

# ArchivesNews

A publication of the City of Richmond Archives  
Spring 2023 | Volume 28, Number 1

## Who Uses the Archives?

People who use the Archives continue to have a wide variety of research interests and needs.

### Grade 12 Student Katelyn Yurkovich

Long time supporter of the Richmond Archives, Nancy Yurkovich visited with granddaughter Katelyn in March. As a part of grade 12 graduation requirements, students in BC are required to complete a Capstone Project. Katelyn came to the Archives to research the history of health care in Richmond.

### Richmond Sister City Committee

The Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) has a lot to celebrate these days. In 2022, Richmond observed two milestones: 55 year Sister City anniversary with Pierrefonds, Quebec and 10 year anniversary with Xiamen, China. This year, the SCAC will be honouring the 50th anniversary milestone with Wakayama, Japan and 15 year anniversary with Friendship City Qingdao, China. Finally, in 2024, SCAC will itself be marking 50 years since Richmond Municipal Council formed the “Sister City Twinning Committee” on February 11, 1974. With all of these important events to observe, the SCAC, and in particular Chair Lisa MacNeil, have spent time at the City of Richmond Archives researching their records in our holdings to better understand and preserve Richmond’s Sister City Program history for the future. There is a significant amount of records to review as well: correspondence, minutes, newsletters, general and operational records, scrapbooks and photo albums.

### Social Justice 12 Teachers

The Archives is pleased to be working with local teachers who are customizing course content for Social Justice 12. We are very grateful to Andrea Phillpotts who wrote the following for the newsletter.

#### *“Touching the past with archival gloves” By Andrea Phillpotts*

*It was in between watching basketball games at Richmond High School (RHS) that I took to walking the halls and examining the graduate photo composites on the wall. “1941, 1942 ... 1943. What a change!” While the early war years included many graduate portraits of Japanese Canadian students at RHS, starting in 1943, there were none until the 1950’s. Wow. As a Social Justice 12 teacher at McMath Secondary, I was aware of Japanese Canadian Internment and its impact on Richmond’s population, but I had never seen it illustrated so poignantly as a primary source.*

*When I looked at the smiling, optimistic faces of these young people in their grad photos, it was hard to imagine what lay ahead for them, relocation and internment, when 22,000 people of Japanese Canadian heritage were forced into camps across Canada.*

*From this moment, a teaching idea began to develop. In order to make Richmond history more relevant and interesting to students, why not get each Social Justice student to research the lives of one of these Richmond graduates: their high school life, the consequences of Internment on them, and their contributions to Canadian society, post internment?*

*But how to do this? (Continued on page 2...)*



Nancy and Katelyn Yurkovich, March 2023.  
City of Richmond Archives photo.



SCAC Committee Members Melissa Zhang, Sue Tian, Jenny Zhang, Chair Lisa MacNeil, and Joan Page, February 2023.  
City of Richmond Archives photo.



Social Justice 12 Teachers Andrea Phillpotts and Hayley Valliquette, January 2023.  
City of Richmond Archives photo.

## New Blog Post on the Barker Letter Books

Board Member and Social Media Coordinator John Campbell returned to volunteer in-person at the Archives in November 2022. It didn't take John long to write a new Blog post on the Barker Letter Books.

William Henry Barker (1853-1929) was a businessman who was instrumental in the development of the fishing industry in British Columbia. Barker was the General Manager and later President of BC Packers. He was seen as a practical man who was very familiar with the business and well able to take care of the company's affairs. During Barker's 22 year tenure at BC Packers his outgoing correspondence was preserved in two letterpress copybooks. They have left us with an insight into a period of BC's history when the expansion of the fishing industry was taking place, and a record of a loyal and tenacious businessman who's primary focus was the welfare of the company. For more about the early years of the BC Packers Company visit the Richmond Archives blog at [richmondarchives.ca/2023/02/09/the-barker-letter-books/](https://richmondarchives.ca/2023/02/09/the-barker-letter-books/). To view the searchable transcriptions from the books visit <https://www.richmond.ca/.../exhibits/barkerletterbooks.htm>

(... Continued from page 1)

In addition to connecting with members of the Steveston Japanese Canadian Community Centre, our school district resource centre, the Richmond High Alumni Association, and the Richmond Museum, one of our first big breakthroughs came through connecting with the Richmond Archives. A world of discovery was before us.

With the expert and gentle guidance of Richmond archivists, myself and UBC Teacher Candidate Hayley Valliquette gently perused documents in the care of the archives – yearbooks, photos, newspaper articles, books, school board minutes, and so much more. The wealth of resources was mind boggling.

