



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee      **Date:** March 4, 2019

**From:** Jane Fernyhough, Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services      **File:** 11-7000-01/2019-Vol 01

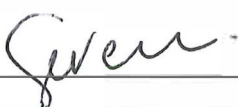


**Re:** **Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2018**

### Staff Recommendation

1. That the *Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2018*, as presented in the staff report titled "Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2018" dated March 4, 2019, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage, be received for information.
2. That the Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2018 be circulated to Community Partners and Funders for their information.

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

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>  City Clerk Policy Planning	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>  
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>  	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>  

## Staff Report

### Origin

On June 11, 2007, Council approved the following vision for Museum and Heritage Services:

*Richmond is a city that proudly celebrates its past, present and future. The City's museum and heritage services policies will interpret the unique and dynamic story of where Richmond came from, where it is now, and how it will develop into the future.*

This *Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2018* highlights the many achievements over the past year that helped to achieve this vision (Attachment 1).

### Analysis

With Richmond celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation, connecting residents with their history was centre stage in 2017. This dynamic celebration of Richmond's history continued in 2018. Some key highlights include:

- The majority of visitors had positive experiences at Richmond's museums and heritage sites with 87 per cent of respondents to a visitor survey rating their experience four out of five or higher;
- A new focus on place-based cultural tourism initiatives, including the launch of the *Steveston Heritage Experience Tour* and *Winter in the Village*;
- Volunteers contributed over 22,000 hours throughout the City's museums and heritage sites including the new *Artefact Avengers* – specially trained volunteers who assisted with specialized work related to the City's artefact collections;
- The 11th Annual *Doors Open Richmond* event where 15,000 visitors explored 41 sites throughout the City;
- The 16th Annual *Richmond Regional Heritage Fair* where 500 students presented 100 projects celebrating various topics in Canadian History;
- The *Grand Prix of Art* returned with 150 artists plein air painting throughout Steveston Village;
- London Heritage Farm continued to be a popular location for weddings, teas and community events. Approximately 7,850 people visited the farm in 2018;
- Restoration of the Steveston Tram was completed and the site welcomed over 55,000 visitors;
- Over 1,800 objects were assessed and moved out of the Phoenix Net Loft into temporary storage on River Road in preparation for restoration work;
- The final phase of restoration work on the Minoru Chapel was completed in 2018; and
- The Olympic Experience at the Richmond Olympic Oval launched new programs and initiatives leading to a 10 per cent increase in visitation. In 2018, over 34,000 visitors attended the Olympic Experience.

March 4, 2019

- 3 -

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

Richmond is a city that proudly celebrates its past, present and future. The Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review demonstrates the valuable contribution that these services provide to the community.



Marie Fenwick  
Manager, Museum and Heritage Services  
(604-247-8330)

Att. 1: Museum and Heritage Services Year in Review 2018



CITY OF RICHMOND  
Museum and Heritage Services  
Year in Review 2018

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE SERVICES



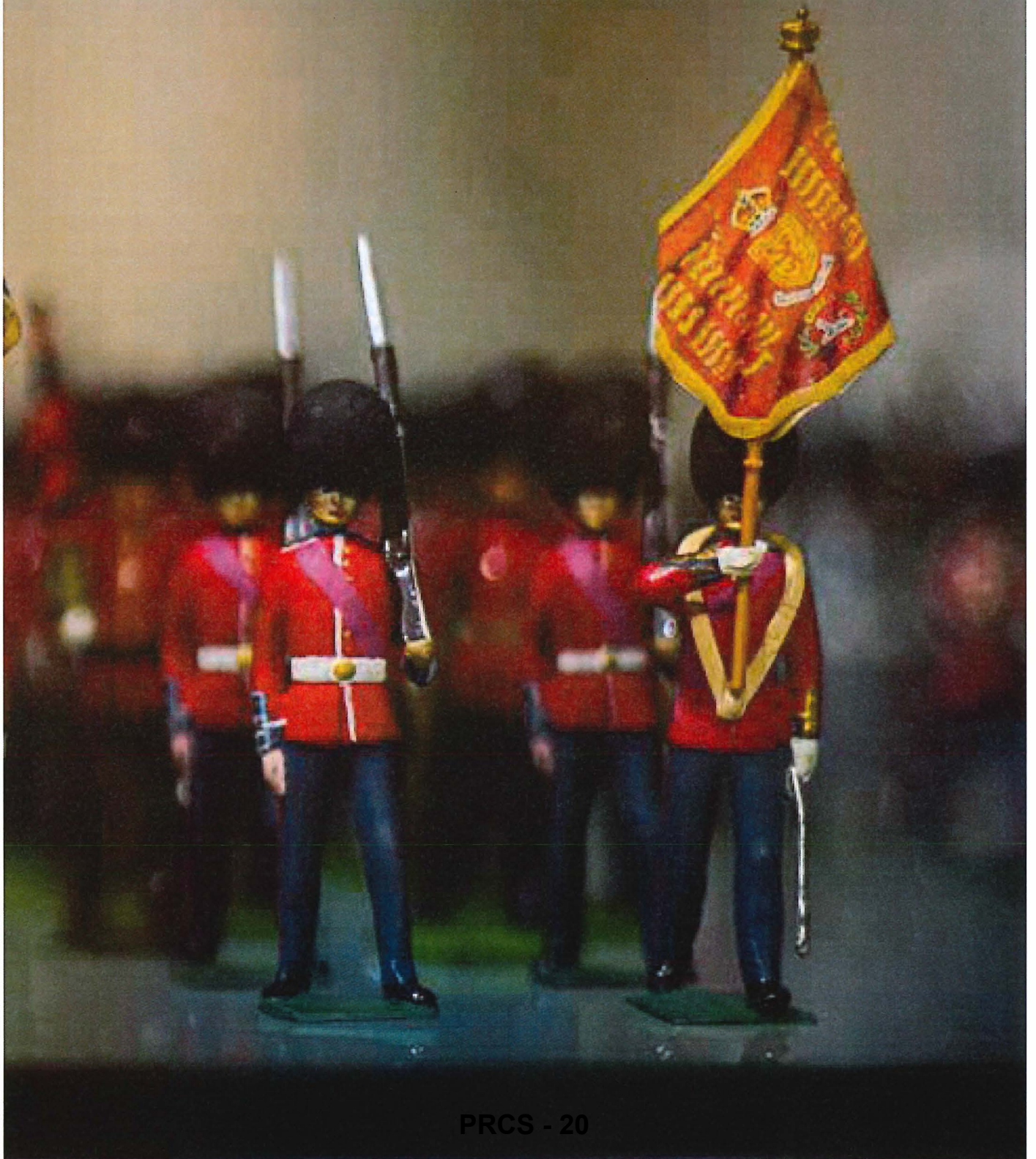
A Doors Open volunteer dresses a participant in a kimono in the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.  
Tharaka Mapalagama



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The Richmond Museum borrowed more than 600 toy soldiers from collector Jim Willis for display in the *Obsessions: Every Collector Has a Story* exhibition.



# Introduction

Richmond is a city that proudly celebrates its past, present and future.

While the stewardship of the City of Richmond's heritage resources is led by the Arts, Culture and Heritage Services Department, as this report demonstrates, all City departments contribute to the preservation, restoration and celebration of Richmond's history.

The community is also fully engaged in numerous ways: in leadership roles through the Heritage Commission, Richmond Museum Society, London Heritage Farm Society, Steveston Historical Society and the Britannia Heritage Shipyards Society, and as volunteers and donors.

Through these combined efforts, Richmond residents are able to enjoy an increased sense of civic pride and community connection fostered through awareness of their community's rich history.

Museum and Heritage Services is pleased to present the following year in review that provides a few select highlights from 2018.



