



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Committee

Date: March 6, 2018

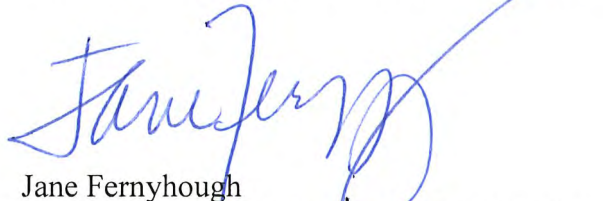
From: Jane Fernyhough
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

File: 11-7000-01/2018-Vol
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Re: **Museum and Heritage Services Update 2017**

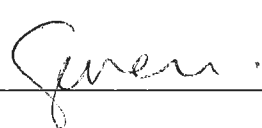

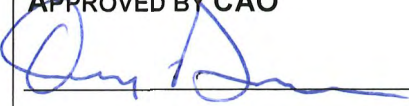
Staff Recommendation

That the Museum and Heritage Services Update 2017, as presented in the staff report titled "Museum and Heritage Services Update 2017," dated March 6, 2018, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage, be received for information.



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

Att. 1

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

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 Update 2017 highlights the many achievements over the past year that helped to achieve this vision (Attachment 1).

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #2 A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

Continue the development and implementation of an excellent and accessible system of programs, services, and public spaces that reflect Richmond's demographics, rich heritage, diverse needs, and unique opportunities, and that facilitate active, caring, and connected communities.

2.3. Outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.

2.4. Vibrant arts, culture and heritage opportunities.

Analysis

Connecting residents with their history was centre stage in 2017, with Richmond celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. Exhibits, programs and events were built around the theme of, "*One nation, hundreds of cultures, thousands of communities, millions of people, and limitless stories. Inspiring Richmond to welcome our future.*"

Some key highlights from 2017 include:

- Extended open hours and additional programming which contributed to a 31% increase in visitation to Britannia Shipyards and a 40% increase in visitation to the Steveston Interurban Tram;
- Volunteers contributed 25,000 hours of time to the City's museums and heritage sites throughout the year;
- The Richmond Olympic Experience hosted over 500 teachers and 60 exhibitors at the annual *BC Field Trip Fair*;
- Britannia Shipyards had numerous activities, events and programs on the theme *The Summer of Wooden Boats* and a temporary exhibit in the Seine Net Loft, *Our Coastal Connections*, that profiles the ties of over 20 local groups to local rivers and waterways;
- The Steveston Museum launched a new school program, *Nikkei Returns*, which explores the history, and resiliency, of Steveston's Japanese Canadian community;
- Visitors to the Steveston Interurban Tram were able to watch the Tram Car 1220 restoration work continue including rebuilding the exterior roof, rewiring lighting and painting the exterior;

- Our *Journeys Here* exhibit at the Richmond Museum delved into what it means to be Canadian today;
- The 10th annual *Doors Open Richmond* drew over 16,000 visitors to the city's finest arts, cultural and heritage sites;
- Over 400 students participated in the 15th annual *Richmond Regional Heritage Fair*. 19 students volunteered nearly 100 hours to bring their heritage fair projects out to Canada 150 events throughout the year; and
- The Archives launched an on line exhibit, *We Will Remember Them*, to complement the Memorial Street Name signs in Richmond.

The Museum and Heritage Services Update 2017 showcases the numerous ways that museum and heritage services contributed to making Richmond the most appealing, liveable, and well-managed community in Canada.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond is a city that proudly celebrates its past, present and future. The Museum and Heritage Services Update 2017 demonstrates the valuable contribution that museums and heritage make to the community.



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

Att. 1: Museum and Heritage Service Update 2017

CITY OF RICHMOND

Museum and Heritage Services Update 2017



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Introduction

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

Connecting residents with their history was centre stage in 2017 with Richmond celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. Exhibits, programs and events were built around the theme of *One nation, hundreds of cultures, thousands of communities, millions of people, and limitless stories. Inspiring Richmond to welcome our 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 Board, London Heritage Farm Society, Steveston Historical Society, and the Britannia Heritage Shipyards Society, as volunteers, and as donors.

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

Museum and Heritage Services is pleased to present the following update that provides a few select highlights from Museum and Heritage Services for 2017.



Waiting to unload the catch. Photo Credit: City of Richmond Archives 1985 4 33



Coast Salish Elder Roberta Price in front of the exhibition case that features her story, object and photograph. Photo Credit: Peter Harris



Visitors have been enthusiastically sharing their own stories in this exhibition.

Richmond Museum

The Richmond Museum celebrated Canada 150 with a range of on-site and off-site exhibits and programs that honoured our city's distinct history and vibrant cultural diversity.

Exhibit Development

Our Journeys Here

Our Journeys Here celebrates Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation by delving into what it means to be Canadian today. This exhibit looks 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 *Komagatu Maru*, and families looking for a better life for their children.

Nine current Richmond residents share 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 in Richmond now.

The exhibit supports the Richmond Museum's goal of contributing to a broader understanding of the concept of community in an accessible everyday setting that everyone can enjoy and understand.



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

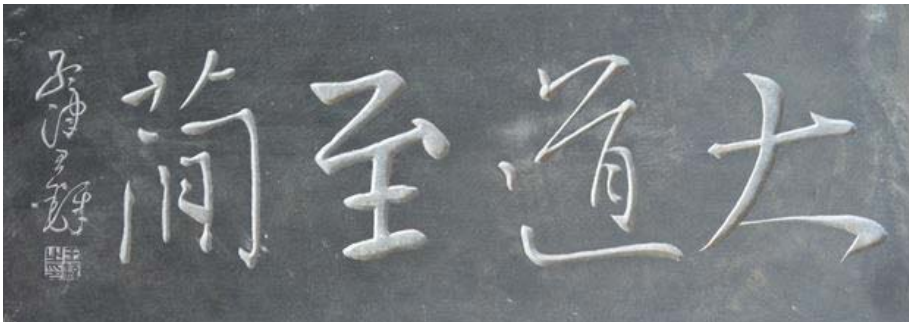
Leave Your Mark – Wang Duo: Calligrapher for the Ages Exhibit

A member of the community came to the Richmond Museum with the idea for the *Leave Your Mark – Wang Duo: Calligrapher for the Ages* exhibition. The Museum took on the challenge, partnering with Canada Multicultural & Arts Exchange Association and the Wang Duo Calligraphy Museum in China to create the exhibition.

The Richmond Museum used this exhibition as a vehicle to deepen our connections with the Chinese Canadian community in Richmond, forging working relationships with local individuals and organizations. This proved to be a great success with Museum visitation increasing by almost 300 percent and donations by 60 percent during the exhibition. The Museum was particularly honoured to partner with the Wang Duo Calligraphy Museum as this is the first time that these renowned works of art have been loaned for display outside China.

The Museum's community partners, including the Richmond Chinese Calligraphy and Painting Club (RCCPC), generously provided their expertise, created art for the exhibition, loaned artefacts and hosted a calligraphy program in the Museum gallery.

The exhibition included hands-on interactives that ranged from using calligraphy writing stations, to making rubbings, learning how to decipher characters and other symbols, and more. The Museum also includes a Discovery Area where children can choose to play with any of the six hands-on activities available.



