



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Jane Fernyhough, Manager of Heritage and Cultural Services
Re: History and Heritage in City Hall

To Parks, Rec & Culture - Feb 25, 2003
Date: February 11, 2003
File: 0105-01

Staff Recommendations

- 1. That a photographic exhibition of former Reeves/Mayors and City Councils be mounted on the glass walls outside Council Chambers as outlined in Option 1;
2. That the photographs of current Mayor and Council be mounted on the concrete pillar outside Council Chambers;
3. That brushed aluminium plaques with names of Council members by decade be mounted on the concrete pillars in front of the photographic exhibition; and,
4. That Council allocate the necessary funding for the above from Council Contingency Expenses.

Jane Fernyhough signature
Jane Fernyhough
Manager of Heritage and Cultural Services

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CONCURRENCE: Y, N checkboxes
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER: [Signature]

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003 meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee the following referral motion was adopted:

- That: 1. staff investigate the availability of additional photographs; and*
- 2. staff review possible options of combining locations for the display.*

This followed a referral from the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of November 26, 2002:

*That staff, through the appropriate department, bring forward a report that identifies possible locations for a pictorial display of the City's political past, the options for frame material based on the locations chosen, a timeline for completing the project and, the cost of the project.*

This report deals with both the original referral as well as the most recent.

### Analysis

This report is divided into three sections to deal with the above referrals:

- A. Photographs
- B. Location
- C. Civic government history

#### A. Photographs

The former City Hall had a display of individual portraits of Reeves/Mayors dating back to 1880 and group portraits of Councils dating back to 1973. They were not reinstalled in the new City Hall because the frames are worn, some are damaged, and are of different styles that are dated and do not match the woodwork or the architectural style of the building.

There are 21 Reeves/Mayors photographs and 18 Councils. There is a complete collection of images of Reeves/Mayors dating back to 1880, although the one of Michael Clarke (1886) is a photograph of a cropped section of a painting. For the Councils, prior to 1973 it was not the practice to have a formal portrait taken at the time of inauguration and a search of the Archives collection found informal photographs of the Councils of 1949 and 1957 only.

Between 1880 and 1972 there were 87 Councils. A database has been created to track the names of those who have served on Council since 1880. In order to recognize all those who served the City in civic government it is recommended that plaques be created, by decade, with the names of those men and women who served on Council. In that way, those who served before photographs were common practice will be remembered. It is proposed that these decade plaques be ongoing and not stop at any one decade just because formal photographs exist.

B. Location

Four options for the photographic exhibition are presented for Committee consideration:

1. Location: glass walls outside Council Chambers – north side  
 Frame Type: brushed aluminium form mounted in front of frosted glass panels  
 Approx Cost: \$5,600.00
2. Location: wood panel walls; lower concourse  
 Frame Type: wooden frame panels  
 Approx Cost: \$8,300.00
3. Location: wood panel walls; lower concourse  
 Frame Type: aluminium frames  
 Approx Cost: \$4,300.00
4. Location: fabric walls; lower concourse  
 Frame Type: current frames  
 Approx Cost: \$1,500.00
5. Location: Past Reeves/Mayors & Councils - glass walls outside Council Chambers  
 Current Mayor & Council – on the concrete pillar just outside Council Chambers  
 Frame Type: Brushed aluminium form  
 Approx Cost: \$6,200.00
6. Location: Past Reeves/Mayors & Councils - glass walls outside Council Chambers  
 Current Mayor & Council – Wood panel wall across from Council Chambers (exterior wall of telephone area)  
 Frame Type: Brushed aluminium form  
 Approx Cost: \$6,200.00

It is recommended that regardless of the option chosen the photographs be removed from their frames and re-photographed. Except for the most recent, there are no negatives or copies. This will ensure that a set of these important images is maintained in the Archives for future reference. For criteria analysis of the locations see Appendix 1. For detailed cost breakdown of each option see Appendix 2.

While option 1 was recommended in a previous report as it tastefully and respectfully showcases the past civic leaders in a publicly visible space and recognizes Richmond's "proud and vibrant past", staff were requested to present options for combining locations to enhance public visibility. Therefore, the recommended option is option 5.

Two location options for plaques are presented for consideration:

1. Concrete pillars in the same area as proposed for the photographs.
2. Fabric wall to the east of the public door inside Council Chambers.

It is recommended that Option 1 – concrete pillars – be adopted for the plaques. Keeping all frames as well as the plaques in brushed aluminium will tie all features together and be in keeping with the architectural features of the building.

