



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee

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

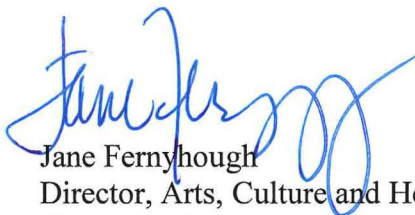
**Re:** Richmond Heritage Update 2015

**Date:** March 8, 2016

**File:** 11-7000-01/2016-Vol  
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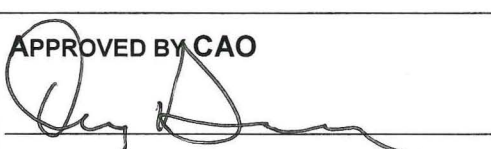
### Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Heritage Update 2015 as presented in the staff report titled "Richmond Heritage Update 2015" from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage dated March 8, 2016 be received for information.



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

Att. 1

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

## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

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

This report presents the Richmond 2015 Heritage Update (Attachment 1) which highlights the many achievements in Heritage over the past year.

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**

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

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

The Richmond 2015 Heritage Update showcases the varied and vital investment in Museums and Heritage and the essential role these play in building and sustaining a diverse urban community that is socially and economically healthy.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact to this report.

## **Conclusion**

The Richmond Heritage Update highlights the activities and achievements of the City, stakeholders and community partners for 2015. It also demonstrates the vital contribution Museums and Heritage make to the livability of our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Baxter', is written over a horizontal line.

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

Att. 1: City of Richmond Heritage Update 2015



## Nikkei Culture in Steveston



Children wear traditional kimonos in the Steveston Salmon Festival Parade, 1975.  
City of Richmond Archives 1987.102

The Nikkei, emigrants of Japanese descent, are drawn together in the early days by shared language, customs and occupation. Discrimination forces them to stay united. Later, when the Nikkei community returns to Steveston after being interned during World War II, they are keen to assimilate. The mixing of traditional and new ways of life, and Western and Japanese cultures makes this place unique.

Steveston was really a Japanese village. Even the English spoke Japanese. You didn't really need English.  
Hudson's Cove

In winter time, children used to play in the open house.  
Hudson's Cove

City of Richmond

# HERITAGE UPDATE 2015

Arts, Culture and Heritage Services



## Introduction

The City of Richmond proudly celebrates its history, while actively planning for a bright future with a thriving arts, cultural and heritage sector. This sector plays a crucial role in making Richmond a vibrant, healthy, sustainable and engaged community.

Responsibility for the stewardship of the City's heritage resources is shared by Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, the City of Richmond Archives, Parks Services and Policy Planning. Through partnerships with community societies and the Council-appointed Heritage Commission, staff are committed to preserving, interpreting and promoting cultural and heritage resources and activities. Other heritage assets within the community are privately owned or are the responsibility of other levels of government.

Exhibitions, educational programming, public programming, special events, volunteer opportunities and artefact collections are managed and presented by the City's museum and heritage staff, and partners. Together they increase public awareness of Richmond's rich past and present. This contributes to civic pride by enhancing a sense of place and community connections to engage citizens and visitors across generations.

This update provides highlights from Museum and Heritage Services in Richmond for 2015.

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## Signature Events

### Doors Open

The eighth annual *Doors Open Richmond* was held between June 5 and 7, showcasing the city's heritage, arts and culture. The event opened on the evening of June 5 with First Avenue in Steveston Village becoming a vibrant staging area for performers, merchants, food stalls and children's crafts. Over 2,000 visitors enjoyed the festive atmosphere. The evening also celebrated the opening of the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building at the Steveston Museum site. The building was moved to the site in 2010, where it underwent heritage rehabilitation. The building contains exhibits that honour the contribution of the Japanese Canadian community to Steveston. A number of audience members present for the opening were reconnected with their place of birth, the Japanese Fishermen's Hospital.

During the *Doors Open Richmond* weekend, 52 new and returning organizations offered a multitude of free behind-the-scenes tours and special events across 44

sites. More than 16,000 visitors explored National Historic Sites, museums, city facilities and privately owned heritage homes, as well as artist studios, specialty businesses and places of worship. Visitor surveys were conducted throughout the weekend with 67% of respondents rating the event as excellent and another 29% as good.

Among the sites participating for the first time were the specialty business St. Genève with a large collection of antique sewing machines, Thompson Community Centre celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and two wineries, Lulu Island Winery and Canada Berries Winery.

*Doors Open Richmond* 2015 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 216 volunteers contributing 1070 volunteer hours also ensured another successful Richmond-wide Doors Open event.



*Tetsu Taiko at the Doors Open Kickoff.*  
Photo Credit: Colin Stevens



## Richmond Regional Heritage Fair

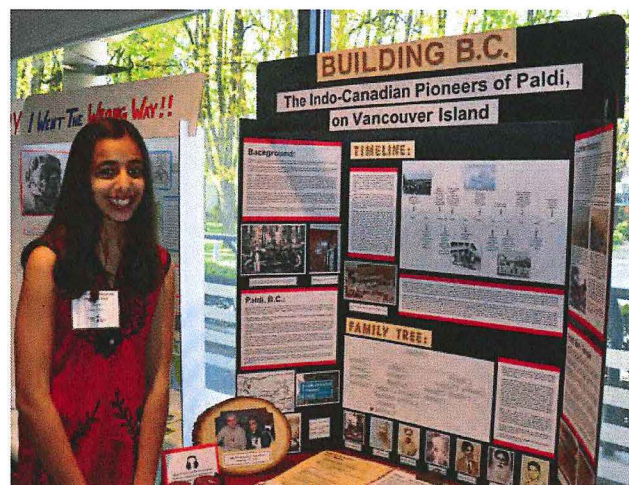
The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Fair, presented by the Richmond Museum, featured an exceptional showcase of history project displays created by Richmond school students.

At the Heritage Fair, students presented projects built around personal inquiry questions that explored local, regional, provincial and national themes. All 125 students also participated in special Heritage Fair activities, including an exclusive presentation by Chinese Canadian author Paul Yee and a private tour of a Richmond Museum Artefact Collection Warehouse.

The 2015 Heritage Fair concluded with an awards ceremony skillfully emceed by Heritage Fair Alumni Gita Manhas and Vedanshi Vala. The ceremony closed with a passionate speech by Jolie Leung, who shared her journey from being a Heritage Fair student in 2014 to becoming a Heritage Fair alumnus today.



Chinese Canadian author, Paul Yee, poses with students from Lord Byng and Jessie Wowk Elementary School, following his exclusive Heritage Fair Workshop.



Jaia Manhas, Grade 7, from James Thompson Elementary School, presents her Heritage Fair project on her family history rooted in the Indo-Canadian community of Paldi on Vancouver Island.



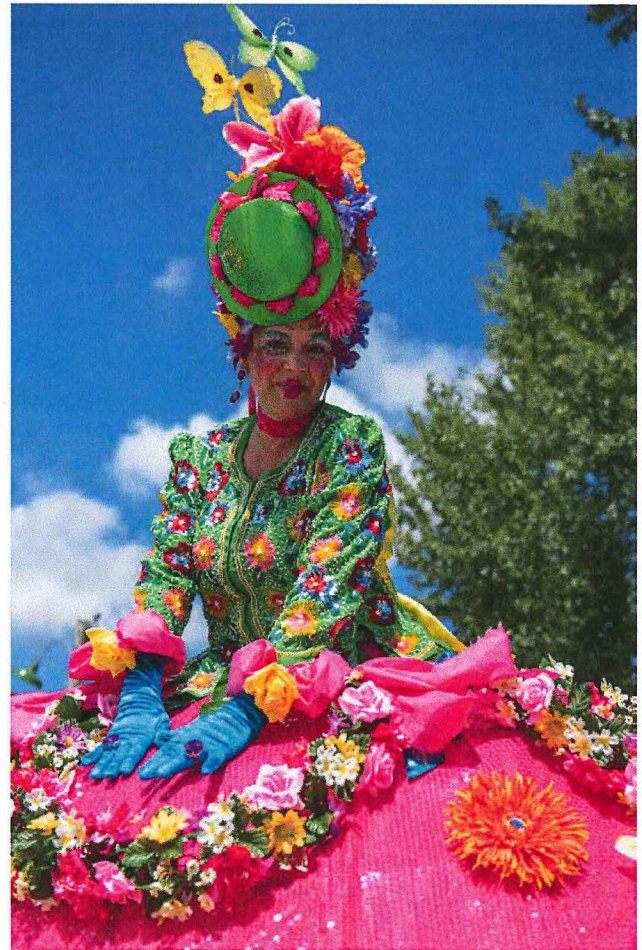
Irene Xie, Grade 4, from Jessie Wowk Elementary School, presents her Heritage Fair project on a local Richmond history topic, the historic General Currie Elementary School.



### Maritime Festival 2015

This year was the 12<sup>th</sup> annual *Richmond Maritime Festival*. Britannia Shipyards was animated for a two-day event that showcased over 200 local artisans, performers and historic exhibits.

Approximately 40,000 visitors attended the festival and participated in activities including the children's boat building, the knitting tree and boarding historic wooden vessels at the dock.



