



City of Richmond




Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee
From: Joe Erceg, General Manager
Planning & Development
Date: May 5, 2010
File:
Re: RICHMOND HERITAGE COMMISSION 2009 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2010
WORK PLAN

Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Heritage Commission 2010 Work Plan (attached to the report dated May 5, 2010, from the General Manager, Planning and Development) be approved.

Joe Erceg, General Manager
Planning & Development

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Culture & Heritage	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
Parks Planning, Design & Construction....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

1. The Richmond Heritage Commission (RHC) is required to:
 - present an *Annual Report* (see **Attachment 1**) to City Council, and
 - prepare 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. 2009 Annual Report

- The *2009 Annual Report* highlights key RHC activities undertaken in 2009 (see **Attachment 1**).

2. 2010 Work Plan

- The proposed *2010 RHC Work Plan* details ongoing and current initiatives for 2010 (see **Attachment 2**). A high level of volunteerism, professionalism and commitment to heritage conservation and promotion in Richmond is clearly demonstrated.
- The *2010 Work Plan* is aligned with Council's goals as set forth in the *Museum & Heritage Strategy* (May 2007), notably:
 - To value and encourage community involvement;
 - To showcase community values, traditions, and significant historical information; and
 - To allow the community to retain and convey a sense of its unique history through heritage conservation.
- Key activities in the *2010 Work Plan* are *ongoing and current initiatives*.
- *Ongoing Activities* include:
 - Providing comments and advice on the implementation of the *Steveston Village Conservation Program*;
 - Providing comments and advice on the heritage conservation aspects of continuing projects such as Terra Nova, the Japanese Nurses' Residence (Doctor's/Hospital Offices), and Paulik Gardens; and
 - Producing the *Newsletter* in conjunction with the Richmond Museum and Heritage Services.

- Main *Current Initiatives* include:
 - Applying for the *Prince of Wales Award* for municipal leadership in heritage conservation;
 - Adjudicating at the *Heritage Fair* to provide heritage outreach to youth;
 - Inaugural partnering with the Richmond Museum Society to further shared interests and objectives (articulated in the *Museum & Heritage Strategy*). A “first meeting” will be organized to follow through on discussions between the executive of both the Commission and Society.
- Staff recommend approval of the 2010 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) 2009 Annual Report is presented; and
- (b) 2010 Work Plan is recommended for approval.



Terry Crowe, Manager
Policy Planning



Terence Brunette, Planner
Policy Planning

2009 Annual Report

Heritage Commission

Prepared by the Richmond Heritage Commission and the City of Richmond



A Note of Appreciation

...From a letter to Mayor and Council dated December 9, 2009.

To paraphrase Eleanor Roosevelt, is there anyone who doubts the power of a small group of dedicated residents backed by a committed Council, to bring about change benefiting heritage?

If there is, we think that Richmond has laid those doubts to rest. Council's support in the 2010 Capital Budget for Britannia, Terra Nova and Steveston, is exceptional by any standards. Looking back over 2009, there were also many accomplishments.

This was the year that significant work was completed on the Terra Nova Heritage Park - work that included building a Healing Garden, broad scale plantings and new fish habitat - work that has already won national awards.

This was the year that (after much searching) a location was determined for the Doctor's Offices/Nurses' Residence.

This was the year that school children were so inspired by local heritage that they turned out in record numbers to participate in our annual heritage fair.

And, this was the year that Steveston Village was designated as a Heritage Conservation Area. The new Steveston Village Conservation Program will conserve a true working community. Our Steveston may now rank as one of the most unique and cherished places anywhere.

None of this could have been accomplished without the leadership, the support and the financial commitment of Council.

On behalf of the Heritage Commission I'd like to say, we're very grateful and we couldn't have done it without you.

The next time you have a few minutes to spare or you need to rest and rejuvenate, head to Terra Nova, or go south on No. 4 Road and take the back route to Steveston along the river. As you step back in time, passing the heritage buildings, the Britannia Shipyard, the Tram and the Doctors' Offices/Nurses' Residence, we ask you to pause for a moment and savour your achievements. It was you - Council - who made all of this possible.

