

# ArchivesNews

A publication of the City of Richmond Archives  
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## Reflections from Mallorie

In the fall of 2025, with support from the Dody Wray Special Projects Fund and a third federal Young Canada Works grant, the Friends of the Richmond Archives hired Conservator Mallorie Francis. Reflecting on her time at the City of Richmond Archives, Mallorie has written the following:

*My name is Mallorie Francis, and I am graduate of Queen's University with a Master of Art Conservation specialising in paper and photographs. As a Conservator, my goals were to improve access to records and overall support long-term preservation within the Archives. To this end, I was tasked with three main projects: cleaning over 200 mould-affected ledgers from the historic Hong Wo General Store in Steveston, updating the Archives' Disaster Response Plan, and reviewing the progress made following a 2005 Preservation Assessment.*

*As a recent graduate and emerging Conservator, my experience with the City of Richmond Archives has been invaluable. Each project has touched on a unique element of a Conservator's skillset, from hand-skills to knowledge of emergency salvage and best practices for storage. Embracing this work not only reinforced my education, but also helped develop my confidence in carrying out treatment independently and offering preservation guidance.*

*I've always been drawn to working with archival collections; supporting public access to knowledge and the preservation of local history is a driving force behind my passion for conservation. As a result, cleaning the Hong Wo records and seeing the immediate impact safe access can have on current research has been incredibly rewarding. With 75 years of service prior to its closure in 1971, the Hong Wo store is an important landmark in Richmond's history, and reflects the significant role Chinese immigrants played in shaping the local community.*



Mallorie Francis safely cleans a mould-affected Hong Wo Store ledger outside the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex while wearing a portable vacuum cleaner, November 2025.

City of Richmond Archives photograph.

*I hope these records continue to be a great source of information for years to come, and that my updates to the Archives' emergency and preservation plans have helped prolong the life of such important collections!*

*As a previous employee of the Richmond Museum, it has been a wonderful experience returning to the City of Richmond. Thank you to all who welcomed me into the Archives, and special thanks to the Dody Wray Special Projects fund and the federal Young Canada Works Buildings Careers in Heritage program for supporting this work.*



Mallorie Francis (left) and Friends of the Richmond Archives Board member Clarence Sihoe (right) with Hong Wo Store ledgers in the Archives Reference Room. Clarence is researching Richmond's early Chinese Canadian settlers and looks forward to consulting the ledgers Mallorie has cleaned.

City of Richmond Archives photograph.



Friends of the Richmond Archives Interns.

From left to right: Archivist Dovel Buie, Mallorie Francis (2025 Intern), Lily Liu (2023 Intern), and Anouska Kirby (2024 Intern)

City of Richmond Archives photograph.

## Who Uses the Archives?



Susan Kilpatrick, retired Teacher-Librarian, in the Archives Reference Room, November 2025.  
City of Richmond Archives photograph.

The City of Richmond Archives strives to be a valuable community resource, providing high-quality service to researchers with a wide range of inquiries. Our users include City staff, government agencies, businesses, community groups, teachers, students, writers, and artists. Research conducted at the Archives contributes to reports, exhibits, school projects, publications, videos, and more. Susan Kilpatrick was one such researcher in 2025. She shared the following about her experience at the City of Richmond Archives:

*Richmond's Gateway Theatre (RGT) recently celebrated its 40th Anniversary season and this occasion was the catalyst for me to visit the Richmond Archives and take a look back at the beginnings of RGT, as I had been a volunteer with a few shows back in those early years and I was ready to tweak my memory. What I thought would only take an hour or two, for a swift look at what would probably just be a couple of folders holding some random programs, posters and news clippings has turned into several days of an absorbing, surprising and delightful walk back in time through a treasure-trove of information!*

*The Archives staff could not have been more helpful and accommodating, providing guidance and access to drawings, documents, reports, articles, press releases, and more --- as well as those not-so-random show programs, newspaper clippings and posters.*

*These carefully curated, organized, and catalogued files and fonds have not just provided me with a nostalgic journey back to my time working at RGT with many creative, skilled individuals, but, more importantly, provide an illuminating look at Gateway's growth over the years, an impressive history of quality productions, and talented musicians and performers, of both local and national renown, as well as many amateur and community groups, that have graced its stage from its very first months of operation.*

