



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee      **Date:** March 20, 2023

**From:** Marie Fenwick, Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services      **File:** 11-7141-01/2023-Vol 01

**Re:** **Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2022**



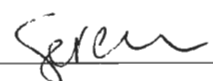
### Staff Recommendations

1. That the *Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2022*, as presented in the staff report titled "Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2022," dated March 20, 2023, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be received for information; and
2. That the *Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2022* be circulated to Community Partners and Funders for their information.

*CM Fenwick*

Marie Fenwick  
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services  
 (604-276-4288)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
City Clerk Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 

## Staff Report

### Origin

Museum and Heritage Services is guided by the following Council-approved vision:

*Richmond is a city that proudly celebrates its past, present and future. The City's museum and heritage services policies will interpret the unique and dynamic story of where Richmond came from, where it is now, and how it will develop into the future.*

This *Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2022* highlights the many achievements over the past year that helped to achieve this vision (Attachment 1).

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

*Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.*

*6.1 Advance a variety of program, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.*

*6.3 Foster intercultural harmony, community belonging, and social connections.*

*6.5 Enhance and preserve arts and heritage assets in the community.*

### Analysis

The *Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2022* describes last year's achievements in the museum and heritage sector in Richmond. While the stewardship of many of the City's heritage resources is led by the Arts, Culture and Heritage Services Department, there are many organizations and individuals in the city that contribute to the preservation, presentation and documentation of Richmond's heritage. The City's work, as well as the work of other individuals and organizations in the community are recognized in the *Museum and Heritage Year in Review 2022*.

Having recovered more fully from the COVID-19 pandemic, Museum and Heritage groups and sites were very active in 2022. Some key highlights include:

- Over 275,000 individuals participated in a heritage activity offered in Richmond;
- Volunteers contributed over 16,000 hours throughout the City's museums and heritage sites providing valuable assistance in the operations of many heritage facilities and in support of heritage-related programming;
- The annual *Doors Open Richmond* event allowed over 10,000 in-person visitors and 2,500 virtual participants to explore 35 cultural and civic sites throughout the City;
- The annual *Richmond Maritime Festival* brought together 40,000 people to celebrate local maritime heritage through fascinating performances and displays;

- The Steveston Historical Society launched its popular Pop-Up Art program at the Steveston Museum highlighting different local artists each month;
- The Richmond Museum Society launched a new Richmond Museum website with exciting online exhibits, videos and walking tour information;
- The development of a series of videos relating to Richmond history, led by the Richmond Museum with input from groups and individuals knowledgeable about different aspects of Richmond's history. These videos will be shown online and in person at various heritage facilities across the City;
- The London Heritage Farm Society brought back *Family Farm Days* to help families connect with local agricultural heritage;
- The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site celebrated Indigenous culture, history and knowledge at the annual *Welcoming the Sun* event;
- The Richmond Olympic Experience at the Richmond Olympic Oval welcomed over 15,000 visitors to refreshed exhibits, interactives, and programming; and
- City staff conducted a review of the artifact collection and identified and updated database information for 188 Indigenous belongings.

These activities were made possible from the support of eight community groups and more than 500 Richmond residents who volunteered their time to support the care of our museums and heritage sites, the delivery of engaging heritage programming, and the care of important Richmond history.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

Richmond is a city that proudly celebrates its past, present and future. The *Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2022* demonstrates the valuable contribution that these services provide to the community. Over the past few years, great strides have been made in strengthening the network of Richmond's museums and heritage sites.



Rebecca Clarke  
Manager, Museum and Heritage Services  
(604-247-8330)

Att. 1: *Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2022*

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

These performances were wildly popular in Westborough since the 1970s and Gateway Theatre District opens. Today, see enjoy live performances with performers at the Gateway Theatre District on city's holidays—for example!



CITY OF RICHMOND  
Museum and Heritage  
Year in Review 2022

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE SERVICES  
PRCS - 11





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# Introduction

Richmond is a city proud of its unique and significant heritage. While the stewardship of the City of Richmond's heritage resources is led by the Arts, Culture and Heritage Services Department, there are many organizations and individuals within the city that contribute to the preservation, presentation, and documentation of Richmond's heritage.

Richmond residents enjoy a number of benefits as they experience our city's heritage places, services and events. Museum and Heritage Services is pleased to present the following report highlighting the heritage sector contributions to the Richmond community in 2022.



## Section 1: Presenting Richmond's Heritage

Many of Richmond's most intriguing stories are shared every year through exceptional programs, exhibits and events. These opportunities provide compelling ways for individuals to learn about Richmond's past and celebrate the distinctive culture that makes Richmond what it is today.

In 2022, **over 275,000** individuals participated in a heritage activity in Richmond.





## PRESENTING HERITAGE AT HERITAGE PLACES

Heritage places create a sense of local pride by providing spaces of cultural memory and increasing historical understanding.



## Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

“ There is a ton of information to sift through about the shipping and the canning industry as well as different ethnic groups who worked in both industries. You can spend hours here or even just breeze through and enjoy the historic buildings and lovely Fraser River scenery. ”

—VISITOR

Britannia Shipyards is an authentic representation of a once thriving community of boatyards, canneries and residences where people of diverse backgrounds lived and worked. Visitors explore the eight-acre national historic site, stepping back a century in time to discover the many stories of the multicultural workforce who built wooden boats, worked in the canneries, and along with their families, called Britannia home.

