



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: March 8, 2012

From: Jane Fernyhough
Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage Services

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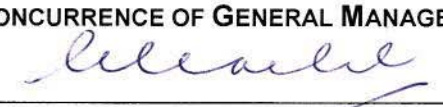
Re: Richmond 2011 Heritage Update

Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond 2011 Heritage Update be received for information.


Jane Fernyhough
Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage Services
(604-276-4288)

Att. 1

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Parks	Y ☒ N ☐		
Archives	Y ☒ N ☐		
Policy Planning	Y ☒ N ☐		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES ☒	NO ☐	REVIEWED BY CAO
			YES ☒ NO ☐

Staff Report

Origin

In June 2007, Council approved the Museum and Heritage Strategy vision, goals and objectives to provide an effective and realistic strategic framework that directs Richmond's development and integration of its museum and heritage policies and services.

This report presents the Richmond 2011 Heritage Update (**Attachment 1**) to Council for information.

The 2011 Heritage Update exemplifies support for Council's Term Goal: "to advance the City's destination status and ensure our continued development as a vibrant cultural city with well established festivals and the arts."

Analysis

Richmond is growing rapidly and the increasingly diverse population has created new demands for services. This is particularly notable in the cultural sector where there is a desire to provide services and programs, but also an economic imperative as culture is an important economic generator through the provision of employment and tourism opportunities.

Arts, Culture and Heritage enhance our city and our lives in many unique ways and are central to community life. They provide communities with a sense of identity, a sense of place and shared pride while creating ways to communicate across multicultural boundaries.

The Richmond 2011 Heritage Update showcases the varied and vital investment in Museums and Heritage and the essential role these play in building and sustaining a diverse urban community that is socially and economically healthy.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to this report.

Conclusion

The Richmond 2011 Heritage Update highlights the activities and achievements of the City, stakeholders and community partners. It also demonstrates the vital contribution Museums and Heritage make to the livability of our community.



Connie Baxter
Supervisor, Richmond Museum and Heritage Services
(604-247-8330)

City of Richmond

HERITAGE UPDATE 2011

Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

Richmond

"If museums [and heritage] of cities did not already exist, they might now need to be invented to help understand and negotiate urban change."

Duncan Grewcock, Museum International, 2006

Introduction

Richmond continues to proudly celebrate its past, present and future through preserving the vast array of heritage buildings, landscapes, monuments, significant trees and substantial artefact and archival collections. Presentation of this colourful and varied past and present is accomplished through exhibitions, educational programming, public programming and special events, volunteerism and collections management.

Museums and heritage within the community are a shared responsibility between various levels of government and private citizens.

Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, the City of Richmond Archives, Policy Planning and Parks and Recreation Department share the stewardship for the City of Richmond's heritage resources.

This report presents a collection of highlights for Museums and Heritage in Richmond for 2011.

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Signature Events

Doors Open Richmond

Doors Open Richmond is a two-day event coordinated by the Richmond Museum, which encourages visitors to explore Richmond's arts, culture and heritage through free access to places not normally open to the public.

This year 46 venues participated, including heritage landmarks, modern structures, places of worship, artist studios, museums and national historic sites. There was an increase in site visits from 16,000 in 2010 to 19,535 in 2011. New venues included BCIT Aerospace Campus and McKinney House. Also new this year was an opening event organized by the Museum and Arts Centre called *The Imaginary Enclave*. This evening event combined art, history and culture by integrating performance and art throughout the Cultural Centre, drawing inspiration from the Museum's *Cutting Edge* exhibit.

As a result of the growing visibility and success of *Doors Open Richmond*, an invitation was extended for the Chair of the Doors Open Committee to present our experience and success with the event to the Social Planning Committee for the City of Surrey. Subsequently, the City of Surrey now has plans for a 2012 *Doors Open* event.