A sample of the work of revered Chinese calligrapher Wang Duo. Photo Credit: Peter Harris



A calligraphy station in the *Wang Duo: Calligrapher for the Ages* exhibition.



A visitor at work at a calligraphy station in the *Wang Duo: Calligrapher for the Ages* exhibition. Photo Credit: Peter Harris



Stephen Manzi loaned his model of the famed Royal Canadian Mounted Police schooner *St. Roch* for display in City Hall. This ship was the first to circumnavigate North America in 1950, the second sailing vessel to complete a voyage through the Northwest Passage in 1940-1942, and the first ship to complete the Northwest Passage from west to east.

Outreach Exhibits

In addition to exhibits in its main gallery, the Richmond Museum curated a number of off-site exhibits throughout the year including:

- **Spring Break Camp Exhibit: Richmond Cultural Centre and City Hall:** Junior Curators aged 6 to 8 and 9 to 12 from the Richmond Museum's Spring Break Camp created their own exhibitions, with staff support, in the museum's outreach cases.
- **History of Richmond: City Hall:** Celebrating Richmond's pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit, this exhibit was timed for the Pioneer Luncheon held in the courtyard at City Hall on May 27, 2017 as a part of Richmond's Canada 150 events. New, larger exhibit cases that beautifully highlight the collections were installed in time for this exhibit.
- **Journeys of Exploration: City Hall:** In celebration of Canada 150, this exhibition explores the journeys Canadians have made when 'discovering' lands and riches unknown to them, often following Indigenous trading routes and using native guides.
- **Remembrance Day and Mayor's Gifts: City Hall**

"This was the second year doing this field trip and we love it! It's a perfect link to our unit on Celebrations."

– Kindergarten teacher comments on *Let's Celebrate Winter* program

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 2017, 3,361 students participated in Richmond Museum school programs, a 35% increase from 2016.

Highlights from 2017 included new school program activities inspired by the *Our Journeys Here* exhibition including a school tour for Grades K-12, an education kit for Grades 4-5, and a professional development workshop for teachers.

Children and youth can also participate in programs outside of school through Spring Break and summer vacation programs.



A student from Walter Lee Elementary proudly shows off her pomander, a Victorian Christmas ornament made from a small orange with cloves.



Teachers discover new ways to teach local history at the annual Professional Development Workshop coordinated by the Richmond Museum and hosted by a different Richmond museum or heritage site each year.



These boys found some exciting objects on a mock archaeological dig at London Heritage Farm during the Richmond Museum's *Young Archaeologists* summer program.

Throughout the year a variety of free drop in programs and activities were delivered including exhibition tours of current exhibitions for ESL learners, new Canadians and Diversity Symposium participants, Calligraphy Demonstration workshops and clinics, and behind-the-scenes Artefact Storage Warehouse Tours during Doors Open Richmond.



A junior curator carefully places an object in the display case at the Richmond Cultural Centre during the Richmond Museum's Spring Break Camp.

"It is really good for kids to learn knowledge of history and museums. It's a good chance to learn organizational skills, too."

– Parent comments on Spring Break Camp



Students from Westwind Elementary School use stop-motion animation to explore aviation history in Richmond.



Community members tour the Artefact Storage Warehouse. Photo Credit: Paul Newell

"This is the most creative program I have seen. I wish this was around when I was a kid."

– Parent comments on *Time Travel Detectives* summer daycamp

Special Projects

Mouth of the Fraser

The *Mouth of the Fraser* communicates a broad range of heritage stories to the community. Contributors write stories on a diverse set of heritage-related topics, events and happenings from tram restoration to oral history programs.

One edition of the newsletter was published in 2017, which included 500 print copies. In an effort to 'go green', readers were offered the option to switch to a digital version of the newsletter and the newsletter is also available online.

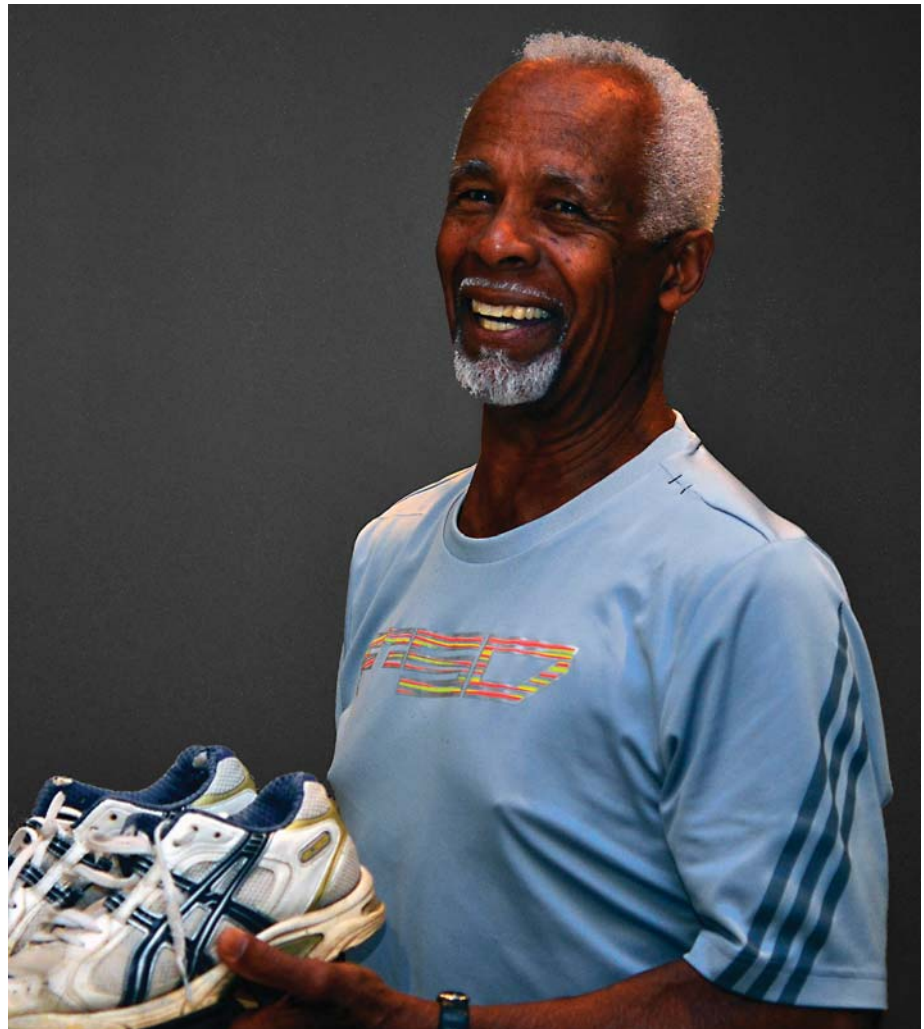
Oral Histories

The Richmond Museum continues to document the history of our community through oral history interviews. Three oral histories were conducted with a diverse group of individuals in 2017 in support of the *Our Journeys Here* exhibition. In addition, five interviews from the oral history archive were transcribed for the first time. All the Museum's oral histories were organized and transferred to the Richmond Archives to provide ongoing access by the public.