# Cultural Tourism Development Initiatives

Authentic cultural experiences are valued by locals and tourists alike. Travellers increasingly choose holiday destinations based on the variety and quality of cultural attractions. This place-based cultural tourism is not new to Richmond, with its two National Historic Sites in Steveston—Britannia Shipyards and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery—and several smaller museums, galleries and heritage sites.

In 2018, cultural tourism received a greater focus in program planning and development through the Authentic Steveston initiative. The goal of this initiative is to increase the recognition of Steveston and its heritage sites as significant cultural tourism destinations, and to increase site visits and length of stay by destination tourists across the sites. This will be accomplished by managing, programming and promoting the sites collectively, creating new, place-based interactive experiences and collaborating with community partners and volunteers.

Participants are led on the Steveston Heritage Experience tour by a costumed historical interpreter.





A Heritage Building Light Display illuminated Britannia Shipyards in December during the *Winter in the Village* program.

## STEVESTON HERITAGE EXPERIENCE TOUR

The Steveston Heritage Experience Tour was created with the support of a \$20,000 Pacific Authentic Scholarship from Tourism Richmond. This experience was developed as a partnership between Britannia Shipyards, the Steveston Tram, Steveston Museum and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. Participants are led on a tour by a costumed historical interpreter with stops that include food and beverage tastings at the four historic sites.

Piloted in 2018, the Steveston Heritage Experience will be back in the summer of 2019.

## WINTER IN THE VILLAGE

Winter in the Village was piloted in 2018 with the goal of attracting more visitors to Steveston Village outside of the peak summer months. The program included over 25 free or low-cost family activities happening around Steveston Village throughout November and December. Winter in the Village was developed in partnership with the Steveston Merchants Association, Steveston Community Centre, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery and Tourism Richmond.

## TOURISM CHALLENGE

Several of Richmond's museums and heritage sites participated in the 2018 Tourism Challenge, a Vancouver tourism industry tradition. During the Challenge, museum and tourism professionals are encouraged to visit museums, attractions, restaurants and hotels throughout Metro Vancouver to learn about local tourism opportunities so they can share this information with visitors to our region.

During the five-week program in late April and May, all of the participating museums and heritage sites in Richmond experienced elevated visitation and social media participation. The Richmond Museum, a first-time participant, saw a five-fold increase in visitation during this period.

“  
It was great to see how truthful the guide was when speaking on the history and what worker's real lives looked like . . . It really took people back in time.



A student proudly holds up her story to add to a collaborative paper weaving. This was one of many Heritage Fair activity stations that encouraged visitors to explore some of the stories connected to Richmond's vibrant multicultural community.



# Richmond Museum

The Richmond Museum's 2018 interpretive and programming theme was all about collectors and collections—the Museum's exhibition, *Obsessions: Every Collector Has a Story*, outreach exhibits, programs and collections projects all celebrated the fascinating and quirky world of collecting.

The Richmond Museum also marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I with a temporary exhibition in the Lobby of City Hall and a successful evening of presentations and lectures in Council Chambers.

## EXHIBIT DEVELOPMENT

### Obsessions: Every Collector Has a Story

The Richmond Museum's 2018 exhibition, *Obsessions: Every Collector Has a Story*, brings to light the often hidden passions of our collector friends and neighbours, celebrating the stories they tell through their objects.

Eleven collectors are featured in the exhibition with collections varying from boy-band memorabilia to sublime Asian art books, and from theatre and dance costumes to transformer toys, trolls, toy soldiers, rocks and RCMP memorabilia. Many of the collectors wrote their own biographies for the exhibition, sharing what makes them curious, the thrill of the hunt, how they connect to their "people" and a few magical memories.

Miss Teacup, a sassy cow who was named in a public contest, acts as a tongue-in-cheek guide and collections expert, providing insights into the types and motivations of collectors.

“

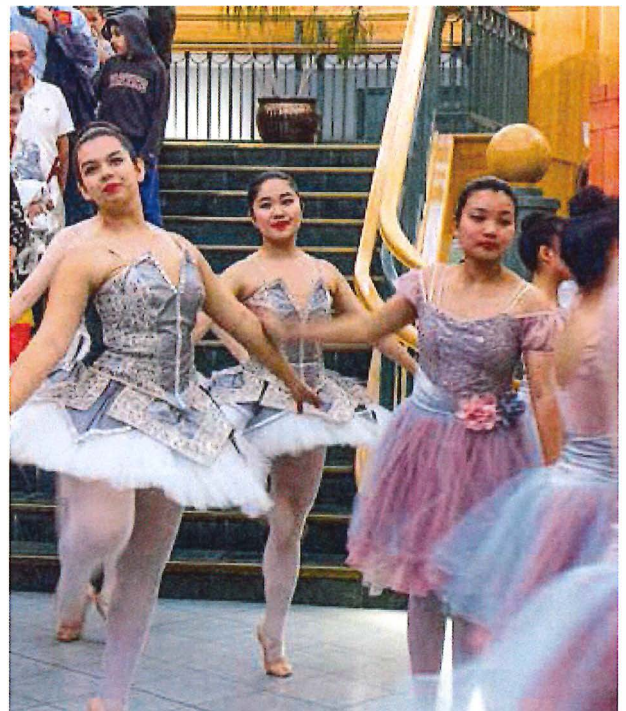
Having this museum free of charge is so refreshing since nothing is free anymore. Nothing to improve!

”

Left: Trolls are featured in the toy collectors' case.

Right: A troupe of young ballet dancers wearing costumes from the Richmond Arts Centre's working costume collection performed at the September 27th opening of *Obsessions*.

Photos: Nera Montiel



“

**It was my second time to visit the museum. I really love the historical description of how Canada was developed.**

”

Museum visitors are enjoying a variety of hands-on activities that provide a peek into the world of collecting. Visitors can “repair” (magnetic tile) artefacts, use a microscope to identify materials and pests at the Conservation Station, write labels for mystery artefacts, share why they are obsessed with what they collect, read books from the Museum’s collection, curate collections and play I Spy to find 3D printed copies of Miss Teacup Cow hidden throughout the exhibit.

### **Our Journeys Here**

Our Journeys Here celebrated Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation by delving into what it means to be Canadian in Richmond today. On display for the first half of 2018, this exhibit looked back to explore Canada’s history based on the experiences of those who were already here, the First Nations Peoples—and the experiences of everyone who has immigrated here more recently, including farmers enticed from Europe, Chinese labourers who paid head taxes, South Asians expelled on the *Komagata Maru* and families looking for a better life for their children.

Nine current Richmond residents shared their unique stories through photographs, objects and quotations with the aim of kick-starting a year-long conversation about what it means to be Canadian today.

The entry of *Our Journeys Here* playfully engages with symbols of our country, past, present and future.  
Photo: Phillip Crocker



## OUTREACH EXHIBITS

In addition to exhibits in the main gallery, the Richmond Museum curated a number of offsite exhibits:

- Spring Break Camp Exhibits: Richmond Cultural Centre and City Hall—Junior Curators aged 6–8 and 9–12 from the Richmond Museum’s two Spring Break Camps created their *Our Journeys Here* exhibitions with staff guidance and support.
- *Stories Typewriters Tell*: Richmond Cultural Centre—this exhibit uses a collection of typewriters to tell the story of how technology has revolutionized employment and workplace functions.
- *Duty, Honour and Izzat*: City Hall—the Richmond Museum was honoured to host the *Duty, Honour and Izzat* temporary exhibition about the valiant and largely forgotten role of the Indian Army in the Great War on the 100th anniversary of the close of World War I. This exhibition was on display in City Hall for Remembrance Day commemorations.
- Remembrance Day: City Hall—a small exhibition was created to mark Remembrance Day.
- Gifts and Awards: City Hall—the Gifts and Awards exhibit was reinstalled and updated.
- The Frank Ellis Model Plane Collection: City Hall—continuing with the collections theme, the City of Richmond’s extensive model plane collection, created by pioneer aviator Frank Ellis, was installed in late November. This collection celebrates aviation and the changes in technologies from early 20th century through the Cold War.

