



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
Electronic Meeting**

**Anderson Room, City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road**

**Tuesday, September 24, 2024
4:00 p.m.**

Pg. # ITEM

MINUTES

PRCS-3 *Motion to adopt the **minutes** of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on July 17, 2024.*



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

October 22, 2024, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room.

DELEGATION

PRCS-7 1. Jim Wright to delegate **in response to the KPU Farm at Garden City Lands 2023 Activity Report.**

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE DIVISION

2. **NAMING OF THE NEW COMMUNITY FACILITY AND FIELDHOUSE LOCATED IN HUGH BOYD COMMUNITY PARK**
(File Ref. No. 06-2052-01) (REDMS No. 7772636)

PRCS-26

See Page PRCS-26 for full report

Designated Speaker: Mandeep Bains

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the facility to be constructed in Hugh Boyd Community Park be named Hugh Boyd Park Pavilion, as presented in the staff report titled “Naming of the New Community Facility and Fieldhouse located in Hugh Boyd Community Park”, dated August 29, 2024, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services.

3. **RECOGNITION OF FALLEN SOLDIERS ON RICHMOND CENOTAPH**
(File Ref. No. 06-2000-20-001) (REDMS No. 7771142)

PRCS-33

See Page PRCS-33 for full report

Designated Speaker: Rebecca Clarke

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the staff report titled “Recognition of Fallen Soldiers on Richmond Cenotaph”, dated August 26, 2024, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be received for information.

4. **MANAGER’S REPORT**

ADJOURNMENT



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Place: Council Chambers
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Chak Au, Chair
Councillor Michael Wolfe (by teleconference)
Councillor Andy Hobbs
Councillor Bill McNulty
Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie

Absent: Councillor Laura Gillanders

Also Present: Councillor Carol Day
Councillor Kash Heed
Councillor Alexa Loo

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:44 p.m.

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded
That the minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on June 25, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

1. GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY PARK GATHERING SPACE CONTRIBUTION

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-20-MNOR1) (REDMS No. 7688995)

It was moved and seconded
That the staff report titled “Garden City Community Park Gathering Space Contribution”, dated June 12, 2024, from the Director, Parks Services, be received for information.

CARRIED

1.

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee
Wednesday, July 17, 2024

2. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INDIA CULTURAL CENTRE OF CANADA FOR KING GEORGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-20-KGEO1) (REDMS No. 7702403)

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) next steps will include preparation of a 2025 capital submission, funded by an external contribution, (ii) upon Council's approval of the capital submission as part of the Capital Budget, staff would work with the India Cultural Centre of Canada (ICCC) to establish a detailed scope of work, cost estimate, project phasing and procure the services of a qualified contractor, in accordance with the City's standard Purchasing policies, (iii) pocket gardens may be identified through the City's wayfinding strategy, (iv) Parks Services staff regularly engage with ICCC members and will continue to do so, and (v) donations are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Discussion ensued regarding (i) financial contributions, (ii) work in-kind, (iii) fundraising completed by the ICCC, and (iv) the City's strong tradition of successful partnerships with community-based organizations, including the ICCC.

Mayor Brodie left the meeting (4:57 p.m.) and returned (5:02 p.m.).

It was moved and seconded

That the staff report titled "Community Partnership with the India Cultural Centre of Canada for King George Park Improvements", dated June 25, 2024, from the Director, Parks Services, be received for information.

CARRIED

3. CANADA LINE STATION ART PLINTH PUBLIC ART PROJECT CONCEPT

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-20-109) (REDMS No. 7624977)

In response to a query from Committee, staff advised that a plaque will be installed along with the artwork to provide more details about the art and artist.

It was moved and seconded

That the concept for the Art Plinth public artwork Tales in Current by artist Linfeng Zhou, as presented in the report titled "Canada Line Station Art Plinth Public Art Project Concept", dated June 17, 2024, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be approved.

CARRIED

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee
Wednesday, July 17, 2024

4. **HERITAGE ALTERATION PERMIT APPLICATION (HA 24-012449)
BY THE CITY OF RICHMOND - 5180 WESTWATER DRIVE
(BRITANNIA SHIPYARD AND SEINE NET LOFT BUILDINGS)**
(File Ref. No. 06-2050-20-BSYD-SB) (REDMS No. 7705732)

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) the Heritage Alteration Permit is for structural and envelope renewals to the Britannia Shipyard and Seine Net Loft buildings, (ii) the metal roofing will be replaced with roofing material to match the existing as closely as possible, (iii) any materials that cannot be repaired will be replaced, (iv) the proposed repairs are required to maintain the heritage value and structural integrity of the buildings, and (v) the materials and approach of the proposed alterations are in keeping with the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

Discussion ensued regarding (i) the roof replacement, (ii) the wood used as recommended by the heritage consultant, and (iii) reusing and recycling materials where possible.

Harold Steves and Loren Slye, Britannia Shipyard National Historic Site Society, expressed support for renovations to the buildings, while expressing concerns regarding the technique and potential results. Mr. Steves noted that the buildings must follow Parks Canada's Standards and Guidelines and a committee to oversee the restoration of the Britannia Shipyard and Seine Net Loft buildings would be beneficial.

Further discussion ensued regarding (i) establishing an oversight committee for heritage restoration projects and (ii) the heritage consultant used for the Britannia Shipyard and Seine Net Loft buildings.

Staff were directed to provide a memorandum outlining what consultants are used and their various roles on restoration projects.