Visitation in 2022:  
**84,519**

### Guided Heritage Tours

Britannia Shipyards launched daily guided tours in Summer 2022, aimed at creating a unique experience for tourists. Local guides shared compelling stories of Britannia Shipyards’ past residents and workers during the one-hour tour. Visitors leave the site with an enhanced understanding of Richmond’s rich and diverse maritime history, which continues to shape the local community. This tour will be regularly offered during the summer season.

### Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society

The Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site is supported by the non-profit, Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society. The Society’s purpose is to preserve and to celebrate the Site’s history through collaboration with the City of Richmond and the community. The Society is committed to the promotion of the general knowledge, enjoyment and understanding of the Britannia Shipyards.

<https://britanniashipyards.ca/>



Guided Tour at Britannia

Visitation in 2022:  
**5,300**

## London Farm

“London Farm Tea Room is lovely and quaint. You feel like you have been transported back in time.”

—VISITOR

London Farm brings Richmond's farming history to life, highlighting relationships between people and the land. Visitors experience environmentally sustainable living in the early 1900s through recreated displays in the Edwardian farmhouse, heritage gardens, and allotment gardens maintained by local residents.

### Annual Plant Sale and *Family Farm Day*

While gardeners eagerly await London Farm's annual plant sale on Mother's Day weekend, others look forward to *Family Farm Day*. Held the first Sunday following the long weekend in August, *Family Farm Day* participants enjoy old time games and music, plant seeds, take pony rides, and engage with animals including owls, rabbits and chickens.

### London Heritage Farm Society

London Farm is supported by the non-profit London Heritage Farm Society, whose mandate is to preserve and celebrate the early agricultural history of Richmond. The goal of the Society is to increase awareness of London Farm so residents, visitors and future generations can enjoy the site and learn about Richmond's agricultural history.

<http://londonfarm.ca/>



*Family Farm Day*  
Credit: Shelley Niemek

## Richmond Museum

“I enjoyed using the stencils and coloured rice flour provided to make rangoli.”

—DIWALI TAKE-HOME KIT USER

Visitation in 2022:  
**15,221**

Located in the Richmond Cultural Centre, the Richmond Museum’s changing exhibit gallery provides an engaging space to explore the many stories of Richmond. The Museum invites visitors, students and educators to come on a journey of discovery of Richmond’s many histories and people. Additionally, the Richmond Museum enriches the lives of residents through its many outreach activities.

### Take-Home Kits

Take-home cultural activity kits, developed in 2022, were created to meet the demand for more family-friendly at-home programs. Interactive activities in these popular kits build participants’ understanding of the cultural practices and celebrations in our communities, from Lunar New Year to Diwali. The Cedar: Tree of Life kit, produced in partnership with Musqueam weaver Vivian Mearns Notoro (née Campbell), included instructions and materials for creating a cedar woven bracelet in honour of National Indigenous Peoples Day.

### Richmond Museum Society

The Richmond Museum Society supports the activities of the Richmond Museum. This non-profit Society’s mandate is to develop and maintain a community museum that collects, documents, researches, preserves, exhibits and interprets objects of historical and cultural significance to the history of Richmond. The vision of the Society is to celebrate Richmond’s past, present and future in way that is relevant, engaging and accessible.

<http://www.richmondmuseum.ca/>



Activity kits for National Indigenous Peoples Day and Lunar New Year

Visitation in 2022:  
**37,464**

## Steveston Museum and Post Office

“Best memories and the first bank I used when working in the Cannery ... long time ago but the best time for all of us.”

—VISITOR

Located in the heart of Steveston Village, the Steveston Museum and Post Office serves as a local hub, telling the stories of the people and moments that shaped the community. The Museum interprets the history of early Steveston in the town's first bank, and an exhibit shares the successes and tragedies experienced by the local Japanese Canadian community in the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building. While at the Museum, visitors can also do their post office business or purchase the creations of local artists.

### Pop Up Art Show

The Steveston Museum and Post Office underwent renovations in 2022, creating space for local artists to display their work in the Steveston Historical Society's year-round Pop Up Art Show. Each month, one or more Richmond artists present their work with a portion of all artists' sales going toward funding for the Society's community programs and events. Artists featured in 2022 include photographer Clare Scott, Blood Star Gallery's Frank Ducote and Susan Taylor, painters Weslyn Morrison, Jennifer James, Caroline Scagel and Betsy Randel.

### Steveston Historical Society

The Steveston Museum is supported by the Steveston Historical Society, whose mission is to preserve and promote the history of Steveston. The Society was created in 1976 and contributes to the sharing of Steveston's heritage through a variety of programs and activities, including summertime walking tour vignettes, a vintage market, and Songs in the Snow. The Society also operates the Canada Post Office on site.

