

### Putting Richmond on the Map—the International “History Pin” Project



Front page of City of Richmond Archives Channel on History Pin.

The City of Richmond Archives, through its busy volunteer program, has been actively involved in the international “History Pin” project. That project, administered from the United Kingdom, has brought together archives, libraries, museums and individuals from around the world to add significant historical photographs to an online map of the world.

Historical images are pinned on the map and, in many cases, are layered over contemporary google street views to identify the present-day location of historical buildings, places and events. In addition, special tours and collections can be created to provide a thematic perspective on the past.

The stellar volunteer team of John Campbell and Graham Turnbull has worked diligently to pin over 200 photographs from the holdings of the City of Richmond Archives on to the “History Pin” map. Using these images, John and Graham have created a variety of tours and collections reflecting aspects of Richmond’s past.

Online users can take a tour on the interurban tram as it leaves Marpole Station, crosses the rail bridge, and passes every tram stop along the line until it reaches Steveston. Users can experience a “Day at the Races” in the 1920s, when Brighthouse Racetrack was the premier horse race course in western Canada. Users can take a tour of the aftermath of the 1918 Steveston Fire or follow the building of the George Massey (Deas Island) Tunnel through a chronological tour detailing each stage of construction. These are just samples of what you can find on the City of Richmond Archives “channel” on History Pin.

People are encouraged to enjoy this great resource on the web. Make sure you have an up-to-date web browser and go to the City of Richmond Archives channel at: [www.historypin.com/channels/view/7947312/](http://www.historypin.com/channels/view/7947312/).

Edna Howard at the Royal Bank, Steveston, 1940, superimposed over google image of present-day Steveston Museum.



John Campbell and Graham Turnbull working on the History Pin project at the Archives.



**Lulu Island West Dyking District**  
 RICHMOND TOWN HALL  
 P. O. Address, EBURNE, B. C., \_\_\_\_\_

JUL 15 1921

**TAX NOTICE, 1921**

To Mr. *James Thompson*  
*R. D. Eburne*

TAKE NOTICE that the current year's taxes are due and payable on the 1st day of April 1921. Interest at the rate of 8% per annum will be charged on all taxes remaining unpaid on October 1st of the year in which they were due. No rebate can be allowed until arrears are paid. Lands upon which taxes are in arrear may be sold to satisfy same.

**RATE PER ACRE, OR LOT OVER 1/2 ACRE—**

To Provide Interest and Sinking Fund on \$58,000.00 Debentures (Construction)	-	\$ .76
" " " " 22,500.00 " (re Hemphill & Cuckow Damage Suit)	-	.55
Maintenance Fund	-	.69
<b>GROSS RATE</b>	-	<b>2.00</b>
<b>REBATE, if paid before Oct. 1st, 1921</b>	-	<b>.20</b>
<b>NETT RATE if paid on or before Sept. 30th, 1921</b>	-	<b>\$1.80</b>

Minimum Taxes Charged on any one Parcel of Land \$1.00 nett.

No. on Roll	Block N	Range W	Section	Subdivision	No. of Acres	Current Year's Taxes		ARREARS		INTEREST	
						\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.
393	4	7	2	6/2	37.78	75	56				
REBATE IF PAID BEFORE OCT. 1st, 1921						75	56				
						68	00				
<b>TOTAL</b>											

**S. SHEPHERD**  
 CLERK TO THE COMMISSIONERS

PLEASE BRING THIS NOTICE WITH YOU.

Tax Notice for Lulu Island West Dyking District, 1921.  
 City of Richmond Archives. Thompson family fonds.

## Focus on the Record—Early Records of Dyking and Drainage in Richmond

In 1936 the Township of Richmond assumed control of dyking and drainage activities within its boundaries by amalgamating its own works established by by-law with those of two other existing authorities: the New Lulu Island Slough Dyking District (NLISDD) and the Lulu Island West Dyking District (LIWDD).

These two bodies had been established by petition of landowners to the provincial legislature: the NLISDD in 1900 encompassing the slough complex from Francis road south; the LIWDD in 1905 largely encompassing the area west of #3 Road. Commissioners elected to administer these districts were responsible for appointing an engineer who drew up technical plans and assessments of the land benefited.

The Archives holds a wide assortment of records of these two bodies including minutes, assessment rolls, petitions and correspondence. Many provide details of an evolving landscape; drainage of land and protection from periodic flooding was crucial to the success of farming activities.

Because the land was taxed by these bodies to pay for works, there were detailed records kept of land valuation and plentiful communication between the commissioners and landowners, including minutes of courts of revision. The records provide a vivid picture of early agricultural land use and the transition from private to public dyking.



Dyking and the Dredge "Beaver No. 2" in Steveston area, ca. 1905.  
 City of Richmond Archives Photo #1978 14 4

## Retirement of Ken Young



This spring marked the retirement of Ken Young as the city's Manager of Records and Information. Ken first came to Richmond from the City of Vancouver Archives in 1989 to become Municipal Archivist, and was, from his first day on the job, instrumental in ensuring that the present Archives' facility at the Richmond Library and Cultural Centre was built to the highest of standards.