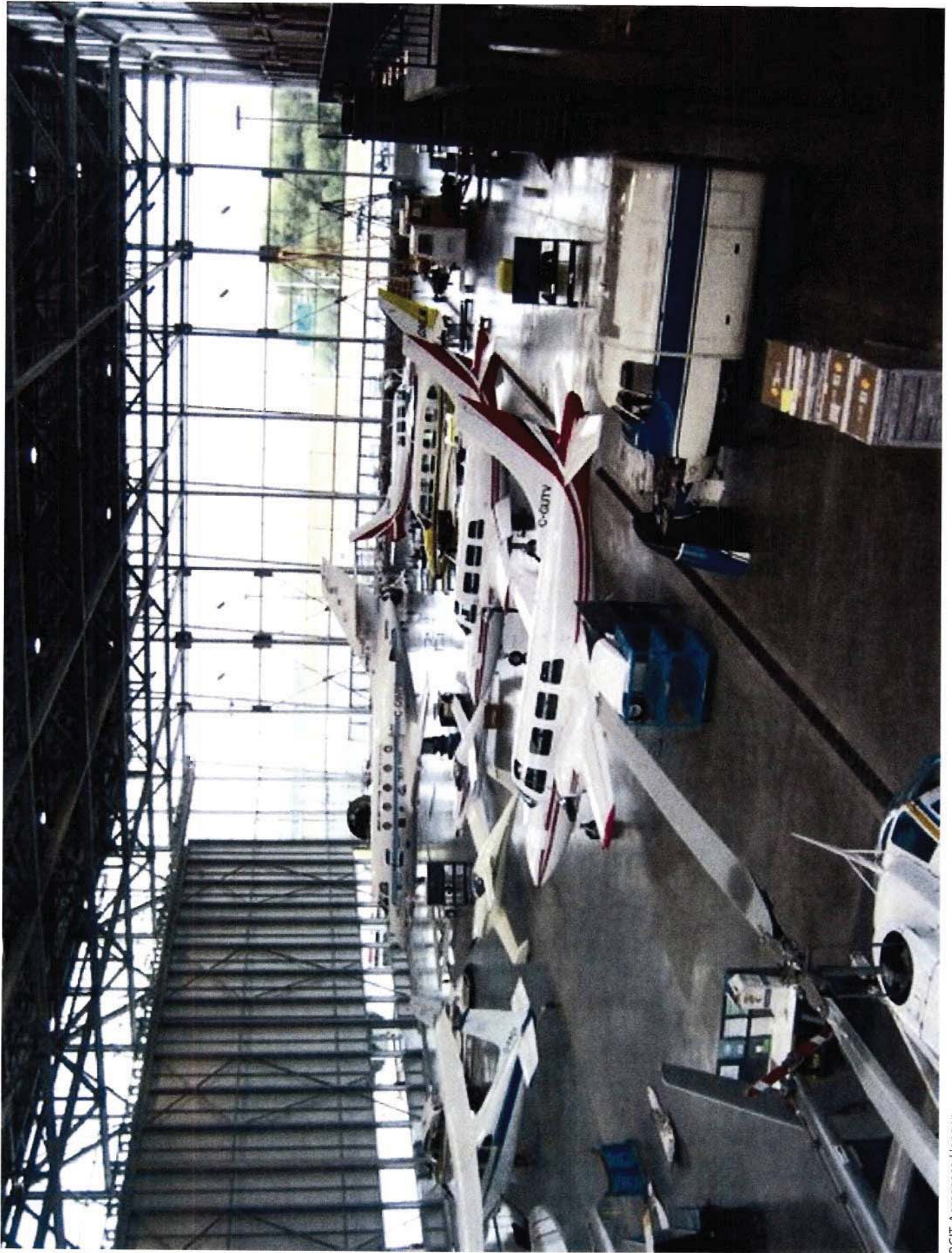
McKinney House

Credit: Peter Harris



Curtis Eyestone, owner of McKinney House

Credit: Peter Harris



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2011 Heritage Update

Richmond Delta Regional Heritage Fair

Continuing our partnership with the Delta Museum & Archives, the Richmond Museum hosted the 9th Annual Heritage Fair with a record number of 74 student project displays developed by over 160 students. For the first time, the Richmond Heritage Commission sponsored a workshop on heritage conservation and the Richmond Art Gallery bridged art and history with a *Storytelling through Digital Portraits* workshop.

Striving to create unique programming while applying educational goals that cannot be delivered anywhere else in Richmond, the Museum partnered with the Heritage Commission to offer a one of a kind workshop. High school students attended the workshop, *To Serve and Protect*, where they learned about heritage conservation from a Heritage Architect and a Heritage Planner. In addition, the students experienced a behind the scenes field trip to a heritage house under restoration at Terra Nova Rural Park.

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Jordan and Josh, Grade 5, Woodward Elementary

"We chose this great war hero because every Remembrance Day we sing his poems or put poppies on, but not a lot of kids really know who he is, including us. Curiosity won us over."

Credit: Sue Legault



Gita, Grade 5, McKay Elementary

Credit: Sue Legault

"I chose this topic because I wanted to understand my roots and how they formed me. This topic is important for others because Canada is made up of many stories like mine."



Heritage Fair Opening Ceremony

Credit: Sue Legault

Richmond Maritime Festival

This year's 8th Annual Richmond Maritime Festival, held August 5th to 7th, was an exciting and renewed celebration of Richmond's traditional connections with the sea. The stunning waterfront setting of Britannia Shipyards was transformed for a three-day, free family event that welcomed 30,000 visitors to explore all kinds of new seafaring, nautical fun. The event was marketed as part of Richmond's *Days of Summer* and received extended media coverage as well as new sponsorship partners.