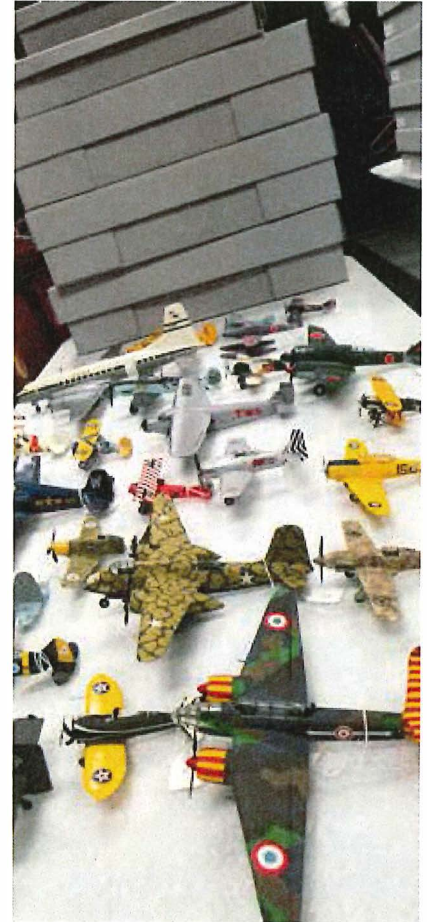
## PROGRAMS

The Richmond Museum offers enriching and popular curriculum-based field trips and education kits that encourage students to explore local history while developing inquiry skills. In 2018, 2,489 students participated in Richmond Museum school programs.

Highlights from 2018 included a new *Animating History* storyline based on the Zylmans family’s immigration story, tours of the *Our Journeys Here* exhibition for Grades K–12 and a professional development workshop for teachers.

Children and youth also participate in informal education programs during Spring Break and summer vacation programs.

Free drop-in programs and activities were offered throughout the year including tours of the current exhibitions for ESL learners and new Canadians, a collaborative art project during World Festival, and storytelling activities and crafts inspired by Cantonese opera during Doors Open Richmond. One highlight was the Remembrance Day *Duty, Honour and Izzat* lecture celebrating the contributions of the Indian Army to the Allied effort during the Great War.



City of Richmond Collection planes were selected for display in a City Hall outreach exhibit.

## EVENTS

### Doors Open Richmond

The 11th Annual Doors Open Richmond was held June 2-3, 2018 showcasing some of the city's finest heritage, arts and cultural sites.

During the Doors Open Richmond weekend, more than 15,000 visitors explored 41 sites. First-time participants included Dr. Art Studio, the Richmond Music School, the Olympic Experience at the Richmond Olympic Oval and the Richmond RCMP.

Doors Open Richmond 2018 was made possible by a partnership between the Richmond Museum Society, the City of Richmond and participating sites.

Five hundred and three volunteers, who contributed 2,387 volunteer hours, ensured another successful Doors Open event.

*A Doors Open Richmond* volunteer from the Potters' Club shows her work.  
Tharaka Mapalagama





Minal, Grade 6, Whiteside Elementary School, presents her project on women's rights in Canada.

### Richmond Regional Heritage Fair

The Richmond Museum presented the 16th Annual Regional Heritage Fair on May 11–12, 2018 with an exceptional showcase of history project displays created by Richmond elementary and secondary students. Students research a topic in Canadian history, often a family or local story, develop an inquiry question that stems from their curiosity about that topic and present their findings to the public.

Nearly 500 students from eleven Richmond schools presented their projects at School Fairs. These projects were evaluated and 100 projects were selected for presentation at the Regional Fair.

Program highlights included a field trip to the Olympic Experience, an exclusive workshop at the Richmond Library with award-winning Canadian children's book author, Penny Draper, and a soapstone carving workshop led by Oliver Stone of Studiostone Creative.

The Heritage Fair concluded with an awards ceremony skillfully emceed by Heritage Fair Alumni Students, Gita Manhas and Jaia Manhas. Awards were presented by national, provincial and municipal dignitaries.

Four students were selected to represent Richmond at the BC Provincial Heritage Fair in Squamish.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

#### Oral Histories

The Richmond Museum continues to document the history of our community through oral history interviews. Two oral histories were conducted in 2018 in support of *Our Journeys Here* and *Obsessions: Every Collector Has a Story* exhibition themes.

The Richmond Museum continues to use excerpts from the oral history collection in educational and interpretive programs and projects, from formal school programs to informal workshops and day camps and from exhibitions to online interpretation.

“  
My favourite part of  
Heritage Fair is checking  
out other projects. I  
learned a lot of new  
things from them!  
”





Visitors shop over 50 vendors at the second annual Britannia Shipyards Heritage Christmas Craft Fair.

# Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

## EXHIBIT DEVELOPMENT

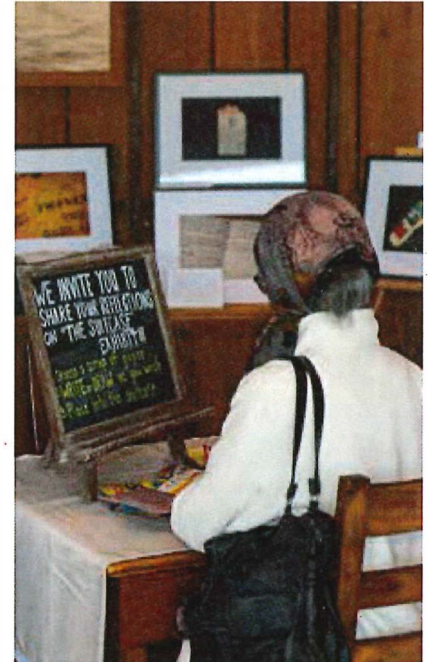
### Britannia's Fascinating Waterfront Exhibit

Funded through a BC Museums Association Canada 150 Grant, the Shipyard Office was restored to tell the stories of a busy day at the shipyard. The last remaining outhouse attached to the Shipyard was stabilized and interpreted for visitors to find out more about early sanitation and common diseases of the time. Technology, including wireless iBeacon, iPads, sound recordings and films, enhanced points of interest in the Shipyard Building and on the dock enabling visitors to learn about the cultural history tied to boat construction. These technologies engaged new audiences, communicating the lives of the multicultural community which lived and worked at Britannia.

### The Suitcase: Intergenerational Healing Through Traces of the Past

By encouraging a broader understanding of Indigenous Peoples experiences, *The Suitcase: Intergenerational Healing Through Traces of the Past* supported both the recommendations of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Artists Lyana Patrick and Ashli Akins co-curated this temporary exhibit which explored Lyana Patrick's journey to understand her Gramma Aloo's life, which began when she received a suitcase filled with her grandmother's sewing patterns, letters and keepsakes. The exhibit reflects Lyana's inspiring journey of healing and reconciliation through her grandmother's story, expressed through a series of framed collage artworks. The main aim of the exhibition was to encourage Indigenous People to share their stories in their own ways. This exhibit offered viewers the opportunity to consider this complicated history and explore the themes of intergenerational healing and reconciliation through the artwork, written word and an invitation to respond actively. Over 2,000 visitors viewed the exhibit which launched as part of Doors Open Richmond.



Visitor contributes her thoughts to *The Suitcase* exhibit.  
Joel Bazziuk

“

I enjoyed learning the rich history of the area.  
Great way to spend the day!