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That a Heritage Alteration Permit be issued to authorize alterations to the Britannia Shipyard and Seine Net Loft buildings at Britannia Shipyards, as outlined in the staff report titled, "Heritage Alteration Permit Application (HA 24-012449) by the City of Richmond - 5180 Westwater Drive (Britannia Shipyard and Seine Net Loft buildings)," dated June 13, 2024, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services and the Director, Facilities and Project Development; and*
- (2) *That staff comment on the utility of a committee to oversee the restoration of the Britannia Shipyard and Seine Net Loft buildings.*

CARRIED

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee
Wednesday, July 17, 2024

5. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

None.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn (5:24 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

Councillor Chak Au
Chair

Shannon Unrau
Legislative Services Associate

To: Richmond Parks Committee and everyone who is interested

From: Jim Wright

Re: Delegate to the September 24th Parks Committee meeting in response to Kwantlen's June presentation re their progress on the Garden City Lands
September 11, 2024

Starting point: You may have seen my response, in the *Richmond News*, to Dr. Mike Bomford's presentation. I've included it on the next page in case you wish to read it now. On September 24th, I will assume all who are interested in that have read it, so I won't repeat it.

Background: Kwantlen are obviously active in the Garden City Lands **biodiversity conservation use** along with the **agriculture use**. As you know, the third main ALR use of the Lands is **open land park**. In the ALR Regulations, that includes **scenery viewing**, which features viewscapes. A viewscape is an appealing natural view as far as you can see. Kwantlen fosters **viewscapes** too.

With that in mind, I assembled a slideshow of viewscapes that are fairly near the Kwantlen Farm. That's appreciative and supportive of Kwantlen. (The viewscape slideshow can also be shared with the community.) In the four or five minutes it takes, it can add to their sightseeing awareness.

Agricultural Land Commission Regulation, [Article 22](#):

22 (1) The following uses of agricultural land are permitted but may be prohibited as described in section 2: (a) **an open land park established by a local government . . . for biodiversity conservation, passive recreation, heritage, wildlife or scenery viewing purposes. . . .**

Promising vibes: The Garden City Lands get good reviews on Google Maps for open land uses. Example below: Review of [Garden City Lands](#) by Vladyslav Zhuk on Google Maps

Garden City Lands is a truly special place that combines the best of urban farming and conservation. The Community Farm and Bog Conservation Area is a unique and innovative project that provides numerous benefits to the community, including access to fresh, locally grown produce and the preservation of a precious ecosystem.

The Community Farm at Garden City Lands is a vibrant and thriving agricultural hub that produces an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables. It is wonderful to see the community come together to grow and harvest their own food, while learning about sustainable farming practices. The farm also provides opportunities for community education and engagement, with workshops and events focused on gardening, cooking and environmental stewardship.

The Bog Conservation Area at Garden City Lands is equally impressive. It is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species, and is an important wetland ecosystem that provides numerous ecological benefits. The conservation area is also a valuable resource for education and research, providing opportunities for the community to learn about wetland ecology and conservation.

Overall, Garden City Lands is a shining example of what can be achieved when communities come together to promote sustainable living and environmental stewardship. It is an inspiring project that demonstrates the power of community-led initiatives and the importance of protecting our natural resources. I highly recommend visiting Garden City Lands to experience the beauty and richness of this special place

Richmond and KPU Farm — a good fit

Jim Wright letter to Richmond News, published July 2, 2024

Richmond city council and the sustainable agriculture folks of Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) have got things right again. That was clear when the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee met on June 25 in the Anderson Room at City Hall.

It harkened back to the City Council's Planning Committee [meeting of Feb. 5, 2008](#) in the same room. Back then, KPU's Kent Mullinix and student Shane McMillan presented the KPU concept of a centre for sustainable agriculture on Richmond farmland.

But Richmond didn't yet own the Garden City Lands. But they were the preferred site, near KPU classrooms. But Kent wasn't sure of KPU's buy-in.

Still, the councillors happily helped Kent fill out the concept. With Coun. Harold Steves deftly chairing, they supported it, whether or not they wanted the Lands to stay in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

In 2008, that ALR status was a big issue, but they put it aside. In the packed meeting room, we sensed the concept of a sustainable agriculture centre grow in power and promise.

A note if you're lost when you hear "Garden City Lands": It's the Richmond parkland east of Garden City Road between Westminster Highway and Alderbridge Way. Its ALR uses are agriculture, biodiversity conservation and open-land park recreation such as walking and cycling and sightseeing.

In any case, 16-plus years later, the parks committee met in the same setting, and the centre for sustainable agriculture was on the agenda again. But now the centre is a reality. It's the vibrant KPU Farm. And anyone could watch the meeting from home, as I did.

KPU's Mike Bomford had shared the ["2023 Activity Report of KPU Farm @ Garden City Lands"](#) with council. The colourful booklet brimmed with progress through teamwork, both within the sustainable agriculture program and with Richmond city staff, schools and community.

The related parks meeting is [on YouTube](#), from the 33-minute mark until one hour and four minutes into the meeting. Coun. Chak Au deftly chaired it.

Coun. Bill McNulty asked Mike what the City could do "in a major role" to promote the KPU program. If Richmond trumpets it, enrolment may soar.

After one of Mike's clear answers, Coun. Andy Hobbes said, "That's a great explanation!"

Jokingly, Coun. Laura Gillanders asked Mike about letting her buttercups thrive around her blueberry bushes as living mulch. He suggested purslane for that. Laura had it and will use it.

Coun. Michael Wolfe practically grew up on the Lands, and he knows them well. He told Mike, "You've completed some of the puzzle that I've always wondered about."

After lots of dialogue, Mike said, "Thank you for all your support. We really do appreciate it."

In the 2024 reality of the "KPU Farm @ Garden City Lands," the concept keeps growing in power and promise.

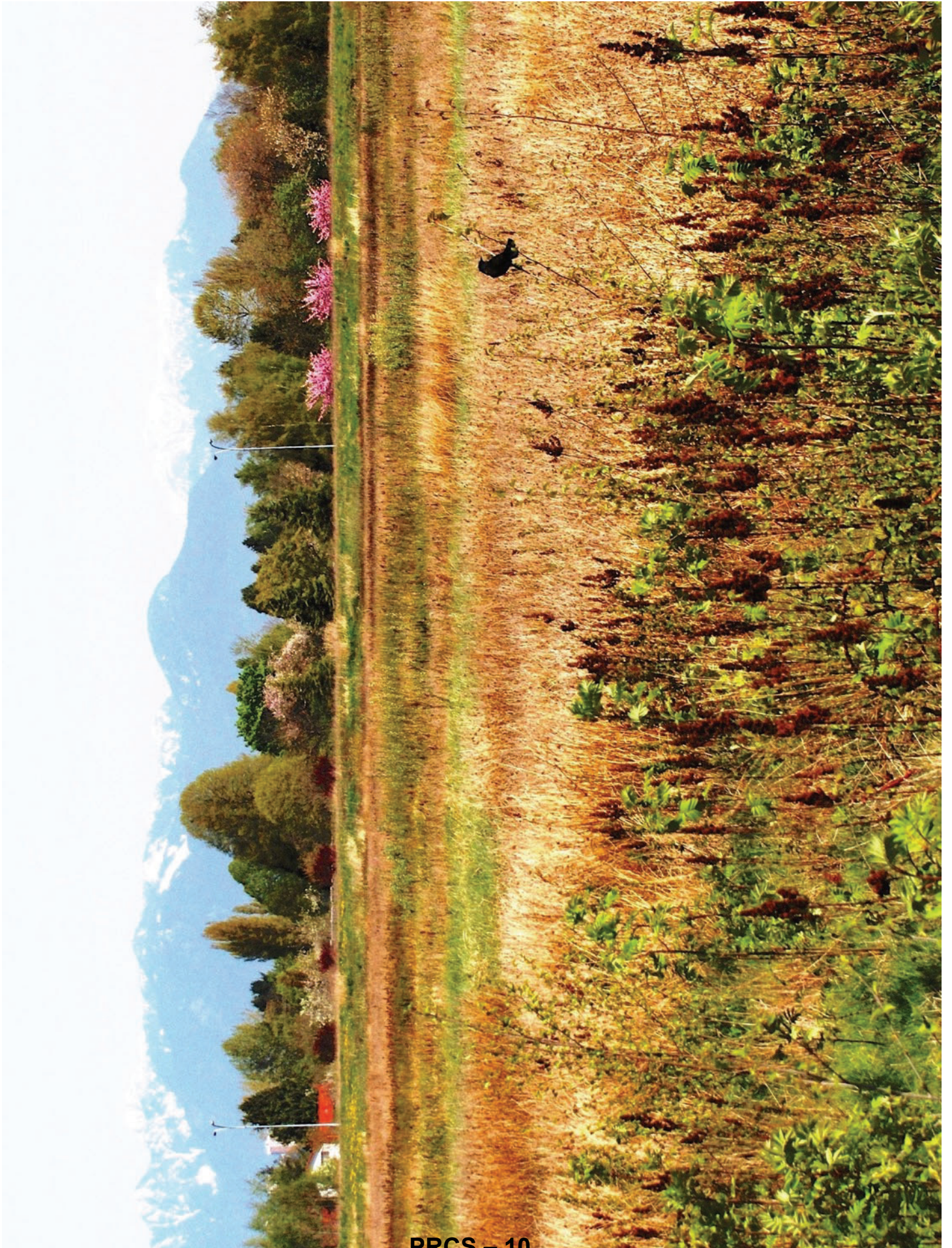
Jim Wright, past president of the Garden City Conservation Society, Richmond

Garden City Lands

Viewscapes

PRCS – 9

found at and near the Kwantlen Farm



What's a viewscape?

It's an *appealing* natural view as far as you can see.

