partner sites included Wild Research Bird Observatory on Iona Island, Richmond City Hall, Steveston Hub, Finn Road Studio and Garden, Richmond Ismaili Jamatkhanam and Brighouse Fire Hall No. 1.

Doors Open participants learn about all the Richmond has to offer and are introduced to the diverse cultural practices and spiritual traditions of other community members.

An artful calligrapher provides a free demonstration at the Richmond Mosque.
Richmond Maritime Festival

"One of the best, must-see events in the City. We mark it on our calendar every year. The Maritime Festival mixes art, culture, food, boats, entertainment and maritime history. So much fun for all ages."

– MARITIME FESTIVAL VISITOR

The Richmond Maritime Festival celebrates all things waterfront at the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site. Landlubbers and sea-goers of all ages discover local lore, visit beautiful wooden boats, create works of art, and enjoy tasty treats. From wooden boats to model boats, water safety to sea creatures, and tall maritime tales to fishing history, the Festival invites visitors to explore a spectacular heritage site and enjoy music, games interactive exhibits, roving performers, food and much more.

www.richmondmaritimefestival.ca

In 2019, the docks at Britannia Shipyards and Imperial Landing welcomed wooden boats from across the Pacific Northwest as they sailed in to share their history and character. Over 8,000 members of the public had an opportunity to visit more than 10 vessels, old and new, at the docks and learn about life on the water from the various captains. The event was supported by twelve different maritime and ocean organizations including the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society.
Grand Prix of Art

“The fact that the artists were scattered throughout the Britannia Shipyards as well as the Steveston Village provided the visitor an opportunity to experience this historic site in an innovative way.”

Event Visitor

The Grand Prix of Art is an incredible event that brings together artists and spectators to celebrate art and the Richmond community. This outdoor painting competition is a race against the clock. Artists are randomly assigned a location in the Steveston Village and given three hours to paint, draw, and sketch what they see in front of them before submitting their piece to be judged. All the artworks are then exhibited in the Seine Net Loft at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site for the remainder of the weekend.

grandprixofart.ca/

This event was a special one in 2019, bringing together the community to share and appreciate Richmond’s artists. Featuring over 100 artists and supported by more than 60 volunteers, this event celebrated artistic creativity and this unique and special neighbourhood. The feedback from this event was extremely positive, according to organizer Mark Glavina.

Attendance: 1,300

Grand Prix of Art contestant painting her view of Britannia Shipyard’s beautiful water scape.
Remembrance Day Ceremony
Organized by the Richmond Remembrance Day Committee, the annual public Remembrance Day Ceremonies honour and remember Canadian service personnel. Every year, a parade includes several hundred marchers, with a special place of honour for veterans. Veterans and service personnel who have passed away are recognized in a wreath laying ceremony and a reception is held for event participants in the Galleria of City Hall. The parade and reception are organized and supported by over 60 dedicated volunteers.

www.richmond.ca/discover/events/RemembranceDayCeremonies.htm

To support the Remembrance Day activities, Richmond Museum staff create a display in City Hall with artefacts related to the two World Wars. The items displayed each year change and include soldiers’ belongings, war-related artefacts or items depicting life on the home front.
Winter in the Village

“\textit{This event gave seniors in my residence a reason to go outside this winter.}\”

– PARTICIPANT

Winter in the Village is quickly becoming an annual tradition for many locals. This event, in its second year, is a wonderful opportunity for Steveston visitors to celebrate the season bringing together a variety of winter- and holiday-themed activities in 10 locations across Steveston. Activities included a craft fair, workshops, window display contest, scavenger hunt, decorated tree competition, hayrides, concerts and many opportunities to meet Santa.

Interactive light displays in eight locations helped set the scene. Sponsored by Tourism Richmond, highlights included three feature trees in Town Square Park that danced to the beat of clapping, singing or instruments. The Imperial Cannery Frame along the boardwalk was illuminated for the first time and a large walk-through ornament was placed in front of the Steveston Tram.

www.visitrichmondbc.com/winter-in-the-village

One highlight of the 2019 Winter in the Village was \textit{Songs in the Snow}, which was created in partnership with the Steveston Historical Society and the Richmond Arts Coalition. This event brought together local schools, musicians, and performers to showcase their skills and musical talents, creating a festive atmosphere for both locals and visitors. This collaborative program also worked with local Girl Guides who dressed in period costume and performed roaming carols throughout Steveston Village. \textit{Songs in the Snow} was supported by 194 volunteer hours over three evenings.