Visitors wandered a "live" site, where they encountered an array of inspiring installations, entertainment, costumed characters and interactive displays that transformed, evolved and relocated throughout the day. Around any corner, festival goers could stumble across mermaids, painters, schools of fish, carvers, drummers, dancers and stilt characters that traveled along the boardwalks and highlighted the community's rich history and local lore.

Everyone was encouraged to take part in a variety of hands-on activities and demonstrations with local community groups and event sponsors to create nautical works of art, performance props and maritime installations. Thousands of visitors also boarded the numerous wooden boats along the docks of the Shipyard. They included historic fishing boats, classic power and sail boats, a 1930s rum-runner and the oldest ship in the Canadian Navy: the HMCS *Oriole*.



Floating Exhibits

Credit: Brooke Lees



Wolf Pack Dancers

Credit: Umme Mansoor



HMCS Oriole

Credit: Brooke Lees



Crows Nest

Credit: Umme Mansoor

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

Exhibitions

The Chinese Bunkhouse

This permanent exhibit opened on May 1st and explores the incredible stories of Chinese cannery workers, a much-awaited addition to the *How We Lived* exhibit project. Visitors are guided through displays that examine the lives of Chinese men who laboured in Steveston and explore stories of their remarkable courage in the face of hardship and discrimination. Interactive displays, rare photographs and short films bring the exhibit to life and provide visitors with a new perspective on life in Steveston in the early 20th century.



Chinese Bunkhouse

Credit: Brooke Lees

At the Helm

Two temporary permits for limited public access into the Seine Net Loft for the *Ships to Shore* event, June 3rd to 5th, and the *Richmond Maritime Festival*, August 5th to 7th were granted. The *At the Helm* exhibit showcased the story of Richmond's Lubzinski brothers who captured the North American ships wheel market for over 50 years with their innovation and ingenuity. Visitors took advantage of this rare opportunity to enter the net loft building after the first phase of building restoration work, and explored the incredible story of the *Marine Products Company* through interactive displays and rare artefacts from the Richmond Museum's collection. Jack and Joseph Lubzinski attended and were available for questions and discussions with the public.



At the Helm exhibit

Credit: Brooke Lees

The Point House

The displays in the Point House, another part of the *How We Lived* exhibit project, were opened May 7th to interpret the architecture of Steveston. A short documentary and interactive displays illustrate how ethnicity and company status determined a person's living conditions and housing style at Britannia. The architecture, design and location of the dwelling tell the interesting stories of the community's social history. They also reflect relationships between the people who worked here over a time span of almost a century.

Public Programming

Ships to Shore

Britannia participated in the City event, *Ships to Shore*, June 3rd to 7th, where history, adventure and fun was offered to visitors to relive the days when Steveston Village was a major port-of-call for fleets of sailing ships from around the world. 3500 visitors at Britannia toured site buildings, including the Seine Net Loft, which showcased the temporary exhibit *At the Helm*. Visitors were also invited to climb aboard Vancouver's Viking ship, the *Munin*, a 40-foot, half-scale replica of the original Norwegian Viking ship *Gokstad*.

Salmon Row - Outdoor Live Theatre Production by Mortal Coil

In a theatrical re-telling of Steveston's last 150 years from August 18th to 28th, Mortal Coil's site specific production took the audience from one location to another and featured actors, musicians, stilts, masks and puppets. Featuring an acting company of twelve, the play told the story of the early days around the Steveston docks with the help of a live four-piece band performing original music, Richmond's own *Coastal Wolf Pack Dancers* and local community members. The production was colourful, vibrant and was sold out every night for a total of 1500 visitors.

Grand Prix of Art

The Grand Prix of Art is a celebration of artists from around the province, painting in Plein Air. Participating artists were allocated a painting location in and around Steveston, and were allotted 3 hours to complete a work of art before returning it to Britannia for display and adjudication. From September 16th to 18th, 1000 visitors and artists enjoyed entertainment, prizes, refreshments and the chance to meet over 60 local artists.

Doors Open (May 7–8), and Culture Days (September 30–October 2)

2000 visitors participated at the Britannia Shipyards for these two city-wide special events celebrating Richmond's arts, culture and heritage. As a participating partner, Britannia offered guided tours, displays and activities to enrich the visitor experience. *Doors Open* showcased two new additions to the *How We Lived* exhibits on site: the Chinese Bunkhouse and the Point House. During *Culture Days*, visitors were encouraged to try their hand at traditional Chinese games and learn about the history of Chinese immigration to British Columbia.



