



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee

To Planning - July 4, 2007

Date: June 18, 2007

From: Terry Crowe
Manager Policy Planning

File: 01-0100-20-HCom1-0

Re: RICHMOND HERITAGE COMMISSION 2006 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2007
WORK PLAN

Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Heritage Commission 2007 Work Plan be approved (see Attachment 2).



Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
<i>[Signature]</i>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GS	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO <i>action</i>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

1. The Richmond Heritage Commission (RHC) is required to:
 - to present an Annual Report (see **Attachment 1**) to City Council, and
 - a Work Plan for the coming year (see **Attachment 2**).

Findings of Fact

Commission Purpose

The Richmond Heritage Commission (RHC) is appointed for the following purposes:

- to advise Council on strategies and programs for heritage conservation and promotion,
- to undertake and provide support for various planning matters with heritage implications,
- to assist with the maintenance of heritage registers and inventories, and
- to support heritage education and public awareness (e.g., Heritage Week, Newsletters, and Heritage Recognition Programs).

The Commission consists of:

- nine (9) voting members appointed for (2) year terms; and
- one (1) non-voting Council liaison.

Analysis

1. 2006 Annual Report

- The *2006 Annual Report* highlights key RHC activities undertaken in 2006 (see **Attachment 1**).

2. 2007 Work Plan

- The proposed *2007 RHC Work Plan* details significant and ongoing projects for 2007 (see **Attachment 2**). A high level of volunteerism, professionalism and commitment to heritage conservation and promotion in Richmond is clearly demonstrated.
- Staff recommend approval of the 2007 Work Plan

Financial Impact

The RHC receives \$5,000.00 in the City's Annual Base Operating Budget.

Conclusion

The Richmond Heritage Commission's:

- (a) 2006 Annual Report is presented; and
- (b) 2007 Work Plan is recommended for approval.



Terence Brunette, Planner
Policy Planning



Prepared by the Richmond Heritage Commission and the City of Richmond

Annual Report 2006

This is the 2006 Annual Report of the Richmond Heritage Commission.

In 2006, we began the year by setting high standards and choosing one ambitious, yet achievable goal: to prepare a Steveston Village Conservation Strategy and Implementation Program.

Results at a glance...

Our community focus

A major objective for us was to continue to improve community interest in heritage and to keep residents, businesses, visitors and local, provincial and federal government representatives informed about City heritage initiatives.

One of the ways we did this was through our bi-annual newsletter, Mouth of the Fraser, which is distributed throughout Richmond. Our newsletter focuses on heritage places, sites, homes, buildings, farms, parks and gardens, walking tours, events, families and memories.

We also actively recognized residents and organizations that make an effort to preserve heritage through our annual heritage awards.



These awards celebrate residents who have made an effort to restore and preserve our heritage resources. Along with Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Heritage Commission Chair Graham Turnbull, presented awards in 2006 to:

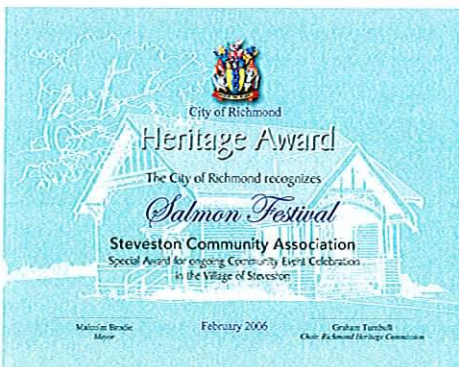
- Richard Gregory and Don Luxton for the Boardwalk through the old BC Packers site;
- Mary Keen for recording the history of Richmond;
- Helen Joaniditas for showcasing the importance of heritage to school children by bringing in the Historica Canada production;
- Janice and Roger Barnes for restoring and preserving the Every House (now in Richmond's inventory); and
- The Steveston Community Society for the Salmon Festival.

To encourage children's appreciation of the past, Commissioners judged submissions in the Richmond School Heritage Fair, which Commissioner Vera Smart says "certainly helps to increase students' sense of connectivity to our past." The Commission also continued with the oral histories project, taping interviews with pioneers.

Education

"We can do more if we know more," says Commission Chair, Graham Turnbull

Commissioners, local community members, owners of heritage properties and City staff attended a range of workshops and seminars, learning from Alastair Kerr of the BC Heritage Branch, and heritage experts James Burton, Frank Ducote, Scot Hein, Denise Cook and Marco D'Agostini.



Our Success

Overall, 2006 was a year of accomplishments. We handled challenging issues and delivered tangible results thanks to the impressive efforts of City staff and the volunteers on the Heritage Commission.