*A Maritime Festival performer.*  
Photo Credit: John Pesochin

*Maritime Festival 2015*



## Richmond World Festival – The City's Newest Signature Event

The inaugural *Richmond World Festival* celebrated the City's significant cultural diversity in a free one-day music, food, art, and sport festival on the Labour Day weekend. Headliners Matt & Kim from Brooklyn, New York and Grammy winning artist, Alex Cuba, lead a diverse,

talented lineup that also included many local artists on four performance stages. Over 25,000 people came from across the region to experience the 36 food trucks, 50 exhibitors, artisans, and sponsor activations, cooking stage, poetry, opera, and digital arts.



*The YVR Mosaic Main Stage featured cultural talent from around the world.*  
Photo Credit: Kim Bellavance



## Branscombe House

Branscombe House has completed its first full year after renovations. As planned, the main floor of the 1906 Edwardian farmhouse is being used by the community for meetings and small events, and the artist-in-residence program has been initiated.

### Artist-in-Residence Program

In 2015, a Request for Proposals was issued internationally to invite professional artists to apply for the position of 2016 Branscombe House Artist-in Residence (January–December 2016).

The Branscombe Residency is an opportunity for an artist to create new work and provide a minimum number of community art engagement hours in exchange for live-in studio space in the self-contained suite upstairs. During the residency, the artist establishes a presence in the community, engaging the public with their programming which may include open studio drop-ins, workshops, exhibitions, demonstrations and legacy projects on the Branscombe House site, community centres, schools, as well as events and festivals.



*Rhonda Wheppler, first Artist-in-Residence at Branscombe House.*

Photo Credit: Jay Howard



*Branscombe House in 2015.*

Photo Credit: Jay Howard

Through an adjudication process involving local arts specialists and City staff, San Francisco-based visual artist, Rhonda Weppeler, was selected for the inaugural residency.

The main floor of Branscombe House remains a space for public programs and available for rentals.

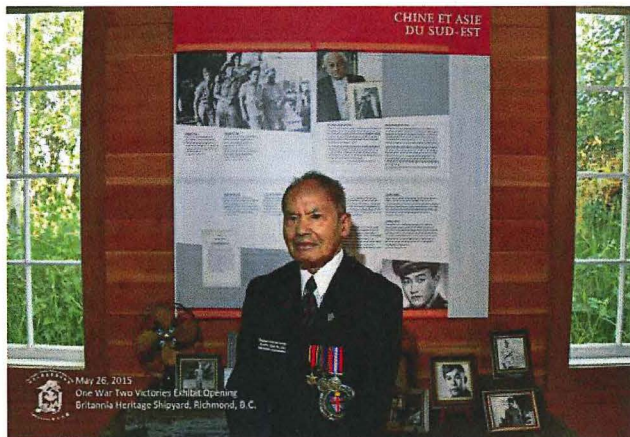


# Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

## Exhibitions

### *One War, Two Victories*

From May to September 2015, thousands of Britannia visitors had a chance to view the travelling exhibit, *One War, Two Victories*. The exhibit was created by the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society (CCMMS) in partnership with the National War Museum in Ottawa, and showcases a series of war-time memories collected by Vancouver's Chinese community. The exhibit explores the courage and hardship endured by Chinese men and women during World War II. Several Chinese Canadian war veterans and other distinguished guests attended the opening event in May and enjoyed site tours.



*World War II veteran Tommy Wong at the exhibit opening.*  
Photo Credit: Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society

### *A Capture of Memories: The Murakami Family at Britannia*

This short film explores the Japanese Canadian experience through the memories of the Murakami family at Britannia. Young Japanese Canadians, like Asayo Murakami's great granddaughter Caitlin, are continuing a history of strong ties to Steveston unbroken by the 1942 Japanese Internment and subsequent years of hardship. This new addition to the interpretation inside the Murakami House was a joint effort of local filmmaker Susanne Tabata, Murakami family members, the City of Richmond and the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society.



*New exhibit film in the Murakami House.*

### Outreach Exhibits

New banners were created to promote outreach events and pique the interest of potential visitors. They were used in booth displays at the Wooden Boat Festival in Port Townsend, USA and at the Richmond Schools Youth Volunteer Association (RSYVA) recruitment event.



*Testing the outreach banner setup with site attendant Alan Lee.*



### Public Programming

#### Family Day Weekend 2015

Family Day Weekend was a great success with over 750 people taking part in activities including scavenger hunts and puppet making activities. Tours were also offered by local actors playing the roles of Mr. and Mrs. Shorey, the Shipyard manager and his wife who lived at Britannia from 1917–1960.



*The Shoreys, welcoming visitors at Britannia Shipyards.*  
Photo Credit: Melissa Martin

#### Heritage Week 2015

During National Heritage Week, 850 visitors came out to take part in Story of Tea tours. They highlighted the multicultural residents of Britannia through tea sampling and other complimentary tours of historic buildings.

#### Doors Open 2015

This year during *Doors Open*, Britannia welcomed 1,000 visitors for dock-side tours of the Providence and a Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue vessel. Visitors also enjoyed complimentary tours of historic buildings, and sat captivated in the Seine Net Loft during storytime with Oceana the Mermaid.

#### Rivers to Oceans Week 2015

In celebration of *Rivers to Oceans Week*, Britannia welcomed 900 visitors to the site. During a weekend in June, many visitors worked with local artist Olive Leung to create sculptures using recycled materials that may have otherwise entered our local waterways.

#### Ships to Shore 2015

*Ships to Shore* Steveston 2015 took place at Imperial Landing and Britannia Shipyards in the Steveston Village from June 29 to July 1. Approximately 40,000 visitors attended the festival and fireworks; 15,000 visited the Britannia site. Britannia visitors enjoyed guided tours, food trucks and boarding of vessels at the docks. The festival ended with a Canada Day firework display on July 1 in Steveston Harbour.



*Visitors boarding the tall ship Spike Africa.*

#### Grand Prix of Art 2015

In September, visitors experienced the 6<sup>th</sup> annual *Grand Prix of Art*, and witnessed over 80 local artists race to create their works within a three hour time limit. The artwork was judged and showcased for sale in the Seine Net Loft building for six days, and was viewed by over 1,500 visitors.



## Culture Days 2015

This year, Britannia hosted more than 100 people for the provincial launch of the *Culture Days* event in the Seine Net Loft building. The festivities were interactive, engaging and showcased local performers of all ages. Culture Days activities on Friday to Sunday attracted 1,500 visitors participating in guided tours, film screenings of *A Capture of Memories* in the Murakami House and a community art project coordinated by Richmond Multicultural Community Services.

## New Initiatives

### Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival

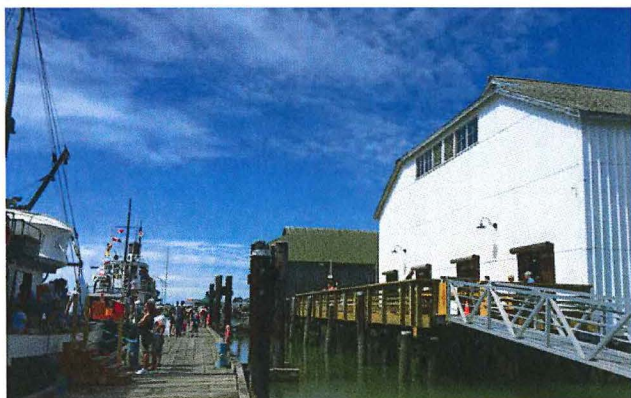
In September, Britannia participated as an exhibitor at the Northwest Maritime Centre's 39<sup>th</sup> annual *Wooden Boat Festival* in Port Townsend, Washington. Over 1,000 people visited an interactive display about the history of Britannia and marvelled at the historic Portage Queen, crafted in 1874, with a rare Easthope engine.

### LED Project

In fall of 2015, Britannia worked with the Sustainability and Facilities Departments to convert all electrical fixtures to be LED compatible. Hundreds of bulbs were changed to energy-saving LEDs.

### Seine Net Loft Dock

In July 2015, the south dock of the Seine Net Loft was reconstructed for programming and events use. This renewed space provides breathtaking water views, and allows visitors to safely approach the river and a flotilla of vessels.

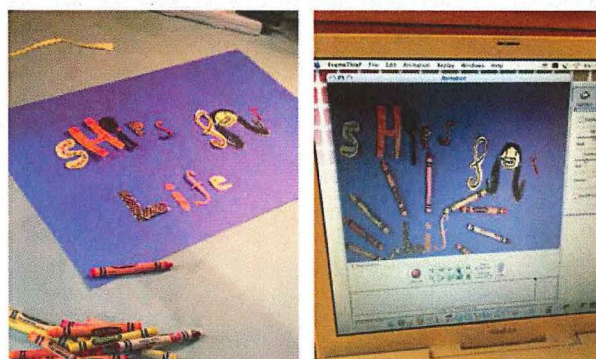


*New south dock on the Seine Net Loft building.*

## New Programs

### Animating History

In 2015, a full class of young animators aged 6 to 12 years imagined, learned and created an animated short film called *Ships for Life*, inspired by Britannia's history. The program was a welcome addition to the seasonal roster as it engages and inspires children to learn about local history by fostering their creativity, developing critical thinking skills and acquiring new technological skills.



