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ARCHIVES

news

In This Issue...

Poster Award
Cenotaph Book Award
Library Award
and
New Photos

Left to right: Friends President Mary Keen, Secretary Bernice Anderson, former City Archivist Ken Young, Friends member Hugh McNair and Councillor Harold Steves.



Awards, Awards, Awards!

We didn't have as large an audience as the recent Academy Awards but the event was just as significant to the Friends of the Richmond Archives - big winners of Richmond Heritage Commission Awards for 2000. The awards were presented by Councillor Harold Steves during Heritage Week events at Richmond Centre Mall February 24, 2001.

In the photograph above, the Friends of the Richmond Archives are receiving an award for supporting the production of the poster: "Know The Past - Understand The Present - Shape The Future." This poster was truly a collaborative project between the City of Richmond Archives, City Hall Staff and the Friends of the Richmond Archives. The spiffy design was by Morgan Muir and overall concept by former City Archivist Ken Young.

Mary Keen also received an award for her book: "We Will Remember Them: the lives behind the Richmond Cenotaph." This book (see cover left) was published last year with financial assistance from the Friends of the Richmond Archives. (Continued next page.)

We Will Remember Them



The lives behind the Richmond Cenotaph

Mary Keen



Stephanie Knowles at the Young Writers Awards Ceremony.

Stephanie Knowles Wins "Friends" Award

Each year the Friends of the Richmond Archives sponsors one of the prizes in the Richmond Public Library's Young Adult Writing Contest. This year Mary Keen, Chair of the "Friends," presented a cheque for \$300 to Stephanie Knowles for her poem "A Road Trip," second place winner in the age 15 to 18 Young Writer's poetry section.

This was the tenth annual contest. Each year the Library publishes the work of Richmond's talented young writers. This year the title is "Voices of the Millenium 2000" and it is available at the Library.

Books On Sale at the City of Richmond Archives

"We Will Remember Them: The lives behind the Richmond Cenotaph," by Mary Keen, 1998 - \$13.86.

"Richmond and its Bridges: Fifteen Crossings of the Fraser River," by Alan Dawe, 1996 - \$16.00.

"Richmond, Child of the Fraser, (1979)" and the 1989 Supplement, by Leslie Ross - set for \$26.75.

"History of Richmond Municipality," by Thomas Kidd, 1927 - \$5.35.

"Meeting Places: Richmond's Town Halls, 1879-1995," by Mary Keen, 1995 - \$2.50.

"No Idle Hands. From the Parlour to the Rec Room: Leisure Choices in Richmond, 1875-1955," by Mary Keen, 1996 - \$2.50.

All taxes included. Proceeds support archival programs at City of Richmond Archives.

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Mary spent more than year researching the lives of the young men of Richmond who died in World Wars and whose names are listed on the Cenotaph. The War Memorial has been rededicated in its position at the front of the new City Hall. Mary's research resulted in new information and corrections being added to the Cenotaph. The project was a sad one. The war-time losses are still keenly felt by the surviving families. But it has been a significant addition to our community history.



Friends of the Archives membership chair Joan Smythe with Eunice Robinson and Sharon Bordeleau look at an early aerial photograph of Sea Island.

Sea Island – Arrivals & Departures

The stories of the early years and the development of Sea Island continue to intrigue local historians. At the recent Heritage Week display at Richmond Centre, members of the team preparing a book on the history of Sea Island examined the photograph displays of the City of Richmond Archives.

Eunice Robinson, Sharon Bordeleau and Doug Eastman are gathering personal and community histories of people who have lived and worked on Sea Island for a book to be published in 2004. They will be holding meetings May 17 and June 14, 2001 from 5:00 to 8:00 at the Sea Island Community Centre for past and present residents of Sea Island to share their memories with the Sea Island Book Committee.

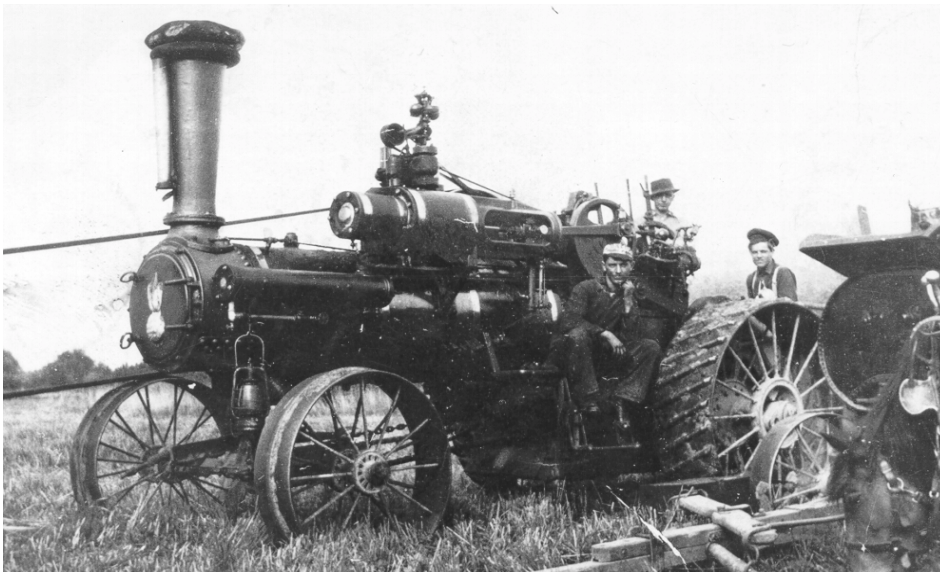
The theme of the two day Heritage Week exhibit was Transportation. The City of Richmond Archives focussed on Sea Island with its dominant themes of bridges and the airport. Many of the photos used originated with a recent donation by Don Gordon whose family was among the early settlers on the island. Don and Joan Smythe were among volunteers from the Friends of the Richmond Archives who hosted visitors to the Richmond Archives exhibit.