Salmon Row

Credit: Tim Matheson

Volunteer Program

Britannia's volunteer program was redesigned and updated in 2011. The goal was to design an improved, efficient volunteer program that involves current and potential volunteers in a more consistent and engaging manner. Through ongoing communication, workshops and events, volunteers will gain a greater sense of belonging and will be encouraged to enhance their interpretation skills as valued members of the Britannia 'crew', charged with bringing history to life for visitors in new and engaging ways.

London Heritage Farm

Throughout the year, a total of 4000 visitors enjoyed the regular activities in the unique atmosphere of Richmond's agricultural heritage site, London Farm. Large special events such as *Doors Open* and *Family Farm Day* welcomed an additional 3665 people.



London Farmhouse

Credit: Kerri-Jo Stewart

Programs and Tours

Educational programs and historical tours of the farmhouse and grounds are available for visitors to discover how life was in the late 1800s and early 1900s in Richmond. 15 elementary school classes came for a historical tour of the house and property and 16 seniors groups came for tea and a tour.



Enjoying the flowers

Credit: Kerri-Jo Stewart

Tea Room and Special Events

Special events in 2011 included special monthly teas like Halloween and Valentine's Day teas. The *Antiques and Collectables Sale* saw 100 people attend and *Family Farm Day* in August drew in over 1000 people. Christmas carolling and a live animal manger display added to the festivities during the winter. London Farm was also a venue for the annual *Fraser River Art Festival*.

A variety of homemade baking and goodies are available for sale and served along with the full tea service in the Tea Room. The tea is a special blend

made at the Farm specifically for the Tea Room. The gift shop has collectables as well as crafts from local artisans for sale. 2100 visitors came for tea service in 2011.

Doors Open (Mother's Day and Plant Sale)

London Farm was a venue partner with *Doors Open* again this year, occurring on the same weekend as Mother's Day and the annual plant sale, making the Farm a popular place. Visitors were able to view the heritage and community gardens, chickens, bees and interpretive display of large agricultural machinery. Inside the heritage house they learned about the London family and pioneer life in Richmond. They also had the opportunity to enjoy the Farm's very own blend of London Lady Tea and freshly baked goods while stocking up on annuals and perennials. 2665 visitors came to London Farm during the *Doors Open* weekend.

Rentals and Weddings

There were 17 wedding rentals in 2011, up from 10 the previous year. 8 picnics also took place at the Farm in the summer.

London Heritage Farm Society

The Society is initiating a strategic planning process in early 2012 with the goal of increasing the number of visitors to the farm by program improvement and diversification. Collections management has also been identified as a priority for 2012.

Minoru Chapel

Doors Open

As part of the city-wide free event, the Chapel was open for tours and welcomed 92 visitors.



Doors Open Richmond 2011

Credit: L Loh

Operating Agreement Contract

The updated operating agreement for the management of Minoru Chapel was signed in 2011.

Opera Nights

The Chapel continues to provide a unique venue with outstanding acoustics for the popular spring and fall opera series. Vancouver Opera, Dragon Diva Operatic Theatre and Astrolabe Musik Theatre entertained opera enthusiasts in the spring while concerts by Vancouver Concert Opera Co-operative, City Opera Vancouver and Opera Pro Cantanti performed in the historic atmosphere during the fall of 2011.



Weddings/Events

Throughout 2011, 141 weddings, memorials and baptisms were held at Minoru Chapel, an increase from 127 in 2010.



Weddings at the Chapel

Credit: Go-Lucky Photography

Richmond Museum

Exhibitions

The Cutting Edge: A History of Technology and Richmond (December 2010–July 2011)

The *Cutting Edge* exhibit illustrated the story of evolving technologies in Richmond and their impact on our everyday lives as consumers, taking visitors from Richmond's small-town roots to the global technological gateway it has become today. This exhibit featured Richmond hi-tech companies and industrial pioneers such as Norsat, Epic Data, MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates, Vancouver International Airport and the BC Institute of Technology.

SustainABILITY?

(August 2011–January 2012)

This family-friendly exhibition examined the pillars of sustainability and what they mean to Richmond residents on a local, national and global level. Themes such as energy consumption, built environments, cultural sustainability, food and transportation were highlighted. The exhibit has offered the Museum the opportunity to develop relationships with the City's Sustainability and Environmental Teams, and to pursue partnerships with Sustainability Television, local businesses and individuals offering and/or adopting sustainable practices. Interactive games in the Museum's Discovery Area encouraged children and youth to learn about sustainability from the Museum's sustainability mascot, Steve, the endangered water shrew.