”



A costumed interpreter begins her work in the Manager's House kitchen.  
Kai Jacobson

## PROGRAMS

Program facilitators engaged 1,500 students in school programs at Britannia Shipyards in 2018. School programs at all of the museums and heritage sites meet the learning standards and curricular competencies of the new provincial curriculum.

Close to 500 visitors participated in registered public tours in 2018. International tour group agencies were introduced to Britannia Shipyards offerings through familiarization tours. The *Culture Makes Communities* tour engaged a wide variety of age groups in learning about history through the senses.

### Children's Programs

Britannia Shipyards offers a variety of children's programming throughout the year including:

- Animating History Spring Break Camp—children produce their own stop motion animation on a historical theme.
- *Bricks 4 Kidz: Water Quest*—a Junior Engineering program in which children explore naval engineering by constructing a Lego motorized ship, helm and anchor.

- Britannia Summer Camps—children explore exhibits to discover local history and learn maritime skills through hands-on engagement, storytelling and themed games.
- Mother's Day *Sailor Tea*—mothers and children created sailor shell hearts and then enjoyed a delicious tea.
- Father's Day *Boat and Bagel Fun*—fathers and children built hand-held wooden boats to take home and enjoyed a delicious bagel snack in celebration of Father's Day.
- *Learn to Fish*—in partnership with Fresh Water Fisheries of BC, three programs were offered to 148 participants. In these two-hour sessions, children and youth learned the basics of freshwater fishing including hatchery roles, fish identification, tackle, rod rigging, casting and hands-on fishing.

## EVENTS

### Summer of Wooden Boats

The Summer of Wooden Boats featured a season of maritime themed activities, demonstrations, tours and waterside programs. Britannia Shipyards opened the dock every weekend in July and August allowing visitors to get up close to historic vessels and partnered with Vancouver Whale Watch to offer a narrated tour of Steveston's waterfront.

Britannia Shipyards also offered boat two rendezvous—the Ex-Forestry Vessel *Squadron* and former Coast Mission Boats.

### Richmond Maritime Festival

The 15th Annual Richmond Maritime Festival welcomed over 40,000 visitors on July 28–29, 2018. The event featured both local and visiting wooden boats, live music, food trucks, maritime exhibitors and hands-on activities including kid's boat building and paddle decorating.

The Maritime Festival provided significant volunteer opportunities with 162 event volunteers logging 1,575 hours over the festival weekend.

### Grand Prix of Art

The 8th Annual Grand Prix of Art featured 150 artists participating in a "Plein Air" painting art race in Steveston Village on September 22, 2018. Artists were assigned one of 40 locations and given three hours to complete a work of art before returning to Britannia Shipyards for judging and an awards ceremony.

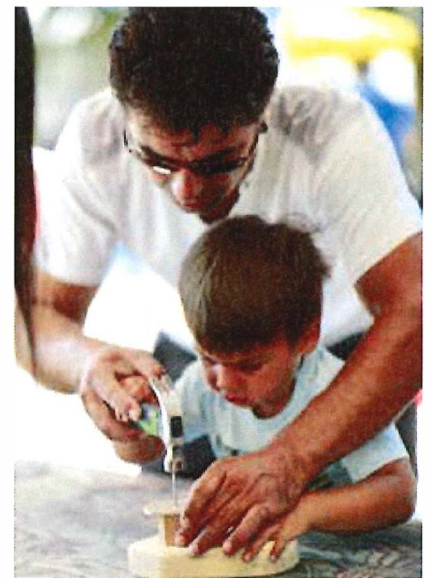
## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Artist in Residency

Britannia Shipyards hosted its first artist in residency program in partnership with Richmond Public Art. The artists group, Artist Rendering Tales Collective Inc., was selected based on their capacity to engage public audiences with history through storytelling. They engaged Richmond community members in a variety of workshops riffing on the theme "Tide Water Tales" and animated the site throughout the year.



**My favourite experience is seeing historical buildings and learning the stories of people and life here.**



Participants create wooden boats to float in a nearby pool at the Richmond Maritime Festival.



Visitors dressed up as their favourite animal at a summer event.  
Amelia

## London Heritage Farm

London Heritage Farm continued to offer a range of programs and activities that appealed to a wide range of visitors in 2018.

The Tea Room was open Wednesday through Sunday in July and August, and weekends for the remainder of the year. Tea Room decorations and themed teas enhanced the visitor experience, along with homemade baking, jam, sweets and the site's signature London Lady Tea.

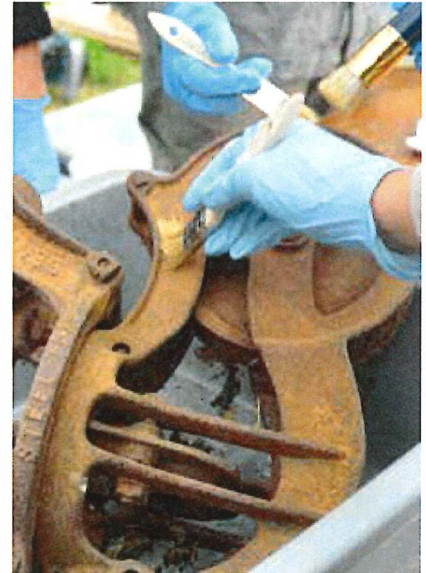
Twenty-three special teas, weddings and other outdoor celebrations took place in the heritage house, south lawn and gazebo area.

School groups participated in tours of the farm house and grounds. The farm collaborates with the Richmond Museum to offer the *Food for Thought* program. Over the summer, the Farm was happy to host a *Young Archaeologists* daycamp, also offered by the Richmond Museum.

Beautiful weather and a new free shuttle service brought families to the Farm for a day of fun at London Family Farm Day. Event highlights included pony rides, farm animals, costume dances, parades, storytelling, wood crafts and children's games. Community partners ensured there was something for everyone—partners included the Vancouver Lace Club, Richmond Spinners and Weavers, local artisans and well known Vancouver costume historian, Ivan Sayers. Bicycle parking was provided on-site by Wheel Watch. Over 1,500 visitors attended Family Farm Day in 2018.

The City and London Heritage Farm Society partnered with the BC Museums Association to host an industrial conservation workshop. Participants came from all over the province to share their experiences and learn about the care of industrial artefacts under the guidance of conservator Andrew Todd.

London Heritage Farm partnered with the Richmond Food Security Society to ensure that the many different types of fruit grown at the Farm were shared with the Richmond Food Bank. The Society also used the fruit to make jams and treats sold in the Tearoom and Gift Shop.



A conservator demonstrates how to use tannic acid to clean and preserve industrial artefacts.



## Steveston Museum

The 113 year-old Steveston Museum welcomed 27,727 visitors in 2018. Visitors toured exhibits, participated in programs, mailed items at the post office and received advice from the Tourism Richmond Visitor Centre. An additional 5,281 visitors participated in special events and programs in the Steveston Museum Town Square Park.

The Steveston Museum offered three curriculum-linked educational programs: *Nikkei Returns*, *Treading through Time* and *Sliding through Steveston*. In 2018, 278 students from 13 classes participated in these programs. The new Nikkei Returns school program continued to prove extremely popular with students learning about the historic resiliency exhibited by Steveston's Japanese Canadian population in the face of injustice.

Drama students from Hugh McRoberts Secondary School delivered nine *Steveston Alive!* performances to 154 visitors at five different sites in Steveston Village. These walking tours highlighted global and local historical moments from the year 1917 as seen from the perspective of everyday Stevestonites.