<https://historicsteveston.ca/>



Pop Up Art Show

## Steveston Tram

“ Our host was a lovely lady, who provided a short tour on the Steveston Tram. She was knowledgeable and friendly which enhanced the experience we had on the short visit. Great for kids! ”

-VISITOR

Step aboard Tram Car 1220, one of few remaining trams from the Interurban system which linked Richmond to Vancouver and the Fraser Valley from 1913 to 1958. Beautifully restored by a team of volunteers and skilled experts, Tram Car 1220 rests on original rail tracks and is housed in a building inspired by the architecture of Steveston's first tram station.

Visitation in 2022:

**29,375**

### Salmon Festival at the Steveston Tram

After a two year hiatus, Tram Car 1220 rolled out of the Tram Building for a sunny July 1st Steveston Salmon Festival celebration. Costumed heritage interpreters and volunteers welcomed thousands of visitors, sharing the history of the tram and the many community ties created by the Interurban rail system. The Tram also hosted the "Memories of Steveston" tent, where visitors were invited to record their favourite memories on video in commemoration of the Salmon Festival's 75th anniversary.

<https://stevestontram.ca/>



Canada Day Tram, 2022

Visitation in 2022:  
**33,590**

### Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site

“We were impressed by the history of the cannery, so much info and the displays brought us back in time. Take your time and enjoy.”

-VISITOR

In addition to the City's heritage sites, Steveston is also home to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site which is operated by the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society on behalf of Parks Canada. This information has been included to illustrate the full scope of heritage work in Steveston. Through interactive exhibits, educational programs, annual events, and public programming, the Cannery shares the story of the growth of Canada's West Coast commercial fishing industry from its early beginnings in the late 1800s to today.

#### *Welcoming the Sun Event*

Back after a three year hiatus, the *Welcoming the Sun* event celebrates Indigenous culture, history, and knowledge, aiming to bring together diverse audiences of all ages to learn about, experience, and engage with a thriving local Indigenous community. This free event included presentations by a variety of Indigenous performers, artists, storytellers, and knowledge keepers. Visitors were invited to participate in a community art project facilitated by Indigenous artist Christine Mackenzie and shop in the Indigenous small businesses and vendors hosted at the event. *Welcoming the Sun* attracted more than 700 visitors.

#### Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society is a non-for-profit charitable organization which operates the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site in partnership with Parks Canada. Together with staff, volunteers, and members, the Society works to honour the history of fishing on Canada's West Coast and celebrate the stories of historic and contemporary fishing communities.

<http://gulfofgeorgiacannery.org/>



Credit: Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society

## Richmond Olympic Experience

“Very nice immersion in the Olympic universe. Beautiful story pieces as well as simulators to entertain young and old. Very attentive and available staff.”

—GOOGLE REVIEW

The Richmond Olympic Experience is a highly interactive and dynamic museum. Located in the heart of the Richmond Olympic Oval—the crown jewel of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games—the visitor experience celebrates Richmond’s rich sport history and features countless Olympic and sport artifacts, digital archives, state-of-the-art sport simulators, and numerous hands-on exhibits.

Visitation in 2022:  
**over 15,000**

### New Exhibits

Re-opened in June 2022, the Richmond Olympic Experience emerged from the pandemic with refreshed exhibits, interactives, and programming. In addition to updated medals and torch galleries, guests can now explore artifacts on loan from the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, or ride the new Surfing Simulator, celebrating the latest sport to be added to the Olympic program.