Home Appliances Past and Present –
How much energy do they use? Credit: Peter Harris

Collections Management

In 2011, the Richmond Museum was the recipient of 30 donations consisting of over 50 artefacts. This included a quilting stool, *Popular Mechanics* magazines, Scouting ephemera and a selection of childhood toys from the 1980s.

Contemporary Collecting

An active contemporary collecting program continues to be promoted at the Richmond Museum. New to the collection this year are recreation artefacts and toys from the 1970s to 1990s. The technology collection also continues to expand with a donation of computers that were located in emergency vehicles and taxis in Richmond during the 1990s. The *sustainABILITY?* exhibit provided the opportunity to collect artefacts from 2011, including a dual flushing toilet, solar energy lights and a double glazed window.

Shelving Upgrade

New mobile shelving was installed at the Museum's offsite artefact storage warehouse in 2011. Storage of artefacts is an ongoing challenge for museums and the mobile shelving units will increase the capacity for storage. This allows best practices to be implemented in areas where it has been less than ideal due to lack of resources.



Sarah Confer, Collections Technician moving artefacts
Credit: Rebecca Forrest

Public Tours

The Museum continues to provide public tours of the artefact collection storage warehouse for *Culture Days* weekend, *Heritage Fair* and Summer Daycamp participants.

Educational Programming

The Museum offers curriculum-based education kits filled with artefacts, historical photographs and other resources to help learning come alive. Students can also experience in-house programs including *Lets Celebrate Winter*, where they learn how different cultures celebrate the season, including hands-on activities and a special pioneer craft to take home. In 2011, 1230 children participated in Richmond Museum's educational programs.

Spring Break Camp: Create a Museum Exhibit

A new Spring Break Camp that showed children and youth what goes on "behind-the-scenes" at a museum was introduced this year. 20 children learned about artefact care and the steps involved to develop and install their own exhibit.



Learning how to clean an artefact before it goes on display
Credit: Emily So

Summer Programs

175 students became *Time Travellers* and *Junior Archaeologists* as they explored Richmond history and heritage, including archaeology, touring Sea Island and learning all about sustainability. Two summer staff, funded by the Canada Summer Jobs program grant and the Richmond Museum Society, were responsible for developing, delivering and evaluating these summer programs.

BC Field Trip Fair

In partnership with Britannia Shipyards, London Heritage Farm and the Steveston Museum, Richmond's educational programs were promoted at the BC Field Trip Fair at Science World in Vancouver. Over 140 teachers, student teachers and educators received information about the Museum and Heritage Sites in Richmond.

Public Programming

Antique I.D. Clinic

108 participants learned about the history of their own antiques.

RUSH

The Museum partnered with the BC Lung Association for its 2nd annual, city-wide scavenger hunt for charity, by creating a Checkpoint Challenge that encouraged teams to explore the Museum's *Cutting Edge* exhibit to solve a series of riddles. Nearly 200 people visited the Museum as part of the RUSH.

Richmond's Diverse Workplaces: Building On Our Success

In conjunction with *The Cutting Edge* exhibit and in celebration of Heritage Week, a special workshop was held, where over 50 participants shared stories about their workplaces and watched the *Richmond in 3D* group encapsulate those stories through live improvisation theatre performances. Guest speakers included Helmut and Hugo Eppich, co-founders of Richmond's Ebco Industries, and Darlene Gering, President and CEO of the Burnaby Board of Trade, known for her groundbreaking work in the field.

World Food Day

Working in partnership with the Food Security Task Force, Cinevolution Media, the Media Lab, London Heritage Farm, Richmond Library and Councillor Harold Steves, the Museum offered the opportunity to learn more about the history of food production in connection with the *sustainABILITY?* exhibit. Visitors learned how to make butter and got the chance to purchase homemade jam, honey and soap from London Heritage Farm. Visitors enjoyed learning about agriculture from Councillor Steves who featured a display of his heritage seed collection. Over 500 visitors participated in butter making and 250 people visited the Museum on World Food Day.



Volunteer Charwynna Grival with Lena, Angela and Cindy Yao making butter for World Food Day

Credit: Peter Harris

Internship Program and Volunteers

The Museum internship and volunteer program continues to grow. Two interns were nominated for *Volunteers are Stars*, for their work with the *sustainABILITY?* exhibit, where they assisted in the creation of an interactive Discovery Area for children. The Collections intern was instrumental in assisting with outreach exhibits at City Hall and has catalogued a large portion of the Museum's Olympic Collection.

The Museum has also expanded its internship program to offer mentorship opportunities. Those who have taken advantage of this program have spoken to professional staff about graduate schools, interviewed the City Archivist and have explored career opportunities in Museum Education.

The Museum currently has 70 active volunteers who assist with exhibits and public events such as *Heritage Fair* and *Doors Open Richmond*.



