

## Mayor and Councillors

**From:** Pat Montgomery [montypat@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 16 May 2009 5:54 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Councillors  
**Subject:** Re: Steveston Village Conservation Program  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Green  
**Categories:** UCRS Code / File Number: 08-4105-04-02/2009-Vol 01

<b>To Public Hearing</b>
Date: <u>June 15, 2009</u>
Item # <u>IABC</u>
Re: <u>Steveston Village Conservation</u>
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For the Mayor and Councillors

My family feel a special attachment to Steveston and I am writing to express our concern about the future of this area and its unique heritage character.

First let me say that our connection to Steveston has deep roots. Our Grandparents, Samuel and Anna (Gilmore) Montgomery, with their seven young children, left Ireland and arrived in Steveston in 1913. They purchased a few acres on Fourth Ave close to Chatham Street where they had a small dairy, grew potatoes and started a custom delivery business using two horses and a wagon. It later became the Richmond Transfer Co. Shortly after their arrival, their eldest son, 13 year old Sam, worked on the Steves' farm, milking cows. Their second son, 7 1/2 yr. old Hugh (my Dad) had a job at the Terra Nova Cannery carrying trays of empty cans to the canning lines. This was during an exceptional busy fishing season with a shortage of workers.

After the death of Samuel, the family purchased the Lighthouse Cannery's cookhouse which had survived the 1918 fire. The family lived there for several years. This building is now the Cannery Row restaurant on Moncton St.

Over the years my aunts and uncles became active members of the Steveston Community. They were members of the Steveston United Church on 2nd Ave. (now a Thrift Store). Me, my brothers and my sixteen cousins were all christened at this church. They helped establish Steveston's Volunteer Fire Department and the Steveston Salmon Festival. Rolston Square, at the corner of No 1 Rd. and Moncton St. is named after Aunt Anna and Uncle Pete. My Dad, Hugh, was Foreman in the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. Our family lived in a little house on Fourth Ave. All of my aunts and uncles raised their young families in Richmond; four in Steveston, two closeby on Lulu Island and one on Sea Island.

I'm writing to you on behalf of our family to say that we feel that Steveston has an incredible history and it is important that its history be valued and all aspects of its heritage be protected.

I attended the Open House on May 12 and have read the document "Steveston Village Conservation Program". This report is impressive: identifying 18 heritage buildings with the option to include more; the inclusion of open space, lanes, parks and the waterfront. However I feel that it needs to be expanded to include all of Steveston village from Moncton St. to Steveston Hwy.; from Gary Point Park and Seventh Ave. to No. 1 Rd. There needs to be restrictions on the type of structures that are allowed to be built in this residential area. The wide boulevards, the yards, the low-level, cottage-style family homes are part of the unique character and heritage atmosphere of Steveston. It is so important that this area is not included in Richmond's recent focus on densification.

Last night some of the younger members of our family (25 to 32 year olds) were together and we were discussing Steveston. I thought you might be interested to hear what the younger generation have to say. (Quotes are with their permission)

*Steveston is the best part of Richmond. Why would anyone want to change it*

*Every time my friends from outside of Richmond come to visit they want to go to*

Steveston. And they, like myself, are upset by the changes they see happening. They always say - Why are you letting this happen? What can be done to stop it?

Let's hope that what happened to the Imperial Cannery Property doesn't happen to the rest of Steveston.

Nothing on Moncton Street should change. If it does then the "Historic Fishing Village" sign will have to come down.

We all realize that it is a challenge and takes a determined effort to establish and maintain strict heritage guidelines. It is the future generations that will benefit. I'd also like to say that the efforts of the Gulf of Georgia Society and the Steveston Historical Society are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to read this "oh-so-long" email message.

Pat Montgomery  
604 278 5679

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