We went down a delightful wormhole of historical research, tracking the Richmond students' journey through the early 1940's to present day. The Richmond Archives had myriad resources on Internment, from the Sakata family's donation of personal photos and documents to Richmond Review articles tracking the local response to wartime policies.

Our favourite resources were the Richmond High yearbooks. Class photos, poetry, grad writeups, and valedictory speeches brought the devastating internment to life. "We are graduating at the height of men's cruelty to one another ... Our Japanese classmates will have to translate to their mothers and fathers the reason for the sudden upheaval of their daily lives" writes valedictorian Roy White in 1942.



*For many years you have supplied  
Music, jokes and other things.  
Countless hours by your dear side,  
Still your voice in my mind, it rings.*

*I miss Jack Benny's Jello Gang,  
Phil Harris, Rochester, and all.  
I miss Lombardo's "Auld Lang Syne,"  
And Major Bowes, and Music Hall.*

*Sport broadcasts always gave me thrills,  
While music in the Goodman style,  
Or classics from Tschalkowsky's quills  
Have enriched me all the while.*

*Such numerous things I heard before,  
No longer can my ears receive.  
It shouldn't be for evermore!  
So fare thee well, you must now leave.*

—DAVID NARUSE, Grade XII.

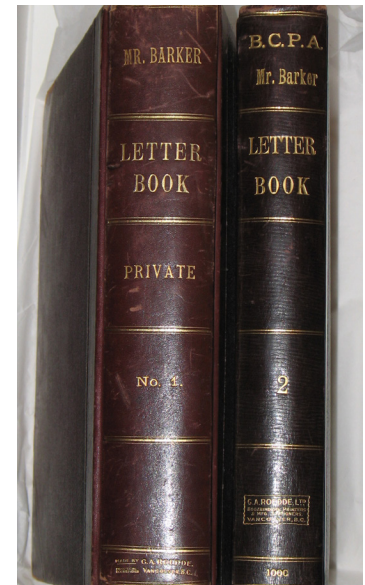
*To  
My  
Radio*

1942 Richmond High School Annual with David Naruse poem on page 37.  
Archives Reference Files.

A poem by student David Naruse entitled "To My Radio" mourns the confiscation of his radio by the Canadian government: "Such numerous things I heard before/ No longer can my ears receive / It shouldn't be for evermore! / So, fare they well, you must now leave." David, a future Ontario doctor, ended up in Westmount, Quebec for internment (information gleaned from the Landscapes of Injustice website.)

Rather than reading from a textbook or watching a canned video, our students would now be able to consult primary sources and come up with their own connections and conclusions through individualized research and inquiry. To support us, archivists digitally scanned fragile paper books and provided archival gloves with which to gently touch other heartier tomes.

We're about to launch this new project this spring. In addition to making personal connections with Richmond's history, students will learn about the importance and delight of archival research. From this, they can learn about the resilience of Richmond's Japanese Canadians and the importance of making sure such injustices like Internment never happen again. In short, in a few short weeks, our McMath students will be able to take out those archival gloves and touch history.



The Barker Letter Books, Volumes One and Two.  
City of Richmond Archives photo.

## Acquisition Highlights

The Archives acquired a total of 41 new acquisitions in 2022. This included 37 new donations of records from individuals, companies, and community organizations as well as 4 transfers of records from City departments.



Judy Zesko, donor and long time supporter of the Friends, is photographed in the Archives Reference Room with some of the records she donated to the Archives, January 2023.

City of Richmond Archives photo.

- Zesko and Klimec family records
- Ron Hyde research and documents
- McRoberts Land Grants
- Zylmans family educational certificates
- Family photographs (Tanaka family, Anderson family, Kobus and Austinson family)
- Bill Pitre commercial fishing documents
- Mink farm records
- London Farm memoir
- Richmond Hospital Auxiliary records
- Richmond Women's Resource Centre printed matter and documentation related to organizations such as the Richmond Women's Resource Centre Association, the Richmond Anti-Poverty Society and the Réseau-Femmes Columbie-Britannique
- Real Estate Multiple Listing Service catalogues
- Richmond school publications, books and school annuals
- Cambie School teachers, Lord Byng School, Thomas Kidd School, and Twigg Island photographs
- McRoberts School student handbook
- Richmond Remembered: Grauer's Store
- Cosom hockey promotional material
- 1976 Richmond-Wakayama Basketball Exchange Photos and Scrapbook
- History of Girls and Women's Box Lacrosse
- Garry Point chart and Steveston Park plan
- Canada Line Construction, June 2006
- Financial and assessment roll microfiche and demolished buildings on microfiche

## Welcome to Terry Eastwood!

*"Everywhere and everyone has a history. Mine for over 40 years has been in Richmond, so, as a retired archivist and teacher of archival studies, I have volunteered to do my small part to help us know the past of where we live through the work of the City of Richmond Archives."*

Terry Eastwood

We are pleased to welcome Terry Eastwood as an Archives volunteer. Terry is an internationally respected archivist who established the first archival studies program in North America at the University of British Columbia in 1981. Before working for UBC, Terry worked at the Provincial Archives of British Columbia and taught both abroad and in BC. Terry was Chair of the archival studies program at UBC from 1981 to 2000 and retired from UBC in 2010.