Museum Intern, Lorenda Calvert, creates *Playing with Plastics* display Credit: Emily So

Terra Nova Self-Guided Historical Brochure

The 8th publication in a series of brochures was produced in 2011.

Richmond Museum Society

The Society's Communications Committee is in the process of establishing a new website. Three design proposals have been received and a selection is anticipated in early 2012. The Membership Committee continues their drive to increase awareness and membership for the Museum.

Funding

Funding from a variety of sources continues to assist the Museum with its operations and high quality exhibitions and programming:

BC Arts Council, Annual Operating Assistance: \$23,000. Supports collections management, exhibits, public and educational programming.

BC Arts Council Special Projects Grant: \$4100 (40% of wages and benefits). To hire a Coop student to assist with *Doors Open Richmond*.

BC Heritage Fair Society: \$1500. To assist with the Richmond Delta Regional Heritage Fair.

Canada Summer Jobs Program Grant: \$13,169 (70% of wages and benefits). To hire two summer program instructors.

Canadian Heritage: \$6700. Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage grant to partially fund *Doors Open Richmond*.

City of Richmond Community Grant: \$2000. Helped to fund hands-on activities for the children's *Discovery Area*.

Richmond and Delta School Board: \$1500. To assist with the Richmond Delta Regional Heritage Fair.

Richmond Delta Regional Heritage Fair Donations: \$3020. Delta Museum Society, Britannia Shipyards and the Richmond Heritage Commission contributed to support the Richmond Delta Regional Heritage Fair.

Young Canada Works Program Grant: \$4499 (60% of wage and benefits). To hire a summer student to assist with artefact cataloguing, exhibit preparation and research.

Private Donations: \$7995. The Vancouver International Airport donated \$5000 to assist with the exhibit *The Cutting Edge* and \$2995 from various donors was used for *Doors Open Richmond*. Smaller donations were made by various individuals to assist with general operations via the donation box located in the Museum.

Steveston Interurban Tram

Doors Open

310 visitors participated in crafting activities such as "Make Your Own Tram" and many learned about the history of the Interurban Railway.

Interurban Tram Building Development

The building design is 50% complete. The City of Vancouver, the City of Burnaby and the Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society have all been consulted to learn more about their experiences with Interurban Trams and the associated buildings.

Interurban Tram Conservation

The Tram was treated and stabilized for mould and fungal growth. AT Conservators LTD carried out an examination and analysis to provide options for mould removal treatment for the Steveston Interurban Tram. The treatment was completed by a team of experts on mould removal for historic artefacts. The Tram was then moved into a more secure and dry temporary structure.



Building Conceptual Design

Credit: Birmingham & Wood Architects



Mould Removal

Credit: Andrew Todd

Steveston Museum Site/Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building

Public Programming

Summer Music Series

Styling the Past, July 9th

323 visitors listened to the music of the *Squares Barbershop Quartet*, Latin group *Sangre Morena* and local youth talent and learned about the history of fashion and hair. They also got the opportunity to have their hair done into many historic styles including the beehive, pompadour, 1930s slicked back hair for men and pin curls for women. The day was not complete without the option of a "Big Hair" style from the 1980s. Children who visited the Museum participated in craft making and designed their own 1920s style headbands and sailor hats to take home.



Styling the Past

Credit: Judy Chee



Hats and Headbands

Credit: Judy Chee

Washing the Past , August 6th

243 visitors enjoyed a day that featured a few hours of professional music and additional performances by students from the Richmond Arts Centre. The Steveston Museum park was brightly decorated with washing hanging from clothes lines while wash tubs and wash boards were available for members of the public to try their hand at manual labour. Traditionally made soap was available for purchase and visitors could make their own clothespin dolls.

Doors Open

Tours of the Museum where given to 405 visitors over the course of the *Doors Open* weekend.

Salmon Festival

Tours of the Museum and craft activities were enjoyed by the public. A colouring contest and fish printmaking in the park were highlights.

Treading Through Time Walking Tour Brochure

A new self-guided walking tour of historical Steveston called *Treading Through Time* was produced in 2011. This 90 minute tour features many heritage landmarks in Steveston including the Hepworth Block, Steveston Harbour and Steveston Cannery Café. The Steveston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the sponsor, the G&F Financial Group.

Educational Programming

The Steveston Museum currently offers two educational programs: an in-class heritage presentation and an historic guided walking tour. Teacher's manuals were created consistent with standards outlined by the Richmond Museum. Bookings increased in 2011 with 21 classes participating in the programs, up from 13 in 2010. The in-class presentation, in particular, has received positive feedback from teachers.