<https://olympicexperience.ca/>

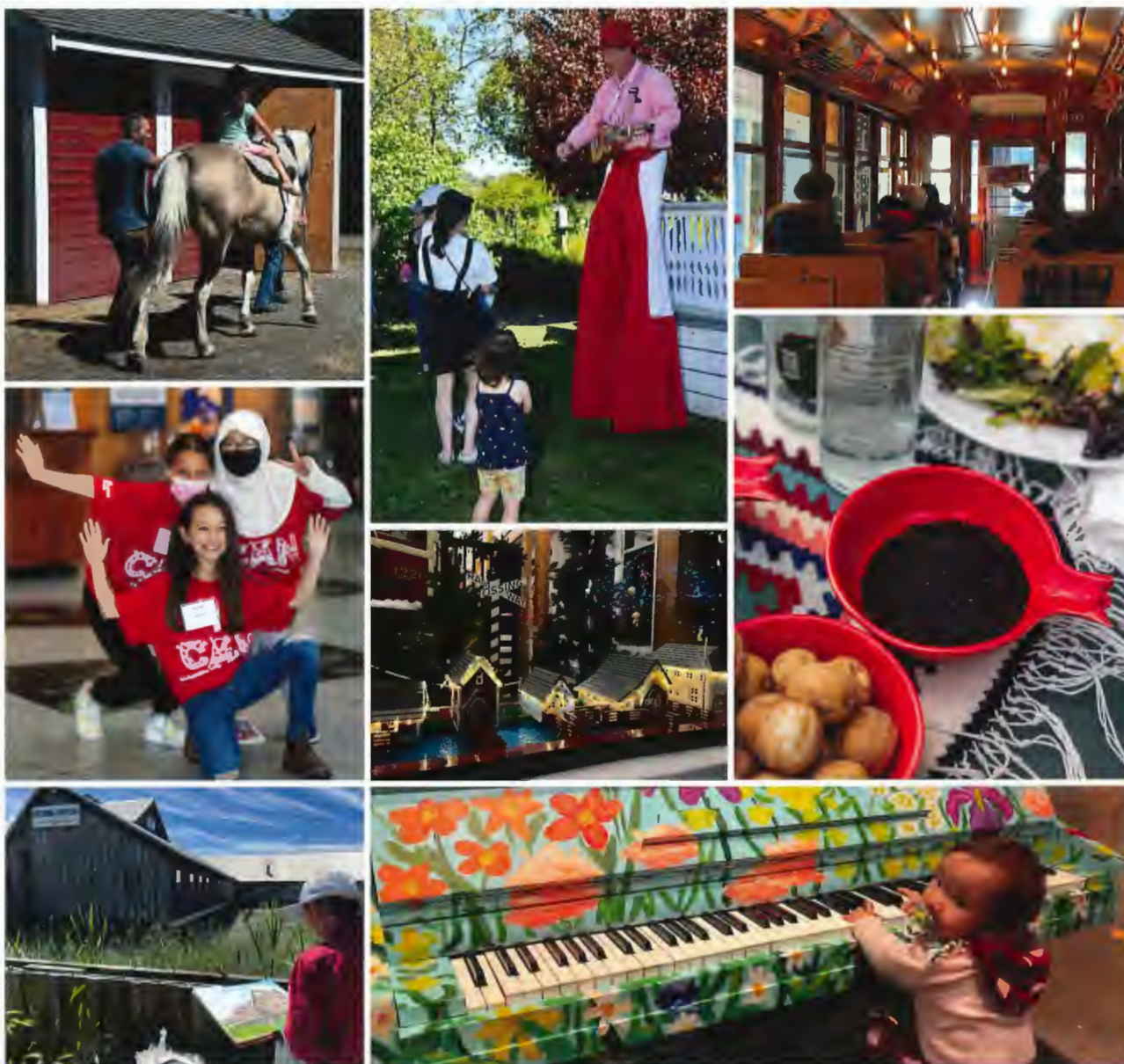


Credit: Richmond Olympic Oval



## PRESENTING HERITAGE THROUGH PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Heritage activities increase our social well-being, offering opportunities for social interaction and shared experiences.



## School Programs

“ Lots of fantastic information. I am excited to book a field trip and a kit! ”

—PRO-D WORKSHOP ATTENDEE

Program Participation  
in 2022: **8,538**

Heritage sites and museums across Richmond offer opportunities for students to learn about distinctive aspects of Richmond’s past and present. Each year, students experience Richmond’s history and heritage first-hand in a range of age appropriate curriculum-related programs.

### School Program Development

Staff at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site developed a new school program called *My Community on the Waterfront* for Grade 1 to Grade 3. Students explore the site’s historic houses, engage in story time, play eye-spy activities and participate in a shopping relay game that represents a family which may have lived in this community.

In October 2022, Richmond Museum and Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site staff co-presented a full-day professional development workshop for teachers. Teacher participants discovered new ways to bring Richmond history into their classroom and left feeling empowered with more knowledge about the community they teach in.



*My Community on the Waterfront*



Teacher Pro-D Workshop

## Doors Open Richmond

Participants in 2022:  
**12,500**

“I thought it was very well organized and executed. This was a great experience. Thank you for having me!”

– PARTNER SITE

Doors Open Richmond is an annual two day event held in June that features free opportunities to explore Richmond’s unique heritage, arts and cultural sites with an emphasis on intercultural understanding and civic awareness. Participants enjoy exclusive behind-the-scenes access to 35 sites across Richmond including museums, places of worship, cultural centres, businesses, and more.

In 2022, new partner sites included Saint Germain Bakery Central Facility, The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency, Immigrant Services Society of BC, S.U.C.C.E.S.S Richmond Service Centre, and The Kehila Society of Richmond.

A highlight in 2022 was the return of the popular Faith Bus Tour with a trilingual tour leader. Participants visited three faith-based organizations along No. 5 Road, also known as Highway to Heaven: Lingyen Mountain Temple, Richmond Jamia Mosque, and Az-Zahraa Islamic Centre.

<http://www.richmondmuseum.ca/events/doors-open/>



Doors Open, 2022

## Richmond Regional Heritage Fair

“ Thank you for all you do to make our Heritage Fair experience awesome! ”

—TEACHER

The Richmond Museum returned to an in-person Richmond Regional Heritage Fair in 2022. During Heritage Fair, students research a topic in Canadian history and present their findings in a creative display at their own schools. Students with exceptional projects are selected for the Regional Heritage Fair, where they are interviewed by judges and take part in history-based workshops.

This annual showcase of history projects offers an exciting and enriching learning environment, inspiring curiosity and dialogue about our past, present and future. Students are empowered to take an active role in learning about Canada’s history, cultivate an appreciation of the diverse experiences of people in the past, and develop into informed and involved citizens of tomorrow when they participate in the Heritage Fair.

In 2022, over 300 Richmond students created Heritage Fair projects at the school level; 63 students from six Richmond schools presented projects at the Regional Heritage Fair. From this group, three students were chosen to represent Richmond at the Virtual BC Provincial Heritage Fair. Twenty volunteers contributed 100+ hours to support this event by interviewing students about their projects, assisting with the fun and safe delivery of hands-on heritage activities.