Terry is currently working on arranging and describing the Richmond Review fonds. His former students, Archivists Dovel and Dan, are thrilled to have the opportunity to reconnect with Terry and are grateful for the assistance with some arrangement and description projects.



Terry Eastwood in the Archives work room, January 2023.

City of Richmond Archives photo.

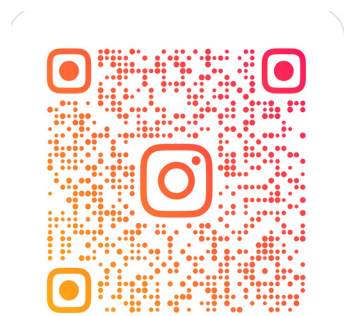


## Mark Your Calendars. The Tea is Back!

It is with great pleasure that the Board announces that the Archives Tea will be returning in October 2023. Having our membership gather together to socialize gives Board members an opportunity to thank them in person for their continued support and interest. Invitations will be mailed in the summer.

## Follow us on Instagram

Use this QR Code to connect with us on Instagram.



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

7700 Minoru Gate  
 Richmond, BC V6Y 1R9

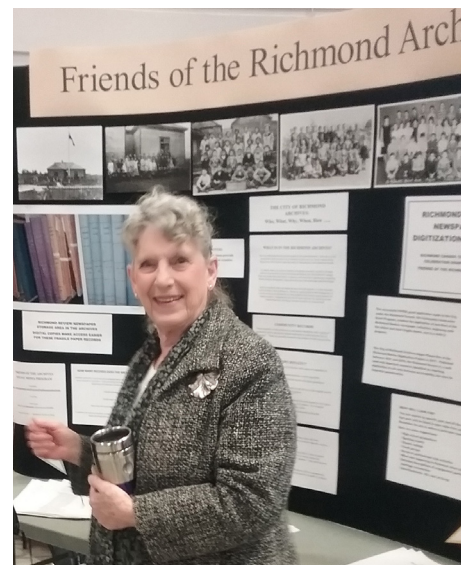
Archivist: Dovelie Buie  
 Records Analyst: Dan Farrell  
 Phone: 604-247-8305  
 Email: archives@richmond.ca  
 www.richmond.ca/archives

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

## Remembering Lynne Farquharson

Long time member, volunteer, and Vice President of the Friends of the Richmond Archives Lynne Farquharson passed away on December 22, 2022. Lynne was elected to the FOTRA Board in March 2015. She lived in Burkeville for 45 years and was a strong advocate for the City in so many ways. She was a member of the City of Richmond “O Zone” volunteer team operating at the Archives during the 2010 Winter Olympics. She was also a member of the Sea Island Heritage Society and the Richmond Retired Teachers’ Association, with special interest in the Heritage committee of that organization.

In December 2014, Lynne travelled to Yelvertoft in the UK (while on vacation there) to represent the City of Richmond in a 70th Anniversary commemoration ceremony of the loss of English and Canadian airmen (two of whom were from Richmond) in a tragic downing of two airplanes at that site in 1944. She delivered a letter to the community from the Mayor and helped to plant a maple tree.



Lynne Farquharson at the Richmond School District Conference, 2019.  
City of Richmond Archives photo.

Always an opportunistic educator, Lynne visited the village elementary school, speaking to pupils and distributing Canadian flags and City of Richmond pins to the children.

Lynne’s enthusiasm and commitment to her community will be missed by many.

## Mary Keen Memorial Prize in Archival Studies – 2022 Recipient

Every year, the Friends of the Richmond Archives have awarded a prize to a student in the University of British Columbia’s Master of Archival Studies program. Last year’s recipient was Gordana Dimovska. Gordana graduated from the UBC iSchool in May 2022.

Gordana completed the dual MAS/MLIS degree and has found a passion for capturing the stories of everyday life via community and special interest archives. She aims to apply modern technologies to the preservation and access of traditional forms of records, such as letters and oral histories, bringing them to a wider audience for generations to come.

Gordana is currently the archivist at the Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives, where she is implementing a new digital cataloguing system. Congratulations Gordana!



Gordana Dimovska.  
Photo submitted.