



City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1

News Release

February 19, 2002

For Immediate Release

Friends of the Archives help preserve treasured maps

Fragile, hand drawn Richmond maps from the late-1800s will be given safer, life-extending homes thanks to a \$4,000 donation from the Friends of the Richmond Archives.

The City of Richmond Archives has used the donation to fund purchase of specialized map cabinets. This means safer homes for some of the City's more than 5,000 maps. A few of these are fragile old-timers, hand drawn in the late-1800s when Lulu and Sea Island farmers were first ditching and dyking the Fraser River delta. The new cabinets offer safety from air pollution, earthquake and floods.

The cabinets will protect and help to preserve maps that are due to be added later this year to the Archives web pages on the City's award-winning web site. Last fall, the City Archives received the first instalment of a federal grant of \$18,000 to create some new computer programs to add archival maps to the web. The money came from the Canadian Council of Archives through the Canadian Archival Information Network. The program was devised to help Canadians publish more archival records on the Internet.

The Friends of the Archives are supporting the project through their donation, which enhances the map storage capabilities of the City Archives.

The Friends of the Richmond Archives grew out of the historical sub-committee of Richmond's 1979 Centennial Society. Since that time the Friends have developed an active research and publishing program of volumes of local historical interest. Over the past ten years the Friends have donated more than \$40,000 to develop and augment archival programs in Richmond. They have purchased computer equipment, collections of historic photographs, and donated to scholarship funds. The gift that led to the purchase of the cabinets in the most recent in a long-term program to protect and enhance the documentary heritage of the community.

Some of the money from this latest donation was raised by the sale of a book on the history of horse racing in Richmond, "Whispers From the Shedrows."

- 30 -

****Friends of the Archives will be available for photo opportunities at the Richmond Archives, 7700 Minoru Gate, on Wednesday, February 20 from 10 a.m. to noon.****

Contact:

Lynne Waller
Archivist
Phone:
(604) 231-6430
Email: lwaller@city.richmond.bc.ca