<http://www.richmondmuseum.ca/heritage-fair/>



Musqueam artist Rita Kompst



Whiteside Elementary student with project

Event Attendees in 2022:  
**275**

## Richmond Maritime Festival

Event Attendees in 2022:  
**40,000**

“ I’m so glad I took my family to visit the Richmond Maritime Festival because we discovered a historically significant community here! Hope to come back again next time! ”

—EVENT ATTENDEE

The Richmond Maritime Festival celebrates all things waterfront at the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site. Landlubbers and sea-goers of all ages discover local lore, visit beautiful wooden boats, create works of art, and enjoy tasty treats. From wooden boats to model boats, water safety to sea creatures, and tall maritime tales to fishing history, the Festival invites visitors to explore Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site and enjoy music, games interactive exhibits, roving performers, food and much more.

[www.richmondmaritimefestival.ca](http://www.richmondmaritimefestival.ca)

Fully in person in 2022, Richmond Maritime Festival offered visitors a sample of Steveston heritage through performances of local artists, participation in arts and cultural activities, and tasting delicious cultural cuisine. The Festival highlighted West Coast maritime history with a display of restored wooden boats, handcrafted boat models, and water safety demonstrations. The focus was on family with many opportunities for children to connect with local heritage through sea creature puppet shows, by creating their own cork boats, learning origami, and designing their own boat flag.



Richmond Maritime Festival cork boat making craft

## Culture Days

Culture Days is a national celebration of arts and culture. At the end of each September, people attend thousands of free participatory arts and culture events across the country both in-person and online. Culture Days programs invite the public to get hands-on and behind the scenes to highlight the importance of arts and culture in our communities. In 2022, numerous activities were offered across Richmond from September 23 to October 16. The Richmond Museum and Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site were part of this exciting event.

[www.culturedays.ca](http://www.culturedays.ca)

Heritage Activity  
Participation in 2022:  
**552**

With the Richmond Cultural Centre serving as a focal point for Culture Days, the Richmond Museum participated by launching the new Arts Live Here feature exhibition. Arts Live Here explores the fascinating ways the arts transform the lives of people in Richmond, whether through large public art installations, music, literature, fashion or home decorations. As part of this launch, visitors were invited to participate in a family-friendly craft inspired by the Chinese opera costume featured prominently in the exhibition. Visitors of all ages learned about different types of Chinese opera and then were invited to create their own Chinese opera mask.



Chinese opera mask making and costume

## Winter in the Village

Heritage Activity  
Participation in 2022:  
**5,735**

Winter in the Village is a wonderful opportunity for Steveston visitors to celebrate the season, bringing a variety of winter and holiday-themed activities to the village. In 2022, the annual month-long event featured a craft fair, workshops, a window display contest, a scavenger hunt, a decorated tree competition, horse-drawn carriage rides, concerts, a neighbourhood dog parade, and many opportunities to meet Santa. Steveston's heritage sites played a key role in lighting up the village and offering fun family-friendly activities.

<https://winterinthevillage.com/>

The beautifully decorated Steveston Tram was a crowd favourite this year, attracting more visitors than ever before. A magical winter scene was set, with visitors entering the Tram building through a small forest of illuminated live trees, and opportunities to pause for holiday photos at a giant wreath and an illuminated picture frame. Inside, a display of Steveston's heritage buildings, created by local LEGO artist Peter Grant, delighted visitors, young and old. Winter Tram programs were offered throughout the month including special story-time readings of the Polar Express by the Richmond Public Library on board the historic tram, and a Polar Express inspired craft.



Steveston Tram decorated for Winter in the Village

## PRESENTING HERITAGE ONLINE

Learning about history and heritage creates informed and engaged citizens.

**From TIDES to TINS**

TIMELINE WORKING THE LINE MAP GAME en fr

# Cannery Map

Zoom In and click on a point on the map to learn about each salmon cannery. The featured canneries showcase some of the trends and unique stories of the industry. Use the list view to explore the canneries alphabetically.

Map View List View

Year 1870 2018

ALBERTA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Home / Military

**We Can Do It!**

(Library of Congress/Wikipedia)

Many of the women of Sea Island worked at the Boeing plant during WWII and were known as Rosie Riveters.

Rosie Riveters

Kil inspection at the summer camp of No 111(CAC) Squadron, RCAF, on Sea Island in 1939  
(Department of National Defence/Library and Archives Canada)

During World War II, the airports and its original terminal, now the South Terminal, were leased to the federal government and operated as RCAF Station Sea Island.

The airport was used for the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Funds from the lease were used to purchase additional land for new hangars and a production plant for Boeing Aircraft of Canada.

City Through Time

Discover 20 key dates that capture more than 150 years of Richmond's unique history at the mouth of the Fraser River.