Collections Management

Approximately 1500 artefacts, currently stored in the Steveston Museum, were inventoried and packed by two collections management contractors over the course of five weeks. The collections database was updated and an evaluation of the collection's documentation began. The collection will be temporarily stored until the redesign of the building is complete.

Site Development

The program document has been prepared for the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society building and conservation and interpretation plans are nearing completion. Rehabilitation work will begin in spring 2012.

Steveston Historical Society

Details of an updated operating agreement were established and agreed to in 2011, with signatures expected early 2012.



Steveston Museum Collection

Credit: Rebecca Forrest

City of Richmond Archives – City Clerk’s Office

The City of Richmond Archives is the official repository for the records of the City of Richmond's municipal government. The Archives also acquires records through donations from individuals, families, organizations and private companies.

Users of the Archives

There were over 2700 reference requests and visitors to the Archives in 2011. Approximately 22% of research requests originated from City staff. The remainder represented a wide variety of research interests and needs, from local businesses, community groups and environmental researchers to university students, public artists and family historians.

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Holdings of the Archives

The Archives' holdings include approximately 1 kilometre of textual records, 130,000 historical photographs, 15,000 maps and plans and 500 sound and moving image recordings. In addition to transfers of records from various City departments, the Archives acquired new donations of records from 26 different individuals, companies and community organizations in 2011.

Special Projects and Programs

- Publication of *Thematic Guide to the Early Records of Chinese-Canadians in Richmond*
- Then/Now Photo Documentation Project (in conjunction with the Richmond Photo Club)
- New Exhibits: *Pictorial History of Minoru Park* and *The O Zone Experience*
- *Putting Richmond on the Map* through the international HistoryPin project
- New and updated finding aids and guides on the Archives web site
- Educational programs – 22 different groups

The Friends of the Richmond Archives

The Friends of the Richmond Archives are a non-profit society established to promote and support the activities of the City of Richmond Archives. The society has approximately 250 active members. In 2011, the Friends took part in a number of events and activities, providing funding and volunteers for projects and programs at the Archives, organizing the annual Archives Tea and participating at various community events, including Steveston Salmon Festival, London Farm Family Farm Days and the Remembrance Day reception at City Hall.



Burkeville, 1945
Credit: City of Richmond Archives Photograph #2011.35.1



Friends of the Richmond Archives Display at City Hall Remembrance Day Reception, 2011

Heritage Commission – Policy Planning Division

The Year In Review... A Message from the Chair, Laurie Wozny

Community outreach and programming presented in partnership with the Richmond Museum enabled significant and fulfilling opportunities for Commission volunteers. Enhanced liaison through the newsletter, onsite tours and other special events contributed to the experience. Future directions were considered in depth during a visioning and planning workshop at Britannia's Chinese Bunkhouse. Design review of ASPAC's "River Green" proposal presented unique challenges but will enable a continuity of input which should prove rewarding for dedicated Commission members.



Participants of the Harbour Tour

Credit: Teresa Murphy

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Planning & Policy

The Heritage Commission provides comment and advice on key City initiatives such as the Terra Nova Parksite, Tram Barn and the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society building. Onsite tours and staff presentations enable a working familiarity with the detailed planning and proposed realization of these projects.

The Commission was also provided with an update from City Staff and the Steveston Harbour Authority on the visioning and conceptual planning for Steveston Harbour and Steveston Island. A harbour tour was provided as orientation before a presentation from the Harbour Authority and Parks' Staff.

Design Review

The Heritage Commission provides comment and advice on significant design proposals to ensure that Council's heritage policies receive due consideration during rezoning and design development. The ASPAC "River Green" development on the site of the former Brighthouse Home and Estate was reviewed. Key recommendations enabled the drafting of a Conservation and Interpretation Plan for the site in conformity with the City's identification of heritage merit and the Federal Standards and Guidelines for Historic Places.

Heritage Awards

The Commission's Annual Heritage Awards to recognize exceptional achievement and leadership in heritage from members of the community are now presented in conjunction with the Heritage Fair.



Crystal Sakamoto (on behalf of her brother, Bud, for his work on the *Crystal S*) and Heritage Commission member, Andrea Forbes. Credit: Teresa Murphy

Newsletter

The Heritage Commission also maintains an ongoing liaison with the Richmond Museum to sponsor the *Mouth of the Fraser*, a newsletter published three times per year. The newsletter provides thematic coverage of current heritage issues and programming updates for the various museums and historic sites.

Heritage in Parks – Parks and Recreation Department

Parks and Open Space Strategy

Heritage amenities and values are integrated into the Strategy under a number of Goals and Actions. Completion is expected in the spring of 2012.