Participants in the second annual *Songs in the Snow* series.  
Kai Jacobson



The momentum set by the *Steveston Alive!* continued into August and September. Visitors enjoyed costumed interpretation of Steveston's past with the family-friendly *Steveston Stories* and the more adult oriented *Murder, Mayhem and Morality in Old Steveston*.

Visitors participated in programs at the Steveston Museum during the annual Doors Open weekend over the weekend of June 2-3. Activities included an art display by local artists in partnership with the Lighthouse Collective on the Saturday while an origami expert created both simple and complex folded paper creations for the delight of children and adults alike.

At the *History of Fun in the Sun* program, children aged 6-10 learned about the past ways cultures tried to keep the sun shining and created their own Teru Teru Bozu doll (a Japanese rain/sun doll).

In December, children aged 6-10 enjoyed decorating gingerbread houses, participating in a tradition dating back to 16th century Europe.

“

**My favourite part was the excellent new (to me) second building! To be treasured by the community.**

”

Students unpack suitcases and explore hands-on items with Steveston Museum's *Nikkei Returns* school program.







The restored 1220 Tram Car shines on display.  
Kali Jacobson

# Steveston Tram

The Steveston Tram celebrated its fifth full year in operation welcoming over 55,000 people throughout the year.

Restoration of the Interurban Tram Car 1220 was completed in 2018. A restoration team made up of volunteers, conservators, curators, specialized contractors and City trades worked diligently to preserve original materials and return the car to its appearance from 1912 to 1958.

Restoration work in 2018 focused on:

- Rebuilding the interior bench seats
- Installing the trolley bases and poles
- Installing brass components
- Creating and implementing a maintenance plan

Visitors to the Steveston Tram had the unique opportunity to watch the car restoration over the course of the year. A volunteer appreciation party was held to thank volunteers for the many hours of work they put in to ensuring that the 1220 is restored and preserved.

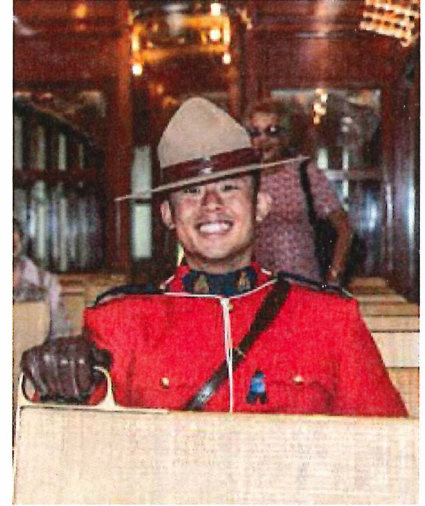
The Steveston Tram celebrated Family Day with a hands-on artefact discovery table, crafts and tours of the Tram Car 1220.

During Spring Break, nearly 2,000 visitors explored the new Mobile Discovery Corner and took part in the Steveston *History Hunters Scavenger Hunt*, where they had to find answers to questions about the Steveston Tram and Steveston Museum.

Visitors took a photographic journey through the restoration process of Tram Car 1220 during the annual Doors Open Richmond.

The Steveston Tram signature event *All Aboard!* celebrated Richmond's transportation heritage with visiting exhibitors, performers and hands-on activities.

The Steveston Tram (and Santa!) brought festive cheer to visitors who attended Winter Tram. Hot chocolate and treats were enjoyed alongside holiday crafts and activities.

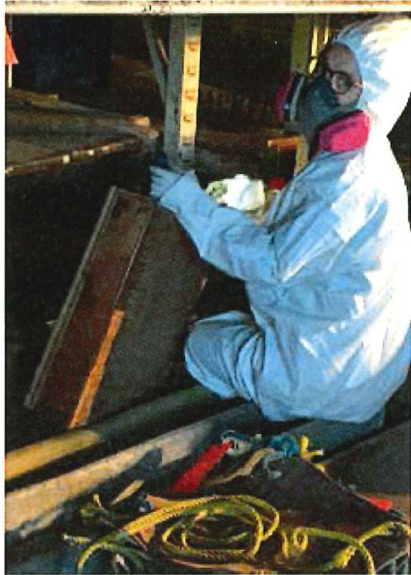


A Mountie and guests enjoyed the restored interior of Tram 1220 at All Aboard!  
Tharaka Malapagama

“

**Super cool to see a piece of history come back to life.**

”



A collections specialist records an object at the Phoenix Net Loft.

## Artefact Collections Management and Heritage Restoration Projects

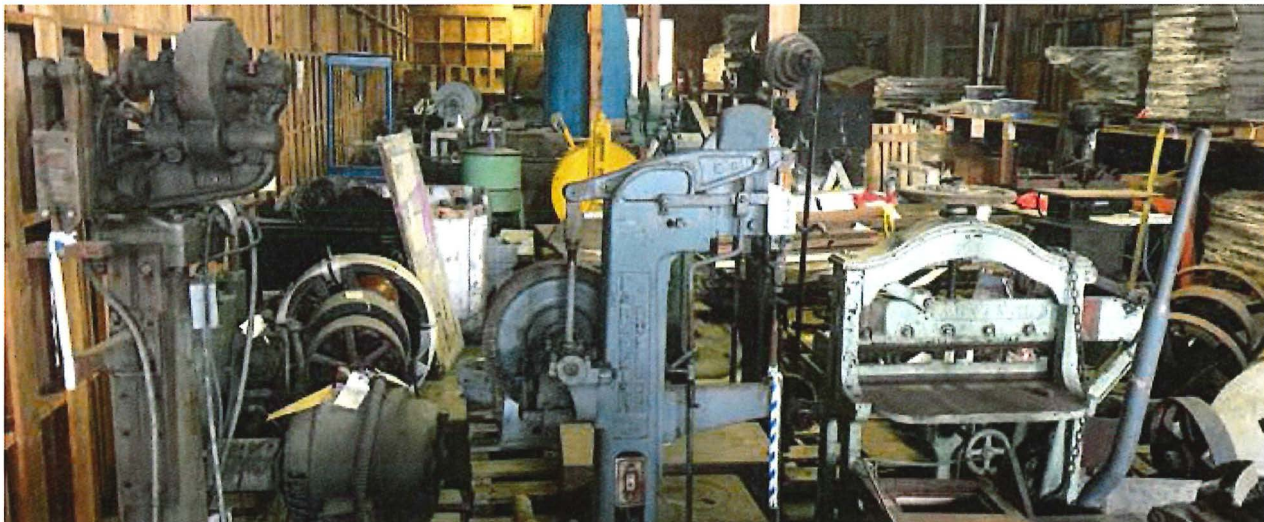
At the core of Richmond Museum and Heritage Services exhibits, programs and events is its collection of over 21,000 artefacts. These artefacts tell the stories, big and small, of Richmond's history.

While information and knowledge can be shared in many ways, Museum and Heritage Services is unique in its ability to engage Richmond residents with their history by bringing them face-to-face with these authentic historical objects, which represent all aspects of life in Richmond including home, work, culture, recreation, faith and community.

In 2018, the Richmond Museum accepted nearly 250 new artefacts to its permanent collections. New artefacts included the Ibtihaj Muhammad Olympic fencer doll from the Barbie Signature Collection. Muhammad competed in Rio 2016 and was the first American Muslim woman to compete in the Olympics wearing a hijab. Other highlights of this year's new acquisitions included an engraver and a grinder from the tool and die shop at Ebco Industries, a traditional Ukrainian shirt worn by a family member of a Richmond community member and a horse cooler or blanket used by a local horse trainer at Minoru track.

In preparation for the restoration work on the Phoenix Net Loft, over 1,800 objects were assessed and moved out of the building. This process involved extensive research and community collaboration. Artefacts with historical value were moved to a new more stable and secure storage location. The next stages of managing this collection will include cataloguing the artefacts and entering them into the City's collections management database.

