

To Public Hearing	
Date:	June 15, 2009
Item #	1 A, B, C
Re:	Bylaws 8403, 8404 8405

A Written Submission for the June 15th Public Hearing
regarding STEVESTON VILLAGE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

I am writing to express my families concern about the future of Steveston and its unique heritage character. Steveston has an incredible history that dates back to the late 1800s and it is so important that its history be valued and all aspects of its heritage be protected.

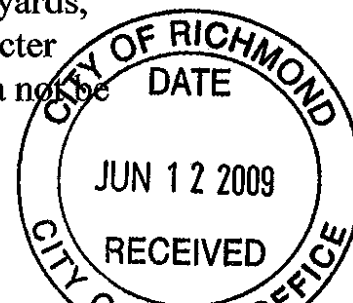
First let me say that my family's connection to Steveston has deep roots. My Grandparents, Samuel and Anna (Gilmore) Montgomery, with their seven young children, left Ireland and arrived in Steveston in 1913. They purchased a few acres on Fourth Ave. close to Chatham Street where they had a small dairy, grew potatoes and started a custom delivery business, which later became Richmond Transfer. When they first arrived their eldest son, 13 year old Sam, worked on the Steves' farm milking cows. Their second son, (my Dad) Hugh, at 7 1/2 yrs old, had a job at the Terra Nova Cannery carrying trays of empty cans to the canning lines.

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

Over the years my aunts and uncles became active members of the Steveston community. They were members of the Steveston United Church on Second Ave. (now a Thrift Store). They helped establish Steveston's Volunteer Fire Department and the Steveston Salmon Festival. Rolston Square, at the corner of No. 1 Road and Moncton St., is named after my Aunty Anna and Uncle Pete. My Dad, Hugh, was foreman in the Gulf of Georgia Cannery.

I attended the Open House on May 12th 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 Street to Steveston Highway, from Garry Point Park and Seventh Ave. to No. 1 Road. 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 not be

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OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
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HEARINGS ON MONDAY, JUNE
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included in Richmond's recent focus on densification. As one of my nephews said: *Let's hope that what happened to the Imperial Cannery property doesn't happen to the rest of Steveston.*

Some other concerns or questions are:

* the term "best practices" is used in the document, for example on page 11 it states *Apply best practices for conserving Steveston's heritage resources.* My question is: What are "best practices" and who decides what it is?

* the statement on page 37, *Establish Steveston Village as a heritage conservation area in the Official Community Plan ---.* My question is: How permanent is that as over the years the Official Community Plan changes?

* *eighteen identified heritage buildings* with the option to include others. My concern is that there are heritage homes in the residential area that should be identified, for example, the home on the north-east corner of 4th Ave. and Chatham St. It was owned by a Japanese family who were evacuated during the Second World War. The family who purchased it promised to store the Japanese family's belongings in the basement until they could return. They never returned.

*the interurban tram was such an important part of Steveston's history. It arrived in Steveston around 1904 and was the main method of transportation for the many people who did not own cars. My question is: Would it be possible to reconsider having one of the heritage trams returned to Steveston's "Historic Fishing Village" where it rightfully belongs?

I realize that it is a challenge and takes a determined and dedicated effort to establish and maintain *strict* heritage guidelines. Traveling in Europe, you realize how proud and commitment the people are in protecting their heritage sites and villages. Our history is like a baby in comparison but it needs to be valued and protected. It is the future generations that will benefit.

As one of my nieces said: "I hope that nothing on Moncton Street changes. If it does then the *Historic Fishing Village* sign will have to come down."

*Submitted by
Pat Montgomery*