Railway Corridor Greenways Project

The City purchased a 3.7 kilometre section of the former CPR rail corridor between Granville Avenue and Garry Street in 2010. For many years, the railway corridor has been identified as an opportunity for developing a critical and significant north-south greenway, Steveston to Thompson/Terra Nova, that links the existing dyke trails along the South Arm and Middle Arm of the Fraser River. Key principles for the development will include referencing its major historic Interurban Tram and present day transportation role, promoting and reinforcing the connections to the many neighbourhoods it crosses through, introducing nature, creating distinct points of interest and respecting its strong linear character and view corridors.

Invasive vegetation on the rail bed was removed in 2011. The purpose was two-fold. The vegetation needed to be managed to prevent it from spreading and a better understanding of the condition of the rail bed for planning the route of the actual pathway was needed.

Design for the railway corridor will be underway in early 2012, with Public Open Houses anticipated in March.



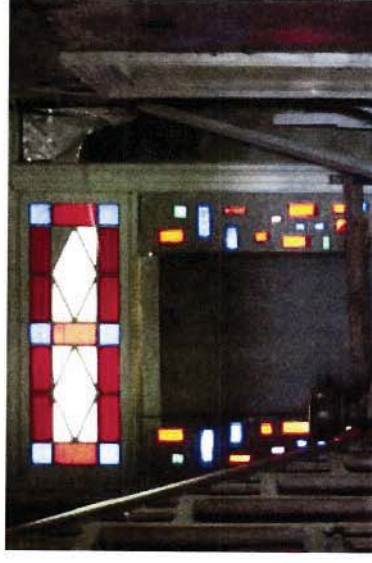
Railway corridor at Garry Street looking north
Credit: Yvonne Stich

Terra Nova Rural Park

The rehabilitation strategy for the three cannery heritage buildings has been completed and work will commence in early 2012. The windows have been restored and final touches to the exterior of the Parson House are close to completion. Resources for interior restoration are being investigated.

Planning is underway for a creative and exciting destination play environment that provides a learning experience for users and which is well integrated within the overall park vision. It will be located on the north edge of the park adjacent to River Road, complementing the natural and agricultural heritage of the Terra Nova Rural Park.

The existing 2004 Park Concept Plan for the waterfront edge will be reviewed to provide an updated comprehensive concept plan that ties together the existing historic precinct, the waterfront trail, the slough, and the agricultural fields and proposed play area.



Interior of Parson House. Original stained glass was replaced by Leonard Epp with a 60's 'Dalle de Verre' style of concrete and chunks of coloured glass
Credit: Yvonne Stich

International Conference of National Trusts

Parks and Planning staff were invited to present at the *International Conference of National Trusts* held in Victoria in October. The presentation featured the development and programming of the *Terra Nova Rural Park* as a "peaceable kingdom" which reclaimed the natural and cultural history of largely forgotten and marginalized populations – a means of "reconnecting people, places and stories".



Daylighted Slough and Parson House, Terra Nova Rural Park

Credit: Yvonne Stich

Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society Celebrates 25 Years

On September 23, 2011 the Society celebrated its 25th anniversary with the launch of the book, *The Monster Cannery: The History of the Gulf of Georgia Cannery*. MP Kerry-Lynne Findlay, John Yap, MLA and Mayor Malcom Brodie spoke on the importance of the Cannery and this anniversary. Bill Fisher, Parks Canada Superintendent for Western and Northern Canada attended from Calgary along with Helen Davies, the Field Unit Superintendent and John Aldag, the Manager of Historic Sites for Coastal BC. Many current and charter members were in attendance. Joe Bauer and Bud Sakamoto said a few words about the evolution of the fishing industry, the community and the early days of the Society.



The Society celebrates 25 years
Credit: Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society

Temporary Exhibit - Salmon People

Salmon People examines the fishing history of the Coast Salish people. Long before canneries were established Coast Salish fished the banks of the Fraser River, including the site of present-day Steveston. Exploring the significance of fish and fishing in their culture, from past to present, this exhibit opened on May 7. The story is told through artefacts, images and text. Many of these artefacts were found in Richmond and art from prominent Coast Salish artist, Susan Point, is featured. The exhibit runs through March 2012.



Salmon People exhibit
Credit: Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society

Historic Photo Database Now Online

The Society's Collection Department has completed its Historic Photo Collection Digitization Project. 5000+ historic photographs, slides and negatives that are housed in the Society's archives were scanned and described. Digitizing the images has provided easier access to all the material without handling the originals and made it possible to upload the images and their descriptions to an online, publicly accessible and searchable database. It is available at <http://collection.gulfofgeorgiacannery.com>. This project was made possible by funding from the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, British Columbia History Digitization Program.

Year-Round Opening

2011 marked the Cannery's second full year of being open year-round. The site was open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., providing Steveston with a tourist attraction twelve months of the year.



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