All objects in the Phoenix Net Loft and Steveston Harbour Authority warehouse were organized and recorded in preparation for moving to a warehouse space.



## Minoru Chapel Restoration

The final phase of restoration work at Minoru Chapel took place in 2018 as per the Chapel's conservation plan. The building envelope was assessed for rot and remediation, and a subfloor was installed to support the original fir flooring and to ensure its ongoing preservation. New doors and hardware will be installed to complete this project.



## Culture Days

The City played a key role in Culture Days programming both at the Richmond Museum and throughout the heritage sites:

- Building on the Canada 150 multicultural celebrations explored in the *Our Journeys Here* and the national Culture Days theme, programming at the Richmond Museum stayed on beat by highlighting music from around the world. Guest musicians guided visitors through interactive performances where they learned about Indo-Trinidadian music and the mathematic nature of the steelpan drums.
- Visitors discovered what goes on behind the scenes at the Richmond Museum and discovered how staff care for Richmond's material culture, including how artefacts are catalogued, measured and numbered.
- Visitors explored Minoru Chapel, learned about the history of this iconic building, listened to a professional pianist play classical music and made their own stained glass craft.
- The Steveston Tram captured the curious minds of visitors eager to learn about the different tram parts and how they functioned. Restoration volunteers highlighted their work and gave in-depth information about the inner workings of the tram car.
- *At With Love*, From the Steveston Museum, visitors re-discovered the vanishing art of letter writing by creating a letter to a loved one with a pen, typewriter or vintage straight pen dipped in ink.

Rishima and Ravi get the audience involved with their rhythmic Indo-Trinidadian singing and drumming.



# Volunteer Management

Richmond's Museum and Heritage Services engages volunteers at many levels, with volunteers contributing over 22,000 hours in museum and heritage programming, conservation and events. Volunteer highlights from 2018 include:

- 610 volunteers who contributed 4,122 hours at the Richmond Museum. Volunteers included three interns from the UBC Faculty of Arts Internship Program who developed an outreach display for the Cultural Centre, accessioned new objects into the collection and assisted with the installation of the exhibition. Four teacher-candidates from the UBC Faculty of Education Community Field Experience Program volunteered 420 hours. Projects included assisting with the Richmond Heritage Fair, school programs and developing activities for the upcoming exhibition's Discovery Area.
- In 2018, a specialized team of twelve volunteers was recruited and trained to conduct assessments of collections on display at sites throughout the city. Known as the Artefact Avengers, the team met on a monthly basis at different sites where they spent the day reviewing and documenting the condition of every artefact on display. This work will help the Collections team to ensure the safety and security of artefacts throughout the city.
- 523 volunteers contributed almost 4,000 hours at Britannia Shipyards. This includes hours contributed by our costumed historical interpreter intern from the UBC Faculty of Arts Internship Program who brought the site to life by giving tours of the Shipyards in costume. Throughout the year, volunteers were involved in various site programs and events. In April, ARTCi co-led our Volunteer Appreciation Tea where volunteers participated in interactive activities, which inspired some of them to volunteer with ARTCi throughout the summer.
- 44 volunteers contributed 1,282 hours to assist with public programs, special events and administration work at the Steveston Museum.
- Six dedicated and specialized restoration volunteers contributed over 375 hours to the Steveston Tram restoration project. Another 80 volunteers supported special events and programs at the Steveston Tram contributing 400 hours of their time.
- London Heritage Farm welcomed over 272 volunteers who dedicated 2,147 hours helping with events and programs, spring and fall cleanup and operations of the site.



A Heritage Fair volunteer prepares to deliver children's activities at the Richmond Cultural Centre.  
Tharaka Mopalagama

“

**I can confidently tell you that the advice I received by staff at the Richmond Museum will help me with my journey as a young professional and academic, trying to make it in this big scary world!**

”



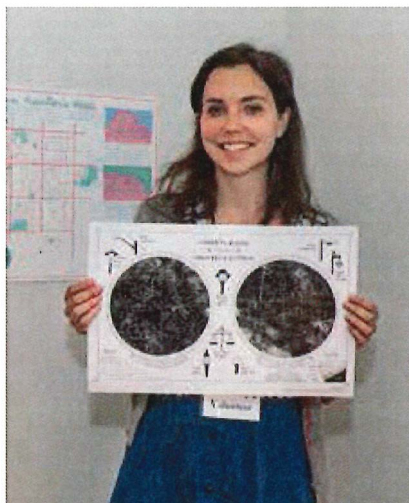
Many events, including Doors Open, were hosted at Branscombe House.  
Tharaka Mapalagama

## Branscombe House, Minoru Chapel and Terra Nova

The City supported its heritage assets for a variety of programs beyond traditional heritage interpretation.

These include:

- Branscombe House—Artist-in-residence Keely O’Brien held free workshops that introduced local residents to a variety of creative projects, such as garland and lantern making, collage and community mapping. Throughout the year, Keely also facilitated guided walking tours and opportunities for the neighbours to gather and experience their local surroundings in unique and innovative ways. She also generously provided additional community workshops around the city, including Doors Open Richmond, Maritime Festival and Culture Days and worked with local community groups to integrate the arts into their community activities.
- Minoru Chapel hosted 46 weddings and other private gatherings.
- Terra Nova Nature School, housed in the Edwardian Cottage in Terra Nova Rural Park, nurtures children’s connection to the land and its history through outdoor play and experiential learning. The school offered preschool, after school and summer programs for hundreds of Richmond children.



Artist-in-residence Keely O’Brien shows artwork featuring street light constellations in Richmond.  
Tharaka Mapalagama

# Richmond Heritage Commission and Policy Planning

The Richmond Heritage Commission is appointed by Council to advise on heritage-related matters within the City. A core function of the Commission is to provide comment on key City initiatives and projects, such as amendments of the City's heritage policies, updates to the City's heritage inventory, redevelopments of heritage properties or changes to civic-owned heritage resources.

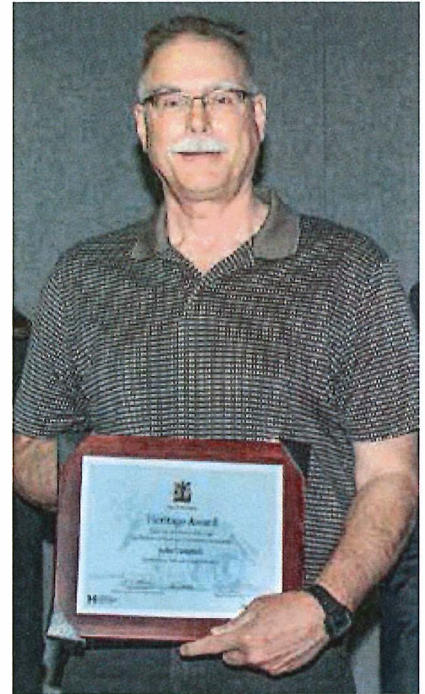
In 2018, the Commission provided feedback on a number of development projects within the Steveston Village Conservation Area. The Commission also reviewed and provided comments on the Steveston Village Heritage Conservation Grant Program update.

The Richmond Heritage Commission continued in its mandate to help build capacity and heritage awareness in the community through events and education and will continue to advance the promotion of heritage throughout the City in the future.

The Richmond Heritage Commission oversaw the nomination process for the Richmond Heritage Awards. The 2018 Richmond Heritage Award recipients are:

- Mr. Reiner Siperko and Mr. Bob Hodder for the retention and re-use of the original concrete murals from the old Gulf and Fraser Fisherman's Credit Union in the new mixed-use development called "The Kimura Building."
- Steveston Historical Society for its annual walking tour vignettes program with Hugh McRoberts Secondary School drama students.
- Mr. John Campbell for his on-going efforts and dedication to develop two social media programs: *Friends of the Richmond Archives* Facebook page and *Outside the Box* blog.