*Richmond citizens like me are so fortunate to have an asset like the Richmond Archives that, through the work of Archives staff, educates and informs, and certainly supports our cultural institutions like Gateway by preserving, conserving, protecting these documents and items, and, makes them accessible to the public in a very welcoming environment.*

*My thanks again to the City of Richmond Archives for this opportunity to delve into a terrific piece of Richmond history.*

## Records Donated in 2025

### Municipal records

- City Clerk's Office – bylaw files and committee minutes
- Mapping and Production Centre – aerials and cartographic records
- City of Richmond Public Art – press clippings
- Business Services - microfilm rolls
- Sister City Advisory Committee – photographs and records
- Richmond Museum – VHS tapes
- Museum & Heritage Services - Steveston Japanese Canadian Boat Builders Research Project report

### Community records from individuals and families

- Kishi Boatworks hull plans
- Robert Monsen school photographs
- Bob Mukai school photographs
- George Bergson C.P. Air photographs
- Dlugan family photographs, including Steveston High School reunion records
- Eugene Kozier's Richmond Junior-Senior Secondary School photographs and records
- Trehearne family photographs and newspaper clippings
- English family photographs
- Brian Robert Atchison Steveston photographs
- Susan Kilpatrick Gateway Theatre photographs and scrapbook
- Bob Ransford family photograph
- Corisande Percival-Smith records
- Lin Richardson records
- Lisa MacNeil records
- Powell Pavich records

### Community records from community groups

- Richmond Juvenile Soccer Association "Soccer Day" programs, 1974–1979

### Biography files

- "A Biography of Aida Trueman Knapp," by Kerry McNeill, 1978

### Reference files

- "Lulu Island Second World War Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery and Training Camp," by Ken Ryan, 2025
- Richmond schools material, including annuals and yearbooks
- Sea Island and British Columbia books
- A History of the Municipality of Richmond booklet, 1958

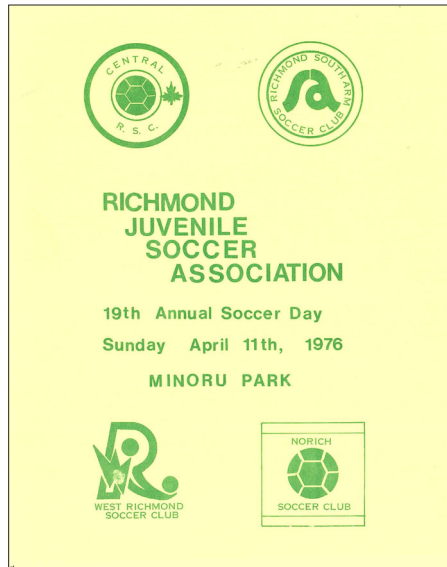
## Acquisition Highlights

In 2025, the City of Richmond Archives received 49 new acquisitions, including donations from individuals, companies, and community organizations, as well as transfers of records from City departments. Some highlights include:

- The Planning & Development Department transferred a Development Cost Charges book with corresponding ledgers dating from 1979–2015.
- The Mapping and Production Centre transferred sketches, illustrations, and technical drawings created by City graphic artists in the early 2000s.
- The Steveston Community Centre Society donated 45 boxes following the building's closure and in anticipation of the new Steveston Community Centre and Library's opening scheduled for completion in December 2026.
- Lance Carey, 1976 field hockey Olympian and Friends of the Richmond Archives director, donated records from the Richmond Field Hockey Club, which began in 1970. Lance also donated a Hugh Boyd Secondary Girls' Field Hockey photo album
- Joyce Finnemore's photographs and autograph book from her time at Richmond Junior & Senior High School between 1940 and 1946.



Neil Kishi with Kishi Boatworks hull plans. Neil is the grandson of Kiheiji Kishi, a Steveston boatbuilder. City of Richmond Archives photograph.



Richmond Juvenile Soccer Association, Soccer Day Program, April 11, 1976. City of Richmond Archives accession #2025 16.



Hiro's Grocery on Moncton Street, Steveston. Print by Hugo J. De Ruitter. City of Richmond Archives accession #2025 18.



Jack Dlugan Steveston High School reunion records. Steveston High School Packers logo. City of Richmond Archives accession 2025 30.