Thank you.

**Laurie Wozny, Chair
Richmond Heritage Commission**

Award Winning Terra Nova Park

Terra Nova Rural Park is considered by many Lower Mainland residents and visitors to be a special place for its productive fields edged with hedgerows and dykes, weathered heritage cannery buildings and homes (including an Edwardian bungalow), and heritage orchards and community vegetable gardens.



Now, this unique park has been recognized on a provincial scale by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) that awarded the City of Richmond top honors for Leadership & Innovation in Environmental Excellence.

The vision for Terra Nova Park is to preserve the unique rural character while providing a balance between agricultural heritage, wildlife conservation and recreational uses.

The park is dedicated to agricultural heritage preservation, education, and ecological restoration and conservation, and has become a model for public process and involvement in developing non-traditional parkland.

Key to the park's success is the ongoing recognition of its unique eco-system, the preservation of heritage assets and the support of community partners such as the Richmond Tree Fruit Sharing Project which shares fresh fruit and vegetables with the community, and the Terra Nova Schoolyard Society which brings children into the Terra Nova outdoor classroom where they learn about gardening and growing their own fruits and vegetables.

In 2008, work at Terra Nova included:

- Raising one of the historic Cannery buildings to prevent further deterioration;
- Planting and harvesting of the Sharing Farm's 2.0 acres lands;
- Retrofitting the 'barn' with a classroom, community kitchen and public washrooms;

- Planting the slough area with native species; and
- Restoring the heritage orchard and vegetable garden at the Parson House.

In 2009, projects undertaken included:

- Building trail connections between the Demonstration Garden and Sharing Farm;
- Working with community partners and volunteers to build a Healing Garden/Gathering Area;
- Building lookouts, seating & fences;
- Planting Crabapple Ridge on a massive scale;
- Preparing to breach the dyke and create fish habitat in the slough; and
- Stabilizing heritage buildings.

Unique programs at Terra Nova have included “Decreasing Barriers, Increasing Wellness”, a seniors’ outreach program that brings frail and isolated seniors into Parks’ recreation programs and services.



Congratulations to Yvonne Stich and Parks Staff for your leadership and commitment to sustainability through its non-traditional use of city parkland.

New Steveston Conservation Bylaws benefit building owners

Steveston is well known for its working docks, century-old wood-frame buildings and peaceful back lot gardens.



To preserve our unique village, Richmond City Council adopted the last heritage bylaws of the Steveston Village Conservation Program in June. The Conservation Program designates Steveston Village as a Heritage Conservation Area, protects 17 buildings from potential demolition and rewards owners with financial incentives.

Buildings not covered in the strategy can be demolished, but new buildings must conform to updated heritage guidelines.



“I see this as a very positive move,” says Dana Westmark of London Landing Developments which owns several heritage buildings in Steveston.

“The Conservation Plan preserves the character that we all find so appealing”, explains Westmark. “This includes the hodge podge of buildings from the turn of the Century to the 1930s, 40s and 50s and up to now, the small lots with buildings right at the street, the interesting alleyways and the views to the river.”

The Conservation Plan incentives go a long way towards mitigating costs for the owners of buildings protected by the new bylaws.

Property owners will be allowed to develop vacant areas on their property to a higher density and (if required) access funds for heritage conservation from a new grant program, funded by rezoning contributions for bonus density (to pre-determined maximums).

The Conservation Strategy was five years in the making and included public consultation meetings and surveys. The Real Estate Foundation of BC provided partial funding.

Heritage Awards, February 17, 2009

The annual Richmond Heritage Awards of the Richmond Heritage Commission recognize the special accomplishments of individuals and organizations that have contributed to preserving and promoting Richmond’s heritage. The 2009 event was held at the Richmond Museum. Mayor Brodie presented heritage awards to two recipients: (i) authors Teeney Homma and Carey Isaksson, for their work on the publication *Tomekichi Homma: The Story of a Canadian*, and (ii) Al Mason, for his work on the gill-netter “Eva”.