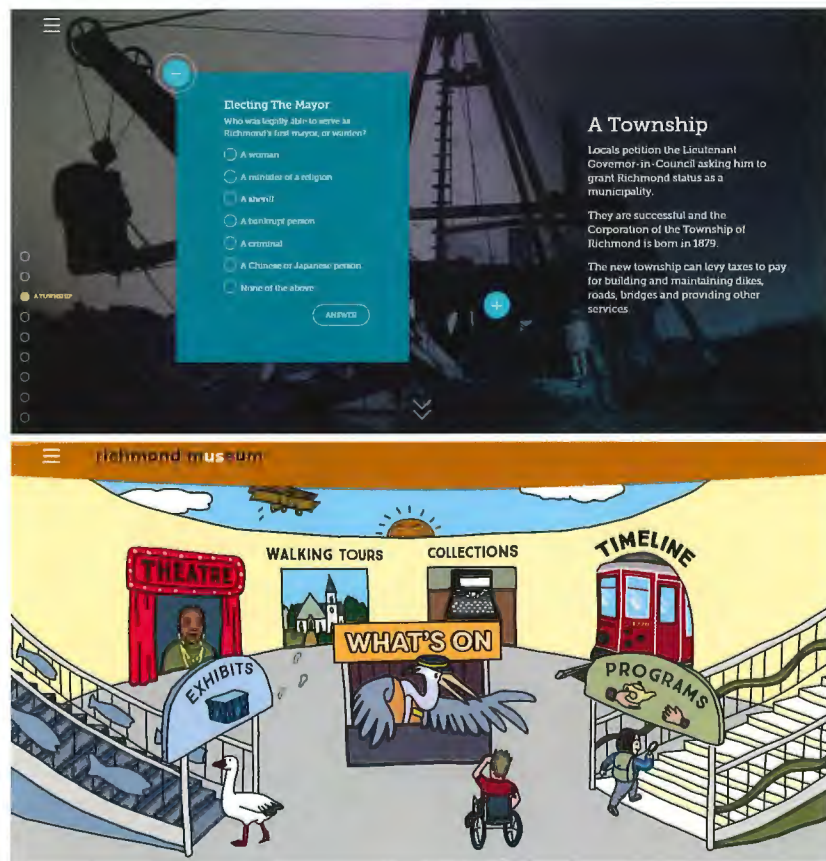
LET'S GO!



## Online Platforms Sharing Richmond History: 30

One significant way Richmond's history and heritage is shared with public is online. This platform has grown over the years and now plays an important role in reaching thousands of people by offering exciting content through websites and on social media. Both the City and local non-profit organizations work together to offer rich digital content through videos, online exhibits and archival information.

In 2022, the Richmond Museum Society launched a unique new website offering compelling new online experiences including exhibits, walking tour information and a theatre filled with Richmond specific documentary videos. In particular, the new online feature exhibit, *Turning Points*, explores key events that shaped today's city. This fascinating experience uses beautiful archival images and fun facts to tell a variety of Richmond histories ranging from the impact of the original city survey to the creation of a fishing industry, and the arrival of war to hosting Olympic events. Quizzes, pop-up photos and historical snippets ensure the experience is engaging and fun.



Richmond Museum website with online exhibit *Turning Points*

## Section 2: Preserving Richmond's Heritage

Collective community memories are created by documenting stories from the past and preserving the objects, documents and buildings that comprise our material culture. It is through these memories that new generations and newcomers can experience the history of a place and its people. It is also through these acts of preservation that community members are brought together to develop meaningful understandings and relationships with each other and their histories.

**423** artifacts, documents and stories were collected in 2022.



Collections technician cleans tin ceiling tile

## PRESERVING RICHMOND'S OBJECTS AND STORIES

Preserving and caring for heritage objects and stories reduces social isolation among seniors by valuing their past and offering opportunities to share it with others.



## The City of Richmond's Artifact Collection

The City of Richmond collects and maintains artifacts with historical, social and/or cultural significance to the community of Richmond. Artifacts in the collection range from cranberry scoops to an Interurban tramcar, a horsehair couch, Hong Wo Store signs, bog shoes, false teeth, typewriters, and wedding dresses. The collection has grown over 50 years thanks to donations from community members who entrust the City to care for and preserve their past. In 2022, 380 new artifacts were added to the collection. Highlights include two Cantonese Opera costumes from a Richmond performer, a pioneer family pocket watch from 1895, and a Richmond woman's 1958 pilot license.

Artifacts added in 2022:  
**380**

### Indigenous Belongings

The City of Richmond holds a collection of 188 Indigenous belongings which include local archaeological finds along with tools, baskets and artworks. In 2022, the City completed a review and update of the records for these belongings. The review included updating the provenance to better connect the records to documentation, adding digital images to the records, and confirming storage locations. This work will enable easier access for First Nations wishing to explore this collection further and support future repatriation efforts.

<https://www.richmond.ca/culture/sites/artefactcollection.htm>



Curatorial Assistant processes new donation

Archival Holdings:  
**1 kilometre**  
of textual records

### City of Richmond Archives

“Everywhere and everyone has a history. Mine for over 40 years has been in Richmond, so, as a retired archivist and teacher of archival studies, I have volunteered to do my small part to help us know the past of where we live through the work of the City of Richmond Archives.”

—VOLUNTEER, TERRY EASTWOOD

The City of Richmond Archives preserves and protects records of historic value and makes them accessible now and for future generations. The Archives is the official repository for records of our City government. About a quarter of the holdings are community records, donated by private individuals, families, organizations and businesses. Included in the holdings are 170,000 photographs, 20,000 maps or plans, and 500 sound and moving image recordings.