The Richmond Heritage Commission continued its financial support of the Richmond Heritage Fair, the Oral Histories project and Doors Open Richmond 2018. Heritage Commission members were engaged as adjudicators at the Heritage Fair, asking questions and providing feedback to competing students and presenting awards.



John Campbell, Social Media Coordinator for the Friends of the Richmond Archives, was one of four recipients of the 2018 Richmond Heritage Awards. Tharaka Mapalagama





Richmond Museum Spring Break Camp participants visited the City of Richmond Archives, March 21, 2018.

# Richmond Archives

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 donation from individuals, families, organizations and private companies.

The Archives’ holdings include approximately one kilometre of textual records, 170,000 photographs, 20,000 maps and plans and over 500 sound and moving image recordings. In 2018, the Archives acquired 44 new donations of records from City departments, individuals, companies and community organizations.

There were 1,583 Archives reference requests in 2018. Approximately 29 per cent of research requests originated from City staff in support of corporate functions. The remainder represented a wide variety of research interests and needs, including local businesses, community groups, environmental and property researchers, students, public artists, writers, filmmakers and family historians. The results of this research and collaboration can be seen in presentations, university projects, exhibits, public art projects, displays, magazines, books, newspapers and TV programs locally, nationally and internationally.

Additionally, City of Richmond Archives’ volunteers completed almost 1,362 hours of service.

## DIGITAL INITIATIVES

In 2018, the Archives’ social media channels on Facebook, YouTube, Historypin and the blog *Outside the Box* garnered 34,347 views and 602 new followers, likes and subscribers.

The Archives’ web pages and online search database continue to provide 24/7 digital access to our customers. In 2018, the Archives’ volunteers scanned 1,519 images as a part of the ongoing digitization program. Also this year, over 500 issues of the *Richmond Review* were added to the online search database. Now every issue of the *Richmond Review* from 1932–1965, approximately 1,700 in total, can be explored online from the comfort of home.

## FRIENDS OF THE RICHMOND ARCHIVES

The Friends of the Richmond Archives is a non-profit society established to promote and support the activities of the City of Richmond Archives. At the end of 2018, the society had 218 members.

During the year, the Friends provided funding and volunteers for projects and programs at the Archives, organized the annual Archives Tea and carried out a Community Exhibit program. They participated in various community events, including the Richmond High School 90th Anniversary, Richmond Chinese Community Society Arts and Cultural Festival, Steveston Salmon Festival and Remembrance Day reception at City Hall.

“  
The Archives is, for  
the record, all kinds of  
awesome.”



Front page of the Richmond Review, July 4, 1963.

## Olympic Experience at the Richmond Olympic Oval

Richmond is home to North America's first Olympic Museum, located at the Richmond Olympic Oval. The Olympic Experience (ROX) reignites the excitement of the Olympic Games and educates visitors in the science, art, culture and power of sport. The 15,000 square foot interactive exhibition is located on all three levels of the oval.

### ROX Program and Event Highlights

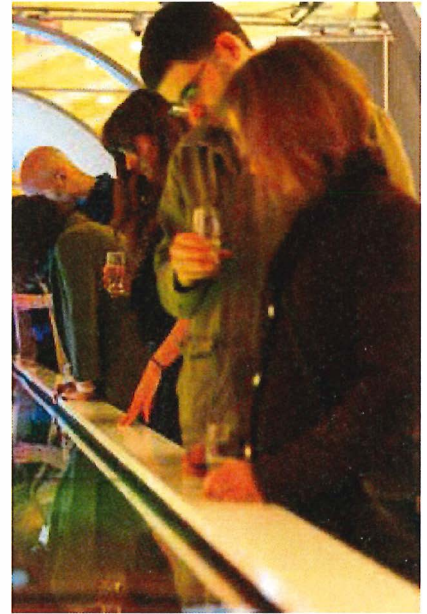
Visits to the ROX continue to grow at a steady rate and exceeded 36,000 visitors in 2018, representing a 20 per cent increase over the previous year. Some of the growth can be attributed to the innovative programming highlighted below:

- The education program, encompassing Olympic Oval sport activities, building tours and Olympic Experience programs hosted thousands of participants in 2018 including 300 youth from Gathering Our Voices aboriginal youth conference.

ROX Volunteers at the Podium Weekend program with Olympian Shallon Olsen.



- To celebrate Family Day on February 13, the Olympic Oval provided free admission for a variety of sport activities and the Olympic Experience museum. There were over 1,300 people in attendance.
- During the 2018 Winter Games, the ROX hosted a viewing party for Olympic Oval members.
- The ROX hosted three different shows (climbing, skiing, outdoor adventure) of the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival (VIMFF) in February, then in November hosted a Best-of-the-Fest Tour event featuring a selection of the best films from the entire festival.
- For the first time the ROX participated in Doors Open Richmond in June and the National Culture Days celebration in September.
- Over four different Saturdays in the summer, a Podium Weekend program featuring two Olympic Athletes on each day gave visitors the chance for a meet and greet, plus a photo op with the 2010 Olympic podium and replica Olympic medals.
- Seasonal activities were held for holidays including an *Eggstrivia Easter Egg Hunt* and Trick-or-Treating with four-time Olympian Nikola Girke.
- During spring and winter break, promotions were offered giving children free admission (with a paid adult) plus a simulator challenge with the opportunity to win prizes.
- Annual Olympic Day for schools hosted in partnership with the Canadian Olympic Committee activates the whole Olympic Oval and Olympic Experience. There were over a dozen Olympians at the event engaging with students.
- Throughout the summer and fall, the ROX theatre featured a movie series of Hollywood films including classics such as *E.T.* and newer releases like *Ready Player One*.
- The ROX theatre has been opened for complimentary viewing of special sporting events including Olympic Winter Games, World Cup Soccer, Stanley Cup Playoffs and Major League Baseball Playoffs.
- In November, the ROX hosted its first adult-only event, *Night at the Museum: BC Ale Trail Edition* featuring five breweries from the Richmond, New West, Delta, Surrey, BC Ale Trail itinerary.



Attendees enjoyed the touch table exhibit in the ROX at the inaugural Night at the Museum Event.

“

**The more I volunteer there, the more I enjoy and love it there.**

”

# Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site of Canada is operated by the non-profit Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society on behalf of Parks Canada. While 2017 saw double the usual visitation due to free admission at Parks Canada sites for Canada150, in 2018, the Cannery surpassed the previous attendance record (not including 2017) with 66,000 visitors. Through school and group programs, annual events and public programming, the Cannery shares the story of Canada's west coast fishing history and the significance of the village of Steveston role in the growth of BC's commercial fishing industry from its early beginnings in the late 1800s.

## EXHIBITS

The Society produced and premiered a new introductory film in May 2018 with a Canada150 grant from the Province of British Columbia. *Ebb & Flow: Turning Points in the History of West Coast Fishing*, a 25-minute documentary film, included interviews with members of the local commercial fishing industry, past and present. It is available for viewing both in the Cannery's Boiler House Theatre and online.

In 2018, a new exhibit *Pacific Herring: The Fish that Feeds the Coast* was installed at the entrance of the permanent Herring Reduction Plant Exhibit. The new entryway features a video by the Hakai Institute *Herring Beauty*, with panels depicting the significance of the herring fishery to Canada's West Coast and a timeline of the industry from 1876 to present day.

