

# ArchivesNews

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## The Friends of the Richmond Archives Facebook Page Celebrates 10 Years in 2022!

The Friends of the Richmond Archives support and promote the work of the City of Richmond Archives. Since 2012, social media sites have been an integral part of the Friends' outreach program and are very effective at reaching supporters of the Archives who are active online. The Friends manage four social media channels: Historypin, YouTube, "Outside the Box" Blog, and Facebook.

It would be an understatement to say that the Facebook page has done well since the first post was published on December 13, 2012. With some posts reaching more than 20,000 people, there have been hundreds of detailed articles that regularly feature records from the Archives. Posts generate a lot of community interest with participation evident in the numbers of views, likes, shares and on-line conversations and connections that have taken place. The Facebook page has helped to inform, educate, and engage the public in the many aspects of their community, its heritage and its preservation.

The Facebook audience includes all age groups and while the majority of followers live in Canada, there are people from all around the world following posts. For 2021, there were 206 net followers for a total of 4,073. There were 47,388 people reached and 36,592 engagements. If you aren't familiar with these statistics, it basically means that people really enjoy the page!

The success of the Facebook page is thanks to the unwavering dedication and consistent hard work of volunteer John Campbell. John, who is a Friends Board Member as well as their Social Media Coordinator, writes and publishes the regular posts.

When asked why he enjoys it, John said: *"I think it is an easy, quick way to reach out to a wide group of people and get them thinking about Richmond's history. I like to see the discussions that are generated and the memories that are shared in the comments. They add a lot to the posts and a lot can be learned about what living in Richmond was like at various times. It's also fun to see the 'I lived in Richmond my whole life and I didn't know that!' comments."*

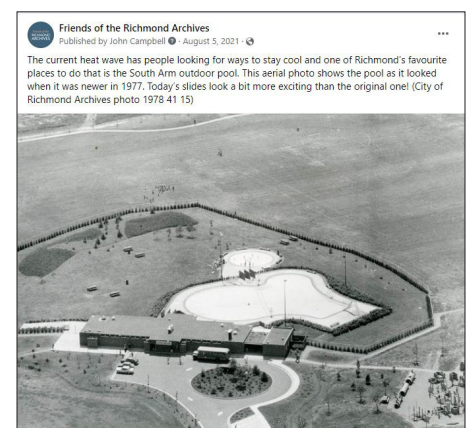
In recognition of his contributions, John was one of four recipients of the 2018 Richmond Heritage Awards. John's role as Social Media Coordinator is vital; he makes a difference in our community and assists in meeting the Archives' mandate of making records accessible to all.

If you haven't done so already, follow the Friends on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/friendsoftherichmondarchives](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftherichmondarchives)



*"I've had 66 trips around our sun .. sometimes memory fails .. so I use this page to help jog my recollection. I appreciate every contributor here."*



Sample Facebook Post from August 5, 2021. Posts often connect current events with the past. In this post, the heat wave in the summer of 2021 is connected to a 1977 photo of South Arm outdoor pool. One comment on this post was: *"I learned to swim in that pool during elementary school swim lessons 😊"*

*"Great info about city history and what's new and happening."*



2018 Heritage Award recipient John Campbell (centre) with Heritage Commission members Mr. Raymond Holme (right) and Ms. Sonia Nijjar (left).

Photo courtesy of the Richmond Museum.

# Richmond Library and Cultural Centre – Celebrating 30 Years

In the fall of 1992, the Richmond Archives, along with the Library, Arts Centre, Art Gallery, and Museum, moved into the Library Cultural Centre.

## Where was the Archives before 1992?

In 1961, a group of Richmond residents began to collect artefacts for a permanent museum collection. By 1967, the year Canada celebrated its centennial, the Richmond Arts Centre was constructed with a small space reserved for an artefact and archives collection.

By 1979, when Richmond itself celebrated its 100 years of incorporation, the Arts Centre was expanded. By 1982, the Archives was established. Located in the Parks and Leisure Services Department, the Richmond Museum and Archives had its own area, identity and employees.

By 1987, the Municipality recognized the need to position the Archives closer to the municipal administration. As a result, the Museum and Archives separated with the Richmond Museum continuing to operate under the Parks and Leisure Services Department. The City of Richmond Archives was moved to be a part of the City Clerk's Office and assigned the responsibility to manage municipal government records in addition to community records.

In the mid 1980s, the space at the Arts Centre was no longer suitable to accommodate the archival collection. Records were stored at two off-site warehouses. Research and staff working spaces were non-existent. Between 1983 and 1986, there was a 500% increase in research requests.

The Archives wasn't the only group experiencing growth. Since 1982, attendance in cultural services had grown 344% and Museum and Gallery attendance had grown by 450%. Since 1980, there was a 106% growth in library circulation.

In order to obtain authorization for Council to borrow money for the expansion of the Brighthouse Library, Art Centre, Gallery, Museum, and Archives, Richmond voters went to the polls to vote on a referendum to borrow up to 8 million dollars. On November 21, 1987, Richmond electors voted "yes" for the Library/Cultural Centre expansion.

While the new building was being constructed, a former Safeway building, located at the north-west corner of No. 3 Road and Westminster Highway, was used as a temporary location.

By the fall of 1992, the building was open. On January 16, 1993, the Library Cultural Centre was dedicated "to the enjoyment, enlightenment and enrichment of the citizens of our community." Today, along with the Art Gallery, Museum, Arts Centre, and Library, the Archives continues to operate out of the Cultural Centre. For the past thirty years, this building has proudly been our home base in our work to preserve, protect and make accessible community and public records with enduring and historic value to the City of Richmond and community as a whole.