The Richmond Museum will use excerpts in educational and interpretive programs and projects, from formal school programs to informal workshops and daycamps, and from exhibitions to online interpretation.



The 2017 edition of the City's heritage newsletter, *Mouth of the Fraser*.



Oral history contributor Mosely Jack shared his experiences immigrating to Richmond, becoming a respected teacher and school counsellor, and a much loved track coach. Photo Credit: Peter Harris

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

As part of *Richmond Celebrates Canada 150*, Britannia Shipyards opened seven days a week—extended operating hours beyond the traditional winter weekends and six days per week in the summer. The site also benefited from additional staff hours to develop and facilitate programs, exhibits and special events. As a result, Britannia welcomed 41,000 more people than in 2016, bringing the site's total visitation to 169,272 visitors.

Exhibit Development

Our Coastal Connection

The *Our Coastal Connection* exhibit in the Seine Net Loft explores historic ties to local rivers and West Coast environments, and how this has sparked the imagination of many local groups working to celebrate and protect our waters for the future. Over 20 local groups are profiled within the exhibit, all of which have dedicated remarkable efforts in areas of water conservation, education, awareness, recycling and entrepreneurship. In the face of eight million metric tons of plastic waste entering our global oceans each year, local individuals have taken initiative, groups have formed and remarkable goals have been achieved—all in an effort to help us remember why we love our waters and what we can do to keep our rivers and oceans clean and safe for everyone to enjoy.

The exhibit opened on June 3, 2017 with over 250 visitors in attendance. Visitors were encouraged to capture their 'watermark' story, be challenged to become a water champion, learn about cool new technologies and to check out what lurks beneath the waves. These fun activities were led by exhibit partners from the Emerald Sea Society, Fraser Riverkeeper Society and the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation.



Visitors examine objects created from recycled plastics in the *Our Coastal Connection* exhibit. Photo Credit: Joel Baziuk



Displays in the *Our Coastal Connection* exhibit shows what people are doing locally and globally to recycle marine debris into new consumer products. Photo Credit: Joel Baziuk



Visitors tour the *Our Coastal Connection* exhibit and learn about marine plastics in our local environment. Photo Credit: Joel Baziuk

Britannia's Fascinating Waterfront

In June 2017, Britannia Shipyards received a \$20,000 Canada 150 Grant administered through the BC Museums Association for the *Britannia's Fascinating Waterfront* project. This project will enhance exhibits on the waterside with new interpreted spaces and digital technologies, immersing visitors in a busy fishing season, complete with new research, sound recordings, short films and archival images. These interpretive tools will be created in new physical spaces, printed on signs, projected in place, available to browse on exhibit iPads and transmitted to visitors' mobile devices. These new features and technologies will encourage visitors to imagine the diverse lives of the busy shipyard workers and the unique connections they had to the Britannia site.

The exhibit is set to open in March 2018.



The *Britannia's Fascinating Waterfront* exhibit will examine the history of activity along Britannia's scenic waterfront. Photo Credit: Clayton Perry

Programs

In 2017, Britannia offered school programs to 2,150 students ranging from kindergarten to post-secondary students. Staff engaged students in meaningful learning experiences that brought history alive, while bridging connections with topical issues in today's world. In addition to Britannia's existing roster of five school programs (*Working on the Waterfront*, *Britannia Boatbuilders*, *How We Lived*, *Life in Sutebusuton* and *Inside the Britannia Shipyards*), three new school programs were developed and launched in 2017.

The Promise of Canada: 150 Years

In celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation, students were asked to consider, *What does it mean to be a Canadian?* Students in grades K-7 discovered the untold stories of the diverse cultural communities that built Canada. This school program was developed in partnership with UBC's Faculty of Education, Curriculum and Pedagogy Department through a grant from StudiO Canada. Britannia staff worked with Dr. Natalie LeBlanc to develop 'creation' activities posted on the StudiO Canada website. The Richmond Museum Heritage Fair included *The Promise of Canada: 150 Years* program in the field trip offerings to 90 students who visited Britannia.

Ships to Shore—King of the Sea: Teacher's Guide

Britannia supported Richmond's *Ships to Shore—King of the Sea Festival* by developing a teacher's guide to enhance school group visits to the festival. The guide includes Japanese-Canadian history, curriculum-based lesson plans for social studies units and recommendations for field trips to Richmond Heritage Sites. In addition, the Steveston Museum and Britannia Shipyards collaborated to offer an all-day program for grades 4-6 that combined *Life in Sutebusuton* and *The Nikkei Return* field trips. Together these programs provided a historical overview about the Japanese-Canadian experience of living in Steveston.

Build A Real Killer Whale Skeleton—School and Public Programs

In November 2017, the *Build a Real Killer Whale Skeleton* school program for grades 1-7 was taught by a marine biologist. The program introduced 150 students to marine biology, anatomy, conservation and awareness of the environmental concerns in our coastal waterways. On this weekend, Britannia offered a once in a lifetime opportunity to 350 site visitors who engaged in constructing a killer whale skeleton, while they learned about the unique anatomy of whales, habitat and environmental challenges in the wild. This initiative supported and complemented the new *Our Coastal Connection* exhibit.



Build a Real Killer Whale Skeleton was a popular program for students and families in November.



Summer of Wooden Boat banners lined the Steveston waterfront from May-September.

Summer of Wooden Boats

As part of *Richmond Celebrates Canada 150*, the *Summer of Wooden Boats* presented a season of unique interactive activities, events, maritime demonstrations, tours and waterside programs. Britannia opened the dock every weekend in July and August to allow visitors to get up close to historic vessels. The initiative also promoted themed activities facilitated for each day of the week during July and August. For example, Monday's activity was free family activity backpacks and Tuesdays offered \$2 tours for seniors. The *Summer of Wooden Boats* initiative will be promoted again in 2018, highlighting programs and events during the summer high season (May 1-September 30).



The *Summer of Wooden Boats* included drop-in and registered programming that promoted maritime skills and inspired visitors to learn about Britannia's maritime history.

Animating History Spring Break Camp

Children aged 6-12 years participated in a week-long Spring Break camp offered in partnership with Reel to Real: A Celebration of Moving Images for Youth Society. An interpreter taught children stories about local history and a professional animator introduced a range of animation techniques and technical skills. This culminated in an animated short film, *Inside Britannia Shipyards*. The children presented their film screening to an enthusiastic audience filled with family members and friends.



A marine biologist teaches students enrolled in the *Ocean Adventurer* summer camp about marine mammals and ocean environments.

Britannia Summer Camps

In July and August, a range of half-day and full-day camps were offered to children 5 to 12 years old. The half-day camps included *Float Your Boat* and *Maritime Treasure Hunt* that used hands-on engagement, storytelling and themed games to teach kids maritime skills. Children learned traditional maritime skills in historic buildings as they experienced Britannia's history come to life. The full-day *Ocean Adventures Camp* was taught by a marine biologist who fostered children's curiosity about the marine environment, mammals, and ocean and river environmental challenges of today.