### C. Civic Government History

At the Committee meeting of January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003 Mr. Bob Ransford spoke of the plaque from the former City Hall and suggested the Heritage Commission had been promised that a spot would be found for it in the new city hall. This plaque measures 60 centimetres by 90 centimetres (2 feet by 3 feet) and is approximately twice the size of the plaque commemorating the current city hall.

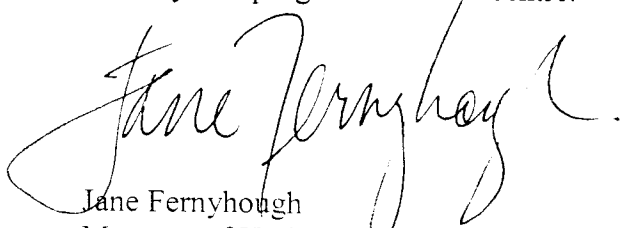
The Coordinator, Heritage Sites is planning a display of photographs and artefacts commemorating Richmond Civic Government. This display is currently being researched and will be installed later this year. It is proposed that the above-mentioned plaque be incorporated into this exhibit.

### **Financial Impact**

The cost to mount the photographic exhibition using option 1 with current Mayor and Council on the concrete pillar is estimated at \$6,200. The cost to mount the twelve plaques with names of Mayors and Councils by decade is estimated at approximately \$1000. Total cost for project estimated at \$7,200. This should be allocated from Council Contingency Expense.

### **Conclusion**

It is important to celebrate the heritage of a community and the leaders that have contributed to making it what it is today. By mounting the photographs and plaques in the same location a critical mass is created and will draw attention to the subject matter. By doing this in the City Hall that has won a major architectural award for its design it should be done in a manner that respects the architectural integrity of this landmark building that is an example of the image of the City as a progressive urban centre.



Jane Fernyhough  
Manager of Heritage and Cultural Services  
(4288)

JF:jf

Appendix 1

CRITERIA → OPTION ↓	visible for public viewing	fits with the architectural design of the building	does not limit options for other uses within City Hall	room for additional photographs
1. aluminium form on glass panels	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. wood form on wood panels	✓	✓	location is currently used to hang temporary banners and information ie. United Way; Top 100 Employers	✓
3. aluminium frames on wood panels	✓	✓	location is currently used to hang temporary banners and information ie. United Way; Top 100 Employers	✓
4. current frames on fabric panels	✓	current frames are not all the same, some are damaged and are from different eras not necessarily related to the photograph	location is currently used to hang artwork showcasing local artists	✓
5. aluminium form on glass panels plus concrete pillar outside council chambers for current mayor/council	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. aluminium form on glass panels plus wood panel across from council chambers	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Appendix 2

### Cost Breakdown - Photographs

#### Option 1

re-photographing current photos - \$32/photo x 40 photos	\$ 1280
matting, name plate - \$25/photo x 40 photos	1000
aluminium forms - \$550/panel X 6 panels	<u>3300</u>
(includes installation)	\$ 5580

#### Option 2

re-photographing current photos - \$32/photo x 40 photos	\$ 1280
matting, name plate - \$25/photo x 40 photos	1000
wood forms - \$600/box X 10 boxes	<u>6000</u>
(includes installation)	\$ 8280

#### Option 3

re-photographing current photos - \$32/photo x 40 photos -	\$ 1280
frames, matting, name plate - \$50/photo x 40 photos -	2000
installation – secure clips and City crew labour	<u>1000</u>
	\$ 4280

#### Option 4

re-photographing current photos - \$32/photo x 40 photos	\$ 1280
cleaning current frames	<u>200</u>
	\$ 1480

#### Option 1 – combined

re-photographing current photos - \$32/photo x 40 photos	\$ 1280
matting, name plate - \$25/photo x 40 photos	1000
aluminium forms - \$550/panel X 6 panels - glazing	3300
aluminium form - \$550/panel x 1 panel (pillar)	<u>550</u>
(includes installation)	\$ 6130

#### Option 2 – combined

re-photographing current photos - \$32/photo x 40 photos	\$ 1280
matting, name plate - \$25/photo x 40 photos	1000
aluminium forms - \$550/panel X 6 panels - glazing	3300
aluminium form - \$550/panel x 1 panel (wall)	<u>550</u>
(includes installation)	\$ 6130

### Cost Breakdown – Plaques

#### Option 1

brushed aluminium plaques - \$60 /plaque x 12 decades	\$ 720
mounting on concrete pillars	<u>300</u>
	\$ 1020

#### Option 2

brushed aluminium plaques - \$60 /plaque x 12 decades	\$ 720
mounting on fabric wall	<u>300</u>
	\$1020