*Young animators creating short film Ships for Life.*

### Nature Programs

Britannia hosted two new nature programs to help tie the historic site to the natural river estuary and surrounding environment. On Easter weekend, *Birds, Nests & Eggs, Oh My!* was very popular, and many also turned out for June's *Nature in Your Neighbourhood*.

### Historic Water Shuttle

On Sundays from June to September, Britannia facilitated a hop-on, hop-off water shuttle program in partnership with Vancouver Whale Watch, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery and the Steveston Harbour Authority. This was Britannia's first attempt to link sites along the waterfront with historic interpretation. It was enjoyed by over 500 people.



### New Summer Camps

A series of new half-day summer camps were developed for children 4 to 10 years of age. The camps are full of maritime activities, historic and cultural education: *All Hands on Deck*, *Sailor Knots*, *Sea Monster Myths*, *Bamboo Fishing*, *Sky Cultures*, *Japanese Celebrations*, *Maritime Chart*, *Doubloon Hunt* and *Float Your Boat*. More than 120 children participated in the camps, and all of them enjoyed learning about culture and history on Britannia's waterfront.

### Tall Ship Adventure

In June 2015, a team of ten youth aged 12 to 17 years went aboard the tall ship *Adventuress* to experience life at sea. Their amazing three-day adventure was a rare opportunity to learn how to sail, navigate and respect our waters. This was the first time Britannia worked with a sailing vessel to provide a public programming opportunity of this nature.

### Historic Halloween

Approximately 750 people participated in *Historic Halloween Adventure* tours at Britannia on October 24 and 31. Visitors heard about the different cultural Halloween traditions of those who called Britannia home, and listened to spooky tales of spirits said to haunt several site buildings and docks. The event was very well received and was listed as the number one free family Halloween activity in the *Richmond News*.

### Volunteer Program

In 2015, 417 volunteers at Britannia logged 5,296 hours during special events and regular operational hours. The heritage greeter volunteer program grew from 70 volunteers in 2014 to 110 in 2015. Diverse new tour training opportunities included field-trips to other museums, including a visit to the Jewish Holocaust Education Centre in January.



*The tall ship Adventuress.*

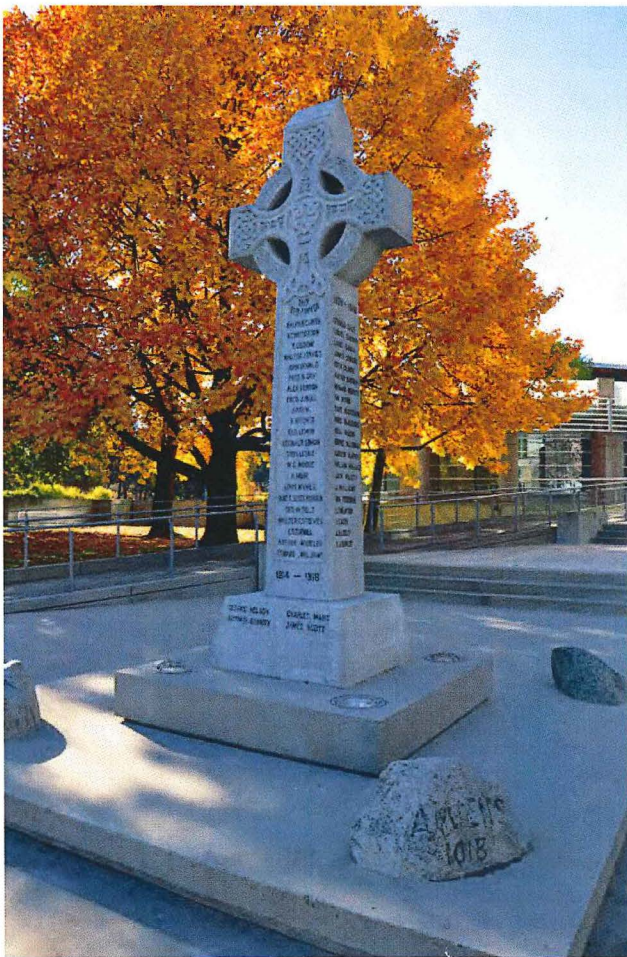
Photo Credit: Sound Experience Organization



## Cenotaph

Close to 5,000 citizens attended the 2015 Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph. The hour-long ceremony remembers the sacrifices that veterans have made for our freedom, followed by a minute of silence. Official and unofficial wreath layings take place at the Cenotaph, showing respect for those who sacrificed their lives.

Planning for the event starts in the early fall and includes partners in the Royal Canadian Legion and the RCMP.



*The Richmond Cenotaph.*



# Thank you

Our veterans did not forget about us. Let us not forget about them.

Thank you to everyone in Richmond who took time to reflect, remember and honour those who served, and continue to serve, Canada during times of war, conflict and peace.

A special thank you to those who contributed to Richmond's Remembrance Day services.

#### Remembrance Day parade and ceremonies organizing team

Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, Unit #284 (Steveston), Tom Brander, President

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #291 (Richmond), Bob Miller, President

Richmond Remembrance Day Committee, Matthew McBride, Chair

Parade Chaplain, Tim Le Drew

Richmond Community Legion Band, Bob Mollett, Director

RC Palmer Choir, Jason de Couto, Director

Piper, Grant Wyenberg

#### Parade participants

Parade Marshall, Carl Huggins

Deputy Parade Marshall, Chuck McDonald CD

Colour Party Commander, William Reid CD

Cenotaph Guard, Sgt. Wayne Lysholm CD

Veterans Platoon, Commander Peter Davis CD

39 Service Battalion

Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corp 195

Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corp 2947

Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corp 2381

Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corp 655

Royal Canadian Air Cadet Corp 692

Royal Canadian Air Cadet Corp 609

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Richmond Fire-Rescue

Canada Border Services Agency

BC Ambulance Service

St. John Ambulance Brigade Div. 881c

Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Station 10 (Richmond)

Cadet Mass Band

#### 5th annual Remembrance Day reception

Judith Hutson,

Reception organizer

Richmond Community Volunteers

The Diplomat Bakery

Steveston Bakery

The Butler Did It Catering Company

Richmond Youth Honour Choir

#### Remembrance Day displays

Friends of the Richmond Archives

#### Remembrance Day simulcast

Richmond Media Lab youth

Scott Edmiston, Master of ceremonies

#### First aid

St. John Ambulance





## London Heritage Farm

### Programs and Tours

In 2015, the London Heritage Farm Society continued to engage groups, old and young alike. This year, 20 school groups from Richmond and nearby districts attended tours of the old Farmhouse and grounds. Many also participated in the Richmond Museum's program *Food for Thought*. Visitors included 25 senior and private groups whom enjoyed the Tea Room, strolling through the gardens and seeing the plants come into bloom.

Staff and volunteers participated in the Pro-D day workshops for teachers, as well as a planning committee for heritage education together with the City of Richmond heritage sites.

### Tea Room

The Tea Room celebrates numerous holidays, including Chinese New Year and Easter, with special "themed" teas and decorations in the Tea Room. Homemade baking, jam, sweets, and the site's signature London Lady Tea are served to locals and visitors.

On Mother's Day weekend, the Tea Room was filled to capacity with families, and members of the "London Family" (actors performing these roles) visiting on this special weekend. Many of the 200 visitors make this an annual Mother's Day tradition, while others discover the Farmhouse and garden for the first time.



*Lavender Tea at London Heritage Farm.*

### Special Events

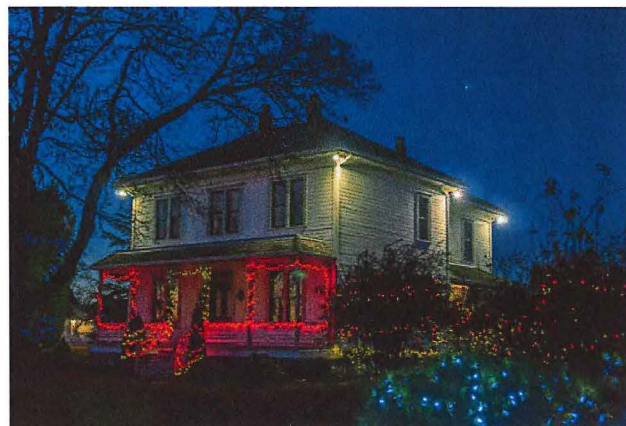
In 2015, 24 weddings and other outdoor celebrations—bridal showers, picnics and birthdays—took place on the south lawn and gazebo area, drawing families and crowds from all over Canada and the world. Smaller, more formal events were held in the Tea Room, including a *Celebration of Life* for a past volunteer of London Farm.

Summer brings the addition of new staff, volunteers and students to help in the Tea Room for the extended summer hours and to assist with weddings and picnics taking place throughout the busy season.

### Christmas Season

Volunteers decorated the house with Christmas trees and lights which were enjoyed by tour groups. Piano players and carolers gathered round the London Farm piano and other musicians played throughout the Christmas season. Traditional mincemeat tarts, shortbread cookies and other home-baked goodies were served in the Tea Room. Many guests return each year at this time to enjoy the Christmas spirit.

The London Farm participated in the *Festival of Trees* display at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery once again this year, with a "Scottish Roots" themed tree.