In the photograph above, circa 1920, two young Richmond couples are out for a stylish drive. In the front seat are Edie and Charlie McCulloch. In the back are Annie and Leslie Gilmore. Leslie was the uncle of photo donor Audrey Wylie.

Family Photographs Enrich Archives

The City of Richmond Archives has received a gift of family photos from Mrs. Audrey Wylie, a descendant of the Gilmore family, early farmers in Richmond. This is the fifth donation of material from Mrs. Wylie. The photographs add to our knowledge of the lives of pioneers. They also document changing land use and technology. Steam engines were once an integral part of life in Richmond on the farms and in the canneries. How many are operating today? Photographs such as the one below are a graphic reminder of change in the way we approach work.



Sam Gilmore, seated, Louie London at the back, and Leslie Gilmore, behind the tire, take a break from work on an imposing steam tractor. The photo was taken before the First World War, most likely at the Gilmore's home farm on Dyke Road between No. 4 and 5 Roads. Note the lantern hanging from the front. This lit the way for the trio of pioneer farmers who often worked late at night in the fields.

News from Friends of the Richmond Archives

The Friends of the Richmond Archives held their Annual General Meeting March 14, 2001. Mary Keen was returned as Chair. Other officers are: Mike Corrigan, Vice-President; Bernice Anderson, Secretary; Don Gordon, Treasurer; Dodie Wray, Director-at-large; and Joan Smythe, Membership Chair.

The "Friends" are beginning to make plans for the fifth annual Senior's Tea, planned for October 12, 2001.

The "Friends" will be hosting a Book Fair and open house at the Archives for delegates to the BC Historical Federation Conference to be held in Richmond May 3, 4 and 5. Theme of the event is "The Land You Pass Through."

NEXT ISSUE

Sea Island will be the focus of the fall issue of the Archives Newsletter.

Ernest Chan has donated pictures of 442 Squadron's activities on Sea Island in the early 1950's.

Mary Keen's new book is expected out this year. She has started a series of explorations of Richmond's neighbourhoods with a study of Sea Island. There was so much information and the stories were so compelling that the first chapter has expanded into a short book. The next Newsletter will feature photos and excerpts from the book.

Watch for a story on the recent donation of photographs and papers from Mrs. Marjorie Knight, a descendant of the Brighthouse and Churchill clans. Mrs. Knight's photograph collection includes early Minoru Track horse racing pictures.

The Fall Newsletter will feature a story on the City's new records storage facility - and what this has to do with the Archives. We will be looking at the story of how City records find their way from City Hall to their final resting place.

Also in the next issue

- Get Ready to Celebrate Archives Week in British Columbia
- New Additions to the Archives
- Seniors Tea
- Who Uses the Archives?



Watercolour Artist Oliver Malana matches a completed painting of an historic fishing scene with a copy of an original archival photograph found at the City of Richmond Archives.

New Archives Staff

Lynne Waller is the new City Archivist. She began work in early February. Lynne came from the Gulf of Georgia Cannery where she had been working for three and a half years on contracts related to the archives and artifact collections there. Lynne has also worked on a number of archival projects for Richmond.

The previous City Archivist, Ken Young, has moved to City Hall as Manager of Records and Information.

There is an old saying that Art imitates Life. However in the case of this most recent watercolour from Alfred Malana, art imitates an archival photograph.

Mr. Malana is a Richmond artist specializing in watercolours of British Columbia landmarks and heritage scenes. He has produced watercolours of images of many well known Richmond buildings such as London Farm and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery.

In a search for inspiration he recently visited the Richmond Archives for a look at our extensive photograph collection.

This photograph is of a gillnetter with a net full of fish pulled up to a dock for unloading. The photo dates from the 1940s. Mr. Malana took a photocopy of the photograph (Item No. 1978 34 44) to use for inspiration. This image can be seen on the City of Richmond Archives website by going to Photo Search and using “fishing boats” as a search term.



The photograph above, used by Mr. Malana as inspiration for a recent watercolour painting, is part of the Community Records of the City of Richmond Archives.

It was taken about 1940 and attributed to the photography studio, Steffens-Colner. The original source of the photo was the Canadian Fishing Company.

The image is of a gillnetter almost awash with fish, pulling into a dock to unload. The sockeye fishing had been so good the skipper didn't have room, or time, to remove the last load of fish from the net. It is possible to approximately date this photograph by noting the Fisheries Department licence number on the starboard side of the trunk cabin and the fact that a gillnet drum is used to wind the net aboard. Earlier fishing boats of this kind rolled the net over the stern by hand.

There is no information about where the photo was taken. Any ideas?



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Public Reference Room Hours
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