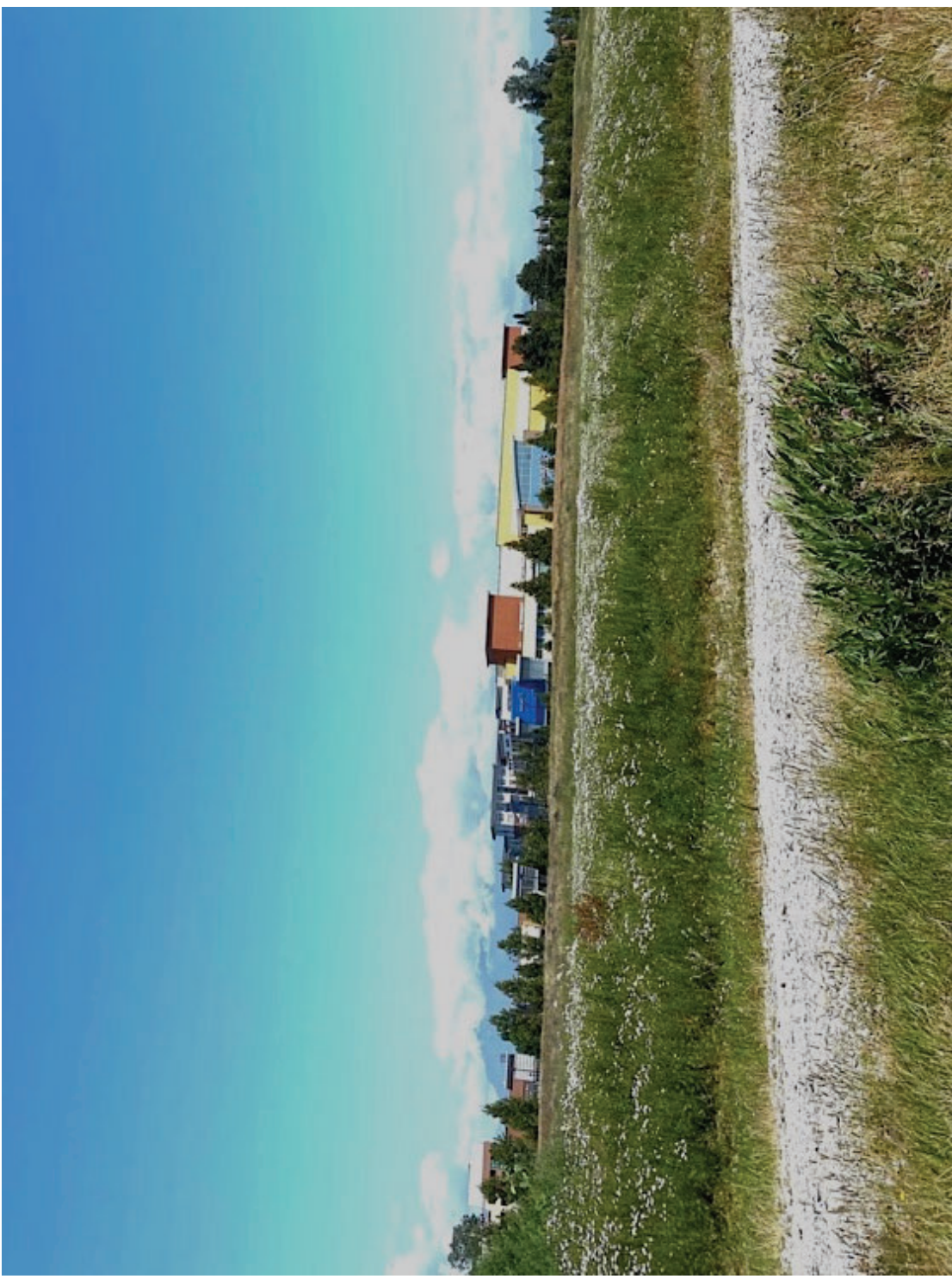
CS - 11



Michael Wolfe took this Garden City Lands photo long ago, looking north. People saw the mixed urban forest beyond Alderbridge as part of the Lands.

That viewscape is gone, and some of it is now the Kwantlen Farm.

Here,
looking north,
Walmart
dominates.



Not much of a viewscape.



To Walmart's credit, it has some trees. Ideally, evergreens would be tall enough to screen Walmart but not the mountains. Hard to do.

Next, Kwantlen to the rescue. . . !



07/07/2024 08:29



07/07/2024 08:32



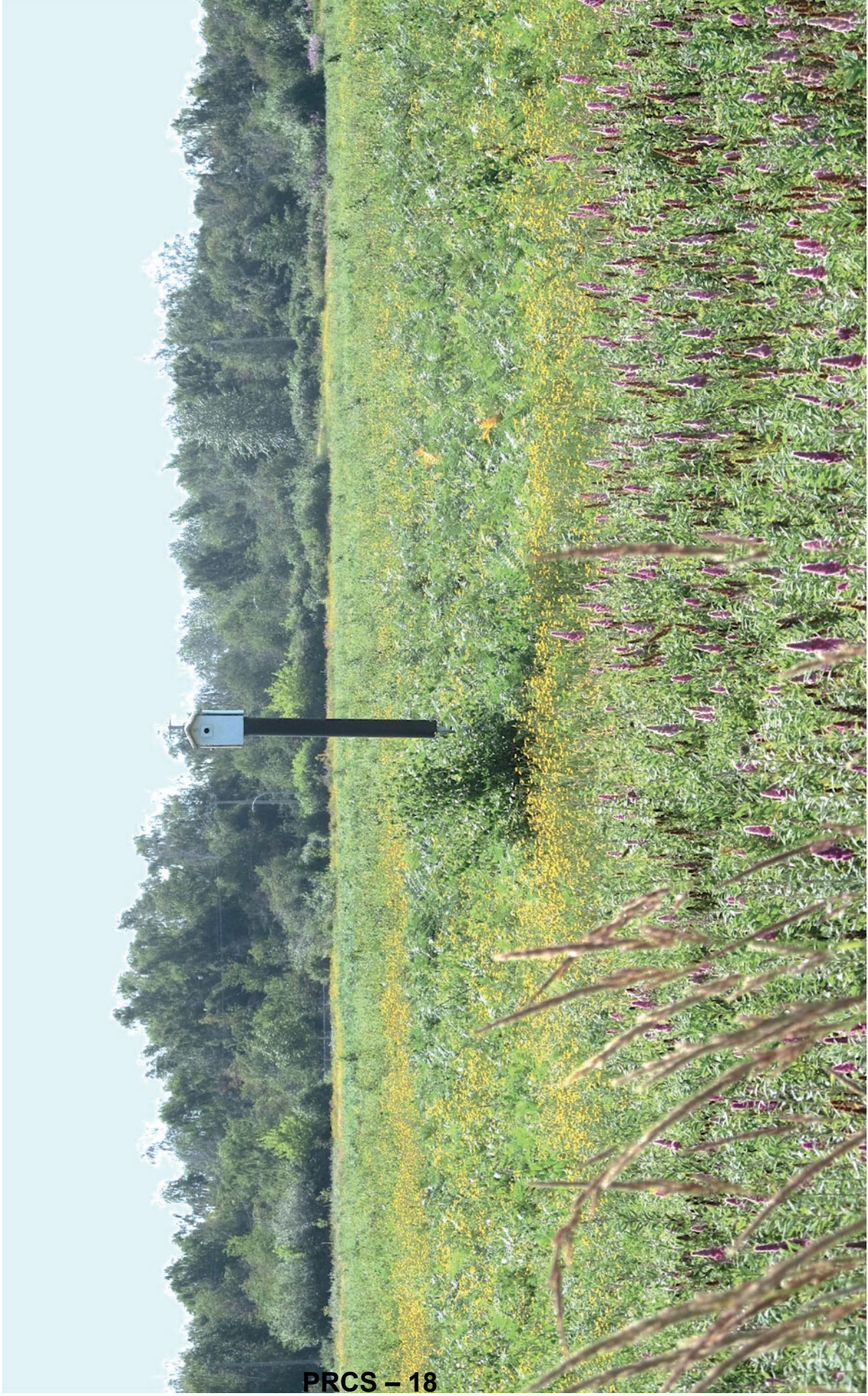
Photos of the Kwantlen Farm “high tunnels,” greenhouses on rails for the Garden City Lands, serve as visual screens in these views of Hollyburn and the Lions (left, northwest) and Grouse Mountain (right, northeast).

(Neat farm structures can be part of a viewscape.)



And here's Kwantlen Farm. The view is looking east. The trees are on both sides of No. 4 Road, including the National Defence Lands on the far side.

Further east, in this view, we see free-growing vegetation. Again, the trees are on both sides of No. 4 Road.



As we turn northward, an interpretive sign and foxgloves—and the natural-look homes across Alderbridge—join in the viewscape.



As we start back on the north side of the Lands, profuse mountain ash berries and foxgloves, backed by evergreens, make a stunning viewscape.



Well west, looking northwest, we find a peaceful pond viewscape.



On the west side, facing south, a pool draws viewscape elements together.



Near the farm's group of structures, happy flowers enliven the viewscape.



PRCS – 23

About seventy metres south of the farm, there's a quiet sanctuary with an eastward viewscape. It invites you to commune with Nature.



PRCS - 24

And so on. . . .

PRCS - 25

We often find and fine-tune viewscapes,
as when taking scenic photos, like these,
or simply in our minds.

Acknowledgement: Photography by Sarah Wright



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** August 29, 2024

From: Keith Miller, Director, Recreation and Sport Services **File:** 06-2052-01/2024-Vol 01

Re: **Naming of the New Community Facility and Fieldhouse located in Hugh Boyd Community Park**

Staff Recommendation

That the facility to be constructed in Hugh Boyd Community Park be named Hugh Boyd Park Pavilion, as presented in the staff report titled "Naming of the New Community Facility and Fieldhouse located in Hugh Boyd Community Park", dated August 29, 2024, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services.

Keith Miller
 Director, Recreation and Sport Services
 (604-247-4475)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Parks Services Facilities and Project Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

On July 8, 2024, Council approved the program, site, form and concept design as well as the capital budget in the amount of \$19,000,000 for the Hugh Boyd Community Facility and Fieldhouse. Subsequently, on July 22, 2024, Council adopted the resolution to include a limited Class 3 service kitchen, add a premium movable wall between the multipurpose rooms and amend the capital budget as well as the Consolidated 5 year Financial Plan (2024-2028) by \$850,000.

The purpose of this report is to recommend the adoption of a name for the new facility.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.

6.1 Advance a variety of program, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.

6.3 Foster intercultural harmony, community belonging, and social connections.

This report supports the City's Community Wellness Strategy, Focus Area #3 Enhance equitable access to amenities, services and programs within and among neighbourhoods:

Align availability and access of programs and services to meet the needs of Richmond residents by addressing inequities at a neighbourhood level, e.g., geographical, cost of programs and transportation, timing, cultural relevance and language needs or facilitating outreach opportunities.

This report also supports the City's Recreation and Sport Strategy, Focus Area #4 Active People and Vibrant Places:

Natural and built environments within neighbourhoods in Richmond encourage connectedness and participation in recreation and sport.

Action 4.3 Provide inclusive, safe and welcoming facilities and spaces for recreation and sport programs and services.

Analysis

Background

Hugh Boyd Community Park (the Park) is located in West Richmond, adjacent to Hugh Boyd Secondary School and West Richmond Community Centre. In addition to serving as the primary location for many local sport groups' practices, home games and tournaments, the Park is well-utilized and valued by the Richmond community as a whole. The 41.66 acre park includes

sports fields, pitch and putt golf, basketball, pickleball and tennis courts, outdoor fitness, and a playground.

The new 10,830 square foot (total indoor area) facility will be centrally located within the Park and include team change rooms, public washrooms, multipurpose rooms, a Class 3 kitchen, and concession. In addition, the facility will include a covered outdoor viewing space of approximately 1,000 square feet. The facility will facilitate the provision of community programs, support the day-to-day needs of multiple local sport groups and offer opportunities to attract as well as host high-profile tournaments and sporting competitions.

Enabling Policy

Council Policy No. 2016, Naming of Public Buildings – Parks or Places (Attachment 1) states the following:

3. *A proposal for naming a public building, park or place, other than in honour of an individual, will be considered if:*
 - *an event or date is significant in the City's history.*
 - *a program, activity or symbol is pertinent to the life of the City specific to the location and may be used to effectively promote and market the program or activity both within and outside the community.*
5. *A proposal for naming "parks and open spaces" may consider the name of the abutting road. Similarly, a public building accommodated on a park, the park name, or the building, should relate to each other.*

Naming Considerations

In identifying potential names for the facility, in addition to compliance with Council Policy No. 2016, consideration was given to:

- 1) Whether the name would resonate with residents, park users and visitors;
- 2) Synergy with the facility's location;
- 3) Alignment with the sport, recreation and community uses that will be facilitated; and
- 4) Alignment with the names of other City facilities.

Naming Options

The following naming options are provided for consideration:

- Hugh Boyd Park Pavilion (Recommended);
- West Richmond Pavilion; or
- West Richmond Annex.

Option 1 – Hugh Boyd Park Pavilion (Recommended)

Staff recommend that the facility be named “Hugh Boyd Park Pavilion”.

This name responds to the naming considerations. Including “Hugh Boyd Park” in the name creates a geographical connection and emphasizes the facility’s location within the Park. This name supports wayfinding and will enable residents, park users, and visitors to locate the facility quickly and effectively.

Including "Pavilion" in the name aligns with the naming convention of other facilities in Richmond’s community parks, such as the Brighthouse Pavilion and the former Minoru Park Pavilion. The term "Pavilion" and the function these facilities perform in our community is familiar and recognizable to residents. As such, the use of “Pavilion” reinforces a consistent naming convention across the city, enhances public awareness of the new facility and reflects the facility’s amenities and spaces.

This name also reflects the history of the naming of the “Hugh Boyd Community Park”, which was named after Mr. Hugh Boyd, the first reeve (head of municipality) of Richmond (then Township of Richmond) who served from 1880–1885. Therefore, it is in keeping with the historical significance of this name to this area.

Option 2 – West Richmond Pavilion

This name responds to the naming considerations and is consistent with the naming of other facilities in Richmond which are named for both the area within which they are located and the function that they perform in the community. The proposed name also highlights the facility's proximity to the West Richmond Community Centre. However, it is not recommended, as “West Richmond” references a broad geographical area and therefore does not provide the same level of clear identification, wayfinding, and visibility, as “Hugh Boyd”.

Option 3 – West Richmond Annex

This naming option responds to some of the naming considerations. Similar to Option 2, it emphasizes the facility's location within the West Richmond planning area and proximity to the West Richmond Community Centre. It is in alignment with the name of one other City facility accessed by the general public, the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex. The disadvantage of this name and the reason it is not recommended is that it does not fully encompass the building’s functionality and may not be easily identifiable to residents, park users and visitors.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact as a result of selecting a name for this new facility.

Conclusion

Staff are recommending that the new community facility and fieldhouse located in Hugh Boyd Community Park be named the Hugh Boyd Park Pavilion, which is in line with Council Policy No. 2016. This facility will function as a central hub in Hugh Boyd Community Park and support

August 29, 2024

- 5 -

a diverse range of recreation, community and sport programs and events contributing to a more active and connected community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bains", written over a large, stylized circular scribble.

Mandeep Bains
Manager, Planning and Projects
(604-247-4479)

Att. 1: Policy 2016: Naming Public Buildings – Parks or Places



Page 1 of 2	Naming Public Buildings – Parks or Places	Policy 2016
Adopted by Council: May 12, 1997		

POLICY 2016:

It is Council policy that:

The naming of public buildings, parks or places within the City shall be undertaken to:

1. Honour or memorialize individuals, corporations, events, and places that have attained achievements of extraordinary and lasting distinction and contribution to the City, or
2. Pay tribute to an association with an activity or program which is specific to the use of the public building, park, or place.

In all cases, staff will review the proposals/submissions based on the following "Guidelines for Naming", prior to making a recommendation to City Council. The final decision rests with City Council by means of a resolution adopted by majority vote of Council. In the absence of a clear direction or decision from staff, the final decision will be made by Council.

After the final decision on the naming of public facilities, parks and spaces has been made, the City Clerk shall notify all parties affected by, or interested in, such new public buildings, parks or places.



Page 2 of 2	Naming Public Buildings – Parks or Places	Policy 2016
Adopted by Council: May 12, 1997		

GUIDELINES FOR NAMING

1. Proposals/submissions for naming a public building, park or place may be received from the public (including residents, community associations and organizations), staff, and corporations.
2. A proposal for naming a public building, park or place in honour of a person who has rendered outstanding service to the City, will be considered. Names of living individuals may be considered, but the use of individual names should be minimized.
3. A proposal for naming a public building, park or place, other than in honour of an individual, will be considered if:
 - an organization has had historical and exceptional ties to the City.
 - an event or date is significant in the City's history.
 - a place has significant meaning for, or ties to, the City.
 - a program, activity, or symbol is pertinent to the life of the City specific to the location and may be used to effectively promote and market the program or activity both within and outside the community.
4. In a proposal for naming "joint sites" between the City and School District, the park and school names should coincide through consultation between the two organizations.
5. A proposal for naming "parks and open spaces" may consider the name of the abutting road. Similarly, a public building accommodated on a park, the park name, or the building, should relate to each other.
6. A proposal for naming a "character area" such as a neighbourhood and/or open space should be designated by names linking persons, events, places or activities with appropriate references to location and activities to be conducted on the site or land form.
7. A proposal for naming a public building or park in recognition of a corporation which has made a significant gift or contribution to the City may be considered.
8. A named facility will retain that name as long as it exists. However, if a name is designated for a facility associated with a specific program or activity and that activity is subsequently changed, the name may be applied to a similarly-used facility, if possible, and if not, to another facility.



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** August 26, 2024

From: Marie Fenwick
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services **File:** 06-2000-20-001/2024-Vol 01

Re: Recognition of Fallen Soldiers on Richmond Cenotaph




Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Recognition of Fallen Soldiers on Richmond Cenotaph", dated August 26, 2024, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be received for information.

Marie Fenwick

Marie Fenwick
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
(604-276-4288)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit City Clerk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Origin

At the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee meeting held on January 30, 2024, staff received the following referral:

That the City investigate through appropriate bodies, if there are any fallen members of South-East Asian and or including First Nations descent, who resided in Richmond.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.

6.3 Foster intercultural harmony, community belonging, and social connections.

6.5 Enhance and preserve arts and heritage assets in the community.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on preliminary research findings to recognize fallen soldiers of South and East Asian or Indigenous descent in Richmond. Preliminary research focused on individuals of South and East Asian descent from China and India due to the availability of existing research, the presence of individuals from these countries and the lack of individuals specifically from South-East region of Asia in British Columbia during the first half of the Twentieth Century.

Analysis

Background

The Richmond Cenotaph was erected in 1922 by a Memorial Committee and the local branch of the Great War Veterans' Association, to honour those who had fallen in the First World War. It was later adopted as a monument for both the Second World War and the Korean War.

Initially, the Cenotaph recognized 22 soldiers lost in First World War. Over the years others have been added, as family members put forward the names of their lost loved ones. A number of individuals were added after the City of Richmond Archives and Friends of the Archives published the book, *We Will Remember Them*, in 1998. Following this, in 2010, eight additional fallen soldiers were identified by the community and their names added. This year, two soldiers of Japanese-Canadian descent were added.

There are currently 30 soldiers recognized for First World War, 45 soldiers recognized for Second World War, and three soldiers recognized for the Korean War on the Richmond Cenotaph.

To be recognized on the Cenotaph, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Lived in Richmond, British Columbia at one time in their life;

- Enlisted in the Canadian Army, Navy, or Air Force at the time of the First or Second World War or the Korean War; and
- Lost their lives through the hazards of service and/or by violent means while in the execution of their duties.

There are a number of reasons why individuals may be missing from the monument:

- Originally, family members were responsible for putting forward the names of those who had lost their lives. Some families did not take this action;
- Until recently service records were often difficult to obtain. With records now available online, attestation papers and other military records are more accessible for research; and
- Service records do not always connect individuals with Richmond.

Currently, the Cenotaph has no additional space for recognition of First World War soldiers, multiple spaces for recognition of Second World War soldiers, and many spaces for recognition of Korean War soldiers. Changes to the current design would need to be considered should additional soldiers be identified beyond the capacity of the current Cenotaph.

Fallen Soldier Research Methodology

Typically, research on fallen soldiers starts with a particular person in mind. When starting with the name of an individual there are many records that a researcher may access to determine if that person fits with the criteria for recognition on the Richmond Cenotaph. However, without a name, this research becomes much more challenging.

Some of the challenges of conducting this research include:

- Enlistment records do not include ethnic origins;
- In principle, the Canadian military did not form 'ethnic' units during the 20th Century. This makes any systematic analysis and generalizations about the contributions of ethno-cultural communities difficult;
- Census records may not include some individuals from marginalized or transient communities who hid from or were not around when census collectors came, this would include individuals of Asian or Indigenous descent in the early Twentieth Century;
- Government records were not kept for Indigenous peoples who did not have First Nations status, such as non-status Indians, Métis, or Inuit; and
- Individuals of Asian descent often enlisted outside of British Columbia due to the racist attitudes of some recruitment offices.

Some communities have undertaken their own research to better understand participation of their community members in different Canadian conflicts. This is the case for Japanese Canadians who established their own memorial in Stanley Park. The Japanese Canadian War Memorial was funded by the community and dedicated on April 9, 1920. This monument serves as a reminder of the more than 222 Canadians of Japanese descent who answered the call of duty for Canada. Engraved on the Japanese Canadian War Memorial are the names of those who lost their lives in

First World War, Second World War, the Korean War and the Afghan War. The names on this monument were the starting place for the community whose research findings led to the addition of two Japanese Canadian soldiers to the Richmond Cenotaph in Spring of 2024.

Preliminary Research Findings

Staff conducted preliminary research to assess the probability that there are soldiers of Indian, Chinese or Indigenous descent absent from the Richmond Cenotaph who Council may wish to consider adding in the future. Key resources informing this research can be found in Attachment 2.

This initial research has indicated that there are no additional names to recommend at this time.

First World War

According to the Asian Heritage Society, ten Indo-Canadian men enlisted to fight for Canada in First World War and three of them were killed in the line of duty. None of these men had known connections to Richmond.

According to the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Honour Roll, two Chinese Canadian men were killed in the line of duty in First World War. These men were not known to have connections to Richmond.

According to official records for First World War, over 4,000 First Nations men enlisted for service and more than 300 died as a result of their service. This number does not include the many other Indigenous men who may have served (Métis, Inuit, and non-status First Nations). At this time, a comprehensive list of or collection of records for these individuals is not available. A review of the few records available did not show any soldiers with connections to Richmond. The 1911 Census does not list any men of Indigenous descent living in Richmond at this time. However, the 1921 Census does indicate at least 41 people of Indigenous descent.

Second World War

During Second World War, many individuals from visible minority communities chose not to serve Canada in protest for not having the same rights, e.g., voting and property ownership, as individuals of European descent.

Thousands of Sikh men fought for the Allies in Second World War on behalf of India. This may have included men who resided in Canada but who did not wish to enlist for the Canadian forces. There are no known lists of South Asian individuals who fought for Canada in Second World War. The Canadian Census for 1921 and 1931 lists nine Indo-Canadian men of service age living in Richmond. None of these men had a military service record. Without individual names, it is unclear how additional research might be conducted as military service records do not include ethno-cultural backgrounds.

The Chinese Canadian Military Museum identifies 12 Chinese Canadian men on its Honour Roll for Second World War. None of these men had known connections to Richmond.

According to the Indian Affairs Branch, more than 3,000 status First Nations from across Canada served and 200 gave their life during service in Second World War. Enlistment from Indigenous communities was generally lower than it had been for First World War, as many communities protested conscription. A comprehensive list of records for the individuals who served is not available. The Canadian Census for 1931 does not list any men of Indigenous descent living in Richmond. While summary data from the 1941 Census is currently available, information on individual records or details on population make-up will not be made publically available until 2033.

Korean War

516 Canadians are known to have lost their lives in service during the Korean War. Further research has not shown any soldiers connected to Richmond beyond the three men currently recognized on the Cenotaph.

Next Steps

Staff will submit a request to local Indigenous communities to determine if they have any records of members of their nation who gave their life in service to Canada during wartime and work with them to determine if these individuals were connected to Richmond.

Further investigations into the existence of soldiers absent from the memorial is not recommended at this time. To do a thorough investigation would require a significant amount of time to review the background of fallen soldiers for each war. Should Council wish to proceed with a more in depth research project, staff could prepare a budget estimate and Additional Level submission to undertake this work.

In the future, research such as this may become easier as more files are digitized and made available to public, as artificial intelligence provides methods for quickly reviewing available documentation, and more work is done by federal departments or community organizations to identify members of visible minority communities who served Canada during wartime.

Information about the Cenotaph is available on the City website. Additional information on the process to add names to the Cenotaph will be added to the website. Should members of the community come forward with additional information on the potential addition of fallen soldiers, staff will work with them to establish if they meet the criteria.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

There were many soldiers from visible minority communities who served in the Canadian Military and lost their lives in the line of duty. Without individual names, research on the backgrounds of these individuals is challenging. Research to date has not revealed any new individuals connected to Richmond for inclusion on the Richmond Cenotaph. Staff will continue

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to review new research as it becomes available, to identify any potential additional candidates for inclusion on the Richmond Cenotaph. At this time, a more fulsome research project on this subject is not recommended.

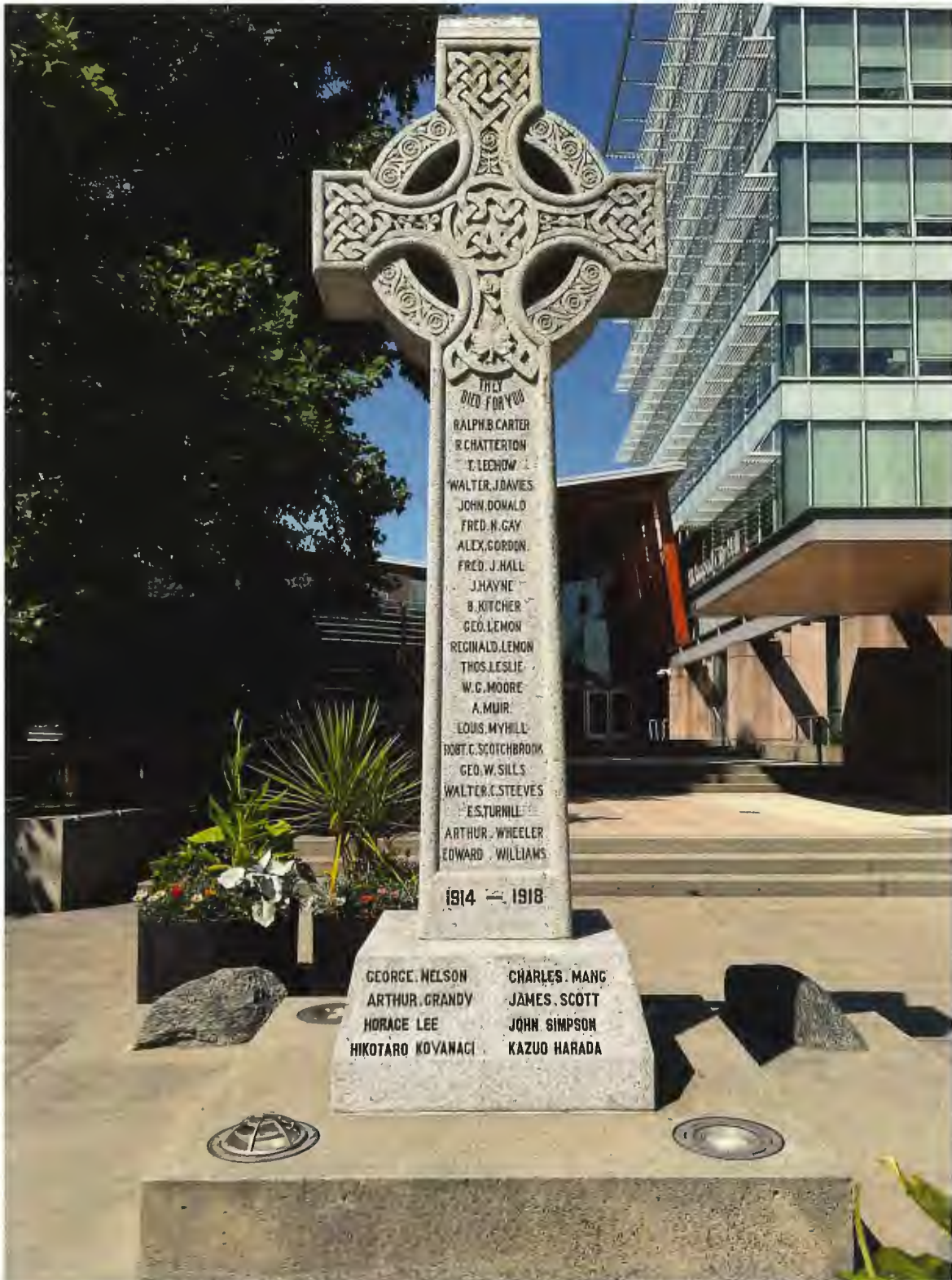


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Att. 1: Images of Cenotaph

Att. 2: Key Resources Informing Preliminary Research

Images of Cenotaph





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Key Resources Informing Preliminary Research

- *Aboriginal People in the Canadian Military*, Department of National Defense, September 20, 2023, www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/popular-books/aboriginal-people-canadian-military/world-wars.html
- *Canadian Sikh Soldiers of World War I*, Stephanie Schoenhoff, January 21, 2016, www.convivium.ca/voices/canadian_sikh_soldiers_of_world_war_i/
- Email from Library and Archives Canada dated April 10, 2024 REDMS #7784660
- *Honour Roll*, Chinese Canadian Military Museum, 2024, www.ccmms.ca/chinese-canadian-history/honour-roll/
- *Indigenous Peoples and the First World War*, The Canadian Encyclopedia, September 17, 2019, www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/indigenous-peoples-and-the-first-world-war
- *Japanese Canadians*, The Canadian Encyclopedia, January 31, 2011, www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/japanese-canadians
- *Lists of Indians killed and wounded overseas, 1914-1918*, Library and Archives Canada, heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_c8510/2233
- *The Korean War*, Veteran Affairs Canada, 2018, www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/history/korean-war/koreawar_fact