Historic Water Shuttle

The *Historic River Queen* brought visitors to and from Britannia by water on Sundays throughout the summer. In partnership with Vancouver Whale Watch, over 500 passengers boarded the *River Queen* for a fully narrated nature and history tour of Steveston's waterfront.

Japanese Dance Performance

In celebration of *Ships to Shore—King of the Sea*, Britannia presented the Japanese dance group Satuki Kai in the Seine Net Loft. The performers presented traditional dances that were followed by a dancing lesson for 90 audience members.

Home Between Crossings—Author Reading

Dr. Sultan Somjee launched his new book, *Home Between Crossings* during Asian Heritage Month. The 30 people in attendance were mesmerized by Dr. Somjee's stories, which took place in the mid-20th century during uprisings that shook up Great Britain's Empire. The ensuing Asian and African exoduses, expulsions and migrations to the western countries of Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia were explored.

Jelly Fish Sculpture

Children ages 6-12 toured the *Our Coastal Connection* exhibit and learned about plastic waste entering the rivers and oceans, and the local individuals and groups initiatives to make waterways clean and safe. Program participants created jelly fish sculptures made from recycled materials inspired by the exhibit's recyclable products.

Winter Concert & Celebrate the Solstice

The *Winter Concert* presented the classical guitar duo, Louise Southwood and Stanton Jack, while the children's program, *Celebrate the Solstice* featured a costumed historical interpreter who introduced children to winter solstice tales and traditions from around the world.

Family Day at Britannia

Over 2,250 people participated in engaging activities, demonstrations and tours over the Family Day Weekend. Families participated in a complimentary activity to build a hand-held wooden gillnetter fishing boat, while learning about the parts of the boat and the significance of the local fishing industry. This boatbuilding activity was supported by a \$1,000 grant for Family Day events from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, in partnership with the British Columbia Parks and Recreation Association.

Heritage Week

Britannia celebrated Heritage Week with the theme, My Canada, from February 8 to 14, 2017. Over 2,111 visitors participated in free tours of historic buildings and a range of engaging activities.

Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival

Britannia Shipyards participated in the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival. Hundreds of event visitors boarded the *Providence* and learned about Britannia and site programs at a display created on board the vessel.

Grand Prix of Art

In September 2017, Britannia hosted the 7th Annual *Grand Prix of Art*, which gathered 200 local artists in a competition to paint en plein air pieces throughout Steveston within a time limit of three hours. The artworks were adjudicated and showcased to over 1,000 visitors, and a photo challenge for photographers captured the spirit of the competition via digital photo journaling.



Visitors marvel at the artwork created during the *Grand Prix of Art* event. Photo Credit: Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society

Halloween and Trick or Treat on the Boardwalk

Over 500 visitors enjoyed Britannia's annual *Trick or Treat on the Britannia Shipyards Boardwalk*. Children made a paper Halloween basket, and then visited historic houses and received a non-edible treat from costumed volunteers. Britannia welcomed 1,600 visitors on the weekend before Halloween, who enjoyed tours of buildings decorated with spooky pumpkins carved by dedicated volunteers.

Artisan Christmas Craft Fair

Britannia hosted the first *Artisan Christmas Craft Fair* in partnership with the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society on December 2, 2017—29 artisans from the Lower Mainland came together in the Seine Net Loft to showcase their hand-crafted products to 1,230 visitors.

The Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society hosted a free wooden ornament making station along with hot chocolate and coffee by donation. Tomekichi Homma Elementary School students collaborated to create *Snow in the Seine Net Loft*, a Community Art Project where grades 2-6 students hand cut over 350 snowflakes, which were installed inside the building.



A variety of craft items were on sale during the first BHSS Artisan Christmas Craft Fair in December. Photo Credit: Joel Baziuk



Over 1,200 visitors attended the first BHSS Artisan Christmas Craft Fair in the Seine Net Loft. Photo Credit: Joel Baziuk



Local artisans showcased their market products to hundreds of visitors during the first BHSS Artisan Christmas Craft Fair. Photo Credit: Joel Baziuk

Ships to Shore—King of the Sea

Paddle Wheeler Tours focusing on Japanese-Canadian history offered an opportunity for visitors to enjoy a waterside view of the *Kaiwo Maru* tall ship and the historic Steveston waterfront. Close to 2,400 visitors enjoyed activities at the Britannia site during the event, while over 600 visitors attended 10 tours on the paddle wheeler.

Canada Day

During the Steveston Salmon Festival and Richmond Canada Day on July 1, 15,000 visitors enjoyed interactive activities, exhibits, maritime demonstrations, tours and waterside programs at Britannia Shipyards. Britannia hosted an array of vessels including the prestigious *Hawaiian Chieftain* and *Schooner Martha*. Over the duration of the three-day festival, 3,345 visitors participated in ship boarding and viewing from Britannia's dock. The *River Queen*, a historic water shuttle, linked the Riverside Village at Imperial Landing to Britannia Shipyards by providing free shuttles to the public between the two docks. Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society was also on site for the weekend and offered knot-tying lessons, a float-your-boat maritime demonstration and parking by donation at Tomekichi Homma Elementary School.



Thousands of visitors boarded tall ships and other historic vessels at Britannia Shipyards and Imperial Landing as Richmond celebrated *Canada 150* in July 2017.



Visitors enjoyed hands-on demonstrations with the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society during the Richmond Maritime Festival.

Richmond Maritime Festival

The 14th annual Richmond Maritime Festival welcomed over 40,000 visitors. *Wooden Boat Alley* was a popular new addition to the event. Over 140 event volunteers helped visitors safely board historic wooden vessels and helped facilitate activities offered by local artisans. Festival volunteers logged a total of 1,296 hours.

Special Projects

Visitor Survey Pilot

A formal visitor survey was piloted at Britannia Shipyards in 2017. The survey captured visitor information regarding demographics, place of residence, and valuable feedback about Britannia programs and services. This survey will be expanded to the Richmond Museum and other heritage sites in 2018.

Restoration and Construction

The west Seine Net Loft deck and gate were upgraded and work began on the installation of new washroom facilities inside the Seine Net Loft to support programming and rentals.

Contractors also began work on a new flood protection wall along the original bulkhead running parallel to the boardwalk. The flood protection wall is a combination of rigid plastic sheet panels and wooden cladding, and it is expected to be completed in spring 2018.



The new Seine Net Loft walkway and decking was installed in the summer of 2017.

London Heritage Farm

London Heritage Farm continued to offer a range of programs and activities that appeal to a wide range of visitors in 2017.

School and Group Tours

Nineteen school groups and 16 other groups participated in tours of the farm house and grounds. The farm collaborates with the Richmond Museum to offer the *Food for Thought* program to these groups. Over the summer the Farm was happy to host a *Young Archaeologists* daycamp offered by the Richmond Museum.

Tea Room

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.

Events

Weddings and Rentals

Thirty-four weddings and other rentals took place on the South Lawn and gazebo area.

Plant Sale

Over 500 people attended the 11th Annual Plant Sale which raised approximately \$11,000 for the London Heritage Farm Society.

Classics and Collectibles Car Show

Sixty-three cars of different vintages were displayed on the South Lawn and Pasture bringing 200 visitors to the farm, farm house and tea room.



A group of ladies enjoying tea at London Heritage Farm house. Photo Credit: Nanci Cohen



Collectible cars on the south lawn of London Heritage Farm. Photo Credit: Philip Lam

London Family Farm Day

Beautiful weather and a new free shuttle service brought families to the Farm for a day of fun on London Family Farm Day. Event highlights include pony rides, farm animals, costume dances and parades, storytelling, wood crafts, children's games and more. A bicycle parking lot was provided on-site by Wheel Watch and community partners ensured there was something for everyone in this event, including the Vancouver Lace Club, the Richmond Weavers and Spinners, local artisans and well-known Vancouver costume historian, Ivan Sayers.



Children are entranced by *Stories on Wheels* at London Family Farm Day. Photo Credit: Philip Lam



The lemonade stand ladies at London Family Farm Day. Photo Credit: Philip Lam

Christmas at the Farm

Volunteers decorated the farm house with Christmas trees and lights for the seasonal Jingle Bell Tea.



Maureen McGovern, London Heritage Farm Society's tearoom supervisor. Photo Credit: Julian Rozental



The Christmas themed Jingle Bell Tea was delicious at London Heritage Farm. Photo Credit: Philip Lam

London Farm Restoration and Construction

The London Heritage Farm House kitchen renovations were completed in February of 2017 with an open house celebration in March. These renovations meet food safety standards and improve the efficiency of tea service, permitting the Society to provide regular and special weekend tea service throughout the year.



The renovated kitchen is modern with a respectful nod to its historic environment. Photo Credit: Philip Lam

London Heritage Farm's outbuildings were renovated in 2017, including the gazebo, sheds, workshop and barn. These buildings are actively used to support the programs and activities delivered by the London Heritage Farm Society and City including the heritage and allotment gardens, tea room and educational programming.



The gazebo was rebuilt and can continue to be used as the perfect spot to get married.



The Garden Shed was rebuilt and can now continue to support the work of the London Heritage Farm Society volunteer gardeners.



The Bee House and Shed were refurbished and rebuilt to provide dry storage and safe housing for the bee hives.

Steveston Museum, Post Office and Visitor Centre

Described by many local residents as the “heart of the village”, 37,500 people came through the Steveston Museum in 2017 to tour the exhibits, participate in programs, visit the post office or get information from the Tourism Richmond Visitor Centre.



Drama students from Hugh McRoberts Secondary School wait on the Steveston Museum’s staircase for their turn to perform in the summer walking tours.

Exhibit Development

A Stitch in Time

A Stitch in Time, a temporary exhibit about needlework by Richmond residents, was installed at the Steveston Museum in 2017.

Programs

School Programs

Steveston Museum offers three curriculum-linked educational programs: *Nikkei Returns*, *Treading through Time* and *Sliding through Steveston*. In 2017, 522 students from 21 classes participated in these programs. The new *Nikkei Returns* school program proved extremely popular with students learning about the historic resiliency exhibited by Steveston’s Japanese-Canadian population in the face of injustice.

Walking Tour Vignettes

The Steveston Historical Society took the lead in initiating summer costumed walking tours. Drama students from Hugh McRoberts Secondary School gave 15 performances for 177 visitors, who viewed five different vignette plays at different sites across Steveston Village. The walking tours highlighted global and local historical moments from the year 1917 as seen from the perspective of everyday Stevestonites.

Canada Day

2,170 visitors enjoyed live performances and other entertainment in Town Square Park.

Pride Week

Over 20 visitors took part in rainbow-themed activities in celebration of Pride Week.

Songs in the Snow

1,325 visitors attended the inaugural three-part winter concert series in Town Square Park.



A creation from Steveston Museum’s *Gingerbread House Builders* in December.



Steveston Museum during the Richmond Canada 150/Salmon Festival Canada Day celebrations in 2017.



A scene from *Songs in the Snow* on December 16, Steveston Museum's first winter concert music series.



Young guests taking part in Steveston Museum's *Gingerbread House Builders* in December.

Steveston Interurban Tram

As part of *Richmond Celebrates Canada 150*, the Steveston Interurban Tram was opened seven days a week in 2017 which allowed over 43,000 people to visit the site.

Programs

School Programs

The delivery of school programs was not possible in 2017 due to ongoing tram restoration. The existing elementary program, *Getting There*, was updated to reflect recent changes to the BC school curriculum and renamed *Tram Travellers*, which will be launched in 2018 following the completion of the tram restoration.

All Aboard!

The site's signature event, *All Aboard!* attracted 1,610 visitors with entertainment and activities celebrating the City's largest artefact.

Canada Day

The partially restored Tram Car 1220 was pulled outside for thousands of visitors to explore while attending the Steveston Salmon Festival and Canada Day activities.

Winter Tram

Santa made the trek from the North Pole especially to attend *Winter Tram*, where costumed interpreters read *The Polar Express* to children.

Prohibition

The inaugural *Prohibition* event featured live jazz music, a guest speaker on the history of prohibition, light refreshments, and beer tasting from the local Britannia Brewing Company.



Guests at the Steveston Interurban Tram's *Prohibition* event listen to tales of bootleggers and rum runners as told by a professional storyteller on November 3.



Tram Car 1220 during the evening *Prohibition* event at the Steveston Interurban Tram.



Visitors enjoy exploring the Steveston Interurban Tram site during the *All Aboard!* event on August 19.



Young visitors to the Steveston Interurban Tram's *All Aboard!* event on August 19 enjoy a trackless train experience.



Guests at the Steveston Interurban Tram's November 3 *Prohibition* event enjoy live jazz music, light refreshment and beer from Britannia Brewery.

City of Richmond Artefact Collection

At the core of Richmond Museum and Heritage Services exhibits, programs and events is its collection of 20,000 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 that represent all aspects of life in Richmond including home, work, culture, recreation, faith and community.



Beijing Torch, 2008.

New Acquisitions

In 2017, the Richmond Museum accepted 72 artefacts which were added to the Olympic Collection and 81 artefacts which were added to the permanent collection.



Olympic participation medal, 1896.



Men's fastball warm up jacket, detail, 1960s.



McDonald's coffee mug, 1967.

Collections Management Special Projects

The Collections team worked on a number of special projects this year which focused on the preservation and restoration of Richmond's material culture.

Tram Restoration

Restoration of the City's largest artefact, the Interurban Tram Car 1220, continued in 2017. 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 2017 focused on:

- Rebuilding the exterior roof using original materials and methods.
- Wiring the car to enable interior lights and exterior headlight to work.
- Painting the exterior of the car and staining the interior to reflect its 1920s colours.
- Cleaning and refurbishing original parts like the snap switches and fuses.
- Re-upholstering and installing original 1912 seats.
- Re-producing missing brass components, including the vent covers.



The headlight is installed thanks to the work of the City's carpenters and electricians.

Visitors to the Steveston Interurban Tram had the unique opportunity to watch the car transform over the course of the year.



Volunteers, led by Conservator Andrew Todd, remove rust from a trolley pole base.

“Steveston has always held a special place in my heart because it was where I spent most of my childhood and teenage years in our first home in Canada as an immigrant family. I have always been fascinated by history, and now as a graduate student researching about cultural heritage the opportunity to volunteer with the Steveston Interurban Tram 1220 conservation project seemed like a perfect fit.”

– Denise Fong



The tram car is primed and ready to paint.



The Restoration Volunteers visit The Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society to learn about restoration and ride an interurban tram car.



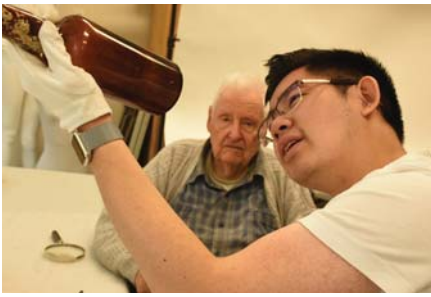
After removing layers of paint, the restoration team determined that the original red colour from the 1920s is closest to today’s “raspberry truffle” paint colour.



A professional artist and sign painter carefully paints 1220 on the car.



Volunteers install the destination roll sign.



Mr. Felker shows the Museum's Young Canada Works student how to identify different types of bottles.

Minoru Chapel Restoration

Planning for the third and final phase of restoration work took place in 2017. The building envelope has been assessed for rot and remediation of the wood will take place in 2018, guided by the Chapel's conservation plan. A subfloor will also be installed to support the original fir flooring and ensure its ongoing preservation.

Bottle Identification

Mr. Andy Felker, local historian and collector, was invited to view the City's bottle collection. Working with our Young Canada Works student Gershwyn Tan, Mr. Felker provided his expertise to identify and provide information about each bottle.



A volunteer carefully removes dust from fishing boots.

Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists

As part of the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists (ARCS) conference in Vancouver, skilled collections professionals from museums around the world helped to complete condition assessments of artefacts currently on display in the Chinese Bunkhouse at Britannia Shipyards.



Volunteers review condition assessment reports.



Members of the Collections Committee learn about storage solutions at the Museum of Anthropology.

City-Wide Artefact Collections Committee

City-owned museums and heritage sites collaborate to ensure a coordinated and informed approach to collections management in the City through this committee. The Committee organized a behind-the-scenes tour at UBC's Museum of Anthropology to learn about open artefact storage and artefact care while in storage.

Doors Open Richmond

The 10th annual *Doors Open Richmond* was held on June 2 to 4, showcasing some of the city's finest heritage, arts and cultural sites. The event opened on the evening of Friday, June 2 at the Richmond Cultural Centre, where 1,150 visitors enjoyed live music, food trucks, engaging vendors and children's crafts. Inside the Cultural Centre, the Richmond Museum showcased traditional Chinese music with the Canada Y.C. Chinese Orchestra Association, while the Richmond Art Gallery hosted a performance of *Omnis Temporalis* that combined acting, music and singing against a cartoon backdrop from a graphic novel.

During the *Doors Open Richmond* weekend, over 16,000 visitors explored 42 sites. Sites participating for the first time included Lipont Place (Art Centre), Bodhi Meditation Centre, Yulia Radchenko Studio, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Waters Edge House Art Studio, the Museum at the Sherman Armoury, and Phoenix Perennials.

Doors Open Richmond 2017 was made possible by a partnership between the Richmond Museum Society and the City of Richmond, and the generous support of many sponsors. The dedication of 381 volunteers, who contributed 2,156 volunteer hours, ensured another successful Richmond-wide *Doors Open* event.



Children playing at the Doors Open Richmond 2017 Opening Celebration. Photo Credit: Fabian Dominguez



Adults and children enjoy activities at the Doors Open Richmond 2017 Opening Celebration. Photo Credit: Tharaka Mapalagama



Acting Mayor Harold Steves officiates at the Opening Celebration for Doors Open Richmond 2017 on June 2. Photo Credit: Tharaka Mapalagama



A group tours the Steveston Buddhist Temple as part of Doors Open Richmond 2017. Photo Credit: Fabian Dominguez



Artist and print maker Gina Page demonstrates her paper making technique during Doors Open Richmond 2017. Photo Credit: Paul Newell



Richmond Art Gallery Instructor, Melanie Devoy, demonstrated cartooning techniques during a Heritage Fair workshop.



Three students proudly hold up their artwork inspired by their ideas about the past, present and future of Richmond.



Vincent, Grade 10, McRoberts Secondary School, presented his project on the discovery of insulin and its impact on Canadians (and the world!).



Simrit, Grade 4, Gilmore Elementary School, presented her project on Baltej Singh Dhillon, who fought for the right to wear a turban as part of his RCMP uniform.

Richmond Regional Heritage Fair

The Richmond Museum presented the 15th Annual Heritage Fair on May 12-13 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.

Over 400 Richmond students presented their projects at School Fairs. These projects were narrowed to 100 projects presented at the Regional Fair.

Program highlights included a field trip to Branscombe House for a workshop with Artist-in-Residence Barbara Meneley, an exclusive workshop at the Richmond Library with award-winning Canadian children's book author, Deborah Hodge, and a unique performance of *Omnis Temporalis* and *Comic Book Drawing* workshop at the Richmond Art Gallery.

The Heritage Fair concluded with an awards ceremony skillfully emceed by Heritage Fair Alumni Students, Jolie Leung and Urvee Mulye. Awards were presented by national, provincial and municipal dignitaries.

Five students went on to represent Richmond at the BC Provincial Heritage Fair in Victoria.



Marc, Grade 7, Diefenbaker Elementary School, presented his project on the controversial history of the light bulb.

Canada 150 Pavilion

Canada 150 celebrations offered a unique opportunity to highlight 2017 Heritage Fair projects. Nineteen students in Grades 3 to 10 volunteered 93 hours to present their projects in the Canada 150 Pavilion at *Ships to Shore—King of the Sea*, *Canada Day*, and *Richmond World Festival*.



Camille and Sage proudly presented their Heritage Fair projects inside the Canada 150 Pavilion.

“Being at *Ships to Shore* and *World Festival* was really fun! I really liked telling people that came to ask questions about my project. I thought it was very fun to meet new people that were presenting their projects. I really enjoyed presenting my project!”

– Camille, Grade 4 student,
James Whiteside Elementary

“Thank you for giving us the chance of presenting our projects at the *Ships to Shore* and *WorldFest* events. It was a wonderful experience! There was also no pressure—no judges—to present to the public. Overall, the activities were fun and a lot of people visited!”

– Colin, Grade 6 student,
Cornerstone Christian Academy

Culture Days

Richmond Museum and Heritage Services played a key role in Culture Days programming.

Create Your Memoir

Dr. Sultan Somjee, ethnographer, writer and story teller, hosted a drop-in program that inspired visitors to create family memoirs or tell their own stories through writing and drawing, and by using touchable objects.



Dr. Somjee investigates a suitcase with a young visitor to see what stories it can help to tell.

Curious About Curators?

Visitors discover what goes on behind-the-scenes at the Richmond Museum and see how collections staff care for Richmond's material culture, including how artefacts are catalogued, measured and numbered.



Collections staff share artefact care expertise with visitors.

Rediscover Tram Car 1220 Event

The restoration of the Interurban Tram was highlighted at Culture Days.

Culture Days at Britannia Shipyards

Culture Days highlights included the Richmond Carvers Society demonstrating their woodworking skills, and the opportunity to meet Jack Lubzinski in person and learn about the cutting-edge mathematical work and equipment design that contributed to the development of the ship wheel factory he operated in Richmond with his brother Joseph for 50 years.

Volunteer Management

Richmond Museum and Heritage Services engages volunteers at many levels. Volunteer highlights from 2017 include:

- 488 volunteers contributed 4,273 hours at the Richmond Museum in 2017 including four interns from the UBC Faculty of Arts Internship Program who developed an outreach display for City Hall, accessioned new objects into the collection, and assisted with special events, and four teacher-candidates from the UBC Faculty of Education Community Field Experience Program who volunteered 270 hours. Projects included assisting with the Richmond Heritage Fair, assisting with the installation of the exhibition and developing activities for the exhibition Discovery Area.
- Britannia Shipyards welcomed over 700 volunteers who logged a total of 6,600 hours during special events, programs and regular operational hours. In addition, the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society volunteers also logged an estimated 6,250 hours in 2017, working on boat restoration and other projects.
- Forty-four volunteers contributed 1,282 hours to assist with public programs, special events and administration work at the Steveston Museum.
- The restoration of the Steveston Interurban Tram provided a special opportunity for 17 specially trained volunteers to contribute 471 hours to the restoration project. Another 52 volunteers contributed an additional 260 hours to support the Tram's programs and events.

“Thank you for believing in my potential and providing me with such valuable experiences. I have honestly learned so much—numerous skills that I can’t acquire from a classroom environment.”

– Yunji Hwang,
Museum Assistant Intern



Dedicated volunteers welcome visitors throughout the year and help connect people with local history in an engaging way.

Branscombe House, Minoru Chapel and Terra Nova

The City of Richmond has supported the restoration and programming of heritage assets in the City for a variety of programs beyond traditional heritage interpretation.

These include:

- **Branscombe House:** Artist-in-residence Barbara Maneley held free workshops that introduced local residents to a variety of creative techniques, such as paper-folding, painting and felting. Throughout 2017, Barbara's workshops attracted over 600 participants. She also generously provided additional community workshops around the city, including Heritage Fair and Maritime Festival.
- **Minoru Chapel** hosted over 40 weddings and other private celebrations in 2017. The Minoru Chapel Opera Series continued with three operas including East Van Opera's *Alma: Arias and Duets in Concert* on October 4, Burnaby Lyric Opera's Highlights from Grande Opera on November 1 and City Opera Vancouver's *Come Sing With Us!* on December 6. Minoru Chapel was once again a popular site for filming TV commercials, television series and movies.
- **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 offers preschool, after school and summer programs for hundreds of Richmond children. Nature School staff received a Heritage Richmond award for their photographic project in collaboration with the Koyanagi family, who resided in the Cottage.



Winter Wonderland at Minoru Chapel.



Minoru Chapel is a popular location for weddings. Photo Credits: The Chapel at Minoru Park Enterprise Inc.

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 updates to the City's Heritage Inventory, redevelopments on heritage properties, or changes to civic-owned heritage resources.

In 2017, the Commission provided feedback on a number of development projects within the Steveston Village Conservation Area and London/Princess Area. Planning and policy-related projects forwarded to the Commission in 2017 included the Steveston Area Plan update and Streetscape Vision, the City's Museum Models Evaluation Study and Dyke Master Plan.

Special Projects, Community Events and Partnerships

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 Terra Nova Nature School archival photo project and the Sea Island Heritage Society were selected to receive Richmond Heritage Awards, which were presented at the Richmond Heritage Fair event in May.

The Richmond Heritage Commission continued its financial support of the Richmond Heritage Fair, the Oral Histories project and Doors Open Richmond 2017. Heritage Commission members were engaged as adjudicators at the Heritage Fair, asking questions and providing feedback to competing students and presenting awards.

City of Richmond Archives— City Clerk’s Office

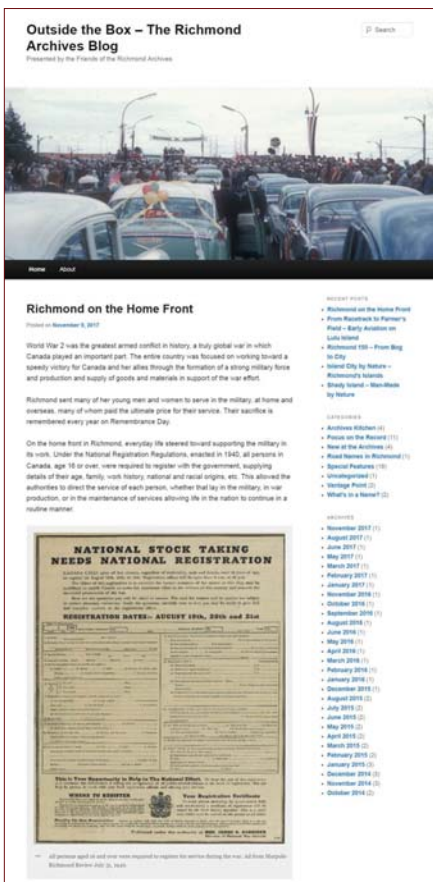


Moncton Street, Salmon Queen Day, 1962. Photo Credit: City of Richmond Archives #2017 36 1, Noel McConnell Photograph

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 1 kilometre of textual records, 170,000 photographs, 20,000 maps and plans, and over 500 sound and moving image recordings. In 2017, the Archives acquired 48 new donations of records from City departments, individuals, companies and community organizations.

There were over 1,400 Archives reference requests in 2017. Approximately 33% 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 can be seen in presentations, exhibits, displays, magazines, newspapers, and TV programs locally, nationally and internationally.



Friends of the Richmond Archives’ blog *Outside the Box*.



Richmond Museum Spring Break Camp participants visit the Archives, March 15, 2017. Photo Credit: Richmond Museum

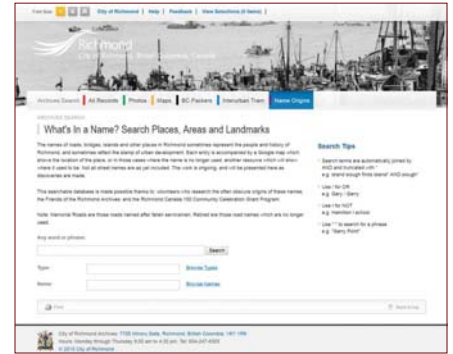
Digital Initiatives

The Archives’ social media channels on Facebook, YouTube, Historypin and the Blog *Outside the Box* garnered over 22,000 views in 2017. The Archives’ web pages and online search database continue to provide 24/7 digital access to our customers.

City of Richmond Archives Special Projects

Special projects in 2017:

- Launched the online exhibit *We Will Remember Them* to complement the Memorial Street Name Signs in Richmond
- Completed the Records Legacy Bylaws Disbanding Conservation Project
- Scanned over 1,500 images as a part of ongoing digitization program
- Provided educational programs to students
- Funded through Richmond Canada 150, launched new website resource: *What's in a Name?* Name Origins Database and completed Phase One of the Richmond Review Newspaper Digitization Project



“What’s in a Name?” Name Origins Database.