Conveniently located in the Library Cultural Centre, numerous researchers, posing both big and small questions, visit the Archives regularly. The Archives' web pages and online search database also provide 24/7 digital access and the Archives has an extensive social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Historypin, and the blog Outside the Box.

<https://www.richmond.ca/cityhall/archives/about/about.htm>

Reaching out the community to build relationships is an important priority for the Archives. Coming out of the pandemic, the Archives continues to serve the community virtually (emails and phone calls) but also hosted in-person research appointments, meetings, presentations, and small group tours.

### The Friends of the Richmond Archives

The Friends of the Richmond Archives support the work of the Archives and promote the preservation and understanding of Richmond's history. In addition to a publishing and community exhibit program, the Friends contribute funds for archival equipment and projects. The Friends have also endowed a University of British Columbia award for students in the Masters of Archival Studies program.



Kelvin and Kay Higo in the Archives Reference Room



Terry Eastwood, Archives volunteer, retired archivist and Professor

## Oral History Program

“All I had to do was phone somebody up, complete strangers, and say “Would you take 200 Save Terra Nova flyers and deliver them in your neighbourhood?” People would say yes. You have to realize, this is before the Internet. This is before social media.”

—MARION SMITH, ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWEE

Oral histories are the spoken stories of the past. The Richmond Museum has been documenting the unique stories and individual memories from the Richmond community through its oral history program. These valuable records are treasures for families, our communities and our country as they preserve the everyday lives of Richmond residents for the future. Available on the Richmond Museum’s website and housed in the City of Richmond Archives, these stories serve as an important source of information for Richmond Museum exhibits and as a record of Richmond’s past for future researchers.

<https://www.richmondmuseum.ca/oral-histories/>

Interviews Conducted since 2004: **47**

### Interview with Marion Smith

In 2022, Marion Smith participated in the oral history program, sharing her story about working to save the Terra Nova Rural Park from development. Marion recalled that this work was done in the 1980s and 1990s. She described how the Save Richmond Farmland Society used early computers, information tables on the dike and petitions to spread their message and gain community support.



The Save Richmond Farmland float in the 1977 Salmon Festival parade.  
Credit: City of Richmond Archives 1997 42 1 545

## **PRESERVING RICHMOND'S HERITAGE PLACES**

**Preserving heritage places provides economic benefits by increasing property values and encouraging tourism.**



## Identifying Heritage Places

Several tools exist at the federal, provincial, and local government levels to identify, recognize, or protect resources of heritage value and character. In Richmond, heritage places are identified on the Heritage Inventory and Register. City Staff and the Richmond Heritage Commission collaborate to maintain this list and support the on-going preservation of these sites.

Places Identified for  
Heritage Value: **129**

### Heritage Inventory

The Heritage Inventory is a list of resources that contribute to a community's heritage character. The Inventory increases awareness about Richmond's history and serves as a research tool or as the basis for developing additional heritage conservation programs. Being listed on the Heritage Inventory does not mean that the property is protected but raises public awareness of the importance of this place and provides information about its history and heritage value. There are currently 86 resources included in Richmond's Heritage Inventory. An online version of Richmond's Heritage Inventory is available on the City's website.

[www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/overview.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/overview.htm)

### Heritage Register

In accordance with the BC Local Government Act, the City of Richmond established a community heritage register in 2003 to formally identify and recognize resources with heritage value and character. The Register offers some protection against identified places being demolished. Additionally, resources identified in the Richmond Heritage Register may be eligible for various federal and provincial financial incentives. The Register currently contains 43 resources which include buildings, monuments, engineering works, and plantings. These places are also listed on the BC Register of Historic Places and the Canadian Register of Historic Places.



Richmond's Cenotaph



Branscombe House



## Protecting Heritage Places

A place of local heritage significance may be legally protected by a City Council with a Heritage Designation Bylaw. This Bylaw prevents a person from making exterior changes to the resources unless authorized by a Heritage Alteration Permit. In the City of Richmond, 15 heritage resources are protected by Heritage Designation Bylaws adopted by City Council.

In 2022, the City entered into its first Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA) to formally protect the R.G. Ransford House (c.1932) at 10700 Railway Avenue. In exchange for the formal protection of the house, the HRA allowed the City to permit the construction of a detached garage and coach house on the property.

[www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/heritagedes.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/heritagedes.htm)

### Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Area

In addition to individual places, Steveston Village is designated as a Heritage Conservation Area. The Village is protected as it illustrates the integration of natural landscape and human activity, representative of British Columbia's natural resource-based development since the 1880s. Its heritage values lie in the existing evidence of the influences of the agriculture and fishing industries on its growth over time, which enabled it to become one of the most important early West Coast towns.

The special heritage features and character of Steveston Village are identified in the Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Strategy and protected through the Heritage Alteration Permit process. The City's 2041 Official Community Plan identifies 23 heritage resources within the Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Area that are protected because they significantly embody the heritage character of Steveston. This includes 17 buildings and other landscape features such as docks.