## Records Donated in 2025

### General Community records

- Richmond Hotel photograph, 1915
- Finn Slough photographs, 1983–1999
- Kings Foods Market photograph
- B.C. Summer Games Souvenir program, 1979
- "The Sinterklaas Fantasy: A once upon a time Christmas story, as remembered by Bill Vander Zalm," VHS tape
- Lansdowne Racetrack, then and now poster
- Hugo J. De Ruitter prints
- Richmond scenic photographs by Rhonda Sureau
- Seniors Centre records and photographs
- Marsh fire photographs and videos, 2018
- Terra Nova lands Public Hearing video, January 10, 1989



Kings Foods Market, 479 Blundell Road, ca. 1960-1965. City of Richmond Archives photograph #2025 35 1.



Robert Monsen school photographs: Hamilton Elementary School, 1951. City of Richmond Archives photograph #2025 7 2.



### Remembering Barbara Williams

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that Barbara Williams passed away in January 2026.

Barbara volunteered with the Friends of the Richmond Archives for more than 10 years. Over that time, she served as Membership Chair, as well as Vice-President and President. In recognition of her many contributions, Barbara was named Volunteer of the Year in 2010 and again in 2017.

Her broader commitment to the community was also recognized through her nomination for the Ethel Tibbits Woman of the Year in 2014.



In 2007, Barbara Williams (front) and Mary Keen (back) are pictured in the Archives stacks with dust covers they created to protect rolled maps, which are still in use today.

City of Richmond Archives photograph.

**CITY OF RICHMOND**  
**Archives**

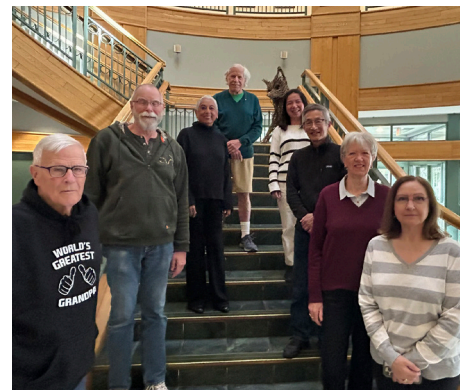
7700 Minoru Gate  
 Richmond, BC V6Y 1R9

Archivist: Dovelle Buie  
 Records Analyst: Karen Ng  
 Phone: 604-247-8305  
 Email: archives@richmond.ca  
 richmond.ca/archives

Public Reference Room Hours:  
 Monday–Thursday: 9:00am–4:30pm  
 Appointment recommended

## The 2026–27 Year Ahead Your New Board

At the AGM on March 18, 2026, eight dedicated community members were elected to the Board of the Friends of the Richmond Archives. Special congratulations go to Jon Henderson, who has dedicated over two decades of service to the Friends, serving in multiple leadership roles and providing steady guidance. A long-time educator and published author, he has significantly advanced community heritage education through publications, events, and ongoing volunteer commitment. In the winter of 2026, John was one of three nominees for Heritage BC's Ruby Nobbs Distinguished Volunteer Service Award.



**Presenting the FOTRA 2026-27 Board.**

Left to right: Jon Henderson, John Campbell (Treasurer), Charan Gill (Vice President), Lance Carey, Lanie Man (Membership Chair), Clarence Sihoe, Christine McGilvray (President), and Jackie Brown (Secretary).

City of Richmond Archives photograph.

### Archives Tea, November 19, 2026 – Mark your calendars!

The Friends will be celebrating their 40th anniversary on November 19, 2026. This will be exactly 40 years to the day since their first meeting was held on November 19, 1986. We look forward to marking this special milestone together.

## UBC Friends of the Richmond Archives Mary Keen Memorial Prize in Archival Studies

Every year the Friends of the Richmond Archives award a prize to a student in the University of British Columbia's Master of Archival Studies program. Since established in 2000, there have been 23 awards, totalling \$11,100. We are pleased to announce that the 2025 recipient is Gabriella J. Cigarroa.

Gabriella graduated from the UBC iSchool in 2025 with dual master's degrees in Archival Studies and in Library and Information Studies. She recently completed a contract position as Project Archivist at UBC Library's Rare Books & Special Collections (UBC RBSC).

Gabriella geared her studies towards learning how to understand and tailor archival institutions' processes towards community needs. During her studies, at UBC RBSC she helped community members navigate and access records, created and revised archival processing workflows to better serve user communities' needs, and completed over twenty archival projects.



Gabriella J. Cigarroa.

Photograph submitted.

Gabriella has also been an active participant in professional associations, acting as Secretary of the Association of Moving Image Archivists student chapter at UBC as well as a member of the Latinx GLAM in Canada network.