*Christmas Lighting at London Heritage Farm.*



## Vintage Car Display

Members of the Vancouver Car Display group displayed their vintage automobiles on the south lawn on a sunny June day. Club members enjoyed delicious strawberry shortcake and London Lady Tea, and toured the Farmhouse and gardens.



*Vintage car display at London Heritage Farm.*

## Doors Open and Culture Days

*Doors Open* Richmond and *Culture Days* were busy and successful with many local and international visitors. Many stayed for tea in the Tea Room and participated in tours of the Farmhouse. Close to 700 visitors attended *Doors Open* at the London Farm, while 150 visitors attended during *Culture Days*.

## London Family Farm Day

*London Family Farm Day* is the largest community event of the year. Live music, pony rides, a petting zoo, the Nylon Zoo, and small bird house and toy building activity animated the event. Entertainment included a popular old fashioned photo booth with volunteers from the Richmond Photo Club taking photos of guests dressed in vintage clothing. A number of other community partners helped make the event a hit including the Richmond Wood Carvers, the Vancouver Lace Club and Richmond Spinners & Weavers gave demonstrations. Well-known Vancouver historian, Ivan Sayer, attended with a large collection of his own vintage clothing for guests to view during the event.

## Richmond Food Bank and Food Security Program

The Richmond Food Security Program attended with enthusiastic volunteers to pick the fruit from the site's apple, crab apple and pear trees. Again early in the fall, they attended with large picker trucks and tools. Over a number of days, they harvested a total of 375 lbs of pears from the London Farm to donate to the Richmond Food Bank. This program greatly benefits the London Heritage Farm Society, as that the fruit does not go to waste, and keeps the site tidy and clean for our events and visitors.



*London Family Farm Day.*

## Honey

The London Heritage Farm's volunteer beekeeper collected 75 lbs of honey this fall from the ten beehives on site. This popular item is enjoyed by visitors, and is for sale in the Gift Shop.

## Collections Management

Ongoing work continues in collections management, with a London Farm dedicated volunteer attending the City wide Artefact Collection Committee meetings. Volunteers and the City of Richmond curatorial team completed work inventorying and cleaning the outdoor farm equipment display.



## Minoru Chapel

### Restoration

Built in 1891, the Chapel was the first heritage project undertaken by the City Council in 1967. The wood structure has aged well and the first stages of the restoration of Minoru Chapel have been completed.

Planning for Phase 2 was completed using the City's conservation guidelines in consultation with heritage architects in 2015. The work includes choosing fixtures, assessing the original fir flooring, designing a new accessible ramp and enhancing the landscaping.

### Filming

TV commercials, the film *Finding Mr. Right 2*, and an American sitcom were filmed in the Chapel in 2015. The sitcom, *Impastor*, filmed three episodes there in 2015 and plans to film on location at the Chapel again in 2016.

### Weddings/Events

Minoru Chapel hosted 58 weddings, 1 memorial and 1 baptism during 2015.



*Minoru Chapel in Minoru Park.*



# Richmond Museum

## Exhibitions

### *Open for Business*

(November 10, 2015–May 29, 2016)

The Richmond Museum's current exhibition, *Open for Business*, engages the business community and explores how small businesses have built our community and, in turn, how the community supports small businesses.

Key artefacts and interactive exhibits are used to inspire curiosity and promote historical inquiry. Museum visitors have proven especially enthusiastic in exploring a Mad Men-style office from the 1950s and a powder-blue, mid century dental chair owned by twin brother dentists who had a practice on Gilbert Road.

The Museum worked with community members ranging from London Drugs and the Great Little Box Company to a nine-year-old greeting card designer who donates half of her profits to the Children's Hospital, and young inventors and entrepreneurs at Nanotips. Another contributor, beekeeper Brian Campbell, is making a vital contribution to our community's environment, ensuring that healthy bees are here to pollinate our food crops.



*The Open for Business exhibition.*

Photo Credit: Lance Blomgren



### *Interwoven World: Identity and Fashion* (November 6, 2014–October 19, 2015)

*Interwoven World: Identity and Fashion* explored how fashion has evolved through time using a diverse array of textiles from different centuries and places. Each illustrated the many cross-cultural influences seen in fashion around the globe and in Richmond today. Historic and contemporary fashions show how the West has 'borrowed' and adapted ideas, styles and materials from other cultures around the world and how, in turn, other cultures have adopted our fashion and ideals.

*Interwoven World: Identity and Fashion* also explored our individuality and how we express ourselves through our own unique fashion choices. Visitors received tips on how to become fashion detectives as they explored the basics of material science and discovered what their fashion choices can reveal.

The exhibition was developed with guidance from the UBC History Department and Kwantlen Polytechnic University and featured loans from Ivan Sayers, an acclaimed fashion historian, and many community members.



*The Interwoven World exhibition.*



## Outreach Exhibits

### **Light in the Dark: Richmond Cultural Centre**

January 20, 2015 to March 19, 2015

### **Spring Break Camp Exhibit: Richmond Cultural Centre**

March 19, 2015 to August 21, 2015

### **Spring Break Camp Exhibit: City Hall**

March 28, 2015 to July 10, 2015

### **125<sup>th</sup> Post Office Anniversary: Steveston Museum**

May 19, 2015 to December 3, 2015

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Manoah Steves Elementary School**

May 19, 2015 to June 30, 2015

### **Business Tools of the Trade: City Hall**

July 10, 2015 to December 15, 2015

### **Where is Richmond?: Richmond Cultural Centre**

August 21, 2015 to January 19, 2016

### **Remembrance Day: City Hall**

November 3, 2015 to November 17, 2015

### **Mayor's Gifts: City Hall**

November 17, 2015 to November 3, 2016



*Students apply their creativity and media skills in an Animating History workshop, interpreting the historic first flight from Minoru Park through stop-motion animation.*

### **Baking Memories: Steveston Museum**

December 3, 2015 to April 26, 2016

### **New Acquisitions: City Hall**

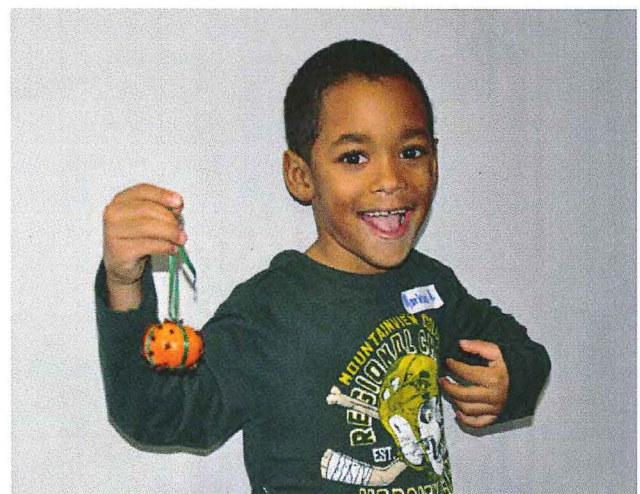
December 15, 2015 to March 17, 2016

## Educational Programming

### School Programs

The Museum offers exciting and popular curriculum-based field trips and education kits that encourage students to explore local history while developing inquiry skills. The Museum also hosts the annual *Richmond Regional Heritage Fair* and offers free school tours of its exhibitions. In 2015, 2,958 students engaged in these programs.

The Museum leads a collaborative effort to promote learning resources offered across Richmond's museums and heritage sites. At an annual professional development workshop for teachers, the Museum partnered with the Steveston Museum and for the first time, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site, to feature programs and learning tools that tell Richmond's diverse stories of community-building.



*In the Let's Celebrate Winter workshop, students learn about diverse winter celebrations and traditions. This student learned about the European tradition of making pomanders at Christmas.*



### Children's Programs

Children and youth have fun at the Museum during Spring Break and summer vacation. Participants engage with local history and museology through interactive activities and field trips. A creative group of students curate an exhibit, learning how to handle and care for artefacts.



*During Spring Break Camp, youth curate an exhibit for public display at Richmond City Hall.*

### Volunteers

The Museum is thankful for its team of enthusiastic volunteers who generously offer their time to help with exhibit installation, programs and special events. In 2015, 160 volunteers contributed over 2,800 volunteer hours.

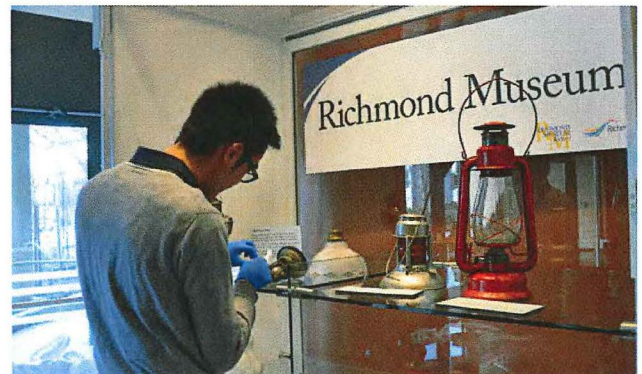


*Local high school students volunteer to help children build boats during Heritage Fair.*

### Arts Internship Program

The Museum partners with UBC Faculty of Arts to offer two internship positions, Curatorial Assistant and Museum Assistant, for post-secondary students interested in pursuing a career in museums or related fields.