[www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/village-conservation.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/village-conservation.htm)



R.G. Ransford House



Steveston Courthouse

## Heritage Place Conservation

Heritage place conservation is the ongoing process of maintaining and preserving elements of heritage character in places of value. One important way that the City supports heritage place conservation is through the Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Grant Program. This program was established in 2009 to provide financial assistance to property owners conserving the exterior of identified heritage resources in the Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Area. The Grant Program provides up to \$150,000, on a cost-sharing basis, to support the conservation of identified heritage resources.

Heritage Conservation  
Funding:  
**\$237,960**  
distributed since inception

Most recently, in 2020, the City awarded a \$72,800 grant to assist with the roof replacement for the Steveston Hotel located at 12111 3rd Avenue. The Steveston Hotel is one of the protected heritage properties in Steveston Village, and is valued for its historic association with the development of the Steveston town site. As one of a number of rooming houses and drinking establishments in Steveston at the turn of the twentieth century, the hotel serviced the population of Steveston during the boom years of the fishing and canning industries, when the town became a vibrant and sometimes unruly community.

[https://www.richmond.ca/\\_\\_shared/assets/planning\\_0330940.pdf](https://www.richmond.ca/__shared/assets/planning_0330940.pdf)



Sockeye Hotel ca. 1910  
Credit: City of Richmond Archives 1977 19 25



Steveston Hotel, 2018

**Over 1,170**  
individuals supported  
heritage activities in 2022.

# Section 3: Stewarding Richmond's Heritage

Participating in heritage stewardship activities increases individuals' sense of belonging to a community by offering opportunities to connect to the people and places of Richmond.



## Museum and Heritage Volunteers

“My favourite thing about volunteering at Britannia is being able to meet and speak with people of all backgrounds and cultures that come through Britannia and how everyone is able to connect and learn more about history.”

—VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are at the heart of much of the heritage work done across the city. From supporting the delivery of programs and events, championing the conservation of Richmond heritage places and objects, to helping to steward the heritage sites, community members play an integral role in preserving and presenting heritage. In 2022, 540 volunteers contributed over 16,000 hours to the daily operations of museums and heritage sites and in support of a variety of heritage activities.

**540** volunteers  
contributed over  
**16,000** hours



Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

Individuals supporting heritage stewardship in 2022: **633**

## Heritage Stewardship Groups

In addition to the heritage stewardship groups that support the delivery programs and services at City facilities and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, the Sea Island Heritage Conversation Society and the Richmond Heritage Commission also contribute to heritage stewardship in Richmond. The Richmond Heritage Commission provides important advice on heritage conservation initiatives including amendments to the City's heritage policies, updates to the City's Heritage Inventory and Register, and proposed changes to heritage resources. Sea Island Conservation Society works to preserve Sea Island's unique history.

These eight community groups play an important role in supporting the places and events that share Richmond's history and heritage:

- Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society
- Steveston Historical Society
- Scotch Pond Heritage Cooperative
- London Heritage Farm Society
- Richmond Museum Society
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society
- Friends of the Richmond Archives
- Sea Island Heritage Society
- Richmond Heritage Commission

### Sea Island Heritage Society

The Sea Island Heritage Society began in 1995 when a few volunteers started gathering information, photographs and anything relating to Sea Island. Now a registered non-profit, volunteer members of the Society work hard to promote, preserve all things of heritage value on Sea Island, including documents, images, artifacts, sites and people's memories.

The Society inspires people to be thoughtful stewards of Sea Island heritage by organizing social events such as an annual reunion and regular Coffee Chats. They also regularly share information about the history of Sea Island during events like Doors Open Richmond, on their website, and through their member newsletter. In 2022, the Society had over 80 members and volunteers who contributed more than 5,000 hours to support these activities.

[www.seaislandhome.org](http://www.seaislandhome.org)



Sea Island Heritage Society at Burkeville Daze, 2022

## Richmond Heritage Awards

The annual Richmond Heritage Awards are organized by the Richmond Heritage Commission to recognize the accomplishments of Richmond individuals and organizations for their dedication to historic places, public history, and heritage interpretation. The public is encouraged to submit nominations of projects such as restoring a historic building or landscape, promoting local heritage through education, outreach or advocacy, and contributing to local heritage knowledge through interpretative activities.

Heritage Awards  
given in 2022: **5**

### Richmond Heritage Awards recipients in 2022:

- Christine McGilvray, President, Friends of the Richmond Archives was recognized for her contribution as a host of the *Journey Through Time* history programs, which were delivered online and via telephone during the pandemic.
- Ken Chow of Interface Architecture was recognized for his conservation work on the mixed use building at 3755 Chatham Street, which highlights the traditional narrow lots typical to Steveston Village.
- Tonari Gumi, the Japanese Community Volunteer Association, and the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre were recognized for the publication of *From the Sea and Shore*, a record for honouring the foodways of an immigrant community and the resilient people who sustained them.
- Cornerstone Christian Academy was recognized for their long-standing dedication to their school's Heritage Fair Program.
- The Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society and UBC's Initiative for Student Teaching and Research in Chinese Canadian Studies were recognized for their *Fish Tales* project, which shares personal Chinese Canadian stories in an effort to create community ties and a sense of belonging.

<https://www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/heritageawards.htm>



Heritage Fair teachers at Cornerstone Christian Academy



From the Sea and Shore project team



## City of Richmond

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