Our expanded community outreach this year gave us unprecedented opportunity to focus community attention on heritage and to stimulate thought and discussion about the importance of heritage to the quality of their lives. It also gave us the information we need to create a more integrated approach to managing our heritage that will serve us for decades to come.



Saving Steveston

Steveston Village Conservation Program

There's no question that Steveston is one of the Lower Mainland's most popular and cherished destinations.

That's why few City initiatives have attracted more attention than the Steveston Village Conservation Program which began in 2005 with funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, the BC Heritage Branch, Smart Development Partnerships and the City of Richmond. In 2006, the Commission and City Staff involved the community by asking local residents, business owners, visitors and others for their views.

Our consultant, James Burton of Birmingham & Woods Architects and Planners, City Staff and Commission members held an Open House at the Steveston Community Centre on two

sunny days, July 28-29, 2006, when foot traffic was high. Close to 170 participants visited to look at how we proposed to conserve the Village, eagerly reading the attractive, brightly coloured story boards, complete with maps and photos. Participants also completed a detailed questionnaire

This was a unique opportunity for City Staff to inform the Community about Steveston's heritage resources and their vision. What emerged from the questionnaire results is clear: everyone has a very personal view of what Steveston means to them, and everyone values conserving the Village's unique character. By November 2006, a draft of the Conservation Strategy was ready for Commission members and is now under review.

The Commission continued to be included in the City's development application process and was able to advise on rezoning and development permit applications in Steveston for the former Nobby's Garage site (11991 No. 1 Road and 3931 Chatham Street), a property on Second Avenue adjacent to the Sakata home and garden, and the corner property on No. 1 Road and Moncton Street (3900 Moncton Street).

When disaster strikes

The alarm went out. One of Richmond's most beloved homes, a 1928 craftsman-style cottage on Ash street, was about to be sold and the new property owners planned to redevelop the site.



The Commission and City Staff sprang into action, looking at options. Fortunately the current owner was amenable to donating the cottage to the City.

But where to put this precious little relic in near-perfect condition? Thanks to the ingenuity of the Parks and Public Works Departments, the cottage was moved and will be the Caretaker's Residence at Maclennan South neighbourhood park at 9280 Alberta Road.

"I felt so much relief when we finally found a home for this lovely cottage," said Commissioner Vera Smart, who grew up on a nearby farm and had for years, visited the site to admire the small home. "Now I can visit it again and again."

Heritage projects, Heritage activities

"Overseeing the preparation of the City's Museum & Heritage Strategy is going smoothly," says Chair Graham Turnbull. "Our goal is to provide a framework to direct the development of our museums, heritage policies and services."

"Another project moving along", explains Turnbull, "is identifying and proposing additions to the Heritage Inventory." "In 2006, we added two properties: the 1928 Ransford House at 10700 Railway and the Heritage Cottage now located on Alberta Road."

The Commission also took an interest in and toured a range of heritage sites including the James Thompson House on River Road, and the Gilmour Area, one of Richmond's earliest farming districts.

"But, the City-owned Terra Nova Restoration Project is the area that generated the most interest," says Turnbull. "It includes unique heritage buildings such as the 1895 Parsons House, the 1905 Edwardian Cottage, the 1912 Cannery House and Store, and the 1900 Cold Comfort Farm." The Commission also initiated a design review of the 1905 Branscombe House.

Favourite heritage places

To help us celebrate heritage week (February 12-26, 2006), the Commission asked local residents to tell us their favourite heritage places.

Here are the responses:



“Finn Slough is a part of Richmond that reminds me of the city when I was growing up. Richmond has changed significantly over the past hundred years, but Finn Slough remains a legacy that keeps alive the days when fishermen set out on the Fraser River with their boats and nets. There’s a certain stillness to the area now that I like, and I’ve got three paintings of Finn Slough in my home.”

The Hon. Olga Illich
Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts

“Along the dyke between No. 2 and No 3 Roads, Finn Road where the road bends for the slough and connecting to No 4 Road. The whole of the south area south of Steveston Highway. River Road around Tom Mac Shipyard and to about No. 8 or 9 Road. General I have preference for rural setting of what I remember of the old Richmond.”

Bud Sakamoto
Architect, writer and fisherman, born in Steveston



“My favorite place was the multisided barn in East Richmond - many more sides after the windstorm brought it down! I love visiting London Farm. The art show which was held there last summer was magical.”

The Hon. Linda Reid
Minister of State for Early Childhood Development.