In return, interns have exceptional opportunities to work directly with artefacts in a community museum collection and alongside museum, cultural and education professionals. This is invaluable experience for those wishing to build relationships and pursue a career in the museum or heritage sector.



*Museum Assistant intern Edwin Ho removes an artefact tag from an artefact while assisting with the installation of an outreach display.*



## Community Field Experience

The Museum partners with UBC Faculty of Education to offer Community Field Experience placements providing teacher candidates with the opportunity to participate in educational settings in alternative contexts. They have the opportunity to expand their concept of potential learning sites and educational community connections. In 2015, the Museum hosted two Elementary and two Secondary teacher candidates.



*Secondary teacher candidates Job Gallevo and Nikitha Fester work on a Heritage Fair banner during the first week of their Community Field Experience.*

## Public Programming

### Design Thinking

January 29, 2015

To gain an insider's view of how designers create new fashions and styles, the Richmond Museum partnered with the Kwantlen Polytechnic University students. Graduating students Michelle Larsen, Michelle Leung and Fiona Pang, from the Wilson School of Design, walked program participants through their design processes and presented the fashions they created for their graduating show.

### If Clothes Could Talk

February 17, 2015

Fashion choices reveal more than first meets the eye. The Museum invited Dr. Tara Mayer, Associate Professor from the UBC History Department, to deliver a fascinating visual presentation that focused on exotic depictions of "others." The presentation focused on South Asian dress and showed how fashion choices provide clues about culture and attitudes. The lecture included a thought-provoking exploration of contemporary multicultural issues that face us today.

## Antique Identification Program

May 9, 2015

Ever wonder where your antique heirlooms or vintage treasures come from and what they are worth? The Museum offered an opportunity for community members to speak with experts about their treasures. Visitors brought in a variety of objects including antique household items, Asian art and jewellery.

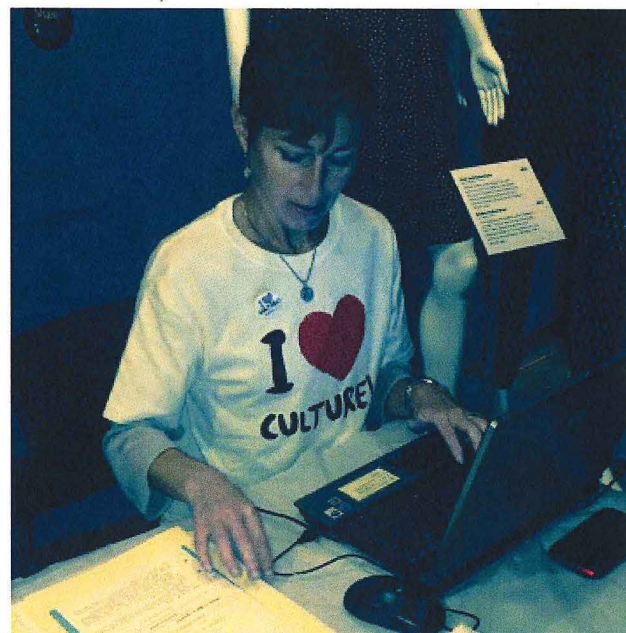


*Appraiser Greg Tolliday examines an antique bear and learns all about the history of this prized treasure from its owner.*

## Culture Days: Curious About Curators

September 25, 2015

The City's curatorial collections staff spent the day showing visitors how they catalogue and care for artefacts.



*Curatorial Assistant, Camille Owens catalogues an artefact and enters information in the Collections Management database.*



## 2015 Heritage Update

### Textile Conservation Workshop

November 26, 2015

This popular program, delivered by a professional conservator, provided museum professionals, students, textile artists and enthusiasts with an opportunity to learn about the care, preservation and restoration of textiles through hands-on activities and demonstrations.



*Participants learn how to wash and mend textiles.*

### Exhibition Tours

Tours of current exhibitions were provided for ESL learners, the Richmond Stroke Recovery and BC Library Conference attendees.

### Oral Histories

The Museum conducted two informal oral histories with members of the Ukrainian community. The participants did not wish to be recorded, so these interviews were conducted as "research interviews."

## Collections Management

### New Acquisitions

In 2015, the Richmond Museum accepted 87 artefacts for the Olympic Collection while 179 artefacts were added to the permanent collection, totaling 266 new artefacts.

Artefacts new to the permanent collection included an Interior Salish basket from the 1930s, a woman's 1940s Red Cross uniform worn in Richmond, fish-scale shingles and a claw-foot tub salvaged from Gilmore House and Martha Steves clothing and household linens from the late 1800s. New to the Olympic Collection is: part of the Hidey and Howdy mascot costume from the Calgary Olympics, Kelly Smith's racing wheel chair from the 2014 Athens Paralympic Games and a hockey costume from the Vancouver 2010 closing ceremony.



*Paralympian Kelly Smith after he won Silver at the Athens Paralympic Games. His wheelchair has been donated to the City's Olympic Collection.*

Photo Credit: Kevin Bogetti-Smith

### Flood Disaster Artefact Recovery

A flood occurred at the City's main Artefact Storage Warehouse on the afternoon of December 31, 2015 as a result of a problem with a hot water tank on the floor above.

Over 800 artefacts in the immediate area were affected. These artefacts were moved to alternative storage as soon as safely possible. Curatorial staff were on site and able to mitigate some damage. Detailed artefact condition assessments are being carried out in 2016. Staff are taking this opportunity to gather more information about each artefact, complete full condition reports and review current artefact disaster plans.



*Water from a unit above impacted over 800 artefacts and damaged a mobile rolling shelving unit, pallets and other equipment.*



## City-wide Artefact Collections Committee

City-owned museums and heritage sites—Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society, London Heritage Farm Society, Richmond Museum Society, and Steveston Historical Society—meet every two months to implement a management approach for the artefact collections, and provide coordinated and efficient care of the objects. The Collections Manager of the Gulf of Georgia Cannery also participates in these meetings.

In 2015, the Committee focused on discussions about the balance between the responsibility of care, management and preservation of artefacts versus the need to display and access artefacts. The Committee also examined ways to promote educational artefact care information and training for programming staff and volunteers. The Committee also went on a best practice trip to Stewart Farmhouse in Surrey to learn how other cities and groups manage their artefacts in a heritage setting.



*Collection Committee members at Stewart Farmhouse in Surrey.*

Photo Credit: Don Rolls

## Artefact Digitization

The Museum received a BC History Digitization Program Grant through the UBC Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, to photograph the migration and immigration collection.

These artefacts illustrate how people arriving from all over the world have adjusted to life in Richmond, and how Richmond has been shaped and influenced by them

in turn. These artefacts tell many stories of migration resulting from factors such as oppression, war, family and economic opportunity.

More than 2,100 artefact images and accompanying records will be available online to the public in the Spring of 2016.



*A sample of artefacts which represent Richmond's many migration stories: (top left) shoes given to a local farming family by their South Asian employees; (top right) fishing tools from a local Japanese family; (bottom left) reproduction of Minoru Chapel; (bottom right) sewing machine brought to Richmond.*

## Artefact Storage Warehouse Tours

Tours of the City's primary artefact storage warehouse on River Road took place throughout the year. These tours gave community members and Spring Break and Summer Camp participants access to the City's material culture and opportunities to learn about how the City cares for and manages its artefact collection.

## Publications

### Mouth of the Fraser

The *Mouth of the Fraser* heritage newsletter was given a new look and attracted new readers in 2015. A broad range of heritage community members contributed stories on a diverse set of topics, events and happenings.

The Museum made strides to go green by updating the distribution database and offering readers the opportunity to receive a digital version of the newsletter.



## Steveston Interurban Tram Building

The Steveston Interurban Tram Building celebrated its second full year in operation. In 2015, close to 31,000 people visited the light-filled home of Interurban Tramcar 1220 during the year; almost 115,000 people have visited the Tram building since it opened in May 2013.

### Public Programming

#### *Doors Open Richmond*

During the June 6 and 7 weekend, 1,431 visitors explored Interurban Tramcar 1220, interacted with scale model railways and discussed Richmond's transit past with a rail historian. Children enjoyed crafts and a scavenger hunt.

#### *Canada Day*

The Interurban Tram building is near the centre of Steveston's famous Canada Day *Salmon Festival*. The building welcomed 1,418 visitors, who appreciated the crafts and rail history provided by staff and volunteers.



*Canada Day crafts at the entrance of the Steveston Interurban Tram Building.*

#### *All Aboard!*

The second annual *All Aboard!* event on August 8 celebrated transportation in Richmond, past and present. The day delighted 1,020 visitors with live music, vendors and vehicles. Vendors included Walk Richmond and the HUB cycling network, which provided information about different ways to travel around Richmond. Children built transportation-themed Lego sets with Bricks 4 Kidz. The Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society provided a rail speeder (a small vehicle to inspect rail lines) as a photo opportunity and the Transit Museum parked a 1950s vintage bus nearby for visitors to climb aboard to enjoy a trip down memory lane.