The story of Tomekichi Homma, co-written by his granddaughter, Ms. Homma, and Ms. Isaksson offers a unique perspective of the Japanese immigrant family experience that embraces diversity, equality and justice, and is a testament to the dignity of spirit and perseverance that defined the late Mr. Homma’s life.

The “Eva”, built in 1937 at the Suzuki boat works on Annacis Island, for Henry Jacobson, a Finnish pioneer who lived on Finn Road, is a 28-foot gill-netter with a two-cylinder, distinctive sounding Easthope engine. Its present owner, Al Mason, takes care to keep the “Eva” in good condition.

Japanese Nurses’ Residence Relocation

On January 19, 2010, this significant heritage building was relocated to the rear of the Steveston Museum Site at 3811 Moncton Street. A process of community consultation led by Community Services will now occur, assisted by James Burton of Birmingham & Wood Architects (consultants for the *Steveston Village Conservation Program*), regarding the possible uses, operation/oversight, and restoration of the Nurse’s Residence. The photos, taken by

Danny Kolb P. Eng., Project Coordinator with City of Richmond Facilities, show the move in progress.



Richmond Delta Regional Heritage Fair 2009

...From the Educational Programs Coordinator, Richmond Museum & Heritage Services

This event was hosted by the Richmond Museum in partnership with the Delta Museum & Archives, and sponsored in part by the BC Heritage Fairs Society. It enjoys the full support of both Richmond and Delta School Districts and a number of local heritage and community groups.

The Heritage Fairs Program is a bilingual initiative that encourages students to explore an aspect of Canadian history or heritage in a dynamic learning environment. Students use the media of their choice to share what they have learned and then present the results of their research at a public exhibition. Volunteer committees composed of educators, heritage groups, and community organizations work together to organize these enriching events.

At the last Richmond Delta Regional Heritage Fair, held on Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2, 2009, over 300 students competed for approximately 65 places to exhibit their projects at the Regional Fair. Students were interviewed about their projects by a panel of adjudicators drawn from the community while local community groups provided two fulfilling days of activities and performances that inspired in students the curiosity to explore local history and heritage. Six students were selected to represent the region at the Provincial Fair in Victoria, where the Honourable Steven Point, Lieutenant Governor of BC, expressed his support for the Fairs Program. Four students were from Richmond and two from Delta.

The success of the Fairs program depends on generous financial and in-kind support from the local community and last year we thankfully accepted support from the Richmond Heritage Commission, which was used for student recognition, including the Local Historian Award. We also had the privilege of welcoming Mr. Laurie Wozny and Mr. Michael Gurney to serve as Adjudicators. For the coming year, we are looking forward to some of the ways that the Richmond Heritage Commission could expand their involvement, perhaps towards an activity to educate children about the purpose of the Commission and the value of heritage in the community. We are also always looking for field trip destinations or tours for student participants that highlight local history and heritage.

I look forward to continuing to work together to help students develop strong roots in our communities and cultures, and inspire them to participate in the shaping of Canada's future.

**Emily So, Educational Programs Coordinator
Richmond Museum & Heritage Services**

Special Award Recipients National

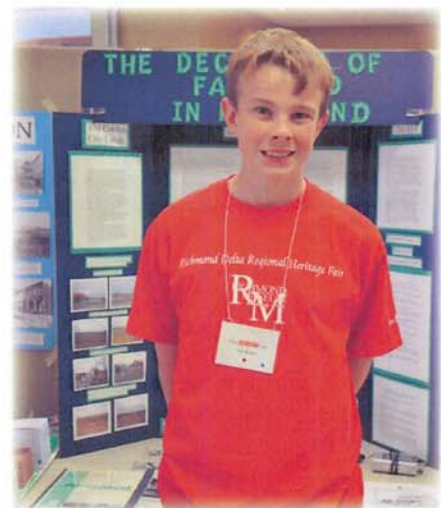
- Laurier LaPierre: Deborah & Barbara Peng - A History of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet
- CN Veterans Award: Luke Tetrault - Defence of Vancouver
- RBC Aboriginal Award: Mary & Abigail Uher - Paul Kane
- Imperial Oil Science & Technology Certificate: Michelle Foo, Michael Wong & Kaylyn Munro - John Cabot

