



City of Richmond

Report to Council

To: Richmond City Council
From: Councillor Harold Steves
Chair, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Committee
Date: September 12, 2005
File: 11-7141-01/2005-Vol
01
Re: **JIM RATSOY'S ANTIQUE CAR COLLECTION**

The Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee, at its meeting held on Wednesday, September 7th, 2005, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

Committee Recommendation

- (1) That staff investigate options for opening the Ratsoy automobile and musical museum to the public.*
- (2) That staff use a timeline to effect an opening in April, 2006.*

Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that staff recommended only Part (1) above.

Analysis

On August 1st, Mayor Brodie and I were given a tour of Jim Ratsoy's wonderful antique automobile and mechanical music machine collection. It is one of the most substantial private collections of this nature in Canada. It is similar in nature to the Reynolds museum at Wetaskawyn, Alberta.

Mr. Ratsoy has offered his museum for public display at one of the two large warehouse buildings on his Gilbert Road property. There is a separate access to the building along the south side of the property and some adjacent parking.

Tourism studies have shown that the Steveston Heritage Waterfront presently provides a half day tourist draw. With the addition of this site to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, Britannia Shipyard and London Farm, this opportunity could help provide a major full day tourist draw with return visits. While the site is slightly away from the waterfront and public transit it would be a major draw for automobile clubs and collectors from all across the continent.

Conclusion

If promoted by Tourism Richmond, and supervised by the City, it may be possible to operate the museum during the summer months, financed with site admissions and grants.

Harold Steves
Councillor