

The City of Richmond Archives

ARCHIVES NEWS

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Aerial view of the centre of Richmond just prior to construction Richmond Square shopping centre. 1964.

Archives photo 1984 17 64

NEW TOOLS TO IMPROVE ARCHIVES SERVICES

At the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Richmond Archives, funding support was approved for several projects that will result in exciting improvements in access and use of archival materials. Using proceeds from **Archives Online** sales and earlier Friends fund

raising efforts, the Archives will soon purchase our own scanner.

The photograph reproduced above was scanned from an original print and imported into this document. This technology has great potential for the Archives. Not only will it allow us to make better use of graphic materials in brochures and guides developed in-house, but it also offers the potential of capturing images for on-line access.

NEW TOOLS (continued)

Currently there are still some limitations to implementing scanning of large numbers of graphic files, primarily related to the large size of these files, however the technology is moving quite quickly and access to a scanner will allow the Archives to do the testing and development necessary to keep up with new opportunities for on-line access.

The Archives database has just been up-graded to a Windows environment and the new software, DB/TextWorks™, has a feature to link images with data records. This offers the potential of searching for photographs and having the scanned images appear on your screen. Eventually, this capability could also tie into the Internet, allowing remote access to holdings 24 hours a day.

Further details of other Friends supported projects will be reported in upcoming issues of Archives News.

**THE CASE OF
ALEXANDER MAIN**

Records from the Archives were used in the past few weeks to help confirm a sad tale from Richmond's history and to correct an oversight of the modern era.

A letter to the Mayor's office reported that the name of Alexander Main was missing from the Police Memorial in Ottawa. Alexander Main was the Chief of Police for Richmond in 1900 when he was brutally murdered while investigating a theft. Council Minutes from the era confirmed A.D. Main's status as Chief of Police and other records in our biography files filled in details of the grizzly case.

Archives staff tracked down the authorities responsible for the memorial in Ottawa to determine the criteria for

adding a name to the monument. We assembled the information and passed it along to the Officer in Charge of the Richmond R.C.M.P. Superintendent Ernie MacAulay, for submission to Ottawa.

We are pleased to report that the case has been considered and the addition of Alexander Main's name to the memorial has been approved.

HOURS & ACCESS

If you can't make it into the Archives during our public hours but want to know if we have records that would be useful to your research, there are several ways to contact us after hours. We have voicemail on the phone (231-6431) and we **do** respond to messages. You can e-mail us at archives@city.richmond.bc.ca. And last but certainly not least, you can put pen to paper and write us at the address shown below.

In-The-Works...

Archives Online sales now stand at 10 with customers in B.C., Yukon, Manitoba, Ontario, USA, and South Africa.

Mary Keen is well along on her research into recreation and leisure in "pre-TV era Richmond". A booklet and display will be developed in the coming months.

In June the Archives and the Friends will hold a special session at the Minoru Seniors Centre dealing with "How to look after your personal archives". The program is initially limited to Seniors Centre members, but may be expanded in the future.