Provincial

- Provincial Capital Commission Award: Haley Magrill - Emily Carr & Woo the Monkey
- BC Heritage Branch Historic Places Award: Nicholas Laviolette - History of Steveston & Gulf of Georgia Cannery
- BC Hydro Power Pioneers: Ashley Veuger, Matt Gohl, Justin Baril & Brian Watanabe - Hugh McRoberts & Hugh McRoberts Secondary School

Local

- Richmond Heritage Commission presents Local Historian: Eric Hooper - The Decrease of Farmland in Richmond



- Honourable Mention for Local Historian: Hdeal Mian - My Cultural Heritage: Sudan
- Judge's Special Award: Liz Yeung - Working Women: A History of the Women's Labour Force

National & Provincial Fair Delegates

National Fair Delegate

- Kate Ward – Banished to Safety: England's World War II Kids in Canada, Sixty Years On

Provincial Fair Delegates

- Georgia & Delaney Booker – Jack Harrison: "The Flying Cop"
- Michael Hall & Tejas Saggi – Hall's to Saggi's Comparison
- Jason Li & Tom Cui – The Battle of Abraham Plains



RE: Richmond Delta Regional Heritage Fair 2009

Dear Richmond Heritage Commission,

Thank you for making the Heritage fair happen! I really learned alot! Also thank you for giving us this experience of what its like in the Heritage fair, I'll never for this day! ☺

Thank you very much for giving so many students the opportunity to learn about various Canadian and world current events, subjects, milestones and past events. It is gre to see a lot of kids interested in current and past events. I love coming to the Heritage Fair and you guys help the fair be possible. Than you!

Thank you Richmond Heritage Commission for making this event possible. It was very interesting and I had a lot of fun through this project. Without your great support, this excellent event wouldn't be possible. This has been a great experience for me and I look forward to the future of the Heritage Fairs. Thanks again!

2009 Heritage Commission Members

- Wendy Andrews
- Ray Froh
- Michael Gurney
- Andrea Hajdo Forbes
- Teresa Murphy
- Jo-Anne Rocque
- Mitch Sakumoto
- Vera Smart
- Laurie Wozny

Council Liaison:

- Greg Halsey-Brandt

Staff Liaison:

- Terry Brunette, Planner, Policy Planning

Annual Report



is published to support the awareness, understanding and recognition of Heritage in Richmond under the auspices of the Richmond Heritage Commission and Richmond Museum and Heritage Services.

Contacts:

Terry Brunette
Planner, Policy Planning
City of Richmond



City of Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Tel: 604-276-4000
www.richmond.ca

2010 WORK PLAN

Projects	2010 Calendar												Budget
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Planning & Policy													
Heritage Inventory Update													
<i>Museum Feasibility Study</i>	Comments & Review as Required												
<i>Steveston Village Conservation Program:</i> • HCA Referral • Development Applications Review	ONGOING												
Terra Nova Parksite	Comments & Review as Required												
Doctor's/Hospital Offices, 4091 Chatham Street	Comments & Review as Required												
Programs & Promotion													
Youth Outreach – Heritage Fair				X	X								1,000
Newsletter Production			X						X				
Heritage Week Promotion													
Heritage Awards (e.g., <i>Prince of Wales Award</i> Application)	ONGOING												
Museum Partnering	ONGOING												2,500
New Initiatives (TBD)	To Be Determined												
Inventory Consolidation													
Research on Post-40's Buildings (Potential Museum Partnering)	Phased Implementation												
Conferences (TBD)													500
SFU City Program													
Meetings													1,000
Annual Report													
												X	
Totals													5,000
Prepared by the Richmond Heritage Commission Note: May change subject to Work Plan Priorities													