Attendance: 29,785

\textit{Songs in the Snow} at the Steveston Museum was enjoyed by many.
Section 2: Preserving Richmond’s Heritage

716 objects and histories were added to collections

Preserving material culture—objects, documents, and buildings—and documenting the stories of the past provide a collective memory for community. It is through these memories that others, new generations and newcomers, can experience the history of a place and its people. It is also through the act of preservation that community members are brought together and develop meaningful understandings and relationships to each other and to their histories.
PRESERVING THE OBJECTS AND STORIES OF RICHMOND’S PAST

Preserving and caring for heritage objects and stories decreases social isolation among seniors by valuing their stories and objects, and offering opportunities to share them.
The City of Richmond’s Artefact Collection

“My experience volunteering as an Artefact Avenger has provided me with excellent opportunities to get involved with the City of Richmond, gain hands-on museum and collections experience, and meet a number of wonderful and like-minded people, both within the museum and among other volunteers. The program has been a joy to participate in!”

– MALLORIE FRANCIS, ARTEFACT AVENGER VOLUNTEER

The City of Richmond collects and maintains artefacts with historical, social and/or cultural significance to the community of Richmond. Artefacts in the collection range from a First Nations cedar-bark shield, to cranberry scoops, an Interurban tramcar, horsehair couches, Hong Wo Store signs, bog shoes, false teeth, typewriters, and wedding dresses. The collection has grown over 50 years thanks to donations from community members who entrust the City to care for and preserve their past. In 2019, 646 objects were added to the collection. This included a large collection of objects representing migration and farming.

www.richmond.ca/culture/sites/museum/collections.htm

Artefact Avengers

The Artefact Avengers provides volunteer opportunities for individuals to gain hands-on experience in collections care as they learn to protect Richmond’s material culture. In 2019, ten volunteers contributed 56 hours working across Richmond’s museums and heritage sites to ensure proper care of the artefacts in storage and on display. Work included photographing artefacts at Minoru Chapel, assessing artefacts displayed outside at London Heritage Farm, installing artefacts in the Richmond Museum exhibit, assessing the condition of textile artefacts at the Steveston Museum, cleaning artefacts at the Britannia Shipyards NHS, and updating the collections management database.

Number of Artefacts: 20,074

The “Artefact Avengers” volunteers are easy to spot wearing aprons and equipped with tools to clean and assess artefacts.
City of Richmond Archives

“...The stories of our community spanning over 150 years, held in the records kept safe in the Archives, celebrate the entire built community and cultural heritage of Richmond. Anyone can read them. Wow!”

- VOLUNTEER CHRISTINE MCGILVRAY

The City of Richmond Archives preserves and protects records of historic value and makes them accessible now and for future generations. Operated by the City Clerk’s Office, the Archives is the official repository for records of our City government. About half of the holdings are community records, donated by private individuals, families, organizations and businesses. Included in the holdings are 170,000 photographs, 20,000 maps or plans, and 500 sound and moving image recordings.

Conveniently located in the Minoru Cultural Centre, numerous researchers, posing both big and small questions, visit the Archives regularly. In 2019, the Archives saw almost 1,900 reference requests. The Archives’ web pages and online search database provide 24/7 digital access and the Archives has an extensive social media presence on Facebook, YouTube, Historypin, and the blog Outside the Box.

Reaching out to the community to build relationships is an important priority for the Archives. In 2019, the Archives gave presentations, tours and workshops for various community groups, including Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Langara College, the Richmond School District English Language Learning students, and a number of community societies.

The Friends of the Richmond Archives

The Friends of the Richmond Archives, a non-profit society, plays an important role in advocating and raising awareness about the Archives and the availability of historical records for the community. Friends’ projects like the Community Exhibit program and the bi-annual Richmond School District Conference help achieve this goal.

www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/about/about.htm

Volunteers at work in the Richmond Archives.
Oral History Project

"We are very much a part of the community. We would never leave Richmond."

– ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWEE, JIM WILLIS

Oral histories are the spoken stories of the past. The Richmond Museum has been documenting the unique stories and individual memories from the Richmond community through its oral history program. These valuable records are treasures for families, our communities and our country as they preserve the everyday lives of Richmond residents for the future. Housed in the City of Richmond Archives, these stories also serve as an important source of information for Richmond Museum exhibits and as a record of Richmond’s past for future researchers.

http://www.richmondmuseum.ca/explore/oralhistories/

Interview with Kin Wah

In 2019, Kin Wah Leung, owner and president of Kin’s Farm Market, participated in the oral history program sharing his story with the Museum. “When I came to Canada, I had nothing. No money. I had to borrow money to buy an air ticket.”

Kin Wah’s journey, which began in Guangzhou, China, led to the creation of Kin’s Farm Market stores—with no prior business experience. As Kin Wah says, it’s amazing to think a single table at Granville Island Market can develop into the 28 store, Richmond-based franchise that we know today. Kin Wah credits this success to hard work, family, and a constant willingness to learn.

Kin’s Farm Market established its first permanent location in Richmond at Blundell Centre in 1987.

Credit: Courtesy of Kin’s Farm Market
HERITAGE PLACE PROTECTION

Heritage places create a sense of pride in place by providing spaces of cultural memory and aesthetic beauty.
Recognized Heritage Places

Several tools exist at the federal, provincial, and local government levels to identify, recognize, or protect resources of heritage value and character. In Richmond, heritage places are identified and recognized on the Heritage Inventory and Register. City Staff and the Richmond Heritage Commission collaborate on maintaining the Heritage Inventory and Register.

Heritage Inventory

The Heritage Inventory is a list of resources that contribute to a community’s heritage character. It increases awareness about Richmond’s history and serves as a research tool or as the basis for developing additional heritage conservation programs. Being listed on the Heritage Inventory does not mean that the property is protected or formally recognized by City Council.

There are 93 resources included in Richmond’s Heritage Inventory. An online version of Richmond’s Heritage Inventory is available on the City’s website.

www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/overview.htm

Heritage Register

In accordance with the BC Local Government Act, the City of Richmond established a community heritage register in 2003 to formally identify and recognize resources with heritage value and character. While this does not provide legal protection, it enables monitoring of changes to them. Resources identified in the Richmond Heritage Register may be eligible for various federal and provincial financial incentives and are listed on the BC Register of Historic Places and the Canadian Register of Historic Places. The Register currently contains 43 resources which include buildings, monuments, engineering works, and plantings.

www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/heritagereg.htm

Hangar #2 at the South Terminal of the Vancouver International Airport is on Richmond’s Community Heritage Register.
Designated Heritage Places

A place of local heritage significance may be legally protected by a City Council with a Heritage Designation Bylaw. This Bylaw prevents a person from making exterior changes to the resources unless authorized by a Heritage Alteration Permit. In the City of Richmond, there are 15 heritage resources that are protected by Heritage Designation Bylaws adopted by City Council. These include:

- London Farm
- Minoru Chapel
- Pierrefonds Garden
- General Currie School
- Steveston Museum
- Steveston Courthouse
- Eldstrom House
- Redwood Trees
- Steveston Telephone Exchange Building
- Brighouse Trees
- Britannia Shipyards
- Pioneer Church
- Scotch Pond
- McKinney House
- Abercrombie House

www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/heritagedes.htm

Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Area

In addition to individual places, Steveston Village is designated as a Heritage Conservation Area in the City’s 2041 Official Community Plan. The Village is protected due to its importance in Canadian history, and the extent of its historic character and intrinsic heritage resources. The special heritage features and character of Steveston Village are identified in the Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Strategy. As a result of this designation, a Heritage Alteration Permit is required prior to any changes being made to any building, structure, and land within the Steveston Village Conservation Area.

The Official Community Plan identifies a number of heritage resources within the Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Area that are protected because they significantly embody the heritage character of Steveston (e.g. buildings, docks, and landscape features). The Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Area and protected heritage resources are illustrated in Map 1.

www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/village-conservation.htm

Map 1.

