

ARCHIVES

news



Jim Dunbar on Indian motorcycle in front of Cessna T50 CF-ESW at Vancouver Airport, ca. 1950.

Spectacular Aviation Photographs Acquired by Archives

Thanks to local businessman Don Rathborne, the City of Richmond Archives is now able to offer many outstanding images of the early days of aviation on Sea Island.

We're Back!

Recent staffing changes at the City of Richmond Archives have meant a break in the production of our newsletter. Former Assistant Archivist Mr. David Weber left in January of this year to take the position of Manager of Records and Information in the City Clerk's department. Mr. Kelly Harms joined the archives staff in February, hired on a Temporary basis as Assistant Archivist.

Mr. Rathborne's father was Eric Rathborne, who was a skilled photographer and private aviator. Eric Rathborne worked on the service crews for fledgling Trans Canada Airlines, and later as a pilot with local air service companies. While photography became his profession, his love of aviation meant that aircraft were always a favored subject for his images. From the 1930s to 1950s, he created many photographs that capture the excitement and romance of an era when aviation lifted the imagination as well as a payload.

The Eric Rathborne accession consists of over 100 photographs, with

In-The-Works...

The Archives has 25 new accessions already for 1997, with more to be accessioned before the year is out. Stay tuned to future editions of the Archives News which will feature new holdings.

Special thanks to Cathy Gallot, Clerical Auxiliary, for her hard work in scanning nearly 6000 images from our photograph holdings.

Check out City of Richmond Archives on the Web. Our new homepage includes the Mary Thompson virtual exhibit, descriptions of Municipal and Community records, oral histories, and much more. Our URL is:
<http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/archives/archives.html>

New Visual Identity Standard

With this newsletter the Archives proudly presents our new graphic identity program. Designer Veronica Isaak-Harms has delivered the "City of Richmond Archives Visual Identity Standards Manual", sponsored entirely by the Friends of the Richmond Archives. Watch for the new look on all upcoming publica-

Archives works with local fishing industry

The CRA has joined forces with the Community Fisheries Development Centre (CFDC) to provide research training to two fishing sector workers. The mandate of the CFDC is to: develop and enhance existing skills; support the development of new skills and; create multi-year projects that combine training and work experience. The Archives is pleased to participate in this worthwhile project, and welcomes fishermen/researchers Roy Stegavik and Byron Houston.

many views previously unavailable. These images transport the viewer to a time when civil aviation was moving from the era of barnstorming and bush flying, to the dawn of modern air travel as we know it today. Although there had been an "airport" on Lulu Island prior to the opening of the airport on Sea Island in 1931, it was in the 1930's that transcontinental air service became a reality. Ground crews who serviced the planes donned crisp white uniforms with the same pride as the flight crews. The photographs taken by Eric Rathborne show air transportation at a pivotal time in it's evolution. With the introduction of transcontinental service the world was suddenly getting smaller, and those involved in the industry knew they were participating in something momentous.

We are most fortunate that a photographer of Eric Rathborne's talent created these images, and that his son has generously chosen to make them available to the public through the Archives.



TCA Lockheed aircraft at Vancouver Airport. CF TCD in background is Lockheed 14H-2, service dates 1938-

"They Died for You": A Project Update

Mary Keen, Archives Volunteer and Chair of the Friends of the Richmond Archives, is in the midst of researching and writing her third booklet for the CRA. This project is a history of the Richmond Cenotaph, and includes personal biographical histories of each of the 62 young Richmond men who sacrificed their lives in major military conflicts.

Mary has observed that this is a highly interesting project, but also a very sad one. Using military records, anecdotal accounts from friends and relatives, and accounts from local newspapers, Mary is discovering, one soldier at a time, the facts of their enlistment, training, travel, injuries suffered, and ultimately their deaths.

Writing a personal biographical account, when one already knows the tragic outcome of the story, is very depressing. At the same time it is an important project in that it is an act of remembering the lives and personal qualities of these young individuals.



Russell Bower Foster
July 9, 1918 - July 18, 1943

From the Friends

The Friends of the Richmond Archives welcome several new members: Alan Dawe, Lynne Waller, Mike Corrigan, Dovelie Bule, Hugh McNair, and Jack Brooks.

The Friends will be hosting a Seniors Tea, Friday, October 24, 1997, from 2-4 p.m. Over 250 individual invitations have been sent to former and current Richmond residents, City staff, and local politicians. Special thanks to Mary Keen, Bernice Anderson, Dody Wray, and Gordon McBurney, for their work in compiling the extensive phone and address list, and stuffing envelopes. Watch for a report on the Seniors Tea in our next edition of the Archives News.

Special thanks to Mike Corrigan for making copies of military records, gathered in the course of his own research, available to Mary for her Cenotaph project. Additional thanks to graphic designer Veronica Isaak-Harms, for volunteering her time in designing the "They Died for You" Cenotaph exhibit.

Who uses the Archives?

In the past few months Archives holdings have been used for a range of research projects, including: background info. for a major motion picture, fisheries research on names of vessels, graphic images for a mural project, legal property descriptions, the history of ethnic groups in Richmond, graphic images for major anniversaries for businesses and community associations, as well as environmental site assessments.



City of Richmond Archives Alumni

Over the past 15 years the City of Richmond Archives (CRA) has had the good fortune to enjoy the services of many competent and innovative archives and information professionals. In particular, a close working relationship with the Master of Archival Studies program at U.B.C. has reaped tremendous rewards for the CRA.

This roughly chronological list includes past and current staff, contractors, and practicum students from the Master of Archival Studies program, who at some point have made their contribution. With a spirit of appreciation the current staff would like to recognize all who, at some point, have given of their time and energy to make the City of Richmond Archives what it is today:

Hours & Access

If you can't make it to 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 voice-mail 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.

Leslie J. Ross - Archivist - May 1982 to December 1982.

Author of *Richmond Child of the Fraser*

Elizabeth Denham - Archivist - 1983 - 1989

Bernice Chong - MAS practicum 1986,

Assistant Archivist - 1987-1989.

Victoria Kendall - Blinkhorn - Contract 1985

Donna Kynaston - Contracts from 1986-1989

Angela Schiwy - Contract 1986 - Rate payers records

Craig Neelands - CCA backlog reduction project, 1987-1989

Jim Burrows - CCA backlog reduction project, 1987

Val Billesburger - MAS practicum 1987

Paulette Regan - Assistant Archivist - 1989

Mary-Ann Reece Pylypchuk - MAS practicum 1989

Christine O'Donnell - MAS practicum 1990,

RAD photograph description project.

David Weber - Assistant Archivist - August 1990 to January 1997

Bill Purver - MAS practicum 1991, ADMIN history project,

Archives Exploration Series

Darren Morrison - CCA Project CRA Disaster Recovery Plan

Diane Rodgers - MAS practicum 1993 MINDEX -

index to Council minutes.

Kelly Harms - MAS practicum 1994, CCA RAD conversion project

July 1995 to March 1996, Assistant Archivist -

Feb. 1997 - present.

Bev Brereton - CCA backlog reduction project -

cartographic records 1995

Caitlin Webster - MAS practicum 1995, CCA RAD conversion

project - cartographic records 1996

Judy Chow - MAS practicum 1996

Lynne Waller - MAS professional experience 1997



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