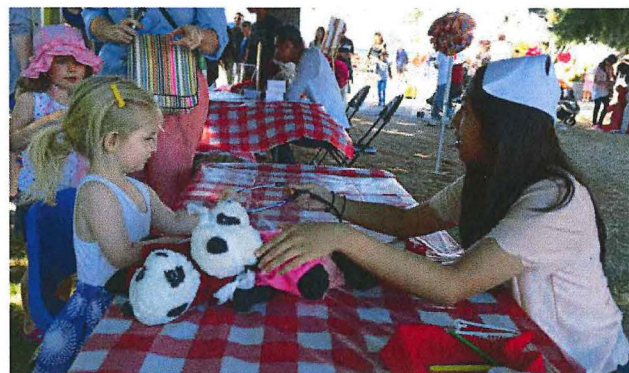


*Young visitors explore Interurban Tram Car #1220 during All Aboard!*

Photo Credit: Tharaka Mapalagama

#### *Teddy Bears Picnic*

The second annual *Teddy Bears Picnic* proved wildly popular with over 1,000 children, adults and their teddy bears converging on Steveston Park and the Interurban Tram building on August 22. Staff and volunteers from the Tram and Steveston Community Centre offered a variety of teddy bear related activities from games, crafts and face painting to fortune telling, first aid and best friend certificates. Local shops donated prizes for a free raffle and the day ended with a long parade of children and their teddy bears around Steveston Park.



*Youngsters watch while a teddy bear physician checks over their furry friends.*



## Culture Days

The Interurban Tram's annual *Screwy Sunday Culture Days* celebration on September 27 was very popular with 397 people taking part in removing contemporary screws from the side of Tramcar 1220. Participants took home their screws and a special card commemorating their experience.

## Winter Tram

More than 450 festive visitors braved heavy rain on December 5 to start their holiday season with the Winter Tram. Everyone enjoyed free hot chocolate and treats, and many visitors generously gave donations of non-perishable food to the Richmond Food Bank. Frontier College, a literacy group, gave away free books to visitors and read the children's book *The Polar Express* throughout the afternoon. Special guest Santa Claus listened to children's wishes and gave each child a Steveston Interurban Tram ticket with a sleigh bell attached, just like the one the little boy receives from Santa in *The Polar Express*.



*A special guest at the Winter Tram event.*  
Photo Credit: City of Richmond

## Volunteers

The Interurban Tram's special events could not take place without the hard work of volunteers. In 2015, 50 volunteers greatly contributed in making the Tram's events a success by donating a total of 245 hours of their time.

## School Programming

In 2015, Tram school programs were delivered by a new School Programs Facilitator shared with Richmond Museum and Steveston Museum. Five classes enjoyed the *Getting There* school program. Four preschool and daycare classes participated in the *Tots on Trams* tours of the Interurban Tramcar 1220. This tour will be extended into an hour-long program in the future.

## Interurban Tram Conservation and Restoration

Ongoing research and planning for the restoration of the #1220 Tram Car took place in 2015. Partnerships were strengthened with other Museums and groups who have restored tram cars.

Phase 2 funding was approved by City Council which has allowed for restoration to proceed.



*View of the interior smoking section of the #1220 Tram Car.*



## Steveston Museum

Work upgrading the interior of the Steveston Museum was completed in 2015. New exhibits interpreting Steveston's colourful past were installed in both the Post Office area and the rear exhibition room.

### Exhibitions

#### Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building Exhibition

The Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building opened on June 15, 2015 with a giant street party on First Avenue. The opening was many years in the making. The Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building had been restored over several years, under the guidance of the Steveston Museum Building Committee and staff, before the exhibition could be installed.

The exhibition interprets the history of the Japanese community in Steveston. Their story is told in their own words, and uses their objects and archival images.

This history begins with the arrival of the first Nikkei, people of Japanese descent. Their many contributions to Steveston from cultural arts to fishing and farming, and from education to kendo and judo are interpreted. The exhibit continues with the Japanese community's internment during World War II and the postwar return of some community members.

The exhibition supports Steveston Museum's goal to contribute to a deeper understanding of local history in an accessible everyday setting we all can enjoy and understand.



*The Steveston Sogetsu Ikebana generously provide beautiful flower displays for the new exhibition in the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building.*

#### Nikkei Stories of Steveston

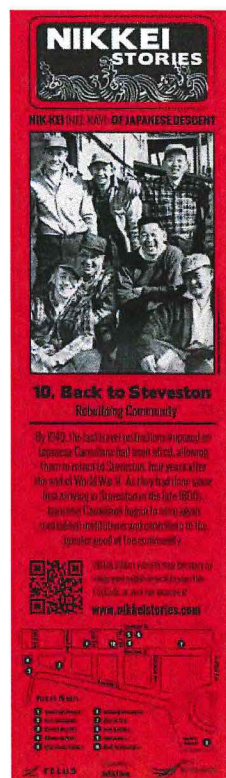
The *Nikkei Stories of Steveston* brings to life the experiences of Japanese Canadians in Steveston through ten interpretive street signs linking to short videos.

The project tells the stories of the Japanese Canadians who created a thriving community in Richmond, despite difficult circumstances. Telling these Nikkei stories in our community ensures that their history lives on.

In February 2016, a walking tour was launched with a brochure linking the interpretive signs located on the main streets of Steveston, indicating where these events took place. Each sign will provide a link to the Internet for smartphone users, directing them to the video about that specific story. These videos combine poignant storytelling with rarely seen archival photographs.

The *Nikkei Stories of Steveston* videos are also available in the Steveston Museum and online at [www.nikkeistories.com/#videos](http://www.nikkeistories.com/#videos).

The *Nikkei Stories of Steveston* was produced by Orbit Films Inc., a Vancouver-based film and new media production company under the guidance of the Steveston Historical Society.



*Nikkei Stories of Steveston interpretive signs have been installed in ten locations in and around the village.*



## Public Programming

Despite the Town Square Park green space surrounding the museum being closed due to upgrades in the latter half of 2015, a number of special events still took place in and around the museum and park.

### 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Steveston Post Office

The importance of the postal system to the development of Steveston as a town was commemorated with the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Steveston Post Office. Organized in conjunction with the Steveston Historical Society, Mayor Brodie was among the dignitaries speaking to approximately 250 people. Among the themes touched upon during the celebration was the heyday of the postal system, when receiving letters and parcels through the mail broke the tyranny of distance and separation between family and friends.



*Mayor Malcolm Brodie presides over celebrations at the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Steveston Post Office.*

### Doors Open Richmond 2015

Steveston Museum was the centre of attention during the *Doors Open Richmond* kickoff with the opening of the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building. On June 5, over 2000 people enjoyed the opening festivities, including visiting the new exhibition in this heritage building. During the *Doors Open* weekend, an additional 812 people explored the building and exhibits about the history of the local Japanese community.

### Canada Day

As one of the points along the *Steveston Salmon Festival* parade route, Steveston Museum's Canada Day festivities embraced the larger theme of flags and fish. Hundreds of Canadian flag tattoos were applied to the willing arms, legs and even faces of 503 visitors to Town Square Park. Over 100 fish prints were produced by people seeking a fun and creative activity in the cool shade of the Museum's park.



*Visitors surround Steveston Museum during the Salmon Festival on Canada Day.*



*Canada Day fish print and temporary tattoo activities took place in Town Square Park surrounding Steveston Museum.*



## 2015 Heritage Update

### Town Square Park

The concept for Steveston Town Square Park, adjacent the Steveston Museum, was approved by Council in July 2015. The new concept honours Steveston's Japanese Heritage by adapting Japanese garden design elements, including a Suikinkutsu—a traditional Japanese water harp sounding-bell. The park will feature beautiful seasonal plantings along with benches and informal seating. The dog bowl memorial for Big Red, Steveston's favourite canine, will be reinstated.

### Summer Walking Tour Program

The *Murder, Mayhem and Morality in Old Steveston* and *Steveston Stories* walking tours were offered by the Steveston Museum twice a week during the summer. Sixty-eight intrepid souls saw Steveston from a different perspective over the summer after being guided around its sights during these paid tours.

### Culture Days

Visitors received a special opportunity with Culture Days at Steveston Museum. Twenty-six visitors received the guided historical tours of Steveston Village for free on September 25 and 26.

### Colouring Competition

Steveston Museum partnered with Splash Toy Shop and the Candy Dish to present four colouring competitions which garnered 198 vibrant entries from children aged one to 13.

### Volunteers

Steveston Museum's special events were successful thanks in a large part to 18 dedicated volunteers who contributed 182 hours in 2015.

### Educational Programming

Steveston Museum shared a School Programs Facilitator for the first time with Richmond Museum and Tram in 2015. The museum's in-class presentation proved particularly popular, with 20 presentations to 482 students. This included a special one-off series of 13 presentations to 300 students at Manohā Steves Elementary School celebrating the school's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Another 182 students enjoyed seven walking tour presentations highlighting themes such as Steveston's cultural diversity, local industries and the changing landscape. There were also two special adult walking tours outside of usual summer hours for 16 participants, including a group of motor journalists.



Colouring Competition Winter entries.



## Richmond Olympic Experience

Opened in November, the Richmond Olympic Experience in the Richmond Olympic Oval is an inspirational and highly interactive experience that showcases Richmond's Olympic journey and contribution to making the 2010 Olympic Winter Games successful; rekindles memories of the 2010 Games; celebrates Olympism and the Olympic Movement by looking back over the 120 years of the Modern Olympic Games and highlights the sporting history of Richmond. Through interactive media, hands-on sporting simulations and artefacts and memorabilia from athletes and past Olympic Games, visitors experience a Journey of Transformation.