Minoru Chapel in Minoru Park was built in 1891 and is a city designated heritage site.
HERITAGE PLACE CONSERVATION

Heritage place conservation provides economic benefits by increasing property values and encouraging tourism.
Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Grant Program

The Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Grant Program was established in 2009 to provide financial assistance to property owners conserving the exterior of identified heritage resources in the Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Area. Funds for the Program are provided by contributions obtained through development applications in exchange for additional density, senior government and non-governmental organization grants, and private donations. The Grant Program provides up to $150,000, on a cost-sharing basis, to support the conservation of identified heritage resources.

www.richmond.ca/__shared/assets/planning_0330940.pdf

In 2019, City Council approved two grants to support heritage conservation work on identified heritage buildings. This included the former Steveston Methodist Church on Chatham Street built by volunteers in 1894. A $150,000 conservation grant will provide the Richmond Hospital/Healthcare Auxiliary, the owner of the building currently being used as the Thrift Store, with funding to replace the building’s foundation. Additionally, the former Tasaka Barbershop on Moncton Street received over $15,000 for a roof replacement.
Section 3: Stewarding Richmond’s Heritage

Heritage stewardship activities increase participants sense of belonging in the community and deepen connections to people and places.
MUSEUM AND HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS

"The best memories I can take from the site are the interactions with the public. Sometimes it is as simple as a smile and a “hello” but more often than not you end up in these tremendous back and forth conversations where everybody walks away having learnt something! I have made many lasting friendships with both the visitors and the team at Britannia. 😊😊

- VOLUNTEER, GORDON COOPER

Volunteers are at the heart of much of the heritage work done across the city. From supporting the delivery of programs and events, championing the conservation of Richmond heritage places and objects, to helping to steward the heritage sites, community members play an integral role in preserving and presenting heritage. In 2019, 944 volunteers contributed over 25,600 hours to sixteen different places and events.

The Textile Arts Guild of Richmond generously loaned and installed quilts for the, “Stitch in Time” display at London Heritage Farm.
HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP GROUPS

Heritage Societies
Non-profit societies play an important role in supporting the places and events that share Richmond’s history and heritage. In Richmond, eight non-profit societies dedicate time and resources to leading heritage stewardship in the community. Combined, these societies have over 720 members who help support the preservation and presentation of Richmond’s heritage. These include the following groups:
- Britannia Shipyards NHS Society
- Steveston Historical Society
- London Heritage Farm Society
- Richmond Museum Society
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society
- Friends of the Archives
- Heritage Commission
- Sea Island Heritage Society

Richmond Heritage Commission
The Richmond Heritage Commission consists of nine members of the public, appointed by City Council to advise on heritage-related matters within the City. The Commission also supports activities that benefit and promote heritage in the City. Core functions of the Commission include commenting on key City initiatives and projects, such as amendments to the City’s heritage policies, updates to the City’s Heritage Inventory and Heritage Register, and proposed changes to existing heritage resources.

In 2019, the Commission reviewed eight development proposals. The Commission also continued to build capacity and heritage awareness in the community through events and education. Among the events supported by the Commission were the Richmond Heritage Awards, the Richmond Regional Heritage Fair, Doors Open, and the Richmond Museum Oral Histories project.

Individuals Supporting Heritage Stewardship: 736
RICHMOND HERITAGE AWARDS

The Richmond Heritage Awards, organized by the Richmond Heritage Commission, are held annually to recognize the accomplishments of Richmond individuals and organizations for their dedication to historic places, public history, and heritage interpretation. The public is encouraged to submit nominations of projects which can include restoring a historic building or landscape, promoting local heritage awareness through education, outreach or advocacy, and contributing to local heritage knowledge by interpretation of places and events.

www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/heritageawards.htm

Two groups received a Richmond Heritage Award in 2019. The Sea Island Heritage Society received an award for raising public awareness of the unique history of Sea Island. The history of the Sea Island community begins with original rural pioneers and includes a Canadian Armed Forces base during World War II, Vancouver International Airport and today's neighbourhoods. The Sea Island Heritage Society’s projects include compiling family trees with stories from people who have lived on Sea Island, gathering photos of past and present houses on Sea Island, and school class photos and teacher biographies from Sea Island School.

The Richmond Garden Club also received an award for stewarding the Paulik Neighbourhood Park. This six-acre, City-owned park was once owned and inhabited by two families as early as the 1930s and is known for its arts and crafts landscape design. Richmond Garden Club was formed in 1957 and works on many garden beautification and education projects throughout Richmond.

Richmond Garden Club volunteers help care for the Paulik Neighbourhood Park.
Credit: Alice Jensen- Stanley