“One of the special heritage places in Richmond that inspires me is the West Dyke Trail and the Sturgeon Banks. From sunrise to sunset in this unique area of the world – far away from the intensity of the city centre, I am reminded of our heritage – “Island City by Nature”. Here the ocean and river meet to provide panoramic views of the marshes, from the ocean reaching to the Gulf Islands all the way to the snow capped coastal mountains on the North Shore. As the seasons or the tides change, there is always some part of our environment upon which to reflect. And there’s no end of natural wildlife, from flocks of snow geese in migration to herons and ducks. The area serves as a vivid reminder that our legacy must include the preservation of the fragile balance of the environment, so that future generations can also enjoy walks with their families in this area of Richmond and elsewhere.”

Malcolm Brodie
Mayor, City of Richmond

“The cannery row atmosphere of Steveston. It feels so much like a village. And the farmland south of Steveston Highway along No. 4 Road and down Finn Road.”

Ron Schuss
Originally a farm boy, born in and raised in Richmond.

“The place in Richmond which personally inspires me is the Steveston area which includes the historic Murakami House, Britannia Shiyard and the new boardwalk along the Fraser River going west towards the town of Steveston. As you walk west along the new boardwalk, I can sense the vibrant atmosphere which was present during the days of the salmon canneries which were in full operation during the busy summer months.”

Dan Normura
President, Canadian Fishing Company. Born and raised in Steveston, fished with my dad from 1966-1972 and have been in the commercial fishing industry all my life.



“Steveston Village. From the retail shops in heritage buildings to the cafes and restaurants, Steveston Village has much to offer. I love Strolling along the boardwalk, past the fishing boats to Garry Point Park, watching the kites fly and enjoying the tranquility of Scotch Pond and the Fisherman’s Memorial. The quaintness of Steveston Village leaves visitors, including myself, feeling nostalgic and peaceful.”

John Yap
MLA Richmond-Steveston



“My boat is docked at the Steveston Harbour and I often go down there where I’m exposed to the history upon which Richmond was created. In many ways the area was built on commercial salmon fishing on the Fraser River, so today, the atmosphere is a rich tapestry of the past and present with the shops, restaurants, historic cannery and a marina home of commercial fishing fleet with trollers, seiners and gill netters and also includes sports fishing and pleasure crafts.

For me the Harbour is a constant reminder of how important the Fraser River and salmon are to our past, present and if handled properly, to our future.”

Rick Hansen
Man in Motion Foundation

“My favourite historic place in Richmond is the Steveston docks. Although I have lived in Steveston for 36 years I consider myself somewhat of a newcomer and a walk along the docks reinforces my newness. The Gulf of Georgia cannery still echos with the stories of great catches as well as tragedies and where you can view pictures of sailing ships tied up taking on their cargoes of fish, fishoil and other commodities. Fishermen still gather in the coffee shops or on the wharf, discussing the latest weather or gossip. Independent fishermen sell their catches at the public wharf, creating a buzz of activity. Third generations are not uncommon living



here in Steveston and the fourth generation can be found. Looking into the faces of the older Japanese fishermen, I find myself feeling connected to a community both past and present - we have all come from different places at different times but now call Steveston home. As Richmond looks to the future Steveston is a good example of how to learn from the past; how people have worked together and depended on each other to create a community where families can live, have good jobs, play, and enjoy the beauty of the river. A walk along the docks makes me contemplate our past as well as where our future lies.”

Linda Barnes
Councilor, City of Richmond



“I am inspired and entertained by the fruit trees and the bees in my orchard. It seems that my hard working bees are also inspired by this charming place. They produce lovely honey.”

Milo Savkovic
*Owner, Cherry Lane Fruit Farm,
No. 4 Road, 1955-present.*



“The farmland between No. 4 Road and Shell Road south of Steveston Highway. Richmond Council will be thanked and seen as visionaries by generations to come for not allowing this farmland – some of the most productive and economically viable in North America – to be developed.”

Helmut Pastrick
*Chief Economist, Credit Union
Central and Finn Road resident*



City of Richmond

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2007 WORKPLAN														
RICHMOND HERITAGE COMMISSION:														
PROJECTS	2006		2007											
	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Planning & Policy														
Heritage Register Update									X					
<i>Steveston Village Conservation Program:</i>														
• Steveston Village Conservation Strategy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
• Steveston Village Implementation Program								X	X	X	X	X	X	X
• Distribution														
4091 Chatham Street							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Terra Nova:</i>	ONGOING													
• Interpretive Research														
• Tender, Rehabilitation, Tenanting														
• Landscape Development														
Programs & Promotion														
Newsletter Production			X	X			X	X						
Heritage Week Promotion				X										
Recognition Award Sponsorship			X	X										
Oral History	ONGOING													
New Initiatives														
Museum & Heritage Strategy Implementation Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X
Buildings to the Heritage Inventory	ONGOING													
Conferences (TBD)														
Heritage Society of BC: <i>On The Waterfront</i>								X						
Prepared by The Richmond Heritage Commission														