Fishermen's Park in front of the Cannery with July 1 Canada Day crowds.  
Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society



## SCHOOL AND GROUP PROGRAMS

School and group programs play an important role in the Cannery's mission to preserve and promote the history of Canada's west coast fishing industry. Educational programs feature the big ideas and core competencies found in the newest Social Studies, Science and First Nations Studies in BC's curriculum. Guided tours and other customized programs were offered to groups including English Language Learners, Seniors and Commercial Tours. School and group Programs were delivered to over 9,300 participants in 2018.

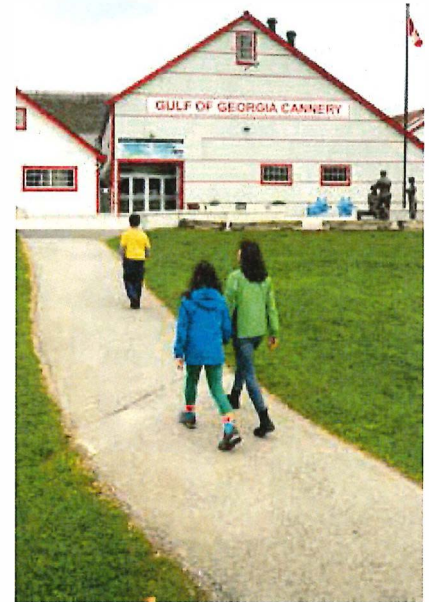
## EVENTS

Special events drew over 26,000 visitors to the Cannery in 2018. Annual events such as The Pull of the Net Multicultural Celebration in May, the summertime Music at the Cannery outdoor concerts and the wintertime Cannery Farmers' Market, continued to draw visitors from both within the local community and beyond. Seasonal family events with a unique Cannery/West Coast fishing theme, including Easter at the Cannery and Halloween's The Haunted Sea, attracted young families to the site, along with a new event offered on October 6—Salmon Science Expo—coinciding with the Cannery's Parks Canada free admission day (new for 2018).

Many of the Cannery's annual events were presented in cooperation with local partners and community groups, whose expertise and contributions made the following family-friendly events possible:

- National Indigenous Peoples Day, presented in partnership with Connections Community Services and Pathways Aboriginal Society, is an annual celebration of local Indigenous heritage and culture. In addition to dance and musical performances, story-telling and crafts, a "Bannock Bake-Off" was held for the first time, with the winning recipe chosen by Chef Maluh (Marlene Hale).
- Canada Day, with the City of Richmond and Steveston Salmon Festival, included free admission to the Cannery saw almost 5,000 visitors inside the site.
- *Rivers End Fisher Poets*, with local fisherman Wilfred Wilson and friends, who presented an afternoon of poetry, story and song about life as a west coast commercial fisherman, for the third year in a row.
- Pirate Weekend at the Cannery, presented by Richmond's Shady Isle Pirates, who volunteered their time to entertain kids of all ages with pirate-themed activities, story-telling and song during this popular weekend event.
- The annual Steveston Festival of Trees, presented in partnership with Steveston Merchants Association, saw 14 local groups and merchants in a friendly competition to decorate festive trees on display inside the Cannery for the month of December.

In addition to assisting with public programs, exhibits and collections, the Cannery's special events depend largely on the contribution of volunteers; in 2018, 110 volunteers contributed 3,450 hours to the Society.



The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site in Steveston village.  
Parks Canada

## Visitor Surveys

To better understand our visitors and plan for the future, the Richmond Museum, Britannia Shipyards, the Steveston Tram and Steveston Museum developed a short standardized, digital questionnaire.

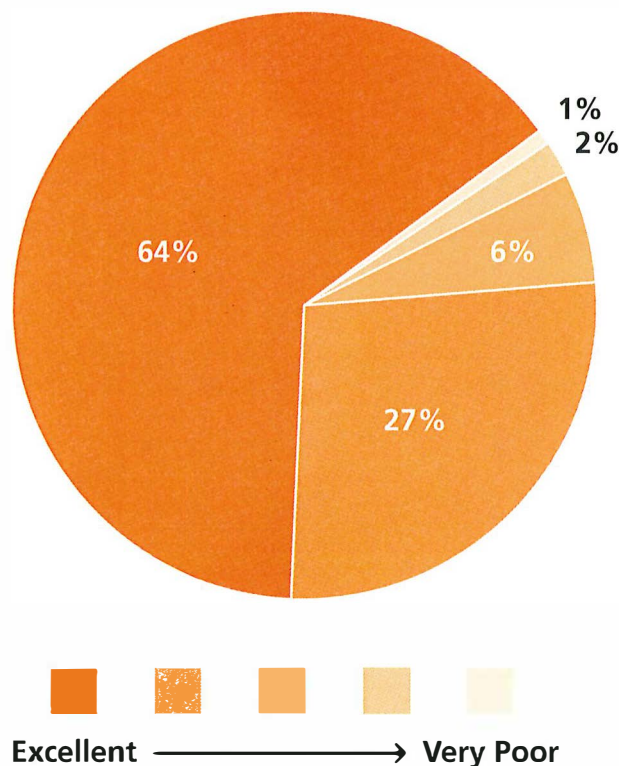
More than 1800 visitor surveys were collected throughout the year, showing the following:

- Responses were overwhelmingly positive
- **91%** of visitors rated their experience as a **4/5 or higher**
- **29%** of visitors were Richmond residents
- **30%** of visitors were from Metro Vancouver
- How visitors learned about our sites
- What visitors found most engaging during their visit and what they would like to see more of in future visits

The results of the 2018 surveys will assist with future program and exhibit planning. Visitor surveys will continue in 2019.

### VISITOR EXPERIENCE RATINGS

More than 91 percent of visitors rated Museum and Heritage Service facilities as very good or excellent in 2018.

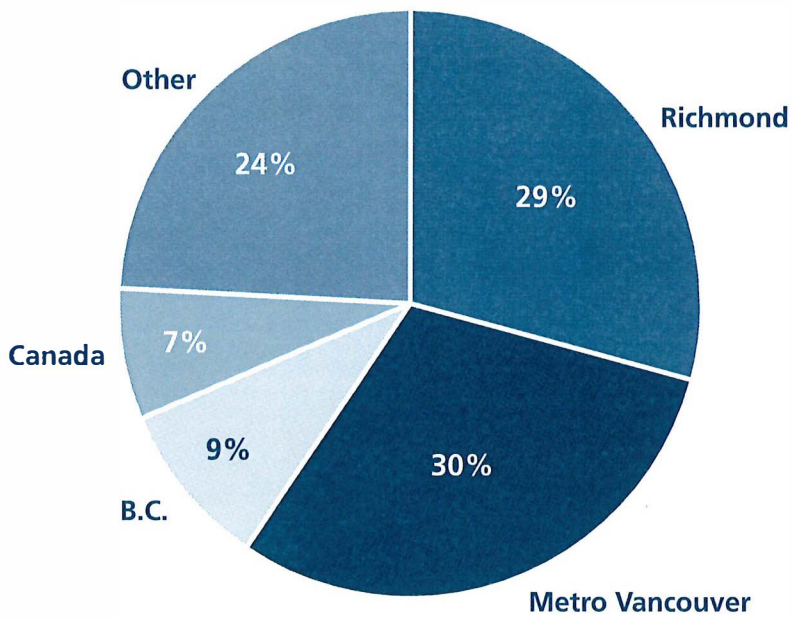


# Attendance Statistics

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site .....	156,490 visitors
London Heritage Farm .....	7,850 visitors
Richmond Museum .....	44,708 visitors
Steveston Tram .....	55,007 visitors
Steveston Museum .....	37,200 visitors

## PRIMARY RESIDENCE OF VISITORS

Close to 60% of our visitors are from Metro Vancouver (including Richmond) and almost 70% are from British Columbia. Close to one quarter of our visitors are from overseas and the United States.







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