In his eleven years as Municipal/City Archivist, Ken established the solid reputation of the City of Richmond Archives within the Canadian archival community. Under his direction, the Archives was one of the first institutions in Canada to

adopt national standards for the description of records, to develop automated databases to manage archival holdings, and to provide online access to holdings via the Internet.

Ken also served as a mentor and role model for a great number of archivists graduating from UBC's Master of Archival Studies program, and was active in various capacities with provincial archival councils and associations.

Congratulations, Ken, on your well-deserved retirement and a future knowing you contributed so much to preserving and making accessible the evidence of Richmond's past!

## Archives and Public Art

As the public art landscape of Richmond continues to grow, the resources at the Archives have been increasingly used for inspiration by a number of artists. One recent example is the art installation at the No. 4 Road Drainage Pump Station, which used a 1954 aerial photograph and images derived from other historical photographs in the Archives' holdings. The City of Richmond was recently awarded the 2012 ACECBC Award of Excellence for its design of the pump station.



New No. 4 Road Drainage Pump Station.  
Graham Turnbull photograph

## 2012 Richmond Heritage Award

Claudia Chan was a recipient this year of the City of Richmond Heritage Award. Claudia was given this honour by the Richmond Heritage Commission for her volunteer work at the City of Richmond Archives in researching and creating "A Thematic Guide to the Early Records of Chinese Canadians in Richmond." Congratulations, Claudia, for your exceptional work!

## Volunteer Projects at the Archives

The support provided the City of Richmond Archives by its volunteers is extraordinary. The Archives' dedicated and industrious volunteer corps is currently carrying out the following projects:

1. International History Pin project
2. Community Exhibit program
3. Thematic Guide to BC Electric Railway records
4. Transcription of hand-written Council minutes
5. Origins of Richmond Road Names research
6. Aerial photograph indexing
7. Duck Island historical research
8. East Richmond farm family research
9. Biography files enhancement

## UBC Archival Studies Award 2011–2012

The Friends of the Richmond Archives Mary Keen Memorial Prize in Archival Studies was awarded this year to Ms. Samantha Smith. The annual prize, funded by the Friends, is given to a UBC Master of Archival Studies student who demonstrates a strong interest in community archives.



### Reception for Jean Grover

President Christine McGilvray with Jean Grover at a reception in Jean's honour before a Friends' Executive Meeting this spring. Jean was one of four individuals who conceived of the Friends of the Richmond Archives and helped organize its first meeting in 1986.

### Membership Renewal

The membership year for the Friends of the Richmond Archives runs from October 1 through September 30. Members are encouraged to renew at the Archives Tea, by mail, or at the Archives itself. Annual fees are a very low \$5 per person (\$10 per couple).

The Friends also welcome donations. A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for donations over \$10.

## Archives Tea 2012—New Location, Same Great Event

The Friends of the Richmond Archives will host its annual Archives Tea this year on Friday, October 26 at 2:00 pm. Because of permanent changes made to the Lecture/Performance Hall at the Richmond Library and Cultural Centre, this year's Tea will be held at the Minoru Place Activity Centre (formerly known as Minoru Seniors Centre) across the plaza from the Cultural Centre building.

The Friends would like to thank the Minoru Seniors Society for its cooperation and generosity in offering their Main Hall for the 16th celebration of this always-enjoyable event.

Those wishing to attend are asked to contact the Friends through the City of Richmond Archives by phone at 604-247-8305 or by email at [archives@richmond.ca](mailto:archives@richmond.ca).



## Friends of the Richmond Archives' Community Exhibit Program

The Friends of the Richmond Archives have embarked on an exciting new initiative this year, the Community Exhibit Program. In addition to displays at various events in the community, the Friends have expanded their exhibit program to include ongoing displays at the Archives and at various locations in Richmond. Leading this initiative have been Christine McGilvray and Barbara Williams, with able support from Graham Turnbull and Lynne Waller.

This year, the program has mounted 4 different exhibits in the display case in the vestibule leading to the Archives' reference room, a fascinating display on horseracing at Brighthouse Racetrack in the 1920s at the Library and Cultural Centre, and an exhibit of photographs and other records of the James Thompson family at the Thompson Community Centre. In addition, exhibits were created for the Earth Day Summit at London-Steveston High School, the Steveston Salmon Festival, and the London Farm Family Farm Days.



"A Day at the Races" exhibit at the Library and Cultural Centre



"Sustainability" exhibit at Earth Day Summit (London-Steveston High School)



**CITY OF RICHMOND  
ARCHIVES**

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[www.richmond.ca/archives](http://www.richmond.ca/archives)  
Public Reference Room Hours  
Monday–Thursday, 9:00–4:30  
Appointment recommended