### Sports Wall of Fame

In November the Richmond Sports Wall of Fame was unveiled at the Richmond Olympic Oval. Sixteen athletes, coaches, officials and builders who have made their mark in local, national and international sport over the past century were inducted. Inductees included: the Richmond Milkmaids, a women's lacrosse team from the 1920s; a world-record holding javelin thrower, tragically killed in World War II; a 14-time Paralympic medallist; and, the only athlete to win championship rings in three major pro football leagues.

### History of Sport in Richmond

As part of the Richmond Olympic Experience, an exhibit highlighting Richmond's sporting history was unveiled. Using artefacts from the City of Richmond Collection and others borrowed from members of the community, the exhibit looks at some of the sports that helped shape Richmond's development.



*Richmond Lacrosse Sweater, 1949.*

Photo Credit: City of Richmond Collection 988.4.1

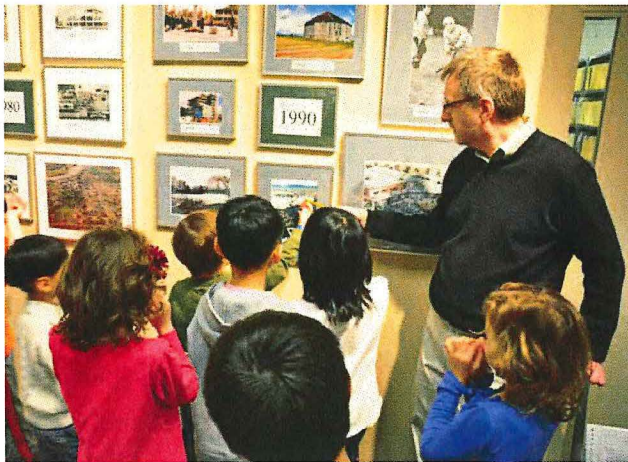


## City of Richmond Archives – City Clerk's Office

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

### Users of the Archives

There were 2,890 reference requests and visitors to the Archives in 2015. Approximately 22% of research requests originated from City staff. The remainder represented a wide variety of research interests and needs, including local businesses, community groups, environmental and property researchers, public artists, writers, filmmakers, university and high school students and family historians.



*Richmond Museum Spring Break Camp with Records Analyst, Dan Farrell.*

### Holdings of the Archives

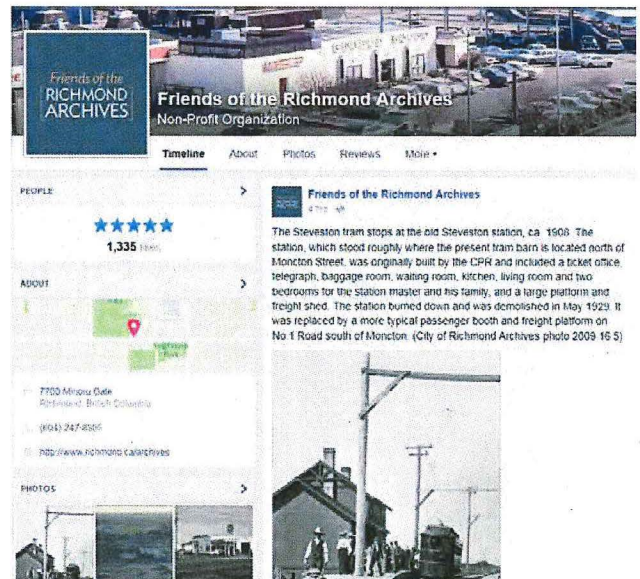
The Archives' holdings include approximately one kilometre of textual records, 170,000 photographs, 20,000 maps and plans and over 500 sound and moving image recordings. In 2015, the Archives acquired 24 new donations of records from City departments, individuals, companies and community organizations.



*Richmond Review composing room with Foreman Fred Meyer (left), Reg Putton (middle) and Don Solomon (right), ca. 1985. This photograph is from the Richmond Review collection, acquired in 2015.*

### Social Media Program

The Archives' social media channels on Facebook, YouTube, Historypin and the Blog "Outside the Box" garnered over 30,000 views in 2015. The Archives' web pages and online search system on the City of Richmond website also had a large number of users.

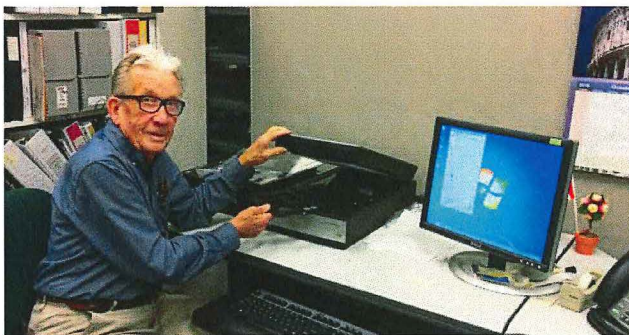


*Friends of the Richmond Archives Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/FriendsofTheRichmondArchives](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofTheRichmondArchives)*



## Special Projects and Programs in 2015

- Digitization program: 4,000 images scanned.
- Completion of the Community Records Processing Project.
- Completion of the Archives Database Description, Indexing and Review Project.
- Database and web search upgrade (ongoing)—to be launched in 2016.
- Educational programs: 13 group visits (238 participants).
- Volunteer program with over 2,121 hours of service provided.



*Volunteer Graham Turnbull digitizing photographs using a new scanner purchased by the Friends of the Richmond Archives.*

## 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 year end, the Society had 258 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 *Steveston Salmon Festival*, *Harvest Full Moon* celebration and the Remembrance Day reception at City Hall.



*Friends of the Richmond Archives Remembrance Day exhibit at City Hall reception, 2015.*



## Heritage Planning

### Conservation Plans

In 2014 funding was allocated from the One Time Additional Level funding to complete Conservation Plans for nineteen heritage assets that the City cares for. Each Plan contains sections on:

- Historical Context
- History of the Asset
- Statement of Significance
- Conservation Recommendations

These Plans were completed in 2015 and are used to guide any rehabilitation, restoration and maintenance of these historic buildings.

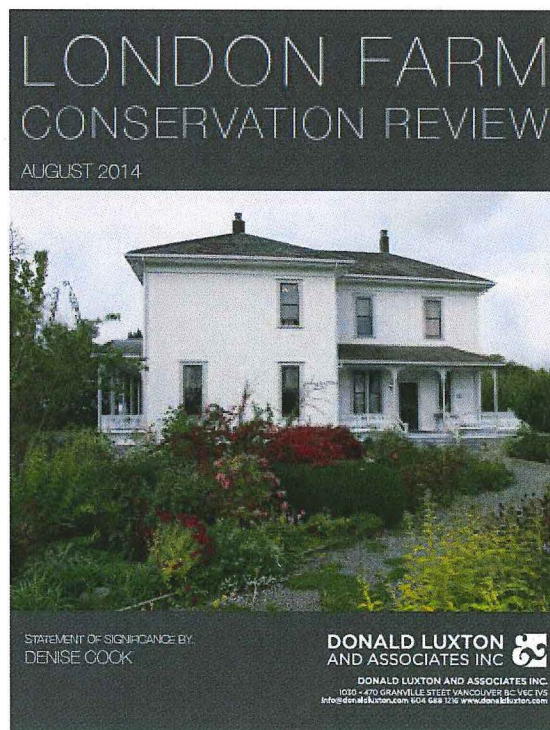
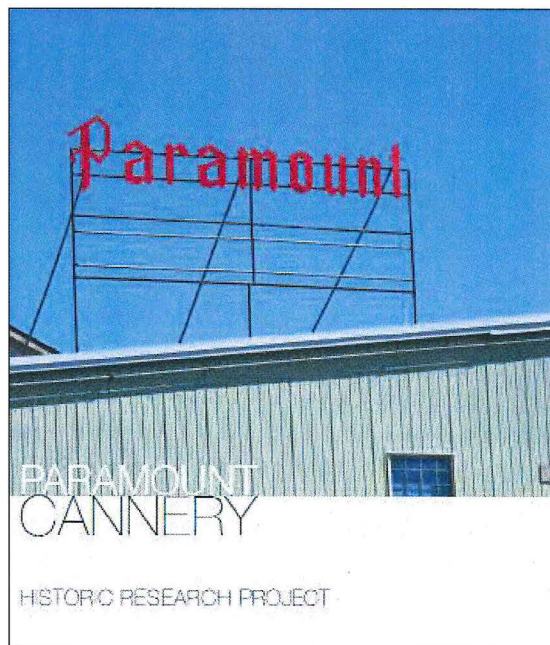
### Paramount Cannery Historic Research Project

In July 2015 funding was allocated to prepare historic research on buildings in the Steveston Harbour Authority Paramount Site. Archival research was undertaken to develop the historic profile of the Paramount Cannery Complex. Twelve historical buildings were documented and analysed for remnants of original and historic fabric, and statements of significance were prepared. This report will form part of the updated Heritage Inventory to be undertaken in 2016.