The 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 2017, the society had 240 members. Additionally, Friends of the Richmond Archives volunteers completed over 1,672 hours of service.

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 Pioneer Luncheon, the Steveston Salmon Festival, and the Remembrance Day reception at City Hall.



Friends of the Richmond Archives Remembrance Day exhibit at City Hall reception, 2017. Photo Credit: City of Richmond Archives



Many volunteers tried curling for the first time at a volunteer social event in September. Photo Credit: Richmond Curling Club

“As one of the many volunteers at Richmond Olympic Oval, I can say with pride, it has been and continues to be a privilege and honour to show others what a special jewel we have in our community.”

– John Hopkins, Volunteer



This photo of Olympic Oval volunteers won second place in the Volunteer BC's National Volunteer Week photo contest. Photo Credit: Ray Chin



ROX volunteers show the beautiful handmade thank you cards that they received during National Volunteer Week. Photo Credit: Alex Tse

The Richmond Olympic Experience (ROX)

Richmond is home to North America's first and only Olympic Museum, located at the Richmond Olympic Oval. The ROX re-ignites 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. Over 25,000 people visited the ROX in 2017.

Exhibit Development

The new Mascots Exhibit opened in June featuring a timeline of the history of Olympic Mascots and life-size versions of Howdy & Hidy from the Calgary 1988 Games. Several new artefacts were added to existing exhibits, including medals and a torch from the 2016 Rio Games.

ROX Program and Event Highlights

- The education program, encompassing Olympic Oval sport activities, building tours, and Olympic Experience programs hosted over 8,800 participants in 2017.
- In September, the ROX hosted the BC Field Trip Fair with over 60 exhibitors and 503 teachers in attendance.
- The ROX hosted one day of the bi-annual Canadian Association of Sport Heritage conference in April.
- Olympic Day was celebrated with athlete appearances by Olympians Brent Hayden, Olympic bronze medallist in swimming, and Chris Spring, Team Canada Bobsleigh pilot.
- Seasonal activities were held for holidays including an Eggstrivia Easter Egg Hunt, and Trick-or-Treating with Olympic silver medallist Darcy Marquardt.
- The ROX theatre hosted a best-of-the-fest tour stop of the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival in November.
- During Spring and Winter break, simulator challenges gave guests the opportunity to win prizes such as a Whistler Sliding Centre bobsleigh ride with Olympian Chris Spring.
- The Olympic Experience activated at WorldFest offering the community the opportunity to try on replica Olympic medals.
- Annual Olympic Day for schools hosted in partnership with the Canadian Olympic Committee activates the whole Olympic Oval and Olympic Experience. In the Museum Chris Spring, Team Canada Bobsleigh pilot and Olympian, shows off his specialized bobsleigh shoes. Olympic gold and silver medalist, Jennifer Heil gives talks to classes in the Legacy Suite and then signs autographs.



Chris Spring, Team Canada Bobsleigh, shows off his specialized bobsleigh shoes at Annual Olympic Day, Richmond Olympic Oval.



Olympic gold and silver medalist, Jennifer Heil signs autographs at Annual Olympic Day, Richmond Olympic Oval.

“The chance to work at the newly-constructed Olympic Museum at the Olympic Oval was both an exciting and intimidating opportunity at first. I initially joined to learn more about the spirit of the Olympics and procure volunteer hours. From the day I started, I was met with a congenial family of staff and volunteers. Under their wings, it did not take long to grasp the mechanics of being a docent. As a tight-knit volunteer team, we offered service as tour guides, simulation operators, and theatre managers. It became a pleasure to share and hear stories from visitors all over the world who come to the Museum. Through the ROX, I got to meet several Olympians and was inspired by their stories of working towards the Olympic dream. It made me realize the potential for greatness we all have and the uniting effect the Olympics has on the world. Being a docent at the Olympic Museum has also taught me a lot about dealing with people and working efficiently and professionally in a light-hearted manner. I am proud to be a part of a servile team that advocates the spirit of the Olympics to people all over the world.”

– Marco Ling, Volunteer

Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site of Canada is operated on behalf of Parks Canada by the local non-profit Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society. 2017 was a busy year for the site, with free admission offered at all Parks Canada parks and facilities in commemoration of Canada 150. Attendance increased by over 130%, with more than 132,000 visitors. Through its 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's role in the growth of BC's commercial fishing industry from its early beginnings in the late 1800s.



The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site in Steveston village. Photo Credit: Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society

Exhibits and Special Projects

In May 2017, a new feature exhibit *The Pull of Net: Commercial Fishing in Canada*, opened with a multicultural celebration commemorating the diverse cultures that were drawn to the allure of the fishing industry on both the east and west coasts of Canada. The exhibit features stories of both the cod fishery of the Atlantic coast, and BC's salmon fishery, and how they helped to shape Canada's cultural identity; a fitting theme for Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. The exhibit will remain on display until spring 2019.

The new Oral History Database was launched in March 2017, developed with support from the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program. Interviews with seniors who worked in the West Coast fishing industry were digitally recorded and uploaded onto an online database. A temporary exhibit sharing some of the stories and access to the database is on display in the Cannery until spring 2018.



The 2017-2019 feature exhibit at the Cannery, *The Pull of the Net: Commercial Fishing in Canada*. Photo Credit: Jessie Hebert



Over 1,500 people attended the exhibit opening celebration for *The Pull of the Net*, which featured performances by local community groups, including a Lion Dance by the Northern Shaolin Traditional Martial Arts Club. Photo Credit: Jessie Hebert



Oral History Database exhibit in a temporary alcove, on display until spring 2018. Photo Credit: Jessie Hebert

Program and Event Highlights

The Cannery's educational programs feature the big ideas and core competencies found in the newest social studies, science, and First Nations studies in BC's curriculum.



The Cannery currently offers six programs for Grades K to 8, in addition to guided tours of the canning line and machine demonstrations for older grades and adults. Photo Credit: Parks Canada

In 2017, the Cannery continued the tradition of seasonal family events, including a three-day Easter weekend, Spring Break, and Halloween. Other events presented in partnership with community organizations included National Aboriginal Day (Pathways Aboriginal Society), Pirate Weekend (Shady Isle Pirates), Canada Day (City of Richmond and Steveston Salmon Festival), and Festival of Trees (Steveston Merchants Association). A dedicated group of Society volunteers are always crucial to the success of these events; 2017 saw over 4,600 volunteer hours to help with these and other Society endeavours.



National Aboriginal Day in Richmond, presented by Pathways Aboriginal Society. Photo Credit: Gulf of Georgia Cannery

Statistics

Attendance

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

- 169,272 visitors

London Heritage Farm

- 7,407 visitors

Richmond Museum

- 34,400 visitors

Steveston Interurban Tram

- 43,050 visitors

Steveston Museum

- 37,200 visitors

The Richmond Olympic Experience

- 29,632 visitors

Volunteers

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

- 6,612 hours

London Heritage Farm

- 1,642 hours

Richmond Museum

- 4,268 hours

Steveston Interurban Tram

- 731 hours

Steveston Museum

- 1,282 hours

The Richmond Olympic Experience

- 9,982 hours



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