TO: Richmond City Counci DATE: September 29, 2026

FROM: Harold Steves

According to the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Business Plan adopted by Richmond Council January 22, 2001 the City owned two boats, the Iona, a small fish packer and the gillnetter Starliner which was the last boat built by the Lubzinski brothers who operated the Richmond boatworks during WWII. It was in excellent condition. The Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society owned the Suchona, a seine boat donated by BC Packers when they closed down.

In a report dated July 26, 2001 Council agreed **"That (1) staff research the possibility of locating and obtaining the rumrunner for the city."** As Chair of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services I went to Vancouver Island with Heritage Manager Mary Gazetas when she negotiated the donation of the rum runner where it was in drydock. It had been totally restored. The Britannia Shipyard was built to service seiners, schooners and other large vessels averaging 80 tons. The rumrunner is the only vessel that we know of that was repaired or serviced in the Britannia Shipyard.

The report also asked that **"(2) the wishes of the Britannia Historical Society, on the issue of the rumrunner being docked and housed at the Britannia Heritage Shipyard be determined."**

At the time it was planned to have a major wooden boat collection. with gillnetter's, seine boats, fish packers, halibut and sealing schooners and a tall ship. The Business Plan called for a **"Site Boss: overall site supervisor, boat building and repair projects, historical boat maintenance."**

Instead they hired a site supervisor who knew nothing about how to restore and maintain wooden boats. Without supervision volunteers destroyed the last known Columbia River fishing boat left in BC. And replaced the stern of the Iona with a stern so poorly attatched it would have come apart and the boat would have sank if it had gone out into rough waters in the river. Without a shipwright the Britannia Shipyard Society sold the Suchona. The rumrunner and Starliner were allowed to rot.

I have two requests:

(1) That the heritage boat extension plan be approved and continue the employment of the shipwright to complete the restoration of the Iona and do repairs and maintenance on other vessels owned by the City.

(2) That the heritage boat extension plan include:
(a) the restoration of the rum runner, and
(b) that the shipwright oversee the completion of the North Star of Herschell Island, and
(c) the society be permitted to use one carriageway to bring the vessel out of the water in winter. The cost of an 80 ton winch is about $8,000

The Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society should not have to seek permission to tie the vessel up to the docks. A referral has been made but we cannot wait until it comes back in January. The North Star is one of the three most important heritage vessels on the BC Coast. It is the type of schooner the Britannia was built for. Terry McPhail is donating it in the name of his wife, former councillor Linda McPhail. After painting the hull he will bring it to Britannia and give matching grants to help complete the cabin and installation of remaining components.

CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO:	Richmond City Council	**DATE:**	July 26, 2001
FROM:	Councillor Harold Steves Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee	**FILE:**	0100-20-BHSH1-01
RE:	**BCP 45**		

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee, at its meeting held on July 24, 2001, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That staff work with the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Advisory Board and the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society and negotiate a long term partnership agreement with the Vancouver Maritime Museum regarding the mooring, use, upkeep and promotion of the BCP 45.

and

That:

(1) ***staff research the possibility of locating and obtaining the rumrunner for the City; and***

(2) ***the wishes of the Britannia Historical Society, on the issue of the rumrunner being docked and housed at the Britannia Heritage Shipyard, be determined.***

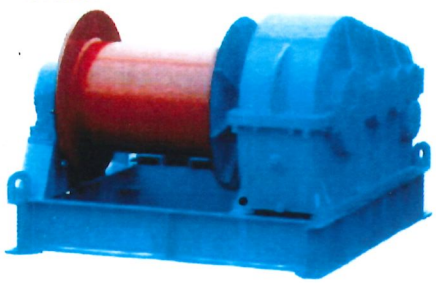
Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

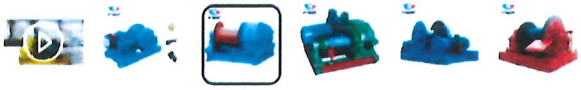
Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that staff recommended the following:

That staff work with the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Advisory Board and the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society and negotiate a long term partnership agreement with the Vancouver Maritime Museum regarding the mooring, use, upkeep and promotion of the BCP 45.





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Britannia Heritage Shipyard Business Plan – adopted Jan. 22, 2001

It is proposed that a Building Committee be appointed by Council when a capital project is being planned. This Committee would oversee the project from conception through planning and capital fundraising and construction. The committee would be comprised of three members of the Britannia Advisory Board and three members of City staff and/or Council.

In order to fulfil the functions proposed in this report the following personnel resources will be required:

Site Boss: overall site supervisor, boat building and repair projects, historical boat maintenance. Full time position, on site. This should be a City position.

Programmer: work with the Society to provide on-site programs and special events. This is a City position in all other City of Richmond facilities and should be at Britannia. This could be a half time position until the site has more buildings open to the public.

Gift Shop and Food Services Coordinator: if these services are run by the Society it would make sense that they would provide this position.

Administration/Clerical: facility clerk responsible for coordinating customer service and office and visitor centre functions, building rentals, tour bookings. This is a City position.

Janitorial/Security: these functions are currently provided by the wharfingers and the night caretaker. Since the shipyard building is open to the water there will always be a need for waterside security. Landside security should be reevaluated – should there by a caretaker suite on site (ie one of the Murchison houses)? Janitorial functions for the public washrooms and the offices should still be cleaned by the wharfinger/caretaker. However, as the number of buildings open increases and the site usage increases, there may be a need for janitorial staff on site. This is a City responsibility.

Customer Service Attendants: welcome people, do registrations, open buildings on weekends/evenings. City positions in other City facilities. It is recommended that these paid positions be decreased over time and the resources reallocated to a volunteer coordinator. The customer service functions would then be filled by volunteers.

Speciality Functions: exhibit design, collections, research. Does not make sense for these functions to be assigned to Britannia alone. These functions are needed at all heritage sites including the Richmond Museum. The ultimate intent is to have these centrally coordinated.

Volunteer Coordinator: recommended that the City resources currently allocated to the customer service attendants be reallocated to a volunteer coordinator position. The customer service attendant functions would then be performed by volunteers.