### Partnerships

The Richmond Museum signed a memorandum of understanding with the Royal BC Museum in late 2014 to develop an active program of museum support and exchange. Key areas of reciprocity include museum planning, technical knowledge and best practices, and facilitating the loan of artefacts. In 2015, both museums began working collaboratively to develop complementary exhibitions for 2017.

The Richmond Museum worked with the Pacific Canada Heritage Centre – Museum of Migration to investigate ways to partner in areas of coincident interest, focussing on the building of a wider and improved understanding of Canada's history and growth through intercultural explorations of historic and current trans-Pacific immigration. The two organizations joined together to begin planning an exhibition that will open in the Richmond Museum in 2017.



*Planning documents.*



## Richmond Heritage Commission – Policy Planning Department

### Planning and Development

The Richmond Heritage Commission is appointed by Council to advise on conservation-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 2015, as part of the ongoing review of development applications, the Commission provided feedback on a number of projects under the Steveston Village Conservation Area, as well as in East Richmond. The Commission also supported the City in heritage-related activities including a bid for the Prince of Wales Prize for Municipal Heritage Leadership and a restoration grant for the Interurban Tram.

### Capacity Building

The Heritage Commission is excited to announce that a logo is in production phase. A logo will assist with the recognition of Commission engagement with a project and bolster our goal of increasing awareness of heritage work in our community. The Commission is excited about displaying the logo during events with our community partners. Much of the liaising undertaken with community partners in 2015 will continue into 2016 as the Commission continues to seek new opportunities for networking.

This year unfortunately marks the end of term for a few longstanding members. Moving into 2016, the Commission will be lacking a full complement, as two seats remain vacant. Current Commission members are actively seeking appropriate and interested candidates.

### Initiatives

The Richmond Heritage Commission was proud to support the Britannia Heritage Shipyard's Chinese Bunkhouse in British Columbia's Chinese Historic Places Recognition project. The Recognition Project is one of eight Legacy Initiatives stemming from the Chinese Historical Wrongs Consultation Report and is intended to commemorate "the positive contribution of Chinese Canadians to BC's history, culture and prosperity." Seventy-seven sites nominated across the province have subsequently been added to an interactive map accessible through the Heritage BC website. For additional information on this project, see [heritagebc.ca/chinese-historic-places](http://heritagebc.ca/chinese-historic-places).

In the summer of 2015, the Commission was pleased to see the launch of brightly coloured, historic photo kiosk wraps in Steveston Village. The utility kiosk wrap project was a partnership between Public Art, the Heritage

Commission, and Engineering and Public Works. The images are meant to bring vibrancy to the space, as well as educate and draw awareness to the rich history of the village. The Commission looks forward to continued engagement with Public Art, as they move forward in developing a Steveston Waterfront Neighbourhood Art Strategy.



*Heritage-themed wraps in Steveston.*

### Community Events and Partnerships

In 2015, the Richmond Heritage Commission continued its financial support of both the *Richmond Regional Heritage Fair* and *Doors Open Richmond 2015*. Heritage Commission members were engaged as adjudicators at the Heritage Fair, asking questions and providing feedback to competing students and presenting awards. *Doors Open Richmond* is an exciting, and growing event, which the Commission hopes to take part in with a station of their own in the upcoming year.

Commission members also celebrated the ribbon cutting at the Japanese Fisherman's Benevolent Society Building, the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Steveston Post Office and the opening of the Richmond Museum's newest exhibition, *Open for Business*. The Commission also continues to contribute to the *Mouth of the Fraser* newsletter and liaise with the Richmond Museum Society. In 2015 the Commission Chair also presented at the Museum Society's annual general meeting. These valuable partnerships contribute to our ongoing goal of fostering outreach and awareness initiatives in the heritage community across the city.



## Heritage in Parks

In Richmond we enjoy excellent parks, scenic trails, waterfront vistas and community gardens. Each highlights our unique natural settings and acts to preserve them for years to come. Richmond has 121 parks, which add up to over 1,600 acres of land dedicated to the preservation of habitat and the enjoyment of cultural landscapes.

These initiatives, supported by outstanding achievements in park design, continue to create amazing outdoor spaces for recreation, sport, leisure and learning.

### Terra Nova Rural Park

Located in the northwest corner of Richmond, Terra Nova Rural Park contains both built and natural heritage resources. Its heritage value and character are defined by the presence and relationship between historic farming, fishing and canning activities as well as heritage landscapes and views. It is distinguished by its rural character, heritage buildings and cultivated landscapes that contribute to the sense of place in this historic area.

In 2015 the Terra Nova Nature School, located in the Edwardian Cottage heritage building, entered its second year of operations. This unique school connects young children with their community and the outdoor landscape by offering direct experiences with nature and gardening on the Terra Nova Rural Parklands. The preschool is part

of the heritage precinct which also includes the Cannery Store and Parsons House.

Also on the North side of the park, the Terra Nova Adventure Play Environment gained accolades for its unique and innovative design, and was enjoyed by residents from throughout the region. This dynamic play environment located amongst trees and former farm fields, with a wide range of wildlife nearby, reconnects children and family with nature.

On the South side of the Park, The Sharing Farm continued to celebrate the city's agricultural heritage by producing fresh organic vegetables for the Richmond Food Bank and supporting a vibrant volunteer program. The Richmond Food Security Society worked to manage the City's over 300 community garden plots while working to advance food security for all Richmond residents. The Richmond Schoolyard Society developed and delivered school-based gardening programs throughout the City.

Terra Nova Rural Park was home to a variety of activities and programs celebrating Richmond's rich natural and cultural heritage in 2015, including the site specific theatre production, *The Faerie Play*, produced by The Sharing Farm Society and *Mortal Coil*, a new Meditation in Motion yoga program, the annual Garlic, Chefs to Field, and Raptor Festivals.



*More than 40,000 visitors attended the Ships to Shore 2015 festival and fireworks, June 29–July 1. The event was located at Imperial Park and Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, which celebrates our fascination with tall ships from a bygone historic era.*



## Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site

Owned by Parks Canada and operated by the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery is an important attraction in Steveston which provides a rich interpretation of Canada's West Coast fishing industry. In 2015, the site again broke attendance records with over 56,000 people visiting from around the world. Among these visitors were 270 groups attending educational programs or tours, including 47 schools and organizations in Richmond.

In 2015, the Society showcased the feature exhibition, *Trading Routes: Rivers, Fish and Oil*. Using unique art pieces, the exhibition promoted conversations about resource extraction in the province and how it affects ourselves and the environment around us. People who live in Richmond have a long history of making use of the resources available, from fishing in the Fraser to growing crops in our fertile soils. This exhibition highlighted how resource development can impact fish habitat and the fishing industry.



*Trading Routes: Rivers, Fish and Oil* exhibition at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery.

Photo Credit: Pat Macintosh

In addition to its regular programming on site, the Society has worked to offer appealing special events and programs for local Richmond residents. One way it does this is by offering the popular *Cannery Farmers' Market* from October to April. Market visitors enjoy free admission to the site, while a variety of vendors showcase products that follow the "make it, bake it, catch it, grow it" credo.

Over the past year, the Society has partnered with the Steveston Historical Society, the Steveston Harbour Authority and the Richmond Artists Coalition to create a new mural on the Fisherman's Park building. With support from the City, these groups worked with mural artist Victoria Oginski to install a three panel piece celebrating today's fishing industry in Steveston.

The Society also worked with local organizations to deliver a boat ferry service in Steveston in conjunction with the Britannia Heritage Shipyards and Vancouver Whale Watch. Throughout the summer, this service provided a unique way for visitors to Steveston to experience the village and travel between the two national historic sites.



*A new mural on the Fisherman's Park building.*



## Statistics

### Attendance

#### Signature Events

##### Doors Open Richmond

- 16,322 site visits

##### Maritime Festival

- 40,000 site visits

##### Richmond Regional Heritage Fair

- 125 students; 835 visitors

##### Richmond World Festival

- 25,000 visitors

### Facilities

#### Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

- 121,206 visitors

#### London Heritage Farm

- 8,000 visitors

#### Richmond Museum

- 35,169 visitors

#### Steveston Interurban Tram Building

- 30,962 visitors

#### Steveston Museum

- 33,889 visitors

### Volunteers

#### Signature Events

##### Doors Open Richmond

- 16 volunteers contributed 1,070 volunteer hours

##### Maritime Festival

- 147 volunteers contributed 1,500 volunteer hours

##### Richmond Regional Heritage Fair

- 63 volunteers contributed 585 volunteer hours

##### Richmond World Festival

- 140 volunteers contributed 1,143 volunteer hours

### Facilities

#### Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

- 5,296 hours were logged by volunteers during *Ships to Shore*, *Maritime Festival*, programs and site tours

#### Richmond Museum

- 1,074 hours logged by 34 volunteers and interns

#### Steveston Interurban Tram Building

- 50 volunteers contributed 245 volunteer hours

#### Steveston Museum

- 18 volunteers contributed 182 volunteer hours

### Weddings/Special Occasion Rentals

#### Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

- 10 weddings and 141 rentals

#### London Heritage Farm

- 30 weddings, picnics and celebrations

#### Minoru Chapel

- 58 weddings, 1 memorial and 1 baptism









## City of Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Telephone: 604-276-4000

[www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca)