

ArchivesNews

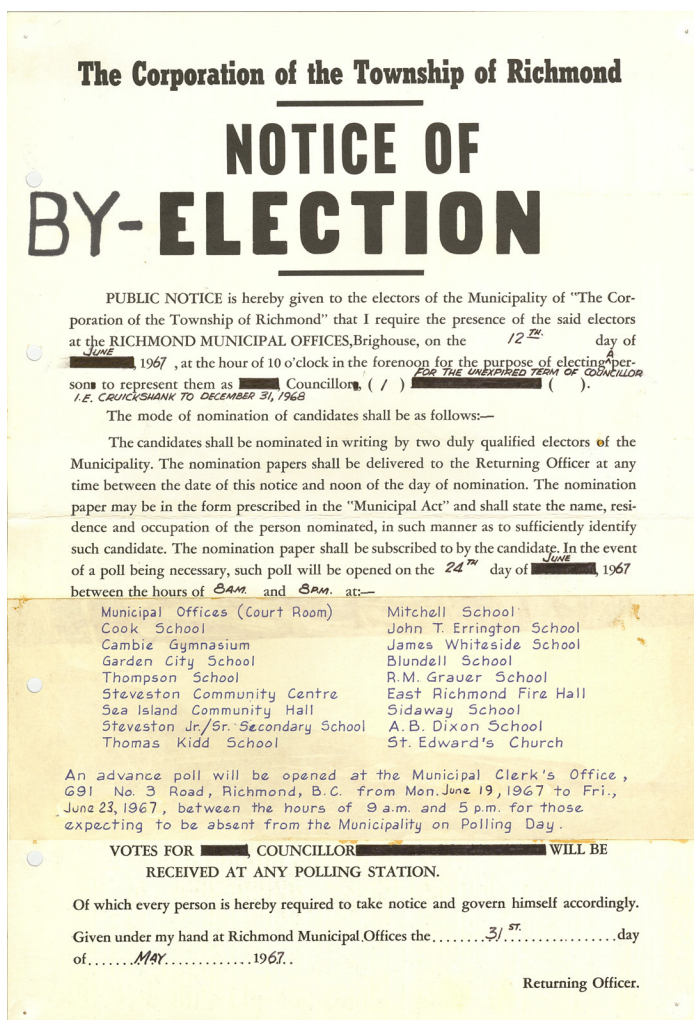
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Archives Updates

Since the beginning of the pandemic one year ago the Archives has seen a successful shift to operations at a distance. We began serving individual researchers by appointment-only on August 17, 2020, and this limited in-person rule is still in effect. Most reference and research requests are now handled online or by phone. Unfortunately volunteer activity is still on hold, although the Friends of the Richmond Archive continue to do what they can for community outreach.

On a sad note our volunteer John Hopkins passed away in September of 2020. He will be missed by his family and many friends.

Archivist Jennifer Yuhasz, scheduled to return from maternity leave in January of this year, has accepted a temporary appointment with the Richmond Elections Office. Jennifer is involved in the 2021 By-Election as Elections Communications Coordinator, and will return to the role of Archivist in June.



Richmond Civic By-Elections

2020 saw the election of Councillor Kelly Greene as an MLA, and subsequent resignation as councillor. There have been four previous Council by-elections held in Richmond since 1950.

The most recent was after both Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt and Councillor Ken Johnston resigned in June of 2001, to take their seats as newly elected MLAs. Councillors Malcolm Brodie and Derek Dang then both resigned to run for the vacant office of Mayor. Malcolm Brodie was elected to that office; Sue Halsey-Brandt, Evelina Halsey-Brandt and Rob Howard were elected to fill the three vacant Councillor positions. Derek Dang returned to serve as Councillor again after being elected in the 2002 general election.

Previous by-elections were less dramatic. In 1967, after the death of Councillor Ivan Cruickshank, Milton Windrim was elected in a by-election. In 1965, after the death of Councillor Stuart Thomas, Henry Gilbertson was elected. In 1955 Councillor Louis Blanchard's office was declared vacant after his six weeks continuous absence from the meetings of Council. George Denham replaced him after a by-election in that year.

Terms of office for mayor and councillors have extended over time: prior to 1987 the norm was only 2 years. From 1987 to 2014 the term of office was 3 years. Only in the previous two elections, 2014 and 2018, have we elected our Council members to 4-year terms.

Notice of By-Election, MR SE 35, file 4569, By-election for Councillor – June 24, 1967 (unexpired term of I.E. Cruickshank) – 1967.

List of Community Records Donated in 2020

- Family and school class photographs
- Richmond Community Health Committee minutes
- Home movies, 1950's
- Fine art photographs
- Steveston cannery worker photo album, 1930's
- Canadian Northern Pacific Railway long bridge research
- Richmond United Church guest book, 1935–1949
- Bank of Montreal branch opening photographs, 1960's
- High-jump Olympian Shirley Olafsson photographs
- Richmond school yearbooks
- "Local Heroes" documentary
- 2010 Winter Olympic games publications
- Kajaks Track and Field Club records
- Bristol Aero Engines collection
- 47 Canadian aviation history publications
- Boeing aircraft drawings, 1945
- Bridgeport School staff photograph, 1964
- Steveston residential development photographs
- Robert Plowman photographs
- Richmond Women's Resource Centre material

Images from 2020 Accessions:

The Kajaks Track and Field Club, established in Richmond since 1961, is currently collecting and organizing their historical records. This includes a preservation element, hence a donation to the Archives. If any Kajaks members or supporters have historical material we would love to hear from you. We can accept textual and photographic records here as a donation, or put you in touch with the club. Here are a few photographs the club donated last year:



Accession 2020 9 – Dave Semple and unidentified award recipient, undated.



Accession 2020 9 – Kajaks team traveling by bus, date and event unidentified.

Other accessions included photographs of everyday working life at a Steveston Cannery, and the not so typical life of an Olympic athlete:



Accession 2020 8 – Steveston cannery workers, ca. 1937.



Accession 2020 6 – Olympic track and field athlete and local high school basketball coach Shirley (Gordon) Olafsson, on far left with fellow athletes at the British Empire Games in 1950.

Mary Keen Memorial Prize in Archival Studies

We are delighted to inform you that the 2020 UBC Mary Keen Prize in Archival Studies was awarded to Ms. Faythe Lou, who had been chosen to fill the temporary full-time position of Records Analyst (see our Fall 2020 Newsletter). What a great example of an investment reaping rewards! Since 2000 the Friends have been able to support the education of new archivists with this endowment. Congratulations Faythe.



Accession 2020 6—The unique high-jump style of Shirley (Gordon) Olafsson.



Remembrance Day 2020

A creative and respectful approach to the memorial ceremony last November was adopted by a team comprising City staff, volunteers, and many others, all working within the constraints imposed upon them. For those of you who were able to attend the virtual ceremony, the shorter event conveyed the same level of thoughtfulness and honour that is usually on display. FOTRA and the Archives participated by providing information about the names on the Richmond Cenotaph, taken from Mary Keen’s research for her book “We Will Remember Them”.

Memberships

In the somewhat trying circumstances of 2020 and these first months of 2021, the FOTRA Board has been very heartened to know that our members have not forgotten us or the important work of the City of Richmond Archives. Membership fees have continued to arrive at the Archives Office—many accompanied by generous donations for which we are always grateful; \$655 has been donated so far this membership year. For those members who have not paid their fee for the 2020/2021 year which ends in September, reminders will accompany this Newsletter.

We understand completely that some of you may feel the return on your \$10 membership fee may have been lower than usual, but we do want you to know that the good work continues.

Archives staff have continued the necessary work of receiving materials, organization, and servicing of clients (citizen researchers by special appointment and City staff generated requests.) FOTRA administrative tasks such as receiving, updating, and organizing membership fees, donations, mailings and expediting expenditures where necessary, have continued to be undertaken in a timely fashion, for which we are grateful.

While the FOTRA Board has obtained an extension from the Registrar of Companies to hold its 2020 and 2021 AGMs by November 2021, we hope to be able to hold them by late summer. Please be assured that members will receive the required advance Notices of Meeting.

Volunteer Work

While the temporary closure of the Archives office put a stop to volunteers working at that site, other community opportunities arose to further the FOTRA mandate of informing the public about the work of the Archives.

Karen Chiu, Seniors Coordinator at West Richmond Community Association, approached the Archives asking if a volunteer was available to engage seniors in a monthly Zoom presentation about Richmond history. Christine McGilvray, President of FOTRA and Archives volunteer, was happy to help out and worked with Karen to develop themes for a “Journey Through Time” using the Zoom platform. Since December 2020, a curious and dedicated group of 15 to 20 participants have registered to become involved in a series of stories that focus on the growth and development of our community since the mid-1800s.



Accession 2020 26
Photograph by Robert Plowman, Blossoms Falling, 2014

The stories are drawn from the Richmond Archives Blog “Outside the Box” authored by John Campbell, FOTRA Board member and Archives volunteer, and further enhanced by other digitized materials available from the Archives’ collection which can be shared on-screen with the participants. Karen and the West Richmond Community Association is currently working with Christine to introduce a new program using the same theme, to cater to phone-in users only, as some seniors do not have the benefit of access to a computer. Participants can register online at www.richmond.ca/register or by phoning the Registration Call Centre at 604-276-4300, Monday-Friday, 9:30–5:00pm.

CITY OF RICHMOND
Archives

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 Appointment-only