Richmond Arts Centre prior to addition and renovation, ca. 1970.  
City of Richmond Archives, photograph #1984 17 87.



Ground-breaking ceremonies for the Library – Arts Centre expansion project. Photograph depicts Mayor Gil Blair, Richmond aldermen and other municipal officials, 1979.  
City of Richmond Archives, photograph #1978 32 19.



Temporary Richmond Library and Cultural Centre, No. 3 Road and Westminster Highway, 1989.  
City of Richmond Archives, photograph #2008 39 2 458.



Just moved into the new building, November or December 1992.  
City of Richmond Archives, photograph #2005 44.



Excerpt from the *Richmond Review* Special Supplement on the November 1987 Referendum.  
City of Richmond Archives, Public Buildings Reference Files.



## Archives Around Town



Save-On-Foods “A Proud Part of the Community” mural, February 2022.

If you look closely, you will see records from the Richmond Archives used all around town. The Terra Nova Save-On-Foods was recently renovated and part of the renovation included a café space featuring a wall mural with seven photographs from the Archives. Next time you are there, be sure to check it out!

## Who Uses the Archives?

During the pandemic, the Archives has remained open for in-person research by appointment only. Appointment times are Monday through Thursday 9:00–11:30am or 1:30–4:30pm. If you have some research that you’d like to do, please don’t hesitate to contact us!



John May, long-time supporter of the Archives, doing some research in the Archives Reference Room, February 2022.



Joan Page, member of the Sister City Advisory Committee, doing some research in the Archives Reference Room, March 2022.

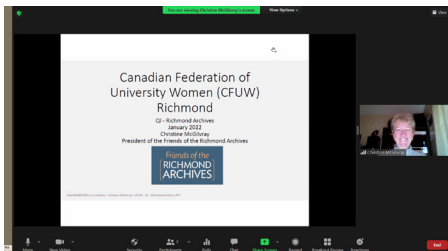
## Recent Donations

- Records of local athlete Richard Whiting
- Personal photographs of local RCMP staff member
- Steveston aerial photograph
- Marine charts
- School yearbooks and ephemera
- Richmond High School group photographs
- 1977 local history project records
- George Massey Tunnel construction photographs
- Air traffic control documentation
- London Heritage Farm Society accession
- Kinette Club of Richmond newsletters
- Horse racing photographs and pamphlets
- 1906 map of Richmond
- Youth Outreach Program photographs
- Steveston Historical Society photographs
- Commercial fishing films c.1959
- Graham C. Bell photographs
- Bodoloski Family records
- Zylmans Family records
- Royal Canadian Legion president portraits
- Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site accession
- Minler Family records
- Richmond street maps



## Canadian Federation of University Women

On invitation from the Canadian Federation of University Women – Richmond branch, President Christine McGilvray was delighted to be the speaker at their online meeting in January this year. The topic was “Quite Interesting Facts” from the Richmond Archives. Using the extensive digital collection of information available, Christine was easily able to gain access to ready-researched stories and photographs contained in our blog site “Outside the Box” and other resources to share with the audience.



Christine McGilvray preparing for the Canadian Federation of University Women presentation. February 16, 2022.

**CITY OF RICHMOND**  
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## “Journey Through Time”

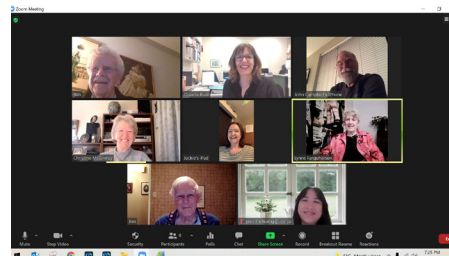
The Friends of the Richmond Archives “Journey Through Time” program which focuses on Richmond’s history as told from research derived from records at the Richmond Archives and delivered via Zoom online as part of the West Richmond Community Centre programming, continues to attract interested older adults. The interactive presentation and discussion program lasts for one hour between 10:00am and 11:00am on the second Wednesday of each month and is free, but pre-registration to receive an invitation to join in before each session is required. If you would like to participate, please contact Karen Chiu at West Richmond Community Centre either by email at [KChiu@richmond.ca](mailto:KChiu@richmond.ca) or phone at 604-238-8431.

January’s “Journey Through Time” presentation was particularly lively, as we acknowledged the 2022 Beijing Olympics by re-visiting photographic records from the 2010 Winter Olympics “O Zone” event held at City Hall and Minoru Park here in Richmond. The post-presentation discussion brought out many stories and memories of family visits and volunteer opportunities at the event as well as showing off familiar clothing items such as red Olympic mitts and blue volunteer jackets!!

If you would like to re-live some of those 2010 memories too, check out the “O Zone Photo Documentation” virtual exhibit on the Archives website: [www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/exhibits.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/exhibits.htm).

## Friends Board Meetings on Zoom

The FOTRA Board met on four occasions during 2021, including holding the two delayed Annual General Meetings for 2020 and 2021 and a Special Board Meeting all on the same evening in July 2021—joining the growing fraternity of online meeting users.



Friends Board Meeting. February 16, 2022.

## FOTRA Member Donations

\$610.00 was donated by our members in 2021. Thank you for your generosity! These donations will be used to fund:

- Exhibits at community events such as the School District Conference and Remembrance Day ceremonies.
- Themed exhibits for display at the Richmond Cultural Centre, City Hall and community centres.
- Purchase of archival equipment such as new microfilm viewer/scanner.
- UBC Annual Endowment “Mary Keen Memorial Prize in Archival Studies”.